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The cast of Mercer Theatre's production of The Tempest, April 2015

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**An Evening of Original Student Works
April 14-17**

A high-energy presentation of original works by Mercer University Playwriting students. Home-grown from page to stage, it's an evening that won't disappoint!

**Stage Combat Skills Test
May 3 at 7:00 P.M.**

Scenes of Quarterstaff and Swordfights adjudicated by a nationally recognized Fight Master of the Society of American Fight Directors and the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat.

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

"WE USUALLY MANAGE TO ADJUST TO THE INEVITABLE."

MERCER
THEATRE

Nedda
GABLER

by HENRIK IBSEN / Adapted by BRIAN FRIEL
DIRECTED by SCOT J. MANN

FEB 18-21
FEB 25-28

TATTNALL SQUARE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
BOX OFFICE (478) 301-5470
TICKETS.MERCER.EDU

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Hedda Gabler

Directed by Scot J. Mann

Artistic Staff

Scenic Design Marian Zielinski
Lighting Design Marian Zielinski
Costume Design Shelley Kuhlen
Technical Director Todd Wilson
Stage Manager Annie Fair
Assistant Stage Manager Noelle Fancher
Sound Technician Reid Brown
Wig and Hair Design Laurel Astin
Makeup Design Katie Trotter
Musical Consultant Hannah Fancher
Arts Marketing Meagan Evans
Students Marketing Director Kaylah Fritho
Props Katie Clay, Annie Fair, Parker Van Riper

The Cast

Hedda Tesman Katie Clay
George Tesman Chase Moore
Juliana Tesman Hannah Fancher
Bertha Stevie Watson
Eilert Loevborg Kevin Kersey
Thea Elvsted Ashley Greene
Judge Brack Cohen Bickley
Hedda Tesman Understudy Chiyanne Wilson
George Tesman Understudy Jon Drawdy
Juliana Tesman Understudy Rosie Cooper
Bertha Understudy Slayten Carter
Eilert Loevborg Understudy Daniel Darity
Thea Elvsted Understudy Hanin Menchew
Judge Brack Understudy Chance Miller

Director's Notes

Hedda Gabler was born into a legacy of aristocracy. Though she lived a pampered life, Hedda's time as a single girl ran out and she married George Tesman, a man she clearly no longer loves - if, indeed, she ever did. With her father, The General, gone, she is left with her wardrobe, a piano, her father's dueling pistols, and nothing else. Marriage is her only choice in the strict patriarchal world she inhabits. Now Hedda is driven to diabolical ends trying to discover purpose in her life as she increasingly finds the world closing in on her.

Ibsen writes one of the earliest challenges to modern patriarchy, a brazen precursor to feminism and gender equality. Recession and economic prosperity sit side by side in Hedda's world, antiquated by patriarchal society and made vibrant by Hedda's lust for life. Cornered in a life she can no longer control, she makes an extreme decision unthinkable by traditional Victorian values.

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

Act I
Morning

Act II
Afternoon

Act III
The next day at dawn

Act IV
Evening

Who's Who

COHEN BICKLEY (Judge Brack) is a fifth year student at Mercer who is once again thrilled to be back onstage. You may have recently seen him in *Fiction* as Michael Waterman and in *A Flea in Her Ear* as Victor Chandebise/Poche. Following this year Cohen plans on pursuing a career in professional acting. Thank you to everyone involved in this crazy thing called theatre!

REID BROWN (Sound Technician/Light Board Operator) 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. He was drafted as an assistant stage manager and gun wrangler for Mercer'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 of the Mercer Players, especially the long-suffering Annie Fai, for enduring his incessant dad jokes.

SLAYTEN CARTER (Bertha Understudy) is beyond excited to participate in her first production with the Mercer Players! She is a third year political science and journalism major who transferred to Mercer last fall. She has been performing on the stage for nearly twelve years now. Theatre is her passion! Some of her most memorable roles have been Florence Unger (*Neil Simon's The Female Odd Couple*), June Sanders (*Smoke On The Mountain: The Musical*), Hortensio (William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*), and DoraLee Rhodes (*Dolly Parton's 9 to 5: The Musical*). She wants to thank Scot Mann and the rest of the Mercer Players for welcoming her and giving her this opportunity. She would also like to thank her friends at the Tift Theatre and her family for their unwavering love and support.

KATIE CLAY (Hedda Tesman) is a junior at Mercer University. She is double majoring in Psychology and Theatre and minoring in Sociology and Criminal Justice. This is her seventh show in Mercer's theatre department. Katie's most recent role was "Linda" in *Fiction*. 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. She would like her boyfriend, Austin Schaeckel, to know that she is more than grateful for everything that he does, including running lines with her every night for weeks. 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 also like to give a general thanks to her cat, Sir Fabio, for being the light of her life. She is so in love with theatre and is incredibly blessed to be able to work on her craft on a daily basis.

ROSIE COOPER (Juliana Tesman Understudy) is a freshman Biomedical Engineering major with a minor in English Literature. She spends most of her time pursuing her vast interests, whether it be theatre, science, music, or literature. She'd like to thank her family and friends for putting up with her for so long. (Fun fact: this is the first time she's actually played a female in almost 5 years.)

Who's Who

JON DRAWDY (George Tesman Understudy) is in his fourth and final year here at Mercer and will be graduating in May with an Economics degree. This is his first part in a theater production here at Mercer. He is excited you are here and hopes you enjoy the show.

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 *Fiction* and *A Flea in Her Ear* with the Mercer Players. She also was Stage Manager and Assistant Fight Director of *Oklahoma!* with Mercer Opera. Annie would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support, especially Ashley, Reid, and Hannah who kept her (somewhat) sane while she worked on a production as huge as *Oklahoma!*

HANNAH FANCHER (Juliana Tesman) is a senior Theatre major at Mercer. Previously Hannah has performed as Raymonde in *A Flea in her Ear*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, Shirley in *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille*, and Suzanne in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Having recently designed lights for Mercer Opera's production of *Oklahoma!*, and designing the set for *A Flea in her Ear*, Hannah is very excited to help build and paint Marian's last set. She wishes to congratulate the cast, crew, and production team members on a job well done.

NOELLE FANCHER (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman at Mercer University. Previously, Noelle worked as Assistant Stage Manager on *Fiction*. Noelle's favorite role in her high school theatre experience was Meg in *Little Women*. She hopes to get majors in Theatre, Physics, and English, with prospective minors in Spanish and Education.

ASHLEY GREENE (Thea Elvsted) is a sophomore Theatre major at Mercer University and is the President of the Mercer Players. Her most recent work includes playing Lucienne in *A Flea in Her Ear* and Gonzala in *The Tempest*. She's excited to be working with the talented cast and crew that is her Theatre family and to perform in a show that has taught her so much.

KEVIN KERSEY (Eilert Loevborg) is very excited to be back on the Mercer stage. You may have seen him as Rosencrantz (Or was it Guildenstern?) in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Ferdinand in *The Tempest*, and Tournel in *A Flea in Her Ear*. Kevin hopes to become a professional actor someday, and would like to thank his friends and family for their support, and of course thank this cast and crew for their hard work and unrivaled talent.

SHELLEY KUHEN (Costume Designer) is in her nineteenth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have most recently been seen in our productions of *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*.

Who's Who

The Magic Flute, and *Iolanthe*. Also employed by Theatre Macon, Shelley's work was last seen in *Swell Party*, *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 (which includes her daughter Laurel Astin who is responsible for the amazing wig and hair designs) 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 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 *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.

HANIN MENCHEW (Thea Elvsted Understudy) is a Macon native and current Mercer senior double majoring in English Literature and Spanish. This is her third show with the Mercer Players, so you may have seen her before as Olympia in *A Flea in Her Ear* and Adrian in *The Tempest*. She was also very active in Central High School's theater program, participating in three One Act competitions and organizing the Jaba Jaba Womp Ten Minute Play Fest for local schools. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and ballroom dancing. She'd like to thank Scot for giving her this opportunity to work with such an amazing and talented cast and crew!

CHANCE MILLER (Judge Brack Understudy) is a first year law student at Mercer University. Transactional and corporate law will serve as his primary areas of concentration. For hobbies, he enjoys racing snails, running on rails, dancing in the rain, making the simplicities of life complex, the complexities simple, and the mundane melodramatic.

CHASE MOORE (George Tesman) is a first year student here at Mercer University, and is studying both English and Theatre. This is his third role here at Mercer, so you may have last seen him in the understudy performance of *Fiction*, or kicking butt as Ferrailon in *A Flea in Her Ear*. But regardless of how many times he's kicked butt, Chase is ecstatic as always to be back on stage and performing.

Who's Who

CHIVYANNE WILSON (Hedda Tesman Understudy) is a freshman who is double-majoring in Psychology and Sociology. You may have seen her in *A Flea in Her Ear* as Homenides or in *Fiction* as Abby. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has.

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 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, who has been her inspiration and her home. *Hedda Gabler* marks her final design at Mercer University, as Marian will retire from academia to pursue life as an artist (apart from theatre) and would very much like to thank her long time colleagues over the years—Scot Mann, Shelley Kuhlen, Todd Wilson, Zach Broome, Tony Pearson, Sean Johnson, Kim Renz, and Paul Oppy, as well as 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.

Set Crew:

Todd Wilson
Nathan Firkus
Hannah Fancher
Noelle Fancher
Matthew Harris
Nicholas Wade
Shawn Rowey
Erona Zeqiri
Dylan DeBoer
Joey Pigrenet

Lighting Crew:

Annie Fair
McKinley Starks
Hannah Fancher
Donovan Latherow
Joey Pigrenet

Costume Crew:

Shelley Kuhlen
Arrie Milam
Katie Trotter
Sydney Everett

Technical Production:

Todd Wilson
Annie Fair
Reid Brown

Special Thanks To:

Austin Schaeckel
Chase Tolbert
Ian Bakes
Caleb Brown