

Mercer University Theatre Presents

## THE ARKANSAW BEAR

By Aurand Harris

Directed by Paul Oppy

Set and Lighting Design by Tony Pearson

Costumes Designed by Shelley Kuhen

Dances Choreographed by Terrell Abney

Sound Designed by T.J. Mote

### CAST

In order of appearance.

Tish. . . . . Shelley Johnson  
Star Bright. . . . . Jamila M.E. Young  
Mime. . . . . Samuel R. Bazemore  
Worlds Greatest Dancing Bear. . . . . Matt Astin  
Grand Ringmaster. . . . . Michael J. Bachman  
Little Bear. . . . . Molly Steven  
Mother's Voice . . . . . Shelley Kuhen  
Aunt Ellen's Voice . . . . . Alison Amyx  
Announcer's Voice. . . . . Matthew Stewart

The play is set in the present in Tish's home and  
around her favorite tree.

Please turn off all beepers, cell phones, and watch alarms.  
No cameras or recording devices may be used during the performance.

### Who's Who

Alison Amyx (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman political science major from Calhoun, GA. This is her second time working backstage with Mercer Theatre. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support over the years.

Matt Astin (World's Greatest Dancing Bear), a third year medical student from Monroe, GA is ecstatic to be back on stage at Mercer after making his theatre debut at Mercer nine years ago. His most memorable role was Dr. Frankfurter in *The Rocky Horror Show* at Macon State College. Thanks to Laurel, his wife, and Kayla, his daughter, for this last hurrah.

Michael J. Bachman (Grand Ringmaster) is a freshman at Mercer University and this is his first play at Mercer. Michael has two brothers and one twin sister. He is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Samuel R. Bazemore (Mime) is a freshman from Flint, MI majoring in Communication and Theatre Arts. This is his second production at Mercer, the first being *Arcadia* during last semester. Samuel plans on pursuing a career in acting in the future, and would like to thank his family and friends for all of their loving support.

Shelley Johnson (Tish) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre and minoring in Music at Mercer. This is Shelley's fourth production at Mercer. She was last seen as "Yertle the Turtle" in Theatre Macon's production of *Seussical the Musical*. She would like to thank her parents, family, friends, and Stefano for all of their strong love and support for her to pursue her passion.

T. J. Mote (Stage Manager) is a sophomore IST major. This is the fourth production T.J. has worked on since he came to Mercer. He would like to thank Paul and the excellent casts and crews he has worked with for making him want to continue working with the theatre.

Molly Stevens (Little Bear) is a senior majoring in Communication and Theatre Arts and English. Molly is from Macon, GA, and excited to be back on stage and working with the Mercer Theatre. She has been in over 25 plays and musicals in the Macon community and was last seen in *Annie* at Macon Little Theatre. "This play has been very real and comforting to me." She would like to dedicate her performance to her own grandfather - Jimmy Waters, who passed away last February.

Jamila M.E. Young (Starbright), a freshman Business/Prelaw student from Albany, GA is a first time actress at Mercer University. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Devell Ray Young and has four brothers.

The cast and crew of *The Arkansaw Bear* dedicate this performance to their Grandfathers and Grandmothers.

Alison Amyx (ASM) Mr. and Mrs. William Brown - Grandmother and Grandfather  
Nannie Mae Amyx - Mammaw

Matt Astin (Dancing Bear) Frances Hasher - Grandmother

Michael J. Bachman (Grand Ringmaster) Rita Simmons "Nana" - Grandmother

Samuel R. Bazemore (Mime) - Foster Bazemore - Grandfather

Shelley Johnson (Tish) Elton Cooper "Grandi" - Great-Grandfather  
Milton Leonard - Grandfather

Molly Stevens (Little Bear) Jimmy Waters - Grandfather

Jamila Young (Star Bright) James H. Young Sr. - Grandfather  
Theom Payne Young - Grandmother

#### Mercer Theatre Production Staff

Stage Manager ..... T.J. Mote  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Alison Amyx  
Prop Director ..... Shelley Kuhlen  
Technical Director ..... Tony Pearson  
Set Crew ..... Erika Adolphus, Emily Barringer, Zach Broome,  
Heidi Clinite, J.P. Haynie, Tony Lobello,  
Mandy Morris, Charles Thomas  
Costume Director ..... Shelley Kuhlen  
Costume Crew ..... Marian McHugh, Andilynn Williamson  
Hair and Makeup ..... Laurel Astin  
Poster and Program Design ..... Penni Hartley

#### The Grand Opera House Production Staff

Managing Director ..... Karen Lambert  
Technical Director ..... Bob Mavity  
Sound Engineer ..... Mark Endres  
Fly Rail Operator ..... Tyrone Merriweather  
Follow-Spot Operator ..... Drew Hernden



# THE ARKANSAW BEAR

by Aurand Harris  
Directed by Paul Oppy



February 16th  
10:00 AM

February 17th  
9:30 & 11:30 AM

February 18th  
7:30 PM

**The Grand Opera House**  
Tickets: \$6/\$5 with Mercer ID  
Call the Box Office at (478) 301-5470  
[www.thegrand.mercer.edu](http://www.thegrand.mercer.edu)