



"Failure: A Love Story" and Soweto Gospel Choir!Tue, Sep 23, 2025 at 2:34 PM



Dear Friends of Wake the Arts,

I am so inspired by the talent, passion, care and commitment of our theatre students and the important work they are doing as artists, storytellers, collaborators and leaders.

At the time of this writing, the first show of our season, Philip Dawkins's **Failure: A Love Story**, will have its second weekend of performances. We are excited to announce that Mr. Dawkins will be in residence on September 24th to conduct a **"Kung Fu Playwriting"** workshop which draws on the teachings of Bruce Lee to illustrate fundamentals of playwriting from 3:30pm-5:00pm in the Ring Theatre. On the evening of September 25th, he will attend the show and a post-show conversation featuring our exceptional student designers Maggie Payne (costumes), Carly Galbreth (sound) and Ziqi "Nancy" Huang (props), facilitated by Professor Rob Eastman-Mullins (scenic).

We also anticipate **Orion, a play** by Matthew McClachlan, directed by senior Maya Roth and presented by Anthony Aston Players (AAP). Orion will be presented October 3-5 in the Scales Fine Arts Center, Ring Theatre.

On October 6, sophomore Allison Sweeney will present a staged reading of Enough! Plays About Gun Violence — six 10-minute plays written by high school students. The plays will be presented simultaneously across the nation in a

rolling premiere.

On October 25, AAP will host Haunted Tunnels, an annual event that transforms the university's underground tunnel system into a themed haunted attraction for the public, directed by Sophomore Tracey Xie.

Visit the **WFU Theatre and Dance website** for more information about upcoming Theatre and Dance events — including our second mainstage production, ***Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*** by Ken Ludwig, directed by JK Curry; the **Fall Dance Concert** (artistic director, Nina Lucas Rice); our spring productions *Old Times* by Harold Pinter and the Alanis Morissette jukebox musical *Jagged Little Pill*; and our Spring Dance Concert (artistic director, Tina Yarborough-Liggins).

See you at the theatre!

Best,

Jon Herbert

Assistant Professor

Department of Theatre and Dance

Director of "Failure: A Love Story"



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What's Happening



Secrest Artists Series: Soweto Gospel Choir

Thursday, Sept. 25 / Family Weekend!

7:30 p.m., Wait Chapel

With their concert entitled "PEACE," the multi-Grammy and Emmy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir returns to North America to perform a joyful program of South African freedom songs, traditional spirituals and some classics. The inspirational concert will also feature the spirited music of Aretha Franklin, Harry Belafonte, Peter Gabriel, Kate Bush, Leon Cohen and more! Formed in 2002, the Choir was created to celebrate the unique power of African gospel music and have been heralded by Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Barack Obama, and Oprah Winfrey. Soweto Gospel Choir excites audiences worldwide, uplifting the soul and spreading joy through its earthy rhythms, rich harmonies, brilliant costumes, and infectious spirit. It's perfect for the entire family!

[Read more](#)



Failure: A Love Story

by Philip Dawkins, directed by Jonathan Herbert

Sept. 25-27 at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 28 at 2 p.m.

Tedford Stage, Scales Fine Arts Center

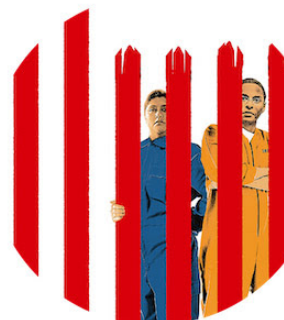
In Philip Dawkins' tender and theatrical tale, time is slippery, love is unpredictable, and death is just around the corner. Lyrical, funny, and unexpectedly moving, *Failure* is a story about living, loving — and dying — in 1920s Chicago.

[Read more](#)

Resistencia Film Festival

Sept. 29 and Oct. 9

Resistencia Film Festival highlights Latin American & Latinx voices and culture in film. All film screenings are free and open to the community! There are two remaining screenings:



Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.: *Helena from Sarayaku*, Forsyth County Central Library

Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.: *The Infiltrators*, ZSR Auditorium

[Read more](#)

OUT at the Movies

Opening Night Screening: Oct. 2, 7 p.m.

Kulynych Auditorium (Byrum Welcome Center)

OUT At The Movies International Film Festival will hold its Preview Night Screening at the Kulynych Auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. in partnership with the Documentary Film Program.



The screening will feature four short films, two of which were made by Documentary Film Program students. Following the screening, there will be a short Q&A with filmmakers and film participants.

In addition, prior to the screenings, OUT At The Movies will announce its second annual student internship, in collaboration with the DFP. The partnership between OUT at the Movies and the DFP highlights the intersection of experiential learning, arts education, and community partnerships, and is the driving force behind OATM's efforts to highlight local culture through film, and supporting emerging filmmakers as they launch their careers in the arts.

The event is free and open to the public.

[Read more](#)

Music and Leadership: Charlotte Pyle, Principal Audio Producer at Blizzard Entertainment

Oct. 2 at 5 p.m.

M308 Scales Fine Arts Center



Charlotte Pyle is a senior leader in the global entertainment industry with over 20 years of experience spanning music, film, and nonprofit sectors. She currently serves as Principal Audio Producer at Blizzard Entertainment, where she leads global music initiatives and built the production pipeline for the company's centralized music department. In this role, she oversees worldwide music publishing, licensing, and recording projects, collaborating with composers, orchestras, and choirs across the globe.

The Future of Music Leadership guest speaker series offers students' real-world, experiential learning opportunities to discuss career avenues with industry leaders, and to develop their own artistic voice and social activism. This series is generously co-sponsored by the Wake Forest University Program for Leadership and Character.

[Read more](#)

The Darkness: New works by Rudy Shepherd + Molly Kaderka

Oct. 6 - Dec. 12

Opening Reception and Performance:

Oct. 16, 5-8 p.m. (performance begins at 6pm)

Hanes Art Gallery



The Darkness is an exhibition of recent works by Wake Forest University studio art faculty Rudy Shepherd and Molly Kaderka. This two-person exhibition brings together drawing, painting, sculpture, and performance, offering a dialogue between the artists individual artistic practices.

We invite you to join us for the opening reception of The Darkness on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 5-8 p.m. in Hanes Art Gallery. The evening will feature a special

live performance by artist Rudy Shepherd titled *The Induction Ceremony*, at 6pm. In this performance, Shepherd inhabits a character he calls *The Healer*, activating his *Black Rock Negative Energy Absorbers*, with live, improvised music. This reception will celebrate both the opening of the exhibition and the grand reopening of Hanes Art Gallery following its summer renovations.

More about the exhibition

An Evening with Curtis Chin: Everything I Learned, I Learned at a Chinese Restaurant

Monday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m.

ZSR Library Auditorium (404)



Join us for a special evening with acclaimed author and activist Curtis Chin as he shares stories from his powerful memoir, *Everything I Learned, I Learned at a Chinese Restaurant*. In his book, Chin takes us back to 1980s Detroit, where he grew up in his family's restaurant. It was here, between servings of chicken lo mein and almond cookies, that he came of age, navigating multigenerational family drama and learning to embrace his identity as a gay, American-born Chinese (ABC) man. His talk will explore this journey, offering a vivid and heartfelt look at finding your place in a changing world.

Read more



Inter Alia: North Carolina Forests

Artist Residency and Concert: Oct. 20-25

Performance: Friday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Brendle Recital Hall

In an unprecedented collaboration, the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra and the

Wake Forest University Symphony Orchestra perform together in a free side-by-side concert at Brendle Recital Hall on the campus of Wake Forest University.

Conducted by J. Aaron Hardwick, the program features Jean Sibelius's radiant Symphony No. 3 in C Major and the world premiere of "Inter Alia," a new work for soprano and orchestra by composer David Kirkland Garner. Based on a poem of the same name by Ishion Hutchinson — a 2023 T.S. Eliot Prize finalist — the piece explores tree species native to Western North Carolina, including on the campus of Wake "Forest." Soprano Jodi Burns from the UNCSA School of Music faculty joins the orchestras in this unique collaboration, showcasing students from both institutions in a powerful celebration of nature, music and creative partnership.

Learn more about Inter Alia

Phenoms: Leigh Ann Hallberg

Through Oct. 19

Reynolda House Museum of American Art

In her Phenoms series, artist Leigh Ann Hallberg creates large-scale abstract paintings inspired by her journey through local landscapes, including the Reynolda landscape. Hallberg, who has taught painting at Wake Forest University since 1999, chose a square format for the series, which she says leaves the viewer's understanding of the work open — the abstract painting is neither portrait nor landscape. Instead, it is a pretend space in which the viewer is able to reconsider and reimagine their experience of nature through the works.



More about the exhibition



Branford Marsalis: Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence

Nov. 9 at 4 p.m.

Wait Chapel

Jazz musician Branford Marsalis has been named Wake Forest University's 2025 Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence. Marsalis, a globally celebrated artist known for his unparalleled contributions to jazz, classical music, film, and Broadway, will bring his vast experience and creative spirit to the Wake Forest campus.

The Maya Angelou Artist-in-Residence Award was established to bring world-renowned artists to campus for engagement with students, faculty, staff and the wider community. In 2023, the residency's inaugural year, Emmy award-winning director and producer Debbie Allen was the first honoree. The residency is awarded every two years.

[Read more](#)

Who's Making Things Happen

Making Change from the Ground Up with Allison Orr ('93)

In this conversation, Allison shares her experiences and insights on the intersection of art, community, and social justice. From her travels to Venice and her connections to Wake Forest, to her activism and the creation of performance projects like **'From the Ground Up'**, Allison emphasizes the importance of collaboration, relationship-building, and the role of dance in fostering social change. She reflects on her journey as an artist and educator, highlighting the power of creativity to inspire dialogue and community engagement.



Listen on Spotify

Kyan Patel ('27) teams up with Athletics

In partnership with WFU Athletics, WFU Campus Life is excited to announce that Wake Forest Junior Kyan Patel, a talented student artist, will produce an exclusive portfolio of art that highlights and celebrates the unrivaled Wake Forest student experience. Known for his impressive portfolio spanning the NFL, NBA, and NCAA, Patel will produce exclusive pieces that reflect the intersection of athletics and the student experience.



[Read more](#)

Dan Locklair's Concerto for Organ and Orchestra opens the season in Colorado

The Chamber Orchestra of the Springs in Colorado Springs opened their new season on September 21 with Dan's Concerto for Organ and Orchestra with Joseph Galema as organ soloist. The concert celebrated the 10th anniversary in their series of organ/orchestra concerts.



[Read more](#)

Wake the Arts co-director will serve on 2025-26 ArtsCore Statewide Executive Director Cohort

Chris Zaluski has been accepted into the 2025-26 ArtsCore Statewide Executive Director Cohort. Created and operated in partnership with the North Carolina Arts Council, this cohort is designed to equip North Carolina arts leaders with the tools, training, and peer support necessary to thrive in their leadership roles.



Zaluski currently serves as co-director of Wake the Arts Center and program

director of the Documentary Film Program at Wake Forest University.

[Read more](#)

Coming soon

Thursday, Sept. 25 (Family Weekend)

Secrest Artists Series: Soweto Gospel Choir: "Peace"

(7:30pm, Wait Chapel)

Pre-concert talk "Amandla! Singing Truth and Freedom," with Dr. Claire Crawford

(6:40 pm, Wait Chapel stage)

Failure: A Love Story

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Post-show conversation featuring our exceptional student designers Maggie Payne, Carly Galbreth and Ziqi "Nancy" Huang, facilitated by Professor Rob Eastman-Mullins

Friday, Sept. 26 (Family Weekend)

Failure: A Love Story

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Saturday, Sept. 27 (Family Weekend)

Special Collections & Archives at 2025 Bookmarks Festival of Books & Authors

(10am-5pm, Downtown Winston Salem)

Dan Skidmore, violin and Mary Ann Bills, piano

(7:30-9pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Failure: A Love Story

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

Sunday, Sept. 28 (Family Weekend)

Failure: A Love Story

(2pm, Tedford Stage)

Monday, Sept. 29

"Helena from Sarayaku"

Resistencia Film Series

(5:30-8pm, Forsyth County Central Library Auditorium)

3 to 4 Ounces Fall 2025 "Food for Thought"

Submissions due

Wednesday, Oct. 1

stArt: Evan Harris exhibition opens

(Oct. 1-25, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

Thursday, Oct. 2

stArt: Evan Harris exhibition RECEPTION

(5-7 pm, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

Charlotte Pyle: Principal Audio Producer at Blizzard Entertainment

(5pm, Scales M308)

OUT at the Movies opening night screening

(7pm, Kulynych Auditorium)

Friday, Oct. 3

Orion (WFU Theatre Studio Series)

(7:30-9pm, Ring Theatre)

Saturday, Oct. 4

Orion (WFU Theatre Studio Series)

(7:30-9pm, Ring Theatre)

Sunday, Oct. 5

Orion (WFU Theatre Studio Series)

(7:30-9pm, Ring Theatre)

Monday, Oct. 6

Abraham's Bridge: film screening and discussion

(4-6pm, A31 Broyhill Auditorium, Farrell Hall)

The Darkness | Recent works by Molly Kaderka and Rudy Shepherd

exhibition opens

(Hanes Gallery of Art, Oct. 6-Dec. 12)

Tuesday, Oct. 7

WFU Wind Ensemble Concert

(7:30-8:30pm, Scales Fine Arts Center)

Wednesday, Oct. 8

Orwell's Bullies

(5-6pm, Z. Smith Reynolds Library 404)

Thursday, Oct. 9

"The Infiltrators" Resistencia Film Series

(6pm, Z. Smith Reynolds Library Auditorium)

Monday, Oct. 13

Lumbee Storytelling

(10am-2:30pm, Lam Museum of Anthropology)

Thursday, Oct. 16

The Darkness | Recent works by Molly Kaderka and Rudy Shepherd

OPENING RECEPTION + PERFORMANCE

(5-8pm, Hanes Gallery of Art)

World Cultural Festival

(4:30-7pm, Upper Davis Field)

Professor Emeritus and Steinway Artist Peter Kairoff plays music of Bach, Schubert and Brahms

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Saturday, Oct. 18

WFU Choirs: Alumni Reunion Concert

(4pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Tuesday, Oct. 21

Secrest Artists Series: Christian McBride, bass, & Brad Mehldau, piano

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Outdoor Poetry Reading with Ishion Hutchinson, part of "Inter Alia" residency

(2-3pm, Scales Breezeway, Scales Fine Arts Center;

Rain Location: Hanes Art Gallery)

Composition Masterclass with David Kirkland Garner, part of "Inter Alia" residency

(3:45-5:15pm, SAAB 101, UNC School of the Arts)

Explore Indie Comics with Tillie Walden

(5:30-6:30pm, Z. Smith Reynolds Library 404)

Thesis Film Showcase: Moving Forward (MFA '25)

(6pm, Scales Auditorium 102)

Friday, Oct. 24

Open House Event with Ishion Hutchinson & David Kirkland-Garner, part of "Inter Alia" residency

(12:30-2pm, Carswell Hall, Room 212)

Pre-Concert Lecture with Dr. Lucy Alford: "Singing as We Circle: Branch, Blossom, and Bond in Inter Alia," part of "Inter Alia" residency

(6:45-7:15pm, M201, Scales Fine Arts Center)

"Inter Alia: North Carolina Trees" Concert by WFU Symphony Orchestra + UNCSA Symphony Orchestra

(7:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Monday, Oct. 27

stArt: Open Studio Week exhibition opens

(Oct. 27-31, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

Tuesday, Oct. 28

stArt: Open Studio Week exhibition RECEPTION

(5-7pm, stArt Gallery Reynolda Village)

WFU Music Student Showcase Concert

(7:30-8:30pm, Brendle Recital Hall)

Friday, Oct. 31

Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery

(7:30pm, Tedford Stage)

WFUSO Halloween Concert

(5pm, Brendle Recital Hall)



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