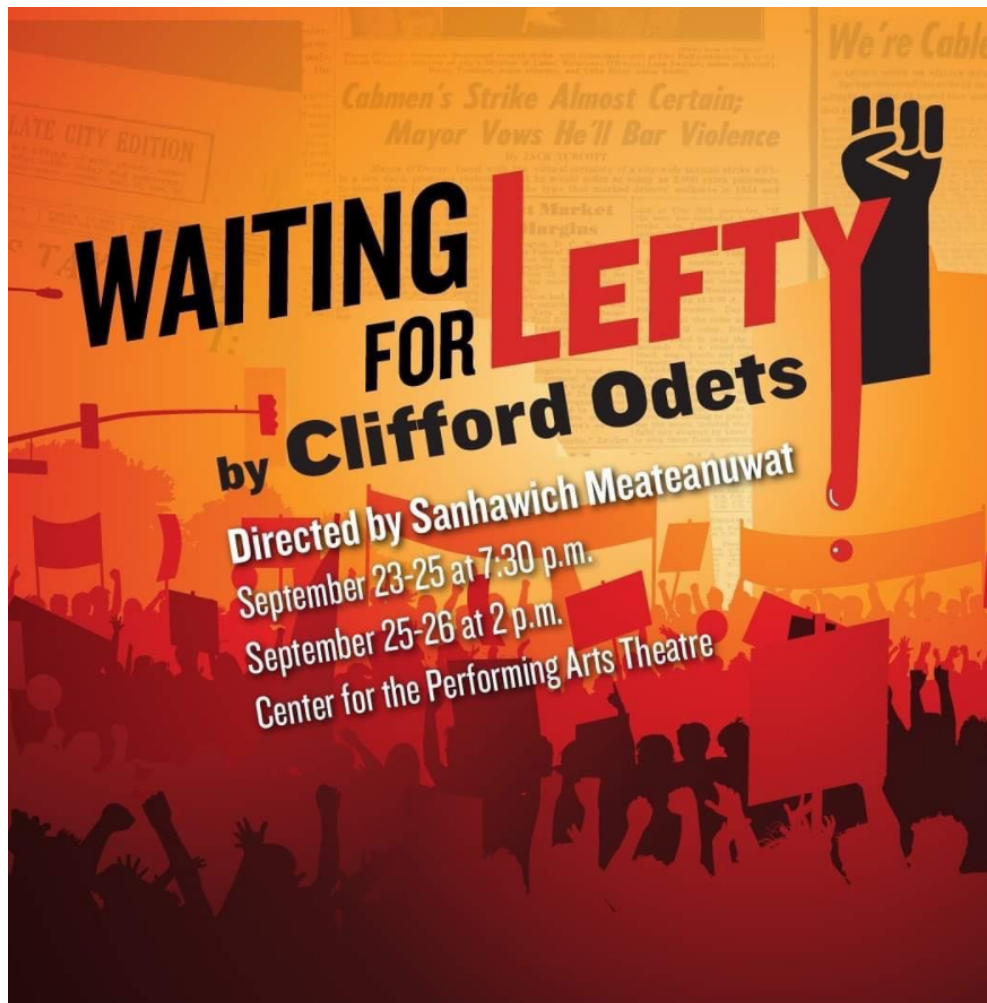


https://www.videtteonline.com/features/theater-students-performed-first-live-show-in-over-a-year-more-live-shows-to-follow/article_e82729a8-23b2-11ec-a8bc-af8cd9f075e8.html

Theater students performed first live show in over a year, more live shows to follow "Waiting for Lefty"

SEAN MORRISON | News and Features Reporter | @ seanmorr122

Oct 2, 2021



Illinois State University's School of Theatre and Dance performed the play "Waiting for Lefty" before a live audience from Sept. 23-26 at the Center for Performing Arts Theatre.

Photo Courtesy of Illinois State University's School of Theatre and Dance Instagram

Illinois State University's School of Theatre and Dance performed the play "Waiting for Lefty" before a live audience from Sept. 23-26 at the Center for Performing Arts Theatre. This is the school's first live performance since the beginning of the pandemic.

The play's director, Sanhawich Meateanuwat, said the cast is continuing to follow COVID-19 safety precautions, though this can be a challenge at times.

“We still wear masks on stage. We follow the rules to keep everyone safe. That can make it hard for the actors to pronounce and project their lines,” Meateanuwat said. “They’re still doing a good job of telling the story with their bodies.”

Even with the difficulties, the cast and crew still enjoyed putting on a show again.

“It’s really heartwarming and refreshing to hear the audience’s laughter and applause. I could feel the energy in the theater again,” Meateanuwat said. “Nothing can compare to the feeling and experience of live performance. We can feed off the energy, participate and interact with other actors and the crowd.”

Stefanie Henkel, a junior theater education and design production major at ISU and stage manager for the play, said that being back in person felt right.

“It’s like coming home after being gone for a long time. Zoom shows were a good experience, but there’s nothing like live theater,” Henkel said. “Being back in that space was such a good experience. I feel really grateful that I was able to be part of the first in-person main stage show in such a long time.”

Director of the School of Theatre and Dance Ann Haugo said there were positives to having a break from live shows.

“When it works, the theater can feel a bit like magic. It takes a lot of hard work from our stellar students, staff and faculty to get to that magical moment, but this year, it’s even more magical,” Haugo said. “I think we appreciate the ability to do this work even more.”

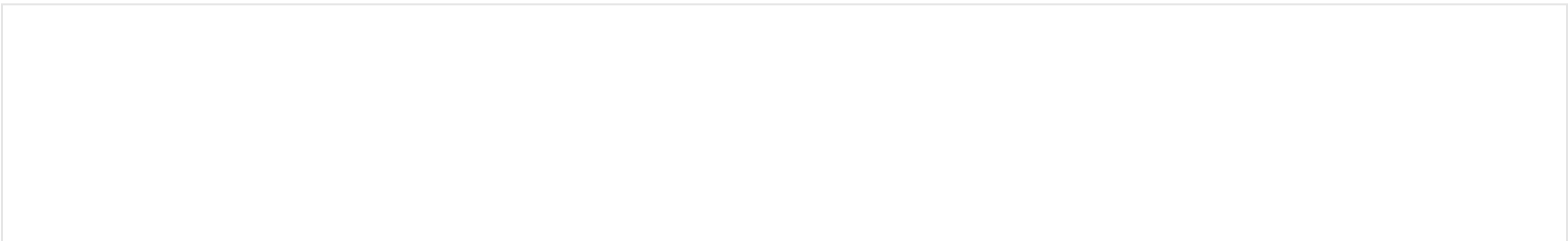
The theater department has more live performances to look forward to this year. This was Meateanuwat’s first live production as director, and Henkel will be working on “Legally Blonde” this spring.

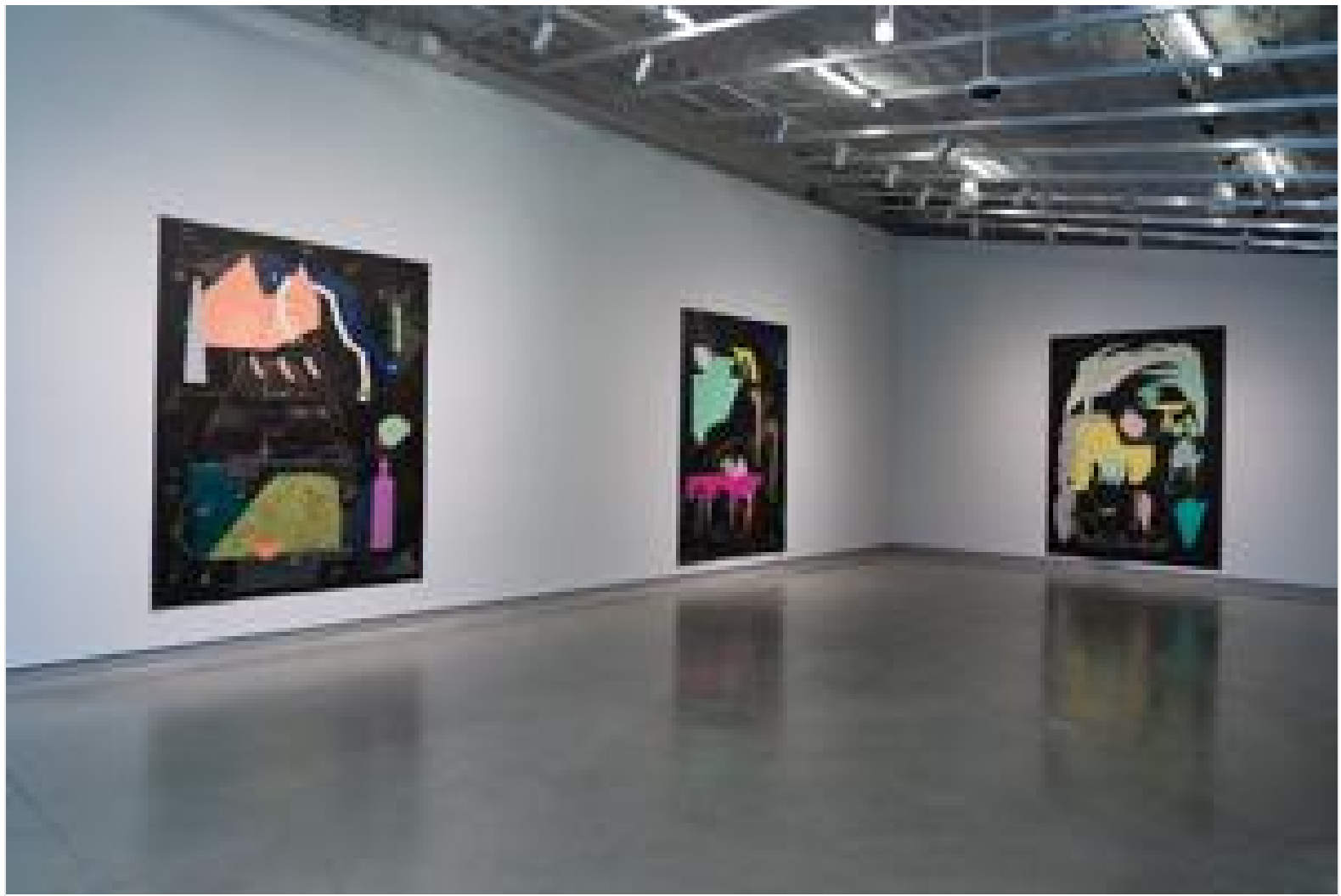


Yeah, we don't want to go outside either.
Thankfully, we offer telehealth.

Planned Parenthood
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SEAN MORRISON is a News and Features Reporter for The Vidette. He can be contacted at sgmorr1@ilstu.edu. Follow Morrison on Twitter at @seanmorr122





Five things to do this weekend in Bloomington-Normal



ISU to host several activities for this year's Family Weekend

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Stefanie Henkel, junior theater education and design production student



Annual Legacy brunch offered opportunities for families to embrace shared history at ISU



ISU Theatre touches on many real-life and taboo topics in 'Love and Information'



ISU's fall dance concert 'Elevate' has dancers thrilled to be back in person

Sean Morrison

News and Features Editor