



**A YEAR WITH**  
**FROG**  
**AND**  
**TOAD**

Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale  
Music by Robert Reale  
Based on the books by Arnold Lobel  
Directed by Chris Carcione

May 3-11  
Center for the Arts  
Mainstage Theatre

Originally presented on Broadway by Bob Boyett, Adrienne Lobel, Michael Gardner, Lawrence Horowitz and Roy Furman

World premiere at The Children's Theatre Company Minneapolis, Minnesota

A Year with Frog and Toad is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

**TU**  
TOWSON  
UNIVERSITY

Theatre  
Arts

[events.towson.edu](http://events.towson.edu)

## 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 Susquehannock (suh-skwuh-ha-naak), Nanticoke (nan-tuh-kowk) and the Piscataway (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](http://www.towson.edu/theatre)

For a complete listing of events at Towson University, please visit [events.towson.edu](http://events.towson.edu)

If you would like to share a comment on this production, please e-mail [theatre@towson.edu](mailto:theatre@towson.edu)

# A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale  
Music by Robert Reale  
Based on the books by Arnold Lobel  
Directed by Chris Carcione

May 3-11, 2024  
at Towson University  
Center for the Arts, Mainstage Theatre  
7:00pm - May 3-4, 10-11  
2pm - May 4-5, 11

Originally presented on Broadway by Bob Boyett, Adrienne Lobel, Michael Gardner, Lawrence Horowitz, and Ray Furman

World Premiere at The Children's Theatre Company Minneapolis, Minnesota

Pre-show music courtesy of local children's musicians Dan and Claudia Zanes.  
Learn more about them online @danandclaudiazanes.

*A Year with Frog and Toad* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

There will be a brief intermission.

There will be theatrical haze and strobe effects in Act II during "Shivers" and theatrical haze in "I'm Coming out of My Shell."

## CAST

Mungo  
FROG

Wilson Seltzer II  
TOAD

Steven Day  
SNAIL, LARGE & TERRIBLE FROG

Conner Rock  
MALE BIRD, LIZARD, FATHER  
FROG

Camille Alston  
FEMALE BIRD, SQUIRREL,  
YOUNG FROG

Katie Bartles  
FEMALE BIRD, TURTLE, MOLE

Sofi Becherer  
MOUSE, MOTHER FROG,  
SQUIRREL, MOLE

Josh Allen  
PUPPETEER, U/S FROG, SNAIL,  
LARGE & TERRIBLE FROG

Jordan Rosenzweig  
PUPPETEER, U/S FEMALE BIRDS,  
SQUIRRELS, MOLES, MOTHER  
FROG, YOUNG FROG, MOUSE

Will Memmott  
PUPPETEER, U/S TOAD, MALE  
BIRD, LIZARD, FATHER FROG

## ORCHESTRA

Benny Griese  
KEYBOARD

Claire Gandionko  
FLUTE/PICCOLO

Alice Davis  
CLARINET/ALTO SAX

Ethan Bloom  
FLUTE/CLARINET/BASS  
CLARINET/TENOR SAX

Brian Rodriguez  
TRUMPET

Arin Ballard-May  
TROMBONE

Adam Wyscarver  
TROMBONE

Daniel Czyz  
PERCUSSION

Patty DeLisle  
CONDUCTOR

## CREATIVE TEAM

Chris Carcione  
DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Patty DeLisle  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Kai Hopkins  
SCENIC DESIGNER

Hannah Brill  
COSTUME DESIGNER

Jay Herzog  
LIGHTING DESIGNER

London Brooks  
STAGE MANAGER

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT 1

“A Year with Frog and Toad” ..... Frog, Toad, Birds

“Spring” ..... Frog, Toad

“Seeds” ..... Toad

“The Letter” ..... Snail

“Getta Loada Toad” ..... Frog, Toad, Turtle, Mouse, Lizard

“Alone” ..... Frog

“The Letter #2” ..... Snail

“Cookies” ..... Frog, Toad, Birds

### ACT 2

“The Kite” ..... Frog, Toad, Birds

“Leaves: A Year with Frog and Toad Reprise” ..... Birds

“He’ll Never Know” ..... Frog, Toad

“Shivers” ..... Young Frog, Father Frog, Mother Frog,  
..... Large and Terrible Frog, Frog, Toad

“The Letter #3” ..... Snail

“Down the Hill” ..... Frog, Toad, Moles

“I’m Coming Out of My Shell” ..... Snail

“Toad to the Rescue” ..... Toad, Moles

“Merry Almost Christmas” ..... Frog, Toad, Moles

“Finale: A Year with Frog and Toad” ..... Frog, Toad, Birds



Bird costume renderings by Costume Designer, Hannah Brill

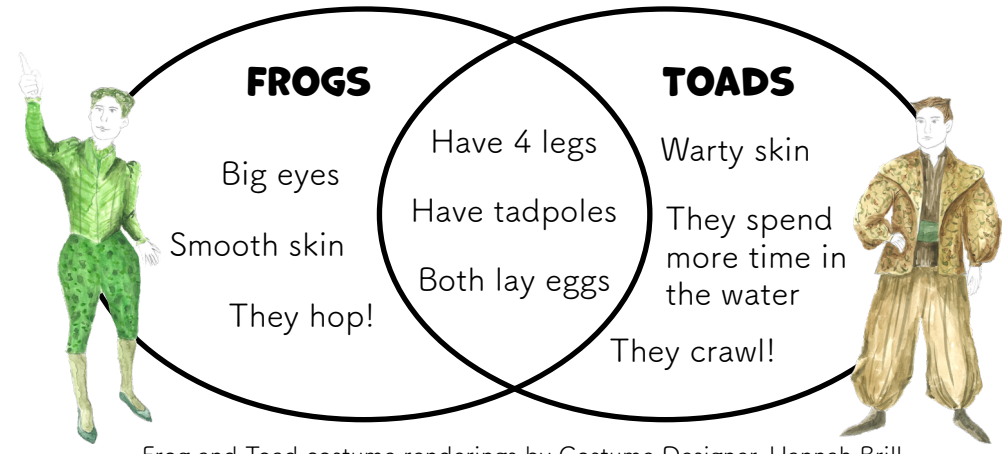
# EDUCATION GUIDE

## ABOUT ARNOLD LOBEL

Arnold Lobel (1933-1987) is famously known as the Author of the beloved Children's books *Frog and Toad*. Those books include *Frog and Toad are Friends*, *Frog and Toad All Year*, *Days with Frog and Toad*, and *Frog and Toad Together*. He also authored the *Mouse Soup* series. Lobel was inspired by Children's cartoons and *The Carol Burnett Show*. Lobel illustrated the *Frog and Toad* series as well as other books. Lobel described the characters Frog and Toad as two aspects of himself. He won many awards for the series such as **The Golden Kite Award (1988)** and the **John Newbery Medal (1973)**. He is also a three-time **Caldecott Medal winner**. However, the biggest award is that his stories inspired the Musical you will be watching today!

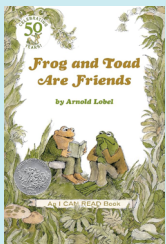


## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FROGS AND TOADS



Frog and Toad costume renderings by Costume Designer, Hannah Brill

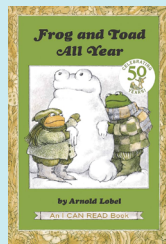
## READ THE STORIES BY ARNOLD LOBEL THAT INSPIRED THE PLAY



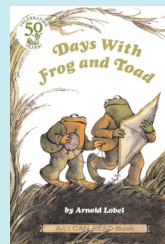
Frog and Toad are Friends



Frog and Toad Together



Frog and Toad All Year



Days with Frog and Toad

Check out a *Frog and Toad* book from the Baltimore County Public Library

Check out a *Frog and Toad* book from the Enoch Pratt Free Library

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now that you've seen the show, talk about it! Here are some discussion questions you can use to spark a conversation about what you just saw.

- How do frog and toad show how to be a good friend?
- What was your favorite song?
- What was your favorite costume you saw on stage?
- If you have read the books, how did they compare to the show?
- After watching the show, would you ever like to work on a play? Would you like to perform onstage or work offstage?

Education Guide created by Skylar Shaffer & Danielle Drakes

## PRODUCTION TEAM

### Technical Director

### Lighting Director/Assistant Technical Director

### Assistant Stage Managers

### Stage Manager Liaison

### Costume Shop Manager

### Assistant Costume Shop Manager

### Scene Shop Foreman

### Properties Manager & Puppet Construction

### Shadow Puppet Design & Fabrication

### Lead Lighting Electricians

### Assistant Costume Designer & Wardrobe Manager

### Assistant Lighting Designer

### Light Board Operator

### Audio Board Operators

### Light Board Programmer

### Follow Spot Operators

### Deckhands

### Wardrobe

### Scenic Carpenters

### Costume Shop Staff

### Poster Design

### Production Photography

### Program Design

### Education Guide Creation

Garrett Weeda

Thomas Gardner

Yenevi Castillo

Natalia Dunn

Rowan Gardner

Seth Schwartz

Alizon Santamaria

Hannah Brill

Kai Hopkins

Mungo

Chris Carcione

Maxwell "Mack" Leeuwen

Erica Sweitzer

Rowan Gardner

Erica Sweitzer

Solomon Butler

Kevin DeWitt

Luci Thomas

Maxwell "Mack" Leeuwen

Atlas Kazan

Skylar Shaffer

Ryan Paul-Tanveer

Brennen Peroutka

Michael Holmes

Kanwulia lyke-Azubogu

Sarah Benson

Darren De Groff

Casey Gessert

Wyatt Lieto

Kayla Sterling

Rowan Gardner

Alyssa Millward

Faith Singletary

Katie Simmons-Barth

Katie Simmons-Barth

Kirsten Sughrue

Skylar Shaffer

## SPECIAL THANKS

Towson University Department of Music, Seth Schwartz

## COSTUME CREW

Katie Bartles

Kevin DeWitt

Echo Lurie

Natalia Dunn

Darren Edwards

Benny Griese

Kaylah Harvey

Matthew Hazlehurst

Alisa Hicks

Daniel Kundrat

Nadira Nichols

Jordan Rosenzweig

Eric Sweitzer

Quinn Toussaint

## SCENIC CREW

Arin Ballard-May

Natalia Dunn

Elizabeth Feuerbach

Rowan Gardner

Daquan Harrison

Dersha Horrey

Emily Matsui

Ace Mikolowsky

J.T. Price

Grace Sciannella

## LIGHTING & SOUND CREW

Davin Banks

Yenevi Castillo

Keely DeGasperis

Echo Lurie

Darren Edwards

Precious Emmanuel

Ida Giorgis

Keyshawn Mingo

Emery Sheriff

Conor Skalitzky

Christian Smith

## MARKETING CREW

Gregory Bennett

Emma Guzman

Colin Pence

## THEATRE ARTS FACULTY & STAFF

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Hannah Brill.....         | Assistant Costume Shop Manager  |
| Christopher Carcione..... | Script Analysis/Directing   |
| Tom Cascella.....         | Assistant to the Chairperson/Intro to American Theatre                    |
| Ruben Del Valle, Jr. .... | Movement/Acting for Musical Theatre                                       |
| Danielle Drakes.....      | Script Analysis/Community Outreach/TTI/Directing/African American Theatre |
| Daniel Ettinger.....      | Scenic Design   |
| Thomas Gardner.....       | Assistant Technical Director  |
| Jay Herzog.....           | Lighting & Sound Design/Stage Management                                  |
| Tavia La Follette.....    | Theatre Studies/Cross-disciplinary Works/Theatre for Social Change        |
| Stephen Nunns.....        | Theories of Theatre/Theatre History/Directing                             |
| Susan Picinich.....       | Theatre History/Costume, Dress and Society                                |
| Julie Potter.....         | Costume Design/Chairperson  |
| Robyn Quick.....          | Theatre History/Dramaturgy  |
| Alizon Santamaria.....    | Costume Shop Manager  |
| Steven J. Satta.....      | MFA/Voice/Acting  |
| Katie Simmons-Barth.....  | Academic Program Coordinator  |
| Teresa Spencer.....       | Speech and Dialect/Acting   |
| Kirsten Sughrue.....      | Administrative Assistant  |
| Garrett Weeda.....        | Technical Director  |
| David White.....          | Script Analysis/Playwriting/Thesis  |
| Peter Wray.....           | Acting/Shakespeare/Senior Acting Seminar                                  |

## ADJUNCT FACULTY

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Donna Fox.....          | Acting  |
| Melissa Freilich.....   | Stage Combat                                      |
| Corey Hennessey.....    | Acting/Intro to Theatre                           |
| Tylar Hinton.....       | Costume Design                                    |
| Dian Perrin.....        | Acting  |
| Kyle Prue.....          | Acting  |
| Susan J. Rotkowitz..... | Acting/Theatre Studies/Arts Integration           |
| Rohaizad Suaidi.....    | Acting/Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Theatre |
| Yury Urnov.....         | Acting  |
| Gavin Witt.....         | Theatre History                                   |

## PROFESSOR EMERITI

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Tom Casciero.....      | Professor Emeritus |
| Naoko Maeshiba.....    | Professor Emerita  |
| John Manlove.....      | Professor Emeritus |
| Juanita Rockwell.....  | Professor Emerita  |
| Diane Smith-Sadak..... | Professor Emerita  |

## COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Regina Carlow..... | Dean                                   |
| Greg Faller.....   | Associate Dean                         |
| Ashley Gregg.....  | Events and Operations Coordinator      |
| Laura Malkus.....  | Marketing and Public Relations Manager |
| Seth Schwartz..... | Facilities & Operations Manager        |



*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](mailto:theatre@towson.edu).

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

The Askew Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patrons: Theda and Monk Askew

The Audrey Herman Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patrons: William Herman,  
Genevieve Nyborg

The Charles S. Dutton Theatre Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patrons: Charles S. Dutton 20<sup>th</sup>  
Century Fox Film Corporation, Home Box  
Office, Inc.

The Christopher David Legg Memorial Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patrons: Catherine Behrent and  
friends of Christopher Legg

The Cooley Arts Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patrons: Franklin & Alice Cooley

The C.R. Gillespie and Maravene S. Loeschke Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patrons: Theatre Alumni Group

The Jerry Gietka Graduate Theatre Scholarship  
Founding Patrons: Jerry & Catherine Gietka,  
and Lynda Ruzsala In memory of Bernadette  
Gietka

The John Glover Scholarship Endowment for Acting Majors  
Founding Patrons: John Glover, Jack, and  
Cade Glover

The Nina E. Hughes Memorial Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patron: Nina E. Hughes

The Steve Yeager Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patron: Steve Yeager

The Theatre Department Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patrons: Purchasers of Mainstage  
Seats

The Peter Wray Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patrons: Robin and Peter Wray

The Walter F. Kramme Scholarship Endowment  
Founding Patron: Joseph C. Tischer

The Wyllyn '76 and Marion '74 Hoffman Directing Scholarship  
Founding Patron: Wyllyn L. Hoffman '76

## FRIENDS OF THE ARTS DONOR LIST

We are deeply grateful to our donors for investing in Towson University's College of Fine Arts and Communication. We recognize the following alumni, friends, students, faculty, staff, corporations, foundations and other organizations that supported the college through the Towson University Foundation with annual gifts of \$1,000 and above from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

#### \$50,000+

Harold J. Kaplan \*

#### \$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous

Jamie A. Breazeale '84 & Gregory A. Breazeale '84  
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation  
Peggy & Yale Gordon Charitable Trust  
Ginger Ross '80

#### \$10,000 to \$24,999

The William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund  
Baltimore Community Foundation  
Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences  
Greg S. Faller  
Jerry Gietka  
Jerry's Fund Foundation, Inc.  
Steven E. Lane '77  
William Murray '08, '11  
Kathleen Shiota & Yoshinobu Shiota

#### \$5,000 to \$9,999

Ira J. and Mary K. Basler Foundation, Inc.  
Marsha P. Becker '99  
Christine E. Connelly & Steven M. Mister '85  
Connelly-Mister Fund  
Vira Jo Denney  
John G. Dreyer  
Maury Donnelly & Parr, Inc.  
Lauri Mitchell & David E. Mitchell  
Stephanie L. Papadopoulos & Nickolas Papadopoulos  
The Romita Fund  
Allan G. Scott  
Joanne P. Vatz '78 & Richard E. Vatz  
Nancy E. Wanich-Romita '00 & Victor J. Romita

#### \$2,500 to \$4,999

Keith L. Ewancio '94 '07  
Montcalmo Family Charitable Fund

Bonnie J. Montcalmo & Anthony J. Montcalmo  
The Presser Foundation

#### \$1,000 to \$2,499

Allegis Group Foundation  
Anonymous  
Beth M. Arman & Robert M. Mintz  
Asia Collective Night Market  
Eileen Auen '85 & Jeff G. Auen '84  
Meghan V. Behm & Scott A. Behm  
Thomas B. Beyard '77  
Comerica Charitable Trust  
Robert A. Cook  
Dorothy F. Curley Tecklenburg '77 & John C. Tecklenburg II  
Ruth L. Drucker  
Rosaland Ehudin & Alan Shecter  
Mike T. Flanagan '02  
Delores S. Harvey  
Nhung T. Hendy  
Rodica I. Johnson  
Deb-Jaden-Kyla Kielty Foundation  
Deborah Kielty  
Beth C. Littrell & Keon W. Littrell '98  
William C. McNamara '94 '98  
Jane G. Murphy & Michael A. Murphy  
Brian K. O'Connell '87  
O'Shea/Auen Charitable Fund  
Phyllis A. Parker & James T. Parker II  
Kari B. Paulson & Brian W. Murray  
Michele G. Renaud '85 & James W. Renaud  
Karen F. Silverstrim & Melanie L. Perreault  
Alan Shecter Charitable Gift Fund  
Three Arts Club of Homeland, Inc.  
Towson University Black Alumni Alliance  
Perry Witmer & Corey A. Witmer '99

\*Deceased

Great care was taken to ensure the accuracy of this listing, and we would appreciate your sharing with us any errors or omissions. Please direct inquiries to Jewel Perry, Assistant Director of Donor Engagement, at 410-704-3425 or [jperry@towson.edu](mailto:jperry@towson.edu).

To support the College of Fine Arts and Communication, visit [towson.edu/GiveToCOFAC](http://towson.edu/GiveToCOFAC), or contact Hilary Saunders at [hsaunders@towson.edu](mailto:hsaunders@towson.edu) or 410-704-4681.



# Whitney J. LeBlanc Jr.

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.

## THEATRE

# 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.

**"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](http://archives.towson.edu)

Towerlight article and images courtesy of the Towson Special Collections and University Archives



# LeBlanc Joins TSC

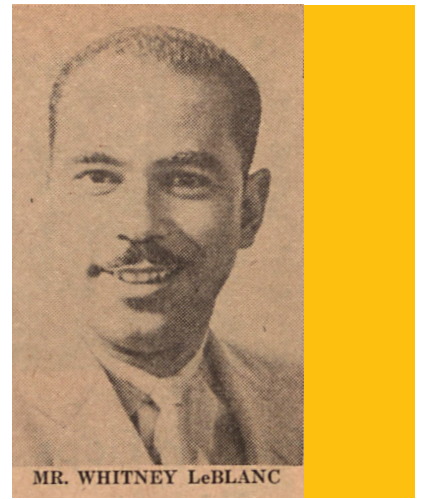
## LeBlanc New Set Designer

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."

Racial 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.

TOWER LIGHT

October 24, 1966

## Your Stage Is Your Castle

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan arrived at Towson State College on Thursday evening, October 20, to protest the Glen Player's production, "And People All Around."

About fifteen automobiles meandered north on York Road. Each sported American and Confederate flags held outside the windows of the vehicles by their hooded owners.

The Klansmen congregated on York Road; their ranks swelling as they managed to find parking space in the Towson area. One was heard to comment, "I could of walked here faster!"

Led to Towson by a Baltimore City Police Officer, the Klansmen had come as a body, akin to a funeral procession, sans hearse.

Next, they formed ranks and began parading in front of Newell Hall. Not allowed on State property, they marched in a circle just outside of the hedge bordering on York Road.

Some were fully dressed in their white robes and pointed hoods; others simply wore street clothes and Mahoney hats. Many of the marchers, especially the women, kept their faces covered.

True to form, Towson students, numbering approximately 200, turned out to heckle the demonstration. Such remarks as, "Halloween is next week," and "It's Spook Week!" were heard above the chanting Klansmen.

Vernon J. Naimaster, state leader of the KKKK or bet-

ter known as the Great Titan of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, had this to say. "I'm here only as a spectator in protest of the play. We feel this is an insult against the South."

Did you organize this, Mr. Naimaster? He replied, "No, one of my units did." Mr. Naimaster was not clad in his robes, but wore ordinary street clothes. "I was invited to come as a spectator," he said.

As he was interviewed, one of his Klansmen ran up to him and exclaimed, "Let's get some of

those slogans going!"

And, as if in reply, a chorus of "Who hates niggers?" arose. Towsonites responded with "We Shall Overcome."

Parading for about two hours, the Klansmen finally lost their audience as Towson students returned to their studies. The Klan, for lack of an audience, returned to their cars and left. Others, including Vernon Naimaster, Great Titan, went to the play.

The controversial play, "And People All Around," is based on three civil rights workers in Mississippi. It was written by George Sklar and is directed by Mr. Whitney LeBlanc.

## and people all around



Civil rights workers joined in song.

Towerlight  
October 21, 1966

Tower Echoes  
Yearbook, 1967

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





# Don't Miss Our 2024- 2025 Season!

## ***Kid Simple: a radio play in the flesh***

by Jordan Harrison  
Directed by Tavia La Follette  
October 2024

*Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)*

## ***Scrooge.0 a wintertime ghost story***

by Dave White  
Directed by Peter Wray  
December 2024

## ***Intimate Apparel***

by Lynn Nottage  
Directed by Danielle Drakes  
March 2025



Music by Green Day  
Lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong  
Book by Billie Joe Armstrong and Michael Mayer  
Directed by Ruben Del Valle, Jr.  
May 2025

*American Idiot is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com*