

Director's Note

Learning Alone is an opportunity for our student actors to tell their own stories, in their own words, about how the past eight months has changed their lives. Inevitably, college years invite radical change for students: leaving home, making new friends, moving on from old ones, embarking on a career....the list is long. Moving through so many transitions can be rocky in the best of times, and as we all know, 2020 has not brought us the best of times. How these young people worked through the many challenges of this year, and what they learned in that effort, is the subject of this radio play.

A Note on the Process

Learning Alone is a devised production. Devised theatre is a term for a process in which every member of the creative team participates in creating a show from scratch. In live theatre, that process usually involves intense physicality, innovative light and sound design, and a script developed during the rehearsal period. Since Learning Alone was crafted in quarantine, script development and sound design were the only tools in our box. Over the past ten weeks, our actors talked with each other about their experiences of both Covid-19 and a tumultuous political environment, working from prompts the director wrote to help them shape their stories. They generated an enormous amount of material: Learning Alone is sixty minutes, but was whittled down from 327 minutes of dialogue created during rehearsals. In the end, our hour-long play aims to open a window into the (as of this writing) 5,760 hours of life each of these actors has lived since the pandemic began.

Cast

Tehan Davis
Lily Gates-Tilles
Jalen Hampton
Kelsey Hotchkiss
Vanessa Lopez
Eowyn Salvador

Production Team

Sound Supervisor - Cliff Caruthers
Sound Assistant - Pablo Zavala
Prop Supervisor - Devon Labelle
Scene Shop Supervisor - Greg Dunham
Production Manager - Deirdre Mountain
Stage Manager - Sydney Blake
Marketing & Publicity - Terry Boero
Front of House - Theater Management
class

Program - Abby Volz and Delia Mejia

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the campuses of San Francisco State University on the San Francisco peninsula and north bay are located within the occupied territories of the Ohlone peoples and the Coastal Miwok (who, along with the Southern Pomo, are organized as the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria). In this time of distance learning, the lands upon which students may sit as they think and learn may have additional Indigenous histories. We encourage students to learn these histories by beginning with the database https://nativeland.ca/. We would also like to acknowledge the many ways in which a historically White Western canon of dramatic literature has often been a potent tool of cultural oppression and erasure. Because theatre is carried out with and on live bodies, it is vital to understand this history, recognize its continued impact, and make space for artistic and scholarly work that counters this oppression.



School of Theatre and Dance Faculty

School Director-Kim Schwartz

Bruce R Avery, Cece Bechelli, Terry Amara Boero, Arvejon Jones, Cliff Caruthers, Sukanya Chakrabarti, Christy Crowley, Kara Davis, Kurt Daw, Wendy Diamond, Conchita Fayos, Sara Felder, Isaac Fine, dana e fitchett, Erin Gibb, Yukihiro Goto, Elizabeth Hunter, Deirdre Mountain, Ray Oppenheimer, Bill Peters, Dee Spencer, Ray Tadio, Jo Tomalin, Rhonnie Washington, Laura Wayth, Yutian Wong

School of Liberal and Creative Arts

Dean – Andrew Harris
Associate Deans – Christina Sabee, Gail
Dawson, Susan Shimanoff
School of Theatre and Dance Staff
Meghann Dubie, Greg Dunham, Victoria Giari,
Joe Greene, Devon LaBelle
School of Theatre & Dance Student Assistants
Front Office – Jazmine Logan
Social Media – Libby Martinez, Diego Cazares

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Upcoming Spring 2021

Brown Bag

Fringe Festival

A Radio Play

