

MERCER THEATRE 2008-09 SEASON

UP NEXT!

COMING TO THE GRAND
April 3-5, 2009

Fiddler on the Roof

A Joint Production by Mercer Theatre and Mercer University Opera



AUDITIONS

Monday, December 1, 2008 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Watch for announcement with details soon!

and
At the Back Door Theatre

April 23-26, 2008

Graduation Story

An original play by Mercer student Alice Willey

MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

Time Flies

A HILARIOUS COLLECTION OF SHORT WORKS BY

DAVID IVES

DIRECTED BY MARIAN ZIELENSKI

Dr. Fritz or: The Forces of Light

AT THE
BACK DOOR THEATRE

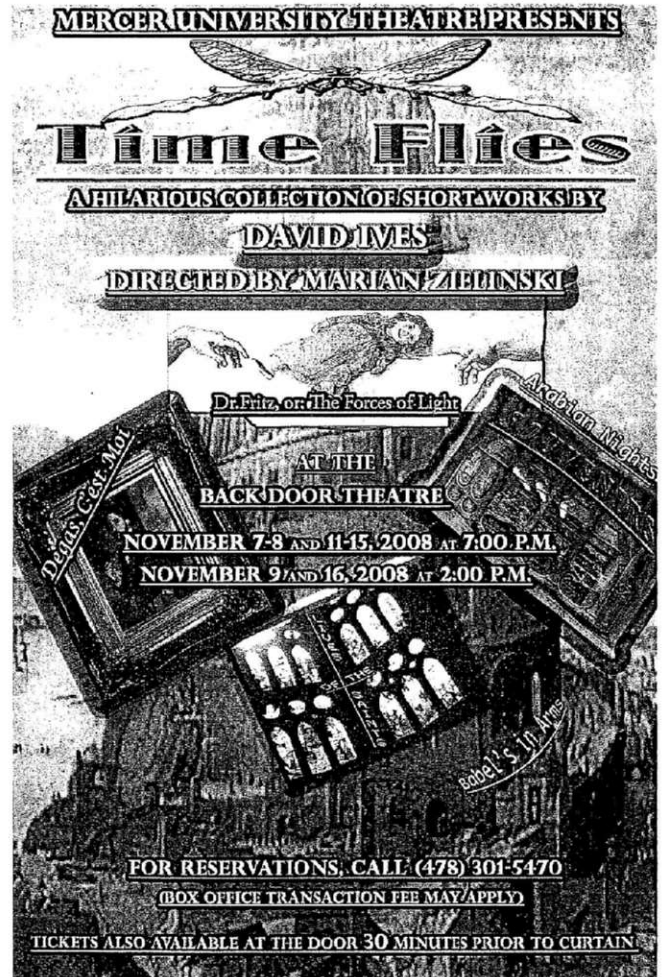
NOVEMBER 7-8 AND 11-15, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER 9 AND 16, 2008 AT 2:00 P.M.

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL: (478) 301-5470

(BOX OFFICE TRANSACTION FEE MAY APPLY)

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO CURTAIN



Time Flies

A hilarious collection of short works

by **DAVID IVES**

Directed by Marian Zielinski

Scenic Design.....Zach Broome
Costume Design.....Shelley Kuhen
Lighting Design.....Tommy Love
Sound Design.....Scot J. Mann

CAST LIST

Dr. Fritz, or: The Forces of Light

Maria/Dr. Fritz.....Kaylie Damen
Tom.....Corbin Parker

Degas, C'est Moi

Ed.....Kyle Shook
Doris/ Homeless Person/Waitress/Dog Walker.....Kelly Flemister
Driver/Key Food Worker/OTB Worker/Museum Guard.....Daniel Niswonger
News Guy, Pizza Man, Renoir.....Dustin Franklin
Dry Cleaner/Unemployment Worker/Librarian/Museum Goer.....Amber Boring
Young Woman.....Lauren Lunsford

Babel's in Arms

Gorph.....Phillip Banze
Cannaphlit.....Alex Moreschi
Eunuch.....Chad Sliger
Priestess.....Christina Thorington
Business Woman.....Monica Titus

INTERMISSION

Arabian Nights

Norman.....Isaac Callahan
Interpreter.....Shannon Johnson
Flora.....Katherine Eid

Lives of the Saints

Edna.....Jessica Conley
Flo.....Lauren Parris
Assistant.....Corbin Parker
Assistant.....Phillip Banze
Assistant.....Daniel Niswonger

Time Flies

May.....Meredith Ellis
Horace.....Chad Sliger
David Attenborough.....Ian Van Sice

Understudies.....Matt Roche, Laura Lunsford, Ashley Eckersley

MERCER THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director..... Zach Broome
Assistant Technical Director..... Phillip Banze
Assistant Director..... Ashley Eckersley
Stage Manager..... Matt Roche
Assistant Stage Manager..... Kelly Flemister
Set Crew..... Phillip Banze, Matthew Bird, Victor Bula, Brandon Hughes,
Marcella Murray, Laura Nelms, Christina Thorington, Alice Wiley
Lighting Crew..... Phillip Banze, Matthew Bird, Tommy Love,
Marcella Murray, Laura Nelms
Lighting Operator..... Matt Roche
Prop Master..... Zach Broome
Costume Crew..... Shelley Kuhlen, Evelyn Funderburk,
Anna Mae Kersey, Marian McHugh, Lauren Parris
Sound Operator..... Ashley Eckersley
House Manager..... Alice Wiley
Graphic Design..... Darlene Murphy

WHO'S WHO

Phillip Banze (Gorph in *Babel's in Arms*; Assistant in *Lives of the Saints*) is a senior Sociology major, Theatre minor, and student Technical Director from Chattanooga, TN. This is his ninth production at Mercer, with some of his favorite roles including Rick from *The Disciples*, Dromio of Syracuse from *A Comedy of Errors*, and most recently, Bottom from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Phil would like to thank the cast and crew for making this production yet another amazing experience. Fish Swim, Birds Fly.

Amber Boring (Dry Cleaner / Unemployment Worker / Museum Goer / Librarian in *Degas, C'est Moi*) is a sophomore Communication and Theatre Arts major on the Pre-Med track with minors in Chemistry and Business Administration (and slightly masochistic apparently). Though this is her first production with the Mercer Players and all their awesomeness, she has been involved in every aspect of theatre for the past five years. Her favorite roles to date include Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias* and Ellen Terry in *The Actor's Nightmare*. Thanks to everyone for coming out to see the show and supporting the Theatre Department.

Zach Broome (Scenic Designer/Prop Master/Technical Director) is the newest strand in a rather intricate web of family members who are graduates and/or employees of Mercer University. He is, at least, the seventh Mercer graduate and the sixth Mercer employee to emerge from his family. Zach is proud to be a professional within the department that once cultivated his abilities as a student, and he is especially proud to be working with Marian Zielinski on a production of yet another collection of David Ives' plays.

Isaac Callahan (Norman in *Arabian Nights*) This is Isaac's first "official" production at Mercer. He previously played Mr. Montgomery in *The Richest Man in London* as part of a night of one acts last semester. He wants to thank all of the cast for their support and laughs – especially through all the calls for "line."

Jessica Conley (Edna in *Lives of the Saints*) is junior at Mercer majoring in Holistic Child Education with a minor in Spanish. She is not new to the stage, but this is her first Mercer production and she is so excited to be a part of it. She would like to thank the amazing cast and crew, her new best friends, for all their hard work and inspiration. She would like to thank her family for supporting her dramatic nature through the years and for making the drive to come see the play. Last, but not least, she would like to thank her boyfriend of four years, Dustin. Thank you for doing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and introducing me to the awesome people of Mercer Theatre. Thank you, also, for supporting me in my dramatic quest. I love you more than anything in the world. God bless you all and enjoy the show!

Kaylie Damen (Maria / Dr. Fritz in *Dr. Fritz, or: The Forces of Light*) is a senior at Mercer majoring in Art and Communication and Theatre Arts. Kaylie has been involved in theatre for as long as she can remember, and her performances as a Mercer Player include *The Vagina Monologues* and Sammy in *The Disciples*. Kaylie would like to thank Corby-poo for allowing her to beat him up as Dr. Fritz, Hani-poo for his unconditional love, and Katherine and Meredith for... you know. Oh, and her amazing and inspirational family.

Ashley Eckersley (Assistant to the Director) is a Theatre major on the Pre-Med track. You may recognize her name from Stage Managing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or perhaps her performance as the Mother in *Rashomon* last semester. She would like to thank Matt for taking the stage managing off her hands (writing all those stage directions that change daily and keeping up with lines and blocking checks is not as easy as it seems). His creative answers to the staging dilemmas may beg the question why we did not switch jobs in the beginning. Ashley would also like to thank Mere Wood, Lucky, and her family for reminding her why she really is at Mercer. And one last thing: Marian, thank you so much for allowing all of us to have the experience of working with a different director. No offense Scot, this is one exposure that taught us all a valuable lesson.

Katherine Eid (Flora in *Arabian Nights*) is a sophomore at Mercer majoring in Voice. She is excited to be a part of her first show at the Back Door Theatre. Katherine was involved in musical theatre in high school, where her roles included the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* and Fantine in *Les Miserables*. She is thankful to be performing in her first non-musical production, and would like to tell Kaylie and Meredith that she "feels our souls joined by a crystal thread, your soul to my soul to your soul, to your soul to mine."

Meredith Ellis (May in *Time Flies*) – This is Meredith's second appearance on the Back Door Theatre stage, having played Sarah in last year's production of *Stop Kiss*. She is currently a junior completing her Psychology major and her Theatre and Spanish minors. She would like to thank Kayle and Matt for teaching her to palpate her proboscis. She would also like to thank her friends and family for the unconditional love and support, and all of these fine people for all of the laughs – especially Chad.

Kelly Flemister (Doris / Homeless Person / Waitress / Dog Walker in *Degas, C'est Moi*) is a Mercer freshman and a History major. Earlier in the semester she appeared at the Back Door Theatre as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Kelly would like to thank her family for their support, as well as everyone who has cultivated her love for theatre throughout the years.

Dustin Franklin (News Guy, Pizza Guy, Renoir in *Degas, C'est Moi*) is a junior TCO/Spanish major. This is his second production at Mercer. He first appeared as Robin Starveling/Moonshine in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He would like to thank his girlfriend of four years, Jessica, for all her love and support as well as the cast and crew for all their hard work. Y'all are AMAZING! Como siempre, ¡Dios os bendiga a vosotros!

Shannon Johnson (Interpreter in *Arabian Nights*) is a senior Theatre major at Mercer. She has been active in this department since her freshman year and has been involved in several productions, both on and off stage. She played Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* earlier this season, Nicole in *Not Waving*, Audrey in *The Disciples*, and "Voice-Over" in *Hot n' Throbbing* as well as several others. She also Assistant Directed last season's *Stop Kiss* and House Managed *Rashomon*. This is her final season here at Mercer and she would like to thank all the playgoers for their ongoing support to this program. Thank you so much!

Shelley Kuhlen (Costume Designer) is in her twelfth year as Mercer's Costume Director. Her costumes have been seen most recently in our productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Rashomon*, *Stop Kiss*, and *A Comedy of Errors*. Her designs were also seen last year in Mercer Opera's production of *Egisto and Amahl* and *The Night Visitors*. She also designs for Theatre Macon, and her costumes were seen this summer in *City of Angels* and *Pajama Game* and in the current production of *Sweet Bird of Youth*. Shelley wants to thank her wonderful family for their love and support. She also wants to thank her amazing costume crew for their countless hours of hard work and for their ability to keep her ship from sinking! And to Lauren Parris and Kelly Flemister - Break a Leg!!!!

Tommy Love (Lighting Designer) has studied in the Theatre Department for three years, but *Time Flies* is his first production in the Back Door Theater. Tommy first became interested in lighting design when he studied it under Marian Zielinski, and it has quickly become one of his favorite artistic mediums. Tommy is also an aspiring filmmaker and has made several short films. Two of which have shown and competed in the Macon Georgia Film Festival. Tommy's most recent film was made while he was studying abroad in Gorizia, Italy. After graduating this spring, Tommy hopes to attend a graduate film school.

Lauren Lunsford (Young Woman in *Degas, C'est Moi*) is a sophomore Voice and Theatre major, and is delighted to be working with yet another great director in her second Back Door Theatre production. The *Time Flies* experience has helped to broaden her theatrical horizons once more and has provided a nice change of pace in her life - as well as a newfound appreciation for Edgar Degas (the actor playing him isn't too shabby either!). A special thanks to Anastasia Barnes for living with her, her marvelous family for their steadfast love, and to God for creating coffee and squirrels. L'amour est tout que vous avez besoin!

Scot J. Mann (Sound Design) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Mercer. Scot 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, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, The Asolo Conservatory, 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. Most recently, Scot appeared as a stunt-player and served as tactical choreographer and gun wrangler for the upcoming Sci-Fi movie, *Eyeborgs*, as well as on-set Swordmaster and stunt double for the "Bollywood" epic, *Drona*, set for release in October. 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!

Alex Moreschi (Cannaphlit in *Babel's in Arms*) is currently a sophomore majoring in Pre-Med, Philosophy and Biology. He played Flute/Thisbe in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* earlier this semester. Medicine is his passion, philosophy his life, and theatre his love. He hopes that all of you enjoy this amazingly funny production.

Daniel Niswonger (Assistant in *Lives of the Saints*; Driver /OTB Worker /Museum Goer in *Degas, C'est Moi*) has worked tech for high school plays for years, but this is his first play in front of the curtain. Thanks goes to his acting teacher, Scot Mann, for his gentle shove into auditions and even more to the cast and company for not laughing him right back out again.

Corbin Parker (Tom Sanders in *Dr. Fritz, or: The Forces of Light*) is pleased to be performing in his second production at Mercer. He would like to thank Hanners, Kaylie, and the rest of the cast for being awesome! Yay! Also his friends and family...pets and plants. Neighbors... classmates... Dance!

Lauren Parris (Flo in *Lives of the Saints*) is so excited to be in her first performance at Mercer. Although she is a freshman, she is no stranger to Mercer's campus. Her father, Dr. Robert Parris, has been a professor here for 30 years, and she and her siblings grew up on campus. Lauren has been involved with many productions at Theatre Macon both on-stage and behind the scenes. Her favorites include Cosette in *Les Miserables*, Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*, and costume crew for *Tom Jones*, *The Full Monty*, and many others. She has no idea what her major will be, but hey, she has time right?

Matt Roche is the Stage Manager for this production, which might lead you to believe that he's the one to thank for set and prop organization, among other crucial responsibilities. However, you should redirect all such accolades to the individual who constantly covered Matt's mistakes and laziness with her own organizational abilities and admirable work ethic: Ashley Eckersley. In fact, Matt did very little as far as stage management goes. He goofed off with the cast and tried to look busy as Ashley did his job (in addition to her own). As such, Matt would like to thank Ashley for allowing him to look important but enjoy few real responsibilities. He'd also like to thank Kaylie for helping him counsel Meredith's... climactic scene, and his parents for sending him away to theatre camp in second grade - as the saying goes, "You started it."

Kyle Shook (Ed in *Degas, C'est Moi*) is a freshman History major and is thrilled to be involved in his second production at Mercer, his first being *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, where he played Snout/ the Wall. Thanks to his fellow Degas-ians and the production team for all their constant support. And now that he has your attention, enjoy the show...or else.

Ian Van Sice (David Attenborough in *Time Flies*) is a senior Theatre major previously seen in *Stop Kiss*, *The Disciples*, *Rashomon*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and a showcase of one act plays. This is his sixth consecutive show in the Back Door Theatre. He wants to thank the rest of the cast and crew for making it all worthwhile. Thanks everyone!

Chad Sliger (Horace in *Time Flies*; Eunuch in *Babel's in Arms*) is appearing in his second performance at the Back Door Theatre. You may have seen him in *The Disciples* as John Birch. Chad is majoring in Theatre on the Pre-Law track. He loves theatre and wants to thank God, his mom, his dad, John, and all of his friends for their unstoppable, unconditional love and support for all of his decisions, choices, and performances. ENJOY THE SHOW!

Christina Thorington (Priestess in *Babel's in Arms*) is a junior majoring in Communications and Theatre with a minor in Vocal Performance. She has been part of several Back Door Theatre performances since her freshman year. She has also been part of musical theatre performances at Macon Little Theatre and Columbus High School. Christina would like to thank her fellow cast and crew for the memories and the hat. Oh Wow.

Monica Titus (Businesswoman in *Babel's in Arms*) is freshman at Mercer. Monica is very excited to be in her first theater production at Mercer. Prior to college she was involved in theater at her high school in Cocoa Beach Florida, as well as in Community Theater. Her most notable roles were those of Rosa in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Miss Thorn from *Ruthless*, Cordelia in *Falsettos* and chorus member of *Les Miserables*. She really hopes that you will thoroughly enjoy the show!

Marian Zielinski (Director) came to Macon in 1982 as Mercer University's Set, Costume, Lighting Designer and Technical Director. Since that time, the program has grown to include a Staff Technical Director and Costume Designer, positions currently filled by the talented Zach Broome and Shelley Kuhlen. This change has allowed Marian the opportunity to direct for Mercer's program, including such productions as *The Three Sisters*, *Waiting for Godot*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Good Doctor* (which toured to Japan), *The Illusion*, and David Ives' first collection of one-act plays, *All in the Timing*. Most recently, however, Marian designed the scenery for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and is beginning work designing scenery and lighting for *Fiddler on the Roof* (directed by Mercer's stellar new Artistic Director, Scot Mann), which will open at The Grand Opera House in early April. Marian has designed professionally off-off Broadway, and for Music Theatre Louisville, The Shawnee Theatre, and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Marian is an avid fiber artist and painter, who also enjoys swimming and pool volleyball. She makes her home in Macon with two dogs, Lulu and Buttons, the latest addition to the herd, a feisty calico kitten named Tillie, and the love of her life, husband, Dr. Frank Macke, Chair of the Communication Studies and Theatre Department.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Choosing a play to produce as part of an academic program involves finding a script that not only appeals to the community/audience and will complement the other selections in a given season, but also one that will challenge and develop the talent of aspiring young actors and the artistic staff. David Ives' collection of one-act plays offered just such an opportunity.

At mid-term, after finishing an intensive rehearsal and performance period with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Scot Mann, I wasn't certain how many students would be available to audition, and I was fully prepared to double cast roles as needed. But the enthusiasm and the talent pool at auditions were both broad and deep.

Jean Scharfenberg, a noted director with whom I worked in Illinois, believes that casting is the most crucial decision a director makes. For me, casting is a puzzle that involves chemistry and imagery, responsiveness and music, play and hard work, magic and logic. This particular group of young actors performing for you tonight made my "most crucial decision" almost foolproof. They are, without a doubt, one of the most exciting and cohesive groups to grace Mercer's stage in my 27-year history with this theatre program.

With discipline, creativity, fearlessness, and openness, our rehearsals became a quest to peel away the existential questions of these plays, and mine the layers of comedy within its language(s). In this work, we found laughter, insight, community, and (at least temporarily) we have allowed our "truth-aches" to be healed.

Special Thanks to:

Set Designer, Zach Broome, whose tireless dedication and hard work is very deeply appreciated, and whose practical sensibilities offer balance without sacrificing creativity,

Costume Designer, Shelley Kuhlen, who never disappoints,

Lighting Designer, Tommy Love, for his enthusiasm and commitment to the project,

Sound Designer, Scot Mann, for changing caps and supporting this work with yet another of his myriad talents.

Assistant, Ashley Eckersley, for being there and everywhere (and making life so much easier for everyone involved),

Stage Manager, Matt Roche, for his reliability, his wealth of knowledge, his artistic eye, and his willingness to crack the whip when necessary,

The entire cast, for their inspiration, and for making this process a treasured experience.

Marian Zielinski, Director
Professor of Theatre