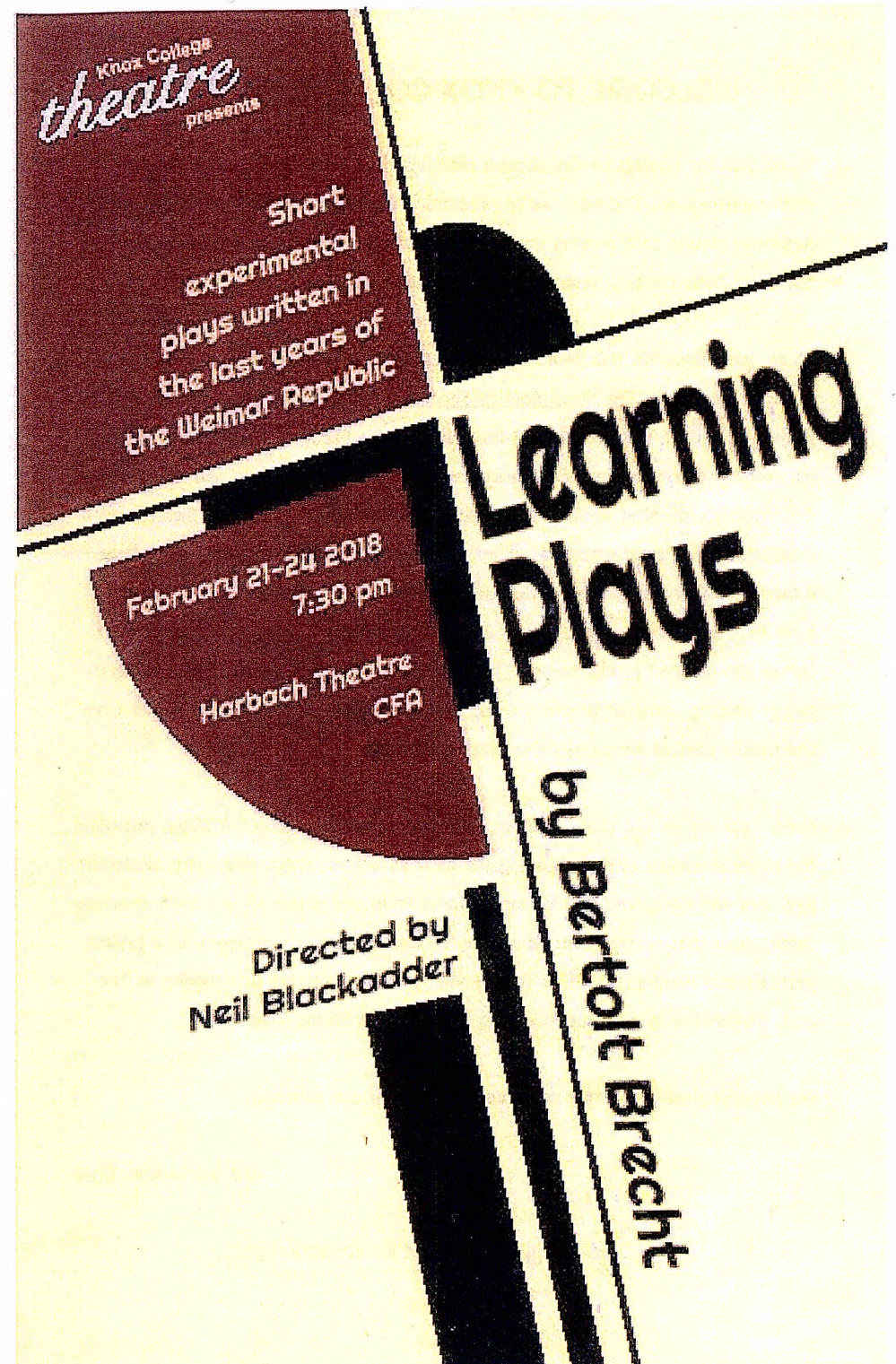


Join us Spring Term for our production of:

The Glass Menagerie

by Tennessee Williams
directed by Jeff Grace

May 9 - 12, 2018



WELCOME TO KNOX COLLEGE THEATRE

Thank you for coming to the second production of Knox Theatre's 2017-18 mainstage season. The work we're presenting this year ranges from a well-known American classic to a moving contemporary play about women's vulnerability in the early 20th century, and these rarely staged plays by Bertolt Brecht.

When we announced this year's season last April, it included one of Brecht's best known major plays, The Good Soul of Szechuan, which I was scheduled to direct in the same term I'd teach a 300-level seminar on Brecht's work. In late October, shortly after auditions had been announced, students within and beyond the department protested against our planned production of Good Soul. Significant divergence of opinion emerged regarding Brecht's play and its treatment of the Asian setting and characters. Without sufficient time remaining at the end of term to engage in adequate dialogue about those issues, the faculty decided to cancel the planned production of The Good Soul of Szechuan, but I was committed to staging some of Brecht's work, and settled on several shorter works from the middle part of his career: the "learning plays."

Every year we ensure that we offer variety in the faculty-directed plays, providing the many students who work alongside us – as actors, stage managers, assistant directors and designers, and in our costume shop and scene shop – with enriching experiences that complement what they're learning in the classroom. In a typical year, several hundred students (only some of them majoring or minoring in Theatre) participate in our productions in Harbach and Studio Theatre.

We hope you will enjoy this show and the rest of our season.

-Neil Blackadder, Chair

Check out our website at knoxtheatre.org

Knox College Theatre
presents

Learning Plays

By Bertolt Brecht

"He Who Says Yes / He Who Says No"
Translated by Wolfgang Sauerlander

"The Exception and the Rule"
Translated by Tom Osborn

Directed by Neil Blackadder
Set Design by Craig Choma
Lighting Design by Craig Choma
Costume Design by Margo Shively
Sound Design by Joel Schleicher
Videography by Craig Choma

HARBACH THEATRE
FORD CENTER FOR THE FINE ARTS
FEBRUARY 21 - 24, 2018

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

What you're about to watch is an experimental production of some short plays that were originally conceived very much as experiments. In late 1920s Germany, Brecht began to write the works he came to call *Lehrstücke* – “for which the nearest English equivalent I can find is the learning play” (as he wrote in The New York Times in 1935). In these short pieces, most of them developed in collaboration with composers including Kurt Weill and Paul Hindemith, and some of them devised to be broadcast on the radio, he aimed to explore a new approach to the relationship of performance and audience, in which those who would learn wouldn't be the spectators so much as the (often amateur) performers. As he wrote about one of the earliest *Lehrstücke* in 1929, “The audience therefore, inasmuch as it is not involved in the experiment, would fulfill the role not so much of a recipient as of a mere bystander.” Looking back over Brecht's career, the learning plays stand out as an especially concerted effort on his part – not long before he was compelled to leave Germany for fifteen years – to engage others in his work not just as passive spectators but as active participants. Der Jasager (“He Who Says Yes”) was produced hundreds of times in Germany in the early 1930s.

In our production of some of these rarely staged pieces, we've experimented with various ways for our ensemble of eight actors to play the different roles. Also, in keeping with Brecht's ideas about how best to promote “complex seeing” in the audience, we've tried out different ways to incorporate music, choral speaking, projections, and other elements. Collaboration was always fundamental to Brecht's playwriting and directing, and our rehearsal process with Learning Plays has been very collaborative. I've learned about and drawn on the particular skills of the ensemble, the dramaturg composed music, and my two student Assistant Directors have been very involved in shaping our staging of these scripts. We hope you enjoy the outcome of that process.

SPECIAL THANKS

Stefan Brün, Artistic Director of Prop Theater, Chicago.

Casey Brayndick, Mitchel Boyle, Emma Lipson, Paula Pierce, Ash Jennings, Mia Rousonelos

BERTOLT BRECHT AND LEARNING PLAYS: A CHRONOLOGY



1898: Bertolt Brecht born in Augsburg, southern Germany

1922: First production of a play by Brecht: Drums in the Night in Munich

1928: Premiere of The Threepenny Opera, which becomes a huge hit

1929-32: Productions of learning plays

1933: One day after the Reichstag fire, Brecht leaves Germany; he lives in exile in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, America, and Switzerland

1948: Returns to East Berlin; the following year, he founds the Berliner Ensemble

1954-55: Berliner Ensemble tours to other European cities with its productions of Brecht's plays Mother Courage and her Children and The Caucasian Chalk Circle

1956: Brecht dies in Berlin

THE ENSEMBLE

Casey Brayndick	Einar Pieler
Sebastiano Masi	Joel Willison
Pete Petersen	Noa Quilantan
Shannon Mindlin	Anna Rhodes

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Neil Blackadder
Assistant Director	Sarah Lowe
Assistant Director	Allison Stout
Stage Manager	Eliza Dehlin
Set Designer	Craig Choma
Lighting Designer	Craig Choma
Co-Lighting Designer	Zak Metalsky
Videographer	Craig Choma
Technical Director	Craig Choma
Master Electrician	Emma Lipson
Sound Designer	Joel Schleicher
Costume Designer	Margo Shively
Assistant Costume Designer	Peter Rule
Props Designer	Natasha Caudill
Dramaturg	Aidan Murphy
Composer	Aidan Murphy
Movement Coach	Casey Brayndick
Lighting Board Operator	Eliza Dehlin
Sound Board Operator	Marion Frank
Violence Choreographer	Mitchel Boyle
Scene Shop Teaching Assistants	Mitchel Boyle, Brady Comenduley, Jack Harman, Jennie Jeoung, Emma Lipson, Ben Rezko, Joel Schleicher, Josiah Schock, Eunice Shek, Cammie Stein, Joel Willison
Scene Shop Volunteers	Katherine Asteriadou, Marion Frank, Zak Metalsky, Nico Colangelo, Jo Hill
Costume Shop Teaching Assistants	Willa Coufal, Jayel Gant, Nola Thompson, Ren Barkey, Peter Rule, Olivia Lemke, Flora Florova, Evelyn Young, Paula Pierce
Costume Shop Volunteers	Kaelyn Melrose, Mari Hockett

This production runs approximately 90 minutes. There will be no intermission.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Department Chair	Neil Blackadder
Poster	Craig Choma
Program	Nabiha Mansoor
Publicity	Student Volunteers
House Managers	Ben Rezko and Olivia Lemke
Box Office and Ushers	Student Volunteers

Please:

No photographs, videos, texting, or recording. Turn off all cell phones, pages, notification alerts or anything else that might emit light or sound.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

SHANNON MINDLIN (Ensemble) is a junior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Literature. She has previously been seen in a few Studio Theatre productions at Knox College. She would like to thank her mom, dad, and sister for encouraging her to pursue her dreams no matter what, and she would like to give a BIG THANKS to Casey for helping with movement work and making sure that she is always safe. Shannon is dying for you to see the show. Shannon is from Tallahassee, FL.

PETE PETERSEN (Ensemble) is a junior majoring in Anthropology/Sociology and minoring in Studio Art. She has previously been seen at Knox College in Sure Thing (Betty) and The Bald Soprano (Mrs. Martin). She would like to thank her mom and grandma for their continuing support of her artistic pursuits. Pete is from Sycamore, IL.

CASEY BRAYNDICK (Ensemble) is a sophomore majoring in Elementary Education and minoring in Dance. Casey has previously been seen in the Knox Theatre Department's show The Importance of Being Earnest. She has also been seen dancing in Terpsichore's Out of the Shadows and Kaleidoscope as well as the Dance Program's Spring Dances showcase. Casey would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her in all her artistic endeavors. Casey is from Des Plaines, IL (which is a suburb of Chicago).

JOEL WILLISON (Ensemble) is a sophomore with a Theatre major and Journalism

minor. Joel has directed Minnesota Moon and Marigold; a sibling sketch as well as acted in Playground. He would like to give thanks to his sister for inspiring him to join Theatre and to Brady Comenduley for encouraging him to join Theatre at Knox. Joel is from Evanston, Illinois.

ANNA RHODES (Ensemble) is a first-year majoring in Political Science. This is her first performance here at Knox College. She would like to thank Sophie and her parents for always encouraging her love of theater. Anna is from Avon, IL.

EINAR PIELER (Ensemble) is a first year at Knox College, and is undeclared. He has participated in two terms of Playground here at Knox, as well as starring in multiple high school productions. Einar would like to give thanks to his parents for enormous encouragement and support, and his wonderful cast for making his first full show at Knox that much more spectacular. He is from Crystal Lake, IL.

SEBASTIANO MASI (Ensemble) is a member of the Class of 2021. He is from Chicago, IL and has been doing theater for...a while. Although it says he is a creative writing major, he mostly just likes writing stories.

NOA QUILANTAN (Ensemble) is a 5th-year senior in her first main

stage production since the days of high school musical theatre, back in Cook County. Past roles include minor and ensemble parts in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Big: The Musical, and Damn Yankees. Though a sociology major, she brings her lessons of emotional and social

dynamics with her into the space of fiction. Thank you to the entire cast and crew for a space that feels like a home during a particularly tough term, and to mother Susan for attempting to keep decent food coming in the mail.

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. Learning Plays is the fifteenth show he has directed 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 German of 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 Performing Opposition: Modern Theatre and the Scandalized Audience, and of the short play "Dad's Guns," published in the collection 24 Gun Control Plays.

SARAH LOWE (Assistant Director) is a senior Theatre major with a minor in Computer Science. She has previously

been seen on stage at Knox College in Come and Go (Ru), Neverwhere, and several roles in New Plays Festival. Sarah has also been involved behind the scenes in several capacities, in such shows as Pamela (Assistant Stage Manager), Flop Cop (Stage Manager), Neverwhere (Assistant Stage Manager), Playground (director), Richard III (Assistant Director), and most recently Doctor Faustus (director). Outside Knox, she has worked frequently with the Shakespeare Festival St. Louis as an Educational Assistant and Green Show performer. Sarah is from St. Louis, MO.

ALLISON STOUT (Assistant Director) is a sophomore majoring in Theater. At Knox, she was the production dramaturg for The Importance of Being Earnest. With other companies, she has worked in a multitude of different capacities both on stage and behind the scenes. She would like to thank her family for supporting her singular interest. She would also like to thank the production team, everyone who supported her, and everyone who pretended to not see her stress-cry. Allison is from Royal Oak, Michigan.

ELIZA DEHLIN (Stage Manager) is a sophomore with a major in History. Previous stage management credits include productions of Harold Pinter's The Birthday Party, George Bernard Shaw's You Never Can Tell, and Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest (twice). She would like to thank everyone who has spoken to her this term, she's sorry if she stress-cried in front of you. Special shoutout of gratitude to Allison Stout and Emma Lipson for always having her back throughout this production. Eliza is from Viroqua, Wisconsin.

CRAIG CHOMA (Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Projection Designer, Technical Director). Craig is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Knox College (resident designer and technical director). Favorite Knox designs include The Drowning Girls, Richard III, The Nether, The Secret In The Wings, Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere, Rapture, Blister, Burn, The Caffe 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 amazing wife and two beautiful daughters for their boundless creativity and unconditional love.

ZAK METALSKY (Co-Lighting Designer) is a senior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Religious Studies. He has done lighting design and/or electrician work at Knox College for Richard III, Doctor Faustus, and Dead Man's Cell Phone, as well as off-campus at The Orpheum for Elf the Musical Jr. He would like to thank Craig Choma for all of his support and leadership, as well as his family and all of his friends at Knox. Zak is from Appleton, WI.

AIDAN MURPHY (Dramaturg and Composer) is a senior Creative Writing and Theater double major. He has written various shows for studio theater, and worked on the main stage as an actor and assistant stage manager. This is his first time serving as dramaturg or composer in a theatrical production. He hopes these Learning Plays prove instructive. He is from Prairie View, IL.

MARGO SHIVELY (Assistant 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, 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.

PETER RULE (Assistant Costume Designer) is a junior, majoring in theatre with a minor in literature. Past credits at Knox include Richard III (Hastings) and The Island of Slaves (Islander), as well as Doctor Faustus (Scenic Design). He'd like to thank Margo Shively and Craig Choma for fostering his interest in design. Peter is from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

NATASHA CAUDILL (Props Designer) is a sophomore majoring in American Studies and minoring in Business. She has previously worked as an assistant stage manager on Knox's productions of The Nether and The Importance of Being Earnest and she worked as a prop designer on the studio theatre show Top Girls. She is from Memphis, Tennessee.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT FACULTY

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