

Mask and Bauble Dramatic Society at Georgetown University  
June 1st, 2020

Dear members of the Mask and Bauble community,

We know that there are not many words we can offer at this time that will provide comfort or healing. There are no words that can even begin to encapsulate the fear, anger, and hurt that all of us, and especially our Black companions, are experiencing right now. The only words that matter right now are not those coming from the White House or any official office, but from the mouths of Black citizens who have endured unfair and unjust treatment at the hands of people and systems designed to extinguish them for far too long. The 169th Executive Board of Mask and Bauble Dramatic Society wholeheartedly and undeniably supports the Black Lives Matter movement. **Black. Lives. Matter.** The Board also supports the GU272 and the Black Survivors Coalition, two of the groups that our parent University continues to ignore, even in emails intended to address racism on both our campus and nationwide.

We acknowledge that M&B, for a number of unfortunate years, profited and benefited from horrific racist portrayals of Black people. In the 1940s, and undoubtedly in other decades, M&B funded and produced shows with offensive titles and subject matter, which more often than not, included instances of blackface. These productions, among them *Rumboogie Revue*, *Ye Olde Hoya Minstrels*, and *Lynch Me Never*, are denoted on our web page with an accompanying statement that M&B does not condone our past practices of racism. In addition to that statement, the 169th Executive Board would like to reiterate that the club loathes and deeply regrets the ways our club has engaged with racism in the past. We will never encourage or participate in the erasure of this club's racist history, as we will never avoid responsibility for these incidents. It is our duty to dissent and to document to the best of our ability to work towards a better future for the club and its members.

Full documentation of these productions and M&B's inexcusable participation in and perpetuation of racism will be made widely available to club membership, alumni, and all members of the Georgetown community through a forthcoming digital archive to be completed in Summer 2020. In addition to this effort, M&B will be providing weekly suggestions on our social media pages and our website ([maskandbauble.org](http://maskandbauble.org)) on how we can actively work against racism as individuals and as a community. These weekly memos will be released on Sundays, at the same time our weekly Listserv would be distributed during the academic year. These suggestions will include plays, books, documentaries, art pieces, articles, movies, musicals, and any other relevant material. If you have suggestions for content that should be included in these memos, please email [maskandbauble@gmail.com](mailto:maskandbauble@gmail.com). A great place to start would be by watching this documentary, [Georgetown's History of Blackface Minstrelsy](#), featuring M&B board

members, produced by the Social Justice Documentary class this spring about blackface at Georgetown University. The documentary can be found at <https://vimeo.com/414115142>, and the thesis it was based off of, written by Marcus Lustig, can be found at <https://repository.library.georgetown.edu/bitstream/handle/10822/1054096/Marcus%20Lustig%20Thesis%20Final%20Draft.pdf?sequence=1> or by searching "Blackface Minstrelsy in College Life at Georgetown University. As an all-white Board, we maintain awareness of our privilege and lack of expertise on these matters, and encourage our membership and alumni network to reach out to us with any and all suggestions or concerns. We will also continue to support our colleagues in other co-curricular arts groups, especially the Black Theatre Ensemble and Nomadic Theatre.

We know that we *still* benefit from the inherently racist structures that our parent University and indeed, our club, were founded on. We know that this club has promoted and produced plays by Black artists while simultaneously failing to do these productions justice by ignoring the context and importance of these works. We know that Mask and Bauble has profited off of racism and never faced repercussions for it. We know that we continue to receive funding from the University each year regardless of what shows we produce and the money we make off of them. We know that we are the oldest continuously running student theatre group in the country. Perhaps above all, we know that we are *still* a club made up primarily of white art-makers and theatre-goers at a predominantly white university, and while we are always working on being a more inclusive and respectful space, our best intentions do not mean anything unless accompanied by tangible action. If you had planned on attending M&B's spring musical *Legally Blonde* this past April (or even if you didn't) we kindly ask that you consider donating the cost of your ticket to one of the organizations listed below.

This is where action begins, but not remotely close to where it ends.

Signed,

The Mask and Bauble Dramatic Society 169th Executive Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Crozier".

Grace Crozier, Executive Producer

Handwritten signature of Claire Landers in black ink.

Claire Landers, Associate Producer

Handwritten signature of Corinne Kleinman in black ink.

Corinne Kleinman, Business Manager

Handwritten signature of Olivia Martin in black ink.

Olivia Martin, Technical Director

Handwritten signature of Kate Oelkers in black ink.

Kate Oelkers, Community Engagement Director

Handwritten signature of Madison Carter in black ink.

Madison Carter, Publicity Director

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth McDermott in black ink.

Elizabeth McDermott, Sales Director

The following is a non-exhaustive list of resources and causes. Share anything and everything.

*To Donate:*

**George Floyd Memorial Fund**

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd>

**ACLU**

<https://www.aclu.org>

**Black Visions Collective**

<https://www.blackvisionsmn.org>

**Color of Change**

[https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/support-us?refcode=coc\\_website\\_popup](https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/support-us?refcode=coc_website_popup)

**NAACP / NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund**

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/naacp-1>

[https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate\\_page\\_KEY=15780&\\_\\_ga=2.35717155.2063942164.1590824273-1161863773.1590824273](https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=15780&__ga=2.35717155.2063942164.1590824273-1161863773.1590824273)

**Black Lives Matter DC Legal Support Fund**

<https://gf.me/u/x54yjf>

**North Star Fund**

<https://northstarfund.org/give/donate/donate-to-communities-united-for-police-reform/>

**Communities United Against Police Brutality**

[https://www.cuapb.org/what\\_we\\_do](https://www.cuapb.org/what_we_do)

**National Police Accountability Project**

<https://www.nlg-npap.org/donate/>

**National Black Disability Coalition**

<http://www.blackdisability.org>

**Your local Black Lives Matter Chapter**

[https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ms\\_blm\\_homepage\\_2019](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ms_blm_homepage_2019)

**Your local Bail Fund or make a donation to be split among 39 bail funds nationally**

[https://secure.actblue.com/donate/bail\\_funds\\_george\\_floyd](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/bail_funds_george_floyd)

(keep in mind that D.C. does NOT post cash bail,

<https://www.washingtonian.com/2020/06/01/dc-doesnt-have-a-bail-fund-heres-how-you-can-donate-to-help-protesters/>)

**Reclaim the Block**

<https://secure.everyaction.com/zae4prEeKESHBy0MKXTIcQ2>

Black Table Arts

<http://www.blacktablearts.com>

**Support Black-owned business in D.C. and in your hometown**

*To Sign:*

[https://www.change.org/p/minneapolis-district-attorney-raise-the-degree?recruiter=1098599238&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=psf\\_combo\\_share\\_initial&utm\\_term=psf\\_combo\\_share\\_abi&recruited\\_by\\_id=960efe90-a206-11ea-8907-8fc7af712ec3](https://www.change.org/p/minneapolis-district-attorney-raise-the-degree?recruiter=1098599238&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=psf_combo_share_abi&recruited_by_id=960efe90-a206-11ea-8907-8fc7af712ec3)

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/george-floyd-police-violence-usa/>

[https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/justiceforfloyd\\_george\\_floyd\\_minneapolis/?source=dm\\_sms\\_optin\\_5-26-20](https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/justiceforfloyd_george_floyd_minneapolis/?source=dm_sms_optin_5-26-20)

<https://action.justiceforbreonna.org/sign/BreonnaWasEssential/>

[https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/justiceforbre-police-officers-who-killed-breonna-taylor-must-be-fired?bucket=&source=twitter-share-button&utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_source=twitter&share=e57b02c1-bd0f-497f-8365-f51d6114576f](https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/justiceforbre-police-officers-who-killed-breonna-taylor-must-be-fired?bucket=&source=twitter-share-button&utm_campaign=&utm_source=twitter&share=e57b02c1-bd0f-497f-8365-f51d6114576f)

<https://secure.everyaction.com/BAMRHdpAUS8Rle7I00UrA2>

[http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action\\_KEY=27063&\\_ga=2.159657405.1209450864.1591064156-2027617893.1591064156](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=27063&_ga=2.159657405.1209450864.1591064156-2027617893.1591064156)

<https://www.change.org/p/black-lives-matter-activists-justice-for-tony-mcdade>

[https://actionnetwork.org/letters/demand-justice-for-tony-mcdade?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/demand-justice-for-tony-mcdade?source=direct_link&)

<https://campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/take-the-pledge-we-are-the-movement-for-black-lives>

<https://www.change.org/p/us-senate-hands-up-act>

<https://naacp.org/sign-petition-justice-ahmaud-arbery/>

<https://www.runwithmaud.com/#petition>

<https://www.change.org/p/governor-brian-kemp-justice-for-ahmaud-arbery>

<https://www.change.org/p/change-org-the-minneapolis-police-officers-to-be-charged-for-murder-after-killing-innocent-black-man>