

SKIDMORE THEATER PRESENTS

JKB SpringFest

Zombie Rain

Directed by Jessie March '21



Devised in collaboration with the ensemble and team.

ENSEMBLE

Olivia Berenson '24

Roman Cohen '22

Annie Cox '21

Maddie Evans '24

Chavon Patterson '24

Yael R. Schoenbaum '21

Declan Morris '23 on the cello

PRODUCTION TEAM

Callan Daniel '23 Lighting Designer

Noah Greenfield '24 Stage Manager

Finn Lyon '23 Costumes & Props Designer

SPECIAL THANKS

Molly Boyce

Lily DeButts

Teisha Duncan

Suzanne Golub

Hannah Gross

Jonah Harrison

Jared Klein

Wynn Lee

Dennis Strainge



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What is it about zombies? The books, the movies, the TV shows, the video games, why are we constantly drawn to ideas of contagion, corruption, corpses? What is it about a physical change to the self, brought about by an outside force that ultimately tears apart society that we just can't get enough of? I don't know, I just think zombies are kind of cool.

Zombie Rain is a show about a community torn apart by an outside force beyond their control. But it's also about relationships and resilience and continuing past all thoughts of hope. It's about striving to connect at a moment when everything around you feels so isolating and steeped with the possibility of fear. And it's also about the struggle of keeping those you love out of the rain. All this through the power of BODIES IN MOTION!

For this show, our devising process was influenced by a multitude of movement vocabularies. We were inspired by the specificity and grounded nature of the Suzuki Method of Actor Training and the flowing and awe-striking practices of Butoh Dance Training. I encourage audience members to learn more about both of these forms of movement, as they were endlessly inspiring to our process, and there is always more to be learned and appreciated about various forms of movement art. We also incorporated the actors' relationships to their own personal ways of moving as we drew from these extant vocabularies. How does this movement live in your body? That is the question we returned to time and again in rehearsal.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE (cont.)

I am endlessly grateful for and inspired by the bravery, creativity, and generosity of this incredible *Zombie* team. The cast jumped right into the zaniness and the nonsense of our devising world, never asking “why” only “why not.” Thank you Olivia, thank you Roman, thank you Annie, thank you Maddie, thank you Chavon, and thank you Yael. The determination of our fearless designers continuously opened my eyes to new ways of seeing the space, the story, the possibilities. Thank you Callan and thank you Finn. Declan! What cello playing, what confidence, what charm what PATIENCE. Thank you Declan. And where would we be without our spectacular stage manager? Enthusiasm abounding, always ready with a solution, making every rehearsal such a joy. Thank you, Noah. And finally, with your guidance and knowledge and fabulous humor, I believe as our faculty advisor you have made us all more thoughtful artists and more joyful people. Thank you, Teisha.

What do I hope audience members get out of *Zombie Rain*? I hope you feel a sense of fear prickling down your spine, accompanied by the joy of dancing with a community, accompanied by the dread of a spooky nighttime zombie figure, accompanied by the warmth of holding onto those you love if only for a short time. I hope audience members think it's kind of cool. But mostly, I hope everyone comes away with something different, something that resonates. Actually, I mostly hope you think it's cool.

—Jessie March '21



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21



Rehearsal photo by Wynn Lee '21

CAST BIOS

Olivia Berenson '24 (Ensemble) is a prospective History and Studio Art double major. This is her first Skidmore production, and she is wickedly happy to have this opportunity. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Zombie Rain* and her roommate who watched her flail around the room with no context at times.

Roman Cohen '22 (Ensemble) is a Gender Studies and Studio Art double major. This is their first Skidmore production as an actor and they're stoked for the opportunity! They would like to thank the *Zombie Rain* team for being so awesome, their roommates for listening to them excitedly describe the choreography after every rehearsal, and their cat, Puddle, for existing.

Annie Cox '21 (Ensemble) is a Theater and French double major. She studied abroad last year at the Moscow Art Theatre and in Paris. Favorite Skidmore credits: *Playdate* (Christie Hefner), *When They Came* (Grace), and *Platonic* (Carly). She is so excited to be performing in-person with such a wonderful team of artists. Big thanks to our fearless leader Jessie!

Maddie Evans '24 (Ensemble) is a prospective Theater Major. This is their second production at Skidmore, their previous role being Sylvia Plath in *I Talk to the Flowers*. This is their first devised movement piece and they're very excited to perform it. They would like to thank the cast and crew of *Zombie Rain* for the incredible work they've done!

Declan Morris '23 (Cello) is a Computer Science major with a prospective Music minor. In a semester full of performing in front of a camera, Declan is excited to finally be performing in person! He would like to extend his thanks to the *Zombie* team and to his dog, Levi.

Chavon Patterson '24 (Ensemble) is a prospective Theater major and Arts Administration minor. This is her second production at Skidmore, her

previous role being Angel in *Our Trip to San Marino*. She is so grateful to have the opportunity to be performing in-person.

Yael R. Schoenbaum '21 (Ensemble) studies International Affairs, Theater, Spanish, and Political Science. Last year she studied abroad in Vietnam, Morocco, Peru, and Argentina, and she's so excited to be performing in-person again. Previous Skidmore acting credits include *Off the Shelf* at the Tang and *By Design*. Many thanks to all who make safe theater during COVID possible and fun!

PRODUCTION BIOS

Callan Daniel '23 (Lighting Designer) is a Theater and American Studies double major. Recent work for the JKB includes *Lunch Bunch* and *The Danube*. For SpringFest Callan is also excited to be working on *Plano* and *No Names*. Many thanks to the Zombie team and dorm room plants.

Noah Greenfield '24 (Stage Manager) is a prospective Health and Human Physiological Sciences major. This is his third show at Skidmore, and his first on the production team! His previous shows include *By Design* (Optimist), and *Living Through Isolation* (Ensemble). He would like to thank the entire *Zombie Rain* team, especially Finn and Callan for being so invested in the project, and Jessie for being the most awesome director ever!

Finn Lyon '23 (Costume Designer/Props Master) is a Theater major. They have worked previously as an actor, makeup artist/designer, costumer, and props master. Finn would like to thank the entire *Zombie* crew and their roommate Jennifer for bravely enduring living with a theater major.

Jessie March '21 (Director) is a Theater major and Gender Studies minor. Favorite Skidmore acting credits include *We Used to Wear Bonnets & Get High All the Time* and *Cabaret*. Endless thanks to this incredible *Zombie* team. Love always to squid.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Theater Department at Skidmore College acknowledges that we work, learn, create, and reside on the lands of the Haudenosaunee, Muheconneok, Kanienkehaka, and Abenaki peoples. We thank the elders of these tribes for their past, present, and continued stewardship of these lands. We recognize that land acknowledgement is only a first, small step towards building ethical, reciprocal, and reparative relationships with the indigenous, Native, and First Nations peoples of this hemisphere and we strive to move beyond our words to reflect our intentions through our actions.