

**THE MONMOUTH COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE**

PRESENTS

**THE LANGUAGE ARCHIVE**

By **Julia Cho**

Directed by **Todd Quick**.

Presented by special arrangement with  
**Dramatists Play Service, Inc.**

**February 15-18, 2024**

**Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m. | Sunday 2 p.m.**

**Inaugural Production**

**Hewes Library Studio Theatre**

*The Language Archive* will run approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

**Content Warning:** This play features depictions or references  
to death, mental health issues, and alcohol use.

There is also frequent use of adult language.

Please silence all electronics.

Photography and recording of any kind is prohibited.

**DRAMATURG'S NOTE**

By **Abby Zayas '27**

**M**y first exposure to reading *The Language Archive* was the initial cast read-through, and I was quite excited at the prospect of researching the play and its content. In the process of that research I found fascinating a wide range of topics. The role of language, as well as communication in general, was more robust than I had given it full credit for, and I was endlessly curious about the many avenues I could explore. My conversations with director Todd Quick confirmed my instinct to explore language and the way it functions within the script. Esperanto, for example, is significant to multiple characters. This was the general approach to a good portion of my research: finding aspects of the show that were interesting and then exploring them deeper.

Something I found particularly interesting was a statistic mentioned by George in the play that turned out to be true: a language dies every two weeks. Dead means the language is no longer spoken colloquially but it can still be used in certain settings and is well documented. An extinct language, in contrast, is one that is not spoken in any

context anymore and/or has no written record—it is a language that has disappeared completely from our world.

While *The Language Archive* deals with both, extinct languages have a significant pulse in the story. From the literal language of the Ellowans close to extinction, to an interpersonal language being lost in an ending marriage, and the various struggles characters have with different forms of communication, Cho explores extinction of language throughout. Thanks to that, it was an important piece of my research, especially since the statistic is true and remains true 12 years after the play's original copyright. The reasons languages go extinct, issues such as natural disasters and, most commonly, colonization, are explored within the play, too. I connected with this topic far more than I believed I would, and it is one I will likely continue to learn about going forward.

Language is one of the most important parts of our lives; it is how we communicate with each other, with ourselves, with the world, and with both history and the future.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

President Wyatt and  
First Lady Lobie Stone

Dean Mark Willhardt

Duane Bonifer

Sarah Henderson

Mads Kerlan

Monmouth College  
Facilities Team

Xotchil Musser

Chris Goble

Anne Mamary

Jevanie Gillen

James Godde

Marci Switzer

Jeff Olson

Holly Tharp

Katie Wall



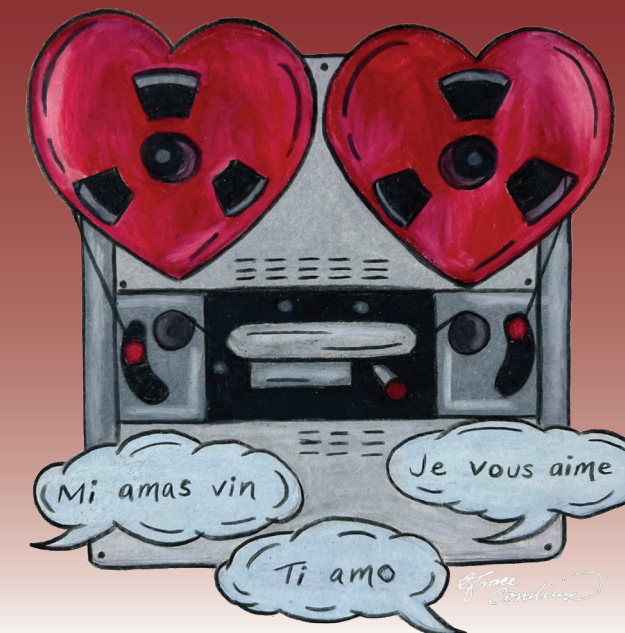
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Todd Quick

In the fall of 2021, I had the bittersweet honor of directing the final Theatre Department production in the Fusion Theater, our downtown blackbox. Just over two years later, I am thrilled to be directing the first production in our new home here at the Hewes Studio Theatre. I cannot overstate the importance of this facility to our Department, both in terms of its practical applications—and in what it represents.

Practically speaking, reviving a second performance space for our season greatly enhances our flexibility as a producing organization. Not only does this new theater space better serve small-scale and experimental works (like the one you're about to watch), but it also allows our hard-working design and technical staff to more efficiently plan and execute our ambitious production seasons. And on top of that, this new space provides the perfect home for our many performance classes for students.

More importantly, perhaps, is what this new space signifies. It indicates a long-term investment in the future of performing arts at Monmouth College, and a reminder that the arts are an essential component of the Liberal Arts college experience. This new space is a tangible signifier to our audiences, and our students, that our growing department is on the rise, and that we have a bright future on this campus and serving this wonderful community.

*The Language Archive* is a play that reminds us that it is important not only to find the right words, but to express them clearly. So, let me say clearly:

Thank you for supporting Fighting Scots Theatre at Monmouth College. We're glad that you're here.

Enjoy the show.

Todd Quick  
Assistant Professor of Theatre

## THE PLACE

Various locations in and around a small Midwestern college town.

## THE TIME

The present, more or less. Early spring.  
Act Two takes place after Act One.

## THE CAST

GEORGE ..... \*Eric Pio  
MARY ..... \*Samantha Mejias Zigmant  
EMMA ..... Lindsay Logan  
ALTA, INSTRUCTOR, PASSERBY, CONDUCTOR ..... Dani Lopez  
RESTEN, OLD MAN, PASSERBY, ZAMENHOF ..... \*Edrass J. Chávez-Alvarado

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director ..... Todd Quick  
Assistant Director ..... Emma Romano  
Stage Manager ..... \*Calista Lythgoe  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Jadya Craig  
Scenic Design ..... Peter M. Rule  
Sound Design ..... Ray Shaul  
Assistant Sound Design ..... Todd Quick  
Sound Supervisor ..... Samantha Mejias Zigmant  
Lighting Design ..... Peter M. Rule  
Assistant Lighting Design ..... Payton Lamb  
Properties Assistant ..... Conrad Null  
Costume Designer ..... Vanessa Campagna  
Costume Assistants ..... Esme Caballero, Natalia Main  
Technical Director ..... Peter M. Rule  
Assistant Technical Directors ..... Kelsey Holtgrave, Ivy Johnson  
Wardrobe Crew ..... Esmerelda Godina Arteaga, Andrew Castaneda  
Madilyn Myers, Sydney Poppy  
Dramaturg ..... Abby Zayas  
House Manager ..... \*Molly Whiter  
Box Office Manager ..... \*Skylar Law  
Poster Illustration ..... Grace Cornelius  
Stage Crew ..... Payton Lamb, Ray Shaul  
Scenic Construction ..... Students of THEA 173 and THEA 174

\*Member, Alpha Psi Omega (ΑΨΩ), the National Theatre Honor Society

## BIOGRAPHIES



**EDRASS J. CHÁVEZ-ALVARADO** (Resten) is a sophomore Theatre Major and Music Minor from Chicago. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Robert in *Proof*, Dorn in *The Seagull*, and The Storyteller in *Peter Pan*. Edrass is a Brother of the Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity and a member of the Scots Ambassadors. Other Monmouth College activities include the Writing Club, of which he is the president. Edrass would like to thank his parents for their relentless dedication to the pursuit of his dreams, regardless of how often they seem to change.



**LINDSAY LOGAN** (Emma) is a freshman Elementary Education Major and Theatre Minor from Brentwood, California. Lindsay would like to thank Todd for allowing her to bring his vision to life in the new Hewes Studio Theater.



**DANI LOPEZ** (Alta) is a Senior at Monmouth College with a Major in Theatre and a Minor in Philosophy. She's originally from Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Her previous Monmouth College theatre credits include Masha in *The Seagull*, Gregory in *Romeo and Juliet*, Allana in *The Little Mermaid*, and the Calling Stage Manager for *Peter Pan*. Dani would like to give a shout out to her friends Leah and Layla. Dani also wants to say thank you to her wonderful professors from both the Philosophy and Theatre departments. She would also like to mention and show her gratitude to her parents, Sonny and Daniel back home! Lastly, she would like to give thanks to her dear close friends (that are practically like a second set of parents to her) Robert and Noelle Thompson. She couldn't have done this without you!



**ERIC PIO** (George) is a sophomore Art Major and Theatre Minor from Galesburg, Illinois. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid*, Medvedenko in *The Seagull*, John Darling in *Peter Pan*, Hal in *Proof*, and Balthasar in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other Monmouth College activities include helping as a member of APO and hosting a radio show on Thursdays. Eric would like to thank Monmouth College for the acting opportunities it provides to students regardless of major.



**SAMANTHA MEJIAS ZIGMANT** (Mary) is a Junior Theatre Major, English and Educational Studies Minor from Joliet, Illinois. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Stage Manager for *Romeo and Juliet*, Sound and Prop Designer for *Proof*, Aquata in *The Little Mermaid*, Sound Technician for *The Seagull*, and most recently Captain Hook, Assistant Director, and Sound Designer in *Peter Pan*. Other Monmouth College activities include APO Vice President, Scot Ambassador, and Mailroom Front Desk. She would like to thank her family for their continuous love and support, and especially Todd Quick for giving her this opportunity.



**EMMA ROMANO** (Assistant Director) is a junior from Wilmington, Illinois. At Monmouth College she is pursuing degrees in Business Administration, Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre, and a minor in Music. She made her decision to become a theatre major after being cast as Ariel in the Fighting Scots Theatre production of *The Little Mermaid* last spring. Emma has also appeared in *A Christmas Carol*, *The Seagull*, and *Peter Pan* at Monmouth College.



**CALISTA LYTHGOE** (Stage Manager) is a Sophomore Theater from Boulder, Colorado. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Second Twin and Stage Manager in *Peter Pan*, Stage Manager for *The Seagull*, and Claire in *Proof*. Other Monmouth College activities include Alpha Psi Omega and Alpha Lambda Delta.