

2012 Conference Performances

Note: Not every performance, workshop, or event is suitable for every Thespian. The Chapter Board and Screening Committee have provided a variety of alternative shows, workshops, and events throughout the conference. It is the responsibility of the Troupe Director and troupe chaperones to assist students in making informed choices.

ALMOST, MAINE

SCHOOL: JOHNS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

AUTHOR: JOHN CARIANI

Synopsis: On a Friday night in the middle of winter, residents of a small, mythical town in far northern Maine are falling in and out of love at an alarming rate. Knees are getting bruised; hearts are getting broken...but the bruises heal and hearts mend-almost-in what has been described as a "charming midwinter night's dream." Almost, Maine will leave you spent from laughter and thoroughly warmed from the inside out

COMEDY

DIRECTOR: DEBBIE PROST

PUBLISHER: DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

ALMOST, MAINE

SCHOOL: DAVIDSON FINE ARTS

AUTHOR: JOHN CARIANI

Synopsis: On a cold, clear, moonless Friday night in the middle of winter all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, residents of Almost find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected, often hilarious ways. Love is lost, found, and confounded. "Almost Maine" inventively explores the mysteries of the human heart, touching audiences with laughter, heartbreak and hope.

COMEDY

DIRECTOR: BETTY WALPERT

PUBLISHER: DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

AND THEY DANCE REAL SLOW IN JACKSON DRAMA

SCHOOL: HABERSHAM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

AUTHOR: JIM LEONARD, JR

Synopsis: Crippled at birth with polio, Elizabeth Ann Willow is confined to a wheelchair and must wear leg braces, which cuts her off from the other children and prevents her regular attendance at school. Although she tries to reach out and make friends, Elizabeth Ann is increasingly isolated from the others, whose small town prejudices are reinforced by a polio scare. Comprised of a brilliantly conceived mosaic of interlocking scenes which move back and forth in time, the play captures not only the moving story of Elizabeth Ann's inexorable descent into madness, but also the small-mindedness of her fellow townspeople.

DRAMA

DIRECTOR: BRYANT SMITH

PUBLISHER: DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

ANTIGONE

SCHOOL: NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL

AUTHOR: SOPHOCLES ADAPTED BY EMILY MANN

Synopsis: Thebes' civil war has ended. Creon, the ascending king, proclaims, "Regarding the bodies of the sons of Oedipus; Eteocles, a hero who fought for Thebes...will be given a hero's burial...But for Polyneices who recruited foreign troops to attack our home - let his corpse rot under the sweltering sun...Anyone who dares to bury the enemy will be publicly executed." So begins this modern language and dress version of the Greek tragedy which was written in the wake of the events of 9/11/2001.

DRAMA

DIRECTOR: BOB RAMSEUR

PUBLISHER: DRAMATIC PUBLISHING

BROTHER WOLF

SCHOOL: NORTH FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL

BOOK: PRESTON LANE

MUSIC AND LYRICS: LAURELYN DOSSETT

COMEDY/DRAMA/MUSICAL

DIRECTOR: MARY HAYES ERNST

PUBLISHER:PLAYSCRIPTS

Synopsis: Blending folklore, myth, music and mountain religion, Brother Wolf is an Appalachian adventure tale based on the story of Beowulf. High in the mountains of North Carolina, a family is threatened by a demon named Grin Dell. When a preacher named Brother Wolf arrives to lend a hand, the death of the demon sets off a cycle of revenge that can only be stopped by learning to forgive. Featuring evocative bluegrass songs, this skillful musical traces the complex art of storytelling and the fear that divides good and evil.

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

SCHOOL: MCINTOSH HIGH SCHOOL (with guest Sasha O'Heron) DIRECTOR: TANYA GRUBER / KRISTA TRITT

AUTHOR: BERTOLT BRECHT

PUBLISHER: SAMUEL FRENCH

Synopsis: The Caucasian Chalk Circle is the story of Grusha, a serving girl who adopts an abandoned princeling, and comes to face a maternity test akin to the Judgment of Solomon. While fleeing a burning village in the Soviet Caucasus, Grusha overcomes many trials in order to save the life of another woman's baby. Brecht challenges us to become infuriated with the audacity of the nobles and alternately revived by the spirit of the peasant revolution.

EXPERIMENTAL

THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

SCHOOL: GRAYSON HIGH SCHOOL

AUTHOR: WILLIAM INGE

Synopsis: In a small Oklahoma town in the early 1920s we find Rubin, a traveling salesman, Cora, his sensitive and lovely wife, Sonny, their little boy, and Reenie, their teenage daughter. The plot consists of a series of short stories — the fight between a husband and wife; the fear of an overly shy young girl on going to a dance; the problems of an introverted little boy who feels that the whole world is against him; the corroding marriage of Cora's rowdy sister; and the tragedy of a military school cadet who suffers from the stigma of being a Jew in an alien community. The play's message is that there is dark at the top of everyone's stairs, but that it can be dissipated by understanding, tolerance and compassion.

DRAMA

DIRECTOR: HALEY FLANDERS

PUBLISHER: DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

DARK OF THE MOON

SCHOOL: DEKALB SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
AUTHOR: HOWARD RICHARDSON AND WILLIAM BERNEY

DRAMA
DIRECTOR: DAVID KLEIN
PUBLISHER: SAMUEL FRENCH

Synopsis: Set amongst the backdrop of the Great Smokey Mountains and loosely based on the ancient ballad of Barbara Allen, Dark of the Moon is a folk fable of star-crossed love. A witch boy asks the Conjure Woman to make him human so that he can woo a beautiful mortal woman that he loves. The Conjure Woman agrees with the stipulation that he must marry the girl and she must be faithful to him for a year to make his transformation permanent. In his new found mortal form the witch boy quickly wins the hand of his beloved Barbara Allen. As their yearlong romance races to an end, the embattled pair find themselves torn between the opposing forces of the irreconcilable worlds from which they originate. With both the witches and the villagers bent on the destruction of their love, the couple must face the tragic consequences of their passion.

GODSPELL

SCHOOL: WARNER ROBINS HIGH SCHOOL
BOOK: JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK MUSIC AND LYRICS: STEPHEN SWARTZ PUBLISHER: THEATRE MAXIMUS

MUSICAL
DIRECTOR: TAMMY FISHER

Synopsis: Godspell, a musical that is familiar to almost everyone and yet, thanks to interpretation, is different every time. In this particular Godspell production, we have taken the familiarity of living in a military town and the ugly truth of war and collided it all with a modern twist of story-telling to bring to life our adaptation of Godspell, the musical.

HARVEY

SCHOOL: CREEKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL
AUTHOR: MARY CHASE

COMEDY
DIRECTOR: MATT TAMANINI
PUBLISHER: DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

Synopsis: Veta Simmons is tired of her brother, Elwood P. Dowd, and his best-friend Harvey (an invisible six-foot tall white rabbit) ruining her chances of marrying her daughter to a well-to-do young man, so she attempts to have him committed to an institution. However, the universe, fate, or perhaps Harvey conspire against her.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

SCHOOL: NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL – WARNER ROBINS
BOOK: ABE BURROWS, JACK WEINSTOCK, AND WILLIE GILBERT
MUSIC AND LYRICS: FRANK LOESSER

MUSICAL
DIRECTOR: BRIAN BARNETT

Synopsis: Power, sex, ambition, greed... it's just another day at the office in this delightful musical timelessly exploring the rise to the top in corporate America and in life.

THE KATRINA PROJECT: HELL AND HIGH WATER

SCHOOL: OLA HIGH SCHOOL
AUTHOR: MICHAEL MARKS AND MACKENZIE WESTMORELANS

DRAMA
DIRECTOR: CYNTHIA CORLEY
PUBLISHER: PLAYSRIPTS

Synopsis: The play is based on interviews, journals, and texts of Hurricane Katrina survivors

THE LARAMIE PROJECT

SCHOOL: WHITEWATER HIGH SCHOOL
AUTHOR: MOISES KAUFMAN
AND THE TECTONIC THEATRE COMPANY

DRAMA
DIRECTOR: SUSAN MCCRANIE SIMICH
PUBLISHER: DRAMATIST PLAY SERVICE

Synopsis: On October 7, 1998, a young gay man was discovered bound to a fence in the hills outside Laramie, Wyoming, savagely beaten and left to die. Matthew Shepard's death became a national symbol for intolerance. The Tectonic Theatre Company created this theatre piece after conducting more than 200 interviews with the people of Laramie. The play is a compilation of stories and the impact this crime had on their lives, their town, and their philosophies.

NOW, THEN, AGAIN

SCHOOL: ARCHER HIGH SCHOOL
AUTHOR: PENNY PENNISTON

DRAMA/COMEDY/EXPERIMENTAL
DIRECTOR: EMILY MCCLAIN
PUBLISHER: BROADWAY PLAY PUBLISHING

Synopsis: A love triangle based around physicists working together, the play is told forward and backwards in time with different outcomes.

PARADE

SCHOOL: DALTON HIGH SCHOOL
BOOK: ALFRED UHRY

MUSICAL
DIRECTOR: WES PHINNEY
MUSIC AND LYRICS: JASON ROBERT BROWN
PUBLISHER: MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

Synopsis: The tragic, true story of the trial and lynching of a man wrongly accused of murder is brought to emotional and theatrical life.

In 1913, Leo Frank, a Brooklyn-raised Jew living in Georgia, is put on trial for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan, a factory worker under his employ. Already guilty in the eyes of everyone around him, a sensationalist publisher and a janitor's false testimony seal Leo's fate. His only defenders are a governor with a conscience, and, eventually, his assimilated Southern wife who finds the strength and love to become his greatest champion.

PROPERTY RITES

SCHOOL: CROSS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL
AUTHOR: ALAN HAEHNEL

Synopsis: Kyle Macmanus has invested millions in a high-tech work of art--human figure sculptures programmed to perform thousands of movements, monologues, dialogues, and more. But just when Kyle is about to sell the sculpture, it malfunctions; the figures are alive. As each one struggles to achieve autonomy, they begin a fatal race against their desperate owner's destructive plan.

DRAMA/COMEDY

DIRECTOR: LEAH SODERBERG
PUBLISHER: PLAYSRIPTS

THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

SCHOOL: CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL
AUTHOR: TOM STOPPARD

Synopsis: Two theatre critics, Moon and Birdboot, arrive at the theatre to watch a murder mystery. They each have their own personal issues. Moon is constantly complaining about living in the shadow of Higgs, the first string critic at his newspaper, while Birdboot spends his time denying extra-marital affairs with pretty actresses. They both end up on stage as part of the play and they meet their final destiny when they cannot escape.

COMEDY

DIRECTOR: LEIA TAYLOR
PUBLISHER: SAMUEL FRENCH

THE SPITFIRE GRILL

SCHOOL: WEST HALL HIGH SCHOOL
LYRICS AND BOOK: FRED ALLEY
BASED ON THE FILM BY LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF

Synopsis: A feisty young woman, freshly released from prison, follows her dreams to a small town in Wisconsin where she finds a place for herself working at the Spitfire Grill. Percy brings a renewed sense of self to this repressed town and in doing so gains a rejuvenated vitality within herself. It becomes evident to everyone in town that something's cooking at the Spitfire Grill.

MUSICAL

DIRECTORS: SARAH LINDAHL AND MIRO GOMEZ
MUSIC AND BOOK: JAMES VALCQ
PUBLISHER: SAMUEL FRENCH

A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

SCHOOL: FLOWERY BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL
BOOK AND LYRICS: WILLIE REALE
MUSIC: ROBERT REALE

Synopsis: A Year With Frog and Toad is a musical written by brothers Robert (music) and Willie Reale (book and lyrics), based on the Frog and Toad children's stories written and illustrated by Arnold Lobel. The musical follows the woodland adventures of two amphibious friends, a worrywart toad and a perky frog, with their assorted colorful hopping, crawling and flying companions, over the course of a year.

MUSICAL

DIRECTOR: MALLORY NONNEMAKER
PUBLISHER: MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL