

# ECU<sup>®</sup> Storybook Theatre

presents



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# ECU<sup>®</sup> Storybook Theatre

presents

# DOCTOR DOLITTLE

Dramatized by **Olga Fricker.**  
Based on the book by Hugh Lofting

Director **Patch Clark**  
Music Director **Monica Edwards**  
Stage Manager **Dashay Williams**

Scenic Design **Connor Gerney**  
Lighting Design **Stuart Lannon**  
Costume Design **Monica Edwards**  
Sound Design **Riley Yates**

Storybook Theatre's Production of *Doctor Dolittle* is dedicated in loving memory to Ann Rhem Schwarzmann, Patron of ECU Storybook Theatre and School of Theatre and Dance



**ECU<sup>®</sup>**

**SCHOOL OF  
THEATRE & DANCE**

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# From the Director

Greetings, everyone! It was my distinct pleasure to direct ECU Storybook Theatre's production of *Doctor Dolittle*, and even though under the most challenging of circumstances during a pandemic year, when cast members had to faithfully practice socially distancing, washing of hands and the wearing of masks, we persevered. The challenges we faced, however, pale in comparison when realizing that Hugh Lofting wrote his original stories for *Doctor Dolittle* while in the trenches serving in World War I. He thought of the sacrifice not only of the soldiers, but of the war horses as well. It was a fitting end, then, that the iconic character of Doctor Dolittle lives on as one of the most recognizable figures in children's literature today. I became completely enthralled by all of his books as I read *Doctor Dolittle's Garden*, *Doctor Dolittle's Caravan*, *Doctor Dolittle A Treasury*, *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle*, and finally, *Doctor Dolittle's Circus* and these are but a few of his works. What started as letters home to his children during wartime, became the enchantment of so many readers, and of late, I have become the champion of the Dolittle menagerie of animals and escapades.

We began our rehearsals on ZOOM, as many current theatrical ventures do, for the protection and good health of everyone, and moved into a rehearsal hall just two weeks prior to filming. Our narrators and circus voices were still located in their homes, away from campus due to COVID challenges, but we carefully and purposefully worked them in, and they faithfully continued to attend rehearsals virtually. They provided important readings from Lofting's original works, in his own words. We were always mindful of honoring CDC practices and the costume designer skillfully designed a Pushmi-Pullyu costume with the regulated CDC distance. We would normally share microphones, but safe practices, obviously, would not allow for the trading of equipment, so we added hand mics camouflaged in bouquets of flowers, bananas, and even a crocheted carrot. Again, the ingenious work of our costume designer helped us to meet these additional challenges. It was also fitting that in this story, Doctor Dolittle is summoned to Africa to help save the animals from a pandemic and I must add here that our plans to present this production were actually originally scheduled for pre-COVID, but we were, of course, detained.

This will be a different experience for those of you who are accustomed to coming to the theatre to see us. We missed you terribly, but we hope you will enjoy this rendition, none-the-less, for we wanted to share the story and Hugh Lofting's wonderful characters he so skillfully created. He also, by the way, illustrated all of his books, and we have sprinkled in some of his works of art throughout the production. For those of you just discovering us, welcome! Please enjoy the show and read the books, as many as you possibly can, for your hearts will be warmed and renewed by the possibilities of absolute kindness Hugh Lofting saw in this world and his divine love and respect for animals.

A special thanks to the kindness of those who made this production possible beginning with Hee Ye Kim who filmed for us, Stu, Rob and John our amazing technical crew at Wright Auditorium; our faithful Stage Manager, Shay; Stephanie Slusser, who makes all of the virtual magic happen; Monica Edwards, amazing costume designer and musical director; and Jayme Klinger Host our Director of the School of Theatre and Dance. There are many other thank yous included in the program at the end as well. To all of you, thank you for helping us share this story.

Patch Clark, Director  
ECU Storybook Theatre  
*Doctor Dolittle*



# CAST

*(in order of appearance)*

ACT I Narrator	<b>Grace Gardener</b>
Sara	<b>Savannah Medlin</b>
Dr. Dolittle	<b>Aaron Ford</b>
Polynesia	<b>Sam Scipioni</b>
Mrs. Mumford	<b>Lacee Thomason</b>
Crocodile	<b>Andrew Goins</b>
Matthew	<b>Camden Hare</b>
Jip	<b>Jessica Balton</b>
Gub-Gub	<b>Jenna Keifriter</b>
Dab-Dab	<b>Hailey Midles</b>
Too-Too	<b>Akaysia Sutton</b>
Beppo	<b>Sarah Zammiello</b>
Chee-Chee	<b>Haven Bowers</b>
Swallow	<b>Riley Yates</b>
Little Rabbit	<b>Casey Wortham</b>
ACT 2 Narrator	<b>Alex Reagan</b>
Lion	<b>Zion Zollicofer</b>
Lioness	<b>Tenayjah Hawkins</b>
Cub	<b>Casey Wortham</b>
Monkey #1	<b>Alex Portaro</b>
Monkey #2	<b>Dane Faulkner</b>
Monkey #3	<b>Lacee Thomason</b>
Monkey #4	<b>Allie Henzler</b>
Pushmi-Pullyu	<b>Allie Jessee (Speaker), Savannah Medlin (Other half)</b>
ACT 3 Narrator	<b>Nikki Neuberger</b>
Blossom	<b>John Little</b>
Giraffe	<b>Taylor Rouse</b>
Circus Woman	<b>Allie Henzler</b>
Snake Dancers	<b>Alex Portaro and Casey Wortham</b>
Circus Voices	<b>Grace Gardner, Nikki Neuberger, Alex Reagan, Riley Yates</b>
Brown	<b>Dane Faulkner</b>

## **A special thank you**

to Jeni Parker, Delta Smith, Stephanie Slusser, Josh Edwards, and Jayme Klinger Host for their support and assistance throughout the process of this production.

# About the Cast

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**Jessica Balton** (*Jip the Dog*) is a freshman from South Florida pursuing a BFA in theatre arts with concentrations in musical theatre and professional acting. Jessica is excited to be a part of her first Storybook Theatre production! Jessica would like to thank the cast and crew for all of their hard work and her amazing parents for always supporting her and being there for her every step of the way.



**Haven Bowers** (*Chee-Chee the Monkey*) is thrilled to be playing Chee-Chee in *Doctor Dolittle* in her first collegiate production. Her previous memorable roles include Katherine in *Newsies*, Bridget in *Bring it On*, and Amneris in *Aida* (which was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID19). Haven feels extremely blessed to be able to use her talents to glorify God.



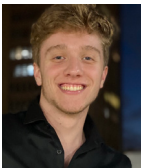
**Dane Faulkner** (*Brown, Monkey #2*) is a transfer professional acting major at ECU. He has been in two shows now at ECU: *A Woman Called Truth* and now *Doctor Dolittle*. He was also a part of various shows at College of the Albemarle including, *Hello Dolly*, *Anne of Green Gables*, and *Footloose*. Dane really hopes you enjoy this fun little show.



**Aaron Ford** (*Dr. Dolittle*) is a sophomore at ECU and is double majoring in professional acting and musical theatre. This is Aaron's third Storybook production and he would like to thank Patch Clark for giving him the incredible opportunity to help bring *Dr. Dolittle* to life! He would also like to thank his family and friends for always being supportive, and he would like to thank God for blessing him with the ability to do what he loves.



**Grace Gardner** (*ACT I Narrator and Circus Voice*) is from Fayetteville, North Carolina. Grace is a sophomore, pursuing a BFA in theatre for youth and a BA in chemistry. Grace hopes to take all of the invaluable knowledge I learn in TFY and chemistry to become a pediatric surgeon.



**Andrew Goins** (*Crocodile*) is a freshman musical theatre and professional acting major with a music minor from Currituck, NC. Andrew has been a part of various shows at ECU, including *A Woman Called Truth*, *Night of Musical Theatre*, and now *Doctor Dolittle*. He is excited to be a part of this production!



**Camden Hare** (*Matthew*) is a sophomore musical theatre major from Sunbury, PA. Throughout his time at ECU, you might have seen or heard Camden in *Ghost*, *Night of Musical Theatre*, or in the Radio Play One Acts. Camden is grateful to embrace his childhood and be able to perform once again with his ECU classmates!



# About the Cast

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Tenayjah Hawkins (*Lioness*) is a junior musical theatre major from Greensboro, N.C. You may have seen Tenayjah in previous ECU/Loessin Playhouse productions as Ensemble in *If/Then*, Louise in *Ghost The Musical*, and Mariah in *The Jury*. Tenayjah has also appeared in Storybook Theatre productions of *Gooney Bird Greene*, *A Woman Called Truth*, and *Doctor Dolittle*.



Allie Henzler (*Circus Woman* and *Monkey #4*) is thrilled to be a part of her first Storybook show at ECU. She is a sophomore musical theatre major, and enjoys singing and long walks outside. She's so excited to help bring this story to life!



Allie Jessee (*Pushmi-Pullyu*) is a sophomore Musical Theatre & Professional Acting major from Apex, NC. You might recognize her from previous ECU mainstage productions *Songs for a New World* (Female Singer), *The Jury* (Helen), and *Into the Woods* (Puppeteer/Tree). Allie would like to thank her family for being the best support system & she hopes you enjoy the show!



Jenna Kiefriter (*Gub Gub the Pig*) is a sophomore Professional Acting major. She hopes to travel and see the world and is excited for you all to see the show!



John Little (*Blossom*) is a junior theatre for youth student at the School of Theatre and Dance of East Carolina University. He is very happy and excited to be a part of Storybook Theatre and hopes you enjoy the show.



Savannah Medlin (*Sarah, Pushmi-Pullyu other half*) is a junior earning her BFA in theatre education. She wants to thank Patch for giving her another opportunity to participate in a storybook show!



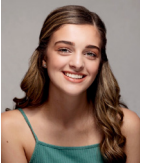
Hailey Midles (*Dab-Dab the Duck*) is a sophomore pursuing a double BFA in musical theatre and theatre education. Hailey was born in Rochester, New York but has also lived in Arizona and Missouri. She moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina in 2010. Hailey is excited to be performing as Dab Dab in her first Storybook Theatre production here at ECU. She would like to thank Patch Clark for giving her this opportunity!

# About the Cast

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Nikki Neuberger (*ACT III Narrator and Circus Voice*) is a junior majoring in musical theatre and training in the Meisner technique. She is from Baltimore, Maryland, and has appeared in ECU productions such as *Into The Woods* (Lucinda) and *The Wolves* (#8). When Nikki graduates, she aspires to work as performer in New York City. Nikki wants to thank her family for their support and Patch Clark for casting her in Doctor Dolittle!



Alex Portaro (*Monkey #1 and Snake Charmer*) is a freshman musical theatre major from Naples, Florida. She is so excited to be a part of her first Storybook production and she hopes that you enjoy the show!



Alex Reagan (*ACT II Narrator and Circus Voice*) is a sophomore theatre for youth major at East Carolina University and has developed a passion for theatre during her time here. Throughout her studies, she has participated in An Evening of Readers Theatre, both as an actor and writer. She is also collaborating with the biology department for the upcoming Tree Celebration project. This is her first Storybook Theatre production.



Taylor Rouse (*Giraffe*) is a freshman musical theatre major from Raleigh, NC. Taylor was last seen in *Songs for a New World* and he is excited to make his Storybook Theatre debut.



Samantha Scipioni (*Polynesia the Parrot*) is a junior pursuing a double BFA in theatre arts with a concentration in musical theatre and theatre education. She is thrilled to be performing in her first Storybook production here at ECU. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support, as well as her director Patch Clark for giving her this opportunity!



Akaysia Sutton (*Too Too*) is a junior at East Carolina University. She is pursuing her Bachelors in Fine Arts with concentrations in musical theatre and theatre education. She has worked with Storybook Theatre before, but this is her first time onstage as a Storybook performer! She would like to thank Patch, Monica, and Dashay for all of their hard work and John and Taylor because "WE DID IT!"



Lacey Thomason (*Mrs. Mumford and Monkey #3*) is majoring in theatre education with the hopes of teaching young children in the future. Lacey is a freshman, and this is her first show at ECU. She plans to continue acting and working on tech at ECU while getting her degree. "I am grateful for this opportunity and I am very excited to be a part of this cast!"

# About the Cast

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Casey Wortham (*Little Rabbit, Cub, Snake Dancer*) is from Garner, NC. She is a freshman at ECU double majoring in musical theatre, and interior design. In *Doctor Doolittle*, she plays the Little Rabbit in Act 1, the Lion Cub in Act 2, and a Snake Charmer and Dancing Girl in Act 3. "I hope you enjoy the show as much as I do!"



Riley Yates (*Swallow*) is excited to be in her second storybook production and assistant directing her first! Riley is a sophomore musical theatre and theatre education double major. She hopes to make her career teaching theatre and starting her own studio.



Sarah Zammiello (*Beppo*) holds a B.A. in theatre from George Mason University with a focus on stage management. She is pursuing her NC Teaching Certification with ECU theatre education program. In her short time at ECU she has co-stage managed Storybook Theatre's *A Woman Called Truth*, and is very excited to take the stage as Beppo the horse! She would like to thank her husband, Adam, for his support.



Zion Zollicofer (*Lion*) is a freshman musical theatre major. Zion has been a part of various productions at ECU including *Night of Musical Theatre*, *A Woman Called Truth*, *Songs for a New World*, and now he is in *Doctor Dolittle* and he could not be more excited! In his free time, he enjoys playing the guitar and ukulele and traveling! He can't wait for everyone to see this show!

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Director **Riley Yates**  
Assistant Music Director **Taylor Rouse**  
Music Producer **Joshua Edwards**  
Vocal Coach **Elana Kepner**  
Movement Coach **Ethan Wolfe**

Light Board Operator **Jonathan Rose**  
Sound Board Operator **Robert Clark**  
Assistant Stage Managers **John Little, Akaysia Sutton**

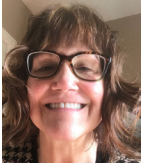
## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Artistic Director **Jayne Klinger Host**  
Assistant Director **Jeni L. Parker**  
Administrative Assistant **Amanda Hudson**  
Patron Services Manager **Stephanie Slusser**



# Production Spotlight

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**Monica Edwards** (*Music Director, Costume Designer*) came to ECU's SOTD after teaching music and theatre in Pitt County for 30 years. She served as a Clinical Teacher to a multitude of interns over the years. It has been her absolute pleasure to work along side her dear friend, Prof. Patch Clark, for the past 3 1/2 years at ECU.



**Professor Patricia "Patch" Clark** (*Director*) is Coordinator of the Theatre Education and Head of the Theatre for Youth Programs at East Carolina University. She is the founder and Director of the ECU Storybook Theatre which tours to schools, libraries and festivals and appears as part of ECU's Arts Smart and Family Fare Series. She has directed many children's theatre productions including *Willy Wonka*, *The Lion*, *the Witch*, and *the Wardrobe*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Seussical the Musical*, *The Stinky Cheese Man*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *The Jungle Book*, and *The Secret Garden*, and has written and directed original works including *Tales From Around the World*, *My Hero Reaching for the Stars*, *The Runaway Bear*, *All Aboard America!* and *All Aboard South America!* Most recently she has directed *A Woman Called Truth*, *Henry and Ramona*, *Gooney Bird Greene*, *The Bridge to Terabithia*, *Treasure Island*, *The Little Prince*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *The Hobbit*, and *School House Rock Live!*

ECU Storybook Theatre links with countries around the world including Japan, Poland, Russia, China, Peru, and Mexico. ECU Storybook Theatre and the University of Shimane, Japan were the recipients of an international award for collaboration presented by the Global Partners in Education in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 2016.

Patch has worked as both teacher and consultant for public and private schools and the Virginia Governor's School for the Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Richmond. During the summer of 2012, she traveled to the Kurdistan region of Iraq with the YES Academy to work with children and theatre. She has also acted in a number of productions including such roles as Bianca and Scrooge's Niece in *Othello* and *A Christmas Carol*, respectively, for the American Revels Company. She has also appeared in numerous ECU/Loessin Playhouse Productions and ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre including *My Fair Lady*, *Inherit the Wind*, *A Doll's House*, *Misalliance*, *Our Town*, *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma*, *A View from the Bridge*, *Crazy for You*, *Grease*, *Footloose*, *Yerma*, *Grapes of Wrath*, and *The Crucible*. She also directed the Off-Broadway premiere production of *Katmandu* at the John Houseman Studio Theatre. She is the author of *Intergenerational Arts in the Nursing Home* (Greenwood Press) and co-author of *Seniors on Stage* (Praeger Press). She received the ECU Achievement in International Service and Engagement Award in 2019, the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2017, the Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award presented by the UNC Board of Governors 2013-2014, The Scholar Teacher Award 2012-2013, and the ECU Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Teaching for 2011-2012.

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## LYSISTRATA

Adapted by Ellen McLaughlin



April 30 & May 1 at 7:30 p.m. | May 2 at 2 p.m.

In an effort to prevent unnecessary battle, a housewife encourages all women to refuse love making until the men in their lives lay down their arms and proclaim peace. This modern retelling of the classic Greek comedy features larger-than-life puppets created by SoTD faculty and students.

*Contains adult content and language.*

Tickets are \$10 or \$5 for ECU students.

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**Also streaming from SoTD for free**

### Lights Up!

**Streaming April 19 at 7:30 p.m.**

This informal, student-driven performance is an opportunity for our dance and musical theatre students to make and perform their own works of art.

### Senior Choreography

**Streaming May 5-6 at 7:30 p.m.**

Featuring performances by graduating choreographers from the ECU Dance Program, this concert boasts a variety of pieces from the risqué to the whimsical and everything in between. Senior solos on May 5 and Group Works on May 6.

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