

*VSU Theatre & Dance
presents the 2024-2025 season:*



**Based on the book
*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!***

BY MO WILLEMS

PUBLISHED BY HYPERION BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPT BY MO WILLEMS AND MR. WARBURTON

LYRICS BY MO WILLEMS

MUSIC BY DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

DRAMATURGY BY MEGAN ALRUTZ

Friday February 7, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 2:00 PM
SAWYER THEATRE



VALDOSTA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Patron List 2024-2025

The patrons below have contributed to the Golden Circle Scholarship & Support Fund providing support to our production program but most importantly to the Theatre and Dance scholarships that help us attract outstanding students to our programs. The names below reflect those who have contributed through January 28, 2024.

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Ethan Ray Parker
Melissa Pihos
Dr. Melissa Rynn Porterfield
Hank Rion
Ally Wood
Kathy Raess-Young

Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Theatre and Dance season at Valdosta State University.

We are delighted to have you join us for this incredible lineup of shows, each with its own captivating, inspiring, and unforgettable story all centered around the theme of “change.”

Live theatre has long been viewed as an instrument of change, one that challenges the status quo, amplifies marginalized voices, sparks dialogue, drives action, instills a sense of agency, brings diverse people together, promotes literacy, and provides a safe space for audiences and actors to confront uncomfortable truths and complex emotions.

At VSU, we celebrate change as a challenge and an opportunity to strengthen our tradition of excellence in the classroom and on stage. That is why, at the beginning of this year, we announced our new strategic plan – VSU2030 – and our renewed determination to reignite our student-first campus culture and inspire the transformational change we believe is both necessary and possible.

The power to change is real and resides within each of us. Maybe today’s performance will be the first step in your journey to find new opportunities, feel more confident, and embrace change. VSU Theatre and Dance is committed to fostering excellence within its theatre performance, theatre production, theatre management, musical theatre, and dance programs while also contributing to the lifelong learning and cultural development of the citizens of South Georgia, North Florida, and beyond.

VSU Theatre and Dance attracts highly talented students from around the world and, over the course of four years, helps them develop critical thinking, problem-solving, planning, and organizational skills; perseverance; self-discipline; patience; physical stamina; creative abilities; a broad understanding of literature, history, and other arts, which helps them to interpret ideas and feelings; and an understanding of music, costuming, and staging.

Many of our VSU Theatre and Dance graduates go on to pursue careers as writers, dancers, actors, directors, managers, and more in the film and television industry, as well as on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in regional tours, at theme parks, and more across the United States and beyond.

We are deeply grateful for our Theatre and Dance students, faculty, and staff for their tireless dedication to the performing arts and their willingness to share their talents. We are also grateful for you – the many individuals, families, community leaders, and business owners who generously support, protect, and nurture VSU’s tradition of creative excellence.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard A. Carvajal'.

Richard A. Carvajal, Ph.D.
President





Based on the book *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*

by Mo Willems

Published by Hyperion Books for Children

Script by Mo Willems and Mr. Warburton

Lyrics by Mo Willems

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

Dramaturgy by Megan Alrutz

This play was commissioned by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was first produced at the Kennedy Center during the 2019-2020 season.

CAST

Actor 1: The Pigeon

Actor 2: The Bus Driver

Actor 3: Business Man

Actor 4: The Duckling

Actor 5: The Teenager

Actor 6: The Old Lady

Actor 7: The Bus Driver's Mom, Bus Engine

Actor 8: The Puppy and others

Cody Ortega

Michaela Anderson

Mattis Ahlgrimm

Addison Newby

Ulysses Martinez

Hannah Seyler

Melanie Krone

Nikita Singleton

Scenic Designer
Ella Risa Marroquin

Costume Designer
Torie Kanes

Sound Designer
Joe Mason

Hair & Makeup Designer
Torie Kanes

Puppet Designer
Torie Kanes

Stage Manager
Alex Battenfield

Technical Director
Madison Grant

Tour Driver
Katie Ludlow

Director
Joe Mason

MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. **I Never Get To Do Anything** PIGEON
2. **Bus Driver**..... BUS DRIVER, PIGEON
3. **What Could Have Been** PIGEON, DUCKLINGS, BUS
4. **Let Me Drive the Bus!** PIGEON, BUS DRIVER, PASSENGERS
- 4A. **The Takeaway** PIGEON
5. **Panic At the Bus Stop!** BUS DRIVER, PASSENGERS
- 5A. **Pigeon/ Passenger Panic**..... PIGEON, PASSENGERS
6. **I'm Broken** PIGEON, BUS DRIVER
7. **Keep Flappin'**..... PIGEON, BUS DRIVER, PASSENGERS
- 7A. **Do My Thing** PIGEON
8. **Can I Fly the Plane?** PIGEON, AUDIENCE, ALL
9. **Bows and Adulations**..... ALL

PRODUCTION TEAM

Head Carpenters	Tyler Kent
Scenic Charge Artist	Ella Risa Marroquin
Props Manager	Shy'Tavian Jenkins
Wardrobe Supervisor	Torie Kanés
Laundry Supervisors	Elinor Fenimore
	Grace Schaefer
Costume Shop Manager	Kathy Raess-Young
Scene Shop Manager	Katie Ludlow
Scene Shop Assistants	Ella Risa Marroquin
	Aiden Parker
	Grace Schaefer
	Angel G. Tirado Zepahua
Scene Shop Personnel	Shy'Tavian Jenkins
	Tyler Kent
	THEA 2750
	THEA 3720A
Costume Shop Assistants	Ally Atkinson
	Torie Kanés
	Brianna Lauser
	Dr. Anna Rodgers
	Mia Washington
Costume Shop Personnel	THEA 3720C
Box Office Manager	Michaela Anderson
Box Office Treasurers	Alex Battenfield
	Savanna Davis
	Melanie Krone
	Bonnie Long
	Katlyn Vinson
House Manager	Madeline Allen
Social Media Coordinator	Carmen Mason

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VSU President, Dr. Richard Carvajal and Cabinet; Dr. Nicole Cox; Dr. Monika Meler, Sarah Wildes Arnett; Danielle Kimble; Amber Porter, Jennifer Charnock

Programs and Offices of Valdosta State University:

Advancement; Campus Mail; Creative Services; Department of Art; Department of Music; Financial Services; Foundation; Human Resources; Information Technology; Legal Affairs; Marketing & Communications; Parking & Transportation; Plant Operations; Police Department; Printing & Copy Services; Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

COMING SOON

Spring Dances: EVOLVE

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025 AT 3:00 PM

SAWYER THEATRE

Spring Dances: EVOLVE is a collection of concert dance works and dance films created by VSU Dance Faculty and guest artists. Dances will provoke, inspire, liberate, and leave audiences in awe as dances intertwine storytelling, abstract thought and superb artistry.

The concert will include the Georgia premiere of *Evolution of Gaia*, a collaboration between Ali Duffy (Texas Tech University and Flatlands Dance Theatre, composer Peter Fischer (Texas Tech University), and faculty choreographer/filmmaker Melissa Pihos. This work will feature a large scale performance fusing original dance, live and recorded music, film and media. The production tells the tale of Gaia, the personification of Earth. Through a compelling story centered on human relationships and cultures, the production interweaves topics such as the destruction and regenerative capacity of Earth's natural landscapes and resources, environmental awareness and justice, cycles of birth and rebirth, and of conflict and resolution.

This production may contain mature themes and language.

Iphigenia 2.5

By Charles Mee

Based on Euripides' tragedy *Iphigenia at Aulis*

Adapted by VSU Theatre & Dance's Fall 2024 Devised Theatre class.

APRIL 17-19, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025 AT 3:00 PM

SAWYER THEATRE

A modern adaptation of *Iphigenia at Aulis* by Euripides, Charles Mee's *Iphigenia 2.0* largely follows the plot of the original Greek text but removes the interference of the gods. Instead, Agamemnon's own disillusioned troops are the ones to call for him to make the same sacrifice he has asked of their own mothers – namely the life of his child – to prove that the war with Troy that he has called for is a worthy one. So, when Agamemnon's daughter arrives at the battle encampment, will it be for her wedding or her sacrifice?

Taking our cue from Mee's own collage-like style of playwriting, our adaptation of Mee's text will be revised by the students in our Devised Theatre class before it makes its way to Sawyer stage to close out our season.