

THE GRINNELL COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES PRESENTS

FOLOKOTO THE TORNADO

Aguibou Bougobali SANOU
Artistic Director

April 26-28, 2024
Roberts Theatre
Bucksbaum Arts Center



Grinnell College
Theatre, Dance, and
Performance Studies

There will be a short intermission half way
through the performance.

Please turn off all cell phones and noisemaking devices.
No photography or recording is permitted



Grinnell College Department of Theatre,
Dance, and Performance Studies Presents

FOLOKOTO THE TORNADO

Director	Aguibou Bougobali SANOU
Costume Designer	Erin Howell-Gritsch
Stage Manager	Natalie Nardone '27
Assistant Stage Manager	Charlotte Banta '27

Scenic & Projection Designer	S. Benjamin Farrar
Associate Lighting Designers	S. Benjamin Farrar
Technical Director	Erik Sanning '89
Assistant Technical Director	Kate Baumgartner '11



CAST

Jadyn Al-Fatah '27

Ileah Bonzi '25

Julie Durning '26

Ruby Gerse '24

Bailey Irvin '25

Rose McClain '27

Jillian Poplau '27

Aisha Saparali

Eliot Schilling '26

Lisa Shen '24

Julianna Vajda '24

Lohla Yarolimek '27

Zoe Zappas '27



Pre-Show Video

Original Footage by Martha Maya (La Paz, 2022) & Adriana
Trujillo (Tijuana, 2019)
Editing by Andrea Assaf & Gabi Vigueira
Camera: Angel Estrada
Makeup: Miriam Montalvo

At Water's Edge/Al Filo del Agua

Music by Chip Epsten
Additional music by Siki Carpio
Musicians: Siki Carpio, Chip Epsten
Vamonos
written by Jose Alfredo Jimenez;
Courtesy of BMI



A Memoir of Magic Acts

Music:

C-Beams Glittering in the Dark

written by Allen C Welty-Green, Performed by Zentropy;
from the album Eyedrum Improvs.
Courtesy of Allen C Welty-Green.

Alloy

written by Allen C Welty-Green, Performed by Zentropy
featuring Andrew Boring
from the album Eyedrum Improvs

Copper

written by Allen C Welty-Green. Performed by Zentropy,
featuring Andrew Boring; from the album Eyedrum Improvs.
Courtesy of Allen C Welty-Green.

Balancing Improv

written by Allen C Welty-Green. Performed by Zentropy,
featuring Chip Epstem and Colin Bragg; from the album
Eyedrum Improvs. Courtesy of Allen C Welty-Green.

Additional Audio Credits

“Door Squeak, Normal, D.wav” by InspectorJ of Freesound.
org; CC BY 4.0; <https://freesound.org/people/inspectorJ/sounds/346212/>

Sound effects from <https://www.zapsplat.com>



The multi-year creative process of At Water's Edge/Al Filo del Agua began with the award of a National Performance Network Creative Fund Award to Celeste Miller in 2016. Celeste reached out to Dora Arreola to collaborate on the project, and Dora invited Miroslava Wilson into the project. Dora's Tijuana-based company Mujeres en Ritual Danza-Teatro also joined in creative process sessions. The NPN award required two commissioning organizations. The lead organization is Art2Action and the second commissioner is Grinnell College.

Our original research included site specific work at the US-Mexico Border and Playas de Tijuana, Mexico and La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Creative development residencies took place in those locations as well as The Artist's Enclave in Tampa, Florida; and here at Grinnell College, in addition to numerous online sessions – both pre and during pandemic. Our research also took us to the work of Ivone Gebara, "Longing for Running Water: Ecofeminism and Liberation" and Donna Haraway's "Staying with the Trouble". In the midst of the pandemic, when so many things were re-considered, our research led us to this passage from Gloria Anzaldúa's "A light in the Dark, Luz en Lo Oscuro".

"Throughout millennia, those seeking alternative forms of knowledge have been demonized. In the pursuit of knowledge, including carnal knowledge (symbolized by the serpent), some female origin figures "disobeyed". Casting aside the status quo of Edenic conditions and unconscious "being", they took a bite of awareness – the first human to take agency. Xochiquetzal, a Mexican indigenous deity, ascends to the upper world to seek knowledge from "al árbol sagrado", the tree of life, que florecía en Tamoanchan. In another Garden of Eden, Eve snatches the fruit (the treasure of forbidden knowledge) from the serpent's mouth and "invents" consciousness – the sense of self in the act of knowing. Serpent Woman, known as Cihuacoatl, the goddess of origins, whom you think of as La Llorna and sketch as a half-coiled snake with the head of a woman, represents not the root of all evil but instinctual knowledge and other alternative ways of knowing that fuel transformation.



These females are expelled from “paradise” for eating the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil and for taking individual agency. Their “original sin” precipitates the myth of the fall of humankind, for which women have been blamed and punished. The passion to know, to deepen awareness, to perceive reality in a different way, to see and experience more of life- in short, the desire to expand consciousness- and the freedom to choose, drove Xochiquetzal, Eve, and Cihuacoatl to deepen awareness. You, too, are driven by the desire to understand, know, y saber how human and other beings know. Beneath your desire for knowledge writhes the hunger to understand and love yourself.”

We began to research the deities Anzaldúa mentioned, and got in touch with them, as well as others in the pantheon of story, and our own legends—women who move at the edge of comfort and discomfort, who were punished when they chose to stand up or speak out, who were cast out and demonized in the re-telling. Celeste, through her research replaced Eve with her predecessor Lilith. (The Lilith research led to the 2019 Dance Ensemble/ACTivate production “Hey, Lilith!”)

These stories and the way they are re-told through history, set the foundations of our legal and political systems. These stories, when preserved and perpetuated, maintain the hierarchical structures of colonialism, patriarchy and racism. But they can also be re-imagined in ways that seek to uncover what has been erased and hidden. It's way past time to pause to ask: what might have been left out of the story? Which parts were suppressed to make the oppressor the hero? To justify oppressions? What story lies under that story, and which version might offer up a different model, a new possibility? As we shared stories with one another, mixing myth and legend with our own stories, we worked to discover the braids that we now weave together.

To date At Water's Edge/Al Filo del Agua has been presented by the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL; The Radial Festival, Coslada, Spain; and Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA.

- Dora Arreola, Celeste Miller, and Miroslava Wilson



Kate Baumgartner '15 (Assistant Technical Director) is a graduate of Grinnell College. She worked two seasons as a master carpenter with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and two years for the Grinnell Area Arts Council as a program and facility coordinator. Kate returned to Grinnell College as the ATD in 2016. She has also served as technical director and scenic designer for numerous Grinnell Community Theatre and Grinnell High School productions, as well as tech challenge coordinator for the Iowa Thespian Chapter of the EdTA

Erin Howell-Gritsch (Costume Designer) received her MFA from the University of Iowa in Theatre Design and her BS in Apparel Design, Patternmaking and Fashion Merchandising from Iowa State University. She has taught at Grinnell College and Cornell College. Previous design credits include: Riverside Theatre, Graffiti Theatre, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Ballet Iowa, and Hurley Dancers.

Erik Sanning '89 (Technical Director) is a graduate of Grinnell College. He spent the first two years after graduation working as Technical Director/Lighting Designer for Ballet Iowa. In the summer of '91 Erik was able to return to Grinnell as Technical Director. In addition, he is also one of the founding members of Grinnell Productions, a semi-professional theatre company that was based in Grinnell. Erik has also been a member of IATSE, the professional stagehands union, since 1990.

Natalie Nardone '27 (Stage Manager) is a first-year student and intended Computer Science major from Arlington, Virginia, where they stage managed many productions in high school and community theater. Outside of theater, Natalie likes cats, playing the piano, and going to Contra Dance Club. This is her second production at Grinnell and first dance production, but she's looking forward to working on many more productions while at Grinnell!

Aguibou Bougobali SANOU (Director/Performer) Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies at Grinnell College, Aguibou Bougobali SANOU hails from Burkina Faso, West Africa and is a dancer, choreographer, musician, storyteller and Director of the In-Out Dance Festival in Burkina Faso.



He won the highly selective and prestigious US State Department Scholarship Fulbright 20182019, where he taught “History and Appreciation of World Dance.” He has also developed the African Traditional and Contemporary Dance curriculum at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, CT. In 2016, he was a semi-finalist of Africa’s Got Talent. Sanou trained with choreographers and theater directors such as Salia Sanou, Carolyn Carlson, Thierry de Mey, Luca Fusi GM, and Régine, Chopinot Alexandre de la Caffinière.

Sanou’s work is a mix of West African Mandingo traditional dances, Brazilian capoeira, and theater expressions drawn from his work with influential European stage directors. His training in sacred and profane African traditional dance in his native country combines with other forms of expression to create a unique theatrical statement.

Sanou earned his MFA at The University of the Arts (UARTS) in Philadelphia. He has won several choreographic awards, including the bronze medal in the 2013 Jeux de la Francophonie in Nice, France; the 2nd prize of SNC 2012; and the Delphic Laurel Award in the 2009 Delphic Games in South Korea.

In the past ten years, Sanou has developed a dynamic performance and teaching presence, which has led him to work assignments in Mexico, Israel, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Morocco, France, France, and the United States. He has also created a dance program in Burkina Faso prison and worked with more than 70 prisoners to help them reenter society.







SPECIAL THANKS TO



Jadyn Al-Fatah '27 is a first year, who intends to major in Music and Theatre, with a concentration in Education. He is from Gulfport, MS where he was heavily involved in band and was in several shows including, Chicago, Little Shop of Horrors and The Little Mermaid. At Grinnell he is a member of several musical ensembles including Con Brio, Grinnell Singers and Marimba/Percussion ensemble. He has also been in Everybody (dance ensemble), The Moors (Moorhen), and Songs of Scarlet and Wayback (Al) here at Grinnell.

Ileah Bonzi '25 (she/her) grew up in Florida dancing most of her life in studio and competition dance. Ileah is a sociology major with a concentration in policy studies, but has stayed connected to the theatre and dance department by working in the box office/house managing, and as a member of the student education and policy committee (SEPC). Although this is her first time in Dance Ensemble, she has taken many dance classes at Grinnell and done independent dance projects and shows with friends.

Julie Durning '26 is an intended Sociology major from Newburyport, Massachusetts. This is her second semester in Dance Ensemble. She always loved to dance but only became devoted at age 8 when her Olympic gymnastics dreams were dashed by her utter inability to do a cartwheel. When Julie believed she was Snow White, she loved building fairy villages and brewing antidotes to poison berries. She is a moon cat.

Ruby Gerse '24 (she/her) is a fourth year originating from Brooklyn New York. She has been dancing since she started ballet at 3 years old. At Grinnell, she double majors in Philosophy and Gender, Women's, and Sexualities Studies, but secretly enjoys dancing the most!

Bailey Irvin '25 (Dancer) is making her Grinnell College debut. A third year student, who plans on graduating in Spring of 2025. Her hometown is Plano, Texas and was a passionate STEM and honor-roll student at her former high school. Bailey is a



psychology major who advocates and engages in equity in the medical field for people of color. She is a member of the black student union and a dancer on the Grinnell Dance Ensemble team. And was a former varsity diver for the Grinnell Swim & Dive team (2021-2023).

Rose McClain '27 is making her performance debut. She intends to major in political science while she enjoys dance as a hobby. She founded Grinnell College's 'Shimmy Society', a registered student organization that practices belly dance fusion. Another thing Miss McClain enjoys studying is world languages; she currently has proficiency in French and Spanish and has recently begun studying Arabic. During her last year in high school in Batavia, Illinois, she modeled for the school's annual fashion show "Rock the Runway", where she modeled student-designed garments made out of non-fabric alternative materials.

Jillian Poplau '27 (she/her) is a first-year (Class of 27) and her intended major is Biochemistry- on the premed track. Jillian is from Kansas City, Go Chiefs! This is her second semester with Dance Ensemble and her first production at Grinnell. She was a competitive dancer for Ovation Dance Academy in high school, so she has loved experiencing the artistry side of dance.

Aisha Saparali (Dancer) was born and raised in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. She later moved from the south to the north of her country to complete her Bachelors degree at Nazarbayev University (NU) in Political Science and Linguistics. Aisha is making her Grinnell College dancing debut. A Russian Language Teaching Assistant for this and next academic years at Grinnell College, Aisha plans to be regular in theatre and dance on and off stage. Aisha was a member of her high school dancing troupe and her university's theatre club and latino dance clubs. In rehearsals, Aisha enjoys Aguibou's positive energy and multi diversity of her peers. 80th school-lyceum (Kazakhstan): Kazakh, Arabic, and Uzbek dances. Grinnell College Theatre: Everybody, the Haunting, the Songs of Scarlet and Wayback.

Eliot Schilling '26 (dancer) is from Scranton, Iowa, and is currently in her second year at Grinnell College. She is a declared Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies major and will be graduating in May of 2026. She has spent a large portion of her time at Grinnell exploring the offered dance classes. In high school, Eliot participated

in high school musicals and plays, speech competitions, band and chorus, and attended her local dance studio. At Grinnell College, she has participated in Dance Ensemble (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024), the production "Everybody," and the Iowa Dance Festival.

Lisa Shen '24 is from Southern California. This is their third production with Dance Ensemble, previously in Literary Witches and A Memoir of Magic Acts. She is a Philosophy and Computer Science major. Her favorite part of the rehearsal process has been exploring with fabric and rehearsing on the stage of Roberts theatre every day!

Julianna Vajda '24 (she/her) is a 4th year Anthropology Major and Education concentrator. This is her very first show at Grinnell College. Her hometown is Boca Raton, Florida. Outside of dance ensemble, she plays and coaches volleyball, and loves to spend any free time outdoors.

Lohla Yarolimek '27 is from the small town of New Prague, Minnesota. Her first performance with Grinnell's Dance Ensemble was during the show Everybody in October 2023. Lohla has performed with Ovations Dance Studio (2008-2017) and North Star Dance Company (2017-2019) prior to Grinnell. She also recently made her first Grinnell College main stage acting debut in Songs of the Scarlet and Wayback in March 2024. Lohla is an intended history major, but is still not sure where her life will take her.

Zoe Zappas '27 (dancer) grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a first-year intended Spanish and gender, women's and sexuality studies (GWSS) double major. This is their second semester on dance ensemble, and she is excited to share the meal the dance family has been cooking with you. When Zoe isn't dancing, you can find them reporting for The S&B, writing poems, stalking your spotify, or drinking an iced chai from the grill.



Charlotte Banta (Assistant Stage Manager/Assistant Lighting Designer) is delighted to work on her first Grinnell production. Growing up in San Diego, she has participated in the arts since she was little, trying anything and everything from tap and jazz to piano and guitar to acting and technical theater. She has a special love for designing lights, especially for dance productions. Charlotte is a freshman and plans to major in Physics. The Bishop's School Theater: stage manager and lighting designer for *Blue* (dance production) and *Vitality* (dance production); stage manager for *On the Razzle*, *Our Town*, *Working* (the musical), *Suessical*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*; Stage Crew for *Chicago*, and *Les Miserables*.

Luca Blankenship '23 (Sound Board Operator) is a Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies major with an intended concentration in Film and Media Studies. He's from Brooklyn, New York, and he loves making art with friends, especially when there are tie-dye shirts involved. In lieu of rainbow shirts, rubber ducks are ideal. Though he has experience working on various shows and in various positions, this is his first time working on a dance project and doing sound, so he's grateful to be here and excited to learn! He thinks he's a moon dog?

A Lim '25 (Stage Manager), is a Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies major from San Francisco, California. They have worked in crew and technical roles since their first semester for various department productions, in addition to designing lighting for the student productions *I Dig You* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Though they were assistant stage manager for *Heralds of Transformation* last spring, *At Water's Edge* is the first production they are properly stage managing. They are a moon dog.

Leticia Monteiro '23 (Light Board Operator) is a Theatre, Dance, & Performance Studies as well as a Gender, Women's, & Sexuality Studies double-major from São Paulo, Brazil. As a multi-hyphenate artist, she is passionate about using art to reclaim the forgotten, invisible narratives of her peoples. She is particularly interested in developing new works by women, queer folks, and



Stage Manager	Natalie Nardone '27
Assistant Stage Manager	Charlotte Banta '27
Light Board Operator	Letícia Monteiro '23
Sound Board Operator	Luca Blankenship '23
Audio/Visual Operator	McAfee Chandler '23
Livestream Manager	Libby Kerensky '24
Wardrobe	Ava Rast '24
Program Design	Joyce Bergan



ADMINISTRATION

Production Stage Manager

Libby Kerensky '24

FRONT OF HOUSE

Front of House Staff

Ileah Bonzi '24	Reese Hill '24
Madeline Fialkov '25	Isabelle Kolleth '24
Vanessa Figueroa Weston '24	

COSTUME STUDIO

Costume Storage Coordinator

Libby Kerensky '24

Stitchers

Kelly Banfield '24	Sophie Noyes '24
Libby Kerensky '24	Linda Pham '24

SCENE SHOP

Properties Storage Coordinator

Ava Rast '24

Scene Shop Staff

Kelly Banfield '24	Jon Murphy '26
Lily Blanchard '27	Tyler Quade '27
Reese Hill '24	Graham Sundström '25
Chloe Kelly '26	Brisa Zielina '27

