

COMMENTS

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

MAY
2023

MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WWW.MASSASOIT.EDU

FEATURES

Celebrating the arts at Massasoit.

UPCOMING SEMESTER

Get the inside scoop on what is happening in the arts this semester.

IN CONVERSATION

Hear about the arts experience from a current student and alumni

FROM THE EDITOR

BY CORINNE M. MASON



The past few years have been challenging as we began to navigate new approaches to the arts. I personally find that this forced us into an awakening, or Renaissance of sorts. Gathering together was limited, if not completely forbidden, and many of us turned to the heart of craft and skill to re-examine what the arts meant to us. Many utilized music, digital content, and live streams to continue to produce work. We would do anything to make sure that we were still able to be immersed in the work we love to do.

We began to ask harder questions. How do we reach people if we are not in the same room together? Do performances have the same weight as when they are in front of a live audience? How do you capture the essence of live work through a digital medium? These were just the tip of the iceberg. The challenging dialogue led us even further down the path to the penultimate questions, who do we want to be and what do we want to represent moving forward?

By no means do I think we have any answers for all of this, but I do want to say that I am grateful to my students, colleagues, and fellow artists that are willing to pursue a revolution. We may have a rare opportunity on our hands, where we can reinvent the wheel, so to speak. In Communication Arts, we have committed to doing that.

Upon returning to campus, we immediately shifted our attention to three major projects, marketing, enrollment, and student success initiatives. We believe in our faculty, staff, students, and the education we have to offer. Together, we are working to build upon what we believe we do best, which is build a community.

I have worked in professional and academic settings where the pressure of perfection and competition was around every corner. What makes our programs so unique, is that we celebrate the process, growth, and nurturing of the artist within each student. If the arts can be anything we want to make it, we want a healthy environment that lifts you up and a professional platform to explore who you are.

As we move forward, it is our hope that our initiatives, in combination with strong interdisciplinary opportunities will make Massasoit the college of choice.

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featured artist
in Eurydice

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Staff Spotlight

Staff joins the Massasoit Student Ensemble Cast of Eurydice

The Theatre Program has been thrilled to open up our work to include faculty and staff. We were honored to have James A. Valentin and Officer Irina Costa on stage with us for our first production of the season. Their artistry and commitment to our students strengthens our program profoundly.

We thank you so much for collaborating with us!

CONTEMPORARY MYTHOLOGY

IN CONVERSATION:

Why do you think the Eurydice myth still resonates today?

SABRINA: Most Greek myths have relevance to our current reality, but Eurydice in particular because it still shows the trials and tribulations of love and loss. It also makes a strong point about grief, because when you are grieving you want that back. You keep searching for some sort of sign or answer that can give you peace. But sometimes you realize that there may not be an answer and you still have to keep moving forward even if the ones you love have left you behind.

MAGGIE: It is a strong example of the human condition and things like grief, pain, suffering, and love are emotions that people still experience. Stories from the past, factual or fictional can still resonate with us because those feelings are universal.

MIKAYLA: We all go through our own experiences of love and loss. Because we all go through these experiences this piece can teach us something about ourselves in relation to that. We are constantly changing, as is how we cope with love and loss, so this myth can resonate with people depending on what point in their life in which they are experiencing it.

Natasha Dias and
Sabrina Nedder
in Eurydice

ABOUT THE SHOW

In Eurydice, Sarah Ruhl reimagines the classic myth of Orpheus through the eyes of its heroine. Dying too young on her wedding day, Eurydice must journey to the underworld, where she reunites with her father and struggles to remember her lost love. With contemporary characters, ingenious plot twists, and breathtaking visual effects, the play is a fresh look at a timeless love story.

Performance Dates: September 22, 23, 24, 2022 at 7:30PM



CONVERSATION CONT:

This particular piece was set in a more contemporary style, and explored newer theatrical methodologies in the storytelling. what was the experience like for you creating this piece?

SABRINA: It was definitely different than any other production I have done. It was interesting to work through the development of a show around this myth, but with a feminist and contemporary take. Seeing it from Eurydice's perspective changed the energy of the story and I favored it over the original myth. Overall, finding creativity in making the exciting and joyful moments, teaches us that you don't know what you have until you lose it. It is something that we as performers had to come to terms with and the characters do too.

MAGGIE: I think that working through a production of a play with a more contemporary vision requires more creativity than a classical piece does. We added several movement pieces and had a more lyrical approach to the transitions. It asked us to collaborate in a new way. It was refreshing and educational to be able to have a strong hand in building several moments of the show. We built this from the ground up and it felt like a forward thinking version of the story.

MIKAYLA: For me the biggest thing I love about doing devised work is finding the little moments that you build off of to create something that means a lot more. It forces you to be freer in your artistry because when you create from scratch there is less space to judge what you are creating,

FEATURED MEMBERS

Producer: Mark C. Rocheteau, Technical Director: Nathan Fogg, Director: Corinne M Mason, Stage Manager: Mikayla Williams & Nicky Carbone, Set Designer: Nathan Fogg, Costume Designer: James A. Valentin, Lighting Designer: Steven Harrington, Sound Designer: Corinne M. Mason, Ensemble: Xavier Amaro, Magdalene Bastrache, Natasha Dias, Kacey-Catherine Hilton-Gilleo, Devonny Grafton, Will Lynch, Sabrina Nedder, Alessandra Ruhoy, Lauren Vanderwater, Featuring: Shanel Sparr, Irina Costa, James A. Valentin

GRAND OPENING

Digital Media Arts Center

THIS SPRING OUR DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS CENTER HOSTED AN OPEN HOUSE EVENT FOR THE COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONALS TO TOUR THROUGH THE BRAND NEW STUDIO. MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS PROUD TO BE ABLE TO OFFER CUTTING EDGE EQUIPMENT TO OUR STUDENTS, GIVING THEM THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO HONE THEIR CRAFT.

ED KRASNOW
DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS COORDINATOR

Can you tell us a little bit about the opening event?

E: The opening event was a huge success. Our hope was to bring people from the community together. To present them with opportunities for students to do internships, to get jobs, and to transfer. We were grateful to have so many professionals in the field come and meet our students and faculty. It will definitely help students have opportunities for the future.

What is your favorite part of the new studio?

E: My favorite part is everything! I love how it feels and how it looks so when I go in it, it feels very comfortable. The place has soft earth tones and it just feels like a comfortable space to work, and it is learning to teach until I like the feel of it.

TYLER DEPINA
MEDIA ARTS STUDENT

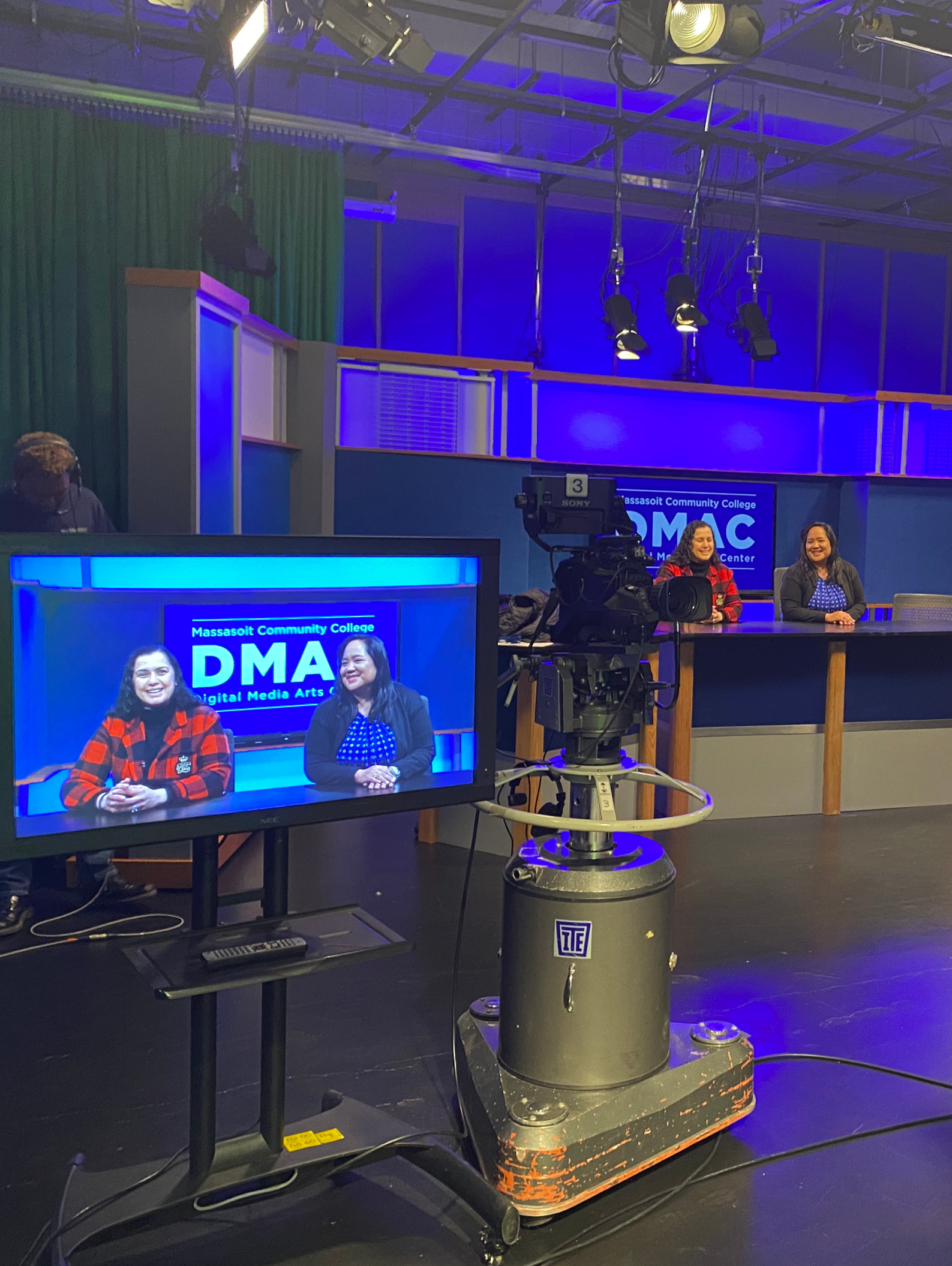
What has been your favorite part of the new studio?

T: My favorite part of the new studio definitely has to be the newscast desk. It's pretty fun to be behind that. I did that for a few weeks in the morning, I would help them out with a script they would write and then we would start filming. It's pretty sweet. I really like how the chairs are very nicely oriented and the mics are really crisp.

What advice would you give to students looking to get involved?

T: I would definitely do Media Axis. It's something simple that you can come too so you can just express whatever creative needs you want to. Since Massasoit is a community college, it can be a great way to get your foot in the door while saving some money.





What opportunities are presented by the new facilities?

E: The new facilities offer the opportunity for students to work in and learn in a studio space, that's very much like what they'll find in the real world. In a production studio environment, like a cable station or a television station, the tools that we use are standard across the industry now. The kinds of things that they learn would help them in almost any job in what we call, multimedia content creation. Whether it's television or content creation for TikTok, YouTube, or something along those lines, the tools and the message that we teach are universal for content creation.

How can people be more involved in the program?

E: It's hard for us to reach out to students so if students come by the studio on a regular basis, talk to our staff, and find out what's happening. We have sign-up sheets right by the back of the studio door, so you can check and see what events are coming up, what shoots we have, and sign up for things! Anybody can work on our shoots. We'll train anyone, they don't have to be in our classes or in our club. Our students that are in our classes and clubs get to have practical experience in an academic setting.

What advice would you give to people interested in the program?

E: Come have a tour of the studio, talk to our staff, get to know what we offer and take advantage of everything we offer! We're at this amazing hands-on program that people don't know about and you can save a ton of money by coming here for going onto a more expensive school if that's your career goal.

Communication Arts would like to thank everyone who made this event possible. Special honor to Nathan Fogg for leading the planning committee and making our event a stunning success.



How do you stay involved with the program?

T: Currently, I do Media Axis club. It runs on Wednesdays from 12 to 1. Besides that, sometimes I help out my friend Colin with some assignments. Just last week, I helped him do an assignment where he had to do a 60 minute interview at the radio studio. It's pretty cool. So whenever I can, I like to come over here and see what I can do besides just Media Axis.

Why should students join the media program at Massasoit?

T: I think one big reason is that once you go to these academic classes, it's nice to have a little break for creativity. Sometimes, you're in all these other classes and you don't have a moment to just express yourself.

IN CONVERSATION:

STUDENT & ALUMNI TALK





STUDENT: *Lassana Dorleh*
PRONOUNS: *He/Him*
HOMETOWN: *Brockton, Massachusetts*
MCC MAJOR: *Theatre Arts, A.A.*
GRADUATION: *2025*

Tell us how you were involved in the arts at Massasoit Community College.

L: My first introduction to the arts at Massasoit college was, I'm not sure of the production I saw, but I remember the production Corinne directed, and then I told myself I had to do this myself. How can I be a part of that, and then it's history from there.

K: I started as a student in intro to theater just being oblivious to the future adventures that I would be in down the line. I just came in as a person that just wanted to learn and wanted to study and wanted to analyze and wanted to participate in any way that I could. I wanted to be excellent.



ALUMNI: *Keion Jevon*
PRONOUNS: *He/Him*
HOMETOWN: *Stoughton, Massachusetts*
MCC MAJOR: *Theatre Arts*
GRADUATION: *2021 MCC*

What was your favorite activity at Massasoit?

L: So far out all I've done, it is especially the movements because I'm cautious about movements because I haven't been doing it for so long. It's always been self-taught so I enjoyed movement classes and the Frantic Assembly style. But the cherry on top has to be Practical Theatre Ensemble because you get people who are not only in the program but people who also just enjoy being a part of it. PTE has been the biggest factor of meeting new people and getting out of my shell. PTE has been the biggest part of seeing what actual theater is, Like with class you get graded and that's stressful but PTE it's more of a commitment and thought exploration.

K: I would say maybe the practicing of doing class plays and plays before we would able to go on the stage. I just felt like that was something that was therapeutic




Photo: Lassana Dorleh starring in, *The Little Women*.
PC: Matthew Duong

Have you done any artistic work outside of Massasoit?

L: Yes I I've done a lot of training in Meisner and Chekov in Boston, and play writing. I've done a lot of writing and for me education is just reading and seeing other things that are out there.

K: I did a few shows here and there, in a couple of places. I did a couple of artistic works in the music industry and also have worked on short films.

What has been your greatest challenge?

L: Confidence, not comparing myself to people, and looking at my journey, as not being linear. Looking at my art, I did like to judge my success, seeing where I started from in the beginning, and looking at myself as a canvas of improvement. Now I'm working with a speech pathologist to work on some things that I was insecure about and that I needed work on, so instead of me, comparing myself to people, I compare myself to my myself.

K: I would think my greatest challenge was to really see the signs within me instead of seeing the signs that are in others. Just the principles of, you know, that type of thing that people expect you to be. I I felt like I had to have confidence in order to really become who I needed to as an artist and become who I am today. That challenge was just really finding inner self. I feel like I'm still trying to find myself as we are talking right now. I feel like that's just always the challenge.

Photo: Keion Jevon performing in a pop up *Normal Heart* at Massasoit.
PC: Mikayla Williams

Who was your favorite professor/instructor and why?

L: OK it's a tie...Has to be Corinne Mason and Peter A Carey. They give us the kid gloves and also give us tough love. Also not to brag, but just seeing Kacey-Catherine, Maggie, Sabrina and Lauren in *Little Women*... seeing what someone can do... It was so inspiring to see, like, "OK yeah I can do that too".

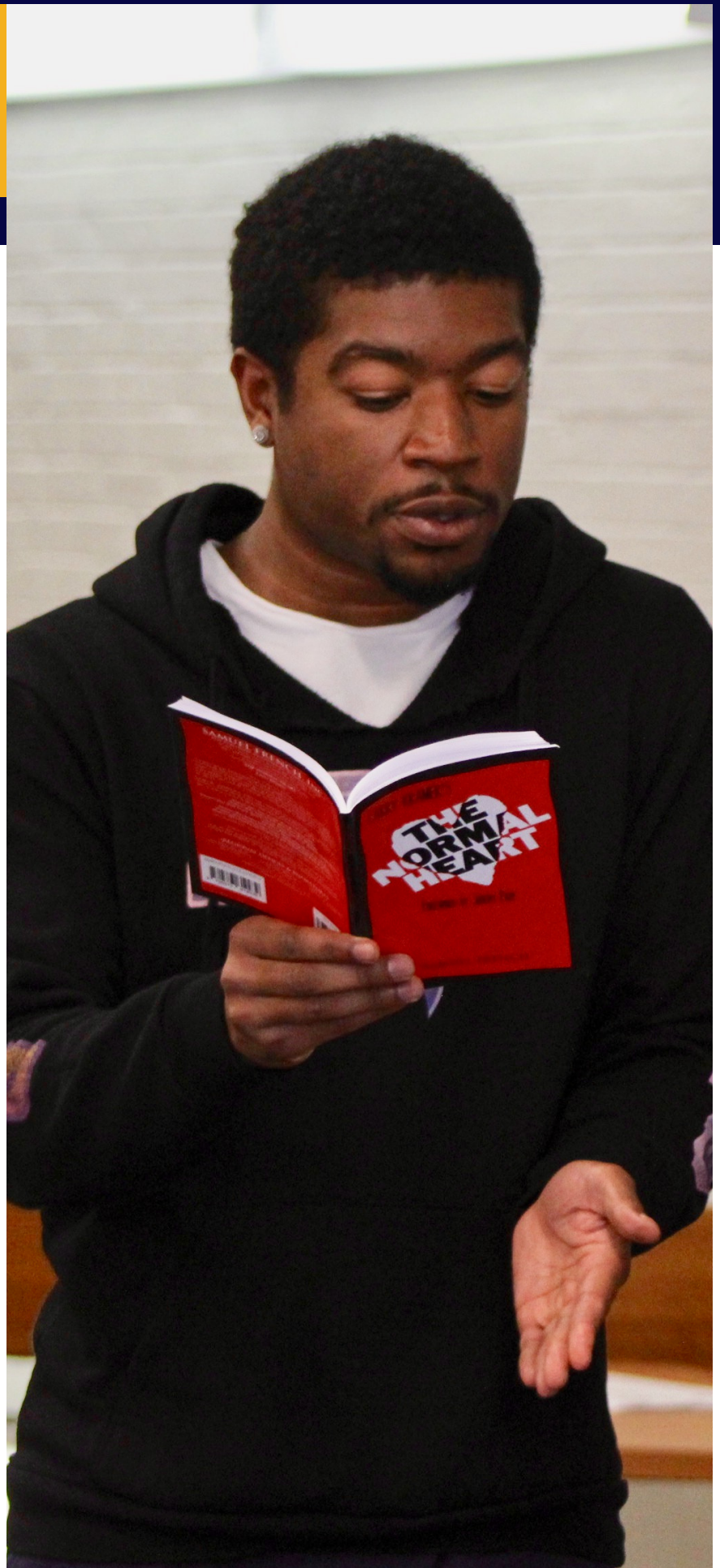
What makes the arts at Massasoit Community College unique?

K: It's just the diversity of, you know, color, style, gender, sexuality.... the diversity in this theater is just really through the roof right now. We just have many people from different places in the state coming into this one lair into this one Legion of Doom, they're creators, with super powers. A legion.

What advice would you give to artists who are interested in our programs?

L: First thing is, if you need to, you may need to take a moment to step away from the arts to see how much you love it, because I had to do that. I would always say surround yourself with people who think like you but also may not think like you. Your biggest reference point should be yourself. Comparing where you are and where you started from and where you are going. Remember, Beyoncé doesn't compare herself to anyone else... Beyoncé compares herself to Beyoncé.

K: Life starts within the signs of you and make sure that everything you think of, and what you thought of, think about it again and try again.



UPCOMING SEMESTER

Fall 2023

Calendar of Events

ON TUESDAYS WE WEAR PURPLE

8/22 Communication Arts Open House
9/6 Classes Begin
9/12 Add/Drop Deadline
9/20 Film Viewing
9/28 No Class, Professional Dev. Day
9/29 Fun Trip: Museum of Fine Arts
10/9 No Class, Indigenous People's Day
10/11 Accelerated Session Begins
10/11 Pumpkin Painting
10/13 Accelerated Add Drop Deadline
10/27 Fun Trip: Corn Maze
11/10 No Class, Veteran's Day
11/14, 11/15, 11/16 MASTERCLASS
11/22 Thanksgiving Recess
11/24 Fun Trip: SnowPort
12/6 Snow Globe/Ornament Making
12/12 Last Day of Fall Classes
12/16 Fun Trip: Enchanted Village

Ongoing Events

Open Rehearsal Hours

Every M/W/F 12P-2P

Open Tech Hours

Every W 2P-5P Large Theatre

Arts Lunches

9/11, 10/16, 11/13, 12/4 @ 12P

Mic Drop

9/18, 10/23, 11/20, 12/11 @ 12P

Play of the Month

9/25 @ 12

10/30 @ 12 Polaroid Stories

11/27 @ 12 Fefu and Her Friends



COMMUNICATION ARTS
OPEN HOUSE



ON TUESDAYS
WE WEAR PURPLE

FALL 2023

COURSES



Tyler Depina,
Jullia Droukas,
and Devonny
Grafton

Fall 2023 CommArts Courses

DANC 145 Contemporary Dance
DANC 296 Special Topics Ballroom
ENGL 217 Dramatic Literature 1
FILM122 Film and Society
FILM 200 Film Analysis
FILM 201 Black Images in Film
JOUR 120 Journalism Basics for the
Digital Age
MDIA 108 Radio Broadcasting
MDIA 110 Broadcast Writing and
Presentation
MDIA 111 Introduction to Mass
Communication
MDIA 112 Television Studio Production
MDIA 113 Radio Production and
Podcasting
MDIA 116 Digital Video Editing
MDIA 401 Practicum in Radio or
Television
SPCH 105 Speech Communication
SPCH 107 Oral Interpretation
SPCH 108 Interpersonal Communication
SPCH 121 Argumentation and Debate
THET 101 Introduction to Theatre
THET 110 Stagecraft
THET 204 Movement for Acting
THET 205 Acting 1
THET 296 Special Topics in Theatre:
Modern Drama



Sabrina Nedder



OPPORTUNITIES

STAGE TO SCREEN FESTIVAL

The festival is seeking student playwrights and directors for a unique project. FIVE short plays will be selected by our panel, then directed, filmed, and performed by students! plays will be streamed in an evening of televised theatre, and audio recorded to played on Massachusetts radio stations. We hope you will apply! www.massasoit.edu/community/theater/playfestival/

AUDITIONS

Pride Project

Student Ensemble Spring Play

Massasoit Theatre Company: TBA

www.massasoit.edu/community/theater/auditions/

MIC DROPS

Every semester we host Open Mic's for students who want to share their talent. The event is open to everyone and you can attend as a reader or observer! www.massasoit.edu/community/theater/tickets/

PLAY OF THE MONTH READINGS

This year we are celebrating HerStory. Every month, our plays will be available for the Massasoit Community to read in the Brockton Campus Library. At the end of the month we will gather for an afternoon to discuss the piece and read scenes from the text. Join us in reading the Play of the Month! For more information, or to sign up, email cmason10@massasoit.edu

ARTS LUNCHES

Join Media and Theatre students for lunch in the Student Center! Simply bring your lunch and meet us as we socialize and catch up on all things art. An excellent opportunity for us to meet new people and spend time together. Open to anyone who wants to join! For more information, or to sign up, email cmason10@massasoit.edu

P.T.E. (PRACTICAL THEATRE ENSEMBLE)

P.T.E. (Practical Theatre Ensemble) is a place where we get to combine the theatrical skills we are learning in class, with the practical application of a rehearsal process. Truly an ensemble, we collaborate on a script, exploring acting, design, marketing, and stage management. Join us!

-Check memos and calendars for audition updates and how to get involved.

MASSASOIT THEATRE COMPANY

In addition, to promote cultural opportunities and awareness for the college community and the MetroSouth community, the Fine Arts Dept. produces and promotes a performance series throughout the year that encompasses contemporary and classical music, dance and theatre, including a season of plays and musicals produced by the college-sponsored community theatre.

-Check memos and calendars for audition updates and how to get involved.

S.T.A.R. (STUDENT THEATRE ARTS REPRESENTATIVES)

S.T.A.R. (Student Theatre Arts Representatives) is a volunteer group of students and faculty dedicated to the development of arts education at Massasoit Community College. They strive to identify and address the theatre program's needs, advising the Humanities and Fine Arts Division on initiatives to strengthen opportunities for our students. This includes hands on leadership in areas such as orientation, recruitment, fundraising, publicity, event management, extracurricular prospects, and resource development.

-Email Professor Corinne M. Mason, at cmason10@massasoit.mass.edu , if you are interested in joining.



GET INVOLVED

FILM CLUB

The Massasoit Film Club is where fans of all genre of movies can come together, watch, and discuss some of cinema's greatest masterpieces.

Open to all students.

-Email Professor Robert Bowers at rbowers@massasoit.mass.edu , if you are interested in joining.

MEDIA AXIS CLUB

Students involved in the television side of the media club can expect to get immediate quality hands-on training in television production. Such training includes; audio engineering, non-linear editing, in-studio and field camera work, pre-production coordinating, technical directing, directing, producing, graphics, computer animation, audio editing and a "boat load" of know how. Along with fundraisers and field trips to other production facilities, the media club provides a stepping-stone to those who are considering a career in any aspect of media communications.

Email Professor Robert Bowers at rbowers@massasoit.mass.edu , if you are interested in joining.

RADIO CLUB

This is the student run organization supporting the Radio Massasoit internet radio station. Its purpose is to provide broadcasting opportunities to students and train them in the operation of a radio station.

Email Professor Robert Bowers at rbowers@massasoit.mass.edu , if you are interested in joining.

GENDER SEXUALITY ALLIANCE

An organization dedicated to spreading awareness, information, and positive self-image across the campus. Our focus is the pursuit of equality for all people who do not identify with heteronormative sexualities and gender presentations. Open dialog within the group about issues affecting our lives is welcomed and encouraged. All students, including but not limited to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, gender-fluid, pansexual, questioning, undefined, and heterosexual, are welcome to meetings and official positions. Meetings provide a safe place for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities to express themselves openly, without fear of judgment or harassment.

Email Professor Robin Peery at rpeery@massasoit.mass.edu , if you are interested in joining.

PERFORMIX CLUB

A Performing Arts Club for students who want to become more involved in exploring art opportunities and participating in activities to further their performance skill set.

-Email Professor Corinne M. Mason, at cmason10@massasoit.mass.edu , for more information.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

The **Humanities & Communication Arts** Division provides the Massasoit community with many opportunities. The Media Arts and Theatre Arts programs offer courses and a variety of degrees and certificates that serve all students on campus, and the Digital Media Arts Center is a resource for all students who want to learn television and audio production.

Our faculty and staff bring superior academic preparation, backgrounds in teaching and learning, and a commitment to student success to every course and Humanities and Communication Arts initiative. Whether you are enrolling in our classes to fulfill core requirements or to complete your major, we are here to help you explore options and discover what you are capable of achieving.

HUMANITIES & COMMUNICATION ARTS

Newsletter Writers: Corinne M. Mason & S.T.A.R. Students
Photography by: Corinne M. Mason & Matthew Duong
Department Chair of Humanities & Communication Arts: Robert Bowers
Dean of Humanities & Communication Arts: Dr. Rita Jones-Hyde
Student Theatre Arts Representatives: Announced Fall 2023
Special Thank You: Alison Smith, Communication Arts Faculty, Digital Media Staff, Fine Arts Staff, Library Staff, Massasoit Foundation, Student Life Staff.

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