

COMING UP NEXT AT
MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE...

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Book and Lyrics by Joe DiPietro
Music by Jimmy Roberts

Now, at long last, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* exposes everything you've secretly thought about dating, mating, and romance but were afraid to admit. Mercer Theatre's upcoming production of this hit musical will take you on a joyride through the jungle of the modern-day suburban mating game.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change opened at the Westside Theatre in New York on August 1, 1996 and became an immediate sellout following its world premiere at the American Stage Company. It closed recently Off-Broadway after becoming the longest running Off Broadway musical.

April 7, 8, 9, 12-17 7:00 PM
April 10, 18 2:00 PM

Presented at the Back Door Theatre, Mercer University
For reservations and information, call 478-301-2974, M-F 9am-5pm
Tickets \$5.00

For more information on the Mercer Players, visit them on Facebook, or go to the website at
http://web.me.com/scotmann1/Mercer_Theatre/Welcome.html

MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE
PRESENTS

LUIGI PIRANDELLO'S
**SIX CHARACTERS
IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR**

TRANSLATION BY ROBERT BRUSTEIN

DIRECTED BY SCOT J. MANN

AT THE
BACK DOOR THEATRE

FEBRUARY 17-19 & 22-26 AT 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY 20 & 27 AT 2:00 PM

TICKETS: \$5

BOX OFFICE OPENS 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO CURTAIN
FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, CALL 478.301.2974

SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

TRANSLATION BY ROBERT BRUSTEIN

Directed by Scot J. Mann

Scenic Design..... Marian Zielinski
 Costume Design..... Shelley Kuhen
 Lighting Design..... Zach Broome

CAST

The Father..... Kyle Shook
 The Mother..... Marcella Murray
 The Stepdaughter..... Tory Johnson
 The Son..... Chad Sliger
 Little Boy..... Ethan Thompson
 Little Girl..... Meredith Fuchs
 Madame Pace..... LEEANNE GRIFFIN
 The Director..... Jim Sisson
 The Leading Lady..... Artanza McGuire
 The Leading Man..... Kevin Mobolade
 2nd Leading Lady..... Lauren Lunsford
 L'Ingènu..... Abby Howd
 Young Lead..... Max Youngblood
 Actor..... Daniel Larson
 Properties Man..... Evan Ayoub
 Stage Tech..... Wendell Cole
 Doorman..... Connor Cosenza

MERCER THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director..... Zach Broome
 Stage Managers..... Isaac Callahan, LEEANNE GRIFFIN
 House Manager..... Isaac Callahan
 Lightboard Operators..... Ashley Bratcher, Sean Rayburn
 Costume Crew..... Shelley Kuhen, Marian McHugh,
 Lauren Parris, Anna Mae Kersey
 Scenic Artist..... Marian Zielinski
 Set Crew..... Isaac Callahan, Marcella Murray,
 Tory Johnson, Brittany Chandler, Sean Rayburn
 Props..... Monica Titus

The Players...

Evan Ayoub (Properties Man), a native of Macon, is finishing up his final year at Mercer and graduating in May with a double major in Psychology and Theatre. This is Evan's first major production with the Mercer Players and he is excited to be a part of it! He enjoys Mercer, his classes, and most of all, aggravating his fellow cast members. He would like to thank the amazing tech team (and actors) and give a shout out to his homies, Wendell and Connor.

Ashley Bratcher (Lightboard Operator) is a freshman from Cordale, Georgia. She has participated in several One-Act plays. Ashley is thrilled to become a part of Mercer's Players and would like to thank all who made this production possible.

Zach Broome (Technical Director, Lighting Designer) is in his fifth season as Technical Director of the Mercer University Theatre Department. He loves tackling the new challenges that each show brings to the table. Whether he is custom-building a working fountain, constructing a set out of (what seem like) huge stones, or bringing to life a twenty-foot-tall fire-breathing dragon puppet, Zach thoroughly enjoys his job. He wishes to thank his wonderful wife for her love, support, and patience.

Isaac Callahan (House Manager, Stage Manager) is an alumnus/5th year senior in Media Studies and Theatre. This is his tenth production at Mercer and his first on this side of the stage. He has thoroughly enjoyed working with this amazing cast and crew and wants to thank them for all their hard work and dedication. Two words everyone, Break A Leg... wait, that's three words, cops.

Wendell Cole (Stage Tech), a freshman born in Brooklyn, New York, came to Mercer from Marietta, Georgia. He likes to play sports and do physical activity in his free time. This is his first theatre

experience, and he'd like to thank Scot for giving him a role and a chance in acting, and the crew for being so nice and helpful. Success!!

Connor Cosenza (Doorman) was heavily involved in theatre throughout high school. A Mercer freshman, his favorite roles have included Elwood P. Dowd from *Harvey*, Romeo from *Romeo and Juliet*, and Algernon from last semester's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He thanks Scot for directing this awesomely odd piece and the audience for trying to understand it!

Meredith Fuchs (Little Girl) is a 8th grader at Stratford Academy. Previous roles include the Evil Queen in *Snow White* at APA, Molly in *Annie* at Stratford, and Abu in *Aladdin* at MLT. Recently, she played Ms. Doubtstak in *Durworld* and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Theatre Macon. Meredith enjoys playing clarinet and is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Leeanne Griffin (Madame Face, Stage Manager) is a junior English Literature and Theatre major. She is most excited to be onstage with some of her closest friends, and has enjoyed the responsibility and fun of working with her best friend as co-stage managers (you know who you are). She wants to thank Scot for giving her the liberty to flirt onstage, her parents for letting her be her crazy self growing up, and Tory Johnson for being a mentor and lovely friend.

Abigail Howd (L'ingénu) is a junior Theatre major with minors in both English and Music. Theatre is her passion, and she has been blessed with many opportunities to participate in what she loves so dearly. She has portrayed characters in all ranges of productions from full-fledged musicals, church plays, mystery theatre, and collegiate dramas. Her favorite role was that of Zoe McCullum from *Missouri Waltz* in which she costarred with Karen Black at the Cox Capitol Theatre. She is so grateful to everyone involved in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* for another merry adventure and to her family for their never-ending love and support. She hopes you enjoy watching the show as much as she did performing it!

Tory Johnson (Stepdaughter, Set Crew) is a senior Theatre major. This is her first acting role, having spent the previous six years of being involved in theatre working behind the scenes. She has been the Stage Manager for several Mercer Theatre productions, including *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Zastrozzi*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Stop Kiss*. In Boston, she worked as the Production Stage Manager for *The Bantamweight Plays* with RareWorks Theatre Company, and she was the Company Manager for *X Dance 2010* at Emerson College. Thanks to the cast, crew, and the production team for all of your hard work put into this production!

Shelley Kuhen (Costume Design) is in her fourteenth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have been seen in our productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Zastrozzi*, *An Enemy of the People*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She is also Costume Designer for Mercer Opera where her creations were seen in their latest production of *The Merry Widow*, as well as last season's *Elixir of Love*. She is also employed by Theatre Macon, and her work was last seen in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Little Foxes* as well as this summer's production of *1776*. Shelley wants to thank her wonderful family for their continued love and support. She also wants to thank her amazing costume crew for their countless hours of hard work and for their encouragement, love, and laughter.

Daniel Larson, (Actor) junior, is from Maryland and this is his first play at Mercer University. He is also on the Mercer University Cross Country team and a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. Daniel is excited to be performing with the great cast and under the direction of Scot Mann.

Lauren Lunsford (2nd Leading Lady) is a senior at Mercer, double majoring in Music and Theatre Arts. This is her seventh appearance as a Mercer Player, and some of her favorite roles include Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Lacey Rollins in *The Lucky Spot*. You may have also caught her last semester on the Grand Opera House stage, as Valenciennne in Mercer Opera's *The Merry Widow*. She'd like to thank Scot for throwing her into the

mix with this fun cast! Also, she'd like to thank her family for still loving her even though she doesn't go home for months, Lindsey for making her laugh 'til she cries, and God for giving her this awesome life.

Harley Maddox (Stage Manager) is a Junior majoring in both Theatre and English. She has participated in theatre for most of her life, both on stage and as a crew member. She would like to thank Scot for giving her this opportunity and for helping her learn something new everyday. She would also like to thank the cast and crew for always giving her a reason to smile and for being like a family away from home. She loves you guys more than you know. To her other "second family", those Alpha Gam girls, she wants to say thanks for understanding her total lack of a social life lately. Lastly, she would like to thank her family for always being supportive. Oh, and to Tory Johnson for being her stage manager inspiration!

Scot Mann (Director) A Mercer Alumnus, presently serves as Mercer's Director of Theatre. As 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 Director, 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, Theatrical Outfit, 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, T.V. and the Internet. Scot appeared as a stunt-player and served as tactical choreographer and gun wrangler for the newly released movie, *Kysborgs*, as well as on-set Swordmaster and stunt double for the "Bollywood" epic, *Drona*. Scot is an alumnus of the MFA/PAT program at The Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He thanks Kelly and his magical daughter, Madelyn!

Artanza McGuire (Leading Lady) is a graduating senior from Atlanta, Georgia. She is no stranger to the theatre, but is making her debut in the Back Door Theatre. She believes that acting is her true passion, and aspires to pursue acting fulltime after graduation. Artanza wants to thank the entire cast and crew for welcoming her into the Back Door family! It has been an absolute pleasure working with everyone.

Kevin Mobolade (Leading Man), sophomore, is a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts who has been involved in theater productions throughout high school and now college. He was last seen in Mercer's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, as the light board operator. He would like to thank Scot for this opportunity, and the entire cast and crew.

Marcella Murray (Mother) is a fourth year Theatre major, minoring in Biology and Chemistry. This is her third Mercer Theatre production as a cast member and her fourteenth production as a part of the set crew. She is so happy to have found her home in Theatre. She sends all of her love to her wonderful family and friends. She also hopes that everyone enjoys the show.

Sean Rayburn (Running Crew) is a sophomore English major at Mercer University. He is an active Mercer Players member and officer, and appeared in last year's productions of *An Enemy of the People* and *Cinders*. He was also the Props Master for last semester's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. After college, Sean wants to attend graduate school and become an English professor.

Kyle Shook (Father) is a junior English Literature and WGS double major. When he graduates, he hopes to pursue a Master's degree or higher in Medieval Literature and after that he has no further plans, so don't ask. When he isn't busy with theatre, he is involved in the Feminist Majority

Leadership Alliance, Mercer Players, Common Ground, Phi Eta Sigma, Mercer Shakespeare Society, Georgians for Alternatives for the Death Penalty, and is a founding member of Team Lunskirk. He couldn't be more excited to be working with such a marvelous cast of people and would like to especially thank Lauren for her wonderful ability to listen to his constant complaining, Chad, Tory and Marcella for being the best dysfunctional family ever, Leeanne for capturing almost all of his embarrassingly awkward moments on film, and of course, his family who gives him money, a place to sleep in the summer and constant reminders about what he should do with his life.

Jim Sisson (Manager) (CLA '98, MSOT '04) last performed in Andrew Silver's *Combustible/Burn* as Prof. Mac Bryan, a role he reprises daily for Macon State College across town. Jim wishes to dedicate his performance to his students, mentors, and of course Anne Hathaway.

Chad Sliger (Son) is a fourth year here at Mercer where he is finishing his double major in Theater and Political Science. He intends to go to law school where he can use both of his majors. Tonight you see him playing the dark role of the Son. Previously you may have seen him in *The Disciples* as John Birch, Perchic in *Fiddler on the Roof*, the Principal in *Cinders*, Morton Kill in *An Enemy of the People*, and Horace the Mayfly in *Time Flies* amongst others. He would like to thank his family and his friends for all their love and support. Have a wonderful evening and enjoy the show!!!

Suzanne Stroup (Assistant Manager) is a sophomore Theatre and Journalism double major from Marietta, Ga. She recently completed a seven-month internship at Walt Disney World doing Entertainment Costuming. She was last seen in the Backdoor Theatre as Stepsister #1 in *Cinders*. Suzanne would like to thank her family and friends for the support, Scot, Leeanne and Isaac for making Mercer Theatre worthwhile and the entire cast and crew for such an incredible run!

Ethan Thompson (Little Boy) is the 13-year old son of Doug and Kerri Thompson and older brother of Evan and Zoie. He is a 7th grader at Miller Middle School. Though his mind is often busy with Yu-Gi-Oh strategies, he gets lost in any book in hand. He also enjoys soccer and video games. But he LOVES to set foot on stage. He has been in Theatre Macon Youth Actor Company's *Macbeth*, *Big River*, *Durworld* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*, TM Mainstage productions of *Counselor at Law* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Mercer's *An Enemy of the People* as well as Mercer at The Grand's *Fiddler on the Roof*. Thank you, Mr. Scot, for including me in the fun.

Monica Titus (Props), a junior Theater and Voice major, is glad to assist in her fifth production here in the Backdoor Theater. She has been involved with Mercer Theater as well as the university's Opera program since her arrival at Mercer. She was last seen as Miss Prism and Vocal Coach for the production *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She has enjoyed working on the show in a new capacity and now more thoroughly appreciates what it takes to get all the parts and pieces together for a show! She would like to wish the cast and crew some broken legs and wonderful performances and hopes that you enjoy the show.

Max Youngblood (Young Lead) is a History major and Philosophy minor from Savannah, Ga. This is his first time acting but he hopes to continue into the future. His hobbies include rock climbing, beer brewing, reading, yoga, music, and cooking.

Marian Zielinski (Scene Designer) is 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, British Columbia and Great Britain. She is also an award-winning fiber artist who most recently received Honorable Mention for her piece titled "Verdi's April" in the Middle Georgia Association's show, "Wishing for Spring." Marian is an avid swimmer and painter who lives with her husband, Dr. Frank Macke, Chair of the Department of Communication Studies and Theatre at Mercer University, their dog, Buttons, and two kittens, YoYo and Panda. She dedicates this work to Frank for his love and inspiration.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Italian playwright Luigi Pirandello wrote his most famous play *Six Characters in Search of an Author* in 1921. The work is often re-translated and updated as it marks a turning point from a more ceremonial and communal feeling of the theatre to matters more personal in nature.

Pirandello's construct, the Characters, never fully realized and abandoned by their original author, wander the night in search of someone to finish their drama. Six of these characters are trapped in a static moment of their torrid drama. When they encounter a professional company of actors rehearsing a play, two worlds converge: People (the theatre company and the audience) and Characters.

Characters remain what they are, unchanging. They appear to have no reality beyond the line of their narrative. The People are like us: changing over time, in and out of love, forgetting and remembering. We are not the same one moment to the next, much less the same person we were ten years ago.

The Characters, once realized in a drama, will remain unchanged as immortal works of art. The People live in flashing moments that are here and gone, and may not even be remembered. Thus the most far-reaching questions of Pirandello's work—What is reality and which is more solid, that which changes or that which is unchangeable?

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.