

MERCER THEATRE 2016-17 SEASON

She Kills Monsters

November 10-12, 7:30 PM
November 13 2:30 PM
November 17-19 7:30 PM
November 20 2:30 PM

"It will slash and shapeshift its way into your heart! A Critic's Pick!"
- THE NEW YORK TIMES

Average Agnes is finally leaving her childhood home following the death of her sister Tilly. However when she stumbles upon Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, Agnes embarks on an action-packed adventure to discover more about her geeky sibling than she previously cared to know. The play deals with loss, gender and identity issues, and the escapism found in the fantasy realm of gaming. By Qui Nguyen, Directed by Scot J. Mann

The Gospel of John

February 11 8:00 PM
February 12 2:30 PM

"The Gospel of John" is an amazing achievement. That needs to be said again. "The Gospel of John" is an amazing achievement. Atlanta actor Brad Sherrill, who created this original piece and performs it ... has taken the words of the New Testament's fourth book and, with his voice, his imagination and a few props, shaped it into a transforming two hours of theater..."

-The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

This epic performance includes the text of John's Gospel, performed in two acts. Through his creative stage work and a passion for storytelling, Brad Sherrill brings the fourth Gospel to life with the assistance of music and sound design. *Developed and performed by Brad Sherrill*

August: Osage County

March 30-April 1: 7:30 PM
April 2 2:30 PM
April 6-8 7:30 PM
April 9 2:30 PM

Winner! 2008 Pulitzer Prize

Winner! Tony Award, Best Play

A vanished father. A pill-popping mother. Three sisters harboring shady secrets. When the large Weston family unexpectedly reunites after Dad disappears, their Oklahoman family homestead explodes in a maelstrom of repressed truths and unsettling secrets. Mix in Violet, the drugged-up, scathingly acidic matriarch, and you've got a major new play that unflinchingly—and uproariously—exposes the dark side of the American family.

By Tracy Letts, Directed by Scot J. Mann

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

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

MERCER
THEATRE

PRESENTS

GIDION'S KNOT

A dramatically charged collision of freedom of expression, the challenges of our school system, bullying and personal responsibility. A provocative theatre experience unlike any other.

Written by

JOHANNA ADAMS

Princess Grace Award Winner

Directed by

SCOT MANN

ADULT LANGUAGE. RECOMMENDED FOR 18 AND UP.

MERCER UNIVERSITY
Tattnall
Square
Center for the Arts
MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE

SEPT. 8-10 7:30 PM
SEPT. 11 2:30 PM

TICKETS.MERCER.EDU

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We felt compelled to produce Johnna Adam's work from the moment we read it. It is a provoking piece, but, more importantly, it speaks honestly to a difficult situation that the characters cannot handle with polite discourse. It requires a more direct approach. *Gidion's Knot* was first published in *American Theatre Magazine* and was soon being produced around the nation for its interpersonal intensity and relevance. As Johnna is quoted, "You have to give yourself permission to write in a way that would horrify the people you love."

The characters in *Gidion's Knot* are a mother and a teacher, and the setting is a parent-teacher conference. This is already a fraught situation even before Adams starts ratcheting up the tension. It's worth noting that the topics of conversation in this play reflect several recent events involving schools that have drawn national attention. This is also a play that is steeped in classical history. The title, of course, is a reference to the Gordian Knot, which Alexander the Great sliced through rather than untangle. The play references epic Gaelic poetry, including both its violent imagery and disputes over its authorship—scholars have concluded that the epic poems of Ossian were actually written in English by James Macpherson in the 18th century, despite his claims of having discovered and translated ancient manuscripts. There is a reference to Seneca, the Roman dramatist and advisor to the Emperor Nero. The classroom setting includes images of Greek and Hindu gods keeping watch over the scene.

We chose to cast Mercer Alumna, Sheri Wilson, and local professional actor, Kelly Mann, so that the production would start the year off quickly with a hard-hitting, compelling work. Student Lighting Designer, Annie Fair, brought her newly developed talents to the team as we rehearsed for the weeks before class began, and we are proud of her contribution. We also gave Assistant Professor Frani Geiger Rollins, newly minted as our Professor of Design, a chance to at least get in the door before she gets to work on *She Kills Monsters* ... yes; she has to make monsters for the next show. You'll see....

Scot J. Mann
Director of Theatre

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Heather Clark
Corryn Fell

SETTING

A 5th grade classroom in a public school in the Lake Forest suburb of Chicago.

TIME

Early April. The present year. Monday. 2:45 pm to 4:15 pm.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Scenic Design..... Scot Mann; Frani Geiger Rollins, Todd Wilson
Lighting Design.....Annie Fair
Costume Design..... Shelley Kuhen
Technical Director..... Todd Wilson
Stage Manager..... Annie Fair
Sound Design..... Scot Mann
Sound Technician..... Reid Brown
Light Board Operator..... Annie Fair
Arts Marketing..... Meagan Evans

THE CAST

Heather Clark..... Kelly Martin Mann
Corryn Fell..... Sheri Gilbert-Wilson

CREWLISTS

Set Crew:

Katie Clay
Annie Fair
Noelle Fancher
Nathan Firkus
Chase Moore
Frani Geiger Rollins
Nicholas Wade
Stevie Watson
Todd Wilson

Lighting Crew:

Annie Fair
Frani Geiger Rollins
Todd Wilson

Technical Production Staff:

Reid Brown
Annie Fair
Scot Mann
Frani Geiger Rollins
Todd Wilson

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

REID BROWN (Sound Technician) 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. He was drafted as an assistant stage manager and gun wrangler for Mercer Opera's production of *Oklahoma!*, and has recently started running lights. Reid enjoys video games, hockey, and taking bike rides. He considers his wit his third best quality (behind awesomeness and humility) and would like to thank the other members, especially the long suffering Annie Fair and Ashley Greene, of the Mercer Players for enduring his incessant dad jokes.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

ANNIE FAIR (Stage Manager, Lighting Designer) is a junior and a theatre major at Mercer University. You may have most recently seen her work as the lighting designer for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* [Abridged] this past summer as part of the Middle Georgia Summer Theatre Festival. This past summer Annie was an intern at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. Last year she was the stage manager and assistant fight director for Mercer Opera's *Oklahoma!* and she was the assistant director, co-lighting designer, stage manager, fight director, and a playwright in Mercer Theatre's *An Evening of Original Works!* Annie is excited to be involved in this amazing production and working with such wonderful and talented people!

SHERI GILBERT WILSON (Corryn Fell) was born in great city of Cleveland, Ohio! She has been married to her High School Prom date, Anthony C. Wilson for 32 years – and counting! They have two awesome children, Christopher and Jessi. Since the Acting bug hit her, Sheri has been in countless plays & shows. Just a few of her favorite roles have been *A Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth, Mama), *Twelve Angry Women* (Juror #5), *First Breeze of Summer* (Hattie), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lady Bracknell), *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* (Adele), *Three Ways Home* (Dawn), *Everyday Women* (Woman #5), *The Colored Museum* (LaLa & Normal Jean), *The War at Home* (Anna DuBois), and *Underground* (Abigail). Sheri has also directed several plays and shows over the years. She finally decided to retire as a paralegal and returned to school and obtained her bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from Mercer University (Macon, Georgia) in May 2013. "BE THE BEAR!" Sheri is now a professional actress based in Atlanta. Her filmography is just getting started! *Love Covers All* – 2014 (Business Associate), *The Best Friend* – 2015 (Mom), and *Patient* – 2016 (Mary Katherine). Acting has always been a journey that has blessed Sheri with joy, greater understanding, accomplishment, and FUN. She uses the talents that God has blessed her with to reach, teach, encourage, and inspire! She wants to give a shout-out to her family and friends who helped her run lines (you know who you are)!!! To her children, "Love you C & J!" and to her creative-consultant-husband, "I love you Papa Bear-FEFAFL".

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 *Hedda Gabler*, *Fiction*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *The Tempest*, *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *Love Kills*. As Costume Designer for Mercer Opera, her creations were seen in their latest productions of *Oklahoma!*, *Alcina*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Iolanthe*. Also employed by Theatre Macon, Shelley's work was last seen in the Summer Theatre Festival, *Sabrina Fair*, *A Christmas Story*, *Calendar Girls*, *Swell Party*, *Nine to Five*, *The Civil War*, *Cinderella*, and *Les Mis* (at the Grand Opera House), as well as their Youth Actor's Company production of *A Chorus Line*, *Annie*, and *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.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

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 premiere 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 *One 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.

KELLY MARTIN MANN (Heather Clark) is a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), and an advanced actor combatant with the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat (BASSC), as well as a proud member of Actor's Equity and SAG. Kelly works primarily as a freelance actor, choreographer, and stunt person. Regional Theatre credits include the Alliance Theatre, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, New Stage Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre, Southern Arena Theatre, and The Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Kelly has served as a guest artist with Valdosta State College, Georgia College, Mercer University, and in Chicago with Roosevelt University and the Actor's Gymnasium. Atlanta credits include *Superior Donuts at the Horizon*, *August: Osage County* and *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County* at the Alliance Theatre, and *Fool for Love* at True Colors Theatre. Kelly co-choreographed the re-opening of the multi-million dollar attraction, *Pirates Voyage*, in Myrtle Beach with her husband, Scot. Kelly recently co-directed *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare: Abridged* for the Theatre Macon Summer Theatre Festival. She is also a member of the North Carolina Stuntmen's Association, and was a part of the stunt team for the SciFi feature film "Eyeborgs" starring Adrian Paul and Danny Trejo. She would like to thank Sheri Wilson for being a wonderful person to share the stage with, Annie Fair for doing double duty as stage manager and lighting designer, the rest of the crew for making this show possible, and her husband, Scot, for trusting her with this role and having the confidence in her that she could do it. Much love!

TODD WILSON (Technical Director), a Mercer University Graduate, has years of experience onstage and behind the scenes. He's appeared in, directed, and helped build thirty productions on stages across Middle Georgia and currently is in the Perry Players production of *Deathtrap*. He has also worked on the big screen in "42", "The Cruzies", "Blood Ridge", and "Anchorman II". His next film, "Escape Room" is due out in 2017. When not building, performing, or designing, he enjoys photography, reading, classic cinema, guitar, camping, and fishing. He also handles the play-by-play duties for Mercer Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, and Softball on ESPN 3.