

**Jim Sisson (Matamore)**

Jim Sisson is a spirited lad,  
 And in this role he acts quite mad.  
 He rants and raves all over the place,  
 But you must observe his buzzard-like grace.  
 He jumps and roars and becomes insane  
 And refuses to be morose and mundane.  
 Hopeless Idealist, Romantic, you say?  
 Find out for yourself and enjoy the play.

**Bryant Smith (Pleribo/Adraste/Prince Florilame)**

Bryant is a freshman from Cornelia. He is a member of the Mercer Baseball Team and his major is still undecided. Bryant has only been involved in the theatre for three years. During that time he has participated in a variety of shows, including: *Take 5, Our Town, The Taming of the Shrew, The Diary of Adam and Eve, Greater Tuna, Makin' It, Bye Bye Birdie* (in which he played the role of Albert), and *Pippin* (in which he played the role of Pippin). Bryant would like to pursue a career in vocal music. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their warm reception and making him feel like one of the crowd. He would also like to thank Mrs. Marian for giving him the chance to work with such a talented group, and Scot Mann for not giving up on him.

**Production Staff****Marian Zielinski (Director/Set and Customer)**

*The Illusion* is Marian's 50th production design at Mercer University, where she has learned much about life, death, intrigue, comedy, romance, and wood. In these fifty lives, she has come to know the truth this play speaks and she knows why Chuck and the rest of this talented company come to this cave to dance. A heartfelt thanks to all of you and to the audience. Remember: "[If] not in this life, [then] in the next."

**Kim Renz (Lighting Designer/Technical Director)**

This is Kim's second season back at Mercer. This summer he designed the set for *Annie* at Theatre Macon, and is currently engaged by Gordon College to design the set and lighting for *Brighton Beach Memoirs* in November.

**Frank Macke (Poster and Program Cover Design)**

A native of Belleville, Illinois, Frank is now in his eighth year of teaching at Mercer. *The Illusion* is the third Mercer production for which he has designed poster and program art over the last year. Go figure.

**Scot Mann (Fight Choreographer)**

Having attended Mercer, Scot comes to Macon every time he hears there's going to be a fight. Atlanta is home for Scot, where he is an actor, choreographer, and director of The Atlanta Stage Combat Studio. Scot would like to thank Marian for bringing him back to work with the Mercer Family once again.

**Marcus Durham (Fight Captain)**

Marcus, a 1992 Mercer alumnus who became proficient with swords in Mercer's pro-

duction of *Macbeth*, continues to make the sword an extension of himself as illustrated this fall at the Georgia Renaissance Festival in his role as King Henry's VIII's Lieutenant of the Guard (the most intelligent one) and whenever and wherever he can find a willing opponent.

**Set and Costume Crew****Andrew Douglas (Set Construction)**

In his time working here at this theatre, Andrew realized that even though, "All the world's a stage," somebody had to build the set, darnit!

**Jaime Helmer (Costume Construction)**

Jaime is a freshman from Macon who plans to major in English and Communication and Theatre Arts. She was extremely active in her high school drama department and has worked backstage for several Macon Little Theatre productions. She is really looking forward to starting her new drama experience here at Mercer.

**Amelia Huntsinger and Michael Haynie (Set Construction)**

Amelia and Michael are from Macon's theatre family. They both attend Mrs. Lane's fourth-grade class at Clisby Fine Arts Magnet School and sing in the Honor Choir. Michael was recently Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* and Amelia was a principal orphan in *Annie*, both productions at Theatre Macon. Mimi and Michael are expert goop smoothers!

**Shelley Kuhner (Costume Construction)**

Shelley came to the costume cave of the magician, Marian, for a few minutes respite and was immediately put to work conjuring sleeves and peplums. If you ever need to find Shelley when she is in hiding, just put out some richly textured fabrics and a little lace.

**Melodie Anne Middleton (Set and Costume Construction)**

Marian and Kim — Yes, I work for them  
 And work, and work, and work, and . . .  
 Truly, the theatre is a magical, learning place  
 And constructing the set and costumes is fun —  
 In spite of our frenzied pace!  
 I appreciate all my fellow workers,  
 you have my sincere thanks for all the? fun?  
 And I wish all the performers the best and  
 hope you all enjoy this run!  
 Cheezy, huh?

**Lori Moore (Costume and Set Construction)**

Lori Moore, of cluttered mind and needle-punctured body, left the metropolis of Beulah, Alabama, for the "big city" life in Macon. Currently she is a freshman Liberal Arts student and a happy and willing detainee of Marian's costuming dungeon. She is glad to play a small part in the production of *The Illusion* thanks to Marian, the Federal Work Study Program, and the guy who showed her where to sign up.

## Who's Who in the Company

### Cast

#### Jeremy Pritchard (Set Construction)

Jeremy is a freshman from Camp Zama, Japan. He has acted and designed settings and costumes for productions of *Oklahoma*; *Bye, Bye, Birdie*; and *Little Mary Sunshine* at Camp Zama. His father is the foremost diplomat for the United States Army in Japan. His mother teaches at Tokai University and the Camp Zama branch of the University of Maryland.

#### Kerie Reaves (Set Construction)

Kerie is a transfer student from Little Rock, Arkansas. This is her first opportunity to work with Mercer Players. She had no idea when she took the work study position as clerical help that she could have so much sticky, gooey fun.

#### Stephanie Reavis (Stage Manager/Costume & Set Construction)

Stephanie, currently slaving as the stage manager, is a vulnerable, corruptible freshman pursuing an undecided course of study (which will probably be Art, but she is not sure). As you can guess, she is just a little bit odd. While not slaving, she enjoys painting, drawing and spreading peace and love upon her fellow man.

#### Allison Marie Sheffield (Set Construction)

Allie is a sophomore from Savannah, Georgia, and has not yet declared a major. This is her first experience with set construction.

#### Theresa Shutt (House manager/Box Office)

Teresa is a senior English and history major from Boonville, North Carolina. Since she retired from the joys and agonies of being a member of the Mercer Debate Society, she decided to spend this year trying to help the people, who, unlike her, are blessed with the talent it takes to act.

#### Jennifer Spurgeon (Set Construction)

Jennifer is a sophomore at the University of Georgia majoring in International Business. She transferred from Mercer this year. Allie said, "Hey, why don't you come see me?" So she swung by and pitched in. Thanks, Jennifer!

#### Dustonia Strickland (Costume Construction)

Dustonia is a junior English/Theatre Arts major from Gainesville, Georgia, and a recent survivor of a stint as a stitcher at a summer stock theatre in New York. When not in her niche in Marian's sweatshop, she enjoys hiking anywhere that boasts a waterfall, driving anywhere she can see the stars, and the occasional quest for late-night philosophy and caffeine at Denny's.

#### Matt Thompson (Set Construction)

Matt is a junior majoring in Communication and Theatre Arts with minors in Political Science and Marketing. He is currently President of the Student Union Activities Board (SUAB) and a RA in Plunkett Hall. He has no spare time, but if he did he would like to spend it working with the theatre.

#### Chuck White (Set Construction)

Chuck is a first year transfer student, but he has suffered the madness of both Kim and Marian prior to official involvement with Mercer Players. His motto: "I come to dance!"

#### Johnnetta Bowser (Alcandre)

Johnnetta joins the cast of *The Illusion* in her first performance on the Mercer stage. She recently completed her Bachelor's Degree in Theatre at Georgia College. Her professional credits include: *Big River*, *The Cotton Patch Gospel*, and *Camelot*, which she performed at the Jekyll Island Summer Musical Theatre. She also premiered in an original historical drama, *Pathway to Freedom*, last summer at the Sword of Peach Outdoor Historical Drama. Johnnetta is currently working at Mercer University and completing her degree in Information Systems. In the future she will attend graduate school, where she plans to earn her MFA and actively pursue a career in the Theatre Arts.

#### Morgen Bush (Elicia/Lyse/Clarina)

This is Morgen's fourth and final year at Mercer University. For the past three years she has been busting a gut attempting to further herself as a student and actress. She has been actively involved with the Theatre Department since her arrival, noting her most prized roles as Clarisse in *Red Ryder*, Aggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. After graduation, Morgen plans on attending graduate school and pursuing a career in the theatre. Ipolite — never forget about the passion!!

#### Roki Edwards (the Amanuensis/Geronte)

A senior at Mercer University, this is Roki's second performance in Macon. He majors in English and Theatre Arts and hopes fervently to graduate soon . . . so that he can perform more often.

#### Eamon Glennon (Pridamant)

Eamon is a Theatre and Art major who has participated in a few Mercer productions. Such credits include *Romeo and Juliet* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Eamon would like to dedicate this performance to his father and mother, without whom many things such as this would not be possible.

#### Shelley Edith Johnson (Melibea/Isabelle/Hippolyta)

Shelley is a senior Theatre Arts student. She has been seen on the Mercer stage in *The Wake of Jamey Foster*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Under Milkwood*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *The School for Scandal*. She is presently preparing for graduate school. For Shelley, this show embodies both the magical essence of theatre as well as the gossamer drama of life. Working under Marian Zielinski, a friend and mentor, has been an exciting and special experience. And to MB, "Don't be an *animal*, get out of my road with your mop and bucket." We're finally seniors and you're my favorite sis, etc. . . .

#### Tony Pearson (Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes)

Tony is a sophomore Theatre and English student from Statesboro, Georgia. He has enjoyed trying to find sleep amongst a one-quarter frenzy of set construction and line memorization. He is still trying to find time for school somewhere in the middle of all this.

Mercer University Theatre

presents

*The Illusion*

by Pierre Corneille

adapted by Tony Kushner

Directed by Marian Zielinski

Set and Costumes Designed by Marian Zielinski

Lighting Designed by Kim Renz

Fight Choreographed by Scot Mann

**Cast**

Pridamant of Avignon ..... Eamon Glennon  
The Amanuensis ..... Roki Edwards  
Alcandre ..... Johnnetta Bowser  
Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes ..... Tony Pearson  
Melibea/Isabelle/Hippolyta ..... Shelley Johnson  
Elicia/Lyse/Clarina ..... Morgen Bush  
Pleribo/Adraste/Prince Florilame ..... Bryant Smith  
Matamore ..... Jim Sisson

Time: The Seventeenth Century

Place: The Cave of the Magician Alcandre

Please turn off all beepers and watch alarms.

No cameras or recording devices may be used during the performance.

There will be one 10 minute intermission.

*Produced in cooperation with  
The Theatre Communication Group, Inc.*

**Production Staff**

Stage Manager ..... Stephanie Reavis  
Technical Director ..... Kim Renz  
Period Movement Coach ..... Marissa Cleghorn  
Set Construction Crew ..... Morgen Bush, Susan Conner,  
Andrew Douglas, Lisa Evans, Chad Frost,  
Michael Haynie, Amelia Huntsinger,  
Sarah Hutcherson, Lauren McLane,  
Melodie Middleton, Lori Moore, Tony Pearson,  
Jeremy Pritchard, Jennifer Spurgeon, Stephanie Reavis,  
John Sawyer, Allie Sheffield, Jim Sisson, Jason Teague,  
Matt Thompson, Chuck White  
Scene Painting Crew ..... Shelley Johnson, Savannah Ferguson  
Costume Director ..... Marian Zielinski  
Costume Construction Crew ..... Jaime Helmer, Shelley Kuhen,  
Melodie Middleton, Lori Moore,  
Marian McHugh, Stephanie Reavis, Jessica Wood  
Wig Stylist ..... Laurel Kuhen  
Dressers ..... Jaime Helmer, Lori Moore,  
Dustonia Strickland, Jessica Wood  
Lighting Rigging Crew ..... Tony Pearson, Jason Teague,  
Chuck White  
Light Board Operator ..... Jason Teague  
Sound Engineer ..... Kim Renz  
Sound Operator ..... Randy Sams  
Special Effects ..... Kim Renz, Kevin Harris  
Poster & Program Cover Designer ..... Frank Macke  
Fight Captain ..... Marcus Durham  
House Manager ..... Teresa Shutt  
Box Office ..... Teresa Shutt  
Ushers ..... Phi Mu Sorority

# MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE

## Special Thanks

Terry Bickley  
 Kevin Harris  
 Cleon Humphrey  
 Roban Johnson  
 Frank Macke  
 Raleigh Mann  
 "Old 41" Welding &  
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 Teresa Shutt  
 Ken Smith  
 Linda Stapleton  
 Courtenay Wilson  
 Frank Wood  
 Phi Mu Sorority

## CTA Faculty & Staff

Paul Oppy, Chair  
 Marian Zielinski  
 Cynthia Gottshall  
 Frank Macke  
 Deborah Chasteen  
 Shawn Whalen  
 Kim Renz  
 Linda Stapleton

## Coming Soon

A Contemporary Irish Play - Feb. 16-18 and 20-24  
 The Secret Garden - May 8 - 11

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Angel ..... \$100  
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 Mercer University Theatre  
 Attn:  
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 1400 Coleman Avenue  
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*the illusion*

A Seventeenth Century Magical Comedy  
 by Pierre Corneille adapted by Tony Kushner  
 directed by Marian Zielinski

October 27, 28, 29, 31 November 1-4 8:00PM  
 THE BACKDOOR THEATRE (behind Willingham)

We sincerely regret the following omissions from the program:

Costume Construction Crew.....Dustonia Strickland

Production Videographer.....Richard Marcum