

CONSTRUCTING AMERICA

"And so it is out of this chaos, this accumulation of history and novelty, that we begin building." This call to action is delivered by the John Cage character at the end of the play. As we look to the future, Cage exhorts us to make meaning of our identity through the lens of our national history. As we do this, we will hopefully see that America, just like this play, is continually under construction.

This play was inspired by the Norman Rockwell covers on the Saturday Evening Post throughout the 1950s and the installation artwork of Jason Rhoades during the early 21st century. Keeping within its postmodern frame, the play is a collage of scenes and images from both then and now. Playwright Charles Mee has created a jigsaw of puzzle pieces containing cultural references from the 1950s to the present, with subjects ranging from Bing Crosby to the NEA Four, Ann Bannan to the Beat Poets, Frank Sinatra to contemporary rock music, and many other images of popular culture. This puzzle, however, is missing several pieces, and it is here that we ask our audiences to construct their own meaning "out of this chaos." In this way, tonight's performance is just as malleable and open-ended as our country -- a country that affords a variety of possibilities to anyone at anytime.

Join us next year for our 2012-13 season:

October 31 - November 3, 2012

AT NIGHT'S END

by Motti Lerner
directed by Neil Blackadder

Repertory Term XVI -- February 28 - March 9, 2013

THE GREEN BIRD

by Carlo Gozzi
directed by Liz Carlin-Metz

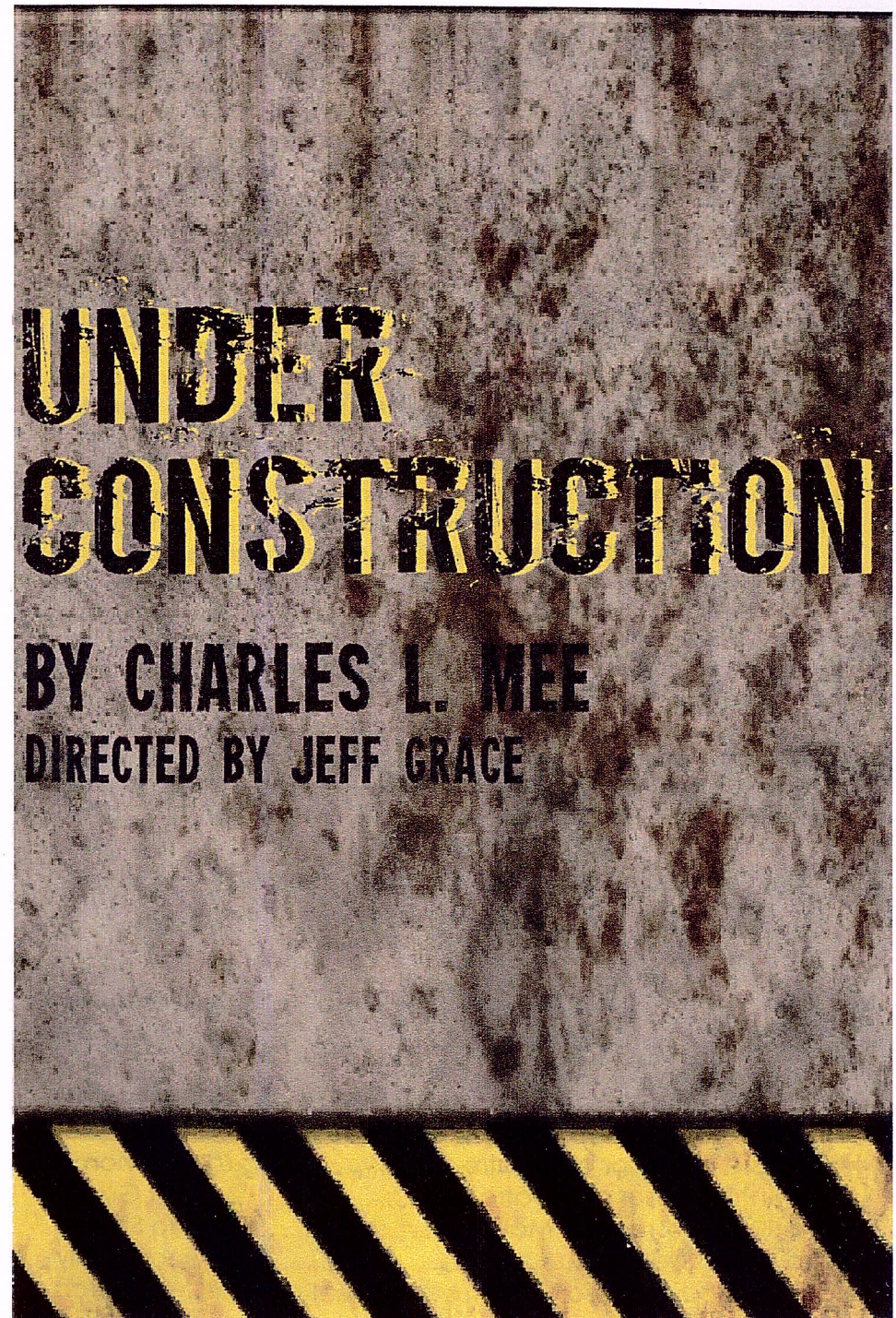
THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

by Bertolt Brecht
directed by Jeff Grace

May 15 - 18, 2013

NEW PLAYS FESTIVAL

written & performed by Knox Students/Alumni



WELCOME TO KNOX COLLEGE THEATRE

Welcome to Studio Theatre, which is hosting the final production of the Department of Theatre 2011-12 Harbach Season. We are pleased to celebrate with you our work in the field of theatre through plays ranging from classic realism to contemporary expressionism and from modern to Shakespeare. Students who have participated in theatre productions in Harbach Theatre, Studio Theatre, and Playwrights' Workshop come from across the academic disciplines, represent all four classes, and number more than 300. Every year we seek to enlarge and illuminate the classroom experience by manifesting on stage the concepts and theories 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 examine what it means to be human and how we negotiate that experience in nature and societies - past, present, and future. We select for our seasons a range of plays, which, if considered over the four years of a Knox student, will expose that student to a wide range of lenses with which to view the human condition. This past year we wrestled with the moral imperatives of power through conflict between responsibilities to the state and commitments to personal values as to Queens struggled to determine the boundaries of their own humanity in *Mary Stuart*. In *Twelfth Night*, we sang and danced as we dallied with love and its many ambiguities as seen through gendered masks of loyalty, honesty, and authenticity. Tonight, we are pleased to present *Under Construction* by Charles L. Mee and directed by Assistant Professor Jeff Grace. *Under Construction* weaves together stories and images from the 1950s to the present as it conjures questions of what it means to be American.

Thank you for joining us at our productions this year. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre next year as we look forward to sharing with you another invigorating theatrical season of humanity on the stage.

*Knox College Theatre - Freedom to Flourish
Come as you are
Discover who you'll become*

— Liz Carlin-Metz, Chair

THEATRE DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Professor of Theatre, ChairElizabeth Carlin-Metz
Professor of Theatre..... Neil Blackadder
Associate Professor of Theatre.....Craig Choma
Assistant Professor of Theatre Jeff Grace
Director of Costume & MakeupMargo Shively
Writer-in-ResidenceSherwood Kiraly
Distinguished Professor *Emeritus*Robert C. Whitlatch

*Knox College Theatre
presents*

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BY CHARLES L. MEE

DIRECTED BY JEFF GRACE

SCENIC DESIGN BY CRAIG CHOMA & MARINA CAPIZZI
COSTUME DESIGN BY MARGO SHIVELY & HANNAH COMPTON

LIGHTING DESIGN BY IVY REID

SOUND DESIGN BY EMILY HARVEY

VIDEOGRAPHY DESIGN BY CRAIG CHOMA

STUDIO THEATRE

FORD CENTER FOR THE FINE ARTS

MAY 16 - 19, 2012

Please:

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

Under Construction is presented by special arrangement with
International Creative Management, Inc. 730 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10019

THE ENSEMBLE

Sam Auch
Kathleen Donoghue
Jack Dryden
Chloë Luetkemeyer
Isaac Miller
Nellie Ognacevic
Neil Phelps
Andrew Purvis
Avery Wigglesworth

THE SETTING

**America
then ... and now**

Under Construction runs approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes,
and is performed without an intermission

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Chairperson Elizabeth Carlin-Metz
House Managers Alyssa Gill & D'Angelo Smith
Reservations Marina Capizzi
Box Office Marina Capizzi
Posters Erin Ford
Programs Jeff Grace, Marina Capizzi
Allegra Print & Imaging
Publicity Peter Bailey, Ensemble & Crew
Ushers Student Volunteers

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Jeff Grace
Stage Manager Liz Picurro
Assistant Stage Managers Emily Ioppolo & Jesse Mitchell
Dance Captain Avery Wigglesworth
Dramaturges Allison Diamond & Madeline Mandel
Technical Director Craig Choma
Assistant Technical Director Sam Newport
Scene Designers Craig Choma & Marina Capizzi
Scenery/Lighting Staff Hannah Black, Marina Capizzi
Ivy Reid, Jack Dryden, Emily Harvey
Rebekah Heusel, AVECENA Hollingsworth
Liz Picurro, Paul Kenney, Emily Cooney
Jacob Schneider, Nathan Johlas
Scene Shop Volunteers Nicholas Chapin, Jordyn Stewart
Chloë Luetkemeyer, Katrina Rudolph
Sarah Tillery, Bridget Golembiewski
Run Crew Emily Ioppolo & Jesse Mitchell
Costume Designers Margo Shively & Hannah Compton
Costume Shop Foreman Aisha Mergaert
Costume Studio Assistants Erin Besaw, Lena Brandis
Pat Topping, Kathleen Donoghue
Franzescas Mayer, Katie O'Connor
Paul Lurenz III, Miranda Loeber
Hannah Compton
Lighting Designer Ivy Reid
Master Electricians Ivy Reid & Rebekah Heusel
Lighting Board Operator Liz Picurro
Sound Designer Emily Harvey
Sound/Videography Operator Emily Harvey
Videography Designer Craig Choma
Videography Assistant Markie Jo Crismon
Properties Marina Capizzi

SPECIAL THANKS

Zack Wahlquist, Katie Grace, Kelly Grant, Audrey Todd,
Knox I.T. Department, Knox Athletics, Knox Dining Services,
Rachel Sypniewski, Katrina Rudolph, Theatre Advisory Board,
Peter Bailey, Knox Facilities, Steve Jones, Scott Maust,
Besaw Family, Carl Sandburg College Cosmetology students

WHO'S WHO IN THE ENSEMBLE

SAM AUCH is a first-year student at Knox with plans to double major in Theatre and Gender Studies. This year she has appeared on the Knox stages in *Mary Stuart* (Aubespine), *Twelfth Night* (Reveler), and *The Vagina Monologues*. Her previous credits include *Les Miserables* (Eponine), *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena). She would like to thank everyone involved with *Under Construction*, as well as her friends and family for the endless support. Sam is from St. Louis, Missouri.

KATHLEEN DONOGHUE is a senior with a double major in Theatre and English Literature. She is thrilled to be closing out her Knox stage career with *Under Construction*. At Knox, Kathleen has appeared in *Three Sisters* (Masha), *Angels in America* (Rabbi Chemelwitz), *Medea* (Chorus), *A Lie of the Mind* (Sally), and *Bug* (Agnes White), among many others. Kathleen is a stage director, too, and spearheaded a barestage production of *The Stonewater Rapture* in 2009. She kicked off this current school year with a fully-teched version of Sarah Kane's *Cleansed*. In Chicago, she has appeared in Janus Theatre's *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), and also spent time as an intern at Lifeline Theatre Company where she participated as a performer in the Lifeline Storytelling Project and a reader in a workshop of *Pride and Prejudice* (Mary Bennett). She could not have come this far without the support of her family, friends, and teachers. Kathleen is from Lemont, Illinois.

JACK DRYDEN is a senior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Literature. He has most recently been seen on the Knox stages in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (Orsino), Ionesco's *Exit the King* (Doctor), and Euripides' *Medea* (Jason). He recently returned from England where he spent the fall training with London actors and eventually rehearsing Brecht's *99%* with an ensemble of liberal arts students from around the United States. He would like to thank his parents and friends for their encouragement and his professors for their relentless dedication to molding him into a more honest, diligent, and even-tempered actor (and person). He thanks the theatre department for being incredibly generous to him, and he hopes this production showcases how much he has benefited from the training he has received at Knox. Jack is from St. Louis, Missouri.

CHLOË LUETKEMEYER is a sophomore majoring in Theatre with a double minor in Creative Writing and Art History. At Knox, Chloë has performed in *Exit the King* (Juliette), *The Vagina Monologues*, and in three Terpsichore dance shows. She also recently appeared in Prairie Players' production of *White Christmas* (Judy Haynes). She began dancing at a young age, instilling in her a love of performing that has inspired her to pursue many different creative outlets. She is incredibly grateful to Knox College for giving her the chance to do what she loves. She thanks her parents deeply for the opportunities they have given her and the encouragement

along the way. Chloë is from Hillsboro, Missouri.

ISAAC ALLEN MILLER is a senior majoring in Creative Writing. He has acted in the Knox productions of *Twelfth Night* (Sir Andrew Aguecheek), *Mary Stuart* (Earl of Leicester), *The Lover* (Richard/Max), and *Woyzeck* (Woyzeck), as well as the devised show *Childhood* (Ensemble). He would like to thank his mom and dad for the genes, uncles Peter and Bill for a watch, and his great uncle Keith and relatives of various degrees Mark, Melva, Jackie, Bryce, and Luke for their constant support and applause. Isaac is from New York City.

NELLIE OGNACEVIC is a senior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Psychology. At Knox she performed the title role in Euripides' *Medea*, and has appeared in *Twelfth Night* (Feste), *A Lie of the Mind* (Lorraine), *Angels in America: Perestroika* (Hannah), *The Serpent* (Eve), and *Three Sisters* (Irina). Last year she directed Harold Pinter's *The Lover* in Studio Theatre. After four years in the Knox Theatre Department, the necessary number of "thanks" are infinite. May her gratitude live on in whatever shenanigans her life in the theatre will entail. Nellie is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

NEIL PHELPS is a sophomore with a double major in Creative Writing and Theatre. At Knox he has recently been seen in *Twelfth Night* (Antonio), *Mary Stuart* (Mortimer), and *Phaedra's Love* (Hippolytus). He would like to thank his family and friends for their endless love and support. Neil was raised in

Lake Forest, Illinois, where he claims you can find the "best professional local theatre in the world."

ANDREW PURVIS is in his first year at Knox. He has recently been seen on the Knox stages in *Mary Stuart* (Earl of Kent) and *The Zoo Story* (Jerry). In his free time Andrew enjoys reading and writing. He is grateful for the support of his friends and family. Andrew is from Manitou Springs, Colorado.

AVERY WIGGLESWORTH (dance captain) is a junior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Creative Writing. Memorable credits include Cardinal Stage Company's *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne), KTC Summerfest's *Big Love* (Olympia), *Dust* (Ida Rose) at the International Fringe Festival, and Knox College's *The Serpent* (ensemble) and *Twelfth Night* (Viola) which she received much preparation for last summer while playing the role of Adam in *The Complete Wrks of Wllm Shksp (Abr.)*. Avery is trained in ballet and stage combat, and has now taught several workshops on the Viewpoints and Suzuki techniques here at Knox College. Avery's focus currently lies in combining her craft with her interests in social activism and women's rights. This past winter she directed *The Vagina Monologues*, which raised over \$300 for the women and children of the Galesburg community. Other directing credits include *Phaedra's Love* in Studio Theatre, as well as working as Assistant Director on Knox's production of *Mary Stuart*. Avery would like to thank her hometown, Lexington, Kentucky for raising her the way it did.

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 represented on stages at Indiana University, Brigham Young University, Brighton High Productions, UHSAA Jordan District, and Street Theatre Jab. Recent directing credits include: *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 *Under Construction* 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 (Scene Designer, Videography, Technical Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre, and Knox's resident designer and technical director. He holds a B.A. in Theatre and Philosophy from Knox College, and M.F.A.'s in both Scenic and Lighting Design from Carnegie Mellon University. Favorite Knox designs include *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), *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 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 thanks his lovely wife and two beautiful daughters for the boundless creativity and unconditional love. Craig is originally from Chicago, Illinois.

MARINA CAPIZZI (Scene Designer and Properties) is a junior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Studio Art. This is her first set design for a mainstage production at Knox, but she recently has been involved in various capacities with *Twelfth Night*, *Mary Stuart*, *Exit the King*, *Woyzeck*, and *Medea*. Marina has worked professionally for Portland Center Stage, The Broadway Rose Theatre Company, Pixidust Theatre, and Third Rail Rep Theatre in Portland. She is thankful to have been given this opportunity to learn more about design, and would like to thank everyone who has supported her here at Knox and beyond. Marina is from Portland, Oregon.

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 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.

HANNAH COMPTON (Costume Designer) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre. She has been participating in theatre in one way or another since middle school. At Knox, Hannah's designs have been seen in *After Magritte* and *Bug*. She is delighted to be working on her first mainstage production. She would like to thank her mother for inspiring her, and her family for all of their support. Hannah is from Wheeling, Illinois.

IVY REID (Lighting Designer) is a senior with a double major in Theatre

and Creative Writing. At Knox she was the lighting designer for *Cleansed*, *Dirty Laundry*, *The Lover*, *Woyzeck*, *The Latina Theatre Festival*, and several dance pieces, as well as co-designer alongside Craig Choma for the mainstage production of *Exit the King*. Ivy has worked backstage on numerous Knox productions as the master electrician and on set construction crews, as well as serving as the facilities manager for the Knox Theatre Department. She would like to thank the production team and ensemble of *Under Construction* for all of their hard work, and her family, both biological and theatrical, for their love and support. Ivy is from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

EMILY HARVEY (Sound Designer) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre. She has been working on technical aspects of theatre productions for the past two years, serving as master electrician for *Mary Stuart*, *Cleansed*, and *Exit the King*. She was also the sound designer for *A Lie of the Mind*, *The Lover*, and *Twelfth Night*. Emily is from Houston, Texas.

MARKIE JO CRISMON (Videography Assistant) is a junior majoring in Creative Writing with a minor in Film. Before transferring to Knox in 2011, she was involved both on and off stage with various community theatres, and taught speech and drama at Olympia High School. She hopes to pursue a career in film production, and is overjoyed to be a part of the videography team for *Under Construction*. Markie hails from Atlanta, Illinois.

LIZ PICURRO (Stage Manager) is a senior majoring in Theatre with a minor in Studio Art. She was most recently stage manager for *Bug* (a directing experiment in a found space). Other credits include stage managing for *Exit the King*, *Cleansed*, *Night Roars Cabaret* in Chicago, and *The Israeli Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Following graduation, Liz hopes to stage manage professionally, and is currently looking at several different interships. She would like to thank her family at home and her family at Knox for their constant support, love, and encouragement. Liz is from Tucson, Arizona.

EMILY IOPPOLO (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first-year majoring in Theatre with a minor in Psychology. During her first term at Knox, Emily jumped right into the department by running soundboard for *Cleansed*. Although she was the head of the sound crew in high school during her senior year, she hopes to gain knowledge in all aspects of technical theatre. She has loved being a part of the stage management team on *Under Construction*. She would like to thank her family, friends, cast, and crew for their wonderful support. Emily is from Oak Park, Illinois.

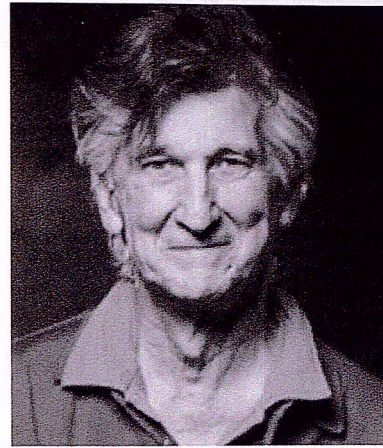
JESSE MITCHELL (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre with a minor in Psychology. He made his Knox debut by working on the props crew for *A Lie of the Mind*. Since then, Jesse has worked on a variety of productions including *Phaedra's Love* (stage manager), *Cleansed* (assistant

director), *Bug* (assistant stage manager), *Vagina Monologues* (stage manager), along with directing for Playwrights' Workshop. He is also the new Theatre Advisory Board Public Relations/ Communications Officer. Jesse is from St. Louis, Missouri.

ALLISON DIAMOND (Dramaturg) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre. Her other work as a dramaturgical assistant was displayed on this last fall's production of *Mary Stuart*. The dramaturgical research for *Under Construction* was compiled by Allison and her fellow dramaturg, Maddie Mandel, as an independent research project which has been ongoing since winter term. Allison states that this production has been "such an amazing and fascinating adventure in dramaturgy" that she hopes to continue in the future. She would like to sincerely thank Jeff Grace for all of his help and support, and Maddie for joining in the insane, intense, and wonderful exploration. Allison is from Cleveland, Ohio.

MADLINE (MADDIE) MANDEL (Dramaturg) is a junior majoring in English Literature with a minor in Spanish. This is Maddie's first time working on a Knox production and she has enjoyed the learning experience as well as the rehearsal process of such an amazing play. Maddie is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

CHARLES L. MEE



Charles L. Mee was born in Evanston, Illinois in 1938. He graduated from Harvard University in 1960, then moved to Greenwich Village and became a part of the 1960s theatre scene. In order to support himself and his family, Mee began writing children's books and turned away from the theatre for awhile. During this time he also became involved in anti-Vietnam War activism. His political activism led him to write political histories. He did not return to playwriting again until 1985 when he began writing plays for Off-Off-

Broadway, as well as collaborating with director Anne Bogart. His work with Bogart and the SITI Company led to the creation of many plays including hits such as *bobrauschenbergamerica* and *Hotel Cassiopeia*. Mee is the only playwright member of the SITI Company where *Under Construction* was originally produced.

About his works Mee said, "There is no such thing as an original play." His work operates under the belief that human beings are products of history and culture, and this history and culture speaks through them. He claims not to write political plays; instead his plays are a product of humanity as creatures of history, culture, gender, and politics combined. His plays accentuate the fact that all these elements influence and motivate us. Mee thinks of his works as conglomerations of historical documents that represent who humans are and how they operate.

Mee's complete works can all be found on his website (www.charlesmee.org). They are unique in that they are made up of, or inspired by, other texts and media. Mee is the first and only playwright to have such an extensive body of work purposefully available on the internet in what he has named the "(re)making project." On his site, Mee writes that people interested in his work should "feel free to take the plays...and use them freely as a resource for your own work." Therefore, his plays, like *America*, are always under construction.

Among many other awards, Mee is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He currently teaches playwriting at the Columbia School for the Arts. His work is made possible by the support of Jeanne Donovan Fisher and Richard B. Fisher.