

Join us for our Spring Term productions

April 24-25, 2020
Studio Theatre

HIDDEN IN THIS PICTURE

By AARON SORKIN
Directed by JOHN HARDEN

May 6-9, 2020
Harbach Theatre

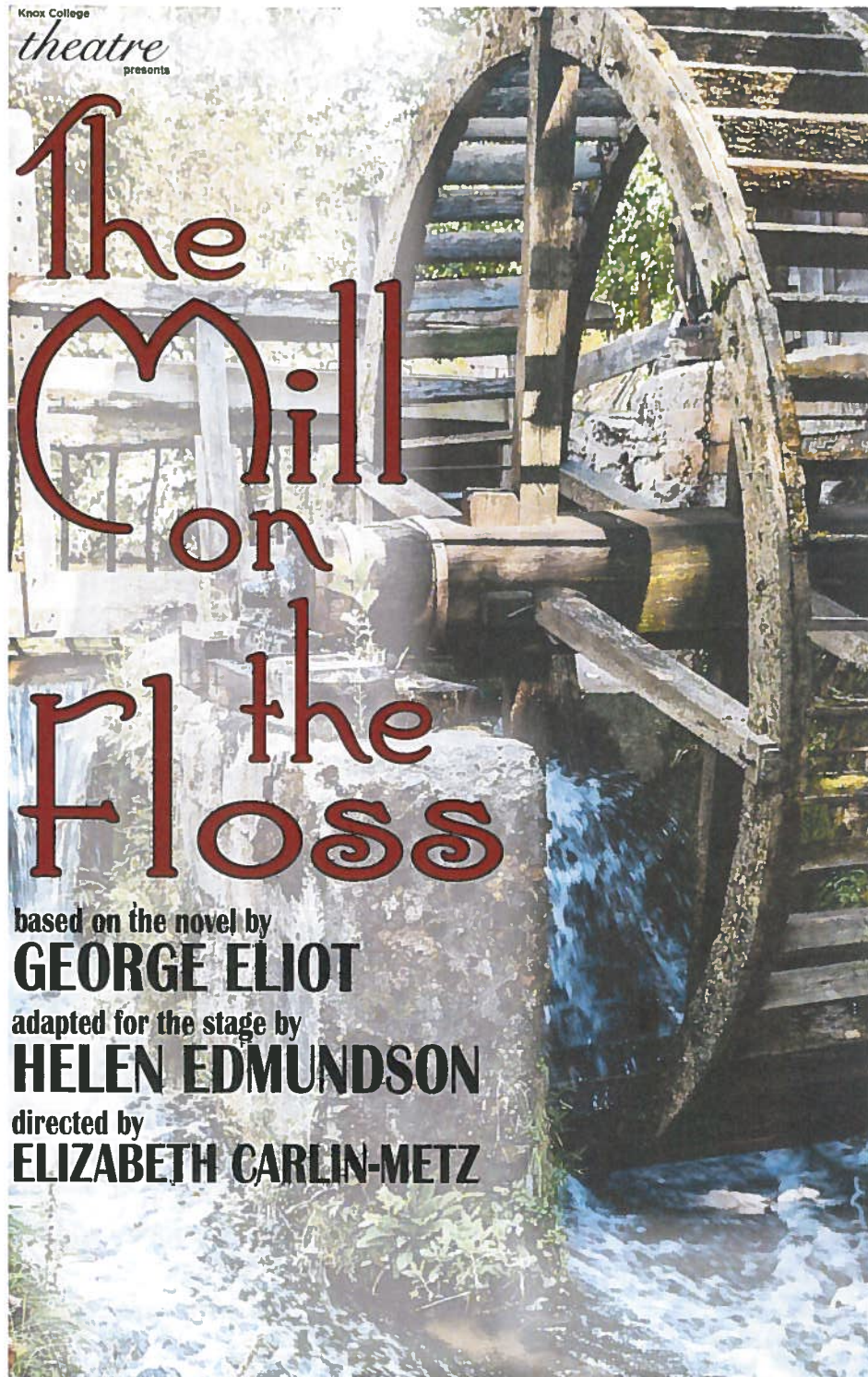
When We Were Young and Unafraid

By SARAH TREEM
Directed by DEANA NICHOLS

May 14-16, 2020
Studio Theatre

Death of a Salesman

By ARTHUR MILLER
Directed by JOEL WILLISON



Knox College
theatre
presents

The Mill on the Floss

based on the novel by
GEORGE ELIOT
adapted for the stage by
HELEN EDMUNDSON
directed by
ELIZABETH CARLIN-METZ

Welcome to Knox College Theatre

Welcome to the second Main Stage production of the Department of Theatre 2019-20 Theatre Season. We are pleased to celebrate with you our work in the field of theatre on both the Harbach and Studio Theatre stages. Each year we select a range of plays, which, if considered over the four-year tenure of a Knox student, will expose Knox students to a wide range of lenses with which to view the human condition. Our current season of faculty directed plays examines human thought, experience, and action through three plays from the modern theatre. All three of the faculty directed plays consider the status of women. The fall production, *A Doll's House Part 2* by Lucas Hnath was directed by Jeff Grace, and came to us from a highly acclaimed 2018 run on Broadway and has rapidly become one of the most popular plays being presented in regional theatres and campuses across the USA. The play imagines Nora's return to her abandoned home 15 years following the famous door slam heard round the world. This winter term we present Helen Edmundson's provocative adaptation of George Eliot's controversial Victorian novel, *The Mill on the Floss*, as directed by Liz Carlin Metz. This vivid and imaginative adaptation depicts the tragic lives of women when they have no economic control in a world that dictates to them their freedom and behavior. In spring term, Visiting Professor Deana Nichols will direct *When We Were Young and Unafraid* by Sarah Treem. This play returns us to the watershed year of 1972 through a humorous and moving examination of the gender politics that defined a movement and set the stage for contemporary feminism. Faculty designers Craig Choma and Visiting Instructor Allison Smith Hahn take the lead positions in designing sets, fights, videography, and costumes, working alongside student designers Marion Frank (lighting) and Peter Rule (set and costumes) and approximately 60 students to realize tonight's production.

— Liz Carlin-Metz, Chair

Knox College Theatre
presents

The Mill on the Floss

by Helen Edmundson
adapted from the novel by GEORGE ELIOT

Directed by LIZ CARLIN METZ
Scenic Design by PETER RULE
Costume Design by PETER RULE
Lighting Design by MARION FRANK
Sound Design by GREGOR MORTIS

Harbach Theatre
Ford Center for the Fine Arts
March 4-7, 2020

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

LUCY DEANE	Lindsay Drozdik
MR. TULLIVER, DR. KENN	Marion Frank
SECOND MAGGIE	Susan Gibbs
MRS. TULLIVER	Kaitlyn Hrivnak
AUNT GLEGG	Natalie Ivaniszek
TOM TULLIVER, WAKEM	Gil Martinez
PHILLIP WAKEM, BOB JAKIN, UNCLE PULLET	Sebastiano Masi
STEPHEN GUEST, MR. STELLING, UNCLE GLEGG	Nicodemus Meade-Greenman
AUNT PULLET	Tallulah Nepstad
THIRD MAGGIE	Meg Tucker
FIRST MAGGIE	Neori Yasumaru

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

Administrative

House Manager	John Harden
Box Office	Jamie Heller
Poster Design	Craig Choma
Program	Jamie Heller & Riley Nelson
Publicity	Cast & Crew
Ushers	Student Volunteers

Production Team

Director	Liz Carlin Metz
Assistant Director	Joel Willison
Stage Manager	Riley Nelson
Assistant Stage Managers	Eliza Dehlin & Erin N. Yu
Scenic Design	Peter Rule
Lighting Design	Marion Frank
Costume Design	Peter Rule
Wigmaster	Paula Pierce
Puppet Design	Veronica Langley
Props Master	Melina Minaya
Sound Design	Gregor Mortis
Assistant Sound Design	Erin N. Yu
Violence Coordinator	Mitchel Boyle
Violence Captain	Marion Frank
Choral Coach	Kurt Killam
Technical Director	Craig Choma
Master Carpenter	Cammie Stein
Master Electrician	Jo Hill
Light Board Operator	Riley Nelson
Sound Board Operator	Erin N. Yu
Deck Chief	Eliza Dehlin
Run Crew	Mitchel Boyle

Theatre Department Faculty

Chair of Theatre	Liz Carlin Metz
Associate Professor of Theatre	Craig Choma
Associate Professor of Theatre	Jeff Grace
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre	Deana Nichols
Instructor of Theatre	Allison Smith Hahn
Writer-in-Residence	Sherwood Kiraly

Who's Who in the Cast

LINDSAY DROZDIK (Lucy Deane) is a first-year majoring in Creative Writing and double-minoring in Theatre and Spanish. This is her first time acting in Knox's theatre department, but she previously has been seen in several St. Charles East High School's productions, including *Little Women* (Beth), *Macbeth* (Donalbain), and *Les Misérables* (Ensemble). She would like to thank the cast and crew for bringing her into the department with open arms and her parents for their continued support. Lindsay is from St. Charles, IL.

MARION FRANK (Mr. Tulliver, Dr. Kenn) is a junior majoring in Theatre and minoring in German. She has been seen at Knox as Martha in *The Children's Hour*, Mark in *Almost Never-Land*, and as Mephistopheles in *Doctor Faustus*. Marion aspires to be a director, and has directed: *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You*, *Let Me Hear You Whisper*, *The Lindworm*, and she was the assistant director to Josh Pohja for First Stage's Summer Academy performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their unending support. Marion is from Wauwatosa, WI.

SUSAN GIBBS (Second Maggie) is an undecided first-year interested in Theatre and Music. She was seen in

the Knox Studio Theatre production of *Sorry, Wrong Number* (Chief Operator/Information), and in her last year at McKinley CLA in the fall musical *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey). Susan is currently taking voice lessons at Knox and is a member of the all-women's choir, "Enharmonic Fire." Susan is from St Louis, MO.

KAITLYN HRIVNAK (Mrs. Tulliver) is a junior majoring in Theatre. Her previous acting credits at Knox include *A Doll's House, Part 2* (Anne Marie), *The Laramie Project* (Ensemble) and *The Children's Hour* (Ensemble) during Rep Term XVIII, and *Before Sunrise* (Annemarie Krause); she has also participated in New Plays Festival and New Plays Workshop. She would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support, as well as her directors for the opportunities they have presented to her. Kaitlyn is from Kewaunee, WI.

NATALIE IVANISZEK (Aunt Glegg) is a first-year majoring in Theatre and English Literature. She previously has been seen at Eaglecrest High School in *Who Will Carry The Word* (Mounette). At Knox College, she recently served as the assistant stage manager of *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You*. Natalie is from Aurora, CO.

GIL MARTINEZ (Tom Tulliver, Wakem) majored in Theatre and minored in Anthropology. He was previously seen in *The Laramie Project* and *The Children's Hour*, as well as the New Plays Festival. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support. He would also like to thank his girlfriend, Sarah, for always running lines with him and for her support. Gil is from Chicago, IL.

SEBASTIANO MASI (Phillip Wakem, Bob Jakin, Uncle Pullet) is a junior majoring in Creative Writing, and plans on being a Theatre (Playwriting) and Computer Science double minor. He previously has been seen at Knox in *Sorry, Wrong Number* (George), *A Number* (Salter), and in the ensembles of *The Learning Plays* and *Doctor Faustus*. He also has been heavily involved in the New Plays Workshops. Sebastiano is from Chicago, IL.

NICODEMUS MEADE-GREENMAN (Mr. Stelling, Uncle Glegg, Bailiff, Stephen Guest) is a first-year working towards a Major in Theatre. He has been seen previously in Knox's production of *A Doll's House Part 2* (Torvald) and has been doing Theatre since middle school. Nicodemus is beyond excited to be starting his College Theatre journey at Knox, and would like to thank his castmates for their friendship and support. Nicodemus is from Oklahoma City, OK.

TALLULAH V. NEPSTAD (Aunt Pullet) is a sophomore working towards a theatre major. They have been in several New Plays performances and made their Harbach debut in *Before Sunrise*. They wish you well and hope that you enjoy the show! Tallulah is from Las Vegas, NM.

MEG TUCKER (Third Maggie) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre. At Knox, some of her credits include *Before Sunrise* (Martha), *Hard Same* (Jenny), and *A Doll's House: Part 2* (Emmy). Outside of Knox, she has had the opportunity to work on shows such as *The Dining Room* (Peggy/Ruth) and *Little Women* (Meg). She is thrilled to bring this show to life alongside the amazing work of her castmates, crew, and the entire production team. Meg was born and raised in Batavia, IL.

NEORI YASUMARU (First Maggie) is a sophomore with an undecided major and a minor in Peace and Justice Studies. This is her first time acting, and she is very excited. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew of *The Mill on the Floss* for always being fun, encouraging, and supportive at every rehearsal, as well as all of her friends for being excited for her throughout the past 8 weeks. Neori is from Tokyo, Japan.

Who's Who on the Production Team

MITCHEL BOYLE (Violence Coordinator) is a junior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Classics. He has previously been seen in Studio Theatre productions of *A Number* (B1, B2, Michael), *Minnesota Moon* (Larry), *Time Flies* (Horace), and *Long Ago and Far Away* (Jack). He also performed in *The Laramie Project* and *The Children's Hour*. He serves as Technical Director for the Theatre Advisory Board. Mitchel would like to thank his family, who have supported him in all of his endeavors. Mitchel is from Baton Rouge, LA.

LIZ CARLIN METZ (Director) has worked in professional theatre as an actress, director, and voice/dialect coach. She worked as an Assistant Director at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles where she assisted on *Widows* adapted from his by Ariel Dorfman novel with Tony Kushner and served as a Directing Associate with California Shakespeare Festival. As the founding artistic director of Vitalist Theatre (Chicago), her critically acclaimed directing credits include *Anna Karenina*, *The Mill On The Floss*, *Life is a Dream* (all Edmundson adaptations), *The Three Lives Of Lucie Cabrol* (by special permission of Theatre D' Complicite), *Floating Rhoda And The Glue Man*, *King Lear*, the world

premiere of *Anung's First American Christmas*, *Mother Courage And Her Children*, (After Dark Awards for Direction, Best Actress, Best Original Score, and Technical Achievement), *A Passage To India* (Jeff nominated), and *The Night Season* (two Jeff nominations and the award for Best Supporting Actress). Other directing credits include *Merchant on Venice*, *Multitudes*, *Pool (no water)*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Love Of The Nightingale*, *Macbeth*, *Two Rooms*, *My Fair Lady*, *Pygmalion*, *A Lie of the Mind*, *Woman In Mind*, *Betrayal*, and her own original adaptation of *Henry IV Pts 1 & 2* performed at Manchester Metropolitan University (UK). As an actress, memorable roles include; Lynn in *Multitudes*; Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*; Hesione in *Heartbreak House*; Mrs. Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera*; Claire in *A Delicate Balance*, and Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*. As a voice director Liz coached for Seattle Repertory Theatre, Tacoma Actor's Guild, Dialogue Productions (London), and Steppenwolf Theatre Company (Chicago and Off-Broadway) among others. She was for four years the Resident Voice Director at Williamstown Theatre Festival where she directed Shakespeare and Moliere for The Act One Company and taught in the Apprentice conservatory, serving for one summer as director of that program. Liz holds an MFA from Temple

University and is published on the topic of the Neuroscience of Performance, as well as on acting and voice.

CRAIG CHOMA (Technical Director) is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Knox College (resident designer and technical director). Favorite Knox designs include *The Laramie Project*; *The Glass Menagerie*; *The Drowning Girls*; *The Secret In The Wings*; Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*; *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn*; *The Caffè Cino Project*; *In The Next Room (or the vibrator play)*; *The Green Bird*; *Caucasian Chalk Circle: Under Construction*; *A Lie of The Mind*; *Medea*; *Angels in America*; *Intimate Apparel*; *The Skriker*; *A Moon for the Misbegotten*; *The Grapes of Wrath*; *War and Peace*; and *Macbeth*. Craig has designed both sets and/or lights professionally in Chicago, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Minneapolis, Ohio, Toronto, Canada, and Avignon, France. Craig designs for both theatre and dance, and he enjoys each equally. Craig has designed in proscenium, thrust, and arena spaces, small storefront theatres, converted churches and libraries, and site-specific locations. Craig has been the production designer for a number of fundraising events, and has collaborated on court cases, creating forensic models of various scales to be used in the presentation of evidence. Craig holds a BA in The-

atre and Philosophy (Knox College) and MFA's in both Scenic and Lighting Design (Carnegie Mellon University). Craig thanks his amazing wife and children for their unconditional love and support.

ELIZA DEHLIN (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior majoring in History and minoring in History Education. She has been seen before in the programs of Knox College productions *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Assistant Stage Manager) and *The Learning Plays* (Stage Manager). She hopes you enjoy the show! Eliza is from Viroqua, WI.

MARION FRANK (Lighting Designer) is a junior majoring in Theatre and minoring in German. Previous lighting design credits include: *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (First Stage's Summer Academy), *Dutchman*, several dance pieces including the Fall 2019 Terpsichore concert, and assistant lighting designer to Craig Choma for *The Children's Hour* and *The Laramie Project*. She is currently working with Craig Choma to design the lighting for the whale skeleton in SMC, as well as taking an advanced lighting design course. Marion is looking forward to designing lights for *Death of a Salesman*, coming in spring term, and going on an internship in Germany this summer. Marion would like to thank the Scene Shop employees and all of the volunteers

who helped make this show happen, and especially gives thanks to Jo Hill, her master electrician. She would also like to thank Liz Carlin Metz and Craig Choma for trusting her to design a faculty show and supporting her vision as a developing designer. Marion is from Wauwatosa, WI.

JO HILL (Master Electrician) is a junior majoring in Environmental Studies and double minoring in Theatre Design & Technology and Youth & Community Studies. She previously has served as master electrician for Rep Term and designed lighting for *A Number*. Some of her favorite onstage roles at Knox include *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura) and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Jean). She would like to thank everyone in the costume shop and on the lighting crew. Jo is from St. Louis, MO.

KURT KILLAM (Choral Coach) is a Galesburg private voice, piano, and acting teacher at Moon of Hope Studio. He has been teaching for over forty years, and during that time has served as director, music director, pit conductor, or accompanist for over 70 musicals and plays. It is always a joy to work with Liz Carlin Metz and the Knox College students on their productions. For more information contact 309-343-4037 or moonofhope@comcast.net.

VERONICA LANGLEY (Puppet Fabricator) is a junior majoring in Creative Writing and minoring in Film Studies. She is a student videographer in Knox College's Office of Communications as well as the current Vice President of Film Club, and previously has worked as both a director and playwright for New Plays Workshop. She has been operating alongside puppeteers and fabricators at the Jim Henson Company for most of her adult life, and most recently worked as a Production Assistant on Comedy Central's *Crank Yankers*. Veronica is from Burbank, CA.

GREGOR MORTIS (Sound Design) This is Gregor's eleventh time collaborating with Elizabeth Carlin-Metz, the last being *Merchant On Venice* with Vitalist Theatre for whom he designed *Multitudes*, *Pool (no water)*, *The Ghost is Here*, *Life Is A Dream*, *The Night Season*, *Anung's First American Christmas*, *A Passage To India*, *Mother Courage and Her Children*, and *Anna Karenina*. Other notable designs: with Steppenwolf Theatre, *How Long Will I Cry*, *When the Messenger Is Hot (59E59th Street Theatre, NYC)*, *Gary*, *Tranquility Woods*, and *Creative Disobedience And Why The World Can't Wait*; with Strawdog Theatre, *Pontypool*, *Kill Shakespeare*, *The Hunting Of The Snark*, *Aristocrats*, *The Proper Papers*, *A Lie Of The Mind* (Jeff Award: Original Incidental Music), *Julius Caesar*, *Wireless*: Radio The-

atre, *Return To The Howard Bowl*, and *Disco Pigs*; with Defiant Theatre, *Action Movie: The Play* (Jeff Award: Original Music/Design, After Dark Award) and *Ubu Raw* (After Dark Award). Gregor has been a full-time Audio Engineer at Steppenwolf Theatre Co. for the past 14 years and recently finished composing music and designing sound for the independent horror films *Air Conditions* and *Restoration* as a member of Deathblow Productions.

MELINA MINAYA (Properties Master) is a first-year planning to major in Studio Art and Theatre. Melina has an interest in the use of objects to tell stories and hopes to become a Properties Master after graduate school. She would like to thank Liz and Joel, as well as Mark Holmes and Jason Connell, for support and inspiration in the Theatre and Art departments, respectively. Melina is from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

RILEY NELSON (Stage Manager) is a senior majoring in Philosophy and minoring in Theatre. At Knox College, he previously has been Stage Manager for *The Children's Hour* and Co-Stage Manager for *The Bald Soprano*. He also has been Assistant Director for *The Nether*, and been seen in *The Laramie Project* (Ensemble), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Gordon),

The Glass Menagerie (Tom Wingfield), and *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You* (Connor). He serves as Production Manager of the Theatre Advisory Board. Riley is from Chicago, IL.

PETER RULE (Scenic Design, Costume Design, Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor) graduated Knox in 2019 with a double major in literature and theatre. He is currently the theatre department's post-baccalaureate fellow, on a gap year thanks to the generous accommodation of Carnegie Mellon University, where he will pursue an MFA in scenic design beginning next fall. His previous design credits include *Doctor Faustus* (set), *The Learning Plays* (assistant costume), *Before Sunrise* (assistant set), *The Children's Hour* (costume), and *Godspell* (costume). You may have also seen him onstage in *Richard III*, *Minnesota Moon*, *Before Sunrise*, and *The Laramie Project*. While a student, he also worked as a technician in the costume shop. He'd like to thank Liz Carlin Metz for trusting him with the mammoth undertaking of designing two major elements of one production, as well as Craig Choma and Allison Smith Hahn, without whose guidance and support his designs would never have been realized.

ALLISON SMITH HAHN (Costume Studio Manager) joined the Knox Theatre Department as the resident costume designer and Cos-

tume Studio manager. She teaches Fashion History and Technical Artistry for the Stage. Her Chicago designs include *Multitudes* and *Pool (no water)* with Vitalist Theatre, *Rhinoceros* (Theatre Heist), *Good People*, *The American Clock*, *Red, I and You*, and *Another Bone* (Redtwist Theater), *Miles Away*, *Mike and Seth*, *Hello Failure*, *Through the Leaves*, and *Request Concert* (Side Project Theatre), *All Shook Up*, *How to Succeed in Business [...]*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Wilmette Center for the Arts), *Next Fall* (AstonRep), *A 1940s Radio Show* (Moon of Hope Studios) and *Leading Ladies* (Black Hills Playhouse). She studied costume design and technical artistry at Knox College where she earned her B.A., and was also a Post-Baccalaureate Fellow (2010-11). She is grateful to Tony for keeping track of her heart, and always to Margo Shively. Allison is from Chicago, IL.

CAMMIE STEIN (Master Carpenter) is a junior majoring in Theatre with an emphasis on Scenic Design. Her previous work at Knox College includes Properties Designer for *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, Scenic Designer, Master Carpenter, and Properties Designer for *Dutchman*, and Scenic Designer for *A Doll's House Part 2*. Cammie is from Eden Prairie, MN.

JOEL WILLISON (Assistant Director) is a senior with a Theatre major and a minor in Creative Writing. He previously was seen in *The Laramie Project*, served as Assistant Director for *The Children's Hour*, and directed in Studio Theatre *Dutchman*, *The Little School for Angels*, *Minnesota Moon*, and *Marigold: A Sibling Sketch*. He recently interned for the New York Stage and Film Company at The Powerhouse Theatre (Poughkeepsie, New York). He is looking forward to directing his Honor's Project, *Death of a Salesman* in Spring Term. Joel would like to thank Brady Commenduley and Ashley Willison for believing in him and helping him to grow in theatre. He was born in Chicago, IL but calls Kampala, Uganda home.

ERIN N. YU (Assistant Stage Manager, Assistant Sound Design) is a senior double majoring in Theatre and Business. Her most recent credits at Knox include *A Doll's House Part 2*, *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You*, *The Laramie Project*, and *The Children's Hour*. Erin is happy to be a part of the Theatre Advisory Board as Public Relations Co-Coordinator. Her time at Knox has helped her grow into who she is today, so she would like to thank everyone who has supported her journey. She will miss Knox and the friends made along the way when she graduates this spring. Erin is from Seoul, South Korea.

Scene Shop Teaching Assistants

Iris Berto, Mitchel Boyle, Wesley Breyer, Kathleen Dickinson, Sam Esteep, Zach Farmer, Zach Krawczyk, Nicodemus Meade-Greenman, Caleb Moore, Cammie Stein, Jake Wertz, Joel Willison, Roz Zucker

Costume Shop Teaching Assistants

Peter M. Rule (Assistant Studio Supervisor), Jo Hill (Costume Studio Crew Lead), Paula Pierce (Hair and Makeup Lead), Allison Stout, Emma Bohman, Greta Eanes, Morghan Bacon, Amelia Walz

Costume Shop Volunteers

Charlie Van Kirk, Cianja Bone, Melina Minaya

Special Thanks

Zach Farmer, Casey Brayndick, Mitchell Parks, Katherine Asteriadou, Caleb Moore, Emile and Camile Smith, Sebastian Specialty Hardwoods, Tim Homes, Donna Kimball, Frank Langley IV, The Academy of Performing Arts, Buck Creek Farm, and Wintercroft Design LTD

This production is made possible in part through funding by the Elizabeth Jahnke Metz Fund for Theatre

Helen Edmundson (Adaptation)



Helen Edmundson (Adaptation) studied drama at Manchester University (UK), and gained wide acting, directing, and devising experience with the female agit-prop company Red Stockings. Her first solo writing attempt, *Ladies in the Lift*, a musical comedy, was created specifically for the company in 1988. Her first play, *Flying*, was presented at the Royal National Theatre Studio (1990). Her other early work

includes two short television films, *One Day* (BBC, 1991) and *Stella* (Channel 4, 1992). *Anna Karenina* (1992), her first adaptation for Shared Experience Theatre, won the Time Out and Evening Standard awards and the Theatre Managers' Association Award for Best Touring Production. Her play *The Clearing* (1993) was first performed at The Bush Theatre, London and was joint winner of the John Whiting Award. *The Mill on the Floss* (1994), her widely acclaimed adaptation for Shared Experience Theatre, won a Time Out Award, and *War and Peace* (1996), again for Shared Experience, debuted at the Royal National Theatre. She adapted *Corm Boy* for the National Theatre (2007), which won the Time Out Live Award for Best Play, wrote the book for *Zorro The Musical* (2008), adapted Calderone's *Life is a Dream* for the Donmar Warehouse (2009), and wrote *The Heresy of Love* (2012) and *Queene Anne* (2017) for the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. She has also written for television and currently has numerous film and television commissions under contract. Knox College Department of Theatre produced the collegiate premieres of Edmundson's adaptations of *Anna Karenina* (1996) and *War and Peace*, the later as Repertory Term XII (2001).

George Eliot (Author)



George Eliot (Author) was the pen name used by the English novelist Mary Ann Evans, one of the most important writers of European fiction. Born November 22, 1819, in Warwickshire, England, her education was dominated by Christian teachings, which would feature in her future writings. Influenced by Higher Criticism—a largely German school of thought that studied the Bible and attempted to treat sacred writings as human and historical documents—she translated these works from the German language to English and published her translations of David Strauss' *Life of Jesus* (1846) and Ludwig Andreas Feuerbach's *Essence of Christianity* (1854). Already renown as an editor and critic, Evans became an editor of the *Westminster Review*, an open-minded journal (1851). Here, she came into contact with “the positivists,” followers of the doctrines of the French philosopher Auguste Comte (1798–1857), who were interested in applying scientific knowledge to the problems of society. She published the short story “*Amos Barton*” (1857) followed by a collection of short stories entitled *Scenes of Clerical Life* (2 vols., 1858), and then her first novel, *Adam Bede* (1859). Eliot's next novel was *The Mill on the Floss* (1860). The final pages of the novel show the heroine reaching toward a “religion of humanity” (the belief in human beings and their individual moral and intellectual abilities to work toward a better society), reflecting Eliot's own views on morality. Eliot next published the now famous short novel, *Silas Marner* (1861), followed by the historical novel, *Romola* (1862–1863), set in Renaissance Florence. Her next novel, *Felix Holt* (1866) reflected her political thought, as she addressed the social questions that were then disturbing England. In 1871 and 1872 Eliot published her masterpiece, *Middlemarch*, a broad understanding of human life. Eliot's last novel was *Daniel Deronda* (1874–1876). She died in London on December 22, 1880, having gained significant respect and admiration from her peers and fellow novelists.