In honor of the Jubilee season, we are proud to announce the following plays and events for 2020-2021!

**Fall online, on Mason Arts at Home:**

*Hookman* by Lauren Yee.
A staged reading directed by Julia Rudgers. Oct 9
An existential slasher comedy! Freshman year at college is hard, especially when there is a hook-handed serial killer on the loose. But if Lexi can discover what really happened to her high school best friend, she can finally learn what it means to grow up – and it’s not pretty.

*Gaining Ground: A Celebration of Diverse Voices in Musical Theater.*
A musical revue conceived and directed by James Gardiner, Erin Gardiner, and musical director Joe Walsh. Premieres Oct 23.
In the spirit of Jubilee, we have gathered songs by BIPOC and/or women composers and lyricists whose work is often overlooked. Moving forward as a community, we are proud to present a concert of hope that embraces George Mason University’s commitment to inclusion.

*The Mason Players Originals!*
A series of plays and presentations, each ten minutes in length, that showcase our student writers and creative artists. Premieres Nov 21.

Featuring:

**How Jane Got Married** by Caroline Austin
Jane is a young therapist challenged with the most daunting task of her career: group therapy with three of Shakespeare’s tragic heroes. As she tries to show Hamlet, Romeo, and Antony the error of their ways, she is met with sarcasm, teenage resistance, and... romance?

**Inside Are We Monsters?** by J. D. Clark
A new company hire and his compatriots work to change the rigged system amidst worldwide upheaval.

**How to Get Caught with Murder** by Kendal Ferguson
Tormented by a guilty conscience over his wife's death, Nelson is compelled to confess his crimes. Conveniently, a police officer knocks on his door. Inconveniently, the officer knows a little too much about "irony."

**Reincarnate** by Jacob Horowitz
Tom, a writer, goes to a support group for reincarnated playwrights.

**Algún Día (Someday)** by Sophia Inserra
The story of two women from seemingly parallel worlds hustling to make it to their "someday"-- a point in life when dreams become a reality.

**Look For the Good** by Ariel Kraje
Everyone expresses pain in a different way. Instead of dealing with it alone, we can use technology to stay connected. An exploration of the Stages of Grief through movement in the time of pandemic.

**Tomorrow Is my Day** by Bella Panciocco
We worry about tomorrow. The world is always focused on the next day. What’s to come? What will the future bring? What’s going to happen to these characters...tomorrow?

**Punchline** by Jeremy Pritchard
Spend an intimate evening with your hostess with the mostest, Toni A. Ward, the broadest broad who never played Broadway, in this poignant one-person tour de force performance.

**Alabaster** by Audrey Cephaly
A staged reading directed by Rachel Sharp. Dec 4
A noted photographer sets out to explore the topography of “scars.” Her journey lands her in the mysterious realm of an undiscovered folk artist on a small farm in North Alabama. This
intimate portrait explores the meaning and purpose of art and the struggle of the lost and tortured souls that seek to create it.

**Spring Live Shows**

*Sing Happy! The Music of Kander & Ebb*
Performed by The Mason Cabaret, Feb 1 at 8pm, Concert Hall. Directed by James & Erin Gardiner, Musical Direction by Joe Walsh.
Composer John Kander and Lyricist Fred Ebb created some of the most iconic shows on Broadway – *Cabaret, Chicago, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Woman of the Year, Curtains*, just to name a few. Our musical theater ambassadors, the Mason Cabaret, celebrate this powerhouse team, performing their most memorable showtunes and some of their popular songs made famous by the America’s biggest stars. *New York, New York* anyone?

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**The February Fringe,**
Two plays performing in repertory, Feb 24-28 in TheaterSpace.

*Come My Beloved* by Emma Weinstein
Directed by Jacob Horowitz
A play about race, intimacy, and Detroit, chronicling a Friday night in the lives of three Black and Jewish couples at different points in time – the 1930’s, the 1970’s, and today.

*Chimichangas and Zoloft* by Fernanda Coppel
directed by Esteban Marmolejo-Suarez
This irreverent story examines the search for happiness and the mysteries of sexuality through the eyes of two brazen teenagers, Jackie and her best friend Penelope. Jackie’s mom Sonia has run off, both their fathers struggle with a secret association of their own, so a plan is hatched to bring Sonia home.

*Men on Boats* by Jaclyn Backhaus
Directed by Mimsi Janis
A Mainstage production, March 24-Apr 3 in TheaterSpace.
Ten Men. Four Boats. One Grand Canyon. Flipping gender, historical, and theatrical conventions on their heads, follow the true(ish) history of the 1869 expedition when a one-armed captain
and a crew of insane yet loyal volunteers set out to chart the course of the Colorado River. Get ready to explore uncharted waters!

**Romeo and Juliet** by William Shakespeare
Directed by Nicholas Horner
A Mason Fringe production, Apr 22-25 in TheaterSpace.
Perhaps Shakespeare’s most familiar story, with its star-crossed lovers, feuding families, and tragic deaths, but viewed through a 21st century lens. A classic, re-imagined for our world today.

**1001 Plays**
Directed by Kristin Johnsen-Neshati and Nicholas Horner.
Staged readings, Apr 27 in TheaterSpace
This international 10-minute play exchange is a recurring component of the Mason Players’ season. Mason students perform staged readings of plays written by student playwrights from around the world, and have their own work read by those international students. **1001 Plays** engages its international playwrights in real time through live videochat technology.

**Runaways** Written and Composed by Elizabeth Swados
Directed by James Gardiner & Erin Gardiner, Musical Direction by Joe Walsh.
Musical Theater Ensemble, Apr 30-May 1 in the Concert Hall
Elizabeth Swados conducted interviews and workshops with young runaways in New York City in the 1970s, most of whom were living on the streets. Their stories are brought to life in this unique presentation through a series of songs, monologues, scenes, poems, and dances, performed by the School of Theater’s Musical Theater Ensemble class.