Blue Jelly

Written and Directed by THOMAS RICCIO

Thursday, February 17– Saturday, February 26, 2022
University Theatre, 8 pm
Blue Jelly
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University Theatre, 8:00 p.m.

Writer/Director’s Note

Welcome to Blue Jelly. Like reality, the performance is an ongoing experiment searching for understanding and stability. The events of our last few years have been monumental, mythic and planetary in dimension, intensive, challenging, accelerating and often overwhelming in new and unexpected ways. We are participant observers, capable and self-aware, engaged yet haplessly stumbling, adjusting and adapting to so many unprecedented twists and turns of potentially catastrophic events. Our world is upending, provoking questioning and reevaluation. Another way of being is in the process of emergence. How do we respond?

We are foggy and ADHD frantic, resorting to a cacophony of tired tropes, savoring distractions, sensual pleasures, mindless entertainments of war, gore and violence, fantasy projections of aliens, religious salvations, authoritarian delusions, and the momentary comforts of social media. Fragmented, jagged and incomplete narratives are the way of the world, recombining and remixing disconnected remains searching for a response. Our thinking reflects the world, hyper-aware, pattern recognizing processor of a jumble. The narrative of Blue Jelly is as disjointed as Instagram, Tik-Tok and Twitter, offering sound bite revelations of puzzled, desperate expressions of our metaphysical moment that we must put together.

Blue Jelly is an organic entity. A symbolic planetary mind-body feeling and form of the collective us. Humans are no longer the center of the world but only one among others, including flora, fauna, environment, climate, ancestors and spirits is what the Blue Jelly offers. The Blue Jelly, inspired by the jellyfish—one of the first living organisms on earth—is the forgotten, communal us that has floated, impassive and constant on the waves of time and space. It has absorbed and holds all planetary events that have been and ever will be. Now the Blue Jelly, like our world, is full, overstuffed and collapsing under its own weight. Is this a massive déjà vu? Are we at the end of one history and the beginning of another? Are we at some willfully suicidal end or amidst a process? Do we ignore and resist or transcend into another way of being?

Thomas Riccio

PLEASE NOTE: This production utilizes haze, fog and strobe lights during the performance, and contains mature content.

No photography or recording devices are allowed. Please turn off all communication devices. No food or drink is allowed in the auditorium.
Production Staff

Director.................................................................Thomas Riccio
Assistant Director..............................................Melinda Ariel Kalanzis
Assistant Director................................................Laura Hyunjhee Kim
Scenic Designer....................................................Bryan Wofford
Technical Director................................................Alex Lorrain-Hill
Assistant Technical Director................................Christopher Treviño
Costume Designer................................................Michael Robinson
Lighting Designer................................................Christopher Treviño
Projections Designer...........................................Laura Hyunjhee Kim
Sound Designer....................................................Thomas Riccio
Sound Designer...................................................Safwan Chowdhury
Stage Manager......................................................Justin Sujith
Assistant Stage Manager.......................................Breanna Gaddis
Assistant Stage Manager.......................................Quinn Maggio
Assistant Stage Manager.........................................Ben Boden
Props Designer....................................................Breanna Gaddis

Technical Crew

Audio Engineer....................................................Dylan Farmer
Sound & Projections Operator................................Bonnie Abbott
Lighting Operator................................................Jeremy Minton
Technical Student Assistant(s)........Cal Thompson, Katherine Kellmeyer,
Bonnie Abbott, Shaun Yu

Event Staff

Director of Events..................................................Kristi Barrus
Events Coordinator..............................................Chinweolu Greer
Student Assistants.......Kade Fitzpatrick, Marissa Hernandez, Dejah James,
Jofiel Zapata, Zade Creel, Damian Noriega, Brian Gamboa,
Ammarrah Arab, Prisha Gandhi, Nalleli Martinez
Cast & Crew Bios

TROY MURRAY (Del Ray)
is a junior Honors marketing major and theatre minor at UT Dallas from Las Vegas, Nevada. This is his third on-stage UTD Theatre production, previously acting as Reggie in First Date and Riff Raff in The Rocky Horror Show. When not performing at UT Dallas, Troy uses his acting talents as a Detective for The Murder Mystery Company. He is thankful for his family, his friends, his castmates, and Thomas Riccio for letting him be a part of an original work. He looks forward to teaching you the ways of Blue Jelly life tonight!

CELINA CRUZ-MESSAROS (Blue Girl)
is a freshman visual and performing arts major at UT Dallas. This is her second performance this year and she’s very excited to do more. You may have last seen her as Allison/Google Girl in First Date The Musical. She wants to thank her boyfriend, Derek, for his constant support.

BRYAN ORDONEZ SANTINI (Pajak)
is a writer pursuing a degree in theatre at UT Dallas. Blue Jelly is his second performance at the university; he previously worked as an understudy for the Autumn 2021 production of First Date. Bryan’s collegiate experience also extends to Richland College, where he performed in their annual original works festival and assisted in producing their set for A Midsummer Night’s Dream in 2019. Bryan has also created his own work, with 2018’s play The Gaijin Express, 2021’s short story The Boy Who Stared at the Sun, and his most recent short film, Undefeatable: Champion of the World.

ANISA HOSSEINI (Bunny)
is a visual and performing arts major with an emphasis in theatre. Her past experience includes performing in UT Dallas’ production of Oedipus: The King as well as A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Anisa would like to thank her friends and family for their support.
CAL THOMPSON (Ran)
is a visual and performing arts major in his third year at UT Dallas. Cal's previous work includes a performance in the UT Dallas Chi Alpha Iota Drag Show (Hot Sauce) and serving as stage manager for Oedipus at UT Dallas. Cal enjoys painting, baking, and walks among the trees. Cal would like to thank their very, very old dog Beorn, all other dogs, cats, squirrels, and animals, and the fantastic cast, crew, and production team for this show.

DANIEL UNDERWOOD (Wilson)
is incredibly excited to be performing in this very special production! He is a junior currently double-majoring in philosophy and visual and performing arts. This production marks Daniel's third show with UTD Theatre, with previous performances including the Messenger in Oedipus: the King and Mustardseed in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Daniel also works locally in various commercial and industrial shoots for brands such as State Farm and Pearson. He would like to thank his parents for their unwavering support.

FAHAD AHMED (Dr Jee)
is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in psychology. He is a senior at UT Dallas and will be starting dental school in Fall 2022. He is thrilled to be playing Dr. Jee in Blue Jelly. His hobbies include baking, writing and dancing. He would like to thank God, his family, cast and crew for their unwavering support.

KEVIN ZIMMER (Pao)
is a PhD student studying Air Transportation Systems at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, prior to which he earned a BS and MS degree at UT Dallas. He has previously appeared in Theatre UTD's The Government Inspector, worked on the technical crew in The Rocky Horror Picture Show and stage crew in Harvest. When not at rehearsal, Kevin enjoys playing archery, flying small aircraft out of Addison Airport and, lately, watching the Olympics. Kevin would like to thank everyone involved in this show for working so hard to make it a success, and he is very proud of what they have accomplished together. He is so happy to be a part of it, and hopes that you enjoy the show!

MITCHELL HORN (X-eno)
is a sophomore at UT Dallas majoring in Arts, Technology and Emerging Communications with a concentration in Animation. This is Mitchell's first performance at UT Dallas, but he has been in theatre all through high school (go Cavaliers). He has had a blast getting to know the cast and crew throughout this process. Make sure to catch Mitchell acting again as Max in Bent this April!

QUINLAN FRANKE (Teeo)
is a junior majoring in visual and performing arts with a concentration in theatre. This is the third show they've done here at UT Dallas and the second with director Tom Riccio. This piece was a challenge they gladly welcomed and is proud to show others what they've accomplished.

JUSTIN SUJITH (Stage Manager)
is a senior chemistry major at UT Dallas with a minor in theatre. He is hoping to graduate and apply to medical school, while looking to work full-time in his gap year. Justin has interest in lighting, sound, design and management areas of theatre production. He has a wide array of interests, from medicine to chemistry, theater and volleyball. Justin had taken a stage management class one semester prior and is thankful to the theater department for letting him advance his knowledge and expertise in the world of theater.
MELINDA ARIEL KALANZIS (Assistant Director) is a UT Dallas senior majoring in visual and performing arts with a concentration in theatre. Melinda has trained with the British American Drama Academy, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company and Shakespeare & Company, and interned in education with Actors’ Shakespeare Project. Previous Theatre UTD credits include: Tiresias/Shepherd/Chorus (Oedipus); Lysander (A Midsummer Night’s Dream); Gretchen (Faust); Assistant Stage Manager (Phoebe in Winter); singing/movement ensemble (Rocky Horror Show); assistant director, running crew (The Flu Season). Thank you to Professor Riccio and the cast, crew and designers! It’s been a pleasure making this dream space with you all!

LAURA HYUNJHEE KIM (Assistant Director, Projections Designer) is a multimedia artist who reimagines on/offline (non)human interactions and feelosophical experiences of the body. Thinking through making, she performs moments of incomprehension. In 2020, Kim received the Judson-Morrissey Excellence in New Media Award and the Black Cube Video Art Award. She is the author of “Entering the Blobosphere: A Musing on Blobs” (The Accomplices) and coauthor of “Remixing Persona” (Open Humanities Press). Kim is an Assistant Professor of Visual and Performing Arts in Global Performance Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas and lives in the company of neighboring squirrels, birds and wild rabbits.

CHRISTOPHER TREVIÑO (Lighting Designer) holds a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts from the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, and a Master’s of Fine Arts from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Chris has designed or operated lighting for venues across the country, including Sea World–San Diego & San Antonio, Dead White Zombies, Cincinnati Ballet, Collin County Ballet Theatre, Santa Fe Opera, Opera New Jersey, ABC News/WFAA-TV, Nevada Ballet, Nevada Conservatory Theatre, Collin Theatre Center, Stagedoor Manor, Six Flags Over Texas and many more. He has also served as many roles for the non-profit organization Junior Players. Those roles include; Co-Producer, Assistant Director, Projections Designer, Lighting Designer and Technical Advisor. He currently serves as the Assistant Technical Director here at the University of Texas at Dallas where he teaches the Technical Theatre classes and serves as Resident Lighting Designer. Chris also serves as an Associate Lighting Designer for Premier Illuminations lighting company that creates and designs for venues and productions all around the world. He would like to thank his partners for putting up with all of the late nights and time away from home.

ALEX LORRAIN-HILL (Technical Director) is in his fourteenth year at the University of Texas at Dallas and his ninth year as Technical Director. Alex received his BA in Art and Performance from UT Dallas in 2007 and began serving as Assistant Technical Director in 2008 before he moved into the role of Technical Director. Recent credits with UT Dallas include First Date, Oedipus the King, The Rocky Horror Show, Phoebe in Winter and Little Shop of Horrors. In addition to UT Dallas, Alex has worked professionally with Premiere Entertainment Services, Junior Players and New York Stage and Film’s Powerhouse Theater.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Nils Roemer, Holly Miori, Phil Roth, Matt Unkenholz, Kristi Barrus, Chinweolu Greer, Dena Davis, Lisa Lyles, Ashley Spurgin, John Stephens, Dallas Costume Shoppe, Onstage Systems

**EVENT STAFF**

Kristi Barrus (Director of Events) Chinweolu Greer (Events Coordinator)

**Student Assistants:**

Kade Fitzpatrick, Marissa Hernandez, Dejah James, Jofiel Zapata, Zade Creel, Damian Noriega, Brian Gamboa, Ammaarah Arab, Prisha Gandhi, Nalleli Martinez
OPENING NIGHT PARTY
will be held after the show on Thursday, February 17th at

3000 Northside Blvd., Suite 800
Richardson, TX 75080

Thank you to Blake Jutton and his staff for sponsoring the Opening Night Party.

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