



Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center 2023/2024 Annual Report



Table of Contents

This Annual Report chronicles the achievements and impact of the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center's programs and those of the resident academic departments and the people who embody them.

- Mission and Introduction
- Myrtle Woldson Center Presents Series
- Northwest Passages
- Gonzaga Theatre
- Gonzaga Dance
- Gonzaga Music
- Gonzaga Lectures, Special Events and Community Rentals
- 2023-24 Financials and Staff

Mission and Introduction





Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center Mission

Entertain – Engage – Inspire

The Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center dually serves as a laboratory for the performing arts — hosting space for students to explore and hone their craft — and as an entertainment venue for Spokane audiences to engage with performing artists of the highest quality in spaces that are inclusive and welcoming.



Introduction

18,173*

**Combined 2023-24
Attendance**



2023-2024 was an extraordinary year for the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center as the programs that are the bulwark of the Center continued their return to normal operations after the COVID pandemic which began in March of 2020 and had shuttered performance venues for two years. The Center began the 2023-24 academic year under the leadership of new Director Stephen Cummins who arrived at Gonzaga University in April of 2023 with twenty-five years of experience in arts presenting and academic performance venue management.

The students and faculty of the Theatre and Dance Department and the Music Department presented 79 concerts and performance events on the stages of the Myrtle Woldson Center and Magnuson Theatre during the 2023-24 academic year. The Myrtle Woldson Center Presents series returned to presenting a season of performing artist events in January 2024, carving out its place in the Spokane live arts marketplace. The Center's staff forged a relationship with Northwest Passages/ The Spokesman Review to host their literary and special events. Between the Center's presenting season and Northwest Passages events the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center presented 18 Performance and Literary events between September 2023 and May 2024.

*Does not include attendance numbers for some non-ticketed and free events.

Myrtle Woldson Center Presents Series



Season Summary

8

Events
in the Coughlin Theater

2,789

Attendance

\$122,678

Gross Revenue

\$1,972

Low Cost / No Cost Tickets*

* Includes 20% and 50% discounts, \$15 student tickets, \$5 Spokane Public School student tickets and complimentary / free tickets to community partners and under-resourced audiences.



Myrtle Woldson Presents Series 23/24 Season

Performances

Chanticleer – January 16

The Sound of [Black] Music – February 6

Pacific Northwest Ballet – February 16 & 17*

The Triplets of Belleville – March 2

DakhaBrakha – March 26

Pamyua – April 12

Las Cafeteras – May 8

*Presenting Partner:

Gonzaga Dance





Myrtle Woldson Presents Series 23/24 Season

Season Highlights

- The Myrtle Woldson Center partnered with community organizations and K-12 schools to provide folks in our community live performance experiences.
- Welcomed the staff and friends of The Black Lens, Spokane's Black Community News Paper to The Sound of [Black] Music post-performance reception celebrating the return of the return of The Black Lens to monthly publication
- Provided discounted tickets to high school students to experience Chanticleer and The Sound of [Black] Music.
- Partnered with Thrive International to provide recent Ukrainian immigrants low/cost and no/cost tickets to attend Ukrainian Ensemble DakhaBrakha performance.
- Inuit ensemble Pamyua performs an all-school assembly at Logan Elementary School and hosts a drumming and song workshop for children from the Salish School.
- Las Cafeteras visits Gonzaga Prep engaging with and performing for several classes.
- Partnership with Northwest Passages – Spokesman Review to host Mayoral and City Council President debates broadcast by KSPS – PBS.
- Partnered with Performing Arts departments to host MusicFest Northwest, Washington State Music Teachers Association Conference, the American Choral Directors Association – Northwestern Conference, and the American Musicology Society – Northwest Regional Conference.
- Welcomed new employees to the staff in January '24, Beth Moore: Marketing Manager and Joy Simmons: Program Assistant – Facility and Business Operations.

Myrtle Woldson Center Presents Series 23/24 Season

Partners and Sponsors



Northwest Passages




Season Summary

10
Events


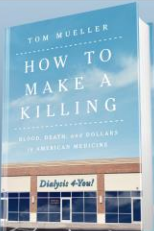
2,495
Attendance

Events hosted in both the
Coughlin Theater and Woldson
Recital Hall

The Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center is proud that The Spokesman Review has selected our beautiful venues to host many Northwest Passages' author talks and special events. These are glorious happenings that wonderfully align with our mission to Entertain, Engage, and Inspire.


THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW NORTHWEST PASSAGES 

TOM MUELLER
'HOW TO MAKE A KILLING'
OCT. 23



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW NORTHWEST PASSAGES 


JONATHAN EVISON
AGAIN AND AGAIN
NOV. 14




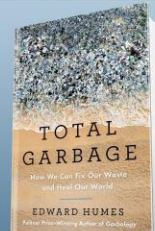
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW NORTHWEST PASSAGES 

STEPHANIE LAND
'CLASS'
NOV. 29



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW NORTHWEST PASSAGES 

EDWARD HUMES
TOTAL GARBAGE
APRIL 18



Northwest Passages

Events

Peter Rivera Concert Benefiting Whitworth and Gonzaga Music Programs – September 29 & 30

Pints and Politics: Spokane Mayoral and Council President Debates – October 11

Tom Meuller: How to Make a Killing: Blood, Death, and Dollars in American Medicine – October 23

Stephanie Land: Class: A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, Higher Education – November 29

Steve Kozak: A Disturbance in the Force (Documentary Film) – December 16

Reunion Gonzaga Basketball 1999: The First Elite 8 – January 5

Spokane Black Voices Hosted by The Black Lens - February 1

Edward Humes: Total Garbage – April 18

Craig Johnson: First Frost: A Longmire Novel – May 28



Gonzaga Theatre



Leslie Stamoolis, Chair

Season Summary

29

Performances

Events hosted in the Coughlin Theater
and Magnuson Theatre

3,178

Attendance

199

Students Participating*

443

Fall/Spring Enrollment*

*Numbers for both students enrolled in classes and those participating in productions/concerts do not count unique students, but rather the total number of students in all classroom and performance spaces.



Gonzaga Theatre

Productions

24-Hour Theatre Festival – September 2, 2023

Original scripts rehearsed, directed, designed, and performed in 24 hours

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised] [again] –
October 6-8, 2023

By Adam Long, Daniel Singer, JESS Winfield

Boone Street Hooligans: Sketch Comedy – October 13-14, 2023

Original sketch comedy written, directed, and performed by students

**An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Dr
John Faustus on This His Final Evening** – October 27-28, 2023

By Mickle Maher

A special one-man faculty performance

Spring Awakening – November 16-19, 2023

By Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater

Presented in collaboration with Gonzaga Dance and Gonzaga Dept of Music

Directing Showcases – December 7-8, 2023

Various scripts directed by students of THEA 354 Directing II

The Revolutionists (a staged reading) – February 29 – March 1, 2024

By Lauren Gunderson

The Odyssey – March 22 – 24, 2024

by Homer and adapted by Blake Anthony Edwards (Theatre Faculty Member)

With public performances and educational matinees for local schools

Boone Street Hooligans: Sketch Comedy – April 19-20, 2024

Original sketch comedy written, directed, and performed by students



Gonzaga Theatre

Academic Year Highlights

- Gonzaga Theatre began a new focus on Theatre for Young Audiences, theatre education, and touring theatre. These three areas represent both mission-centric approaches to our art form, and practical, relevant job training for our students while providing new rigor to the program and recruitment opportunities.
- Hosted educational matinees for the first time for our Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) production of The Odyssey, adapted and directed by Prof. Blake Edwards. We offered the performances for free, and hosted some 600 students from eight elementary, middle, and high schools from across Spokane county.
- New collaborations with the School of Education are revising curriculum to make the Theater Education degree more practical to achieve in three and a half years - plus the required student teaching semester.
- In 2024-25, the Fall TYA production The One and Only Sarah Stonely will be designed to tour local schools and senior living communities in April and May of 2025.
- GU Theatre mounted the socially relevant musical Spring Awakening in full partnership and collaboration with the Music and Dance Departments.
 - Dr. Jadrian Tarver, (Music) Music Director.
 - Prof. Joseph Lyons-Wolf (Dance) Director and Choreographer
 - Prof. Blake Edwards (Theater) Acting Coach.
 - Every performer seen onstage was a Gonzaga student, from the cast of actors, dancers, and singers to the instrumentalists in the pit.

Gonzaga Theatre

Academic Year Highlights - Continued

- Gonzaga Theatre hosted the conference of Region VII of Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival for the third time. A week-long experience for students to train in workshops, meet other theatre students, apply for internships, and compete for acting, musical theatre, and technical awards.
- Partnered with Dr. Laurie Arnold of the History Department and Native Studies Program to work on *The Revolutionists*, a play about real women of the French Revolution, an area of expertise for Dr Arnold.
- Partnered with The Office of Health Promotion and the Lincoln LGBTQ Resource Center during the run of *Spring Awakening* around mental health and suicide prevention awareness due to the work's content.
- Partnered with the Spokane community: KPBX, Expo '74 50th Anniversary Celebration, schools in Spokane, Medical Lake, and Spokane Valley-area communities



Gonzaga Dance



Suzanne Ostersmith, Chair

Season Summary

11

Performances

Events hosted in the Coughlin Theater
Magnuson Theatre

2,293

Attendance

330

Students Participating*

496

Fall/Spring Enrollment*

*Numbers for both students enrolled in classes and those participating in productions/concerts do not count unique students, but rather the total number of students in all classrooms and performance spaces.



Gonzaga Dance

Productions

Dance Season Opener – September 23

60x60 – October 6

Pivot – October 26

Snowflake Showcase – December 1 6pm and 8pm

Celebrate EveryBODY Screendance Film Festival – February 13

Student Choreography Concert – April 12 & 13

Spring Dance Concert – April 26 & 27

Senior Showcase – May 4



Gonzaga University Dance

Academic Year Highlights

- The ZagDance program hosted sixty-five 4th and 5th graders from 5 local Title 1 schools who came to campus weekly in the fall for a free creative movement/dance class after school.
- The Dance for Parkinson's program holds weekly classes in partnership with Northwest Parkinson's Foundation and sponsored 4 student's training in the fall and employed student assistants for each class.
- A Company of four dancers and Department Chair presented 7 recruitment performances at performing arts high schools and studios in Portland, Vancouver, Seattle, and GEL.
- Performed at The Ballet Alliance Festival for high school aged pre-professional ballet companies from across the country. Manned recruitment and tours for prospective students.
- Department Chair selected as the keynote speaker at Spokane Scholars Foundation ceremony and present at Ignatian Gala. Adjunct Faculty co-received Artist Trust Grant.
- Faculty service to the field included a Lecturer adjudicating and providing workshops for national competition, Adjunct Faculty members completing an MFA thesis, co-founding a production company, and choreographing in local concerts.
- Hosted the prestigious Pacific Northwest Ballet with Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center with support from major gift to Gonzaga Dance. Sold out shows with significant audience engagement and community reach.
- Hosted Summer Dance Intensive for students ages 9-20 taught by Gonzaga Dance Faculty with over 50 young dancers from around our region.
- Collaborations GU (New Student and Family Programs, HRL, CCE, International Clubs, Theatre, Music, Communication Studies, Religious Studies, Leadership Studies, Native American Studies), Salish School, Spokane Civic Theatre, KSPS, EXPO 74, NWMAC, Spokane Falls Montessori

Gonzaga Music



Peter Hamlin, Chair

Season Summary

15

Concerts

Events hosted in the Coughlin Theater

5,937

Attendance

24

Recitals

Events hosted in the Woldson
Recital Hall

1,481

Attendance

823

Students Participating*

2,023

Fall/Spring Enrollment*

*Numbers for both students enrolled in classes and those participating in productions/concerts do not count unique students, but rather the total number of students in all classroom and performance spaces.



Gonzaga Music

Concerts

Ensembles – Coughlin Theater

Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra – October 2

Choir Family Weekend Concert – October 7

Jazz Fall Sampler – Oct 19

Jazz Holiday Concert – November 30

Wind Ensemble Concert – December 2

Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra December – 4

Gonzaga Choirs – Candlelight Christmas – December 9-10

Wind Ensemble, Duke Ellington Sacred Concert – February 24

Jazz Concert – February 29

Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra with Guest Kyun Sung Lee, violin – March 4

Gonzaga Choirs with Guest Mora Smiley - April 13

Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra with Guest Pepe Romero, guitar - April 29

Wind Ensemble Concert – May 1

Spring Choral Masterworks – May 5



Gonzaga Music

Recitals

Recitals – Woldson Recital Hall

Faculty Recitals: Kevin Hekmatpanah – February 10, March 23, and April 14

Guest Artist Forrest Howell, piano: “Scenes and Visions” – February 23

Emerging Artist Series – April 19

Guest Artists Erin O’Meally and Priscila Navarro: “Unveiling Mosaics” – April 28

18 Student Voice, Instrumental, and Composition Recitals



Gonzaga Music

Academic Year Highlights

- The non-duplicated head count of students that were enrolled in a music course during the 2023-2024 academic year, excluding summer, was 991. Almost one-fifth of the undergraduate population at Gonzaga was enrolled in a music course during the last year.
- Hosted an annual High School Leadership Academy and the annual High School Choral Invitational hosting over 250 students from more than 8 high schools regionally.
- Hosted national and international soloists and guest composers including Moira Smiley, Forrest Howell, Erin O’Meally, Simone Dinnerstein, Kyung Sun Lee, and Pepe Romero. These visits included opportunities for lectures and masterclasses for our students. Soloists also included winners of the Young Artists Concerto/Aria Competition that featured our own Gonzaga students.
- Submitted our self-study and completed our visit for reaccreditation with the National Association of Schools of Music.
- Collaborated with Theatre and Dance to produce Spring Awakening, the musical.
- Collaborated in performances with students from St. Aloysius K-8 school, numerous high schools and universities as well as with the Spokane Symphony Chorale and instrumentalists from the Spokane Symphony.
- Regularly collaborate with dance such as when student composers wrote short 60 second compositions which were then choreographed and performed with dancers as a part of the Gonzaga Dance 60x60 performance.
- Hosted several music conferences and regional music events
 - NW Conference of the American Choral Directors Association
 - MusicFest Northwest
 - The American Musicology Society – Northwest Regional Conference
 - GU Choirs’ Community Choral Festival.

Gonzaga Lectures, Special Events and Community Rentals



Gonzaga Lectures, Special Events and Community Rentals

Gonzaga Lectures and Special Events

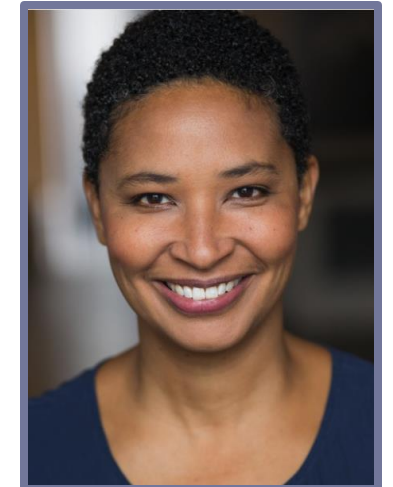
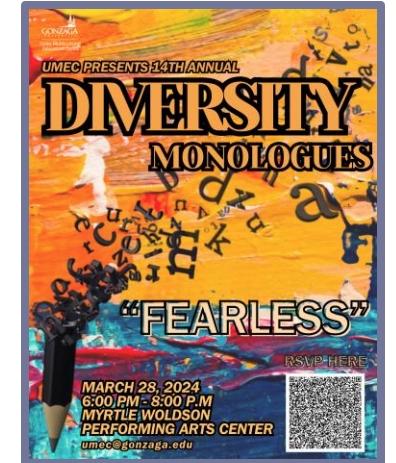
Many Gonzaga University programs used the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center for their special events.

- Diversity Monologues, UMEC University Multicultural Engagement Center
- Gonzaga University Visiting Writer's Series
- School of Business, Aram Lecture
- *Antikoni* by Beth Piatote – Staged Reading, Presented by Native American Studies
- African American Graduation, Hosted by UMEC
- Numerous receptions and gatherings in the lobby, hosted by university departments and programs.

Community Rentals

When the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center is not busy with student concerts and performances or the Myrtle Woldson Presents Series or Northwest Passages events, the staff make the venue available for non-profits and community groups to use these magnificent facilities.

- Humanities Washington: Danielle Allen, Lecture (partner College of Arts and Sciences)
- American Choral Director's Conference (partner Music Department)
- MusicFest Northwest: Spokane Music Festival for Young Artists (partner Music and Dance Departments)
- Dance Center of Spokane: Local Dance Studio Recitals
- Studio Inc. Dance: Local Dance Studio Recitals
- Washington State Music Teachers Association: Annual Conference



**Myrtle Woldson
Performing Arts Center
2023-24 Financials & Staffing**



2023/2024 Financials

Funding/ Revenue	
Institutional Support Personnel	\$370,518
Institutional Support Operations	\$138,806
Ticket Revenue	\$101,801
Rental Revenue	\$28,264
Misc Revenue	\$13,704
Reserves	\$18,786
Total Funding and Revenue	\$671,879

Expenses	
Personnel	\$395,450
Artist Fees	\$127,000
Artist Hotel, Hospitality, Travel	\$40,414
Production	\$22,859
Marketing and Communications	\$44,368
Ticketing and Patron Service	\$27,676
General Operations	\$14,112
Total Expenses	\$671,879

The Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center receives operational and staff support from GU and earns revenue from the Center's performance series and rental activity. In fiscal 2023-24 the Center ended the year 2.8% over budget and transferred \$18,786 from the Center's reserve funds to cover the budget discrepancy. The finances of the resident departments (Music, Theatre and Dance) are separate from the Center's budget. The Center has separate fund accounts for Equipment, Renovation and Repair and Operational Reserves.

2023/2024 Staff

Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center Staff

DIRECTOR: Stephen Cummins

MARKETING MANAGER: Beth Moore

MARKETING STUDENT ASSISTANT: Sophia Morey

BOX OFFICE AND PATRON SERVICES SUPERVISOR: Jess Loomer

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS ASSISTANT: Joy Simmons

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Jon Carlson

AUDIO SUPERVISOR: Luke Parker

LIGHTING AND AV SPECIALIST: Adam Orens

GUEST ARTIST HOSPITALITY LIASION: Haley Belfie

HOUSE MANAGERS: Barry Saxton, David Harrell, Gina Bartelli, Grace Rowe, Joy Simmons, Laretta Heaney, Ilan Hernandez, Robbin Beach

ASSISTANT STUDENT HOUSE MANAGERS: Analeesa Kornish, Hannah Niblock

BOX OFFICE STUDENT ASSISTANTS: Analeesa Kornish, Emily Scofield, Kelly Zhang, Laura Yocom, Rest Mugwagwa, Sarah Giroux

STUDENT USHERS: Abby Fewel, Akiko Hokamura, Allie Liam, Bella Adams, Ben Harris, Bri Tabalno, CJ Trujillo, Ella James, Jaylene Baltazar, Jordan Salazar, Katie Wood, Maalik Brown, Madelyn Derr, Quency Ye, Taylor Kopczick, Will Baker, Xiaoyan Gong

VOLUNTEER USHERS: Aiden Axthelm, Angela Ruff, Beth Rossing, Connie Smith, Gib Rossing, Kathleen Putnam, Kelley McGowan, Kit Kocha, Kori Baker, Linda Leonard, Lynn Noel, Mike Noel, Sabrina Primmer, Steve Chen



"Art is the highest form of hope."

- Gerhard Richter

