



# IVORIES

BY RILEY ELTON MCCARTHY

**UTA**  Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

Scenic Design  
**LEAH MAZUR**

Costume Design  
**BILLY BLUE**

Sound & Projection Design  
**TYLER HAWS**

Lighting Design  
**JACE GITHENS**

Director  
**EVAN MICHAEL WOODS**

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

UTA respectfully acknowledges the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes upon whose historical homelands this University is located. Their ancestors resided here for generations before being forcibly displaced by U.S. settlers and soldiers in the mid-1800s. We recognize the historical presence of the Caddo Nation and other Tribal Nations in the region; the ongoing presence and achievements of many people who moved to the area due to the Indian Relocation program of the 1950s and 1960s; and the vital presence and accomplishments of our Native students, faculty, and staff.

*Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.*

*Produced by special arrangement with Next Stage Press, Inc*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

### A Note from the Director:

Let's get one thing (and in this play, the only thing) straight: I hope you jump, startle, and scream today. I hope the hair on the back of your neck stands up and a shiver runs down your spine. I hope you think twice before turning the lights off tonight (sorry!). *Ivories* welcomes those reactions through the vocabulary of horror, no doubt...but its bones belong to a long lineage of American family dramas. A family home. A looming loss. The return to a place thick with memory, resentment, and stories that just refuse to stay buried. These plays ask us to consider what a house remembers, what it demands of those who stayed, and what it takes from those who come back.

Riley Elton McCarthy's *Ivories* arrives in conversation with that tradition and twists it. Instead of blood relatives gathering at the ancestral home, we follow a playwright, Sloane, returning with their chosen family to a house that has never fully belonged to them. The family who has claimed this home for generations exists mostly in absence, yet their presence is... everywhere. What unfolds is not a reckoning among relatives, but a confrontation between history and the people forced to sort through it; blood related or not.

For Sloane, the house is anything but neutral ground. Its past presses in on the present, surfacing as something physical and inescapable. The weight of that history seeps into the space and into the relationships between Sloane, Gwyn, and Beckham, settling like dust that thickens the longer they stay. Trauma resurfaces compulsively, familiarly, even transactionally—fueling Sloane's work as much as it corrodes their relationships. As Sloane notes, "commercial theatre loves when I dramatize my trauma." The play is acutely aware of that enticing bargain, and it refuses to let us look away from the cost.

This is where *Ivories* flirts with horror; not as a genre, but as a tool. When we're constantly overburdened with stimulation, theatre has to work even harder to break through our defenses...and *Ivories* does exactly that. It leans into excess, into the grotesque, into the idea that what haunts us is rarely abstract. Here, the past has real teeth and it bites.

What makes this play exhilarating is the way it holds that intensity alongside intimacy. At its roots is a messy, volatile love triangle between three people trying to survive each other and themselves. *Ivories* makes room for queer characters inside a canon that has historically excluded them—not as symbols, but as fully contradictory, desiring, hurt, and hurting people. They get to take up space in a story that echoes the plays we study in theatre history classrooms, while insisting on their own unique presence within it. "I think Tennessee Williams is watching me work from hell and nodding in approval."

Riley has written a play that demands it all: emotional precision, physical commitment, imaginative world-building, and courageous design. Bringing *Ivories* to life has required an extraordinary level of trust and labor from everyone involved. It is, to date, the most technically demanding play I have worked on. I am deeply grateful to the artists who took on this challenge, and to UTA for fostering an environment where students and faculty are encouraged to dive headfirst into work this ambitious. I thank them all for trusting me to helm this big green monster. Extra hugs and squeezes to Hailey and Leah.

I thank you for joining us in the house today. Shall we find out what's in the basement?

— Evan Michael Woods, Director

## CAST

Sloane.....Julian "Juju" Swan  
Gwyn.....Johnny Ford  
Beckham .....Kylan May  
Neighbor/Sarah ..... Itzel Flores Ortega  
u/s Sloane/Neighbor/Sarah & Fight Captain. .... Allison Marshall  
u/s Gwyn/Beckham.....Chaz Belcher

The show runs 100 minutes with no intermission.

### CONTENT WARNING

This production features

\*heightened effects such as fog/haze, sudden loud sounds & strobing effects that might affect photosensitive viewers

\*discussion & depictions of death, blood, gore & mutilation

This is a HORROR PLAY

& includes content not recommended for children under 13.

Please use discretion.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director .....	Evan Michael Woods
Fight Choreographer .....	Joe Chapa
Calling Stage Manager/Intimacy Director .....	Hailey Green
Deck Stage Manager .....	Ruby LeCroy
Stage Management Faculty Advisor.....	Hailey Green
Scenic Designer .....	Leah Mazur
Associate Scenic Designers.....	Arlie Coker, Vie Walker
Costume Designer.....	Billy Blue
Lighting Designer .....	Jace Githens
Sound and Projection Designer .....	Tyler Haws
Properties Designer.....	Justin A. Miller
Assistant Properties Designer .....	Stephanie Divoky
Properties Artisans .....	Robin Reynolds, Ayden Clay, Cade Marshall
SFX Makeup Designer.....	Paige Dow
Dramaturgy.....	Gwen Mowdy
Production Manager.....	DJ Badon
Technical Director .....	Benjamin Phillips
Master Electrician.....	Brooke Ford
Scenic Paint Charge.....	Paige Dow
Light Board Op .....	Brooks Moltenbrey
Scenic Paint Charge.....	Paige Dow
A1.....	Aidan Crockett
A2.....	Jasmine Suarez
Wardrobe Crew Head .....	Halle Martinez
Wardrobe Crew.....	Samuel Morales
Firewatch.....	Carson Clay, AJ Kimble, Audrey Brittain
SFX/MU .....	Paige Dow, Myriah Elam
Changeover Crew Head/Backstage Crew.....	Hayden Gilbert
Backstage Crew Head .....	Alex Turner
Backstage Crew .....	Jonathan Fischer, Krishna Balaji, Emerson Pullen, Marcus Mendoza
Scenic Studio Supervisor .....	Benjamin Phillips
Costume Studio Supervisor.....	Billy Blue

## SPECIAL THANKS

Carly Hinson  
Julia Rosenblum  
Stagewest  
Amphibian Stage  
Andy Soukup  
Christopher W. Cole

## CAST BIOS

### **JULIAN "JUJU" SWAN - Sloane**

Julian is a freshman BFA Acting major. They love the horror genre, so this show was such an exciting experience. They'd like to thank their family and friends for all their love and support.

### **JOHNNY FORD - Gwyn**

Johnny is a BFA Acting junior at UTA. Johnny was last seen as Prince John in Ken Ludwig's *Sherwood The Adventures of Robin Hood*, and clowning around in UTA's Clown Show. Johnny is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to perform in *Ivories*.

### **KYLAN MAY - Beckham**

Kylan May is a sophomore in the BFA Acting program. He was last seen in *Burying Your Brother on the Pavement* at Lubbock High School, and *Ivories* will be his first mainstage production at UTA. He would like to thank Megan Noble for her constant guidance and support.

### **ITZEL FLORES ORTEGA - Neighbor/Sarah**

Itzel is a BFA Acting junior. She was last seen in *The Taming of the Shrew* at Shakespeare Dallas, *Flight 12's Mega Holiday Show*, and *Treasure Island* at UTA! She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her!

### **ALLISON MARSHALL - Sloane/Neighbor/Sarah US & Fight Captain**

Allison Marshall is a Senior BFA Acting major, and has thrilled to have been a part of this production. Some previous credits of hers include *Mac Beth* (Macduff) at Circle Theatre, and *Treasure Island* (Jim Hawkins) at UTA. She'd like to thank the entire cast and crew for their hard work and dedication, she hopes you enjoy the show!

### **CHAZ BELCHER - Gwyn/Beckham US**

Chaz Belcher is a freshman BA Theatre major, and is thrilled to have been a part of this production. This is his first, hopefully of many, productions at UTA. He'd like to thank the entire cast and crew for their hard work and dedication, he hopes you enjoy the show!

## PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

### **EVAN MICHAEL WOODS - Director**

Evan Michael Woods is a Fort Worth-based multidisciplinary theatre artist and director. His work has appeared at Amphibian Stage, Dallas Theater Center, Stage West, Trinity Shakespeare Festival, Second Thought Theatre, and Undermain Theatre, among others. In 2024, Woods was named Fort Worth Magazine's "Fort Worthian" and received the Bill Garber Young Theatre Artist Award from the Live Theatre League of Tarrant County.

### **LEAH MAZUR - Scenic Design**

Leah Mazur, MFA University of Kansas, is a multidisciplinary scenographer (scenic/lighting/costume designer) and visual artist based in the DFW metroplex.

Select credits include productions at Spinning Tree Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Kansas Repertory Theatre (Kansas City), Lake Dillon Theatre Company (Colorado), Cape May Stage (New Jersey), Anacostia Playhouse, Scena Theatre (Washington D.C.), Amphibian Stage, Theatre Three, Altar'd Playhouse, SheDFW, Stage West, Undermain Theatre, Circle Theatre, Dallas Theater Center (DFW), Art Haus (New York), RuPaul's Drag Con (Los Angeles), and Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Edinburgh, Scotland).

She is currently head of the Design & Technology BFA program in the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Texas at Arlington. IG: @lmazur Lmazurdesign.com

# PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

## **ARLIE COKER - Scenic Design Associate**

Arlie Coker is a third-year Scenic Artisan and Designer pursuing his BFA in the UTA Theatre Arts Design & Technology program and serves as the Associate Scenic Designer for both *The Beaux Stratagem* and *Ivories*. His most recent credits include Assistant Scenic Design for *A Gentleman's Guide to L'ove and Murder* and Scenic Artisan for *Treasure Island*. Arlie is directing his scenic design career to the entertainment field, where he hopes to make immersive experiences, productions, and visual art universally accessible. Outside of the department, he has worked as a production assistant for Flying Jackalope Films and, most recently, for the Dallas International Film Festival Short Award Winner, *Dogs Out of Time*. He is thankful for the support from his friends, partner, collaborative associate Vie, professors, and mentor.

## **VIE WALKER - Scenic Design Associate**

Vie Walker is overjoyed to have been a part of this creative journey. They are a scenic artist, as well as a junior at UTA. While their journey may have began onstage, in the field of musical theatre, they have found great comfort in this new form of artistry over the last few years. This is the fourth production slot they have been a part of, as well as their second time being a member of a UTA design team. This production has been a thrill to bring to life, as well as a touch of death, and they hope the audience gets the same chills watching that we did creating. They would like to welcome Evan and commend him on what a joyous and passionate team member he is. Additionally, they would like to commend Arlie for being a twin flame with a passion such as theirs in this design work, Leah for being such a guiding light in their educational quests, and Lenni for always bouncing ideas through the night. Let the story unfold, stay close, but maybe not too close...

## **BILLY BLUE - Costume Designer**

Billy is excited to be costuming this queer horror drama at UTA for his first design here. Billy is the costume studio supervisor here at UTA. He moved from Illinois in March after receiving his Master of Fine Arts degree in Costume Design from Illinois State University. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Studies and History. This show means a lot to him; he and the entire cast and crew hope that you enjoy the show as much they have enjoyed creating it.

## **TYLER HAWS - Sound & Projection Designer**

Tyler Haws is a multimedia artist based in Dallas, Texas, whose work explores the representation of reality in art through audio recordings, image manipulation, and physical structures. By sculpting ideas of space and culture from his surroundings, Tyler captures and manipulates sound and imagery to create textured experiences that convey context and nuance. Whether through edited audio or visual distortions, his work offers short, resonant glimpses of life that challenge perception and invite engagement. "I share what I do because it excites me to listen—and then find interesting and complex ideas to interpret or present to the audience," he says. For Tyler, sound and imagery are tools to distill the chaos of space into thoughtful expression, always shaped by the concept at hand. He earned his BFA from the Digital Arts Program at Stetson University, where he served as a teaching assistant and collaborated regularly with other artists. He later completed his MFA in Creative Practice at The University of Texas at Dallas. Currently, Tyler teaches sound art at The University of Texas at Arlington while continuing to create and exhibit work for galleries and live events throughout North Texas.

## **JACE GITHENS - Lighting Designer**

Jace Githens is a senior lighting designer from UTA's Theatre and Dance department. *The Beaux' Stratagem* and *Ivories* are their final shows at UTA and they are thrilled to have been a part of this department. Previously, they designed for UTA's production of *Seize The King*, TCC's production of *The Thrush and The Woodpecker*, and they were an assistant stage manager for Stage West's production of *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle*. Look out for them in the DFW area!

## **JOE CHAPA JR. - Fight Choreographer**

Joe Chapa (Associate Professor) holds a BA in Communications and Television Production from UTA and an MFA in Acting from The University of Mississippi. His areas of specialization are theatrical combat, acting, improvisation, physical comedy, and children's theatre. He is a recognized Associate Instructor of Stage Combat with Dueling Arts International. He is certified in the disciplines of Unarmed, Broadsword, Single Rapier, Rapier and Dagger, Smallsword, and Quarterstaff. Joe is a past recipient of the Gertrude Golladay Memorial teaching award and a nominee for the Chancellors excellence in teaching award at UTA. Joe is also the director of UTA's comedy improvisation troupe, Flight 12.

# PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

## **HAILEY GREEN - Calling Stage Manager/Intimacy Director**

Hailey has worked in the field of Stage Management for over a decade. You may have seen them in the booth or backstage at Casa Manana, the Actors Conservatory Theatre, The Classics Theatre Project, Stage West, Imprint Theatreworks: First Impressions Festival, Altered Shakespeare, Prism Movement Theatre, Watertower Theatre, Ochre House Theatre, Amphibian Stage, Shakespeare Dallas or Second Thought Theatre. She also serves in other production capacities including Production Coordinator for the Fort Worth African American Roots Music Festival, Production Manager for the Trinity Pride Festival & Production Manager for the Grapevine Northpole Express. They are a proud member of Actors Equity Association, the Stage Managers Association & holds professional membership in USITT. She currently serves as Stage Management Faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington in the Department of Theatre & Dance.

## **RUBY LECROY - Deck Stage Manager**

Ruby Lecroy is a freshman in the UTA Department of Theatre Arts and Dance BFA Design and Technology Program with a focus in stage management. She was most recently seen as the Assistant Stage Manager for *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (UTA). Her art expands into her work outside of the department as the Character Handler (*Frostival 2024 Howell Family Farms*) and Light/Sound Operator (*Grapevine Northpole Express*). She would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous support throughout the years.

## **PAIGE DOW - SFX Makeup Designer**

Paige Dow is a senior at UTA and has been a makeup creative for 1 year. Her work reflects a balance of creativity, curiosity, and a commitment to pushing artistic boundaries while supporting the vision of the entire creative team.

## **AIDAN CROCKETT - A1**

Aidan Crockett is an interdisciplinary artist based in Arlington, Texas. His work explores abstract concepts and examines societal structures while exploring ideas of right and wrong. Through sound and visual manipulation, his work encourages introspection on how these constructs shape personal and collective experience. He utilizes tools such as Logic Pro, Ableton, CapCut, Max for Live, and QLab to create immersive audio recordings and other time-based media works. Aidan is currently pursuing a BFA in Technical Theatre at UTA and is working on an EP for his personal music project, Plumtober.

## **JASMINE SUAREZ - A2**

Jasmine Suarez is an interdisciplinary artist based in Arlington, Texas. Her work centers on creating immersive sonic experiences that invite listeners to inhabit sound physically, spatially, and emotionally. Using texture, rhythm, and movement, she reshapes perception and encourages active engagement rather than passive listening. Grounded in experimentation, her practice embraces unconventional timbres and playful disruptions to challenge expectations and expand how sound can be experienced. She utilizes tools such as Ableton, Max for Live, Logic Pro, and QLab to create immersive audio recordings and mixed-media works. Jasmine is currently pursuing a BFA in Technical Theatre at The UTA and continues to create work for live events throughout North Texas.

## **DJ BADON - Production Manager**

DJ joined the department in June of 2008. He has served as Technical Director since 2015 and became the Production Manager in 2018. He received Associate degrees in Construction and Design Drafting as well as a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from Southeastern Louisiana University. He then attended Western Illinois University where he received an MFA in Scenic Design.

## **GWEN MOWDY - Dramaturg**

Gwen Mowdy is a UTA Alumni who is so thrilled to be working as the dramaturg for *Ivories*! She has previously worked as a dramaturg for *H\*llø K\*ttÿ Syndrome* at Undermain Theatre, *Bonnets* at UTA, and *The Crucible* at UTA. She would like to thank Dr. Higgins, Evan Michael Woods, and the department's faculty/staff for the opportunity to continue to grow her dramaturgical skills in a place that feels like home.

## BENEFACTORS

We would like to thank the following donors for their extremely generous donations to the UT Arlington Department of Theatre Arts:

Shalyn Clark & Al Clark

Ms. Jill Deramus

Jeff Johnson

Timothy R. Morris

Will & Theresa Ross

Sebastian and Jeanmarie Trainor

Anonymous Scholarship Donor

Archibald Foundation Scholarship

Dr. Charles S. Proctor Endowment

JoAnne Harris Endowed Scholarship for the Theatre Arts

Professors Emeritus Richard Slaughter & Nita Scheble Cox Endowed Scholarship for Theatre Arts

## PLEASE...

- Be sure to turn off all cellular phones or similar electronics prior to the show beginning.
- Avoid the temptation to send text messages during the performance!
- For your and the performers' safety, we ask that you remain in your seats and keep all personal items out of the aisles.
- No photography or recording of the performance is permitted.
- Please do not bring food or drinks into the theatre.

**THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE SHOW!**