

What a year this has been!

We have been through so much these past 12 months as a global society, as a country, as a community, as a school, and not least, as individuals.

We have struggled to find meaning in all that has happened in the world, and we have hoped for a return to “normalcy”, while at the same time, coming to terms with what a *new* normal might look like, for better or for worse.

In any event, we have had to overcome a great many challenges in order to be here together in this room, making theatre for an audience. At times, it felt like this day might never come, but here we are. You are reading this. You are sitting in this beautiful theatre that is re-opening in a totally new incarnation. And you are about to see a whole new version of the Musical Academy’s showcase. We hope you will take a breath, look around you, and experience a moment of gratitude before you read on.

This year, we truly wish to feature our graduating third-year students in a way that highlights them much more as individuals. If you have seen earlier showcases, you remember that they are usually composed of shortened versions of two musicals, where we strive to feature our graduates in principle roles. As you can imagine, it’s quite difficult to find even two shows put together that really give you a sense of who these artists are. Therefore, this year, we have chosen to open with a 45-minute American-style showcase (this is what happens when an American comes in and takes over the leadership of the school!). Our first act was build from the questions: Who are you, as a human and as an artist? And what do you want the industry and the community to know about you? We have curated the showcase so that it has a flow and provides entertainment, but most of all, we believe that after the first act, you will have a real sense of who these 9 extraordinary artists are.

For our second act, we have chosen *The Wild Party* by Michael John LaChiusa and George C. Wolfe. Based on a “Roaring 20s” poem by Joseph Moncure March, *The Wild Party* features a colorful group of artistic friends who are invited to a party at the Manhattan home of Queenie and Burrs, a Vaudeville couple who are bored with each other and looking to spice things up. The entire feel of the show, and truly the entire era of the 1920s, is fueled by a society in rebellion after two years of a pandemic that killed over 17 million people worldwide. It was time to let loose, shake free of all worries, and misbehave. Here we are, 100 years later, and we see history repeating itself on so many levels. Are we on the cusp of another Roaring 20s? What have we learned from our past mistakes? These themes seem to make *The Wild Party* more relevant than ever before. And this version of *The Wild Party* (with a brilliant translation by Helle Hansen) has never been presented in Denmark before. You may have seen earlier showcases in which Andrew Lippa’s rock musical of the same name was presented. But tonight, you are about to enter the seedy, controversial, jazzy world of Michael John LaChiusa and George C. Wolfe. We hope you will be provoked. We hope you will think and you will feel. And of course, we hope you will be entertained. That is why we need the theatre.

Welcome back.

We are grateful to be here with you today.

Rigtig god fornøjelse.