



# the pro·tag·o·nist

1. a newsletter.
2. a publication of the University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company.

## *In This Week's Issue...*

The final weekend of *A Bright Room Called Day* is fast approaching! Meet more of the cast and a focused spotlight on the director. The reviews are in, read what Encore Michigan has to say about our production. And, additional photos are featured in this issue. Finally, be sure to get your tickets for our final weekend at [www.DetroitMercyArts.com](http://www.DetroitMercyArts.com).

"The Detroit Mercy Theatre Company does a remarkable job tackling this challenging play. The acting and production is first-rate across the board...the lighting and sets are among the best I have seen at the Marlene Boll Theatre."

- Tanya Gazdik  
*Encore Michigan*

## *Jamie Warrow*

### Spotlight on the Director

In a 2010 interview with the Detroit Legal News, Jamie Warrow expressed passion like this, "It's important not to forget that just because you're working so hard that there are other things to be passionate about...It's important to pursue your passion." And pursue she did. After graduating from Wayne State, she would spend most of her 20's working towards a career in theatre.

Eventually, she decided it was time to expand her pursuits engaging other passions. For Warrow, this would be in the form of studying law. In 2003, she graduated *cum laude* from Wayne State with a Juris Doctorate and served as editor of the Wayne State Law Review.



Accompanying her fervor and accomplishments as a lawyer, Warrow continues to feed her appetite for theatre. In 2007, she and several artistic partners, founded [The Ringwald Theatre](#) in Ferndale. Again, Warrow in 2010, "[The Ringwald Theatre] wants to change the way people think through exploring different social norms and have people leaving the theatre going, 'Hey, I never thought about it that way'... We like to push the envelope a little bit."



A scene from DMTC and The Ringwald's 2015 co-production of *The Whale*. From left to right: Joe Bailey and Jamie Warrow. Photo courtesy of DMTC.

As an actor, Warrow's Blanche DuBois in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, received a 2016 Encore Michigan Wilde Award for best actress. She gave audiences a magnificent portrayal of Ivy in Tracy Letts' *August: Osage County*, and as Agnes Egging in Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*. Another notable performance was Liz in Samuel D. Hunter's *The Whale*, a co-production with The Ringwald Theatre and Detroit Mercy Theatre Company. Her rendition of Grace Hardy in Brian Friel's *Faith Healer*, with the Abreact Theatre Collective, gave her two best actress nods from the Encore Michigan Wilde Awards and the Rogue Critic Awards.

Some of her notable directing experiences include Andrew Bovell's *When the Rain Stops Falling*; David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*, and Conor McPherson's *Shining City*. Last season, Warrow directed DMTC's production and Michigan premiere of Ken Jones' *Alabama Story*. And most recently, her direction of *Evil Dead: The Musical*, at City Theatre, closed to great acclaim.

To read more about Warrow click on the links below.  
[Cast in Multiple Roles in Pursuit of Her Dream.](#)  
[Lawyer Finds Balance](#)

[Kickham Hanley - Latest News on Jamie Warrow](#)

#### **What influenced you to work in the theatre?**

At first, when I was younger, I was like Paulinka in *A Bright Room Called Day*: I wanted all the great parts! But eventually, I matured, my ego receded, and I developed a passion for theatre as an active art form that gives immediate energy to a narrative and which requires the audience to engage. Basically, I like telling good stories using theatre artists as the medium.



A scene from DMTC's 2016 production of *Alabama Story*, directed by Jamie Warrow. From left to right: DeShawn King and Sidney Mains. Photo by Evans Tasiopoulos.

**What has been your proudest achievement as an artist?** As a director, it's hard to narrow the shows that I'm proud of, but I believe my shining moments were: A) *When the Rain Stops Falling* by Andrew Bovell (January 2013) - this show, about redemption, forgiveness, and generational healing, with its exceptional cast and crew, was transcendent in its rare honesty and raw beauty; and B) *Glengarry Glen Ross* by David Mamet (February 2015) - simply the perfect cast telling this iconic story. As an actor I am most proud of my work as Blanche DuBois in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* and as Agnes Egging in Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*.

**Who inspires your life?** I am inspired by artists. I am inspired by individuals who live authentically. I am inspired by people who choose to be kind.

**What song do you have on repeat?** ["A Change is Gonna Come"](#) - Aretha Franklin's version. (And, yes, my *Alabama Story* peeps, still...)

**How do you prepare yourself before a show?** When in rehearsal I have a methodology for learning lines and I journal. I read my text aloud every day. By the week before tech I aim to be in a place to play. Before an actual performance, I like to visualize the show.

**What is the musical you like to sing in the car?** I know this is a theatre sin, but I do not have a favorite musical. Even worse, musicals generally are not my favorite.

**What is your favorite line from *A Bright Room Called Day*?** *"Home. Now. An end to the exile. Before the sky and the ground slam shut. The borders are full of holes..."*

Detroit Mercy Theatre Company's *A Bright Room Called Day* closes this weekend. A production Encore Michigan hailed as "a play that will stay with you after you leave it."

# Final Weekend & Your Last Chance

Friday/Saturday, November 17 & 18 at 7:30pm  
Sunday, November 19 at 3:00pm



\* \* \* **JUST ANNOUNCED** \* \* \*

Community Night  
Saturday, November 18  
Tickets only \$10 ... while they last!



#DMTC #PayAttention #FearlessSmartVital



DMTC's production of Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*.  
Pictured from left to right: Christian Plonka, Roman D'Ambrosio, and Emily Haase.  
Photo by Evans Tasiopoulos.

"Loved it! Wow! A show that makes you think!"

- Sue Suchyta

## Roman D'Ambrosio

### Meet the Cast

Roman D'Ambrosio is a Detroit Mercy sophomore studying business administration and philosophy. Playing Emil Traum in *A Bright Room Called Day*, this marks his first appearance on the Marlene Boll stage and with the Detroit Mercy Theatre Company. Hailing from Midland, MI, D'Ambrosio's next theatrical project will be playing Oswald in [Little Door Theatre's](#) production of *King Lear*.

#### What influenced you to work in the theatre?

Dr. Beer encouraged me to audition last May. The Theatre Company has kept inviting me to be involved ever since.

#### What has been your proudest achievement as an artist?

Having other actors, who have been working years longer than I have, be proud of my work.

#### Who inspires your life?

My father inspires my life.

#### What song do you have on repeat?

"[Late Nights & Heartbreak](#)" by [Hannah Williams and The Affirmations](#).

#### How do you prepare yourself before a show?

I drink a lot of water and do some push-ups.

#### What is the musical you like to sing in the car?

Stephen Sondheim's [Company](#)

#### What is your favorite line from *A Bright Room Called Day*?

"The dreams of the Left are always beautiful," said by Annabella Gotchling.



Read Encore Michigan's review of *A Bright Room Called Day*. Encore Michigan is the premier source for free, up-to-the-minute news and information about Michigan's professional theater community and industry. Click on their logo to the left to read the review.

#DMTC #PayAttention #FearlessSmartVital





Watch our promo-video created by Detroit Mercy theatre minor, Autumn Russell. And then purchase your tickets at [www.DetroitMercyArts.com](http://www.DetroitMercyArts.com).

"I appreciate the play's topics and the professionalism with which the production is run, and I encourage others to attend."

- Tina Cardamone  
*Audience Member*

## Keira Elyse

### Meet the Cast

Keira Elyse plays Zillah Katz in *A Bright Room Called Day*, which makes her first DMTC appearance on the Marlene Boll stage. The Livonia native and Wayne State alumna, just completed a successful run of *Evil Dead: The Musical* at City Theatre.

#### What influenced you to work in the theatre?

I've wanted to perform since I was a small child. I've always loved being someone else I guess. Honestly, I'll take any excuse to put on a costume. When I was a kid, I wanted to be about 50 different things and then I realized as an actor I could be all those things.

#### What has been your proudest achievement as an artist?

Getting the opportunity for a second year with *Evil Dead: The Musical* at City Theatre. They usually swap out the ladies, so being asked to return felt really wonderful.

**Who inspires your life?** I have a lot of people who inspire me but certainly my family is a big inspiration.

I have a lot of really strong women to look up to and model myself after, most specifically my Mom, Nana, Granny, and Mamaw. As an actor my inspirations are mostly comedic actors like [Megan Mullally](#), [Helena Bonham Carter](#), and [Madeline Kahn](#). I love their ability to not care how they look on stage and how they can make a fool out of themselves and be completely content. It's something I aspire to do.



**What song do you have on repeat?** Anything by [Heart](#).

**How do you prepare yourself before a show?** Pre-show, I'm all about the process of getting ready. The better mood I'm in, the better my performance will be. A lot of actors want to sit by themselves and think of their lines and blocking and character, but for me applying my makeup, doing my hair, and putting on my costume are the things that really take me from myself to my character.

**What is the musical you like to sing in the car?** I'm a big fan of [American Idiot](#), the sung-through stage adaptation of [Green Day](#)'s rock opera *American Idiot*.

**What is your favorite line from *A Bright Room Called Day*?**  
"Before the sky and ground slams shut."

**\$7**  
parking @  
the Z

**Park in the ZLOT for a Flat Rate of \$7!**  
The Detroit Mercy Theatre Company is proud to continue its parking partnership with the ZLOT, supported by BedRock Detroit and Ultimate Parking Management.

Patrons parking in the ZLOT will use a credit card to enter the structure to park. While at the performance, collect your ZLOT coupon from the box office.

Follow instructions on back of the coupon to receive the discounted parking rate of \$7.

*This flat rate applies even on days of major downtown events. No more paying \$20-\$50 for parking when attending a Detroit Mercy Theatre Company production. Entrances on Grand River Ave. and on Gratiot Ave. near Broadway. One block from Y.M.C.A.*

#DMTC #PayAttention #FearlessSmartVital





DMTC's production of Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*.  
 Pictured left to right: Greg Grobis (managing director and associate professor of theatre) and Keira Elyse.  
 Photo by Evans Tasiopoulos.

"The plays seem to have taken a quantitative leap in terms of quality...and have consistently been VERY good. Way to go!! Keep up the good work!"

- Tim Hipskind, S.J.  
*Audience Member*

## *Friday, After the Show*

### **Christmas Tree Lighting**

Lift your spirits after the show on Friday, November 17, by taking an evening stroll towards Campus Maritus. Enjoy the 14th Annual Tree Lighting extravaganza! It ends at midnight - live music, food, beverages, and even a shuttle to Light Up Beacon Park! More information can be found in the links below.

[14 Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony](#)

[Light Up Beacon Park](#)



Photo by Evans Tasiopoulos







DMTC's production of Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day*.  
 Pictured left to right: Dalton Hahn and Emily Haase.  
 Photo by Evans Tasiopoulos.

#DMTC #PayAttention #FearlessSmartVital

## Shout Out!

Music is in the air.

Detroit Mercy adjunct professor of music, and music director of DMTC's sold out run of *Avenue Q*, Daniel Greig, premiered his recent gospel-style composition, "Surrounded By A Cloud Of Witnesses," at the Gospel Music Celebration this past Friday at St. Mary of the Hills in Rochester Hills, MI. Greig conducted the concert's first half, featuring combined choirs from St. Mary of the Hills, Rochester Community Chorus, and Rochester College A Cappella Chorus, along with a 25-piece orchestra and rhythm section. Greig's song, "Hear My Prayer," was recently published by Hal Leonard Corporation. Listen to [the song here](#).



Learn more about Greig at [www.danielgreig.com](http://www.danielgreig.com).

## Detroit Mercy Theatre Company

**Ticket Office**  
 4001 West McNichols Road  
 Reno Hall 43  
 313-993-3270

"I don't write political plays in the sense that I'm writing essays that are kind of disguised as plays. I would really defy anyone to watch any of my plays and say 'Well, here's the point.'"



- Tony Kushner

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Friday  
12:00pm - 5:00pm

**Purchase Tickets**  
[www.DetroitMercyArts.com](http://www.DetroitMercyArts.com)

**Visit Us**  
[www.TheTheatreCo.com](http://www.TheTheatreCo.com)

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Photo of Roman D'Ambrosio by Evans Tasiopoulos

