

Join us next year for these upcoming productions:

Feb 25-March 5, 2016

****Repertory Term XVII****

NEIL GAIMAN'S
NEVERWHERE

adapted for the stage by Rob Kauzlaric
directed by Liz Carlin-Metz

If We Were Birds

by Erin Shields
directed by Jeff Grace

April-May 2016

New Plays Festival

written, directed, and performed
by Knox Students & Alumni

Knox College
Theatre presents

THE
ISLAND
OF
SLAVES

By Pierre Marivaux
Translated and directed
by Neil Blackadder

October 28-31, 2015
7:30 p.m.
Harbach Theatre, CFA

WELCOME TO KNOX COLLEGE THEATRE

Welcome to the first production of Knox Theatre's 2015-16 mainstage season. The work we'll present this year ranges from an eighteenth-century French play to a festival of brand new scripts. Winter term brings Repertory Term XVII, followed by our second New Plays Festival.

We begin with a play from 1725 by Pierre Marivaux. I had various reasons for choosing to direct this intriguing one-act by one of the outstanding playwrights of the eighteenth century: I wanted the season to include something from an earlier period, and I was confident the issues raised by this particular play would engage our audience. I also had long wanted to work on one of my own translations through a collaborative process where the students in the company would contribute to the fine-tuning of the text—more about this in my Director's Notes.

In winter, a group of forty 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 XVII 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 an adaptation of a beloved fantasy novel, *Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere* by Rob Kazlaric—a play Liz has wanted to stage at Knox since she saw the acclaimed original production at Lifeline in Chicago. Jeff Grace will direct the first ever Rep Term production in Studio, of *If We Were Birds* by Canadian playwright Erin Shields, which explores sexual violence against women during several twentieth-century wars by way of the mythological story of Procne and Philomela.

In spring term we will repeat the successful event we debuted in 2013 with New Plays Festival II, 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

departments.knox.edu/theatre

THEATRE DEPARTMENT FACULTY

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

Knox College Theatre
presents

THE ISLAND OF SLAVES

BY PIERRE MARIVAUX

TRANSLATED AND DIRECTED BY NEIL BLACKADDER

SCENIC DESIGN BY CRAIG CHOMA

COSTUME DESIGN BY MARGO SHIVELY

LIGHTING DESIGN BY CRAIG CHOMA

SOUND DESIGN BY SAVANNAH TRENT

HARBACH THEATRE

FORD CENTER FOR THE FINE ARTS

OCTOBER 28-31, 2013

Please:

No photographs, video, texting, or recording.

Turn off all cell phones, pagers, notification alerts,

or anything else that may emit light or sound.

THE CAST

In order of appearance

IPHICRATES.....	Lee Foxall
HARLEQUIN.....	Van Johnson
ISLANDER.....	Parker Adams
ISLANDER.....	Katie Greve
ISLANDER.....	Nabiha Mansoor
ISLANDER.....	Peter Rule
CLÉANTHIS.....	Hanna Levine
EUPHROSYNE.....	Sophie Utpadel

SETTING

An island in the Mediterranean Sea

The Island of Slaves runs approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes

SPECIAL THANKS

Marty Helms, Paul Kenney, Gideon Lester (Bard College),
Schahrazede Longou, Liz Carlin-Metz, Todd Smith, Theatre Advisory
Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Chairperson.....	Neil Blackadder
House Management.....	Emma Lipson & Student Volunteers
Reservations & Tickets.....	Jordan Hurst
Box Office.....	Student Volunteers
Poster Design.....	Donna Boguslasvsky
Programs.....	Jordan Hurst
Publicity.....	Peter Bailley, Jordan Hurst, Cast & Crew
Ushers.....	Student Volunteers

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



French playwright Pierre Marivaux (1688- 1763) is best known for comedies that borrowed many features from the *commedia dell'arte*, but explored the psychology of love in greater depth than was possible in the Italian improvised form. Marivaux's plays often involve characters disguising themselves in order to find out the true nature of potential spouses. Thus in his most famous play, *The Game of Love and Chance* (1730), Dorante devises the plan to switch places with his servant Harlequin before he meets Silvia, the young

woman he's supposed to marry; but Silvia has had the same idea and is pretending to be her maid Lisette.

But Marivaux also wrote several plays that examine more than just what makes some men and women fall in love with each other—social issues such as relations between the sexes. And in *The Island of Slaves*, written in 1725, Marivaux boldly imagined a situation in which, rather than choosing to take on the role of their servants, the higher-class characters are obliged to do so.

For our production of *The Island of Slaves*, we began with a translation I'd prepared and which I wanted to refine with the students in the cast. I took this approach partly because the play is a comedy, and translators often have to in effect find their own solutions for humor that can't be directly transferred from the original text. I also decided to replace the character Trivelin, who in Marivaux's play is the only inhabitant of the island who speaks, with an ensemble of four islanders who share his lines. During rehearsals, I've invited the actors to improvise on the basis of the text we started with, and quite a lot of what you'll hear came from those explorations, as did much of what accompanies the play's action.

Our company has had many lively conversations about the position Marivaux ultimately takes in *The Island of Slaves* regarding relations between masters and servants, and I'm intrigued to see how our audiences respond. I'd encourage you to keep in mind both that the form of slavery Marivaux took as his starting-point was that practiced in antiquity, and that in the 1720s, many decades prior to the French Revolution, merely calling into question the idea that some human beings should wield power over others amounted to a progressive stance. We haven't scheduled formal post-show discussions, but we invite you to let us know after the performance how you react to our take on Marivaux's nearly three-hundred-year-old play.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Neil Blackadder
Assistant Director.....	Megan Smith
Stage Manager.....	Emma Lipson
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Aidan Murphy, John Flanagan, Ly Luong
Scene Designer	Craig Choma
Scenic Artist	Craig Choma
Technical Director.....	Craig Choma
Scenery/Lighting Staff.....	Nic Chapin, Moriah Chermak Sophie Click, Brady Comenduley, Danny Donnelly, Nathan- Levine, Emma Lipson, Gregg Miller, Julia Porter, Ben Rezko, Joel Schleicher, Eunice Shek
Scene Shop Volunteers.....	Jasmine Artis, Jack Harman, Andre Leewright, Trevor Marshall, Theresa Murphy, Mitchell Sullens, Ali Sweet & Students enrolled in THTR 121: Design Technology for Stage & Screen
Costume Designer	Margo Shively
Assistant Costume Designer.....	Jayel Gant
Costume Studio Assistants.....	Morgan Jellison, Katie Hutton, Kristina Mengis, Willa Coufal, Jayel Gant, Ren Barkley
Costume Shop Volunteers.....	Bridget Barnhart, Amber Fang, Caroline Ahlgreen, Nhi Cung, Tate Shumaker, Joel Schleicher, and THTR 224
Hair and Make-Up.....	Jayel Gant
Lighting Designer.....	Craig Choma
Master Electrician.....	Sophie Click
Lighting Board Operator	Emma Lipson
Videography Designer	Mali Garten
Sound Designer	Savannah Trent
Assistant Sound Designer.....	Alicoe Sweet
Sound Engineer	Joel Schleicher
Sound Board Operator.....	John Flanagan
Props Master	Ren Barkey

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

LEE FOXALL (Iphicrates) is a Junior with a major in Environmental Studies. He has been involved in three other performances at Knox including *Hot 'n Throbbing*, *Iphigenia 2.0*, and if you were lucky, you may have even seen him sporting stars and stripes underwear during The Café Cino Project, in *Who Killed my Bald Sister Sophie?* He is proud to have been a part of this fascinating production, and would like to thank Puff, the Brothers of Sigma Chi, curtains (shower and otherwise), and his parents, without whose support he would probably still be confused by simple things, like why anyone would ever buy Dijonaise. Lee hails from Portland, Oregon.

VAN JOHNSON (Harlequin) is a first year wanting to major in Theatre and minor in Africana Studies. He has performed extensively in productions back home such as *Love and Information*, *West Side Story*, *Haunting of Hill House*, *Legally Blonde*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Servant of Two Masters*, *The Trojan Women*, *Fame*, and two play festivals in a professional theatre in his hometown. He would like to thank his director Neil Blackadder, for his outstanding leadership, and his family for their support. Van is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

PARKER ADAMS (Islander) is a Junior pursuing a double major in Creative Writing and Psychology. Involvement with *Island of Slaves* has been their first theater production at Knox. Parker would like to thank their friends for their support, the cast and crew for their patience and ingenuity, and Crystal for everything.

KATIE GREVE (Islander) is a senior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Creative Writing. A deviser and improviser extraordinaire, she's performed quite a lot in Kresge and several times in Studio. She's quite tickled to finally be performing on Harbach, completing the stage trifecta. She would like to thank all the people who told her to go out for this show "because physical comedy is, like, [her] thing." She would also like to thank her housemates for their patience and the props crew for the apples. Lastly, the lighting, set, and costume design for this show are amazing and being in the middle of it all is breathtaking. Katie is from Crystal Lake, Illinois.

NABIHA MANSOOR (Islander) is a first year who is currently undecided. This is her first time being involved in a production at Knox. She would like to thank the directors, cast, and crew for making this experience incredibly welcoming and fun! The kindness

of everyone involved is very much appreciated. Nabiha is from Schaumburg, Illinois.

PETER RULE (Islander) is a first year and although he's never trod the boards in Galesburg, previous roles include Caliban in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Reverend David in *The Foreigner* by Larry Shue. He's also directed a production of *The Road and The River* by Ian Pierce. He'd like to thank Neil Blackadder for giving him such a wonderful opportunity in his very first term. Peter is from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Enjoy the show!

HANNA LEVINE (Cléanthis) is a Sophomore who plans to major in Theatre and double minor in Film Studies and Creative Writing. At Knox, Hanna has acted in *Play* as well as several Playground productions. She has also served as Props Master for *Mosque Alert* in Winter 2015, and *Pamela* in Spring 2015. She would like to thank her dad for getting her this far and Megan Smith for being there

to help when she's needed her. Hanna is from Irvine, California and misses the ocean.

SOPHIE UTPADEL (Euphrosyne) is a Senior Theatre major with a self-designed minor in Performing Arts Education. Past roles at Knox College include Maybelle/Allison in *This is the Rill Speaking* and Doll Common in *Playhouse Creatures*. She has appeared in various student written productions, including *McComb 1964* and *On the Day of the Shooting*. She has volunteered in the costume shop and was on run crew for *Next Fall*. *Island of Slaves* is her first performance in a mainstage production, and she is very excited to have the opportunity. Sophie would like to thank the entire production team for their hard work, as well as her parents, her sisters, and her squad for their endless support and love. None of this would be possible without them. Sophie is from Phoenix, Arizona.

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. *The Island of Slaves* is the thirteenth show he has directed or co-directed in Harbach, ranging from Molière, Schiller, and Chekhov to the college world premiere of Jamil Khoury's *Mosque Alert*. In 2008, he directed the English-language world premiere of his own translation from German of Rebekka Kricheldorf's *Rosa and Blanca*. Neil's translations have also been produced professionally in the UK and 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 Opposition: Modern Theater and the Scandalized Audience*, and of the short play "Dad's Guns," published in the collection *24 Gun Control Plays*.

MEGAN SMITH (Assistant Director) is a senior Theatre major with a double minor in Latin and Religious Studies. Some of her past theatre credits include *Crash* by *Sunny Bow-Mar Lake* (AD), *Hot 'n' Throbbing* (AD), *In the Next Room* (AD), *Iphigenia 2.0* (Props), *Stop Kiss* (Props), and *Rapture, Blister, Burn* (Props). She would like to thank her parents for encouraging

her to pursue every passion, her cast & crew for creating a wonderful experience and her closest friends for always making her laugh. Megan is from Lawrence, Kansas.

CRAIG CHOMA (Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Technical Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Knox College (resident designer and technical director). Favorite Knox designs include *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), *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 lovely

his lovely 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 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, Universtiy 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.

JAYEL GANT (Assistant Costume Designer) is a Sophomore and is currently undeclared. Her previous theater experiences include *Mosque Alert* (Hadiya Hussien), *Pamela*

(Pamela), and working in the costume shop her freshman year. Jayel has enjoyed working with the cast and costumes this term. Jayel is from Kansas City, MO

SAVANNAH TRENT (Sound Designer) is a senior Neuroscience major and Creative Writing minor. She sound designed and helped backstage for *Pamela*, and helped create minor props for *Clean House*. She would like to thank the wonderful production team and cast of *Island of Slaves* for being so fun to work with. Savannah is from Dunlap, Illinois.

ALICOE SWEET (Assistant Sound Designer) is a first year and this is her first production at Knox. She wants to thank Savannah Trent for giving her the opportunity to work on this production. Alicoe is from Glenview, Illinois.

REN BARKEY (Props Master) is a sophomore with a potential major in Environmental Studies and minors in Studio Art and Theatre. They work in the costume shop and have previously acted in *Playground*. They would like to thank everyone involved with *Island of Slaves* for being super awesome and friendly people. Ren is from Des Moines, Iowa.

MALI GARTEN (Videography) is a sophomore who is still an undecided major. She did run crew for *Stop Kiss*. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her. Mali is from St. Louis, Missouri.

EMMA LIPSON (Stage Manager) is a sophomore Theatre major with a potential minor in Business and Management. This is her first show as Stage Manager. Past credits as Assistant Stage Manager include *The Caffe Cino Project*, *Mosque Alert*, and *Rapture, Blister, Burn*. She would like to thank her cast and crew for such a great experience, her parents and friends for encouraging her theatre dreams, Jeff Grace and Neil Blackadder for giving her the opportunity to be on a Stage Management team at Knox, and Emily Ioppolo and Anna Karwowska for teaching her how to be a Stage Manager. Emma is from Norwalk, Connecticut.

AIDAN MURPHY (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore who has written and acted in various staged readings. Last year, he wrote a one-act called *Burning Out* that was performed in the studio theater. This is his first mainstage production. He would like to thank his family, his friends, and of course the Academy. Dreams really do come true.

JOHN FLANAGAN(Assistant Stage Manager) is a Freshman and is an undecided major. This is his first show at Knox and he is very excited to continue pursuing theatre at Knox. He was born in Wilmette, IL and would like to thank his parents for supporting him through his theatre endeavors.

LY LUONG (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman with an intended major/minor in Journalism/Communication. This is the first time she has joined a theatre production as an assistant stage manager, and it has become one of the best things that ever happened to her. She would like to thank the production team (especially her fabulous SM and ASM team), her family and friends for their awesomeness, love and support. Ly is from Hanoi, Vietnam.