

just a
word
and the
word
a movement
dada fluxus 3 more

8.20.26 theatre building 9:30 PM
riverside lawn 8.21 rainedate

Just a Word and the Word a Movement

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS & CO-DIRECTORS

NICA ROSS and DANIEL FINE

MEDIA ENGINEER & OPERATOR

EMILY BERKHEIMER

OPENING MUSIC & SOUND

RAMIN ROSHANDEL

PRODUCTION DESIGN

NAZANIN VAKILI

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

JASON VERNON

MACHINE 1

Zachary Douglas
Marisa Rodriguez
Raphael Thomé
Nazanin Vakilli

DADA FLUNK

Andres Castillo
Ani Jilavyan
Brennen Malone

MACHINE 3

Bea Beaman
Jenna Davis
Pensée Ismael
Lindsey
Wildman

VJs EMERGENCY DNA

Embry O'Leary
Jasmine Pizano
Jason Vernon

POSTER DESIGN
JASMINE PIZANO

PROGRAM DESIGN
BRENNEN MALONE



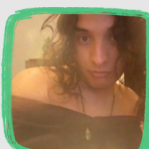
BEA BEAMAN (*they/them*) is a second-year Dance MFA on the Choreography track. They started practicing modern dance at St. Olaf College, and have trained in various partnering techniques with Pilobolus Dance Theater, Black Label Movement, and Vim Vigor Dance Company. Bea's experience in theater production and digital media has led them to create projections, lighting, and sounds for their own work while supporting the works of their colleagues. Bea's research in improvisation techniques and system of errancy as a generative tool has been central to their choreographic works, most recently *Hearken* (2026). Follow them on instagram: [@bea.beaman](#)



EMILY BERKHEIMER is a media designer specializing in live, interactive visuals for theatre, opera, and dance. Her work integrates live camera, motion capture, and 3D workflows to create immersive experiences. As Digital Media Specialist for the Performing Arts Production unit, Emily blends complex technical systems with artistic composition to create experiences at the intersection of art and technology.



JENNA DAVIS is an experimental interdisciplinary artist and a third-year MFA student in Sculpture and Intermedia. Her practice explores the dynamic entanglement between human and more-than-human systems. Davis approaches material, from soil to body to digital media, not as passive tools but as active collaborators. Grounded in posthumanist frameworks, her research examines how agency is exchanged when human presence, bodies, and intentions intersect with other biological matter, ecological processes, and digital/technological networks to investigate how systems mediate and negotiate with one another. Davis asks how influence circulates, responsibility is distributed, representation is disseminated, and compounds, and being is co-constructed across biological, social, and digital/technological thresholds. Drawing from both evidence-based and speculative theories emerging from physics, she considers how concepts surrounding relationality, entanglement, emergence, infinite dimensionality, and uncertainty might be experienced sensorially rather than solely understood intellectually. Davis' work seeks to hold space for embodied encounters that blur boundaries between the familiar and the unknown, the scientific and the ritualistic, the literal and metaphorical, the human and the more-than-human. These environments are meant to function as sites of disorientation and return — fostering reflection on how we inhabit, influence, and are formed by the complex systems we are always already part of.



ANDRES CASTILLO (*she/her*) is your average girl, artist, writer, and internet citizen. She is a fourth year Creative Writing student specializing in poetry and projection design. Her practice focuses on bridging the gap between the natural and the digital. As a Salvadoran immigrant raised in the southern United States, she hopes her art can create environments where those outside academic margins can inhabit. Her recent installation *sun, forever* (2026) highlights the importance of this interdisciplinary research. If you want to be her number one fan or get in contact you can reach her [@neriites](#) on instagram



ZACH DOUGLAS is a third year BA Theater Arts student at the University of Iowa. You have most likely seen him in the shows *Head Over Heels* (Arcadian) and *Side Show* (Dogboy). Zach is also an active member in the local theater scene in Iowa city, notable shows he has performed are: *Grease* (Johnny Casino/Teen Angel) at Iowa City Community Theater and *Mort* (Mort) at Dreamwell Theatre Company. Over the Summer, Zach worked with On Stage Collective in New York City and performed in one of their summer cabarets at Green Room 42. Zach would like to thank all of the amazing artists and crew workers, who have made this truly absurd night possible, and his friends and family who constantly support him and his art.



DANIEL FINE is an artist, technologist, and educator working in site-specific, responsive, mediated environments for interactive users, audiences, and live performance. His work combines traditional forms of storytelling with lo-fi and cutting-edge technologies. He has been recognized by Live Design International as a "creative disruptor...exploding traditional disciplinary boundaries." His work has been shared with audiences across the USA, Mexico, Prague, England, and Scotland. He is the recipient of an Epic Games Mega Grant for his work on Media Clown with Paul Kalina. Daniel is on faculty at University of Iowa in Theatre Arts, Dance, Cinema Arts and Digital Arts. Learn more: [danielfine.net](#)



PENSÉE ISMAEL (*she/her*) is a human-woman transplanted to Iowa City from Alexandria, Egypt. She's an MFA student and educator at the Cinematic Arts Department by day, beginner Dj and projectionist by night, and in the middle she tries dance and bouldering. Sometimes she makes photos, sometimes she falls off the wall. *Just a word, and the word a movement* is such an exciting wrap to up her 1st summer in Iowa City as she got to work with immensely talented artists across disciplines on campus. This yields future collaborations for her (she cannot wait!) IG: [@strawbarin](#)
Email: pensee-ismael@uiowa.edu recent photography gallery: [Begin Collective](#)



ANI JILAVYAN is a translator and dramaturg from Yerevan, Armenia. She did dramaturgy for the plays in the Theater Department including *The Words of Ants* by Xiaoyan Kang (directed by Meredith Healy; New Play Festival 2025); *Jellyfish Baby* by Darrin Terpstra; *How to Defend Yourself* by Liliana Padilla (both directed by Meredith Healy); *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov, adapted by Annie Baker (directed by Kayla Adams) and *Rituals of Theophany* by Darrin Terpstra (directed by Vivian Bonde; New Play Festival 2026). She is thankful to her family and friends for their continuous support! Ani hopes, որ Դուք կհավանեք մեր ներկայացումը:



BRENNEN SAVON MALONE (they/he) is a third-year MFA actor and artist at UIOWA, where they've done shows like *Head Over Heels* (Basilus), *Argonautika* (Eighth Man), *Side Show* (Jake), and *Marie Antoinette* (Joseph/Mr. Sauce). While in Philly, they originated the role of Juicy in the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Fat Ham* by James Ijames at the Wilma Theater. They also played Brad in *Rocky Horror Picture Show* at Theatre Horizon, Wilbur in *Charlotte's Web* at the Arden Theatre, and Parmesan in *Gay Mis* with Jaffe St. Queer Productions. They are incredibly grateful for this amazing crew of collaborators and the artists of the past and present for challenging traditional form and are forever grateful to their beautiful partner, Steven, and the silliest doggo, Stanley. Feel free to give Brennen a follow on Instagram [@brennensavonmalone](#). They need the love. Enjoy the show.



EMBRY VALENTINO O'LEARY (they/any) is a third year Intermedia MFA candidate at the University of Iowa. As a DIY enthusiast and self-proclaimed deviant, Embry's experimental work weaves together installation, ephemera, assemblage, and digital media. Their practice is fluid and precarious, utilizing kitschy, maximalist aesthetics to explore themes of impermanence, instability, pleasure, thrill, pain, identity, desire, and discomfort—aspects of life that are intrinsically linked when inhabiting a trans body and living in queer spaces. Some of Embry's favorite materials, objects, and mediums to use are bed linens, stuffed animals, video and photo editing software, tape adhesives, hot glue, rhinestones, and janky projector setups. More of Embry's work can be found on their website, [embryvalentino.com](#) or Instagram, [@oxytocinhrt](#).



JASMINE PIZANO (she/they) is an interdisciplinary artist and activist from eastern Iowa. She is beginning her third year in the MFA Graphic Design program at University of Iowa with a Certificate in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. In addition to her work as graduate researcher and educator, she is dedicated to arts entrepreneurship through her small business [@poutyface.design](#) on social media.



MARISA RODRIGUEZ (they/them) is an incoming fourth year Theatre Arts major and Digital Arts certificate student. Their publicly presented art up to this point has largely been lighting, sound, and media design for plays in the Theater Department (*Ten Minute Play Festival 2025*, lighting & media; *Salt Tongue*, sound; *Drill Drill Drill*, lighting & media; *How to Defend Yourself*, sound; *The Milk Miracle*, lighting) —which they enjoy immensely— but their passion lies in creating technology-based and enhanced immersive spaces and/or interactive performances like you'll see tonight. This is their first time participating in a workshop like this, and they are very grateful to be working with so many amazing and talented collaborators. Enjoy the show!



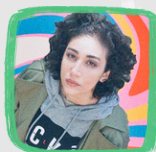
RAMIN ROSHANDEL is a composer, setarist, and photographer. In his music, he explores the contrasts as well as the liminal spaces between Persian, modal, and pitch-centric music materials on the one hand, and non-pitch-centric, atonal, or non-modal ones on the other. Over the past few years, Ramin's compositions have been performed by the University of Iowa's Center for New Music Ensemble, Red Cedar Chamber Music, Jack Quartet, Ligament Duo, among others. They have also been featured in the International Computer Music Conference, Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS), NYC Electroacoustic Improvisation Summit, and Summer Institute for Contemporary Music Practice (SICPP). His composition has been described by Josh Levine as "Brutally Persian," and his performance on the setar has been considered "Masterful" by Huntley Dent of *Fanfare* Magazine. In 2025-26, Ramin taught composition and music technology courses at Augustana College (Rock Island) and Iowa State University. More info: [ramin-roshandel.com](#)



NICA ROSS is an artist, educator, and cultural producer based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Through humor and play, their research develops social machines: participatory, technology-mediated systems that generate ephemeral social phenomena through interaction and performance. Nica holds a B.A. in Cinema from San Francisco State University and an M.F.A. in Advanced Photographic Study from The International Center of Photography-Bard College program. Nica has worked in a wide array of expanded media, theater and event production on both commercial and artistic projects. They have worked with 3-Legged Dog Media & Theater Group, The Joshua Light Show along with many individual artists. From 2022 until Fall 2026 they directed the Frank-Ratchye STUDIO for Creative Inquiry and they are currently an Associate Professor of Video and Media Design in Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama. Learn more at nicaross.com



RAPHAEL THOMÉ (he/him) is a third-year MFA acting candidate. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he worked in TV shows and movies such as *Pelé - Birth of a Legend* and *The Text, a Cola-Cola short*. In 2018, he came to the United States to pursue an undergraduate degree in Film Production at Cal State Northridge. There, he got involved in stage productions and had a chance to play Tartuffe in Moliere's *Tartuffe*, Laertes in *Hamlet*, and direct Ionesco's *The Killing Game*. Since coming to Ulowa, he was seen as Fersen in *Marie Antoniette*, Hovstad in *An Enemy of the People*, Lord Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet*, Nathaniel in *Stained Glass*, Astrov in *Uncle Vanya*. Follow him on Instagram: [@raphaelthome](https://www.instagram.com/raphaelthome)



NAZANIN VAKILI (she/her) is an artist from Iran with a background in architecture. She is entering her third year in the MFA Theatre Design program at the University of Iowa, focusing on scenic and media design. Her recent work includes *Argonautika*, *Head Over Heels*, *Adaku*, *Drag'daLore: The Musical Ballroom Epic*, *Flashes*, and *The Indoctrination of Bananas*. She is interested in creating experimental immersive environments through the intersection of scenery design, storytelling, and visual media. She is excited to work alongside all the wonderful artists and collaborators on *Just a word*, and the *word a movement* workshop. Follow her on instagram [@znznina](https://www.instagram.com/znznina)



JASON VERNON is a multi-faceted artist with experience as performer, director, writer, producer, and designer. In May, he received his BA from the University of Iowa in Theatre Arts with a certificate in Social Justice and the Performing Arts and a minor in Dance. He recently produced and directed the premiere of an accessibility centered new work, *Former Poster Child* by Grace Nelson, equipped with Disability Aesthetics and integrated ASL, Audio Description, and Captions. His work navigates creative scholarship while insisting upon humor, authenticity, and community interdependence. Jason has served as research assistant, collaborator, and recurring performer in Stephanie Miracle's FAKERS CLUB: a live cinema public performance experiment. Other credits include Ulowa's remounting of Trisha Brown's *Floor of the Forest*, and theatre department productions of *Dance Nation*, *Macbeth*, *The Bacchae*.



LINDSEY WILDMAN (she/her) is an interdisciplinary artist, as well as a choreographer and teacher. She recently graduated from Ulowa with a BFA and BA in Dance and Theater, respectively. Throughout her studies, she has participated in Dance Gala, Faculty Concert, and Grad/Undergrad Concerts. Lindsey has incorporated projection and sound design into her choreographic work and is excited to continue with this research into her Post-Grad work in Philadelphia.

Special Thank

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