Princeton University Theater and Music Theater Program
Student Representatives for Production 2019-20 season

The Student Representative is a liaison between the students involved in a theatre or music theatre program production, and the theater and music theater program faculty. The Student Representative is invited to speak up on behalf of any or all student participants (actors, designers, stage managers, crew, dramaturgs, etc.) regarding concerns or questions that any student involved in the production may have, when the student or students do not feel comfortable addressing such concerns directly with the director or thesis proposer(s). The goal is to make it easy for students to communicate uncomfortable challenges to the faculty and staff with minimal anxiety. All parties will understand that the Student Representative is bringing concerns from a group or part of a group of students, rather than presenting their own concerns. The faculty and staff can then help to resolve the situation calmly and thoughtfully. The Student Representative is modeled on Equity representatives in professional theater.

Student Representatives are invited to contact their project mentor or advisor first. If the student does not feel comfortable with that person, or does not feel that their concerns have been appropriately addressed, the second contact would be Jane Cox (janecox@), director of the program in theater. Finally, if the student does not wish to talk to either the faculty project mentor or advisor, or to Jane Cox, they can contact any of the following faculty:

Shariffa Ali       shariffa.a@gmail.com
Elena Araoz       earaoz@princeton.edu
Brian Herrera     bherrera@princeton.edu
R. N. Sandberg    rsand@princeton.edu
Stacy Wolf        swolf@princeton.edu

Of course, individual students who are not the Student Representative are always welcome to contact any faculty member at anytime.

Rehearsal rooms should be a rigorous and focused space of work and creativity; they should also be a safe space where all participants feel that their voice is heard and respected. Concerns that a Student Representative might bring to the faculty on behalf of the student group include but are not limited to:

- appropriate breaks during long rehearsals and respectful time management of rehearsal hours
- questions of safety in staging, fight choreography, design, etc
- questions of respect around intimacy choreography
- discomfort with language or behavior by project leaders or other cast members
- questions about diversity, inclusion and discrimination within the process or the content
- concerns about content in a play such as racism or sexism

Student representatives are chosen by their peers during the first rehearsal to which all the cast are called. Ideally, this rehearsal should be scheduled so that all student designers and stage managers would also be present and able to participate in this vote. The Student Representative is chosen without the director or thesis proposer/s in the room, usually by a short group discussion that welcomes self nominations. This process should not take more than fifteen minutes of rehearsal time. If more than one person is interested in the role, the role can be chosen by secret vote. The student representative does not need to be a secret from the director or proposers. You need not have experience in this role to volunteer. The stage manager should be responsible for making sure that all students involved (cast members added later, run crew etc), as well as Carmelita Becnel and Jane Cox, know who the Student Representative is.