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2009-2010 Season

at the  
BACK DOOR THEATRE

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IN THIS EXPERIMENTAL PIECE, MERCER THEATRE EXPLORES  
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AFTER AN ENTIRE SEMESTER OF EXPERIMENTATION AND  
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MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE  
Presents

**CINDERS**

By  
**JANUSZ GLOWACKI**

DIRECTED BY SCOT J. MANN

AT THE

**BACK DOOR THEATRE**

FEBRUARY 18-20 & 23-27 AT 7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 21 & 28 AT 2:00 P.M.



RATED M FOR MATURE

TICKETS: \$5

BOX OFFICE OPENS 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO CURTAIN  
FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, CALL 478.301.2974

# CINDERS

BY JANUSZ GLOWACKI

DIRECTED BY SCOT J. MANN\*

Scene Design.....Marian Zielinski  
Lighting Design.....Zach Broome  
Costume Design.....Shelley Kuhen  
Sound Design.....Corbin Parker, Scot Mann\*  
Fight Director.....Scot Mann\*

\*Member, Actors Equity Association

## CAST

Cinderella.....Cari Hipp  
Prince.....Lindsey Mouchet  
Ugly Stepsister #1.....Suzanne Stroup  
Ugly Stepsister #2.....Monica Titus  
Fairy Godmother.....Hannah Smith  
Stepmother.....Ashley Eckersley  
Father.....Christina Thorington  
Mouse.....Ellie Butler  
Sound Girl.....Leeanne Griffin  
Camera Girl.....Meredith Wood  
Clapper Girl.....Marcella Murray  
Director.....Sean Rayburn  
Principal.....Chad Sliger  
Deputy.....Isaac Callahan  
Inspector.....David Ferrier

## MERCER THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....Zach Broome  
Student Technical Director.....Isaac Callahan  
Musical Director / Original Music Composer.....Hannah Smith  
Assistant Director-Sound.....Corbin Parker  
Stage Manager / Lights.....Kyle Shook  
Assistant Stage Manager.....Harley Maddox  
House Manager.....Lauren Lunsford  
Assistant House Manager.....Matt Roche  
Scenic Artist.....Marian Zielinski  
Set Crew.....Isaac Callahan, Marcella Murray, Matt Bird,  
Brittany Chandler, Sheri Wilson, Leeanne Griffin, Ashley Eckersley  
Lighting Crew.....Marcella Murray, Travis Gibson  
Prop Crew.....Corbin Parker, Scot Mann  
Costume Crew.....Shelley Kuhen, Lauren Parris, Marian McHugh, Evelyn Prater  
Hair/Makeup Design.....Ashley Feagin  
Wardrobe.....Kelly Flemister  
Graphic Design.....Darlene Murphy

Written by Polish playwright, Janusz Glowacki, while in exile as a Polish dissident, this play examines survival under tyrannical authority. This bold, Kafkaesque comedy is set in a girls' reform school in Warsaw 1984, where a documentary is being filmed of the school's production of Cinderella.

## WHO'S WHO

**Zach Broome (Scenic Designer/Technical Director)** wishes to dedicate this production to his amazing fiancée, Amelia, without whom he would lack the daily inspiration to achieve as he does.

**Elle Butler (Mouse)** is a sophomore Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major. Although she performed in numerous plays throughout high school, this is only her second show with Mercer Theater. Last year she appeared as Mith in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is very excited to be back in the theater and working on this show. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support and the cast and crew for making this a wonderful experience.

**Isaac Callahan (Deputy/ Student Technical Director/ Set Crew)** is a senior Media Studies major / Theatre minor. This is his sixth time on stage at Mercer, with previous roles including Fyedka in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Billing in *An Enemy of the People*, and Reed Hooker in *The Lucky Spot*. He has thoroughly enjoyed exploring a little bit of the darker side of acting for this role. He wants to thank his family, friends, and professors for putting up with this addiction and supporting him all the way.

**Ashley Eckersley (Stepmother/ Set Construction)** is a senior Theatre major here at Mercer. She has also played Catherine Stockman in *An Enemy of the People* and the mother in *Rashomon*. She was also Stage Manager for *Fiddler on the Roof* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as House Manager for *Graduation Story* and *The Lucky Spot*.

**David Ferrer (Inspector)** This is David's second show with Mercer Theatre. His first was in *An Enemy of the People*, where he appeared as the Drunk.

**Kelly Flemister (Wardrobe)** is a sophomore Art History major at Mercer. Kelly has been involved in several productions, with recent roles including Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Doris/others in *Degas C'est Moi*, and Karolina in *An Enemy of the People*. She has also worked as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager, most recently stage managing for *The Lucky Spot*. She would like to thank everyone taking part in this production, and is honored to be working with them. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their unending support.

**Leeanne Griffin (Sound Girl/Set Construction)** is a sophomore from Valdosta, GA. She is an English and Theatre major with a Photography minor. This is her first production at Mercer and she is ecstatic to be a part of *Cinders*. She would like to thank her parents, her wonderful friends for their support and encouragement, and her roommate for listening to her when she needs to read plays out loud.

**Cari Hipp (Cinderella)** is a senior Sociology major from Newnan, GA, heading off to law school in the fall. You might have caught her last year in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Graduation Story*. She loved working on this production and looks forward to the next, *Coriolanus*. Note: She was not harmed during the making of this play.

**Shelley Kuhlen (Costume Director)** is in her thirteenth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have been seen most recently in our productions of *The Lucky Spot*, *An Enemy of the People*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Rashomon*. She is also Costume Designer for Mercer Opera where her creations were seen in their latest production of *Elixir of Love* as well as last season's *Egisto* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Her work with Theatre Macon was seen in last summer's productions of *The Producers*, *Counselor at Law*, *Footloose* and *Secret Garden*. Shelley wants to thank her wonderful family for their continual love and support. She also wants to thank her amazing costume crew for their countless hours of hard work and for their encouragement, love, and laughter.

**Lauren Lunsford (House Manager)** Lauren Lunsford is a junior Theatre major, traversing into yet another part of Mercer Theatre territory as the Viking house manager. If you're a regular Mercer theatre-goer, you might have seen her as Lacey in last semester's production of *The Lucky Spot*, or as Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof* last spring. She'd like to thank God for giving her friends who accept her eccentricities, professors who accept nothing but her best, and the ability to get to do what she loves each and every day. Thanks for supporting the Mercer Players!

**Scot J. Mann (Director)** celebrates his thirteenth directing effort at Mercer with this production. As a director, he received a Meritorious Achievement Award for his direction of *Scapin*, by the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in 2005. Scot is also an internationally recognized and award winning Fight Director, certified through the Society of American Fight Directors and the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat. He has choreographed, performed and coached theatrical violence with such companies as The Steppenwolf Theatre, The Alliance Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, and The North Carolina School of the Arts. He has also served as an instructor for the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat in London, and Stage Combat Deutschland in Freiburg, Germany. As an actor, Scot has appeared with the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, New American Theater, New American Shakespeare Theatre, Atlanta Opera, motion capture talent foActr digital media, and various voice-over recordings for radio, T.V. and the Internet. Scot appeared as a stunt-player and served as tactical choreographer and gun wrangler for the upcoming Sci-Fi movie, *Eyeborgs*, as well as on-set Swordmaster and stunt double for the "Bollywood" epic, *Drona*. Scot is an alumnus of the MFA/PAT program at The Alabama Shakespeare Festival and holds a BA in Communications and Theatre from Mercer University. He thanks Kelly, for her understanding and support, and his magical daughter, Madelyn!

**Lindsey Mouchet (Prince)** is a recent transfer from Valdosta State University. There she was seen in *Doubt* as Sister Aloysius and Debra Fordham's premiere of *Holler Me Home* as Ruth Trowell. Other Valdosta shows include *Antigone*, *Newermore* and *Ragtime*. Her recent work includes *The Royal Family* as Gwen Cavendish, *Ten Little Indians* as Vera Claythorne and *Steel Magnolias* as Shelby with the Alliance Theatre Education Department. As a native of Griffin, Georgia she was involved with the Camelot Theatre and The Main Street Players. Lindsey would like to thank Anna, Michael, and Parker Deignan for all their love and support in moving her to Macon. She would also like to thank Austin Davis and Rob Muldoon for their continual guidance and encouragement. A special thanks goes to her mother and father for all they have done to help further her education.

**Marcella Murray (Clapper Girl/Set Construction)** is a junior Theatre major. She is also minoring in Biology and Chemistry. Interests outside of acting include getting lost in her own thoughts, musicals, and world peace/dominion. Marcella's previous role was as Salem in *Enemy of the People*. This is also her ninth production in the set crew. She is so grateful to everyone involved for these opportunities to grow. Finally, Marcella would like to thank her family and friends whom she loves very much.

**Corbin Parker (Assistant Director/ Props Crew)** is quite excited to be part of this production. *Cinders* marks his first venture into the assistant directing area. It has been a pleasure working with Scot and the rest of the cast. They are all wonderful! I would like to thank my darling girlfriend Hannah for all her support and wish the rest of the cast a wonderful run!

**Sean Rayburn (Director)** is a freshman at Mercer who plans on majoring in English. He appeared in a few productions during high school and in *An Enemy of the People* at Mercer last semester, but this is his first major role at the college level. He is still relatively new to theatre, but enjoys every minute of it. His previous roles include Sam Craig in *Our Town*, Milton in *All in the Timing*, and Chuck in *Breaking the Chain*. He has also been a sound technician and co-sound designer in the Georgia High School State One-Act Competition productions of *Lebensraum* and *The Women of Lockerbie*. In his spare time Sean enjoys playing soccer, reading, good food, and writing. He would like to thank his friends at Mercer and his loving family for their support.

**Matt Roche (Assistant House Manager)** has absolutely no experience at all house managing (or even assistant house managing) for a production. However he has a bit of acting and stage managing experiences, and hopes the time spent in theaters filling other positions will somehow generalize into house managing skill. Wish him luck and enjoy the show!

**Kyle Shook (Stage Manager)** Kyle Shook is an English/ Gender Studies double-major and cannot begin to tell you how excited he is to be working on yet another production with Mercer Theatre. While you may have seen him on stage before, this is his first time Stage Managing. Aside from Mercer Theatre, he is involved in the Mercer Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Phi Eta Sigma, Mercer Players, NARAL and the Free Aung San Suu Kyi movement. He would like to thank Scot for the opportunity to learn from this cast and crew. Additional thanks go to his family, friends, professors, etc. who have been incredibly supportive.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

**Chad Sliger (Principal)** is a junior at Mercer University who is studying Theatre. He has performed in many roles at the Backdoor Theatre including John Birch in *The Disciples*, Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Morten Kill in *An Enemy of the People*, Horace the Mayfly and the Eunuch in *Time Flies* and Sam in *The Lucky Spot*. He loves his theatre crew very much and wouldn't know what to do without them. He would like to thank all of his friends, Mom, Dad, his brother John and God for all of the love and support that they have shown him throughout the 20 years of craziness. Thank you guys for coming and enjoy the show!

**Hannah Smith (Fairy Godmother/ Musical Director/ Original Music Composer)** is a senior English major who recently realized that saying "I'll try out for a play next semester, when I'm not so busy" tends to amount to very little. Consequently, *Cinders* is her first production with Mercer Theatre. She was last seen in a lot of dorky community-theatre musicals in high school that she's glad you haven't seen. In her free time, Hannah enjoys crocheting and other crafty stuff, and playing board games with her friends, where she is an unparalleled, unquestioned Boggle champion. Hannah enjoyed being in a production at the Back Door and writing the show's music—two firsts for her! She would like to thank Scot for letting her be the fairy she always wanted to be; the girls for providing some interesting, um, "characterization" onstage and off; and Corbin for listening to all those versions of "In a Silent Cell" that one night.

**Suzanne Stoup (Ugly Stepsister #1)** makes her Mercer Theatre debut in *Cinders*. Recently, she has been seen as Claire Hedden in Macon Little Theatre's *Traditions*. Among her favorite roles were Sandy Dumbrowski in *Grease*, Martha in *Cheaper by the Dozen* and Mary Eunice Wheaton in *Radio T.B.S.* She is a freshman Journalism and Theatre double major and is a member of the Mercer Women's Choir and the Mercer Ballroom Dance Club. She would like to thank her friends, family and wonderful cast for all of their support.

**Christina Thorington (Father)** is a senior Communications and Theatre Arts major and Music minor from Columbus, GA. She has been seen in several productions at the Back Door Theatre, Macon Little Theatre and Mercer University Opera. Her favorite roles include "Yente" in *Mercer's Fiddler on the Roof*, and "Mona" in *Chicago*. She is looking forward to her senior project, directing and choreographing a musical review called "Time Warp." It will run April 29, 30, and May 1 in Willingham at 7 pm. Christina would like to thank her mom and dad for all their support. Continue to support their native land of Haiti.

**Monica Titus (Ugly Stepsister #2)**—A sophomore Music major studying voice, Monica is excited to appear in her third production here in the Back Door Theatre. She has been involved with Mercer Theatre as well as the university's opera program since her arrival at Mercer. She was last seen in the ensemble of *An Enemy of the People* and the chorus of the opera, *The Elixir of Love*. She is excited to appear in this edgy piece of theater and would like to thank her friends, fellow cast members, family and teachers for supporting her and understanding her crazy schedule.

**Meredith Wood (Camera Girl)** is a senior Chemistry major at Mercer who plans to teach high school starting this fall! This is her first production at the Back Door Theatre. She hasn't been in a full show since high school... so thanks to everyone putting up with her and her missing knack for showbiz. Thanks also to Mom, Dad, Elizabeth, Sarah, Kendra, Mama, and everyone else who traveled to see the show! Most of all, thanks be to God for guiding her life!! Philippians 4:13

**Marian Zielinski (Scene Designer)** is in her 28th season designing for Mercer University Theatre. Some of the highlights of her tenure include set designs for *The Night of the Iguana*, *Beyond Therapy*, and *Under Milk Wood*. In recent years, she has also directed for Mercer Theatre including *Waiting for Godot*, *The Illusion*, *How I learned to Drive*, *The Good Doctor* (which toured to Japan), *The Three Sisters*, and most recently, *Time Flies*. She has designed professionally off-off Broadway, and for Music Theatre Louisville, The Shawnee Theatre, and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Marian is also a fiber artist and painter, and her recent work can be seen on display at the Middle Georgia Art Association's 48th Annual Winter Arts Festival and in two books to be released this Spring: *1000 Artisan Textiles* and as the cover art for *Communicology: The New Science of Embodied Discourse*. She dedicates this work to the man who is her Muse and her inspiration—her husband, Frank Macke.

I remembered the warning of the editor of a paper I once worked for - "Always avoid first reactions; they might be honest."

Janus Glowacki

Certainly, the above was good advice in Socialist Poland in 1981, after the military seized control of the government and imposed martial law in reaction to the Solidarity movement. Under a totalitarian regime that imprisoned thousands and banned the work of teachers and members of the media if they failed "verification" and showed sympathy with the Solidarity movement...one's neighbor was their spy. Any question, no matter how mundane (i.e. "do you like eggs for breakfast") could be answered incorrectly, or in a way that insinuated disapproval of the Socialist state, and result in imprisonment. It is against this backdrop that Glowacki sets *Cinders*, and the reform school itself serves as a metaphor for the surrealistic, absurd reality Poles were forced to endure. "I see", means "I don't see", and "what do you think" is either a trap, or a desperate attempt to learn the official opinion one is expected to express. The Polish nation endured this psychological stress and its effect on their interactions until 1983, when Martial Law was lifted, but the cycle of censorship and punishment remained.

Scot J. Mann

Assistant Professor/Theatre Director, Mercer University  
Fight Director, Society of American Fight Directors  
Certified Teacher, British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat.