



OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

Department of Communication and Theatre Arts

NOV 20, 2019



"Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience" Opens at Goode Theatre



"Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience," which is being produced by ODURep and ODU Opera, opened a nine-show run at Goode Theatre on Thursday, November 14.

Mo Willems, who has written three children's books that have earned Caldecott Honors, wrote the script and lyrics for the production. Debra Wicks La Puma composed the music. ODU's Katherine Hammond directs the production with Brian Nedvin providing the musical direction for the story that features an anti-bullying theme: Be yourself and embrace our differences.

Wilbur is different from the other naked mole rats in the Tunnel because he wears clothes. When his shocking secret gets out, all the other naked mole rats gradually learn that variety really is the spice of life.

"While at first glance this musical may seem like a 'coming out' story, this is, in fact, a 'letting in' story," Willems said. "Our star,

Wilbur, does not 'grow' so much as the society around him does ... (The others') greatest fears, that their places in the colony are threatened by clothing, turn out to be unfounded."

"Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 20-23, with 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 24. Tickets are available at www.ODUArtsTix.com, or by calling the Box Office at (757) 683-5305.

All COMM faculty and staff are entitled to a complimentary ticket for one of these performances. The comp code is MOLERAT20. To use it, just go to ODUArtsTix.com, start buying your tickets with your MIDAS ID, and enter the code on the last page - it will reduce your first 2 tickets to \$0. Save paper by not printing your emailed tickets and have it scanned at the door. Free parking is in the 45th St. Garage, on the 3rd floor and above.

Photos by Noëlle Peterson.

Women Students' Documentary Work to be Featured at ODU Winter Film Showcase

By Michael Grant

With the help of Old Dominion University's Film Program Director David Mallin, women students are getting the recognition they deserve at the upcoming ODU Winter Film Showcase.

For a class assignment, everyone in Professor Mallin's class was required to pitch a documentary project. They were assigned to write a short story summary of their documentary, then everyone submitted their treatments for Professor Mallin to approve for voting. Then once Mallin went through treatments, the students voted for five projects to be "green-lighted" out of the 16 that were proposed.

In Mallin's Documentary Film class in the Department of Communication & Theatre Arts, of the 16 that were proposed, five that were "green-lit" were submitted by women, with three out of five being women of color. Their submissions were curated and their classmates voted on who to move forward with these projects based on merit. The films that the students created are *Breast Cancer Awareness* by Precious Futrell; *Embracing Thy Crown: A Natural Hair Story* by Darian Harris; *Kamusta Ka Na Amerika* by Katie Lange; *Supplemental Oxygen: Breathing Through Tubes* by Phoebe Watts; and *Women Entrepreneurs* by Yaisha White.

Yaisha White, a senior, from Virginia Beach, is documenting a story about women entrepreneurs, discussing how women are growing in leadership roles in a male dominated industry. Her inspiration for the film was from her best friend Johanna Boyd, who is a real estate agent, make-up artist, painter, while being a co-partner with her sister for a food truck called Shake It Up.

Precious Futrell, a senior from Richmond, created her project because her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and was the inspiration for her documentary. She never knew much about breast cancer before her mother was diagnosed. Her goal is for the

film to spread awareness about breast cancer by showing viewers what her mother went through. "I want people to feel empowered," Futrell said. "My mom still dances, runs and walks just fine even with her diagnosis. I want the viewers to feel informed, because the risk for this disease has increased dramatically and there are things we can do about it."

Darian Harris, a junior, from Loudon County, created her project about her decision to go natural with her hair. Her project is about two beauty hair care stylists, Jamie Nicole and Ruth Baker, who also have their own hair products. Their company is named Hair by Ru and Jay Nicole Beauty. Harris' goal for the film is to educate viewers and give a broad cultural spectrum to explain the importance of natural ethnic hair.

Katie Lange, a senior from Chesapeake, was inspired by her best friend Camille Elizaga, a Filipino-American immigrant. Her project is about Camille and her day in the life journey. Her story dealing with immigration was so impactful that it gave Lange a whole new perspective on the topic. Katie desires to bring a voice to those who have none in telling their stories. She strives to help continue to change the exclusivity and lack of diversity in the film industry.

Phoebe Watts, a senior from Virginia Beach created a project inspired by her grandmother, who is going through the struggle of living with supplemental oxygen. Her project is about informing viewers on supplemental oxygen and the hassles people going through it have to live through, while explaining the different types. "There is a way we can fix it, investing in medical technology, vote for Medicare For All. Provide better insurance for those in need. It's not just doom and gloom," Watts said.

The selection of student works will be shown at the upcoming Film Program's Winter Film Showcase at 7:30 p.m. in University Theatre on December 6.

KUDOS!

DIANE FINE has joined the Naro Cinema's weekly First Look Film Forum panel to give insights into current Independent and Foreign films after their Sunday morning screenings at the Naro Theater in Norfolk. <https://narocinema.com/movies/first-look-film-fall-2019/>

The 2019 SERMEISS (Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Society) Article/Book Chapter Prize, which recognizes a peer-reviewed nonfiction work of outstanding scholarship published in English that exhibits original empirical and theoretical contributions in Middle Eastern or Islamic studies in any academic discipline in the social sciences or humanities from 2018-2019, was awarded Honorable Mention to **FRAN HASSENCAHL** for her work "Fears of Dissolution and Loss, Orhan Pamuk's Characters in Relation to the Treaty of Sevres," in Sandhya Mehta, ed., *Language and Literature in a Glocal World*, Springer, 2018.

A short film by **PRIYA VASHIST, M.F.A.** short film *Touching Shadows* (2019) is an Official Selection in the 16th San Francisco Another Hole

in the Head Film Festival. It will be screening at New People Cinema in San Francisco, CA on December 7th at 3 PM.

MEGAN THOMPSON will present two works at The Ocean Dance Festival (co-sponsored by The World Dance Alliance) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on November 22-26, 2019. The first will be an adaptation of *Sculling: A Moving Sculpture*. This version will include international students attending the festival. The second is a work for the stage entitled *Thresholds Crossed: Reconfiguration*. The Ocean Dance Festival is co-sponsored by The World Dance Alliance.

On November 13, MA-LSDC students attended the 105th annual National Communication Association conference in Baltimore, MA.

CLAUDIA GARCIA MENDOZA & THOMAS SOCHA were awarded Top Paper by the NCA Disability Issues Caucus for "Romantic Relationships of Characters with Disabilities in Film: A Content Analysis" presented during the NCA conference.

NOVEMBER

11/20-24. "Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience" at the ODU Goode Theatre. 7:30 PM on Nov. 20-23, with 2 PM matinee on Nov. 24. Tickets are available at www.ODUArtsTix.com

11/26. Brown Bag Series. 12:30-1:30 PM in Diehn 1202. Marilyn Marloff, MFA and Dr. Victoria Jennings will be presenting.

11/27. Day before Thanksgiving (4 hours – ODU closes at noon)

11/28. Thanksgiving Day Holiday

11/29. Day after Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

12/2. Faculty Innovator Grant (FIG) proposals are due. Awards will be announced no later than December 16.

12/3. Proposals due for RSF/BMGF Pipeline Grants. Questions should be sent to programs@rsage.org.

12/5. Adjunct conversation. 12:30-1:30 PM in BAL 9024.

12/6. The Film Program's Winter Film Showcase at 7:30 PM in University Theatre.

12/12. A&L Holiday Reception. 3-5 PM at the Gordon Art Gallery.

12/13. Department Holiday Party. 2-4 PM in BAL 9024. All are welcome. More info to come.

BROWN BAG WORKS-IN-PROGRESS Lunch Series Coming Up Nov. 26

Our Brown Bag series continues, where our faculty present works in progress to their colleagues for the purposes of A) sharing their research, B) generating conversation, and C) building community.

Presenters at the Brown Bag series offer short informal 10-12-minute presentations of ongoing projects and then we open the floor up to questions. This is a great way to learn about what colleagues and professors in other parts of the department are doing.

We always look to pair a person on the COMM side with an artist on the DANCE/ FILM/THEATRE side. All are welcome (and we also provide a virtual option), including grad students (and select undergrads if the presenter wants them there).

Our third Brown Bag will be in Diehn 1202, 12:30-1:30 PM.



Marilyn Marloff, MFA will be presenting "The Brown Bag: one person's creative process."



Dr. Victoria Jennings will be presenting "From communicating through tragedy to communicating through controversies: How to elicit and enable a positive outcome through our interactions."

Is Your Course LeADERS Potential?

As a reminder, please send Katherine Hammond rationales for why your classes might be considered for the LeADERS program, which she will share with Brian Payne in the hopes of getting them a bit more widely promoted.

For more information, visit the LeADERS page: <https://www.odu.edu/success/programs/leaders>



MA-LSDC Students Spend Class Onboard the USS Kearsarge

On Nov 5, the MA-LSDC students in Tom Socha's COMM 626 Lifespan Communication, Geography, and Food class met on board the USS Kearsarge LDH3. Chief Rivera, who commands the kitchens, galleys, and food systems for the ship (preparing and serving four meals each day to 2500!) was the fantastic instructor.

Students learned about Naval sourcing and supply chains, meal planning, nutrition, cooking, serving, and the extraordinary amount of nonstop communication and logistical work required to feed everyone and keep the ship happy!

Chief (Chef) Rivera coordinates a food delivery of thousands of pounds of a vast variety of foods during a storm from a supply ship while out to sea... just another day on the job. Special thanks also to Chief Al Mazuera (USN retired) and LSDC MA student Elizabeth Mazuera for their help in making this happen. ODU and the LSDC Program is proud to salute our Navy Food folks!



From left to right: Carolina Rodriguez Ospina , Phil Harper, Jasmine McDougale (seated), Danyella Jones, Al Mazuera, Elizabeth Mazuera, Dr. Tom Socha, and Kara Bohrer

FROM ODU REP AND ODU OPERA



NOV. 14-24

**NAKED
MOLE RAT
GETS DRESSED
THE ROCK
EXPERIENCE**

ODUARTSTIX.COM

Script and Lyrics by Mo Willems, Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma
Directed by Katherine Hammond, Music Direction by Brian Nedvin

Based on **NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED** book by Mo Willems
Published by Hyperion Books for Children - Musical presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International

upcoming events

BROWN BAG
WORKS-IN-PROGRESS
LUNCH SERIES



09/24: Brittany Harris, MFA and Dr. Annemarie Navar-Gill (University Theatre 1002)

10/31: Priya Vashist, MFA and Dr. Ted Gournelos (BAL 9024)

11/26: Marilyn Marloff, MFA and Dr. Victoria Jennings (Diehn 1202)

01/30: Dr. Brendan O'Hallarn and Dr. Danielle Jackson (BAL 9024)

02/27: Jim Lyden, MFA and Dr. Fran Hassencahl (University Theatre 1002)

03/26: Dr. Carolina Conte and TBA (Diehn 1202)

04/23: Dr. Kyle Nicholas and Carla Harrell (BAL 9024)

COMM408: Health Communication - Online

WINTER TERM 2019 –20 (Dec 16th – Jan 3rd)



COMM408: Health Communication is designed to give you an overview of fundamental communication processes that are involved in the interprofessional management of physical and mental health. Subtopics include patient identity and self-disclosure, social support, patient-provider communication, end-of-life care, stigma, digital health applications, and forms of health education.

Students will be expected to engage online course content and reading materials, exercise critical thinking skills, and develop practical applications of theory and research. Graded portions include multiple choice exams, two papers, and smaller content module response blog posts.

This course is located in “Spring 2020” Leo Online Listings: CRNs: #32524 (local), #32525 (outside Hampton Roads), #32522 (outside VA), #32526 (international).



Questions? Please reach out to:
Dr. Gary Beck
Associate Professor of Communication
BAL3020
gbeck@odu.edu

Documentary Filmmaking in BALI



STUDY ABROAD

- Work with people who are making an impact in the world
- Real life and real work experience abroad
- New views and new perspectives
- Working on a film with social impact
- Receive valuable instruction and feedback while making a short documentary
- Immersive training for filmmakers
- Camera operation and techniques
- Post-Production work in Seminyak / Changu

SUMMER IN BALI - Application Deadline FEB 7

**COMM 440, THEA 440, COMM 595,
ASIA 395, HNRS 396**

May 11 - June 10, 2020

Students must register and pay for COMM 440 or THEA 440 or COMM 595 or ASIA 395 or HNRS 396 (3 credits) during summer registration, in order to participate in this program.

Prerequisites: For COMM / THEA 440 credit, students must have taken COMM / THEA / DANC 271

odu.studioabroad.com/?go=FilmBali