COVID-19_UMaine News_UMaine School of Performing Arts offers ‘The Wolves’ as an on-demand, virtual production

University of Maine Division of Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/c19_marketing

Part of the Higher Education Commons, History Commons, and the Medicine and Health Sciences Commons

This Press release is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Division of Marketing & Communications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.
UMaine School of Performing Arts offers 'The Wolves' as an on-demand, virtual production

March 1, 2021

The University of Maine School of Performing Arts will present an on-demand virtual production of its first spring show, 'The Wolves,' streaming online from March 5–14.

"The Wolves" by Sarah DeLappe follows a girls’ indoor soccer team gathered in warm up. From the safety of their suburban stretch circle, the team navigates big questions and wages tiny battles with all the vim and vigor of adolescent warriors — a portrait of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for nine American girls who just want to score some goals.

"The Wolves" received the American Playwriting Foundation’s Relentless Award, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama in 2017. It also was a New York Times Critic’s Pick.

UMaine stage manager Laura Garfein, a theatre and psychology double major from Walnut Creek, California, reflected on the difficulties in producing a show during these challenging times. "It was a little challenging to work on this first real production, because we are still figuring out what limits we have due to COVID, and how best to work around them," Garfein says. "And we also had the additional challenge of not having a live audience. We solved this through deciding to record the show for people to view, which creates a different visual end goal that worked well for this show but also was not a medium that any of us used to working with."

Many of the cast members expressed appreciation that working on this production has been able to bring them a sense of normalcy, amid a world changed by a pandemic. "COVID restrictions have made a large impact on everyone across the world, and have prevented a lot of social gatherings that we’re used to as humans," says Lydia Saltzman, a theatre major from Beverly, Massachusetts who plays soccer player #8. "Being able to get even some kind of normalcy in being able to spend time with people means so much."

The play really speaks to our pandemic lives, says Mary Jean Sedlock, lecturer in theatre, production manager and technical director at UMaine. "It is ultimately a story about how tragedy can shift your plans, your beliefs and your world view in an instant. For me, that really resonates with how the onset of the pandemic felt. Within a very short time, I was looking at my priorities differently-reassessing what was important through a whole new lens."

The players gossip before a game. From left to right: #00 — Brooke Sossong, #11 — Neily Raymond, #14 — Katie Mansfield, #25 — Bell Gellis Morais, #20 — Penny Neary, #1 — Joy Ramey.