

Who's Who

STEVIE WATSON (Ivy Weston) is a sophomore marketing major who currently stands as VP for the Mercer Players. Her recent major works include *Hedda Gabler* (Bertha), *She Kills Monsters* (Kaliopé), and *11x10!* (Patricia and Woman). She'd like to thank her biggest fans, her friends and family (theatre and biological), for always cheering her on.

TODD A. WILSON (Beverly Weston) is Technical Director here at the Tattnall Center and is making his Mercer stage debut in this production. A graduate of Mercer, Todd has been performing on area stages since 1985. This is his 30th production in shows at MLT, Theatre Macon (a member of their original cast) and Perry Players. He's also worked in film and TV including *42*, *The Crazyies*, *Anchorman II*, *Blood Ridge*, *Brockmire* and the soon to be released *Escape Room*. Todd lives in Macon with his 4 legged children: Moon Pie and Tigger.

COLLIN SCHUMACHER (Props Master) is a freshman engineering student at Mercer. This is his second show as crew for the theatre group. Formerly he served as Props Master for the student directed production *11x10*. His hobbies include procrastination, panicked scrambling, and constantly searching for that one really cool sock that the dorm laundry room stole from him. He would like to dedicate his work on *August: Osage County* to his family, especially his mother, and most especially his cats, Dr. Livingston and Señor Doodlepants.

SET CREW:

David Doleman
Noelle Fancher
Nathan Firkus
Frani Geiger Rollins
Nick Wade
Todd Wilson

LIGHTING CREW:

Annie Fair
Frani Geiger Rollins
Monica Stephenson
Todd Wilson

COSTUME CREW:

Ashley Greene
Shelley Kuhne
Katie Trotter

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

Mercer University is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music.

MERCER
THEATRE



2008 **Pulitzer Prize** for Drama
2008 **Tony Award** for Best Play

7:30 PM

2:30 PM

MARCH
30TH-31ST

APRIL
2ND & 9TH

APRIL
1ST & 6TH-8TH

AUGUST:
Osage County

BY TRACY LETTS
DIRECTED BY SCOT J. MANN

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

Directed by Scot J. Mann

Artistic Staff

Director.....Scot Mann
Scenic Designer.....Frani Geiger Rollins
Lighting Designer.....Frani Geiger Rollins
Costume Designer.....Shelley Kuhne
Technical Director.....Todd Wilson
Sound Designer.....Noel Hullfish
Assistant Sound Designer.....Reid Brown
Stage Manager.....Annie Fair
Assistant Stage Manager.....Julianna Tollett
Prop Master.....Collin Schumacher
Assistant Prop Master.....Kimberly Gessner
Master Electrician.....Annie Fair
Run Crew.....Reid Brown and Julianna Tollett
Light Board Operator.....Joe Black
Sound Board Operator.....Noel Hullfish
Arts Marketing.....Meagan Evans
Students Marketing Director.....Kaylah Fritho

Cast

Beverly Weston.....Todd Wilson
Violet Weston.....Gail Johnson
Barbara Fordham.....Kelly Mann
Bill Fordham.....Stuart Appleton
Jean Fordham.....Ashley Greene
Ivy Weston.....Stevie Watson
Karen Weston.....Julie Allen
Mattie Fae Aiken.....Leeanne Griffin
Charlie Aiken.....Jonathan Glance
Little Charles Aiken.....J.T. Bloodworth
Johnna Monevata.....Rosie Cooper
Steve Heidebrecht.....Jay Black
Sheriff Deon Gilbeau.....Jim Sisson

Director's Notes

Recognized internationally as one of the most important works of modern theatre, *August: Osage County* is a masterfully structured play, a compelling dark comedy, and, perhaps least recognized, heavily autobiographical. The brave honesty of Tracy Letts is what makes this play so resonate with audiences. Behind the front wall of the house, a family's reality is different than what is presented to the surrounding community, and a sense of humor is often the best way to handle a major family crisis. Audiences respond to this work's resonance within them with a sense of relief that their own family is, perhaps, not so unusual in their challenges after all. Or, as my grandmother opined, "'normal' families are just people you don't know anything about."

- Scot J. Mann
Associate Professor / Theatre Director, Mercer University

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JULIE ALLEN (Karen Weston) is a Mercer alum. She appeared in such works as *Legacy of Light*, *Tartuffe*, and *Love Kills*. She graduated in 2013 with a degree in Theatre and Spanish. And she would like to thank her family, both onstage and off, for their support.

STUART APPLETON (Bill Fordham) comes to our stage following his performances this season in Theatre Macon's *The Constant Wife* and *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille*. He has been a regular at Perry Players for years, appearing last summer as Mr. Banks in *Mary Poppins*, as Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey*, and directing this season's *Deathtrap*. Offstage he regularly applies his acting and improv skills performing as a Designated Standardized Patient for the Mercer University School of Medicine. He enjoys motorcycling and hiking, and works as a voiceover talent and audio book narrator.

JAY BLACK (Steve Heidebrecht) is a professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies and the author of the recently published book *Walt Kelly and Pogo: The Art of the Political Swamp*. His 46 years of acting began in a production of *Showboat*. Jay's favorite theatre experiences before AOC were two plays in which he had multiple roles: *Greater Tuna* in Rome, GA and *Combustible Burn* at The Grand Opera House in Macon. He would like to thank Joe Black and Damon Wood for helping him learn his lines... and remind them that, "No matter where you go, there you are."

JOSEPH BLACK (Light Board Operator) is currently a Junior here at Mercer. He is majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in German. His previous acting experiences include a high school production of *Alice in Wonderland*. However, you may have seen him at Mercer in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Tempest*, or *A Flea in Her Ear*. He also enjoys long walks along the beach.

J.T. BLOODWORTH (Little Charles Aiken) is a freshman student at Mercer University majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a hopeful minor in Theatre. He is thankful for his friends and family who support him as well as his former high school director, Dr. Andrew Strickland, for his mentorship throughout the years and his help and advice for which without, J.T. may not have been cast. He is also very grateful to his fellow cast members and crew members for this show and feels lucky to be in *August: Osage County*.

REID BROWN (Assistant Sound Designer) is a Senior Information Science and Technology major at Mercer University. He has run sound for the Mercer Players for every show during his time at Mercer. While officially billed as executive sound producer, executive sound technician, and resident deity, Reid performs a variety of other roles for the Mercer Players, ranging from emotional support, voice of reason, and occasional eye candy. He considers his wit his third best quality (behind awesomeness and humility), and would like to thank the other members of the cast, especially the long-suffering Annie Fair and ever-patient Ashley Greene, for enduring his hilarious antics.

ROSIE COOPER (Johnna Monevata) is a sophomore Chemical Commerce major at Mercer and is her sixth production with Mercer Theatre. You may most notably remember her as the Narrator in *She Kills Monsters* or Camille in *A Flea in her Ear*. She is also the historian of the Mercer Players. Rosie is very excited to participate in the production and is thankful for all the support from her friends and family, especially the illustrious Annie Fair.

ANNIE FAIR (Stage Manager/Master Electrician) is a junior and a theatre major at Mercer University. You may have most recently seen her work as the stage manager and assistant fight director for *She Kills Monsters*, stage manager and lighting designer for *Gideon's Knot* or as the lighting designer for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* [Abridged] as part of the Middle Georgia Summer Theatre Festival. Annie wants to thank her friends and family, especially Reid! His presence in the booth, awful dad jokes, emotional support, and ability to be incredibly annoying yet still make everyone laugh will be missed.

JONATHAN GLANCE (Charlie Aiken) is the Griffith Professor and Chair of Mercer's Department of English. He has previously acted in four Mercer productions—as Reverend Tyner in *The Disciples*, the Rabbi in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Cord Elam in *Oklahoma!* and Annibale in *The Gondoliers*—and has also played saxophone for numerous productions at local theatres. Jonathan would like to thank his wife Cindy for her support and encouragement throughout this production, and Scot Mann for the exciting opportunity to appear in this wonderful show!

ASHLEY GREENE (Jean Fordham) is a junior Theatre major at Mercer University and is the President of the Mercer Players. You may have seen her most recently on the Mercer stage playing Agnes in *She Kills Monsters* or Thea Elvsted in *Hedda Gabler*. She's thoroughly enjoyed being able to work with more experienced actors alongside her peers and being able to learn so much through this experience. Lastly, she'd like to thank her boyfriend Kevin for running lines with her, keeping her sane, and supporting her in all her endeavors.

LEEANNE GRIFFIN (Mattie Fae Aiken) is a 2012 graduate of Mercer University. She was involved in many productions with Mercer as an undergrad both onstage and backstage. She was most recently in *I Hate Hamlet* at Macon Little Theater. Some of her favorite roles include The White Queen in *Alice in Wonderland*, Polina in *The Seagull*, and Felicia in *I Hate Hamlet*. Leeanne would like to thank all of those who support her and you for coming to support Mercer Theatre.

NOEL HULLFISH (Sound Designer/Sound Board Operator) is a freshman Computer Science major at Mercer University. Most recently she has served as foley board operator for *She Kills Monsters* and sound board operator in *11x10!* She would like to thank her family for their support.

GAIL JOHNSON (Violet Weston) is honored to be working with this wonderful cast and crew! She's done theatre in Atlanta, Tampa area, and Macon. Her last few shows were: *Vanya, Sonya, Masha and Spike*; *The Best Man*; *Don't Dress for Dinner*; and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A huge "Thank you" goes to Scot Mann for allowing her to be a part of this production. Much love always to her hubby Doug!

SHELLEY KUHEN (Costume Designer) is in her twentieth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have most recently been seen in our productions of *She Kills Monsters*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Fiction*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, and *The Tempest*.

As Costume Designer for Mercer Opera, her creations were seen in their latest productions of *The Gondoliers*, *Oklahoma!*, *Alcina*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Iolanthe*. Also

employed by Theatre Macon, Shelley's work was last seen in *The Constant Wife*, *The Wiz*, and *Lend Me a Tenor*, as well as their Youth Actor's Company's production of *Seussical*. Shelley thanks her wonderful family for their continued love and support and for enduring years of her crazy schedules, mood swings and enlisting their help behind the scenes (which has included being living mannequins when an actor was not available!) She also thanks her amazing costume crew for their countless hours of hard work and for their encouragement, love and laughter!

KELLY MANN (Barbara Fordham) is a freelance actor, director, and fight choreographer, as well as a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors. Regional Credits include The Alliance Theatre, Horizon Theatre, True Colors Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre, The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and The Georgia Shakespeare Festival. She is beyond thrilled to be playing the role of Barbara. She would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew for all of their hard work, and for reminding her that even in the darkest of times, there is always "fun" in dysfunction. Enjoy the show!

SCOT J. MANN (Director) is an award winning and internationally recognized Fight Master through the Society of American Fight Directors, the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat, and Director of Theatre at Mercer University. He has choreographed, performed and coached theatrical violence in the US, England, and Germany with such companies as The Steppenwolf Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Alliance Theatre, and the Georgia Shakespeare Festival. Scot was recently elected President of the Society of American Fight Directors. As a director, he received a Meritorious Achievement Award for his direction of *Scapin*, by the Kennedy Center/ American College Theatre Festival in 2005.

FRANI GEIGER ROLLINS (Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer) is excited about having joined the Mercer Theatre family this year. She earned her M.F.A. from the University of Oregon in Theatre Design and Technology, and her B.A. in Theatre at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Her current research interests focus on new technologies in theatrical design, and the scholarship of learning and teaching theatre in higher education. Congratulations and thank-you's to the entire cast, crew, and support team for Mercer Theatre.

JIM SISSON (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau) (CLA '98, MST '04) is delighted to be bringing the much-needed law and order to the wild, wild Weston's in his role as the fastest gun in the Plains. This role is perfect for Jim as he is the most well-adjusted, emotionally stable person he has ever known. He is so grateful to Scot for this complex character, especially as it marks a new point in their relationship (Kelly is a great catch! Thanks for sharing!). He dedicates this performance to students, teachers, and of course Anne.

JULIANNA "JULES" TOLLETT (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman English major and Theatre/Psychology minor at Mercer University. Although this is her first year as a Mercer Player, she has been involved in almost every show that the department has put on. Her most recent roles include a puppeteer for *She Kills Monsters* and the Stage Manager for *11x10!*. She has also participated in multiple theatre classes, including Intro to Theatre and Rapier and Dagger. Julianna is very excited to learn more about Stage Managing in upcoming shows, and is very excited for her future as a Mercer Player.