

Join us for our Winter and Spring Productions:

The Children's Hour

By LILLIAN HELLMAN

Directed by LIZ CARLIN METZ

February 21- March 2, 2019 ; Repertory Term XVIII

THE LARAMIE PROJECT

By MOISÉS KAUFMAN and Members of the Tectonic Theater Project

Directed by JEFF GRACE

February 21- March 2, 2019 ; Repertory Theatre Term XVIII

New Plays Festival

Written, directed, and performed by KNOX STUDENTS & ALUMNI

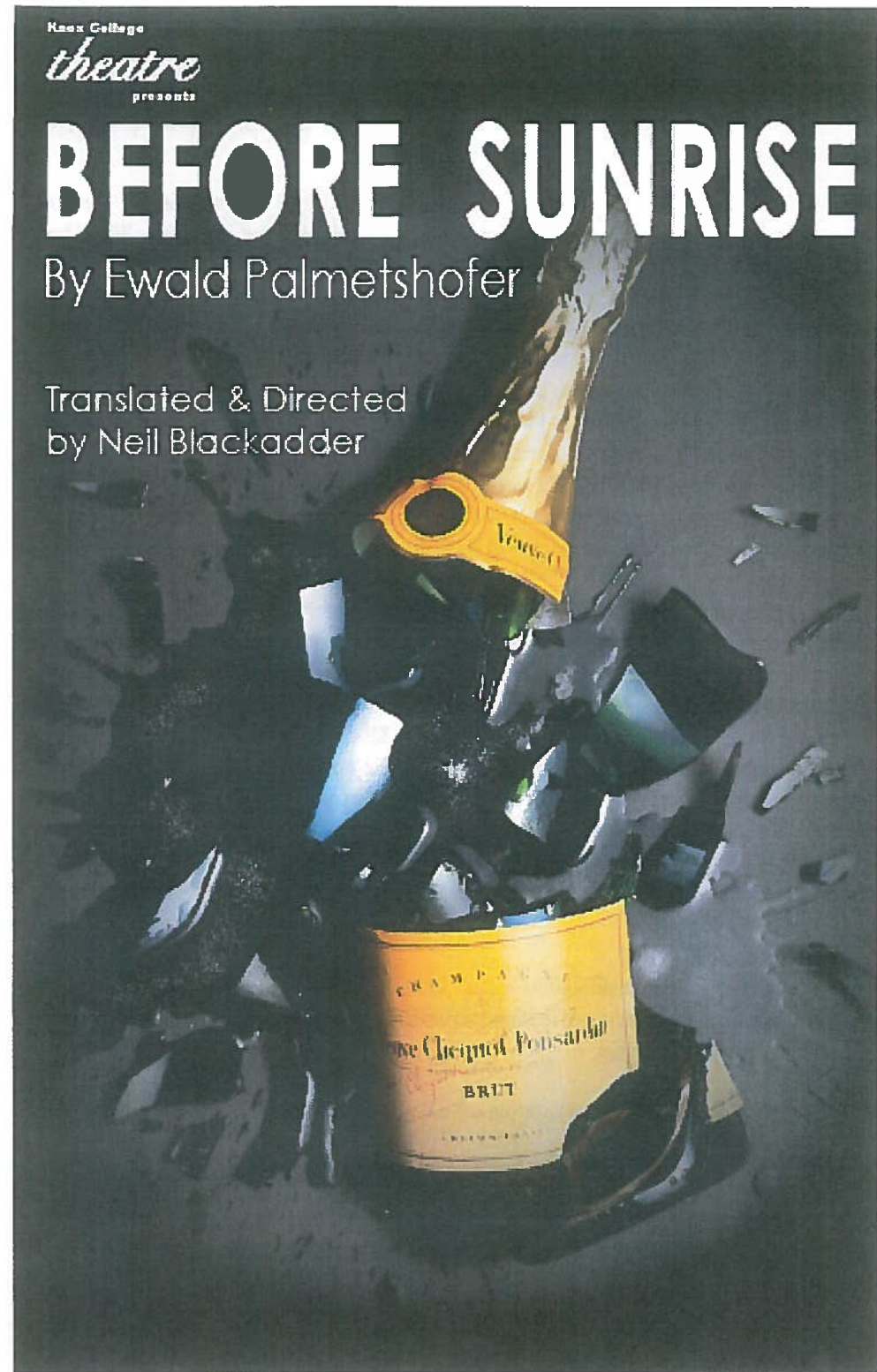
April - May 2019

Knox College
theatre
presents

BEFORE SUNRISE

By Ewald Palmetshofer

Translated & Directed
by Neil Blackadder



Welcome to Knox College Theatre

Thank you for coming to the first production of Knox Theatre's 2018-19 mainstage season. The work we'll present this year ranges from an American classic to a wealth of brand new scripts. Winter term brings Repertory Term XVIII, followed by the third iteration of our New Plays Festival.

We begin with the English-language world premiere of my translation from German of a 2017 play by Ewald Palmetshofer. I have previously translated three other plays by this acclaimed Austrian playwright, who is known for a stylized approach to language and a storytelling technique that often presents a significant challenge to audience-members. I was pleased when his latest script, Before Sunrise, lent itself particularly well to a college production; it was also a nice coincidence that I happened to be familiar with the script Palmetshofer adapted, the 1889 play by Gerhart Hauptmann. Unlike most of Palmetshofer's other work, Before Sunrise is essentially a family drama, exploring many issues – especially political and psychological – in the context of one family looking to the future with excitement but also trepidation.

In winter, a group of around twenty-five students will devote themselves to theatre for the whole term, forming the company for the latest iteration of Repertory Theatre Term, which we've been producing at Knox since 1970. The students of Rep Term XVIII will serve as actors, designers, stage managers, construction crew, and almost everything else necessary for two productions presented in repertory in Harbach and Studio Theatre. Liz Carlin-Metz will direct Lillian Hellman's 1934 play The Children's Hour, which proved both controversial and successful when first produced. Hellman's play was contested because of its focus on same-sex love between women, and we've paired it with another American work from over six decades later that unflinchingly explores the victimization of gay men. Jeff Grace will direct The Laramie Project, a play developed by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project from interviews conducted with the inhabitants of Laramie, Wyoming, where Matthew Shepherd was brutally murdered in 1998.

In spring term we will repeat the successful event we debuted in 2013 then repeated three years later with New Plays Festival III, featuring staged readings and workshop productions of original scripts written by Knox students, faculty, and alumni.

Thank you for coming tonight, and we hope you will enjoy this show and the rest of our season.

- Neil Blackadder, Chair

knoxtheatre.org

*Knox College Theatre
presents*

Before Sunrise

(VOR SONNENAUFANG)

by EWALD PALMETSHOFER
adapted from VOR SONNENAUFANG
by GERHART HAUPTMANN
Translated by NEIL BLACKADDER
Originally produced by Theater Basel

Directed by NEIL BLACKADDER
Scenic Design by CRAIG CHOMA
Costume Design by MARGO SHIVELY
Lighting Design by CRAIG CHOMA
Sound Design by MEGAN MOLLOY

Harbach Theatre
Ford Center for the Fine Arts
October 24-27

Please:

*No photographs, video, texting, or recording.
Turn off all cell phones, pagers, notification alerts,
or anything else that may emit light or sound.*

A Message from the Playwright



Until now my play Before Sunrise (after Gerhart Hauptmann) has been staged by three theatres – in Switzerland, Austria, and Germany – in three very different productions. I'm delighted that it's now being presented in a student production at an American college.

In my rewriting of Gerhart Hauptmann's play, I try to point to a rift in contemporary society's discourse and politics, and to bring it to life through the medium of theatre. For some time now in Europe we've been experiencing both an intensification of political rhetoric and a division between political camps. This has poisoned communication among people holding divergent positions, threatening to make it impossible. Even though our political systems are very different, I think what we perceive in Europe also applies in part to the situation in the United States. I therefore hope that my play can prompt engagement with and debate about our present-day situation. And I hope that these young artists can recognize questions and problems relevant to our era in the play's characters and conflicts, and make them tangible for the audience.

I believe theatre's task is to pose questions and to open up a space in which both thoughts and feelings are generated. In that space we should see ourselves, not only in the characters who are like us, but also in the characters who at first glance seem alien to us. Beyond all political gulfs, there's a common humanity that unites us. That shared humanity seems to me to be profoundly imperiled today. It's vital that we fight for its protection. We must form alliances dedicated to an emancipatory politics, so as to put a check on those who are threatening to divide us, to corrupt political discourse and to destroy or weaken our democratic institutions.

I hope that the students, the young artists and the audience will find their experience with Before Sunrise moving and thought-provoking. And I'd like to express my most heartfelt gratitude to all those who – onstage or backstage, on the creative, technical or organizational level – have made this production possible. With special thanks to Neil Blackadder and Knox College.

With my warmest greetings, Ewald Palmethofer

About the Playwright

Ewald Palmethofer was born in Linz, Austria in 1978 and studied theology, philosophy and psychology in Vienna. His play hamlet ist tot. keine schwerkraft premiered in Vienna in 2007 and was invited to the Mühlheimer Theatertage in 2008; in Neil Blackadder's translation as hamlet is dead. no gravity it has been staged in Chicago and London. In 2008, Palmethofer was named Most Promising Author of the Year by Theater heute magazine's annual critics' survey. faust hat hunger und verschluckt sich an einer grete was invited to the Mühlheimer Theatertage in 2010. In 2015, Ewald Palmethofer won the Mülheim Dramatists' Award for his play die unverheiratete (the unmarried woman). The premiere production at the Vienna Akademietheater, directed by Robert Borgmann, was invited to the Berliner Theatertreffen 2015. In 2018 Palmethofer was awarded the ElseLasker-Schüler Dramatists' Prize.

A Note from the Director

Most playwrights have their characters speak in complete sentences, and format their speeches as prose. Ewald Palmethofer's characters frequently do not finish their sentences, speaking instead in fragments, and he lays out his scripts in short lines like verse, using minimal punctuation. In Before Sunrise he also incorporates dashes (sometimes several at a time) to indicate silence. Thus a typical passage looks like this:

HOFFMANN:

you can't be serious
you can find
someone like you, you can find
-
or email
you could've sent an email
my email address
I mean, surely it's not a problem for you
you must have your
what do you call them?
sources?
contacts?

Dialogue written in this way requires the actors and directors to make more decisions than is usually the case about just what the characters are expressing and how their lines should be delivered. I've been really pleased with how well these actors and my assistants have dealt with the rewarding challenge of bringing Ewald's unusually open-ended text to life on stage.

The Cast

HELENE KRAUSE	Tallulah Nepstad
MARTHA KRAUSE	Meg Tucker
THOMAS HOFFMANN	Riley Nelson
EGON KRAUSE	Adam Rothkopf
ANNEMARIE KRAUSE	Kaitlyn Hrivnak
ALFRED LOTH	John Harden
DR. PETER SCHIMMELPFENNIG	Peter Rule

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

Administrative

House Managers	Shannon Mindlin Katherine Asteriadou
Box Office	Student Volunteers
Poster Design	Craig Choma
Program	Nabiha Mansoor
Publicity	Cast & Crew
Ushers	Student Volunteers

Special Thanks

Ewald Palmetshofer, Peter Bailley, Todd Smith, Sheri Heller, Jamie Heller,
Joel Schleicher, Henning Bochert, Cultural Events Committee

Production Team

Director	Neil Blackadder
Assistant Director	Allison Stout
Stage Manager	Amanda Roth
Assistant Stage Managers	Jamie Heller & Emma Bohman
Scenic Design	Craig Choma
Assistant Scenic Design	Peter Rule
Lighting Design	Craig Choma
Costume Design	Margo Shively
Assistant Costume Design	Paula Pierce
Props Master	Roz Zucker
Sound Design	Megan Molloy
Technical Director	Craig Choma
Master Electrician	Joel Schleicher
Light Board Operator	Amanda Roth
Sound Board Operator	Gil Martinez
Run Crew	Jamie Heller, Emma Bohman, and Allison Stout

Theatre Department Faculty

Department Chair	Neil Blackadder
Smith V. Brand Distinguished Prof. of Theatre	Liz Carlin Metz
Associate Professor of Theatre	Craig Choma
Associate Professor of Theater	Jeff Grace
Director of Costume & Makeup	Margo Shively
Writer -in- Residence	Sherwood Kiraly

Who's Who in the Cast

JOHN HARDEN (Alfred Loth) is a sophomore who plans on majoring in Theatre and Arts Administration. He was seen last year in the Knox College production of the Glass Menagerie (Jim). He would like to thank his family and his wonderful dog Dan, who inspires him to stay true to who he is. John is from Urbana, IL.

KAITLYN HRIVNAK (Annemarie Krause) is a sophomore planning to double major in Creative Writing and Theatre. She acted in high school and she participated in Playground during Spring term 2018, but this is the first full production she has acted in since coming to Knox. Kaitlyn is from Kewaunee, WI.

RILEY NELSON (Thomas Hoffman) is a junior majoring in Philosophy. His credits at Knox include The Glass Menagerie (Tom Wingfield), Dead Man's Cell Phone (Gordon), and The Nether (Assistant Director). His previous favorite credits include The Birds (Pithetaerus), The Odd Couple (Female Version) (Manolo), and The Curious Savage (Director). Riley is from Chicago, IL.

TALLULAH V. NEPSTAD (Helen Krause) is a freshman majoring in Theatre and minoring in Film. They were previously seen off campus in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in A Company of Wayward Saints (Isabella) and Lysistrata (Old woman chorus). Tallulah is from Las Vegas, New Mexico.

PETER RULE (Dr. Peter Schimmelpfening/Co-Set Designer) is a senior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Literature. Previous acting credits at Knox include Islander in The Island of Slaves, Hastings in Richard III, and Alan in Minnesota Moon. His design credits include Doctor Faustus (Set Design) and The Learning Plays (Asst. Costume Design). He would like to thank Neil Blackadder for casting him in both his first and last fall terms at Knox. He'd also like to thank Margo Shively and Craig Choma for all their guidance. Peter is from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

ADAM ROTHKOPF (Egon Krause) is a freshman from Miami. This is his first Knox production, but he has performed in several shows outside of Knox, some highlights of which include James and the Giant Peach (James) and multiple self-written plays. He is extremely grateful to his directors, who encouraged him to audition even though he wasn't at all confident enough to do so of his own free will!

MEG TUCKER (Martha Krause) is a freshman with an undecided major. This is her first production at Knox College. She would like to thank the department for being so welcoming and her family for their endless support. Meg is from Batavia, IL.

Who's Who in the Creative Team

NEIL BLACKADDER (Director) has taught at Knox since 1998, in the areas of dramatic literature and theatre history, dramaturgy, and playwriting. Before Sunrise is the sixteenth show he has directed and or co-directed in Harbach, ranging from Moliere, Schiller, and Chekhov to the college world premiere of Jamil Khoury's Mosque Alert. In 2008, he directed the English-language premiere of his own translation from Rebekka Kricheldorf's Rosa and Blanca. Neil's translations have also been produced professionally in the UK and the US and recognized with many grants and residencies including from PEN, the Howard Foundation, and the Banff Centre. Neil grew up and went to university in England, and first came to the US for graduate study in Comparative Literature. He is the author of Performing in Opposition: Modern Theatre and the Scandalized Audience, and of the short play "Dad's Guns," published in the collection 24 Gun Control Plays.

ALLISON STOUT (Assistant Director) is a junior majoring in Theater. At Knox, she has been production dramaturg for The Importance of Being Earnest, assistant director of The Learning Plays, and directed Almost-Never Land. With other companies, she has worked in various capacities both on stage and behind the scenes. Allison is from Royal Oak, Michigan.

AMANDA ROTH (Stage Manager) is a Sophomore majoring in Theatre. Her previ-

ous credits at Knox include Long Ago and Far Away (Director), The Drowning Girls (Assistant Director/Assistant Stage Manager), and The Glass Menagerie (Assistant Stage Manager). Amanda serves as Production Manager of the Theatre Advisory Board, and will participate in Rep Term 2019. She thanks her friends and mentors in the Theatre department for encouraging her in the challenges she has taken on this year. Amanda is from Woodland Park, Colorado.

EMMA BOHMAN (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Sophomore intending to major in Theatre and History. She has previously been seen at Knox College in The Drowning Girls (Alice Burnham) and The Glass Menagerie (Amanda Wingfield). She would like to thank Amanda Roth and Jamie Heller for being wonderfully kind and teaching her everything she knows about stage management. Emma is from Schaumburg, Illinois.

JAMIE HELLER (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Sophomore majoring in Psychology and minoring in Theatre. She has previously worked as assistant lighting designer in Top Girls. She would like to thank her friends, her boyfriend, and the staff at the Gizmo for helping her through this term. Jamie is from Plano, Illinois.

CRAIG CHOMA (Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Technical Director)

Craig is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Knox College (resident designer and technical director). Favorite Knox designs include The Glass Menagerie, The Drowning Girls, The Nether, The Secret In The Wings, Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere, Rapture, Blister, Burn, The Caffè Cino Project, In The Next Room (or the vibrator play), Next Fall, The Green Bird, Caucasian Chalk Circle, Under Construction, Twelfth Night, A Lie of The Mind, Medea, Angels in America, Intimate Apparel, Rosa & Blanca, The Skriker, Noises Off, A Moon for the Misbegotten, As You Like It, The Grapes of Wrath, War and Peace, Arcadia and Macbeth. Craig is also an inaugural member of Vitalist Theatre in Chicago, whose designs include the award winning productions of A Passage to India (sets) and Mother Courage and Her Children (sets), Merchant on Venice (sets), Anna Karenina (sets), Floating Rhoda and the Glue Man (sets), King Lear (lighting), The Mill On The Floss (set and lighting), and the world premiere of Anung's First American Christmas (set). Other Chicago designs include the sets for Death and the Maiden (Timeline), Pippin, Night Sky, A Midsummer Night's Dream and Museum. Craig holds a BA in Theatre and Philosophy (Knox College) and MFA's in both Scenic and Lighting Design (Carnegie Mellon University). Craig thanks his amazing wife and two beautiful daughters for their boundless creativity and unconditional love.

MARGO SHIVELY (Costume Designer) began her career in the fashion industry after graduating from the Art Institute of Chicago. She interned with Oleg Cassini and designed and freelanced for several years before coming to Knox to teach costume design. In

her thirty-four years at Knox, Margo has designed -- more frequently co-designed with students -- a number of plays. She has also designed for the Black Hills Playhouse in Custer, South Dakota and is a regular designer and consultant for Vitalist Theatre Company in Chicago, where she has been actively involved since its first production of The Mill On The Floss in 1997. She is an active member of the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology, participating in symposiums on design and curriculum across the country. Her students have gone on to pursue Master's degrees at Yale, Carnegie Mellon, University of Connecticut at Storrs, and The University of Texas at Austin. Of her many experiences, she is most grateful for, and proud of, the opportunity to work with students who share her passion for design. Margo is from Galesburg, Illinois.

PAULA PIERCE (Assistant Costume Designer) is a junior majoring in Fine Arts and minoring in Arts Administration. She is a teaching assistant in the Costume Shop and has previously worked on costuming for The Glass Menagerie and Doctor Faustus. She is from Tampa, Florida.

MEGAN MOLLOY (Sound Designer) is a post-bac from Knoxville, Iowa, where she spent the summer explaining that--yes--she would be working for the Knox Theatre Department this year, and--no--she wasn't very theatrically involved before graduating, but--hey--managing the New Plays Festival is an amazing opportunity to explore a newfound passion.

ROZ ZUCKER (Props Master) is a first year with an undecided major. She is very excited to be props master for her first show at Knox. Roz is from Oak Park, IL.

Scene Shop Teaching Assistants

Zack Krawczyk, Cammie Stein, Joel Schleicher, Zach Farmer, Ollie Jeoung, Mitchel Boyle, Katherine Asteriadou, Marion Frank, Joel Willison

Scene Shop Volunteers

Erin Yu, Jack Harman, Roz Zucker, Jake Wertz, Iris Berto, Sam Esteep, John Harden, Allison Stout, Jamie Heller, Emma Bowman, Tallulah Nepstad

Costume Shop Teaching Assistants

Flora Florova, Olivia Lemke, Peter Rule, Morgan Bacon, Jo Hill, Paula Pierce