

JOIN US IN HARBACH FOR OUR 2014-2015 SEASON:

THE CAFFE CINO PROJECT
directed by Jeff Grace

In 1958, a gay owned and operated coffeehouse known as the Caffe Cino opened in New York's Greenwich Village and slowly began staging works by budding young playwrights. This café-turned-theatre initiated the rise of the 1960s Off-Off-Broadway movement. Utilizing detailed forensic design, the Department of Theatre will reconstruct the Cino coffeehouse inside Knox's Studio Theatre in order to present the following four productions originally produced at the Caffe:

Further, in the spirit of historic Off-Off-Broadway, the Caffe Cino Project will also host one week of performances of two student-directed and student-written new plays.

Mosque Alert
by Jamil Khoury
directed by Neil Blackadder

In producing *Mosque Alert*, Knox will assist with the development of a new play by Jamil Khoury, Artistic Director of Chicago theatre company Silk Road Rising. Khoury will visit campus several times before and during rehearsals and production, and deliver presentations with video screenings for the entire campus community.

Mosque Alert tells the story of two suburban American families living in Naperville, Illinois - one nominally Christian, the other observantly Muslim - who find their lives intertwined and interrupted by a proposal to build a new mosque in their community. The proposed Islamic Center of DuPage County is a large, architecturally ambitious complex slated to be built on the site of a much beloved though now defunct church in Naperville's downtown. Part docudrama, part agitprop theatre, part family ruckus, *Mosque Alert* explores who we are as 21st Century Americans amidst debates about community, identity, religious pluralism, multiculturalism, Islamophobia, national security, and civil rights.

Rapture, Blister, Burn
by Gina Gionfriddo
directed by Jeff Grace

A finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Drama, Gionfriddo's play offers a multigenerational examination of women besieged by changing attitudes toward feminism, marriage, and success. Former college classmates, Catherine (a flourishing academic) and Gwen (a married mother of two), reunite decades later to discover that each covets the other's life. As they struggle to reconcile the principles of feminist theory with their individual aspirations, the women realize that the pursuit of happiness is more challenging than it seems.

KNOX COLLEGE
THEATRE PRESENTS

MAPLE AND
VINE

BY
JORDAN
HARRISON

DIRECTED BY NEIL BLACKADDER

7:30
MAY 7-10, 2014
Harbach Theatre, CFA

\$10 FOR ADULTS
\$5 FOR SENIORS AND ALUMNI
FREE TO KNOX COMMUNITY
AND STUDENTS

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
AT THE DOOR AN HOUR
BEFORE EACH PERFORMANCE

"Maple and Vine" is presented by
special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Welcome to Knox College Theatre

Welcome to the third and final mainstage production of the Department of Theatre's 2013-14 season. Our current season of three award-winning plays from the contemporary American theatre began with Geoffrey Nauffts' *Next Fall* - directed by Jeff Grace - which explored the intersection of faith and sexuality in contemporary America, then continued last term with Sarah Ruhl's *In the Next Room (or the vibrator play)* - directed by Liz Carlin-Metz - which cast a twenty-first-century feminist eye on the Victorian treatment of "hysteria."

For our spring production, Neil Blackadder directs Jordan Harrison's *Maple and Vine*, which has been staged at theatres in New York and many other major American cities since premiering at the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville in 2011. In 2012, the play was nominated for the Outstanding New York Theatre Award by GLAAD - the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Faculty designers Craig Choma and Margo Shively have taken the lead in designing the sets, lights, videography, and costumes, and have worked alongside approximately 45 students to realize this production.

Each year the audiences for our productions in Harbach and Studio number over three thousand. And the students who participate in those shows come from across the academic disciplines, represent all four class-years, and annually number approximately 200. Every year we seek to enlarge the classroom experience by manifesting on stage the material investigated in books and discussions, with computers and construction tools, and through critical papers and experiential work in text and performance. We select a range of plays, which, if considered over the four-year tenure of a Knox student, will expose that student to a wide range of lenses with which to view the human condition. We are pleased to announce the 2014-15 season, which will examine identity and the American conscience - please see the back page of this program.

Enjoy the show!

— Liz Carlin-Metz, Chair

Theatre Department Faculty

Smith V. Brand Distinguished Prof. of Theatre..... Liz Carlin-Metz
Professor of TheatreNeil Blackadder
Associate Professor of TheatreCraig Choma
Assistant Professor of Theatre..... Jeff Grace
Lecturer in Costume Design..... Margo Shively
Writer-in-Residence Sherwood Kiraly
Distinguished Professor Emeritus Robert C. Whitlatch

Knox College Theatre
presents

Maple & Vine

by JORDAN HARRISON

DIRECTED by Neil Blackadder

SCENIC, LIGHTING, AND VIDEOGRAPHY DESIGN by Craig Choma

COSTUME DESIGN by Margo Shively & Carly Berinstein

SOUND DESIGN by Jackie Hewelt

DRAMATURGY by Bridget Golembiewski & Chloe Vollenweider

Harbach Theatre

Ford Center for the Fine Arts

May 7 - 10, 2014

There will be a post-show discussion with the dramaturgs, director, designers, and cast following the performance on Friday May 9.

Please:

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, notification alerts, or anything else that may emit light or sound.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of "Maple and Vine" Off-Broadway in 2011. "Maple and Vine" premiered at the Humana Festival of New American Plays in 2011. The Play was commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. It was originally developed by members of The Civilians, and written with support from Guggenheim and Hodder Fellowships. It received developmental support from Playwrights Horizons, the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School New Works Festival, and the Kesselring Fellowship through the Orchard Project and the National Arts Club.

"Maple and Vine" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

The Cast

KATHA/KATHY Emily Passarelli
 RYU Tristan Yi
 DEAN..... Erik Dohner
 ELLEN/JENNA..... Paula Castanos
 ROGER/OMAR Dakota Stipp

Setting

The present.

There will be a brief 10-minute intermission.

Period props generously donated by Hawthorne Centre Antique Mall, 2188 Veterans Drive, Galesburg.

Administrative Staff

Chairperson..... Elizabeth Carlin-Metz
 House Manager Megan Smith
 Reservations & Tickets Sam Auch
 Box Office Sam Auch & Student Volunteers
 Poster Design Molly Olson
 Programs Sam Auch
 Publicity Peter Bailey, Sam Auch, Cast & Crew
 Ushers Student Volunteers

Production Staff

DIRECTOR Neil Blackadder
 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR..... Emily Antoff
 PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER..... Jesse Mitchell
 ASSOCIATE STAGE MANAGER Emily Ioppolo
 ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER..... Anna Karwowska
 SCENE/LIGHTING/VIDEO DESIGNER Craig Choma
 ASSISTANT VIDEO DESIGNER..... Jacob Schneider
 COSTUME DESIGNER..... Margo Shively & Carly Berinstein
 SOUND DESIGNER Jackie Hewelt
 ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER..... Ellie Ryzeck
 CO HAIR/MAKEUP DESIGNERS..... Hannah Compton & Chloë Luetkemeyer
 PROPS DESIGNER..... Jordyn Stewart
 DRAMATURGS Bridget Golembiewski & Chloe Vollenwieder
 VIDEO PHOTOGRAPHERS..... Sofia Drummond-Moore & Jake Maryott
 TECHNICAL DIRECTOR..... Craig Choma
 MASTER ELECTRICIAN Jacob Schneider
 LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR..... Jesse Mitchell
 SOUND BOARD OPERATOR..... Ellie Ryzeck
 VIDEO OPERATOR..... Jacob Schneider
 SCENE SHOP ASSISTANTS..... Moriah Chermak, Greg Miller, Hannah Black, Sophie Click, Emily Cooney, Danny Donnelly, AVECENA Hollingsworth, Emily Ioppolo, Nathan Johlas, Paul Kenney, Gregg Miller, Rhiannon Neuville-Norton, Jacob Schnieder, Michael Smid, Jordyn Stewart
 RUN CREW Jo Niederhoff, Emily Ioppolo, Anna Karwowska
 DRESSERS..... Costume Studio Assistants
 COSTUME STUDIO ASSISTANTS Chloë Luetkemeyer, Hannah Compton, Molly Olson, Miranda Loeber, Carly Berinstein

Special Thanks

Dan Rubin, American Conservatory Theatre San Francisco, Liz Carlin-Metz, Froggi VanRiper, George and Kathy Knapp, Cheryl Miller

On Jordan Harrison's *Maple and Vine*

When Jordan Harrison began writing *Maple and Vine*, he didn't intend to write a play about the 1950s. Harrison was originally approached by Anne Kauffman to work on a play with The Civilians theatre company. Harrison soon began piecing together interviews for a play about individuals who had escaped from the modern world in a variety of ways. The interviewees consisted of people like Civil War reenactors, nuns, and the Amish. After working on the documentary style drama for six months, he threw everything out and started completely from scratch. He then began working on a story about a young, modern day couple who move to a 1950s reenactionist society.

"I think...people aren't happy. People have never been happy." (Ryu, Act I, scene 7)

Maple and Vine asks the audience to question not only their own happiness, but also what they are willing to give up to achieve happiness. For some, the concept of being happy or content comes from having the newest iPad, or living in the best area of a city. Often we are led to believe that striving to attain what others see as success will make us happy. The play examines how far individuals in our society will go to find a sense of contentment. When Katha and Ryu leave the modern world, they feel as if they cannot be content with in the world they live in. Their views of the 1950s are taken over by



a veil of perfection that history has painted it to be. A time period that is filled with racism and sexism hardly seems like the place for a successful couple from 2014. So that raises the question of why would a modern day couple go back in time sixty years in order to find happiness?

Individual characters join the Society of Dynamic Obsolescence (SDO) for quite

different reasons. Some join the community after tragedy, others out of boredom with the world they knew before. The community members of the SDO are expected to act, speak, and live as if it was always 1955. A wife, after a day of cleaning and tending to the children, would have dinner on the table when her husband returned home from work. These families would live in a world that never saw the Civil Rights movement, never heard of the Beatles, and never tasted sushi. Those living in the SDO make the decision to live their lives pretending as if every invention, historical event, and piece of music that was created or happened after 1955 does not exist.



"I mean, don't you think people pretend every day, without knowing it? We all imagine the life we'd like to have, and it takes a little pretend to get it." (Dean, Act I, scene 16)

As Katha and Ryu become more comfortable in their roles at the SDO, Harrison forces us to examine how we adapt to our environment. Why is it that we so often stay in the careers, houses, and relationships that we no longer enjoy? It's easy to put on a brave face, both in the world of social media and in our day to day interactions, to mask our greater struggles. This often leads us to pretend that we are happy, satisfied, and fulfilled when we feel nothing of the sort.

This play makes us understand that societal expectations were no different in 1955. Then as now, people hid their inner demons. People longed for something greater. People wished to escape the world they lived in.

-Chloe Vollenweider, Dramaturg

Who's Who in the Cast

PAULA CASTANOS (Ellen/Jenna) is a Junior double majoring in Theatre and Music with a focus in Vocal Performance. Her previous credits include *Playhouse Creatures* (Mrs. Barry), *Railing it Uptown* (Woman in White), *The Devil is Bored* (Props Master), *The Green Bird* (Pompea), and *The Vagina Monologues* (Narrator). Paula wants to thank her Knox family as well as her family from back home for the endless support. Paula is from Gurnee, Illinois.

ERIK DOHNER (Dean) is a sophomore majoring in Music with a minor in International Relations. Previously, he has worked with DePaul Opera Theater in *La Boheme* (Ensemble) and *The Princess Bride* (Ensemble), Chicago based Studio Be Theater in *Les Miserables* (Enjolras), Lake Forest College in *Bastien und Bastienne* (Bastien) and *Der Schauspieldirektor* (Bluff). This previous summer he performed with Urbana's Musica nelle Marche Young Artist Program. Erik is delighted to be making his premiere appearance with Knox Theater. Many thanks to Neil Blackadder, Emily Antoff, his fellow cast members, and the dedicated crew who put tremendous effort into *Maple and Vine*. Tutti Bravi!

EMILY PASSARELLI (Katha/Kathy) is a Junior double majoring in Theatre and Environmental Studies. Her previous credits

include *Hot N Throbbing* (Props Master), *Next Fall* (Props Master), *Scared Money* (Audrey), *The Green Bird* (Barbarina), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Co Props Master), *44 Plays for 44 Presidents* (Chorus), and *Childhood: A Devised Show* (Chorus). She is also currently Props Master for *Iphigenia 2.0*. Emily is from Rantoul, Illinois.

DAKOTA STIPP (Roger/Omar) is a first year Knox student. Some of his previous credits include *Seussical the Musical* (Cat in the Hat), *Into the Woods* (Steward), and *Pirates of Penzance* (Ensemble). Dakota has also worked in various technical aspects of theatre, most recently as the Sound Designer for *In the Next Room*. He would like to thank everyone involved in *Maple and Vine* for making his Knox debut a memorable one. Dakota is studying computer science, music, and theatre. Dakota is from the Galesburg area.

TRISTAN YI (Ryu) is a first-year majoring in Creative Writing. His previous credits include the titular role in his third-grade class's production of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, along with other, slightly more relevant roles in his high school's theater department. This is Tristan's first production at Knox. He hails from the sunny, idyllic paradise colloquially known as Los Angeles, California.

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. *Maple and Vine* is the eleventh show he has directed or co-directed in Harbach. 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 London, New York, and Chicago—most recently Ewald Palmethofer's *hamlet is dead. no gravity* at Red Tape Theatre in Chicago—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*.

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 *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*

and *Noises Off*. Craig is also an inaugural member of Vitalist Theatre in Chicago. 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 wife and two beautiful daughters for their boundless creativity and unconditional love.

MARGO SHIVELY (Costume Designer) has been the Director of Costume and Makeup at Knox for thirty years. She graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago with a focus in fashion design. Subsequently, she interned with designer Oleg Cassini and then designed women's ready wear. Her shift to costume design occurred because of the students at Knox. Margo has designed and consulted for the Chicago City Ballet, Black Hills Playhouse, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Santa Fe Opera, APT, and Vitalist Theatre. She recently costumed a PBS film about Carl Sandburg. She is also an active member of United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT). Of all her accomplishments, Margo is most proud of the students she has had and her ability to pass on the love of design.

CARLY BERINSTEIN (Co-Costume Designer) is a Neuroscience major in her second year at Knox. *Maple & Vine* is her first experience designing a mainstage production. Carly would

like to thank the Costume Shop for welcoming her since her first week at Knox, Margo for her unending encouragement in costumes and beyond, Kathleen Gullion and Alyssa Gill for their trust in allowing her first design experiences, and her mom, Joni, for passing on a love of theatre and style. She is from Vancouver, Washington.

JORDYN STEWART (Props Designer) is a senior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Film Studies. Her previous credits at Knox include *Playhouse Creatures* (Director), *This is the Rill Speaking* (Director), *Twelfth Night* (Actor - Fabia), and *Exit the King* (Assistant Stage Manager). She's worked for two years in the theatre department's scene shop and this summer she will be working as SummerStage in Delafield's venue manager. Jordyn is from Dousman, Wisconsin.

EMILY ANTOFF (Assistant Director) is a Junior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Art History. Her previous credits include *Laundry and Bourbon* (Director), *McComb 1964* (Director), *The Marriage Proposal* (Director), *Porn* (Director), *The Green Bird* (Assistant Director), and *At Night's End* (Assistant Director). She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support, and the cast and crew for their patience and dedication. Emily is from Winona, MI.

JESSE MITCHELL (Production

Stage Manager) is a Senior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Political Science. His previous credits include *In The Next Room or the vibrator play* (Associate Stage Manager), *Next Fall* (Stage Manager), and *Desdemona: A Play About a Handkerchief* (Stage Manager). Last Spring, Jesse worked as the Production Manager for Knox College's inaugural New Plays Festival. He currently serves on the Theatre Advisory Board as the Production Manager. Jesse is from Saint Louis, Missouri.

EMILY IOPPOLO (Associate Stage Manager) is a Junior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Psychology. Her previous credits include *In the Next Room* (Associate Stage Manager), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Stage Manager), *At Night's End* (Stage Manager), and *Under Construction* (Assistant Stage Manager). Emily also serves on the Theatre Advisory Board as the Technical Director of Studio Theater. She would like to give special thanks to Jesse Mitchell for being her stage management partner-in-crime since the beginning. Emily is from Oak Park, Illinois.

ANNA KARWOWSKA (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Senior majoring in English Literature with a minor in Spanish. Her previous credits include *Death Comes to Us All*, *Mary Agnes* (Stage Manager) and *Crash by Sunny Bow Mar Lake* (Stage Manager). She would like to thank her fellow cast and crew for their

ineffable patience and friendship during the production. Anna is from Arlington Heights, Illinois.

JACOB SCHNEIDER (Master Electrician, Assistant Videography Designer) is a senior majoring in theatre with a minor in physics. His previous credits include *In The Next Room or the vibrator play* (Properties Master), *Next Fall* (Master Electrician), and *The Green Bird* (Master Carpenter). Over the summer, Jacob completed an internship in scenic carpentry with the Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts. He would like to thank the Knox theatre faculty, and his friends and family for their continuing love and support. Jacob is from Galesburg, IL.

ELLIE RYCZEK (Assistant Sound Designer) is a First-Year student and has not yet decided on her major. This production is her sound designing debut, and it is also her first time working on a production at Knox College. Ellie is from Chicago, Illinois.

BRIDGET GOLEMBIEWSKI (Dramaturg) is a Junior double majoring in Latin and History. Her previous credits include *McComb 1964* (Dramaturg), *The Green Bird* (Dramaturg), *Caucasian Circle* (Ironshirt and Dramaturg), *At Night's End* (Dramaturg), and *Sound of Music* (Max Detweiler). She has also been named the Knight of the Knox Theatre Department. Bridget is from Chicago, Illinois.

CHLOE VOLLENWEIDER (Assistant Dramaturg) is a first-year student. Some previous credits include Assistant Director (*Durang, Durang: A series of Christopher Durang One-Acts*), and Stage Manager (*Drowsy Chaperone*). She also works in the Knox College Theatre Department's Costume Shop. Chloe has also interned at The Barn Players Community Theatre and will be working there this summer. Chloe is from Kansas City.

JACKIE HEWELT (Sound Designer) is a Senior double Majoring in Theatre and Creative Writing. His previous credits include *Knoxwurst* (Coordinator), *The Christmas Express* (Sound Designer), *I Hate Hamlet* (Sound Designer), *Crash by Sunny Bow Mar Lake* (Sound Designer), *Summer Song* (Playwright), and *The Mumbling Waitress* (Bob Guffman). He currently serves on the Theatre Advisory Board as the Playwrights' Workshop Coordinator. Jackie is from Burbank, Illinois. He does not plan on joining the SDO any time soon.