



SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2021



## Inside This Issue

*Theater in a Pandemic*  
TOOP's Covid-19 Challenges

*TOOP: The Open Group*  
Our Commitment to Accessible Theater

*Fall 2021 Show:*  
*Black Comedy*

Our Current Project

*Graduating Class of 2021*  
Saying Farwell to 2021

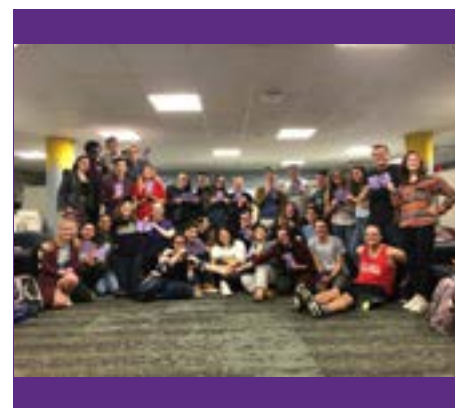
*Parting Words from 2021*  
Some words from our new GOOPs



## Theater in a Pandemic

### *TOOP's Covid-19 Challenges*

This past school year has been filled with challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite our new restrictions and adjustments, the group has adapted to these new conditions and has been thriving. During the brunt of the pandemic, we held General Member and EBoard Meetings over Zoom, and our productions were filmed and distributed online. Social events were conducted online like our new "Power Point Business Time." These adjustments have been difficult for TOOPs, but the pandemic has not stopped us from finding safe ways to pursue our passion for theater. We are now back in person and meeting in Ruth Merrill once again!



We have now put on two different productions whilst masking up and keeping our distance, and we intend to continue to do our due diligence by masking up until the pandemic subsides. Theater doesn't have to disappear during these times when we need it to keep us going. As long as we remain conscious and respect each other with the proper protocols, it is possible for the theater community at the University of Rochester to thrive. During the worst conditions it is still important to bring thought-provoking media to a community that needs to feel connected, even if it is not physically. (Photo to the left is the Interfaith Chapel during *Antigone Fall 2020*, photo above right is TOOP pre-pandemic, photo below is during *Antigone Fall 2020*)



# TOOP: The Open Group

*Our Commitment to Accessible Theater*

Our most recently elected artistic director Abby Delio is in the process of taking significant measures to ensure a more inclusive and accessible TOOP for the University of Rochester population. Abby has been hard at work communicating with the Burgett Intercultural Center to host cultural sensitivity training and to get comprehensive inclusivity workshops. Due to the events of the Summer 2020 and the preceding climate, TOOP leadership has acknowledged an absolute necessity for internal reassessment and action to improve our service to the university community.

We as a group have always stressed our commitment to inclusivity, and now we have acted on that promise in our constitution. As of April 25th, 2021, TOOP is officially an open group on campus. The decision was heavily discussed and debated, but the amendment proposed by graduating TOOP senior Lydia Borsi passed with near unanimity. Executive Board will be ensuring that there are systems put in place to smoothly transition the group into this new era, and the group is excited to welcome a cohort of NOOPs who are passionate about theater and who will be able to experience a TOOP like no class has ever seen!



## Fall 2021 Show: *Black Comedy*

*TOOP's Latest Production*  
*Black Comedy* is TOOP's planned show for the fall semester, directed by James Sheinbaum. This farcical comedy stars Madeleine Fordham as Brindsley Miller, Cynthia Xiao as Carol Melkett, Alyssa Phillips as Miss Furnival, Lilli Tamm as Colonel Melkett, Jack Moore as Harold Gorringer, Anna Bakina as Clea, Michael Riches as Schuppanzigh, and Evan Changar as Georg Bamberger. The cast is very excited to perform this show the weekend of Halloween.

*Show Description*  
Tonight is the most important night of Brindsley Miller's life. He's meeting his fiancée's father for the first time and attempting to sell his art to a millionaire. To impress them both, he's stolen his neighbor's furniture for the evening. But, in cruel accordance with Murphy's Law, everything's an A-1, copper-bottomed, twenty-four-carat disaster. His neighbor has returned from vacation early, his mistress is back in town, the millionaire is running late, and, worst of all, they've blown the main fuse. Shine a light on what happens in the dark as Brindsley's night goes from weird to worse, from fortunate to farcical.

## Parting Words from 2021

Jayda Medina  
-What Shows Were You Involved In/Positions Did You Have In The Group?  
Lights board op for *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, makeup for *Midsummer Night's Dream*, costume apprentice for *The Weir*, and an actor for *Out*.

-Fondest Memories Of TOOP  
Brenn making a quick change behind a curtain in the dark and coming out with all of the pieces tangled together during rehearsal for *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

-Advice For The Next Generation?  
Do the thing, audition for the show, do a tech job you think you might not be good enough for. It's student theater, it's a way to grow and find yourself. Unless you feel obligated. Never do it out of obligation, especially when you're overwhelmed.

## Graduating Class of 2021

*Saying Farewell to 2021*

Congratulations to the TOOP Class of 2021! They have worked hard and achieved wonderful things throughout their time here at the University of Rochester and within TOOP. As these new GOOPs transition to the rest of their lives, we send them off with much love and promise for their futures:

- Olivia Banc
- Lydia Borsi
- Alexander Chase
- Shawn Cummings
- Ash Figueira
- Kinga Flaga
- Madeleine Fordham
- Andrew Jarvis
- Delilah Przybyla
- Joel Omino
- Jayda Medina
- Olivia Morton
- Rebecca Sarin
- Martynas Snarskis
- Zacqueline Baldwin-Sease
- Anindini Singh
- Tomas Waz
- Claire Janezic
- Amanda Gillen



*Diaries from Budapest, directed by Ash Figueira ('21)*  
From left to right: *Autumn Kudlack ('23) & James Dietz ('19)*  
~Fall 2019~

## Parting Words from 2021 pt.II

Ash Figueira  
-What Shows Were You Involved In/Positions Did You Have In The Group?  
I acted in *Proof* and directed *Diaries from Budapest*. I also taught a movement workshop.

-Advice For The Next Generation?  
Enjoy every second of working together. Enjoy every second of creating something that is your own. You are an artist. TOOP gives you space to do that. Lean into it. Cherish it.

Rebecca Sarin  
-What Shows Were You Involved In/Positions Did You Have In The Group?  
Secretary, Costume Designer for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Proof*.

-Fondest Memories Of TOOP  
Sunday morning Load-Ins, late nights in DHouse during tech, getting to know my TOOP family, every "What time is it?" "It's time for TOOP!", Bex bringing a different tea to every meeting when she was AD, Lena rocking their pink overalls at Callbacks to show everyone how cool we are.

-Parting Words  
This group has meant quite a lot to me over the last four years, so thank you to everyone for making it so fun. Being TOOP Secretary (the first time) was actually a big growth experience for me, so I'm really grateful to have served in that role. I'm glad that TOOP is now an open group, but I hope it continues to feel like a very special theater family.



## Supporting Us!

*Help us grow!*

We can't do this without your support! Please help us by contributing to our organization. You can donate using the University's secure online giving form [here](#). Please remember to write "for TOOP" in the comments! Thank you.

*You will receive an official receipt from the University and your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*



## Executive Board

Abby Delio  
*Artistic Director*



Nadia Todd  
*Secretary*



Miles Harrison  
*Business Manager*



Elise Gendrich  
*Technical Director*



Noah Rubin  
*Production Manager*



Olivia Hanson  
*Publicity Chair*



Alyssa Phillips  
*Dramaturge*



Dominique Neveu  
*Social Chair*



Isabella Kelly  
*Development Coordinator*



James Sheinbaum  
*Current Show Director*



## Advisor

Julianne Foster  
julianne.foster@rochester.edu

## Contact Us

[Website \(CCC\)](#)

Email: [theoppositeofpeople@gmail.com](mailto:theoppositeofpeople@gmail.com)

Instagram: [@thisbetoop](https://www.instagram.com/thisbetoop)