



University of Rochester's

ROC PLAYERS

ROC PLAYERS | FALL 2022



Inside This Issue

Welcome!

A message to our alumni

Director Spotlight

An interview with our director

Urinetown

Our Fall Semester Show

New Member Spotlight

An interview with a current member

Outside Performing

Staying connected outside of the performance



UNIVERSITY of
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WELCOME A MESSAGE TO OUR ALUMNI

Hi Alumni! Happy Fall. We hope you are all doing well. It was so nice to see some of you all during our alumni Meliora weekend event. Our members of ROC Players are excited to share with you what we have been working on so far this semester.

The pictures on the side include one of our current members alongside some of our very first ROC Players Alumni. There is also a photo of our current, past year, and very first Artistic Directors. This experience was very special to many of us as we got to learn about how ROC Players began and really see how much we have grown as a club. This is a tradition we hope to continue each year during Meliora Weekend to connect with our many new alumni as we keep growing bigger and bigger as a club.

In this newsletter you will find interviews with a current member and our current director, information about our fall semester show and ways we have been improving and expanding our club. We are excited to share with you all information about our show we performed in November.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to our current executive board, listed at the end of this newsletter.





DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

An interview with our director

Below you will find an interview with our current director, Evan! Read about his excitement and plans for directing our Fall production.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

“My name is Evan Coleman. I am a senior majoring in English - Language, Media and Communication, and Business with a minor in Legal studies. I have been involved with ROC players in the past, first as an actor as Will Bloom in *Big Fish*, assistant directed *The Spitfire Grill*, directed *Ordinary Days*, costume designed for *Falsettos* and now directing for *Urinetown*. I have also been on our executive board for two years in the positions of Advancement Chair, Production Manager and Artistic Director.”

Why *Urinetown*?

“The themes of the show and it being a political satire, there are a lot of things that resonate with our college community and a lot that are discussed are things that people on our campus are passionate about. It touches on topics of climate change, capitalism, upward management, divisive topics. But the interesting part of this show is that it does not give a stance but just puts it on a stage and ties it together with humor to make it easier to talk about these difficult issues.”

Donations

We love theater and want to continue this club for years to come. We are also always looking for your support! You can donate to the club directly using this link: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1676/giving19/giving19.aspx?sid=1676&gid=2&pgid=712&cid=1541&appealcode=19U0A>



Once you fill out your personal information and payment all normally make sure to indicate our club as the place you want the money to be donated. To do this, 1) Click the box that says “Select Gift Designation.” 2) Then scroll down to where it says “Other - Write-in” click continue and write in the next field. 3) Then in the box that says please indicate the area of support, write “ROC Players.” The donation will then be sent to our club.

What part of directing *Urinetown* are you most excited about?

“I am excited to engage with the huge team that we have this semester, especially compared to the last time directing, which was *Ordinary Days*, was during the pandemic which was kept to a small team and four person cast. Now we have seen ROC Players grow and we have a cast of thirteen and we will be performing in person for a live audience with a very big production team behind the scene making all of our designs come to life. I am excited to push the envelope for ROC Players and see what we can accomplish with this many people involved.”

Fun fact about yourself?

“I have seen twenty five Broadway shows. Some of my favorites were *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*, *Hadestown* and the revival of *Once on this Island* - which I saw twice.”



I love *Urinetown* because it does not give a stance on these difficult topics but just puts it on a stage and ties it together with humor.

— Evan Coleman '23



New Executive Board Position

ROC Players is proud to announce that we are continually working to make our club ever better. This semester we have done that by adding a brand new executive board position that focuses on accessibility, diversity and equity. This position is a semesterly role in which our chair will take steps to ensure we as a group are being inclusive, open, understanding and accessible for all students. We are excited to take this next step in becoming an all welcoming club.



Urinetown

Our Fall Semester Production

Last semester general members voted in *Urinetown* to be this semester's production! Auditions were completed early in the semester and our cast rehearsed throughout the semester with an incredible performance in November. We are incredibly proud of what we shared with the community, putting on live performances for three nights.

Urinetown is a satirical show that deals with a lot of political themes but combines that with a dose of humor, a love story, and a lot of energy and comedy throughout. There is something in it for everyone. This is a show that will make you think a little bit but definitely plays with humor of some things that we are all familiar with just as people living in this world today.

Not only is this one of our largest casts for a show we are also working with our largest production team as well. We are elated to have many new members on board from all class years and so many different past experiences.

For more photos and information check out our on our Instagram (@urROCplayers) and our Facebook page (@univROCplayers)!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Interview with one of our newest members



ROC Players is so fortunate to be full of talented individuals that all share a passion for theater. Below you will find an interview with Sasha Lifchez '26, a first year student who is excited to be playing a lead role in our show this year.

Tell us about yourself.

"I'm Sasha, a first year student from Baltimore. My major is math and I might do a double major in music."

What made you interested in joining ROC Players?

"I've always been a theater kid, been doing shows since I was little and I was really excited for the opportunity to continue that in college. I love being in a production with people and working together to build something amazing."

Tell me about your part in the show.

"I play Little Sally who is a street urchin, narrator alongside Officer Lockstock. Shes really fun to play, bratty in a fun way, and I have had a lot of fun with the role"

Do you have a favorite memory from ROC Players so far?

"There are a lot of things but I really enjoyed blocking and working on the big fight scene at the end of act one. Everything just comes together all at once and it's really fun."

Is there anything about ROC Players that you are looking forward to in the future?

"I am looking forward to continuing to do shows, I love the vibes of it all."

Would you share a fun fact about yourself?

"My favorite show is Rent. I know every single word and I can recite it beat for beat."



Outside Performing

ROC Players Activities Outside of the Mainstage Production

Our club loves to work on the shows we produce each year, but we also love to get out and have fun together outside of rehearsals and meetings. This year our Social Chair, Marina, has continued the program Roc 'N Buddies where weekly you are paired with a different member to meet for lunch or coffee anytime you get a chance throughout the week. We've also added a portion to this where you submit photos to our chat and vote on that weeks best photo for a chance to win candy. We have also engaged in bigger group games such as assassins, where you aim to tag your target and be the last player standing. Within our meetings we have also played social games such as ROC Players jeopardy, Halloween mummy wrapping, and improv.

Our most exciting development coming to our social events is our social chair has been working with other theater clubs across campus to create a theater formal. Members will get the chance to dress up and celebrate together after completing our shows and performances. Keep an eye out on our social media pages to see us in our fanciest outfits.

These social events and more interactive meetings make ROC Players feel more like a big group of friends and provide a fun environment for all our members. In addition to social events, our active members hear about theater and performance opportunities during our meetings. Some of these opportunities include attending the Todd, TOOP, and OBOC productions on campus together as well as a cappella groups, protests and other non theater related performances. We love being able to offer so much to our members and are constantly looking for ways to improve everyone's experience in ROC Players.

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