

EASTERN UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

# Tartuffe in quarantine

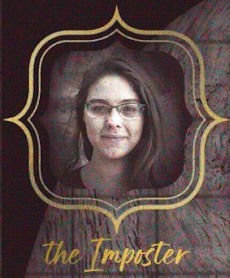
a new translation for 2021

all-women

with an incredible cast



the Grandmother



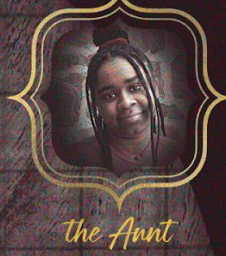
the Imposter



the Father



the Mother



the Aunt



the Son



the Daughter



the Fiance



the Baliff



the Maid

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

written by  
MOLIÈRE

translated & directed by  
CURT HIMMELBERGER

produced by  
LOIS ABDELMALEK

*a new play workshop*

[eastern.edu/Tartuffe](http://eastern.edu/Tartuffe)  
\$5 Suggested Donation

@artsateastern

Thursday,  
MARCH 25  
at 7 p.m.

Friday,  
MARCH 26  
at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday,  
MARCH 27  
at 2 & 7:30 p.m.

# Director's Note

*Tartuffe in Quarantine* was born out of innovation for producing theatre in the middle of a pandemic and a need to process current events and to come together and find joy as a community.

Originally, I decided to direct *Tartuffe* by Molière, which was written in France in 1664 and is still regarded as one of the funniest plays of all time. But we had to figure out how to produce theatre safely during a pandemic. Last semester, Professor Abdelmalek innovated how we could produce theatre at Eastern University by directing a fully-filmed musical production where the students could be recorded individually. For this semester, I wanted the actors at Eastern University to still have the feeling of performing live shows even though we could not produce an in-person production.

However, I have a problem with Zoom theatre shows. I feel audiences are not as engaged watching virtual theatre because the actors are pretending to be in the same room, when clearly we see they are on different computer screens. So, I decided to transport the characters of *Tartuffe* to the year 2021 and have them interact in a Zoom call. Therefore, the limitation of Zoom would actually enhance our production!

When I realized this idea would not work if I used any of the existing English translations of *Tartuffe*, I decided to write my own translation. In the original version if a character said they were going to leave and slam a door, then in this version the character would have to say they were going to sign off. Since the original text was also written in rhyming couplets, then my translation would do the same. This is how *Tartuffe in Quarantine* was born.

*Tartuffe in Quarantine* is an especially relevant play in 2021. Not only does the play focus on religious hypocrisy (which sadly has made it relevant for over 350 years), it also focuses on how to interact with family members of opposing points of view in an age of misinformation. While the play is a comedy, which we need at the moment, it is still profound to see these characters deal with someone they love being falsely indoctrinated.

I am so excited for you to watch our amazingly talented actors. Our production has an all-women cast performing some of the greatest classical theatre roles (many that have only been performed by men for over 350 years).

Enjoy the show,

*Curt Himmelberger*

# CAST

Madame Pernelle.....Mariellie Colon  
Orgon.....Abigail Pardocchi  
Elmire..... Payge Shaw  
Damis..... Julia Snipes  
Mariane.....Anna Davis  
Cléante.....Ashley Eatmon  
Valère.....Elizabeth Charles  
Monsieur Loyal.....Aleeyah Hawkins  
Dorine.....Sarah Moser  
Tartuffe.....Caroline Herring

# Production Team

Director and Writer.....Curt Himmelberger  
Producer .....Lois Abdelmalek  
Assistant Production Manager.....Damien Figueras  
Student Stage Manager..... Elizabeth Charles  
Student Stage Manager.....Abigail Pardocchi

## Who's Who



**Elizabeth Charles (Valère, the fiancé)** - is a freshman History major. She was involved in theatre during her senior year of high school and is very excited to be able to be a part of this production. Elizabeth is also one of the stage managers for this show and has loved being able to get more involved in theatre.



**Mariellie Colon (Madame Pernelle, the grandmother)** - is a freshman at Eastern University, studying Chemistry. She's loved theater and is very excited to be partaking in *Tartuffe in Quarantine* this year though this is her first time in a production since middle school. She is from South Jersey, loves music, writing novels and reading.



**Anna Davis (Mariane, the daughter)** - is a sophomore musical theatre major. She has previously performed on the Eastern stage in *Antigone*, *Little Women*, and *Let Our Voices Rise*. She has also participated in shows at Archbishop Carroll and Upper Darby Summer Stage.



**Ashley Eatmon (Cléante, the aunt)** - is a Junior here at Eastern studying Health Science, with plans to graduate in May of 2022. She has always been interested in Theatre. It is very relaxing being on stage with other people. She hopes that everyone enjoys *Tartuffe in Quarantine*!



**Aleeyah Hawkins (Monsieur Loyal, the bailiff)** - is a sophomore and is studying Environmental Science and Theatre as a minor. She loves animals, writing, painting, and acting. This is her first play that she will be speaking in and looks forward to this performance.



**Caroline Herring (Tartuffe, the imposter)** - is a freshman Biology major at Eastern University. She has been acting since she was 12, performing mostly in musical theater productions. She studies voice and piano and loves to kayak with her siblings. This is her first theater experience at EU, and she is very grateful for the opportunity to perform!



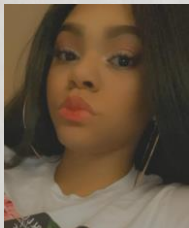
**Sarah Moser (Dorine, the executive assistant)** - is a Middle Level Education major and is ecstatic to be performing again. Last year she took on the role of Mrs. Kirke in the Spring Musical *Little Women* and can't wait to be back in a role that is just as sassy and fun!



**Abigail Pardocchi (Orgon, the father)** - has been performing since she was 9 years old in various dance classes, vocal groups, and theatre programs throughout the years. Abigail is a third year at Eastern University, with a plan to graduate this coming Spring in 2021 as the first ever Eastern Theatre Major! Abigail hopes you enjoy her last ever show at Eastern University.



**Payge Shaw (Elmire, the mother)** - is overly exuberant to be a part of such an amazing production with such awesome people. She was recently in Eastern University's very own *Let Our Voices Rise* production which was an incredible experience! Payge is a freshman and is studying Pre-medicine and Psychology.



**Julia Snipes (Damis, the son)** - is a first year biochemistry major here at Eastern. She's elated to broaden her horizons into the field of acting. In her spare time she enjoys creative writing, cooking, and playing video games. Her biggest inspirations are her family and pets.

# What to know before watching Tartuffe in Quarantine?

Tartuffe in Quarantine has a large cast of characters. Study the picture on the front of the program to get a sense of how the characters are related to each other.

Orgon (the father) is married to Elmire (the mother). They have two kids: Damis (the son) and Mariane (the daughter). Elmire has a sister Cléante (the aunt). Orgon has a mother Madame Pernelle (the grandmother). That's the family!

We also have Valère (Mariane's fiancé). Dorine (the family's executive assistant). Mr. Loyal (the Bailiff). And Tartuffe (the imposter).

Read this quick overview of the play to get a sense of the plot:

Orgon becomes irrationally devoted to the religious man Tartuffe, even though Tartuffe's actions clearly show that he is an imposter and is quite wicked. When Orgon declares his daughter will marry Tartuffe today (even though she loves her fiancé!), the family decides to take more drastic measures to combat Orgon's cognitive dissonance. Unfortunately, they each have a different plan. Hopefully, Mariane doesn't marry Tartuffe, the executive assistant doesn't get fired, and no one gets seduced or killed (but at least one of those things will happen). And don't even get me started on the grandmother.

## Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

President, Dr. Ronald A. Matthews

Dr. Brian A. Williams

Dr. Steven Ford

Fine and Performing Arts Team

Emily Frank

Carly Covell

The Theatre Department followed COVID-19 safety protocols for this production.