
Mercer University Theatre

Presents

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

by Edward Albee

Directed by Paul Oppy
Set Design by Sean Johnson
Costumes Designed by Shelley Kuhlen
Lighting Design by Marian Zielinski
Sound Design by Tony Pearson

CAST

Martha Allyson Russell
George Emory Whitaker
Honey Diana Davidson
Nick Bryant Smith

Presented by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

*Please turn off all beepers and watch alarms.
No cameras or recording devices may be used during the performance.*

Act One
Fun and Games

Act Two
Walpurgisnacht

Act Three
The Exorcism

There will be 2 five-minute intermissions.

About The Playwright

Edward Albee was born March 12, 1928 in Washington, DC and was adopted as an infant by Reid Albee, the son of a famous vaudevillian. Albee burst onto the theatrical scene in the late 1950s with a variety of plays that detailed the agonies and disillusionment of that decade and the transition to the turbulent 1960s. Albee's plays, with their intensity, their gripping modern themes, and their experiments in form, startled critics and audiences alike while changing the landscape of American drama. He was unanimously hailed as the successor to Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, and Eugene O'Neill.

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~Who's Who~

DIANA DAVIDSON (Honey) is a freshman and an Early Childhood Education major at Mercer University. She appeared in "The Actor's Nightmare" and "Competition Piece" at Statesboro High School. Diana hopes to do more with Mercer Theatre and has enjoyed working on this show.

SEAN M. JOHNSON (Set Designer), Graduated from Marian College in Indianapolis with a B.A. in Theatre Arts. He is presently the Technical Director for the Mercer University Department of Communication and Theatre Arts and Production Coordinator for The Grand Opera House. You may have seen some of his most recent work at Theatre Macon - "Flyin' West," or at last season's Spring Production at the Grand Opera House - "Sweeney Todd."

SHELLEY KUHEN (Costume Design) has co-designed costumes for Mercer Theatre's "Sweeney Todd", Macon State College's "The Legends of Grandmother Spider", and Theatre Macon's "La Cage aux Folles". This is her second year at Mercer as Costume Shop Supervisor/Designer. She says thanks for making her feel like part of the theatre family here.

PAUL OPPY (Director) has been teaching and directing theatre at Mercer for twenty-six years. "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is the 71st production he has directed for Mercer University Theatre. He is excited to be serving as the Artistic Director of the Georgia International Festival for Young Audiences, which will have its premiere in Macon, Georgia in May 1998.

ALLYSON RUSSELL (Martha) is a third year law student at Mercer University School of Law. Her most recent performances include the role of Charlotte in "Beyond Therapy", Nora in "Eclipsed", and "Noises off" as Popsy. Allyson enjoys anything that doesn't involve laboring over law books. She would like to dedicate this performance to her mother.

BRYANT SMITH (Nick) is a junior majoring in Business Management and concentrating in Drama and Theatre at Mercer. Bryant's recent performances include the roles of Ike Skidmore in "Oklahoma!" at Macon Little Theatre, Albert in "The Secret Garden" at Mercer Theatre, and Cosmo Brown in "Singin' in the Rain" at Macon Little Theatre. He is the son of Dr. Logan and Carol Smith of Cornelia, Georgia. Bryant's future plans include graduate work in musical theatre at Roosevelt University in Chicago. This is his fourth Mercer production.

EMORY WHITAKER (George) is a Professor of Mathematics and Director of the Great Books Program at Mercer. His stage credits include the role of Applegate in "Damn Yankees" at Macon Little Theatre, Daddy Warbucks in "Annie" at Theatre Macon, and Bellamy in "The Fantastics" with Mercer Theatre. He wants to thank his wife, Genny and daughter, Beth for their love and support.

ASHLEY WHITTEN (Stage Manager) is a sophomore concentrating in Drama and Theatre at Mercer. Her most recent role was as the birdseller in last season's production of "Sweeney Todd". She also worked stage crew for "Sharon's Grave" and served as light board operator for Mercer Opera's "Hansel and Gretel" and "Cox and Box". This is Ashley's first time as stage manager. She is glad to be working with such a great crew.

MARIAN ZIELINSKI (Lighting Design) is an Associate Professor, Designer, and the Chair of the Communication and Theatre Arts Department at Mercer University. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Theatre from the University of Buffalo and a Master of Fine Arts Degree from Illinois State. Marian is beginning her 16th season with Mercer University Theatre and has also designed professionally for the Shawnee Summer Repertory Theatre and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

Production Staff

Director Paul Oppy
 Set Designer Sean Johnson
 Costume Designer Shelley Kuhlen
 Lighting Designer Marian Zielinski
 Sound Designer Tony Pearson
 Stage Manager Ashley Whitten
 Assistant Stage Managers Adam Gsegner, Brooke Kaiser,
 Taha Yarahmad
 Technical Director Sean Johnson
 Set Crew Dave Abney, Benjamin Hulett,
 Sean Johnson, Tammy Macaluso, Tony Pearson, Marlene Silva,
 Jason Teague, Mike Troyer, Deborah Walden, Wade Williams, Whit Whitmore
 Costume Crew Shelley Kuhlen, Melanie Lazo, Marian McHugh,
 Rachel Reed, Deborah Walden
 Hair Stylists Jimmie DeLoach, Denver Pickard
 Master Electrician Jason Teague
 Electrics Crew Barbara Brooks, Margaret Eugenio,
 Elliot Haworth, Benjamin Hulett, Deborah Walden
 Light Board Operator Tripp Hardin
 Sound Board Operator Melanie Lazo
 Movement Coach Marisa Cleghorn
 Martha's Make-up Terri Sapp
 Ushers The Mercer Players

Special Thanks to Anno Weaver & Jerry Winfield

About the Playwright Continued

Throughout his career, Albee has shown a fascination for a wide variety of theatrical styles and subjects. *The Zoo Story* conveyed the alienation and disillusionment of the existentialist drama. In 1959, Albee explored American race relations in the southern Gothic atmosphere of *The Death of Bessie Smith*. He gave birth to American absurdist drama with *The Sandbox* and *The American Dream*. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *A Delicate Balance* are classic studies of American family life.

According to Albee, "Every one of my plays is an act of optimism, because I make the assumption that it is possible to communicate with other people. The people who think *Virginia Woolf* was a love story are a lot closer to the truth than those who think it was a tragedy. At least there was communication in that marriage." And like George and Martha, whose long night's journey finally ends in day, Albee and his public have communicated with each other ever since they met -- through periods of love and exhilaration, anger and neglect, truce and reconciliation.

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DA

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 NEW YORK POST

Mercer University Theatre

Who's
 Afraid of
 Virginia Woolf?

Oct. 3, 4 at 7:30 p.m.
 Oct. 5 at 2:00 p.m.
 Oct. 7-11, 7:30 p.m.

by
Edward Albee
 Directed by
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**BACKDOOR
 THEATRE**



Love . . .

. . . Death

Betrayal