

*Join us in Harbach for the upcoming productions of:*

*In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*  
by Sarah Ruhl      February 26 - March 1, 2014  
directed by Liz Carlin-Metz

## **MAPLE AND VINE**

by Jordan Harrison      May 7 - 10, 2014  
directed by Neil Blackadder





## WELCOME TO KNOX COLLEGE THEATRE

Welcome to the first Main Stage production of the Department of Theatre 2013-14 Harbach Season. We are pleased to celebrate with you our work in the field of theatre. Knox audiences have numbered over three thousand annually at Harbach and Studio Theatre productions ranging from the classics realism to modern and postmodern. Students who have participated in theatre productions come from across the academic disciplines, represent all four class-years, and annually number approximately 400.

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. Each year we seek plays that are in conversation with the human experience—past, present, and future. We select for our seasons 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. This vast canon of dramatic literature is drawn from throughout history and around the world.

Our current season examines human thought, experience, and action through three plays from the contemporary American theatre. Following last spring's inaugural New Play Festival, we have chosen to present 3 award-winning plays by American playwrights that are considered "new", as they make their way onto the professional and academic stages across the United States. In winter term, Liz Carlin-Metz will direct Sarah Ruhl's Pulitzer Prize nominated *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (2010) with its wry look at expressions of passion through the lens of Victorian perspectives on female sexuality and male ownership of female bodies. In spring term, Neil Blackadder will direct Jordan Harris' GLADD nominated *Maple and Vine* (2011), where going back to the 1950s suggests that nostalgia may not be all that rosy when questions of how and who we love arise. Tonight's production of Geoffrey Nauffts' *Next Fall* (2010) was nominated for the Tony Award, the Outer Critics Award, and a Drama Desk Award. Directed by Assistant Professor Jeff Grace, this play enters into the nation's ongoing conversations about faith, love, and commitment in the life decisions of gay and straight people, asking us to consider what it means to believe and what it costs not to. We are especially delighted that this production draws direct linkages between the stage and the classroom in that it is mounted in concert with the theatre literature course 'Gay and Lesbian Drama', also taught by Professor Grace. Faculty designers Craig Choma and Margo Shively have taken the lead positions in designing the sets, lights, and costumes for *Next Fall*, and have worked along side approximately 45 students to realize this production.

— Liz Carlin-Metz, Chair

### THEATRE DEPARTMENT FACULTY

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

Knox College Theatre  
presents

# NEXT FALL

BY GEOFFREY NAUFFTS

DIRECTED BY JEFF GRACE

SCENIC DESIGN BY CRAIG CHOMA

COSTUME DESIGN BY MARGO SHIVELY & ANDREW PURVIS

LIGHTING DESIGN BY CRAIG CHOMA

SOUND DESIGN AND ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JOHN GROMADA\*

HARBACH THEATRE

FORD CENTER FOR THE FINE ARTS

NOVEMBER 6 - 9, 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.

NEXT FALL was produced on Broadway by Elton John and David Furnish, Barbara Manocherian, Richard Willis, Tom Smedes, Carole L. Haber/Chase Mishkin, Ostar, Anthony Barrile, Michael Palitz, Bob Boyett, James Spry/Catherine Schreiber, Probo Productions, Roy Furman, in association with Naked Angels

\*This production is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

## THE CAST

ADAM ..... Morgan Jellison  
LUKE ..... Neil Phelps  
HOLLY ..... Sam Auch  
BRANDON ..... Caleb Awe  
ARLENE ..... Mya Kahler  
BUTCH ..... John Bird

Manhattan: The action takes place in the present,  
as well as the five-year period leading up to it.

### ACT I

Scene 1: A Hospital Waiting Room  
Scene 2: A Rooftop (*five years earlier*)  
Scene 3: The Waiting Room  
Scene 4: Adam's Apartment (*five years earlier*)  
Scene 5: Adam & Luke's New Apt. (*one year later*)  
Scene 6: The Waiting Room

*10 minute Intermission*

### ACT II

Scene 1: The Waiting Room  
Scene 2: Adam & Luke's Apt. (*three years earlier*)  
Scene 3: Adam & Luke's Apt. (*one year later*)  
Scene 4: The Hospital Temple  
Scene 5: Central Park (*one year earlier*)  
Scene 6: Luke's Hospital Room  
Scene 7: Adam & Luke's Apt. (*yesterday*)  
Scene 8: The Waiting Room

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director ..... Jeff Grace  
Stage Manager ..... Jesse Mitchell  
Assistant Stage Managers ..... Morgan Barton  
Kaylie Padgett  
Technical Director ..... Craig Choma  
Scene Designer ..... Craig Choma  
Scenery/Lighting Staff ..... Hannah Black, Nick Chapin  
Sophie Click, Emily Cooney  
Rebekah Heusel, Nathan Johlas  
Paul Kenney, Jacob Schneider  
Michael Smid, Jordyn Stewart  
Emily Harvey  
Scene Shop Volunteers ..... Moriah Chermak, Greg Miller  
Students from THTR 121  
Run Crew ..... Morgan Barton, Kaylie Padgett, Katie Greve  
Sophie Utpadel, Julie Wertheimer  
Costume Designer ..... Margo Shively & Andrew Purvis  
Costume Crew Head ..... Alyssa Kennamer  
Dresser ..... Grace Moran  
Costume Studio Assistants ..... Hanna Compton, Molly Olson  
Miranda Loeber, Carly Berinstein  
Andrew Purvis, Alyssa Kennamer  
Evelyn Laney, Emily Hastings  
Lighting Designer ..... Craig Choma  
Master Electrician ..... Jacob Schneider  
Lighting Board Operator ..... Jesse Mitchell  
Sound Designer ..... \*John Gromada  
Sound Board Operator ..... Dakota Stipp  
Props Master ..... Emily Passarelli

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**SAM AUCH** (Holly) is a junior with a double major in Theatre and Gender and Women's Studies. Her favorite stage credits include *Desdemona, a play about a handkerchief* (Desdemona), *Les Miserable* (Eponine), and *Under Construction* (ensemble). Last spring, with five other wonderful women, she had the amazing opportunity to devise for girls who are difficult to love, a piece about womanhood in the modern age. Sam recently spent time backstage during the summer as an Assistant Stage Manager for Insight Theatre Company. She would like to thank her family for all their support, her friends for their laughter, and her housemates for their love. Sam is from Saint Louis, Missouri.

**CALEB AWE** (Brandon) is a sophomore. His major is currently undecided, but he is deciding between International Relations and Creative Writing. Prior to his appearance in *NEXT FALL*, Caleb has only performed in one other production, *McComb 1964*, during spring term of his freshman year. He would like to thank his friends and family for not only pushing him to try theatre, but to continue with it. Caleb is from Oak Park, Illinois.

**JOHN BIRD** (Butch) is a junior with a double major in Theatre and Environmental Studies. He was previously seen on the Knox stage during Repertory Term XVI in both *The Green Bird* (Calmon) and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (ensemble), and before that in *Mary Stuart* (Sir Amius Paulet). He is currently the sound designer for Studio Theatre's production of *Hot 'n Throbbing*. John is thrilled to be a part of *Next Fall* and he is excited to continue to put into practice what he has learned at Knox into a performance once again. He would like to thank his family, friends, and girlfriend for their copious, and sometimes overwhelming, love and support. John is from Frankfort, Illinois.

**MORGAN JELLISON** (Adam) is in his sophomore year at Knox. Majoring in Theatre and Music, Morgan is ecstatic to be in his very first production with Jeff Grace, having previously worked with Neil Blackadder last fall in Motti Lerner's world premiere of *At Night's End* (Doron). Other productions that he has been a part of include: *Scared Money* (Curtis), *Gianni Schicchi* (Gianni), and *Three Penny Opera* (Mr. Peachum). He would very much love to thank all of his directors, teachers, family, friends, and specficially Jesse Mitchell - stage manager extraordinaire. Morgan is from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**MYA KAHLER** (Arlene) is a senior with a double major in Theatre and Environmental Studies. She is thrilled to be working alongside such a talented cast and crew. Some of her most memorable roles at Knox have been *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (ensemble), *The Green Bird* (Queen), *At Night's End* (Einat), *Childhood: A Devised Show* (ensemble), *Cleansed* (Grace), and *A Lie of the Mind* (Beth). She would like to thank her director, professors, friends, and family for their continuous support and guidance. Mya is from Verona, Wisconsin.



**NEIL PHELPS** (Luke) is a senior with a double major in Theatre and Creative Writing. He is thrilled to be in his third consecutive, and sadly last, production with director Jeff Grace at Knox College. Neil's other mainstage credits have included *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Azdak), *Under Construction* (ensemble), *Twelfth Night* (Antonio), and *Mary Stuart* (Mortimer). During the summer of 2012 he was seen playing Brandon in Kentucky Conservatory Theatre's Summerfest production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. Neil would like to thank his talented cast, his "mastermind" stage manager, his brilliant director, and most importantly his loving family for supporting him every step of the way. Neil was raised in Lake Forest, Illinois.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Zack Wahlquist, Katie Grace, Knox Facilities,  
Knox I.T. Department, HyVee, Todd Smith  
Theatre Advisory Board, Peter Bailley, Evelyn Langley  
Carl Sandburg College Cosmetology students

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CREATIVE TEAM

**JEFF GRACE** (Director) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre. He received both his M.S. in Education (2004) and his Ph.D. in Theatre History, Theory, and Literature (2008) from Indiana University. Having various productions to his credit, Jeff's work has been seen on stages at Indiana University, Brigham Young University, Brighton High Productions, UHSAA Jordan District, and Street Theatre Jab. Recent directing credits include: *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Under Construction*, Euripides' *Medea*, *The Serpent*, *This is Your Song*, *The World Goes 'Round*, *Once on this Island*, *Chess*, George Orwell's *1984*, *Grease!*, *Cagebirds*, *Up the Down Staircase*, *The Diviners*, *Doors*, *Act Without Words*, *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*, and *Pippin*. Jeff is excited to present *NEXT FALL* at Knox College, and is thankful to such a wonderful cast and crew for all their hard work. He would especially like to thank his partner, Zack, for the unwavering love, patience, and support through the many hours away from home. Jeff is originally from Pleasant Grove, Utah.

**CRAIG CHOMA** (Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Technical Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre, and Knox's resident designer and technical director. His favorite Knox designs include *The Green Bird*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Under Construction*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Lie of the Mind*, Euripides' *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), *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* (sets). 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 B.A. in Theatre and Philosophy from Knox College (1993), and M.F.A.'s in both Scenic and Lighting Design from Carnegie Mellon University (1996). He thanks his lovely wife and two beautiful daughters for their boundless creativity and unconditional love. Craig is originally from Chicago, Illinois.

**MARGO SHIVELY** (Costume Designer) began her career in the fashion industry after graduating from the 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.

**ANDREW PURVIS** (Costume Designer) is a junior majoring in Theatre and Creative Writing. His previous credits include *Crash* (Assistant Costume Designer), *The Green Bird* (Renzo), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Lavrenti, Governor), *At Night's End* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Under Construction* (ensemble), and *The Zoo Story* (Jerry). He would like to thank his parents, brothers, and walking buddies for their support and encouragement. Andrew is from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**JOHN GROMADA** (Sound Designer) composed the original score for *Next Fall* on Broadway, which is being used courtesy of Dramatists Play Service.\*

**EMILY PASSARELLI** (Props Master) is a senior with a double major in Theatre and Environmental Studies. She was also the props co-master for Repertory Term XVI's productions of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *The Green Bird*. Emily is currently also working

as props master for *Hot 'n Throbbing*. Emily is from Rantoul, Illinois.

**JESSE MITCHELL** (Stage Manager) is a senior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Political Science. His previous credits include *McComb 1964* (Stage Manager), *The Green Bird* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Desdemona: a play about a handkerchief* (Stage Manager), *Under Construction* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Bug* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Phaedra's Love* (Stage Manager). Jesse worked as the Production Manager for Knox's first ever New Plays Festival. He currently serves on the Theatre Advisory Board as the Production Manager. Jesse is from Saint Louis, Missouri.

**MORGAN BARTON** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore interested in Business and Creative Writing. This is her behind-the-scenes debut at Knox. Her previous experience on a stage crew included working at Central High School in her hometown of La Crosse, WI. Morgan is excited to have the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of people and she can't think of a better way to spend all her evenings.

**KAYLIE PADGETT** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first-year student at Knox and is excited to be joining her first Knox Theatre production. She hopes to major in Creative Writing. She would like to thank her mother and her suite-mates for their unconditional support. Kaylie hails from the central valley of California.

## "ADAM FALLS AGAIN"

BY SUZANNE ROSS

Adam has a big problem. Luke's faith has become a stumbling block for him. As if God were a rival lover, Adam wants Luke to choose between him and God. In the climactic moment of the play, after Adam and Luke nestle playfully on the sofa, Adam admits: "I want you to love me more than you love him." Luke has no good answer for this. No answer at all really, and so Adam announces, "I can't do this anymore," and walks out the door.

This is not the first Adam in history who has found himself in rivalry with God and then loses his happiness in the bargain. In Christian thought, when the 'first Adam' begins to suspect that God is withholding something from him, he tries to take it for himself and loses paradise. There is nothing in the play to suggest that Luke had been withholding any of his love for Adam. In fact, it is just the opposite. Luke's love is complete, both patient and kind. Adam, however, can't bring himself to believe in it. The gods of 'science' and 'success' have filled his mind with worry and a sense of inadequacy, and he is plagued by a suspicion that something is wrong. So he figures that the wrong thing must be Luke and he blames him for holding back, thereby losing love in the process.

Is this connection to the first Adam the "next fall" of the play's title? Luke does promise to come out to his family next fall. But next fall comes and goes and still Luke has not fulfilled his promise. This failure is symbolic to Adam of the distance and difference between them. But blaming Luke for being himself, for being sensitive to his family's potential inability to absorb his truth, comes very close to replicating the first Adam's blaming of Eve for his own sin.

When we approach those who love us in a spirit of rivalry, when we blame others rather than admit we are worshipping the wrong gods, we reenact the first fall. Rivalry and blame lead to the next fall and the next fall and the next one after that.

The play's greatest success is that Adam find redemption in a moment when he is able to receive a new story about himself from Luke. In that moment, he tells us, "All the doubts, everything I've been questioning for the past five years, none of it meant anything, all of a sudden. It was just me and Luke. That's all that mattered." At last, the false gods no longer compel Adam's worship and so he begins to tell a more truthful story about himself. Perhaps for Adam this fall will be his last.

## GEOFFREY NAUFFTS



Geoffrey Nauffts has worked as an actor on and Off-Broadway, regionally, and extensively in film and television.

He has directed short plays by Kenneth Lonergan, Frank Pugliese, David Marshall Grant, Theresa Rebeck, and Suzan Lori-Parks, as well as Naked Angels' critically acclaimed production of Steven Belber's *TAPE* in New York, Los Angeles, and London.

He wrote, directed, and acted in the award-winning short film "Baby Steps," starring Kathy Bates, and co-wrote "Jenifer," a movie of the week for CBS.

He collaborated with Elton John and Anthony Barrile on a score for "Showstopper," a screenplay he and Barrile co-wrote for Ben Stiller's production company, Red Hour.

In addition to his role as a writer on ABC's hit series "Brothers and Sisters," he currently serves as artistic director for Naked Angels, where he has been a proud member for over twenty-four years.

His critically acclaimed play *NEXT FALL* opened on Broadway in March 2010, where it received the Outer Circle Critics John Gassner Award for Best New American Play, and was nominated for a Drama League Award, an Outer Circle Critics Award, a Drama Desk Award, and a Tony Award for best play.