

2025–26 Theatre Highlights

This season showcased plays about community and connection. We were also honoured to host industry professionals throughout the year who shared invaluable insights, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world experience. It has been a season of experience-building, engagement and growth.

Indigenous Theatre Festival & The Salty Scent of Home

We opened our season by hosting the Indigenous Theatre Festival: Staging Our Voices, a two-day event celebrating the stories and culture of Indigenous artists. The performances and workshops focused on Indigenous languages and traditions. It was a powerful opportunity for our students to learn to work within cultural protocols that differ from the theatre practices they are most familiar with.

Our first mainstage Phoenix Theatre show was *The Salty Scent of Home*, a celebratory performance that honoured newcomer stories and the journey to find a sense of home. Created and directed by our department Chair, Dr. Yasmine Kandil, it featured both current students and UVic alumni working collaboratively together.



The Salty Scent of Home: Photos Dean Kalyan



"I loved working on the Indigenous Theatre Festival. I have learned so much about what it means to work in tandem with cultures other than my own and how to gather people together!"

—Third year Theatre student, Brionne Wilson

Our Town – Love, Loss, and the Quiet Wonder of Everyday Life

By Thornton Wilder | Guest Director Soheil Parsa

This timeless classic provided students the opportunity to work with an acclaimed guest director from Toronto, Soheil Parsa. Together, they explored the multi-layered themes of this Pulitzer Prize-winning play.



"Under the guidance of Soheil Parsa, I was challenged to approach the work with a sense of intentionality, presence, and human connection. Through this experience, I gained practical tools and insights that continue to shape my artistic practice—an example of the hands-on training at the Phoenix."

—Second year Theatre student, Elliot Baskin Smith (far left) as Dr Gibbs.

Photo Dean Kalyan

In addition to performing on stage, our students also design and work on the set, costumes, lighting, projections, and sound, all of which help create a rooted sense of place and mood that moves the audience.

A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain – A Haunting Poetic Fable

By Sami Ibrahim | Directed by Master of Fine Arts Student Sophia Treanor

Sophia Treanor, currently completing an MFA in directing at UVic, guided fellow students through this haunting tale, delving into its themes of hope, sacrifice, and perseverance.

“To work on a play that speaks to so many urgent issues of our time with the huge variety of talented and skilled artists in the Phoenix community is an immense privilege and adventure. I have learned so much from collaborating with the designers and technicians, and am grateful for the mature and open-hearted ensemble that brought life to A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain.” —Director, Sophia Treanor.



Photos Dean Kaylan



This show was performed on the thrust stage of our Chief Dan George Theatre, one of our three performance spaces, where audiences are seated on three sides of the stage. This brought viewers physically closer to the actors and helped create a stronger emotional connection to the story.

In My Day – Verbatim Theatre About a Pivotal Time in Our History

By Rick Waines | Guest Director Roy Surette



Directed by leading Canadian artist Roy Surette, *In My Day* gave students the chance to work on a locally devised verbatim theatre piece about the HIV/AIDS crisis in BC.

Curated from over 100 interviews from a UVic oral history research project, this production showed how theatre can be applied to teach a variety of subjects.

Rehearsal Photo Morgan Christopher

The play also featured an Equity guest artist performing alongside the student cast, offering valuable insight from a seasoned industry professional.

“It was a unique experience to work with the playwright as part of the rehearsal process and to gain direct insight into the material. This is a verbatim piece based on real-life interviews, and with the playwright present, the goal was to stay true to the script. The words are from real people; changing the words defeats the purpose. Their words are the story.”

—Fifth year Theatre student Morgan Christopher, who played Al/Ensemble (not pictured)

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