

---

---

MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Presents

ANDROCLES AND THE LION

by  
Aurand Harris

Directed by Paul Oppy  
Music Directed by Frank Wood  
Scene Design by Sean Johnson  
Lighting Design by Marian Zielinski  
Costume and Lion's Makeup Design by Shelley Kuhlen  
Choreography/Movement Coached by Terrell Abney

CAST

Androcles ..... James Foley  
Pantalone ..... Bert Hopkins  
Isabella ..... Monica Stevens  
Lelio ..... Brandon Duke  
Captain ..... Matt Astin  
Prologue and Lion ..... John Hansford

Scene

The improvised stage of a Commedia dell'arte troupe  
of strolling players. Sixteenth Century, Italy.

The play is in two parts.

Who's Who

**Terrell Abney** (Choreographer) graduated from Mercer with a concentration in Theatre Arts. He has choreographed several productions for Mercer Players and Mercer Opera workshop. His professional credits include work with Carousel Dinner Theatre, The Lost Colony, American Family Theatre, and Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival.

**Matt Astin** (Captain) received his B.A. from Mercer in 1999 with a double major in Biology and History. While waiting for medical school, Matt is happy to be on Mercer's stage once again. He has appeared on stage at Theatre Macon in The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), Amedeus, and Little Shop of Horrors, at Macon State College in Tommy, at Macon Little Theatre in Crazy for You, Singing in the Rain, and No, No Nanette. At Mercer, Matt has appeared in Sharon's Grave and Cyrano de Bergerac.

**Nicole D. Benson** (Stage Manager) is a junior double majoring in Music and Communication and Theatre Arts. Many thanks go to Paul Oppy for this second great opportunity. Her first "great" was playing Maddie in the world premiere of View from a Chambered Nautilus. She is grateful for this opportunity to stage manage such a great cast. Thank you for your hard work and your patience with her. She wishes you all a great big broken leg in life.

**Brandon Duke** (Lelio) is a junior majoring in Marketing and minoring in Communication and Theatre Arts. Brandon has appeared in the musicals, Cinderella, The Most Happy Fellow, and West Side Story in his home state of Texas. This is his first performance at Mercer, and his first time to live out of state. He thinks Georgia is "just peachy," and claims, "Don't worry, be happy, you can never go wrong with khaki."

**James Foley** (Androcles) is a sophomore majoring in Music and History. James, more affectionately entitled Axel by his friends and family, appears for his second time with Mercer Theater, having played Hysterium in last springs A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. He hopes to perform once he receives his degree, or do graduate work in composition or music history. Axel thanks the following for faith and inspiration: his parents, babybird, bulldog, The ATO boys, Ray Hatch, and Paul Oppy! Enjoy the show!

**C. Eric Grace** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore Communication and Theatre Arts and Christianity double major from Fort Mill, South Carolina. Back home he is an active member of the Fort Mill Community Playhouse where he has performed in Gypsy, Oklahoma, South Pacific, Barnum, Kiss Me Kate, The Littlest Angel, and 42nd Street to name a few. He has also stage managed for the Children's Summer Theatre Workshop for the production of Cinderella. In high school he also directed Marvin's Room. Eric is excited to be working with Mercer's Theater Department for the first time.

**John Hansford** (Prologue and Lion) is a freshman from Washington, Georgia majoring in Biology. John likes to act.

**Bert Hopkins** (Pantalone) is a sophomore majoring in Political Science and the Drama Theatre Concentration. This is Bert's 4th show with Mercer University. He was last seen in Mercer's Defying Gravity. When Bert is not asleep or at mercer (those couple of hours out of the day) he can be found at Denny's consuming mass quantities of java and being ignored by the serving staff. Yes, he is a glutton for work, always swearing, "That which does not destroy me, makes me stronger." He sends his love out to his family and Amber.

**Sean Johnson** (Scene Designer/Technical Director) received his B.A. degree in Theatre Arts from Marian College in Indianapolis where he studied acting and scenic design. He is presently performing as the Technical Director for Mercer's Theatre Arts program. Other credits in scenic design at Mercer include Sweeney Todd, Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?, Private Eyes, Extremities, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, and Mercer Opera's recent production of Amahl and the Night Visitors.

**Shelley Kuhlen** (Costume/Makeup Designer) designed costumes for Mercer Theatre's recent productions of Rocket Man, Night of One Acts, Extremities, The Good Doctor, and An Inspector Calls. She also designed the costumes for Macon State College's recent productions of Angels in America and Tommy. This is her fourth year at Mercer as Costume Director.

**Jessica Moseley** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore majoring in Communication and Theatre Arts. This is Jessica's second play at Mercer and the first production in which she feels she has settled down and found a new theatrical "home". Thanks to everyone for making it so easy to get used to.

**Paul Oppy** (Director) is the Davenport Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts. He has been teaching and directing at Mercer for twenty-eight years. Androcles and the Lion is the 80th production he has directed for Mercer University Theatre. He was the

Artistic Director of the Georgia International Festival for Young Audiences for three years, and has been actively promoting the development of former and current Mercer student playwrights through our annual new play project.

**Monica Stevens** (Isabella) is a Macon native whose most recent roles include Teacher in *Defying Gravity* and Sheila in *An Inspector Calls* at Mercer and Morales in *A Chorus Line* at Theatre Macon. In 1998, Monica traveled to Kitakyushu, Japan with the Cast of *The Good Doctor*, and in May she will graduate with a B.A. in English and Communication and Theatre Arts. Monica wishes to thank Marian and Paul for the unspeakable privilege of learning from them.

**Frank Wood** (Music Director) has been heard from the clubs of Buckhead to Philadelphia's Academy of Music. Musical Direction/pianist/conducting credits include repertory shows for *The Young Americans* (in Atlanta & Los Angeles), *Grease*, *Nunsense 2*, *Ten Percent Review* (in Philadelphia) and for Theatre Macon: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Sweet & Hot*, *C'est La Guerre* and *A Chorus Line*. Frank works for Mercer and is the Marketing Director for The Grand Opera House and the arts programs at the University.

**Marian Zielinski** (Light Designer) is an Associate Professor Theatre at Mercer University where she has designed sets, costumes, and/or lighting for over fifty productions. Marian has also designed for the professional stage, including the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, the Shawnee Theatre, and Music Theatre Louisville. She earned her BA in Theatre from the State University of New York at Buffalo and her MFA from Illinois State University.

**Production Staff**

Director . . . . . Paul Oppy  
 Scene Designer . . . . . Sean Johnson  
 Costume Designer . . . . . Shelley Kuhen  
 Makeup Designer . . . . . Shelley Kuhen  
 Lighting Designer . . . . . Marian Zielinski  
 Choreographer/Movement Coach . . . . . Terrell Abney  
 Stage Manager . . . . . Nicole Benson  
 Assistant Stage Managers . . . . . C. Eric Grace, Jessica Moseley  
 Technical Director . . . . . Sean Johnson  
 Set Crew . . . . . Romedro Bennett, Tiffany Enyart,  
 . . . . . Candace Flatt, Dustin Fuller, Penni Hartley, Shelley Kuhen,  
 . . . . . Ashley Whitten, Ashleigh McDaniel, Derrick Robinson, Marlene Silva  
 Lighting Crew . . . . . Darren Clark, Holly Cook, Jessica Moseley,  
 . . . . . Courtney O'Neill, Hayward Ramey, Blair Ross, Marlene Silva, Erin Sullivan  
 Costume Crew . . . . . Susan Coburn, Diana Davidson,  
 . . . . . Candace Flatt, Shelley Kuhen, Marian McHugh,  
 . . . . . Heather Vanderoot, Ashley Whitten, Marian Zielinski  
 Dresser . . . . . Ashley Whitten  
 Master Electrician . . . . . Bob Mavity.  
 Light Board Operator . . . . . Courtney O'Neill  
 Follow Spot Operator . . . . . Erin Sullivan  
 Sound Board Operator . . . . . Holly Cook

**Special Thanks**

Linda Brambila, Merle Norman Cosmetics  
 Rusty Banks, Holly Cook, Karen Lambert, Amy Larrimore,  
 Bob Mavity, Matt Thompson, Frank Wood

**MERCER UNIVERSITY  
 THEATRE**

PRESENTS

**The Classic Children's  
 Musical Fable**

**ANDROCLES  
 AND THE  
 LION**



**DIRECTED BY  
 PAUL OPPY**

Saturday, April 8, 2 p.m.  
**The Grand Opera House**  
 A Performing Arts Center of Mercer University