

Music by Green Day Lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong Book by Billie Joe Armstrong and Michael Mayer Directed by Ruben Del Valle Jr.

May 2-10 Center for the Arts Mainstage Theatre tuboxoffice.com



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Honor Native Land

Every community owes its existence and strength to the generations before them, around the world, who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy into making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will; some were drawn to migrate from their homes in the hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgment are critical in building mutual respect and connections across all barriers of heritage and difference.

At Towson University, we believe it is important to create dialogue to honor those that have been historically and systemically disenfranchised. So, we acknowledge the truth that is often buried: We are on the ancestral lands of communities and nations which include the <u>Susquehannock</u> (suh-skwuh-ha-naak), <u>Nanticoke</u> (nan-tuh-kowk) and the <u>Piscataway</u> (puh-ska-tuh-way) people who consider the land that the university currently occupies part of their ancient homeland. These were among the first in the Western Hemisphere. We are on indigenous land that was seized from the tribes and many others by European colonists.

We pay respects to these elders and ancestors. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.

Eating and drinking are prohibited in the theatre. Towson University is a smoke-free campus. Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. If there is an emergency, please WALK TO THE NEAREST EXIT. Photographic, video, or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited by copyright law.

For additional information on productions, please visit our website at www.towson.edu/theatre
For a complete listing of events at Towson University, please visit events.towson.edu
If you would like to share a comment on this production, please e-mail theatre@towson.edu



Music by Green Day
Lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong
Book by Billie Joe Armstrong and Michael Mayer
Directed by Ruben Del Valle, Jr.

May 2-10, 2025 at Towson University Center for the Arts, Mainstage Theatre

> 7:30pm - May 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 2pm - May 4

American Idiot runs 1 hour and 35 minutes with no intermission.

This production contains material recommended for mature audiences. Strobe lights and theatrical haze will be used; onstage guns, gunshots, and explosion SFX featured.

Original Broadway Production Produced by Tom Hulce & Ira Pittelman
Ruth and Stephen Hendel Vivek Tiwary and Gary Kaplan Aged in Wood and
Burnt Umber Scott M. Delman Latitude Link HOP Theatricals and Jeffrey Finn
Larry Welk Bensinger Filerman and Moellenberg Taylor Allan S. Gordon/Élan
V. McAllister Berkeley Repertory Theatre

in association with Awaken Entertainment and John Pinckard and John Domo and

Was originally produced by Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA Tony Taccone, Artistic Director / Susan Medak, Managing Director

AMERICAN IDIOT is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"I beg to dream and differ from the hollow lies. This is the dawning of the rest of our lives on Holiday" – Green Day

Stop letting lies divide us. Don't let the unrelenting images on the screen take over. We all feel it—the loneliness, confusion, anger, and being lost in this mess as we search for truth and our place within the chaos. Let's refuse to be part of the chaos. Don't let it drive you into conflict with yourself, your family, friends, colleagues, or strangers on the street. Whether you identify with the elephant, the donkey, or like me, somewhere in the middle—don't be an American Idiot.

So... "WAKE UP" - Whatsername

Enjoy the show.

- Ruben Del Valle, Jr. Director & Choreographer

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Ruben Del Valle, Jr.
DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Patty DeLisle
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Julie Potter
COSTUME DESIGNER

Alyssa Millward COSTUME DESIGNER

Daniel Ettinger SCENIC DESIGNER

Chris Carcione VIDEO DESIGNER Jay Herzog LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jaeden Arrington ASSOCIATE LIGHTING

DESIGNER

London Brooks STAGE MANAGER

Davin Banks DRAMATURG

Tom Kitt

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS &

ORCHESTRATIONS

CAST

Joshua Reginald Allen TUNNY

Camille Alston

Katie Bartles

EXTRAORDINARY GIRL/

ENSEMBLE

Gregory Bennett ENSEMBLE

Amy Clark ENSEMBLE

Rae Claudia ENSEMBLE

MacKenzie Crowley
DANCE CAPTAIN/ENSEMBLE

Darren De Groff ST. JIMMY

Julia Eakes HEATHER

Hayden Hauptman

WILL

Michael Holmes ENSEMBLE

Faith Humphreys ENSEMBLE

Jonah Milam

JOHNNY & WILL UNDERSTUDY

Sierra Pérez ENSEMBLE

Cassandra Polk WHATSERNAME

Conner Rock

ST. JIMMY & TUNNY

UNDERSTUDY

Kaiya Scales

FEMALE UNDERSTUDY

Wilson Seltzer II JOHNNY

Michael Simpson ENSEMBLE

Christian Smith ENSEMBLE

Nico Thompson

DANCE CAPTAIN/ENSEMBLE

ORCHESTRA

Dan Czyz Hunter Sauer DRUMS

Sean McCabe Katie Rypka GUITAR

Lillie Bridger Griffin Quinnan

BASS

Laura Corbett Bailey Dicus CELLO

Maria Fondeur

VIOLA

Allyssa Schuller Allyssa Howell VIOLIN

MUSICAL NUMBERS

"American Idiot" Company
"Jesus of Suburbia Medley" Johnny, Will, Tunny, Heather, Company
"Holiday" Johnny, Tunny, Theo, Company
"Boulevard of Broken Dreams" Johnny, Whatsername, Tunny, Men
"Favorite Son"
"Are We the Waiting?"Tunny, Favorite Son, Company
"St. Jimmy"Johnny, Miguel, Declan, Theo, St. Jimmy, Company
"Give Me Novacaine" Will, Tunny, Company
"Last of the American Girls/She's a Rebel" Johnny, Whatsername,
"Last Night on Earth" St. Jimmy, Whatsername, Heather, Company
"Too Much Too Soon" Theo, Alysha, Will, Heather
"Before the Lobotomy" Tunny, Joshua, Ben, Chase
"Extraordinary Girl" Extraordinary Girl, Tunny, Company
"Before the Lobotomy (Reprise)" Tunny, Joshua, Ben, Chase
"When It's Time"
"Know Your Enemy" St. Jimmy, Will, Johnny, Company
"21 Guns" Whatsername, Extraordinary Girl, Heather
Tunny, Johnny, Will, Company
"Letterbomb"
"Wake Me Up When September Ends" Johnny, Will, Tunny, Company
"Homecoming" Johnny, St. Jimmy, Will, Tunny, Heather, Company
"Whatsername"Johnny, Company
"Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)"

PLACE

Jingletown, CA; NYC; Middle East

TIME

Now

"FAVORITE SON" MUSIC VIDEO TEAM

Danielle C. d'Amico EMF PROFESSOR

Grace Wiegand DIRECTOR

Jay Rafal CINEMATOGRAPHER

Naomi Kilelu ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Kim San Buenaventura
ASSISTANT CAMERA & EDITOR

Juliet Costantino GAFFER

Solomon Butler POLICE OFFICER

SPECIAL THANKS

My deepest thanks to the wonderful cast, production team, and student crew for your dedication and artistry. Special thanks to Robyn Quick, Stephen Nunns, Katie Simmons-Barth, and Kirsten Sughrue for your invaluable support along this journey. To my family—your love and support mean everything to me.

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTINA TARSELL

Professor Jay Herzog dedicates his work on this play to the memory of Christina Tarsell. A high school student who enthusiastically told him the album *American Idiot* would make a great play.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Technical Director Lighting Director/Assistant Technical Director Assistant Stage Managers

Stage Manager Liaison **Costume Shop Manager Assistant Costume Shop Manager Dramaturgy Faculty Mentor Scene Shop Foreman Aerial Silks Coordinator Properties Manager Assistant Lighting Designer Lighting Programmer Lead Lighting Electricians**

Video & Sound Programmer Video & Sound Board Operator Light Board Operator Sound Engineer Audio Assistant Deckhands

Wardrobe

Spotlight Operators

Scenic Carpenters

Costume Shop Staff

Poster Design Production Photography

Garrett Weeda Thomas Gardner

Faith Sinaletary Cecelia Zombro Seth Schwartz Alizon Santamaria

> Hannah Brill Robyn Quick

Kelly Frazier Jayne Bernasconi

Avery Matsui Frica Sweitzer

Maxwell "Mack" Leeuwen Maxwell "Mack" Leeuwen

> Frica Sweitzer Chris Carcione Hannah Martin Keely DeGasperis

Kelly Mok Rachel Smith Gregg Boyle Natalie Caldwell

Ani'l Fluker-Tucker Makayla Hamilton

> Maggie Hellner Gwen Swift Aidan Wheeler

Jaelyn Craigen Jojo Hatchett

Alisa Hicks

Darren De Groff

Casey Gessert

Wyatt Lieto Avery Matsui

Ace Mikolowsky

London Brooks

Alyssa Millward Faith Sinaletary

Katie Simmons-Barth Katie Simmons-Barth **COSTUME CREW**

Josh Allen Jenna Leannarda Camille Alston Benjamin McCardell Carlee Ballard Maggie Sheriff Amy Clark Layla Smith Ida Giorgis Luci Thomas Sierra Pérez Aidan Wheeler Jada Lane Anthony Wisdom

SCENIC CREW

Conner Rock Kyra Adams Jayla Johnson Christian Smith Kellan Kinsey Ronni Snyder Daniel Morelli Aidan Wheeler Carlos Pagan Cruz Jacob Wivell **Fayth Proctor** Domenico Zuniga

LIGHTING & SOUND CREW

Jasmine Artis Trey Cline Elizabeth Feuerbach Ida Giorgis Delaney May Ace Mikolowsky Kelly Mok

Humatabae Smith Hua Su Arielle Wallace Aysia Wallace Anthony Wisdom Nicholas Yarnevich

THEATRE ARTS FACULTY & STAFF

	Assistant Costume Shop Manager
	Script Analysis/Directing
	Assistant to the Chairperson/Intro to American Theatre
	Movement/Acting for Musical Theatre
	Script Analysis/Community Outreach/TTI/Directing/African American Theatre
•	Scenic Design
	Assistant Technical Director
	Lighting & Sound Design
	Theatre Studies/Cross-disciplinary Works/Theatre for Social Change
	Theatre History/Dramaturgy
	Voice/Acting
	Academic Program Coordinator
	Speech and Dialect/Acting
	Administrative AssistantTechnical Director
	Script Analysis/Playwriting/Thesis
	Acting/Shakespeare/Acting for the Camera
Telei vvidy	Acting/ Strakespeare/ Acting for the Carriera
ADJUNCT FACE	JLTY
Donna Fox	Acting
	Acting/Stage Combat
	Acting/Theatre for Social Change
, ,	
, ,	Acting
,	Acting
Dian Perrin	Acting
Kyle Prue	Acting
Susan J. Rotkovitz	Acting/Theatre Studies/Arts Integration
	Stage Management
Rohaizad Suaidi	Acting/Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Theatre
Yury Urnov	Acting/Directing
Gavin Witt	Theatre History
PROFESSOR EM	AEDITI
I KOI LOOOK EN	ILKIII
Tom Casciero	Professor Emeritus
Naoko Maeshiba	Professor Emerita
John Manlove	
Juanita Rockwell	Professor Emerita
Diane Smith-Sadak	Professor Emerita
COLLEGE OF FI	NE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
Reging Carlow	Dean
•	Events and Operations Coordinator
	Director, Center of the Performing Arts



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein**.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Please consider giving a gift to the Department of Theatre Arts Scholarship Fund. The money raised by your generous donations helps students offset the cost of education and sponsors students' travel to conferences, auditions for graduate schools, and special events related to their research and development.

DONATE HERE

Purchase a Seat:

You can help build our student scholarship funds by purchasing a seat. If you are interested and want further details about seat purchasing, please email the Department of Theatre Arts at theatre@towson.edu.

The TU Department of Theatre Arts gratefully acknowledges the following gifts of scholarships:

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Towson University Black Alumni Alliance Perry Witmer & Corey A. Witmer '99

*Deceased

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LeBlanc with the set he designed for a summer season of Shakespeare plays in the Antioch Amphitheater, where he served as the technical director.

Whitney LeBlanc, born on June 20th, 1931, in Memphis, Tennessee, spent his formative years in Opelousas, Louisiana. He pursued higher education at the University of Iowa, where he earned a Master's in Theater Production in 1958.

In 1960, LeBlanc began teaching at Antioch College. He then held positions as a professor at Howard University, Lincoln University, the University of Texas, and Towson University (then Towson State College).

In 1969, he joined the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting, directing and producing 86 episodes of *Our Street*. He then moved to Hollywood, where he joined the Norman Lear/Tandem Tat organization as the Associate Director of *Good Times*. He would spend the next two decades as a director and a stage manager for numerous shows.

Aside from his contributions to television, LeBlanc was a prolific author, penning five books, and notably receiving the Amistad award for his novel *Blues in the Wind*, a part of his Blues Trilogy.

In 1996, he retired from the Directors Guild of America and moved to Napa Valley, California, where he began designing stained glass window pieces.

Mr. LeBlanc passed away in February of 2023. He is succeeded by his wife, Diane LeBlanc, and four children, leaving behind a lasting impact on both his family and the countless students and friends he inspired throughout his career.

THEATDE

Theatre U-stimulates understanding

Towerlight, April 18,1969

Theatre U was a non-profit community theater organized by Whitney LeBlanc and his then wife Elizabeth Walton at the Garrison Blvd. Church Center in Baltimore City. LeBlanc's vision for Theatre U was rooted in fostering better understanding among people of all races through the power of theater, the establishment of which was catalyzed by the recent assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The name "Theatre U" was intentionally kept a secret, allowing audiences to interpret its meaning freely. LeBlanc emphasized the importance of community involvement, stating, "no matter how polished our performances, if we do not involve the community we will have failed our goal."

LeBlanc expressed a desire to involve Drama Department students from TSC with the inner city, particularly with Black communities. His goal was to expose TSC students to authentic experiences, challenging them to move beyond pretense and understand the realities of different communities.

Towerlight article and images courtesy of the Towson Special Collections and University Archives "No matter how polished our performances, if we do not involve the community we will have failed our goal."

- Whitney LeBlanc

Unearthing Towson's History Project

In 2022, Allyn Lawrence, a student researcher with the Unearthing Towson's History Project, conducted an interview with Whitney LeBlanc where he recounts the memories of his experience as the first Black faculty member at the school.

To watch the collection of interviews with members of Towson's history, visit archives.towson.edu

TU TOWSON UNIVERSITY

LeBlanc Joins TSC

LeBlanc New Set Designer

Towerlight, October 22, 1965

The Speech and Drama Department was established at Towson State College (TSC) by Richard Gillespie in 1964. Just a decade after the ruling of *Brown v. Board,* Gillespie set out to integrate the department by recruiting Whitney LeBlanc as the assistant professor in Speech and Drama and the first Black faculty member at the school

Despite his contentment as a professor at Howard University at the time, LeBlanc felt compelled to serve the purpose of integrating Towson's faculty. He joined TSC in 1965.

In an oral history interview conducted through the Unearthing Towson's History Project he recalled his first day on campus. He recounts that only the four faculty members in the Speech and Drama Department spoke to him and he saw less than ten students of color. He likened his experience at TSC to that of Jackie Robinson during this time.



Towerlight, October 22, 1965

"Well, let 'em come."

R acial tensions at TSC came to a boil with The Glen Player's production of $And\ People\ All\ Around$, directed by Mr. LeBlanc. Written by George Sklar, the play is based on the murders of three civil rights workers, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, in Philadelphia, Mississippi.



In anticipation of the opening night, President Hawkins called LeBlanc and Gillespie to his office where FBI agents informed him of a protest to the play organized by Klansmen, to which LeBlanc responded, "Well, let 'em come." Security measures were put in place, assigning an agent to monitor both the students and LeBlanc during the play.

On the opening night of October 20th, dozens of Klan members dressed in full regalia and George P. Mahoney hats gathered on York Road and marched in front of Newell Hall. The disruptors were met with heckling Towson students and the play was put on as originally intended.

Tower Echoes Vearbook 196

Towerlight articles and yearbook image courtesy of the Towson Special Collections and University Archives













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