

# BSU Theatre

**Boldly forward**



**Theatre is a result of innovation, collaboration, and momentum that always drive us forward. This year, BSU Theatre both built on successes of the past and planted seeds for the future. To celebrate, we invite you to scroll through this visual tour from BSU Theatre season 2025-2026.**



**Photo from award-winning "Transformation" by Kyia Parker. Featuring LaShay Fletcher. Joseph Edwards Photography.**



## FALL PRODUCTION - EVERYBODY BY BRANDEN JACOBS JENKINS

An excerpt from DC Theatre Arts article, "Morality, mortality, and farce in 'Everybody' at Bowie State University by BSU Theatre junior LaShay Fletcher, assistant director of "Everybody"

**"What does it mean to die? Who and what can we take with us when it's time to go? In this adaptation of 'Everyman,' an unknown author's 15th-century play, 'Everybody' by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins explores these questions with a touch of humor and a little edge that audiences will enjoy."**



**Buidling the artistic leaders of tomorrow is a core value for BSU Theatre. Under a mentorship model, BSU Theatre's Fall production was led by Jalayah Muhammad, graduating senior. Her experience was captured in the DC Theatre Arts article by junior classmate LaShay Fletcher.**

"What were some of the challenges you had to overcome while going through this experience?"

**"One of the challenges I had to overcome was learning not to be so hard on myself and giving myself grace, especially since this was my first time directing. I realized I don't know all the answers and that it's okay to ask questions." - Jalayah Muhammad, graduating senior and director of "Everybody."**



**BSU Theatre's Fall 2025 production, Everybody by Branden Jacobs Jenkins. Directed by Jalayah Muhammad. Featuring Oasis Lillard and Devin Harper. Joseph Edwards Photography.**



## MasterClasses

**MasterClasses aren't just guest appearances, but opportunities for students to build relationships with industry leaders as they deepen their understanding of why create art, who must be reflected in the art, and the power of their artistic voice. We are so thankful to theatre icons like Michael J. Bobbitt, Reginald Douglas, Psalmayene 24, Alvaro Saar Rios and so many others for taking time to share their wisdom and experience.**

**NATIONAL CITIZEN ARTIST AWARD FOR  
BSU THEATRE'S "TRANSFORMATION"**



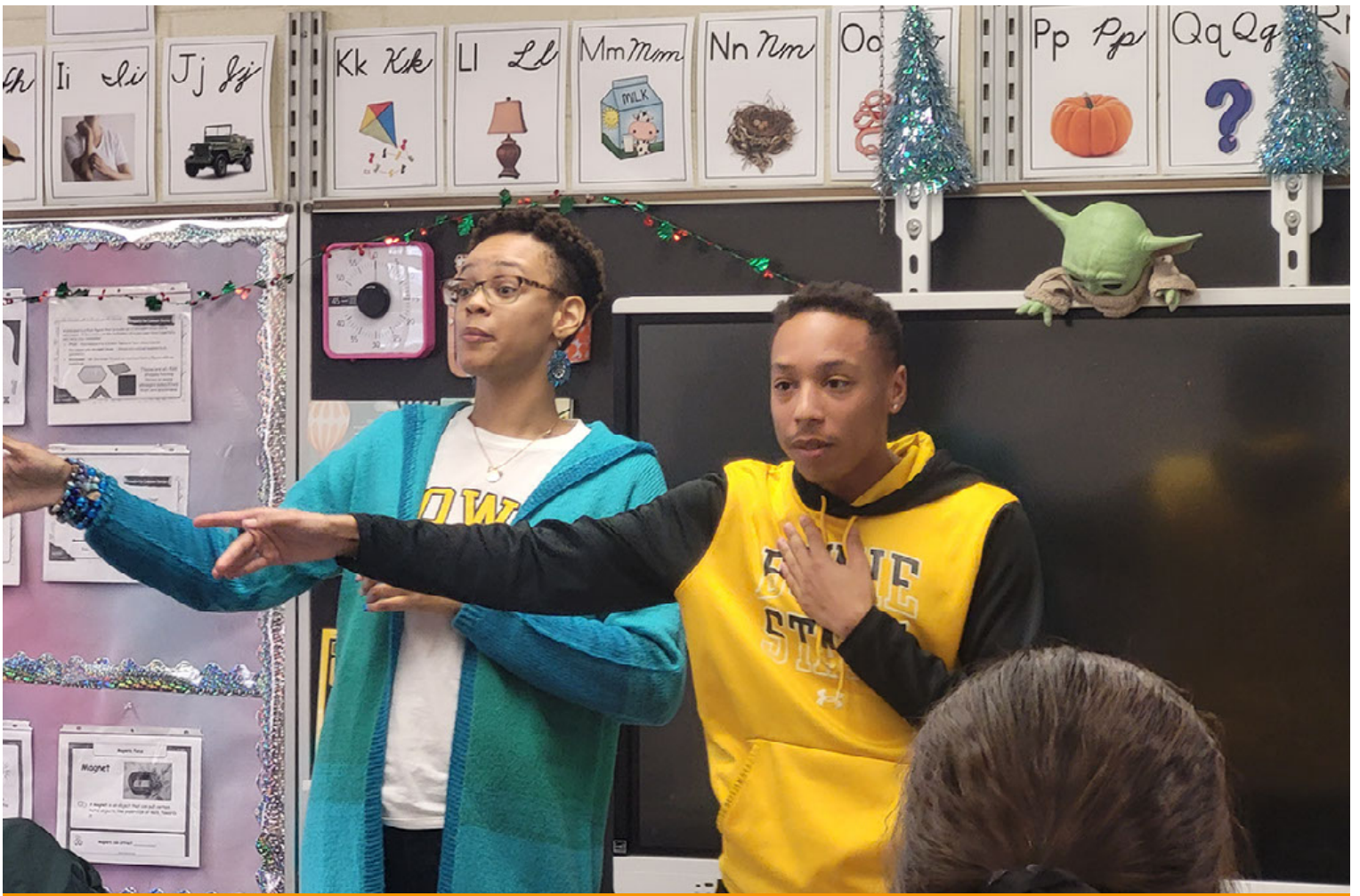
## THE AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE FESTIVAL!

**Yet another win for BSU Theatre! In Spring 2025, BSU Theatre took another bold artistic step with "The Incubator," a new works initiative that fosters the next generation of Global Majority playwrights. "The Incubator" uses a faculty and peer-reviewed process to determine selected student playwrights who develop their vision from page to stage. Two new plays - "I Have No Idea Why I'm Here" by Whitney Watson and "Divinity Amongst the Sea" by Kyia Parker - became known as "Transformation," a metaphysical dive into ancestral and spiritual questioning of our origin and purpose. Selected through a highly competitive process, BSU Theatre was one of six college in the Mid-Atlantic region invited to perform this innovative show for The American College Theater Festival, held January 13-17, 2026. We thank our outgoing department chair Professor Teo Melchishua Williams, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Stephen Damo, and the many who supported financially and in immeasurable ways to make this happen. As a result of this year's festival performances, "Transformation" was honored in May 2026 with the National Citizen Artist Award from ACTF.**

**An additional honor for BSU Theatre - our very own Brian Wise, student designer and stage manager, received the ACTF Design Launch Award for his set design for "Everybody." Congrats to this transformative team!**



**Brian Wise shares his research and design for "Everybody" with a panel of industry adjudicators.**



## WONDERWORKS

**Wonderworks is a new theatre for young audiences initiative from Bowie State University Theatre, pairing undergraduate theatre arts majors with elementary-aged students to explore storytelling, expression, and imagination through the body, mind, and voice, as well as producing professional-level performances for families. Grounded in the belief that theatre is intricately tied to social emotional learning through community creation, participants deepen their awareness of self and others as they explore relationships, identity, and how actions impact life.**

**The pillars of Wonderworks reflect key Bowie State University core values of inclusivity, integrity, and innovation, placing each person on the path to authentic engagement as a member of a supportive community. This is achieved through the following goals:**

- **To engage in dramatic play as a means to explore diverse perspectives and cultivate empathy for others.**
- **To discover one's range of expression, verbally and physically.**
- **To build community and practice inclusivity through collective, creative performance.**
- **To apply mindfulness while self-navigating strong emotions.**
- **To strengthen self-esteem and identity.**





**Under the direction of Professor Elena Velasco, BSU's theatre coordinator, Wonderworks creative drama residencies were launched at neighboring Rockledge ES with their third grade classes. Noting that SEL (social-emotional learning) is critical for developing minds and embedded into the PGCPS elementary curriculum, Wonderworks became a natural partner to these classrooms, fostering performance skills, strengthening confidence, and teaching the value of joy-centered creation.**

**For the first time ever, BSU Theatre hosted a special free performance for local elementary students and their teachers as part of the Wonderworks initiative. Nearly 100 young audience members were able to attend the spring musical "Bob Marley's Three Little Birds," demonstrating that theatre can and should be enjoyed by all.**





**In many ways, Wonderworks is a response to a cultural gap. While Prince George's County has some arts venues, there is no dedicated producing theatre for young audiences organization that creates and presents live theatre for families. Wonderworks is transforming the community through this hyper-local engagement, incubating Global Majority stories for the stage that represent cultures and experiences of PG county residents who are predominantly Black and Latino.**



**And this is where BSU Theatre is planting seeds for the future - to be a leader in TYA for the Global Majority. Through Wonderworks' two-fold approach - creative drama school residencies and dedicated TYA productions - local children and families will benefit from an affinity space that celebrates strength of the self through joy and wonder.**

**In our "Boldly Resilient" Season 2026-2027, BSU Theatre will continue to produce published works for adult audiences, but has added a NEW SHOW SLOT dedicated to incubating imaginative new performances specifically designed for youth and their families.**



**Looking ahead to BSU Theatre's Season 2026-2027, we know that when we prioritize community, joy, and pride, we grow because of and beyond our roots. We thank everyone who supported us in that growth and have faith our current community of advocates will help us welcome new audiences. To make our future possible, we'll be exploring many forms of mutual aid, solidarity economy practices, as well as gracious donor support, confident our seeds will bear fruit.**

**The future is as bright and bold as we envision it to be.**

**We are many.**

**We are one.**

**We are BSU Theatre.**