

FICTION

Directed by Scot J. Mann

Artistic Staff

Scenic Design.....Marian Zielinski
Lighting Design.....Marian Zielinski
Costume Design.....Shelley Kuhlen
Marketing.....Mcagan Evans
Technical Director.....Todd Wilson
Stage Manager.....Annie Fair

The Cast

Michael Waterman.....Cohen Bickley
Linda Waterman.....Katie Clay
Abby Drake.....Hannah Fancher
Michael Waterman Understudy.....Chase Moore
Linda Waterman Understudy.....Abby Gibson
Abby Drake Understudy.....Chiyanne Wilson

Crew List

Set Crew:

Hannah Fancher
Nathan Firkus

Costume Crew:

Arrie Milam
Katie Trotter

Technical Production Staff:

Reid Brown
Noelle Fancher

Publicity Staff:

Kayla Fritho

Director's Notes

What first fascinated us on the first reading of Steven Dietz's *Fiction* was the amazing quality of the dialogue. It has always been a feature of a Dietz work, but the dialogue here drew us into the characters, into the structure of the journey, and compelled us to continue until we had read every word. We knew we had to produce the work, not only for our program, but also for the greater community of writers at Mercer. Even the notion that a personal journal cannot be an example of absolute fact brings the idea of writing's relationship with truth to question. We often search for truth through our writing and our art. But can we ever arrive there? Dietz believes that "when you write about an incident, just the act of writing involves some level of invention. Even if you try to tell the truth, you're still concerned with looking good on paper, so that changes the nature of truth, and turns it into a type of fiction." And so, we present Michael, Linda, and Abby engaged in a search for truth and meaning among the piles of carefully chosen words on a page. Enjoy the search.

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

Who's Who

COHEN BICKLEY (Michael) is a senior in his fifth year at Mercer University. He is, as always, thrilled to be back on stage. You may have recently seen him as Victor Chan-debise/Poche in *A Flea in Her Ear*. A couple of his favorite roles have been Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* and Albert Einstein in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Cohen is also a certified actor combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors. Following graduation he plans on pursuing a career professionally acting. Cohen would like to thank the cast, crew, and costume designer for all their hard work. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

REID BROWN (Sound Technician/Light Board OP) is a Junior Information Science and Technology major at Mercer University. He has run sound for the Mercer Players for every show during his time at Mercer. During the transition to the Tattnall Center for the Arts last spring, he was essential in getting the new sound system in working order. Reid enjoys video games, hockey, and taking bike rides. He considers his wit his third best quality (behind humility and awesomeness), and would like to thank the other members, especially the long-suffering Annie Fair, of the Mercer Players for enduring his incessant dad jokes.

KATIE CLAY (Linda) is a junior at Mercer University. She is double majoring in Psychology and Theater and minoring in Sociology and Criminal Justice. This is her sixth show in Mercer's theater department. Katie's most recent roles were Miranda in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Antoinette in the farce, *A Flea in Her Ear*. Katie would like to thank God for allowing her to pursue such a beautiful passion. She would like to profusely thank her family for always being there for her and her boyfriend for his constant support. Katie would also like to thank her best friends for always allowing her to be who she is regardless of her social awkwardness. She would like to give a special shout out to her cat, Fabio, who she loves dearly and who has been ever so patient with her while she learns her lines in her room. She is so in love with theatre and is incredibly blessed to be able to work on her craft on a daily basis.

ANNIE FAIR (Stage Manager) is a sophomore and a theatre major at Mercer University. She is the secretary of the Mercer Players. Most recently she has stage managed *A Flea in Her Ear*, assistant fight directed *Wait Until Dark* (at Gordon College), and assistant stage managed *The Tempest*. She is currently stage managing and assistant fight directing *Oklahoma!* with Mercer Opera. Annie would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support!

HANNAH FANCHER (Abby) is a senior theatre major here at Mercer. She is very excited to play the role of Abby Drake in this show. Some of her favorite roles have included Raymonde in *A Flea in her Ear*, Suzanne in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Shirley in *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille*, and Ariel in the *Tempest*. She is excited to do a show in the round. She thanks everyone who helped with this production for their hard work. After graduation, she looks forward to pursuing a career in acting.

SHELLEY KUHN (Costume Designer) is in her nineteenth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have most recently been seen in our productions of *A Flea in Her Ear*, *The Tempest*, *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grill*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Love Kills* and *Tartuffe*. As Costume Designer for Mercer Opera, her creations were seen in their latest productions of *Alcina*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Iolanthe*. Also employed by Theatre Macon, Shelley's work was last seen in *Calendar Girls*, *Swell Parry, Nine to Five*, *The Civil War*, *Cinderella*, *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Les Mis* (at the Grand Opera House), as well as their Youth Actor's Company's production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. 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.

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 served as Fight Director for the world premier of *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County*, written by Stephen King and John Mellencamp. He has also served as tactics choreographer and gun wrangler for film and television, and on-set Swordmaster for the Bollywood Epic, *DRONA*, filmed in Jaipur, India. Most recently, Scot co-choreographed the Alliance Theatre's acclaimed production of *The One Who Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with his wife, Kelly. 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 a proud alumni of Mercer.

CHASE MOORE (Michael Waterman Understudy) is still a freshman here at Mercer University. This is his second production here at Mercer, you may have last seen him kicking Chandebise's buttocks repeatedly in *A Flea In Her Ear*. But this time around Chase is taking a more modest approach, playing the understudy of Michael in *Fiction*. Being an understudy doesn't bother him though, as he's just happy to be here, acting and performing.

TODD WILSON (Technical Director) is the new Technical Director at Mercer. He returns to Mercer after graduating with a BA in 1985. Over the last 30 years, Todd has worked, directed or performed in over 30 shows at Macon Little Theatre, Theatre Macon and Perry Players. He served on the Perry Players Board of Directors for 9 years, serving 2 as President. He has designed, built and assisted with multiple sets over the years. He has also appeared in several motion pictures, including *42 as Reporter 4* and the soon to be released *Blood Ridge* in a co-starring role.

MARIAN ZIELINSKI (Set and Lighting Designer) has been a Professor of Theatre at Mercer University since 1982. She earned her B.A. from the State University of New York at Buffalo and her M.F.A. from Illinois State University. She has designed scenery, lighting, (and in earlier years, costumes) for over 150 productions. She has also directed several productions for Mercer Theatre, including *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Waiting for Godot*, *The Illusion*, *The Three Sisters*, and the *Good Doctor*, which toured to Japan. Marian is an award-winning fiber artist and a juried member of Studio Art Quilt Associates. Her art has appeared in international juried exhibitions and has been published in *Quilt National '13: The Best of Contemporary Quilts, 1000 Artisan Textiles, Incite 3—The Art of Storytelling: The Best in Mixed Media, Fiber Art Now, and Quilting Arts Magazine*. She has presented conference papers about the arts around the world and has published articles in *The American Journal of Semiotics*. She dedicates this work to her greatest love, Frank Macke. Marian has decided to retire from Mercer University at the end of this academic year to pursue life as an artist (apart from theatre) and would very much like to thank all of the thousands of students who have graced her classrooms and the theatre for the past 34 years. Always remember to be present and to dance. Love to you all.