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presents

Anton Chekov's

The
Seagull

Adaptation by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Scot J. Mann

at the

Back Door Theatre

February 7-9 & 12-16 at 7:00 PM

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The Seagull

by **Anton Chekov**

Adaptation by **Christopher Hampton**

Directed by **Scot J. Mann**

Scenic Designer.....Zach Broome
Lighting Designer Marian Zielinski
Costume Design..... Shelley Kuhlen
Sound DesignerScot J. Mann

Cast List

Cohen Bickley Sorin
David FerrierMedvedenko
Leeanne Griffin Polina
Shelby HallMasha
Ryan JonesTrigorin
Tory Johnson..... Arkadina
Liam McDermott..... Treplev
Braeden Orr..... Dorn
Jim SissonShamrayev
Suzanne StroupNina

Mercer Theatre Production Staff

Technical Director Zach Broome
Stage Managers..... Britney DeRosa, Hannah Fancher
House ManagerGordan Rak
Props Managers..... Britney DeRosa, Suzanne Stroup
Costume Shop Crew..... Shelley Kuhen, Lauren Parris,
Katie Trotter, Laurel Astin, Julie Allen, Georgia Olson
Light TechnicianIan Brooks
Backstage CrewIsaac Callahan
Set and Lighting CrewCohen Bickley, Ian Brooks,
Isaac Callahan, Joey Chan, Hannah Fancher,
John Farrington, Cymone Jenkins,
Cheri Kerr-Johnson, Ivana King,
Liam McDermott, Leah Parris,
Tony Schmidt, Allis Yang
Hair and Makeup Designer.....Laurel Astin
Dresser Tia Stewart
Graphic Designer..... Darlene Murphy

Director's Notes

The original production of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* was an unmitigated disaster. Chekhov wrote in one of his letters "I didn't do the casting. No new sets were made. There had been only two rehearsals and the actors kept forgetting their lines. The result was general panic and total depression". He insisted it was a comedy, but few seemed to understand the irony he was presenting. In 1898, the famous director and acting teacher, Constantin Stanislavski, took on the play with a different work ethic. Great attention to realism in the costuming, lighting and sets took priority. Stanislavski's actors were carefully rehearsed and a strong ensemble created such a realistic offering (uncommon at the time) that the play became an instant triumph. Anatoly Smeliavsky observed that the play "revitalized the art of acting, made a cult of the pause, the subtext and constant interaction of the characters." The event was so important to the development of the Moscow Art Theatre that a seagull graces the main curtain to this day. And for us, the play still speaks to the struggles of love, meaning, and finding truth in your art.

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

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mercer-University-Theatre/205350932857794?ref=ts&sk=events>

Who's Who

Cohen Bickley (Sorin) is a sophomore at Mercer University majoring in Theatre. This will be his second time on-stage and he could not be more excited. Through this whole process he could not ask for a better group of people to work with. Cohen would like to send out a huge thank you to Scot Mann, Shelley Kuhlen, the cast, and the crew. This show has been an absolute blast. Thank you to everyone who came out to see it. Thank you to everyone involved. Enjoy the show!

Zach Broome (Scenic Designer, Technical Director,) is in his sixth season as part of the Theatre department's creative staff. He most recently served as TD for the Mercer University productions of *Independence* and *The Merchant of Venice*, as well as for *A Little Night Music*, and as the scenic and puppet designer of *Alice in Wonderland*, both of which were performed at Macon's historic Grand Opera House. Zach is excited about this season's productions and welcomes the new challenges that each show brings. He thanks his family and friends for their love and support.

David Ferrier (Medvedenko) is a senior at Mercer University. As a staunch Defender-of-the-Universe and precocious pianist, he often spends his spare time in throes of tragicomic theatrical reproductions from the early 18th century. And, as both defending-the-universe and acting are often undertaken as a group endeavor, he would like to thank the ensemble for the amazing performance (and grueling hours), Prof. Mann for the awesome opportunity to be in the performance, and the entire technical running crew! Thank you! Bene Grazzie! Also, please inform me of any nearby Destroyers-of-the-Universe. It is very important...

Leeanne Griffin (Polina) is a recent Mercer graduate with a degree in English Literature and Theatre. She is proud to have started her new 'big girl' job at Learning Solution of Middle GA back in August. She has been involved in several Mercer productions over the last few years, her favorite roles being Madam Pace from *Six Characters in Search of an Author* and The White Queen from *Alice in Wonderland*. She was most recently seen in *The Merchant of Venice* as Shylock's only friend, Tubal. Leeanne would like to thank her parents for making the trip from Valdosta and her friend Sarah Clifton for helping her through tough times in life.

Shelby Hall (Masha) is a junior at Mercer University, and this is her first theatre performance since high school. She'd really like to thank Scot Mann, Marian Zielinski, Zach Broome, and Shelley Kuhlen for costumes and props and directions and lights and things, because they're great. Thanks to the cast and crew for making me feel welcome and for helping me remember how fantastic theatre is!

Tory Johnson (Arkadina) graduated from Mercer in May 2011 with a Theatre degree and she's thrilled to be back on-stage in the Back Door Theatre. Tory was most recently seen in Macon Little Theatre's production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical* as a member of the ensemble/D.A. Joyce Riley. Some of her favorite Mercer Theatre acting credits include *Ye Gods* (Psyche/Naomi), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Ensemble), and *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Stepdaughter). Thanks to Scot, Marian, Zach, and Shelley for welcoming me back once again, and thanks to the cast and crew for another fantastic Mercer Players production. It's always a blast!

Ryan Jones (Trigorin) is a sophomore who is double majoring in Environmental Engineering and Spanish at Mercer University. Although this is his first time performing with the Mercer Players, and indeed his very first (but not last!) theatre production, he is accustomed to the stage, for he does spoken word in his spare time. Ryan would like to thank the crew and the rest of the cast for such a wonderful experience and for being patient and supportive with him throughout the experience.

Shelley Kuhen (Costume Designer) is in her seventeenth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have most recently been seen in our productions of *Independence*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Colored Museum*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. She is also Costume Designer for Mercer Opera where her creations were seen in their latest productions of *Iolanthe*, *The Toy Shop*, *Indomineo*, and *The Merry Widow*. Also employed by Theatre Macon, Shelley's work was last seen in *Meet Me in St Louis*, *The First Breeze of Summer*, *Becky's New Car*, *Anything Goes* and *Titanic*. Shelley thanks her wonderful family for their continued love and support. 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 the Director of Theatre at Mercer. 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 Master, 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 Freiberg, Germany. As an actor, Scot has appeared with the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, New American Theater, New American Shakespeare Theatre, Atlanta Opera, motion capture talent for digital media, and various voice-over recordings for radio, TV, and the Internet. Scot appeared as a stunt-player and served as tactical choreographer and gun wrangler for the Sci-Fi movie, *Eyeborgs*, as well as on-set Swordmaster and stunt double for the "Bollywood" epic, *Drona*. Recently, he served as Fight Director for the world premier of *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County*, written by Stephen King and John Mellencamp. 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!

Liam McDermott (Treplev) is a sophomore at Mercer with a double major in Theatre and International Affairs. He has previously performed with The Mercer Players in *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Ye Gods*. He has also worked sound for *The Colored Museum* and was the stage manager for *Independence*. He would like to thank Scot Mann, Marian Zielinski, Zach Broome, Shelley Kuhen, and Darlene Murphy for their hard work and dedication.

Braeden Orr (Dorn) is a junior Media Studies & Theatre double major. He has previously appeared in the Mercer Players productions of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Ye Gods*. He has also worked behind the scenes for *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and *A Little Night Music*. Braeden also works as a background actor, appearing in films such as *Trouble With the Curve* and the upcoming film *Devil's Knot*. He is excited to be back on stage and working with the talented Mercer Players family again.

Jim Sisson (Shamrayev) is here taking his chances. He wishes to dedicate this performance to his father, his teachers, and (favorite) students, and of course, Anne Hathaway (CLA 98, MST 04).

Suzanne Stroup (Nina) is a senior Theatre and Journalism major from Marietta, GA. She was last seen in the Back Door Theatre as Kess in *Independence*. She has also been seen recently in *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Little Night Music*, *Ye Gods* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. She is president of the Mercer Players and of the Mercer Alliance for Reproductive Freedom, as well as the online editor for The Cluster. Suzanne would like to thank her family and Flurry as well as her friends for their constant love and support, especially Tory and Sparkles (her metaphorical rocks).

Marian Zielinski (Lighting Designer) is a Professor of Theatre at Mercer University. In addition to designing theatre productions, Marian has written and presented conference papers on the arts in Germany, Japan, Denmark, Italy, Sweden, Poland, British Columbia, and Great Britain. She is also an award-winning fiber artist, whose recent art quilt, *Goodnight, Sweet Prince* has been accepted into the prestigious juried Quilt National '13 exhibit at the Dairy Barn in Athens, Ohio and will be included in the book, *Quilt National 2013: The Best of Contemporary Quilts*. Additionally, Marian has been selected as the artist to design and build a 'quilt' interpreting neon using non-traditional elements (other than fabric and thread) for a Studio Art Quilt Associates' travelling show called *Radical Elements* based on the periodic table. An avid swimmer and painter, Marian lives in Macon with her husband, Dr. Frank Macke and two cats, Panda and Yo-Yo. She dedicates this work to Frank for his love and inspiration.



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