



News Release

Cadence Theatre

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Cadence Theatre

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Cadence Theatre in partnership with Virginia Repertory Theatre presents *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins this June

by Liv Wilson

Richmond, VA—It's time for Everybody to greet Death, but nobody wants to make the journey alone. Everybody seeks out Stuff, Kinship, Friendship, Cousinship, and Love as company on this treacherous trip, along the way discovering what is truly important in life.

Everybody by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, is based on the 15th century morality play, *Everyman*, written to encourage people to behave well, morally, in order to go to heaven. Morality plays often featured a protagonist representing a generic layperson guided toward good or evil and the personification of concepts such as virtues and vices. Jacobs-Jenkins' version is inclusive and humorous in its tale of Everybody's journey through existential crisis before entering the grave.

Cadence and Virginia Rep's production of *Everybody*, directed by Rusty Wilson, will open as the second show in the 2021/22 season, a brilliant return to live theatre. Wilson states that this piece is "about the journey all of us must make into the unknown." He comments on the relevance of this revamped morality play, remarking, "I believe this play speaks to our present day in profound and specific ways including our politics, our belief systems, our divided nation and world, racial, religious and gender

bias and intolerance, the violence we inflict on each other, and our inability to love expansively. This is a perfect play for this moment.”

Keeley Maddux, current TRAIN student at Cadence and Virginia Rep playing the roles of Girl and Time, notes the impact of this show amidst a global pandemic, when we are unfortunately forced to face our mortality with more frequency. Keeley observes, “It’s a play that’s giving you suggestions, and you decide whether to take them or not, or make them your own.” In the TRAIN program, students worked on analyzing this play, enacting all the different roles themselves. Now, Maddux is able to experience it with a full cast, bringing the background knowledge and analysis developed through the TRAIN program.

Debra Wagoner, a seasoned actor at Cadence, is taking on the roles of Usher, God, and Understanding. Wagoner states that death is a hard, permanent, and scary subject, but questions, “Why shouldn’t we examine it, laugh about it, cry about it, and think about how we would like to LIVE?”

The modern reprisal features an uncertain and stimulating element rarely seen in live theatre: a lottery. Each night the lottery is performed in front of the audience, selecting who in the cast will be playing the protagonist, Everybody (and the subsequent roles) for that night’s performance. Keeley Maddux notes the impact of everyone switching around roles constantly, describing, “a different take of the show at each performance.” Director Rusty Wilson focuses mainly on celebrating the unique personalities of each talented actor and telling the story. Debra Wagoner, the actor performing the lottery, giving out the roles to actors each night, just hopes everyone will still be speaking to her when all is said and done.

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ *Everybody* brings humor and truth to an existential question, making it more palatable, thought-provoking, and comedic as much of life truly is. The piece takes us on a journey as we watch Everybody discover the meaning of life through the conclusion of it. It causes us to question what we hope we can say we have done with our life, how we want to live our lives while we are still here. Wilson beautifully observes, “This play reminds us to be a better version of ourselves.”

Everybody will be playing at Theatre Gym from **June 2-19 2022**. A post-show talkback will take place on Sunday, June 12, 2022. To purchase tickets, call (804) 282-2620 or visit <https://tickets.va-rep.org/events>. Use promo code **EVERY5** on orders placed through May 31, and receive \$5 off each ticket to any date in the run. For more information on the current season at Cadence Theatre, please visit: <https://cadencetheatre.org/2021-2022-season>.

Our COVID Safety Policy

In accordance with current city, state, and CDC guidance, **face masks are REQUIRED at all times** while you are in the building, regardless of vaccination status. At this time, no food or drink is allowed in the theatre.

Cast	Role(s)
Debra Wagoner	Usher/God/Understanding
Desiree Dabney	Love
Jacqueline Jones	Death
Katrinah Carol Lewis	Somebody
Maggie Roop	Somebody
Audra Honaker	Somebody
Jamar Jones	Somebody
Tatjana Shields	Somebody
Tyler Stevens	Somebody
Keeley Maddux	Girl/Time
Charlotte Hall	Girl/Time

Production Team	Position
Rusty Wilson	Director
Maggie Higginbotham	Directing Assistant
Tim Glover	Directing Assistant / House Manager
Maggie Higginbotham	Stage Manager
Alleigh Scantling	Production Manager / Lighting Designer / Master Electrician

Emily Hake Massie	Scenic Designer / Scenic Charge
Chris Foote	Master Carpenter
Sarah Grady	Costume Designer
Joey Luck	Sound Designer
Laine Satterfield	Choreographer of Skeleton Dance
Kylie Clark	Puppet Designer
Ellie Wilder	Properties Master
Kristen Woolridge	House Manager
Grace Brown	Sound Engineer
Grace Phipps	Audio Technician
Courtney Holmes	Backstage Crew