

USC School  
of Dramatic Arts



By Caryl Churchill | Directed by Christopher Shaw  
Scene Dock Theatre **November 14-24, 2019**

# USC School of Dramatic Arts

presents

## Mad forest

By **Caryl Churchill**

With

**Olivia Gill** **Matt Gomez Hidaka** **Ben Hirschhorn**  
**Eden Lederer** **Kaitlin Maxwell** **Matt Mitchell**  
**Alexander Pires** **Chelsea Sik** **Mariah Tzoumbas**  
**Sophia Werthmann** **Justin White** **Matt Wunsch**

Scenic and Projections Design **Edward Hansen** Costume Design **Howard Schmitt** Lighting Design **M. Milner Sommers**

Sound Design **Kiegan Lee** Stage Manager **Mimi Bower**

Directed by **Christopher Shaw**

Scene Dock Theatre **November 14-24, 2019**

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Produced by special arrangement with Samuel L. French; some cuts to text for this specific production made through permission from Samuel L. French.

### CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

**Bogdan, Soldier, Vampire, Ensemble**  
Justin White

**Irina, Flower Seller, Ensemble**  
Mariah Tzoumbas

**Lucia, House Painter, Ensemble**  
Eden Lederer

**Florina, Ensemble**  
Olivia Gill

**Mihai, Doctor, Wayne, Translator, Soldier, Ensemble**  
Matt Mitchell

**Flavia, Ensemble**  
Kaitlin Maxwell

**Radu, Securitate, Ensemble**  
Alexander Pires

**Securitate, Angel, Student Doctor, Flavia's Grandmother, Grandmother Vladu, Sore Throat, Waiter, Ensemble**  
Sophia Werthmann

**Ianos, Painter, Ensemble**  
Matt Wunsch

**Priest, Waiter, Boy Student, Dog, Toma, Patient, Ensemble**  
Matt Gomez Hidaka

**Gabriel, Boy Student, Ensemble**  
Ben Hirschhorn

**Rodica, Girl Student, Grandfather Vladu, Old Aunt, Ensemble**  
Chelsea Sik

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Time: **1989, Romanian Revolution**

Place: **Romania**

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager **Erin Newsom** | Romanian Language/Culture/Historical Advisor **Madalina Nastase** | Choreography **Alexander Pires** | Dance Captain **Alexander Pires**  
Fight Choreography **Edgar Landa** | Fight Captain **Chelsea Sik**  
Assistant Technical Director **Dominic Vacca** | Assistant Director **Parker Huseby**  
Military Advisor **Eliot Ohlemeyer** | Crew **Erica Ammerman, Yesenia Galvez, Madeline Heyman, Jared Pheffer, Payton Truszkowski, Hannah Yau, Nina van Vredenburg, Michael Gorman, Sophia Grose**

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**WARNING** Please be advised that this production contains partial nudity, violence, foul language, theatrical fog and haze effects.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Power is not a means; it is an end.  
One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution;  
One makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship.”

—George Orwell, 1984

## Diary of Events

### DECEMBER 16-17

Demonstrations in Timisoara in support of Hungarian priest Laszlo Tokes.

Ceausescu visits Iran. Demonstrators in Timisoara shot.

### DECEMBER 21

Ceausescu's speech in Bucharest. He is shouted down. That night shooting.

### DECEMBER 22

Army goes over to people. Ceausescu escapes. TV station occupied. National Salvation Front formed. More shooting which continues for several days.

### DECEMBER 25

Ceausescu captured, tried by military tribunal and shot.

### LATE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Front announces it will stand in elections.

Demonstrations against Front and Iliescu, and in support.

### MAY

Anti-Front demonstrators block center of Bucharest.

### MAY 20

Election. Iliescu and Front have large majorities.

## Mad Forest

On the plain where Bucharest now stands there used to be “a large forest crossed by small muddy streams...It could only be crossed on foot and was impenetrable for the foreigner who did not know the paths...The horsemen of the steppe were compelled to go round it, and this difficulty which irked them so, is shown by the name...”  
Teleorman—Mad Forest

—*A Concise History of Romania*  
by Otetea and MacKenzie

## DIRECTOR'S BIO

**Christopher Shaw** is an assistant professor of theatre practice at the USC School of Dramatic Arts in Acting and Directing. Shaw has worked professionally in theatre, film, and TV in N.Y. and L.A., as well as numerous regional theatres throughout the United States. Recent directing work includes: *Passion Play* (USC BFA Senior Rep 2017), *Escape From Happiness* (USC BFA Senior Rep 2016), *Nora* (CSULB BFA 2015), and *Farragut North* (CSUF BFA 2014). As an actor Christopher has appeared in productions at Playwrights Horizons, Minetta Lane, The NY Public, Circle Rep, The Long Wharf, The Kennedy Center, and many more. Along with his work at USC, he teaches acting privately in downtown Los Angeles, has taught in the BA and BFA acting programs at CSU Long Beach, CSU Fullerton, and served as guest faculty with Steppenwolf Theatre West Summer Intensive and the USC Summer High School intensive in Los Angeles and Shanghai, China.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Madalina Nastase, Florina Nastase, Leonard Nastase, Gheorghe Ghita, Eliot Ohlemeyer

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Located in Los Angeles, a city synonymous with artistic innovation and excellence, the top-ranked **USC School of Dramatic Arts** is a leader in dramatic arts education. The School uniquely blends artistic training in a conservatory environment with world-class faculty artists and the full academic experience found only within a major research university. This close-knit, supportive environment offers students the freedom to explore their artistic passions. Through programs of the highest caliber, as well as initiatives that provide access to professional experience, students are prepared for leadership in every facet of dramatic arts. For more information, please visit [dramaticarts.usc.edu](http://dramaticarts.usc.edu).

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For more information about giving to the School of Dramatic Arts, please contact Sara Fousekis at 213-821-4047 or [fousekis@usc.edu](mailto:fousekis@usc.edu).

# USC School of Dramatic Arts 2019/20 Season of Plays



## Men on Boats

By Jaclyn Backhaus  
Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks  
McClintock Theatre | Oct 3–6

## Amsterdam

By Maya Arad Yasar  
Directed by Lilach Dekel-Avneri  
Scene Dock Theatre | Oct 10–20

## The Cider House Rules

PART ONE: **Here in St. Cloud's**

PART TWO: **In Other Parts of  
the World**

Adapted by Peter Parnell  
From the novel by John Irving  
Conceived for the Stage by Tom  
Hulce, Jane Jones and Peter Parnell  
Directed by Scott Faris  
Bing Theatre | Oct 31–Nov 10

## Trouble in Mind

By Alice Childress  
Directed by John DeMita  
McClintock Theatre | Oct 31–Nov 3

## MFA ACTING YEAR 2 REPERTORY at

at The Los Angeles Theatre Center  
LATC Theatre 3 | Nov 7–16

### The Brothers Size

By Tarell Alvin McCraney  
Directed by Larry Powell

### The Minotaur

By Anna Ziegler | Directed by  
Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx

## Mad Forest

By Caryl Churchill  
Directed by Christopher Shaw  
Scene Dock Theatre | Nov 14–24

## Barbarians

Book by Maxim Gorky | Translated  
by Kitty Hunter Blair, Jeremy  
Brooks and Michael Weller  
Directed by Susan Angelo  
McClintock Theatre | Nov 21–24

## MFA ACTING YEAR 3 REPERTORY

Scene Dock Theatre  
Feb 7–Mar 8, 2020

### Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)

By Suzan-Lori Parks  
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Andrei Belgrader

### Guarded

By Boni B. Alvarez  
Directed by David Warshofsky

## Othello

By William Shakespeare  
Directed by Kate Burton  
Bing Theatre | Feb 27–Mar 1

## Camino Real

By Tennessee Williams  
Directed by Edgar Landa  
McClintock Theatre | Mar 5–8

## Fuente Ovejuna: A Disloyal Adaptation

By Cusi Cram  
Directed by Rena Heinrich  
Scene Dock Theatre | Apr 2–5

## The Secret Garden

Book and Lyrics by Marsha  
Norman Music by Lucy Simon  
Based on the novel by  
Frances Hodgson Burnett  
Directed by Kelly Ward  
Bing Theatre | Apr 2–12

## Three Sisters

By Anton Chekhov  
A New Version by Sarah Ruhl  
Based on a literal translation  
by Elise Thoron  
With Natasha Paramonova and  
Kristin Johnsen-Neshati  
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel  
Scene Dock Theatre | Apr 23–26

## BFA Sophomore Show

McClintock Theatre | April 23–26

## NEW WORKS FESTIVALS

### YEAR 1

#### New Play Readings

Presented in association with  
Playwrights' Arena | April

### YEAR 2

#### Playwrights Workshop

Presented in association with  
Latino Theater Company  
Massman Theatre | Apr 11–19

### YEAR 3

#### Play Project

Presented in association with  
the Pasadena Playhouse  
May 22 & 23

## TICKET PRICES

Plays: General \$15, Seniors \$10, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$8  
Musicals: General \$20, Seniors \$12, USC Students/Faculty/Staff with ID \$10

## PERFORMANCES

Thurs & Fri at 7:30 p.m., Sat at 2:30 & 8 p.m. and Sun at 2:30 p.m.  
(Except where noted)

For more information about our shows, visit  
[dramaticarts.usc.edu/on-stage](http://dramaticarts.usc.edu/on-stage)

