Schedule at a Glance

A SOLDIER'S PLAY
making you feel 😊
February 5th-14th

BLOODY BLOODY ANDREW JACKSON
making you feel 😊
February 12th-28th

A Soldier's Play
Dr. Von Washington Sr. Speaks With Cast

The University Theatre at WMU will kick off the new year by presenting the Pulitzer Prize-winning A Soldier's Play. Set in 1944 at the United States Military’s Fort Neal, Louisiana, Charles Fuller’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play looks at the racial tension and consequent unrest present in the ranks of African-American soldiers during World War II. The play follows the investigation of the mysterious murder of an African-American Army sergeant. The play illuminates what former New York magazine theatre critic James McCarthy calls “how all of us,
Alumni News
David Alpert

This weekend is the 1st annual BroadwayCon in NYC and our very own alum, David Alpert is the artistic director of mainstage programming! Playbill interviews him about the event here. Stay tuned for exciting news on how David will be a part of our 16-17 season! Congrats David! Go Broncos!

A Soldier's Play
Special Exhibition: LIMINALITY

Patrons and guests will have the opportunity to learn a bit more about the lives of our African American service men and women during World War II through a photography exhibit titled LIMINALITY. The exhibit will be on display in the Gilmore Theatre Complex lobby for the month of February.

individually and collectively, are prisoners of our history."

Dr. Von Washington Sr., an Army veteran and WMU Professor Emeritus of theatre, came to speak and work with the cast of A Soldier's Play. WMU theatre student and cast member José Martinez-Chavarría had this to say about his experience:

"From the moment he walked into the room, Dr. Von Washington demanded nothing but respect and the truth. I found myself humbled, thankful and inspired by his experience. He shared what it was like living in a time when minorities feared every single day of their lives. Everything was put into perspective. I realized how serious and frightening the challenges were that African American men faced. Being taught how to march, salute, and properly speak to high ranking military officials by someone who experienced the corruption and injustice in the army first hand definitely impacted my work as an artist. These men literally fought for their lives every moment, and as actors, it is our responsibility to tell that truth. Dr. Von was able to make me understand that A Soldier's Play by Charles Fuller is so much more than a murder mystery as it speak volumes to how much progress we as Americans have made and how much more progress and work we still need to do."

Buy A Soldier's Play Tickets Here
At Farmer's Alley Theatre

Check out WMU Theatre alum and part-time faculty member, Kate Thomsen, in *Other Desert Cities* directed by D. Terry Williams at Farmer's Alley Theatre February 5th-21st.

One of the most intriguing and entertaining new plays from Broadway comes to Farmers Alley Theatre this February with Jon Robin Baitz' *Other Desert Cities*.

You can buy tickets & find more information [here](#).

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**Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson & the Bloody Bloody Blood Drive**

*Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* is the electrifying story of Andrew Jackson - America's first populist President and creator of the Democratic Party. Rock n' roll with us and the seventh President of the United States starting on February 12th in the York Theatre.

Director Jay Berkow says, “*Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* is like no other musical I have ever worked on. From the rock score to the allegorical style, this dark satire of American politics is particularly potent in 2016. With the term populism dominating the current political landscape and the most extremely divisive social and political climate we have faced as a nation, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* is a wake up call. Let’s laugh together and then take a serious look at our country.”

*Contains mature content - patrons under the age of 12 will not be admitted.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

The University Theatre is partnering with the American Red Cross in hosting a Bloody Bloody Blood Drive! On February 9th, stop by the Gilmore Theatre Complex between 12 and 6 to give blood - one pint of blood can save up to three lives!
For the past five years, Theatre Kalamazoo (TK) has been providing a platform for local playwrights to develop and share new plays with the community. Theatre Kalamazoo is proud to announce that the sixth annual Theatre Kalamazoo New Play Festival will be held February 5-6, 2016 at the Epic Theatre in downtown Kalamazoo.

The free event will feature new plays by 9 local playwrights, including some by WMU Theatre alums and students! Theatre
Kalamazoo has also commissioned a play for the festival by Dr. Von Washington Sr.

To launch the festival, Theatre Kalamazoo is honored to collaborate once more with the WMU Gwen Frostic Reading Series to feature a new work by accomplished and published playwright, Adam Szymkowicz. A reception for the public will follow the reading of his play. He will also conduct a free workshop for the local playwrights being featured in the festival.

The festival is generously supported by WMUK, The Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.