

# THE GRAVEDIGGERS UNION

*By Brian James Polak  
Directed by Kevin R. Free*



Thursday, March 7, 7:30 pm  
Friday, March 8, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, March 9, 5:00 pm  
Sunday, March 10, 2:00 pm  
Monday, March 11, 7:30 pm

Gannett Theater  
Bates College  
305 College Street  
Lewiston, ME 04240

Free Admission - \$5 Suggested Donation  
Ticket Info: 207-786-6161  
[batestheateranddance.eventbrite.com](http://batestheateranddance.eventbrite.com)

**Bates Theater + Dance**

# Bates | Theater+Dance

PRESENTS

## The Gravediggers Union

By Brian James Polak<sup>++</sup>

### CREATIVE TEAM

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Kevin R. Free <sup>++</sup>
<b>SCENIC DESIGNERS</b>	B. Christine McDowell Kerrigan Anuszewski '25
<b>COSTUME DESIGNER</b>	B. Christine McDowell
<b>LIGHTING DESIGNER</b>	Michael Reidy
<b>ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER</b>	Kendall Jones '25
<b>SOUND DESIGNER</b>	Scott O'Brien <sup>+</sup>
<b>ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER</b>	Sammy Weidenthal '27
<b>VOCAL DIRECTOR</b>	Kati Vecsey
<b>STAGE MANAGER</b>	Ananya Rao '25
<b>ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER</b>	Alexandra Voight-Shelley '24

*<sup>+</sup>Guest Artist*

*<sup>++</sup>Guest Artist and Bates Learning Associate*

**This production is entered in the  
Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF).**

### TALKBACKS

Please join us following the performances on **March 7th and 8th** for a conversation with playwright Brian James Polak, director Kevin R. Free, and members of the cast and creative team!

## CAST

<b>RICKY</b>	Noah Skinner '26
<b>BOBBY</b>	Isabel Fronzaglia '26
<b>MIKE</b>	Caroline Cassell '24*
<b>JOHNNY</b>	Jack Hagan '27
<b>RONNIE</b>	Joaquin Torres '25
<b>RALPH</b>	David Allen '24* <i>March 7th performance</i>
	Huck Triggs '24 <i>March 8th performance</i>
	Adam Joseph Matos '26 <i>March 9th performance</i>
	Maia Seigerman '26 <i>March 10th performance</i>
	David Walker '24 <i>March 11th performance</i>

*\*These performances are offered in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a senior thesis in acting.*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Aidan McDowell  
Bates Viz Lab  
RAD Sports  
Bates Athletics  
Justin Moriarty  
Portland Stage Company  
Faculty Scholarship Committee  
Rachel Wray  
Jason Scheideman  
Mellon Curricular Grant  
Bates Learning Associate Program, supported by The Christian A.  
Johnson Endeavor Foundation

## PRODUCTION STAFF

### TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Daniel Brodhead  
Justin Moriarty

### COSTUME SHOP SUPERVISOR

Carol Farrell

### LEAD CARPENTER

Aiden McDowell

### ZOMBIE COSTUMES

Prinnes Wilson '24

### LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

Julia Parham '25

### SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

### CARPENTERS

Jakob Adler '24  
Jackie Coraci '26  
Natalia Jacobs '26  
Kendall Jones '25  
Maria McEvoy '26  
Peter Nguyen '25  
Miguel Pacheco Gonzalez '24  
Maia Schifman '26  
Sophie Wheeler '25  
Olivia Wiener '24  
James Usher '26  
Ed Zuis '24

### COSTUME SHOP STAFF

Bora Lugunda '25  
Grace Acton '24  
Carter Fay '24  
Adelle Welch '25  
Raegan White '26  
Sanae Hagino '26

### DECK CREW

Olivia Wiener '24

### WARDROBE CREW

Prinnes Wilson '24  
Sanae Hagino '26

### POSTER DESIGNER

Elizabeth Barrow '25

### SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATORS

Kendall Jones '25  
Maia Seigerman '26  
Jamie Shelton '27

### FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGERS

Estelle Feinberg '26  
Ruby Marden '27

## THEATER + DANCE FACULTY AND STAFF

### MARTIN E. ANDRUCKI

Charles A. Dana  
Professor Emeritus

### DANIEL BRODHEAD

Technical Director

### LIZ PETLEY COYER

Administrative Assistant  
and Special Events  
Manager

### CAROL DILLEY

Director and Professor  
of Dance  
*On Sabbatical 2023-24*

### TIM DUGAN

Associate Professor of  
Theater

### BRIAN J. EVANS

Assistant Professor of  
Dance

### CAROL FARRELL

Costume Shop  
Supervisor

### AMY HUANG

Assistant Professor of  
Theater and  
Performance Studies

### CALLIE KIMBALL

Lecturer in Theater

### TRISTAN KOEPKE

Assistant Professor of  
Dance

### PAUL T. KURITZ

Professor Emeritus

### B. CHRISTINE MCDOWELL

Associate Professor  
of Theater

### JUSTIN MORIARTY

Technical Director,  
Lecturer in Theater

### MICHAEL REIDY

Managing Director,  
Senior Lecturer in  
Theater

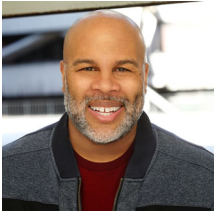
### KATALIN VECSEY

Chair of Theater +  
Dance, Senior  
Lecturer in Theater,  
and Vocal Director

### SALLY WOOD

Lecturer in Theater

## GUEST BIOS



### **KEVIN R. FREE, Director and Bates Learning Associate**

Kevin R. Free is delighted to be at Bates. No stranger to Maine, he has directed at Colby College (*Wendy & The Neckbeards*, 2019) and Portland Stage (most recently *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure and The Play That Goes Wrong*). Other Directing credits: *Pass Over* (Marin Theatre Company); *Pipeline*; *It's A Wonderful Life*; *The Burdens*; and *Berta, Berta* (all at Mile Square Theatre, where he is now the Artistic Director). Former: Producing Artistic Director, The Fire This Time Festival (Obie Award). He is now a member of the New Works Lab Cohort at the historic Apollo Theater. Kevin is also an award-winning audiobook narrator of over 500 books and was named a Golden Voice by AudioFile Magazine in 2023. Listen for his voice as Kevin in "Welcome to Night Vale," and this year as Mikey in Gideon Media's "Ask Your Father." [www.kevinrfree.com](http://www.kevinrfree.com)



### **BRIAN JAMES POLAK, Playwright and Bates Learning Associate**

Brian James Polak is an award-winning playwright born and raised in New Hampshire. His plays include *WELCOME TO KEENE, NH*, *THE PATIENT* (The Kennedy Center's Jean Kennedy Smith Award), *LAST TO DIE FOR A LOST CAUSE* (The Kennedy Center's John Cauble Award), *HERE RESTS THE HEART*, *THE GRAVEDIGGERS UNION*, and others. His work has been published by Smith & Kraus, Talon Review, Commonplace Books, NoPassport Press, Next Stage Press, and Canyon Voices. Currently writing: *HOTEL HOLLYWOOD* about the collision between capitalism and homelessness in downtown Los Angeles, and *THE MEETING* about what artists might do in a fascist society where the arts have been banned. Brian is the producer and host of American Theatre Magazine's "The Subtext," a podcast by/for/about playwrights and playwriting. He received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from the University of Southern California, School of Dramatic Arts. More can be found at [BrianJamesPolak.com](http://BrianJamesPolak.com)

## GUEST BIOS



**SCOTT O'BRIEN, Original Music and Sound Design**

**Off-Broadway/New York:** *100 Saints You Should Know* (Playwrights Horizons), *Normalcy*, *Jungle Book*, *Eye of God*, *The Soldier Dreams*, *Harvest* (Theatre East), *The Tempest*, *Three Sisters*, *Hamlet*, *MacBeth*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Winters' Tale*, *Henry V*, *The Merchant of Venice* (American Globe Theatre)

**Regional:** *The Art of Coarse Acting*, *The Just* (Chautauqua Theatre Company), *Safe House* (Repertory Theatre of St Louis), *Slashes of Light*, *A Body of Water*, *Lonely Planet*, *Swimming in the Shallows* (Kitchen Theatre Company), *On the Open Road*, *Inventing Montana*, *Scotland Road*, *The Innocents*, *Below the Belt*, *The Woman in Black*, *The Haunting of Hill House*, *The Killing of Sister George* (Centenary Stage Company), *MacBeth*, *No Child*, *The Tempest*, *Great Expectations*, *Imbroglia* (world premiere) (Great River Shakespeare Festival), *An Illiad*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Theatre at Monmouth)

**Film:** *Eleanor*; *Godmother of American Fashion* (Vanity Fair Films), *Phoenix Rising*; *The Silent Victims Speak* (Noblelevision Productions)

**Academic:** lecturer on music & sound design - SUNY-Rockland (NY), Fairleigh-Dickinson University (NJ), Pace University (NY), Montclair State University (NJ), Duke Ellington School of the Arts, (Washington, DC)



# The Kennedy Center

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein.***

*Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.*

*Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.*

*Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.*

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

# Bates | Theater+Dance

**Theater Program Mission:** The Bates Theater program thrives on the belief that joyful collaboration is integral to approaching this field. Through experiential learning, theoretical exploration and embodied practice, we offer space for a broad range of student journeys, celebrating the individual as well as the larger ensemble. Valuing process over product, we welcome all who wish to join our community to deepen their appreciation of theater arts and engage in the dynamic relationship between art and the human experience.

**Values:** Collaboration, Creativity, Inclusiveness/Welcoming, Process, Experiential Learning

**Theater Program Vision:** The Bates Theater program seeks to provide an unparalleled liberal arts experience led by faculty and staff who are active professionals in their field. We train the future generation of innovative thinkers, active and supportive collaborators, and individuals with a fierce commitment to transform and better our world.

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## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES AT BATES

### *El Próximo Tren*

Directed and Devised by Miguel Ángel Pacheco '24

March 28 - 31

Various Locations

(visit our website for location information)

### *The Marcy Plavin Spring Dance Concert*

Artistic Direction by Assistant Professor Tristan Koepke

April 5 - 8

Schaeffer Theatre

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For more information on the Department of Theater & Dance, please visit [www.bates.edu/theater-dance/events](http://www.bates.edu/theater-dance/events)

or call the Bates Box Office at 207-786-6161

For ticket information: [batestheateranddance.eventbrite.com](http://batestheateranddance.eventbrite.com)

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and Instagram [@bates.theater.dance](https://www.instagram.com/bates.theater.dance)