

Mercer University Theatre
2010-2011 Season Continues...

The Importance of Being Ernest

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Scot Mann

Mercer Theatre presents Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a sharp-edged comedy that is considered Wilde's most popular play. The satire, which is filled with witty dialogue, physical comedy and moments of comic, sentimental drama, will be performed at the Back Door Theatre.

November 5, 6, 9-13 7:00 PM
November 7, 14 2:00 P.M

Six Characters in Search of an Author

By Luigi Pirandello

Translation by Robert Brustein

Directed by Scot J. Mann

Six Characters in Search of an Author is the most popular of Pirandello's plays. In the play, audiences are confronted with the unexpected arrival of six fictional play characters that have been abandoned by their author. They interrupt and invade the rehearsal of another play and demand that the author not only finish their story, but in a way that they would like it to be told. The play asks probing questions about the nature of reality versus illusion, truth versus artifice and the workings of the creative process.

February 17, 18, 19, 22-26 7:00 PM
February 20, 27 2:00 PM

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 Backdoor Theatre, Mercer University

For reservations and information, call 478-301-2974, M-F 9am-3pm

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



BY GEORGE F. WALKER

DIRECTED BY SCOT J. MANN

AT THE

BACK DOOR THEATRE

AUGUST 26, 27, & 31 AT 7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 1-4 AT 7:00 PM

AUGUST 29 & SEPTEMBER 5 AT 2:00 PM

TICKETS: \$5

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, CALL 478.301.2974

BOX OFFICE OPENS 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO CURTAIN

ZASTROZZI

THE MASTER OF DISCIPLINE

By George F. Walker

Directed by Scot J. Mann

Scenic Design..... Marian Zielinski
Costume DesignShelley Kuhlen
Lighting Design..... Marian Zielinski
Sound Design.....*Scot Mann
Fight Choreography*Scot Mann, *Kelly Martin

*Member, Actors Equity Association

CAST

Zastrozzi..... *Scot J. Mann
Bernardo Phillip Banze
Verezzi Isaac Callahan
Victor Zach Broome
Matilda *Kelly Martin
Julia Leah Parris

*Appearing Courtesy of Actors Equity Association

Gypsies, tyrants and thieves! All are brought to dazzling life in this swashbuckling, philosophical romp through the dark side. *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* is a thrilling black comedy with a mission. The ageless debate of good versus evil, sex versus love and power versus piety are all covered at a galloping pace in this gothic spectacle of one man's search for truth. *Zastrozzi* is for a mature audience who doesn't mind theatre to be challenging and somewhat mind blowing.

MERCER THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....	Zach Broome
Scenic Artist	Marian Zielinski
Stage Manager.....	Tory Johnson
Assistant Stage Manager	Leeanne Griffin
House Manager	Lauren Lunsford
Props Master	Lauren Lunsford
Vocal Coach	Lauren Lunsford
Light Crew	Marian Zielinski
Lightboard Operator	Marcella Murray
Set Crew.....	Tory Johnson, Chailyn Johnson, Phillip Banze, Scot Mann, Kelly Martin, Isaac Callahan, Lauren Lunsford, Leanne Griffin, Jake Adams, Kelly Flemister, Emma Stitt Han Htet, Daniel Niswonger, Zach Broome, Connor Cosenza
Costume Crew	Shelley Kuhlen, Marian McHugh, Lauren Parris, Evelyn Prater
Run Crew	Kyle Shook
Lighting Crew	Marian Zielinski
Wig/Hair Stylist	Ashley Feagin
Graphic Design	Darlene Murphy

For more information on the Mercer Players, visit them on Facebook,
or go the Mercer University Theatre website at:
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The Players...

Phillip Banze (Bernardo) is an alumnus of the Mercer University class of 2009 with a Bachelors degree in Sociology and a minor in Theatre. While a student, he performed in numerous productions with roles including Peter Stockman in *An Enemy of the People*, Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Nights' Dream*, Rick Rickenbacher in Andrew Silver's *The Disciples*, and Dromio of Syracuse in *Comedy of Errors*. He most recently performed at Theatre Macon in several shows including *Out of Order* and *1776*. Phil also served as Student Technical Director and Stage Carpenter for the duration of his student career at Mercer, and as lead carpenter for Theatre Macon's *Noises Off*, *Man who Came to Dinner*, *Out of Order*, and *1776*. Phil currently works as a coordinator of the National Coalition for the Homeless programs in Georgia and South Carolina and as a spokesperson for the Macon Coalition to End Homelessness. Phil would like to thank Emma for her amazing propensity to bring a smile to his face. Fish Swim, Birds Fly.

Zach Broome (Victor/Technical Director) is beginning his fifth season as the Technical Director of Mercer University Theatre and is excited to finally have the opportunity to combine into one project, two of his great passions: theatre and stone masonry. He truly is blessed to work in a field that occupies him, keeps him sane, and makes him feel more alive than ever. Zach wishes to thank his wonderful fiancée, Amelia, (who is his greatest passion) for her undying support during this production.

Isaac Callahan (Verezzi) is a senior pursuing a Theatre degree after his recent completion of a Media Studies degree this summer. This is his seventh production at Mercer, with previous roles as Fyedka in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Reed Hooker in *The Lucky Spot*, and the Deputy in *Cinders*. He loved the opportunity to be in this show and wants to thank his mom and grandfather for their love and support. He would also like to thank his friends for putting up with him acting like Verezzi all the time.

Leeanne Griffin (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior English and Theater major at Mercer University. Originally from Valdosta, GA, she has worked on three productions here at Mercer, the latest being *Coriolanus*. She recently became a certified member of the SAFD, and has found great joy in using her stage combat skills. She would like to thank her parents, friends, and the cast for their support and hard work, and also Ms. Sharon for letting her keep her job while working on this production.

Tory Johnson (Stage Manager) is a senior at Mercer and has been the Stage Manager for a few Mercer Theatre productions including *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Stop Kiss*. She has also served as the Production Stage Manager for *The Bantamweight Plays* with RareWorks Theatre Company in Boston, Massachusetts. With Emerson Stage at Emerson College, she was an Assistant Stage Manager for *Mini Musicals* and the Company Manager for *X Dance 2010* this past year. She would like to thank the cast and crew for welcoming her back and making this experience extremely fun and exciting.

Shelley Kuhlen (Costume Designer) is in her fourteenth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have been seen in our productions of *An Enemy of the People*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Rashomon*. She is also Costume Designer for Mercer Opera where her creations were seen in their latest production of *Elixir of Love* as well as last season's *Egisto* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. She is also designs for Theatre Macon, where we saw them in this summer's production of *1776*, and previously in *The Producers*, *Counsellor at Law*, *Footloose* and *Secret Garden*. Shelley wants to thank her wonderful family for their continual 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.

Lauren Lunsford (Props/Vocal Coach/House Manager) is a senior at Mercer, studying Theatre and Music. She cannot comprehend that it's her last year! It has been wildly educational and fulfilling being a Mercer Player, and some of her favorite past roles include Lacey from *The Lucky*

Spot, Chava from *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Peaseblossom from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She feels incredibly honored to get to work alongside these cast and crew members, and hopes you enjoy the thought provoking and intriguing ride that is Zastrozzi!

Scot Mann (Zastrozzi, Director) is thrilled to have this opportunity to work in this capacity with his fellow talented theatre artists 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 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, 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, *Eyeborgs*, 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 and holds a BA in Communications and Theatre from Mercer University, where he currently serves as Director of Theatre. He thanks Kelly, Jim Crisp, and his magical daughter, Madelyn!

Kelly Martin (Matilda/Fight Choreography) is a recognized Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD), and the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat (BASSC), as well as a proud member of Actor's Equity and SAG. Kelly works primarily as a freelance actor and stunt person. Regional Theatre credits include the Alliance Theatre, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, New Stage Theatre, Mill Mountain

Theatre, Southern Arena Theatre, and The Alabama Shakespeare Festival. She is also a member of the North Carolina Stuntmen's Association, and was a part of the stunt team for the feature film *Eyeborgs* starring Adrian Paul and Danny Trejo. Many thanks to the cast and crew for making this another wonderful experience in the theatre, and to Scot for all of your love and support!

Marcella Murray (Lightboard Operator/Run Crew) is a fourth year Theatre major, minoring in Biology and Chemistry. Marcella is extremely excited about the new semester and theatre season. She hopes that everyone enjoys this production!

Leah Parris (Julia), a rising freshman, is a Macon native who graduated from Central High School last year. She has been involved in the theatre since age ten, most recently appearing as Sister Mary Leo in Theatre Macon's production of *Nunsense*. Leah has also been singing her whole life and dancing for eleven years. She would like to thank Scot for this wonderful role, and the rest of the cast and crew for such a warm welcome into the Mercer Theatre family!

Kyle Shook (Run Crew) is a junior English Literature and Gender Studies double major. He is beyond thrilled to be working on yet another production in the Back Door Theatre, but enough about him. Enjoy the show!

Marian Zielinski (Scene Designer and Lighting Designer) is a faculty member in Mercer University's Department of Communication Studies and Theatre. This past Spring, a photograph of one of Marian's fiber artworks, "Riches of Age" was published in *1000 Artisan Textiles*. She has also designed the cover for *Communicology: The New Science of Embodied Discourse*. This set and lighting design for *Zastrozzi* is dedicated to the love of her life, Frank Macke.

Since it is nearly impossible to both direct and appear in the same play, *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline* was accomplished with the wonderful directorial input of Theatre Macon's Artistic Director, Jim Crisp. Jim is appearing in his own production as well, and I will be reciprocating with a directorial eye on their work. We hope you'll complete a directorial circle with us and attend *Yankee Tavern*, as well!

Cheers!

Scot J. Mann, Mercer Theatre Director

Yankee Tavern

By Steven Deitz

Directed by Jim Crisp, Jr.

September 10, 11, 17 & 18 at 8:00 PM

September 12 at 2:30 PM

September 15 & 16 at 7:30 PM

Call 478-746-2343

Featuring
Phillip Hebert
Georgia Olson
Don McGraw
Jim Crisp

Director's Notes

When the artistic staff began our discussions about George F. Walker's *Zastrozzi: The Master of Discipline*, we were faced with a play that revealed new layers of meaning with each reading. What seems simple becomes more complex at the individual level for each character, as well as the larger, philosophical overtone of the piece. It is plays of this nature that excite and challenge us as artists, and the enthusiasm for this work has carried us to opening night without fail.

I must take a moment to lay accolades at the feet of our Artistic Staff. Professor Zielinski's scenic and lighting designs are nothing short of brilliant. Her vision, use and definition of space, and attention to detail serve to not only illuminate plot and character, but are works of art unto themselves. Shelley Kuhen's costume design, use of color, and construction rival that of any professional company (including the Steppenwolf and the Alliance) and has never failed to enliven and complete the work of the performers. And our Technical Director, Zach Broome, develops the building techniques and solutions that no contractor will ever experience, and has worked for much of this production in a dark theatre, alone. Local Director Jim Crisp offered his trained eye to the work so that the director could find focus as an actor. Our Stage Manager, Tory Johnson, brings a new level of professionalism to the post. I would challenge anyone to produce such a world-class production team with this level of talent and experience at a similar institution.

Our ensemble represents a group of talented and skilled individuals. It is often said in the industry that quality acting is ninety-percent effort, ten-percent talent. I would pose that these artists represent a group that has equal amounts of both! Text analysis requires a careful, intelligent approach. The delivery of a character that not only stands as a three-dimensional reality, but also succeeds in carrying a story in the context of the ensemble, requires a mature awareness of one's emotional

possibilities. And the energy required to sustain focus throughout weeks of rehearsal and hours of performance require a disciplined mind and trained physical instrument. Guest Artist Kelly Martin put our cast through challenging conditioning workouts. Mercer Student Lauren Lunsford challenged us with articulation and physical exercises she learned at the American Conservatory Theatre. Hours of rehearsal were devoted to Stage Combat, a challenging discipline unto itself. Please don't ask them how they "learned all those lines" (that's the least of their efforts). Their dedication and talent brought all these challenging elements together to tell the story that you witness this evening. In addition, this is a cast that not only practices their craft, but also throw their efforts into paint and glued-covered work calls like professionals. No divas, here.

Lastly, a thank you from Mercer Theatre to the Mercer Community. Your support of this collaborative and unique art is an impressive characteristic of our Mercer family. Our Faculty keep our students engaged with our work, and we strive to continue quality programming worthy of this engagement! Without the support of our Dean's office, the new lighting system (which replaced a twenty year-old system) would not have materialized, and the lighting you will see before you this evening would be dramatically different, as would our ability to instruct a significant portion of our curriculum. Our Administration is dedicated to an improved faculty to further expand our program for the University, and the local community. And our students not only attend, but work behind the scenes at every level. What an amazing combination!

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.