

FIGHT GIRL BATTLE WORLD

By Qui Nguyen
Directed by Amelia Barrett



Welcome to the McAninch Arts Center!



Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to welcome you to the McAninch Arts Center. Each season, our stage becomes a home for extraordinary artistry from around the world, and we are thrilled to share these experiences with you. From unforgettable music and breathtaking dance to thought-provoking theatre and laugh-out-loud comedy, our touring performances bring the very best of the arts right here to DuPage County.

Your presence here is more than just attending a show—it is a celebration of the arts and a vital part of keeping them alive in our community. Every ticket purchased, every standing ovation, and every shared moment in this theater helps us fulfill our mission to make the arts accessible, engaging, and transformative.

As you enjoy today's performance, I encourage you to explore everything the MAC has to offer—from our gallery exhibitions and educational programs to our local and international collaborations. Whether this is your first visit or your fiftieth, we are honored to share this experience with you and look forward to making you feel right at home.

If you enjoy coming to the MAC, the greatest help you can offer us is to share your experiences with friends and neighbors. Word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful ways to keep the arts thriving in our community. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We look forward to entertaining you this evening, and we thank you sincerely for your support of the MAC.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana'.

Diana Martinez
Executive Director
McAninch Arts Center



“Great theater is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to.”

—Willem Dafoe

renowned American actor

Welcome to College Theater at the MAC

From the inception of planning College Theater productions, each season is built with the idea that both escapism and engagement theater are important for students to experience and our audiences to enjoy. Escapism theater allows us to escape from our daily turmoil and daily life, offering pure entertainment. Engagement theater focuses on the human condition and the burning quest for a solution—it is theater we do not easily forget and that changes us in some way, forever.

The mission of both escapism and engagement theater is to expose everyone to the great theater of the past as well as important theater of today. We’ve chosen an eclectic season including both escapism and engagement theater, culled after considering countless titles and varied genres. Above all, we’re most interested in training our students as artists, both on the stage and behind the curtain, engaging with students and community in our audience, as well. That is the power of live theater, which does not exist except in this live, ephemeral moment—it is an art that celebrates interaction—on stage, but also between stage and audience.

The 2025–2026 College Theater season is a perfect example of this exciting mix: *The Crucible*, *The Game’s Afoot*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Fight Girl Battle World*.

Thank you so much for supporting the voices of our talented students and power of live theater. We hope you join us again and again.

The Theater Faculty at College of DuPage

College Theater presents

Fight Girl Battle World

By Qui Nguyen

Director and Theater Department Chair
Amelia Barrett

Scenic & Properties Design
Sabrina Zeidler

Lighting Design
Elias Morales

Sound Design
Fisher Parsons

Costume, Hair & Make-up Design
Kimberly G. Morris

Violence and Intimacy Director
David Gonzalez

Presented by arrangement with **Broadway Play Publishing Inc.**

Support is made possible by a generous gift from the College of DuPage Foundation's
Dr. Donald and Helen (Gum) Westlake Fund for Student Productions.

*\$2 of each ticket sold supports COD music and theater students through the
John Belushi Scholarship Fund.*

Please note: This production contains adult themes, language, and violence.
Also contains smoke, haze, and flashing lights.

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of
photographs, either with or without a flash is strictly prohibited. Please
turn off all electronic devices, such as cell phones and watches.

April 9 - 19, 2026
Playhouse Theatre

CAST LISTING (in alphabetical order)

Jackson Thomas Anderson.....General Dan’h
 Lynn Borge Zoo-Keeper
 Lucien Feldman Red Two
 Katrina Spencer Fenner..... Mikah Monoch
 Michael Flavin LC-4
 Steven Gonzalez.....Chindor the Akitomi, Gree-Gree
 Chrissy GrahamJ’an Jah
 Kelly Kuper Commander G’Bril
 Alfonso Padilla..... Zimlek, Secretary
 Allo Peterson* Burnout, Gary the Tigarian
 Rory Quiroz Hurt, Leader One
 Eli Rodriguez..... President Ya-Wi
 Alexis SchiroE-V
 Ross Dumont-SniderZimlek, Announcer
 Jaden Tybor..... Adon-Ra

* Summer 2026 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient

Time and place: A Futuristic Universe where the human race is on the verge of extinction

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

AUDITIONS

College of DuPage Theater is holding auditions for summer productions

* * * * *

Footloose

Stage adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie
(original screenplay by Dean Pitchford)
Director Amelia Barrett

Music Director Dan Brennan | Choreographer Kyle Donahue

Sherwood’s Merry Mateys

Directed by Daniel Millhouse
Original Script created by Cast and Director

Thursday, Apr 30: 7-10p | Friday, May 1: 1-4p
Saturday, May 2: 12-3p (callbacks, if necessary)

For more information, see AtTheMAC.org/auditions

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Qui Nguyen wrote *Fight Girl Battle World* for his Vampire Cowboys Theatre Company, a company known for its highly physical productions that blend martial arts, comic book aesthetics, and larger-than-life heroes and villains. In a note for the original production, Nguyen shared that he and the director set out to create theater for anyone who has ever “got lost reading a comic book or playing a video game when they should have been doing their homework.”

At its core, *Fight Girl Battle World* is a hero's journey: a lonely protagonist searching for identity is thrust into an unexpected adventure filled with danger and discovery. Along the way come trials of strength, character, and resilience—culminating in a final battle that tests the hero's resolve before a hard-won return home.

But this story, brought to life on stage, becomes something even more expansive. It embraces puppetry, sci-fi tropes, politically charged humor, and the high-energy sensibility of our multi-screen world. It is bold, chaotic, playful—and unapologetically theatrical.

This production invites you to surrender to the parody and spectacle of the moment. Yet, as you leave, I hope something lingers. Within this strange world—where everyone is an alien—you may find reflections of what it means to be human. The satire asks us to consider the social assumptions and biases we carry, while echoing the fears and hopes that shape our present moment.

If nothing else, let this be an invitation: to imagine more freely, to question more openly, and, above all, to have a bit of fun.

~AB

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CAST PROFILES

Jackson Thomas Anderson (General Dan'h) First COD production. Favorite credits include *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (Mr. Salt) and *Lagooned* (Witch Doctor). Anderson received the Glen and Anita Dickson Field Study/Study Abroad Scholarship.

Lynn Borge (Zoo-Keeper) Fourth COD production; *The Game's Afoot* (Martha Gillette), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Abby Brewster), and *A Christmas Carol* (Londoner). She performs at the Bristol Renaissance Faire as part of the Queens Court (Mistress Blanche Perry). Favorite credits include *You Can't Take It With You* (Penny Sycamore) at Oakbrook Academy.

Lucien Feldman (Red Two) Second COD production; *The Game's Afoot* (Inspector Goring). Favorite credits include *Alice in Wonderland* (Humpty Dumpty); *Arsenic and Old Lace: The Radio Play* (Radio Host); and *The Game's Afoot* (Inspector Goring).

Katrina Spencer Fenner (Mikah Monoch) Eighth COD production; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (Information); *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Bethany Bunny); *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Ensemble), *Bibbity-Bobbidi-Doo-Wop* (Lady Fremhilda), *A Christmas Carol* (Nanny), *Our Town* (Woman on the Balcony), and *Cinderella* (Ensemble).

Michael Flavin (LC-4) First COD production.

Steven Gonzalez (Chindor the Akitomi, Gree-Gree) First COD production. Previous credits include *Mean Girls* (Mr. Duvall) and *The Music Man* (Ewart Dunlop), both at Lisle High School.

Chrissy Graham (J'an Jah) Sixth COD production; *Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Doo-Wop* (Vivian), *A Christmas Carol* (Wealthy Shopper; Fezziwig Guest), *Our Town* (Person of the Town), and *Alice in TV Land* (Roland). Favorite credits include *Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Doo-Wop*, *Alice in TV Land*, and the acting shadow program for Buffalo Theatre Ensemble's *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* (Georgiana).

Kelly Kuper (Commander G'Bril) Sixth COD production; *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Officer O'Hara), *Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Doo-Wop* (Gus Gus), *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Fezziwig), *Alice in TV Land* (Chesster), and *The Crucible* (Susanna Walcott).

Alfonso Padilla (Zimlek 2/Secretary) Sixth COD production; *Cinderella* (ensemble), *Our Town* (Si Crowell), *A Christmas Carol* (Joe), *Twelfth Night* (Officer 1), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

CAST PROFILES

(Drunk 2). Favorite credits include *Native Gardens* (Ensemble) and *The Outsider* (Shadow for A.C. Peterson) both at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble.

Allo Peterson* (Burnout, Gary the Tingarian) Second COD production; *A Christmas Carol* (Party Guest, Wealthy Shopper). Favorite credits include *Legally Blonde Jr* (Kyle), *Sweeny Todd* (Jonas Fogg), and *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Gargoyle) all with BAM Theatre. *Peterson is the recipient of the Summer 2026 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship.

Rory Quiroz (Leader One) Fourth COD production; *A Christmas Carol* (Ensemble), *Our Town* (Ensemble), *Alice in TV Land* (Jabberwocky).

Eli Rodriguez (President Ya'Wi) Second COD production; *Our Town* (Joe Cromwell).

Alexis Schiro (E-V) *The Game's Afoot* (Aggie Wheeler), *Good Kids* (Madison), *A Christmas Carol* (Ursula), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (posh woman), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Emily/Lady in Waiting), *Dead Man's Cellphone* (Ensemble), and *Cinderella* (Lady).

Ross Dumont-Snyder (Zimlek (1), Announcer) Third COD production; *Cinderella* (Ensemble), *Our Town* (Ensemble).

Jaden Tybor (Adon-Ra) First COD production. Favorite credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Leaf Coneybear) and *A Monster Calls* (Branch Monster).



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PLAYWRIGHT PROFILE

Qui Nguyen is a screenwriter, director, playwright, and Co-Founder of the OBIE-winning Vampire Cowboys. He and his work, known for its use of pop-culture, stage violence, puppetry, and multimedia, has been called "Culturally Savvy Comedy", "Tour de Force Theatre", and "Infectious Fun" by the *New York Times*, *TimeOut*, and *Variety*.

Nguyen is currently with Walt Disney Animation Studios where he wrote *Raya and the Last Dragon* and wrote/co-directed *Strange World*. Other TV/Film credits include *Dispatches from Elsewhere* (AMC), *The Society* (Netflix), *Incorporated* (SyFy), *Peg+CAT* (PBS), and Marvel Studios.

As a playwright, notable plays includes *Vietgone*, *Poor Yella Rednecks*, *Revenge Song*, and the critically acclaimed Vampire Cowboys productions of *She Kills Monsters*, *Soul Samurai*, *The Inexplicable Redemption of Agent G*, *Alice in Slasherland*, *Fight Girl Battle World*, and *Living Dead in Denmark*. Learn more at QuiNguyen.com.

DIRECTOR PROFILE

Amelia Barrett (Director/Theater Department Chair) is a professor of theater at College of DuPage. Barrett has most recently directed COD productions of *Cinderella* and *The Game's Afoot*. Professionally, she has directed multiple Buffalo Theatre Ensemble productions, where she was Associate Artistic Director for 22 years and Interim Managing Artistic Director for the previous year, in addition to being a member of the acting ensemble. As an actor, she has appeared with other local, regional, and international companies. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association as well as the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting and a Graduate Certificate in Laban Movement Analysis.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION PROFILES

David Gonzalez (Violence and Intimacy Director) is a fight director based in Chicago and is thrilled to be choreographing at College of DuPage once again. A long-time member of the Society of American Fight Directors, Gonzalez's choreography has been seen across the country. His Chicago-area credits include Lookingglass Theatre (*Blood Wedding*), American Theatre Co (*Fulfillment, Hair*), Elmhurst University (*The Last Cyclist, Kate and Sam are NOT Breaking Up*), and A Red Orchid Theatre (*The Cave, Last Hermanos*). He received a Jeff Award nomination for *Last Hermanos*. He is a Certified Teacher with both the Society of American Fight Directors and the American Society for the Alexander Technique. While his artistic and teaching home is with Open Gate Movement Arts in Chicago; he has worked as adjunct faculty at Carthage College, Illinois State University, DePaul, and a host of regional stage combat workshops across the country. He had the honor of being on the teaching staff of the National Stage Combat Workshop in 2023 and 2024.

Elias Morales (Lighting Design) is excited to be working as the Lighting Designer for another amazing production at College of DuPage! For over 18 years he has worked professionally as a freelance lighting designer and stage manager around Chicago. In addition, he has also had the pleasure of traveling across the US on tour with dance and sketch comedy companies. While working with so many individuals throughout the US has been fun, it is a pure delight to be working with all the passionate and talented individuals at the MAC on tonight's show!

Kimberly G. Morris (Costume, Hair and Make-up Design) is pleased to continue her work at College of DuPage. Prior to joining the crew at COD, she spent 13 years as a freelance costume, makeup, wig and properties designer throughout Chicago and the east coast. She is a company member of Babes with Blades Theatre Company where she has designed for many of their productions. She has also designed for Stage Left Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Ball State University, American Shakespeare Center, Shenandoah Shakespeare Express, Heritage Repertory Theatre, Tecumseh!, Wilmette Arts Center, NWHS and MEHS.

Fisher Parsons (Sound Design) is an Audio Production Specialist for the McAninch Arts Center. Before making the jump to working at College of DuPage, he was a Production Manager and Audio Engineer at Evanston

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION PROFILES

Rocks and the Arcada Theater where he engineered sound for various artist. When not mixing audio or recording, you can find him on stage at The Second City or in the pit orchestra on guitar for various theatrical productions throughout the Chicagoland area.

Sabrina Zeidler (Scenic and Properties Design, Technical Director) is thrilled to be working with the MAC as the Technical Director of College Theater. Her previous work at COD has been seen as the Technical Director and Properties Designer for the DuPage Opera Theatre, Technical Director for Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, and various design roles for College Theater. She is the former Stage Manager for New Philharmonic Orchestra. Zeidler was previously the Technical Director and a resident designer for Hinsdale South High School. She is a graduate of Elmhurst University with a BA in Theatre - Stage Management, Design and Technology, and Theatre Arts Administration.

Harry Smith+ (Stage Manager) Second COD production; *Christmas at Pemberley: Georgiana and Kitty* (Assistant Stage Manager). +Recipient of the Fall 2025 Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Assistant Stage Manager Scholarship and the Spring 2026 College Theatre Stage Manager Scholarship.



Friends of the MAC

The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

Arts Center and MAC-tastic Treat Seats Endowments

Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-3088 or foundation@codfound.org.

College of DuPage
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 Howard
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 Ms. Megan Howse
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 Ms. Sarah Richardson
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 Robbins
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 Ms. Yolanda E. Rocio
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 Ms. Sherie Shapiro
 Ms. Joanne Sikorski
 Ms. Lisa Sikorski
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 Geoffrey St John
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 Mrs. Marilyn A. Steenwyk
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 Stephenson, Jr.
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 Mr. and Mrs. Frank
 Studnick
 Cindy Swanson
 Katherine Swihart
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 Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Tice
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 Helen Vick
 Susan and Robert Vogt
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Volk
 Ms. Patricia Vopenka
 Penelope Wainwright
 Mr. Vince Walsh-Rock
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 Dr. Sonia Watson
 Eleanor and Roland Webb
 James Weinberger
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 Anne and Jim Wengerd
 Fonz Weninger
 Robert and Jeanne Whisler
 Rich and Kathy Wilders
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 Williams
 Roger Williams
 Ms. Wendy Wilson
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert
 Wulffen
 Diane Meiborg and Roger
 Zacek
 Ms. Chris Zipperer

FRIENDS OF THE MAC

Corporate and Community Partners

A Toda Madre
Adelle's Modern Kitchen + Bar
Altiro Latin Fusion
Anonymous Design, Inc.
Aronberg Golghen
Arrowhead Golf Club
Ball Horticultural Company
Brookdale Glen Ellyn
Capstone Financial
Advisors
Christopher B. Burke
Engineering
College of DuPage
Foundation
DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle

Naperville
DuPage Convention and
Visitors Bureau, DuMore
DuPage
DuPage County Board
DuPage Foundation
Enjoy Illinois/Department of
Commerce and
Economic Opportunity
G. Carl Ball Family
Foundation
Illinois Arts Council Agency
Ivy Restaurant
Japanese Chamber of
Commerce and Industry of
Chicago

Leslie A. and Mary E.
Wiberg Fund of DuPage
Foundation and Arts
DuPage
Molex
Reserve 22 at Village Links
Santa Fe Restaurant
Vistex Corporation
West Suburban Art Society
Wight & Company
90.9FM WDC



Volunteer at the MAC

We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events. Volunteers provide invaluable service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests. Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator
Rob Nardini: nardinir@cod.edu | (630) 942-3705.

HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For **Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

MAC STAFF LISTING

MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center	Diana Martinez
Business Manager	Molly Junokas
Assistant Business Manager	Linda Sharbaugh
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant	Madelene Przybysz
Marketing and Patron Services Manager	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer	Wendy Melgar
Student Graphic Design Assistant	Desiree Beltran
Director of Development for Cultural Arts	Jon Nadel
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator	Mandy Rakow
Project Manager	Kari Schoettle
Office Manager/Events Coordinator	Morgan Bainbridge
Department Administrative Assistant	Leti Lopez
Student Clerical Assistant	Kate Cadag

MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistant	Patrick Garon
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Interim Managing Artistic Director	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian	Ryan Michel

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Supervisor	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka