Image of an Unknown Young Woman

By Elinor Cook

February 15–February 24, 2019

Directed by Debra Krajec
Fight Direction by Christoper Elst
Scenic Design by Stephen Hudson-Mairet
Costume Design by Connie Petersen
Lighting and Sound Design by Nick Parrott ’19

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Marquette University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).
CAST

Yasmin .......................................................................................................................... Amelia Thompson
Leyla ................................................................................................................................. Shyla Kyser
Ali ......................................................................................................................................... Maaz Ahmed
Candace ............................................................................................................................. Abby Wass
Nia .......................................................................................................................................... Katerina Pourliakas
Girl.......................................................................................................................................... Pia Russo
Chorus Member A1 ................................................................................................................. Ben Lash
Chorus Member A2 ................................................................................................................. Rene Leech
Chorus Member B1 ................................................................................................................. Will Knox
Chorus Member B2 ................................................................................................................... Tino Dentino
Chorus Member C1 ................................................................................................................... Caroline Norton
Chorus Member C2 ................................................................................................................... Malaina Moore

SETTING

“This just happened.”
There will be no intermission.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Everyone stop what you are doing. And watch this. Now. This is happening. This just happened.”

These words introduce us to something awful that just happened in an unspecified city in an unspecified country. But it happened just now. And we know about it because of the power of social media. A video captured by a bystander of a moment of violence at a protest has gone viral. The image of a young girl in a yellow dress bleeding in the street has spread like wildfire across the globe in a matter of hours, maybe even minutes. This ability to see images of events happening far away, not on the news or in the press, but on your phone in your hand while you ride the bus, drink your coffee, or waste time sitting and scrolling—what does that do to us as humans? What does it mean?

I remember as a kid during the Vietnam war, watching the 6:00 TV news reports during dinner with my family. The images of the war, of the killing and the helpless, became commonplace on the news. It was dreadful, but Americans got used to it, because that horror was far away, and we only heard about it when we sought it out. That familiarity with images of suffering troubles me, because it is still happening today, only more often and in much greater quantity. Now, images of conflict and violence come every hour, every day to the smartphone in your purse or pocket, via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and news apps.
What happens then? What is the response to these viral images? What happens when an image becomes a symbol for something? A use of an individual’s image without their permission? When an image takes on a life of its own for a political cause? Do these images shared via social media change perceptions? Do they alert us to unknown suffering and cause change or revolt?

These are questions playwright Elinor Cook asks in her 2015 play *Image of an Unknown Young Woman*. Inspired by images of a female protestor in a blue bra being dragged and beaten by militia in riot gear in Cairo during Arab Spring, by a young woman in a red dress in Turkey being tear gassed as she walked through a park on her way to a picnic, of a video of Neda Agha Soltan in Iran being shot and dying in the street on her way to a peaceful protest, and of people in the streets of Paris wearing armbands and shouting “Je suis Charlie!”, Cook asks questions such as “How real is the original image? How real is our anger? Are we as watchers losing the ability to be truly shocked, to genuinely care?”.

People tend to share social media and rarely question what they see. We feel at times bombarded by messages rather than emotionally engaged. What of the person in the image—what would they think of being used in this way? And what of the people truly suffering, the people caught in the struggles? What of them? Do these images help the world know of their struggle and bring them aid? Or do the images get taken over and become a “brand” for a political message, a symbol for more conflict? More often than not, the people across the globe say “Oh, how horrible!”, hit “Share”, and then finish their coffee and go on with their lives. But for those who try to help, who really want to DO something to make a difference to the struggle, the whole idea of giving is sometimes not as straightforward as one might think.

There is also the issue in the play of female rage. Of being objectified, of being abused, of being considered desirable or not desirable, of being helpless, of being ignored, of being left behind, of being victims. Women across the globe are speaking up and fighting back, but in some countries, they are still not even able to be heard, let alone speak out. But the rage is there.

This play could be happening anywhere in the world. Moments that happen in the play are happening all over the world today. Revolutions, dictatorships, the fight for freedom, fear, violence and helplessness like this are real. Posts on social media do really affect other people. We are connected across the globe through the power of social media. And images of the struggle can cause an outcry, but is it for good? That we somehow relate to and share these images—what does that say about us? Elinor Cook wants us to think about that. I hope this play will help you to do that.
A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us for a few hours of live theatre this season, which we’ve entitled ‘Reflections’. Without you as an audience, our work as a theatre is not complete. Your presence is a necessary part of what we do. Also, by purchasing your ticket, you are helping to support our high-quality productions. You help to provide the kind of quality that audiences have come to expect. You also help to provide a professional quality experience from which our students can continue to learn.

Word of mouth is always the best form of advertising. We hope that if you enjoyed your time with us, you will pass along any good words to friends, families and acquaintances. This simple act also helps to keep our productions supported.

Very soon this show will end, the set will go into the dumpster, and all that will be left will be what you remember of your visit. That is the sum of all our hard work, and we hope you will leave with some pleasurable reflections.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Maaz Ahmed (Ali)
Maaz Ahmed is a freshman Theatre Arts and Digital Media major. This is his second performance on the Helfaer stage and he cannot be more excited to be a part of Image of an Unknown Young Woman! He would like to thank his friends and sisters for supporting his passion for theatre and hopes you all enjoy the show!

Tino Dentino (Chorus Member B2)
This is Tino’s first show at the Marquette University! She is a freshman Theatre Arts major and she is very excited to make her Marquette debut with Image of an Unknown Young Woman. She would like to thank Deb for everything as well as her parents and brothers for providing rides and shelter after late practices. Enjoy the show!

Shyla Kyser (Leyla)
Shyla Kyser is a freshman double majoring in Theatre Arts and Psychology and is extremely excited to be a part of her first production on the Helfaer stage. Off-stage, she was the Sound Operator for Little Women and Sound Designer for Dooby Dooby Moo. She would like to thank the Theatre Department leaders for pushing her to do her best, and her family for their love and support.

Will Knox (Chorus Member B1, Fight Captain)
Will is thrilled to be performing on the Marquette mainstage once again! He is a sophomore and is a Theatre Arts major with a Dance minor. He was last seen on the Marquette stage in Clybourne Park (Russ/Dan) and in the musical Little Women (Professor Bhaer). His previous Marquette credentials include: A Year with Frog and Toad (Bird, Father Frog), Pericles, Prince of Tyre (Leonine, Philemon, etc.) and White Privilege (Actor 5). Will would like to thank Deb for this awesome opportunity, his cast for making this experience great, and his parents for all of their love and support on and off the stage. He hopes you all enjoy the show!

Ben Lash (Chorus Member A1)
Ben Lash is a freshman majoring in Theatre Arts and Cognitive Science and is absolutely ecstatic to be a part of the wonderful cast of Image of an Unknown Young Woman. Ben works as a Student
Guard at the Haggerty Museum of Art in his free time and would like to thank everyone in the audience for dedicating their valuable time and money to supporting the arts. Enjoy the show!

**Rene Leech** (Chorus Member A2)
Rene Leech is a 21-year-old aspiring screen actor, and current senior at Marquette University. She was recently seen on stage in *White Privilege* (Actor 3), *Pericles* (Thaisa), and *Student Body* (Liz). As well as on screen in *Jaded* (Jade), *Cross My Heart* (Girl in Blue Shoes), and *CHOICE* (Sam). She thanks the cast, designers, and crew for putting their time and effort into making this show such an impactful experience. Most importantly, she thanks Debra Krajec for always inspiring her to dig deeper as an artist in order to create immersive moments that challenge the actor and audience alike. She sends love to Mom, Dad, Jack, and Claire. www.reneleech.com

**Malaina Moore** (Chorus Member C2)
Malaina is a junior at Marquette, pursuing theatre performance; playwriting, as well as Social Welfare and Justice. After writing *White Privilege* and *This Just In*, Malaina has found that social justice projects allow her to not only perform but also to make a difference. She thanks Deb for this amazing opportunity. Want more info about Malaina? Check out melodymoore34.wixsite.com/mysite

**Caroline Norton** (Chorus Member C1)
Caroline is excited to be part of such an impactful show. She is a junior studying Theatre Arts and Digital Media. She was last seen on the Marquette stage in *Little Women* (Amy) and *White Privilege* (Symone). Caroline would like to thank Deb for the opportunity to help tell this story and would like to encourage you, the audience, to pay close attention to what you are about to see. "This is happening. This just happened." www.carolinegracenorton.com

**Katerina Pourliakas** (Nia)
Katerina is a freshman at Marquette this year studying Theatre Arts and Digital Media. This is her debut role on the Helfaer stage. Katerina has experience in performing classical pieces and is excited to work on a more contemporary show.

**Pia Russo** (Girl)
Pia Russo is a freshman double majoring in Theatre Arts and Secondary Education. This is her first time performing at the Helfaer Theatre here at Marquette and she's super excited! Longtime fans will remember her from: *Too Much, Too Much, Too Many* (Emma) and *Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread* (Woman 1) at Stevenson High School, *Murphy’s Law* (Judge Murphy) at Stevenson and the Skokie Theatre Festival, and her iconic spot work at Marquette’s *Little Women* this past fall. She would like to thank her friends, her family, her cat, and especially her sisters, who are cooler than Pia lets on. She would also like to thank you for coming to a show she's incredibly proud of and even going so far as to read the program! Enjoy!

**Amelia Thompson** (Yasmin)
Amelia Thompson is a freshman Theatre Arts minor at Marquette and is extremely excited to star in her first Marquette Theatre production! Amelia finds performing a very big part of her life and couldn't be happier with this show. She would like to thank her family, friends, and all those who bought tickets to see a bunch of yellow dresses on stage. Enjoy!

**Abby Wass** (Candace)
Abby Wass is currently a freshman at Marquette University studying Theatre Arts and Theology. She is thrilled to be making her debut with Marquette Theatre! Some of her favorite past productions include *Little Women* (Marmee) and *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Duchess Estonia Dulworth). She is currently working for her first professional theatre company in Franklin, Wisconsin:
PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Caitlyn Birmingham (Assistant Costume Designer)
Caitlyn Birmingham is a junior Theatre Arts major with an emphasis on Stage Management. She has worked on multiple shows at Marquette but has never assistant designed. She is beyond excited to be working with this talented design team and to gain knowledge on such an important part of the show. Enjoy!

Jamie Cheatham (Artistic Director)
Jamie is a professional actor, director, fight director, and theatre educator. After 17 years of working professionally in New York City and 10 years of teaching at UW-Parkside, Jamie is thrilled to be at Marquette. He is a nationally recognized fight director with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) and has been working recently as the assistant fight director on King Lear on Broadway. Other professional work includes such theaters as: Milwaukee Rep, Alley Theatre (TX), Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage (DC), Shakespeare Theatre (DC), Milwaukee Ballet, the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Fireside Theatre, and the Georgia, Illinois, and NY (Delacorte) Shakespeare Festivals.

Christopher Elst (Fight Director)
A Certified Teacher and Secretary of the Governing Body with the Society of American Fight Directors, an Associate Instructor with Dueling Arts International, and one-half of the dynamic duo behind Milwaukee's acclaimed Theater RED, Christopher has performed, directed, and designed violence and intimacy for theaters across the country, including Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival, Ogunquit Playhouse, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Next Act Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, and The Milwaukee Rep. He thanks his wife, Marcee, for tolerating late nights and joint locks. www.christopherelst.com

Kelsey Harlow (Props Designer, Assistant Scenic Designer)
Kelsey is a junior studying Theatre Arts and Digital Media. This is Kelsey's twelfth show here at Marquette. She is very thankful to have had the opportunity to work on such an electric piece and would especially like to thank Deb, Connie, Stephen, Nick and Emily for all of their help though this production. Enjoy the show!

Stephen Hudson-Mairet (Chair, Scenic Designer)
As chair of the Department of Digital Media and Performing Arts, Stephen is blessed to be working with a great faculty, staff, and student body, and he is happy to share their great work with you. This season marks Stephen's 19th at Marquette. Thank you so much for your support of Marquette Theatre and Marquette's theatre arts students. Stephen lives quite happily in a very old house in Wauwatosa with his wife Heidi, and daughters Emma and Grace.

Krista Kanderski (Stage Manager)
Krista is a senior studying Sociology and minoring in Theatre Arts, Biology, and Culture, Health, & Illness. Her previous stage management work includes Little Women, Student Body, Blithe Spirit, and To Kill A Mockingbird at Marquette; Hamlet, The Life and Death of King John, and
Romeo and Juliet with Voices Found Repertory; The Pillowman with the Constructivists, and Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. She would like to thank Deb and the wonderful cast, crew, and designers for their incredible work on this production. Her next show will be stage managing VFR’s production of Hand to God, and after graduation, she will be joining the company of Hope Summer Repertory Theatre.

**Debra Krajec** (Director)

Deb has had a wonderful experience working with these very talented young theatre artists on this challenging production. Special thanks to senior Nick Parrott for his fantastic sound and light design. Deb serves as a faculty member, a Stage Director and a Costume Designer at Marquette. She received her MFA from Texas Christian University, and has worked professionally as a costume designer, a director, and an actress. In Milwaukee, Deb has designed costumes for Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, First Stage, Renaissance Theaterworks, and Next Act Theatre. She is very active in the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, where she is a Fellow of the Institute, and is a member of Actor’s Equity Association. She lives happily in Menomonee Falls with her patient husband David, 3 Shetland Sheepdogs and 2 calico cats.

**Emily Kraus** (Assistant Scenic Designer)

Emily is a junior from Toledo, Ohio pursuing a major in Theatre Arts and a minor in Dance. Her past design experiences at Marquette include: On the Verge (Assistant Scenic Designer) and Pericles, Prince of Tyre (Assistant Costume Designer). She’s also performed on stage in Little Women (Aunt March/Mrs. Kirk), White Privilege (Actor 2/Sandy/Mrs. Wells), and Anything Goes (Ensemble). Emily is also thrilled to be Assistant Scenic Designing for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre’s upcoming production of Jeeves at Sea. To the cast, crew, and design team: thank you, thank you, thank you. Enjoy the show!

**Chester Loeffler-Bell** (Technical Director)

Chester is pleased to work again with the Marquette faculty, staff, and students on another exciting season of fine work. Other recent experience includes light designing Chesapeake for In Tandem Theatre, three seasons as Production Manager for the Chamber Theatre, two years as a faculty member at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, one year as a Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Deputy, and four seasons as Lighting Supervisor with the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. He holds a BA in Theatre from Carroll College and a MFA in Lighting Design from the University of South Carolina. Chester lives in Mukwonago, Wisconsin with his wife Susan and sons Harry, Sam and Joe.

**Katie Markle** (Assistant Stage Manager)

Katie Markle is a freshman Theatre Arts major. She has just finished performing in the kid’s show Dooby Dooby Moo (Cow). This is Katie’s first-time assistant stage managing at Marquette and she is very excited for the audience to see this beautiful show!

**Nick Parrott** (Lighting Designer, Sound Designer)

Nick is a senior studying Theatre Arts and Dance. Helfaer credits include: Little Women, Anything Goes, A Year With Frog and Toad, Student Body, Dooby Dooby Moo, Working, The Skin of Our Teeth, As You Like It and To Kill A Mockingbird. Helfaer design credits include: Blithe Spirit (sound), Two Rooms (lights/sound), Pericles (sound), Curious…Watson Intelligence (lights/sound) and White Privilege (lights/sound). Professional work includes Hairspray (Skylight Music Theatre), Twelfth Night.
PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

(Summit Players Theatre) and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre (upcoming). Endless thanks to the IMAGE team, friends and family. Enjoy! nicholasparrott.com

Connie L. Petersen (Costume Designer, Costume Shop Manager)
Connie is happy to return for her 17th year with her family here at Marquette University. She received her B.S. degree in theatre from Northwest MO State University and M.F.A. degree in Costume and Scenic Design from SIU- in Carbondale, IL. She enjoyed working with Door Shakespeare this summer on Comedy of Errors. She has also designed for Next Act Theatre, Des Moines Metro Opera, Denver Center Theatre Company, and Playmakers Repertory Company at UNC-Chapel Hill. Connie is enjoying her spare time in Elm Grove with her daughters, Emma and Olivia.

Grace Weir (Assistant Costume Designer)
Grace Weir is a sophomore majoring in Theatre Arts with a Costume Design emphasis, and a minor in Studio Art. Grace has also worked on Marquette’s mainstage as ASM for Pericles, Prince of Tyre, and Costume Designer for Dooby Dooby Moo. She hopes that you enjoy the show and the hard work that every cast and crew member has put into it!

Use #footlights on Instagram
PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director ................................................................................................. Chester Loeffler-Bell
Stage Manager ..................................................................................................... Krista Kanderski
Assistant Stage Manager .................................................................................... Katie Markle
Light Board Operator .......................................................................................... Alek Metro-Roland
Sound Board Operator ........................................................................................ Cooper Adams
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Props Designer ..................................................................................................... Kelsey Harlow
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