

MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE
Tattnall Square Center for the Arts

RABBIT HOLE

A child's silhouette stands in the center of a dark, textured tunnel. The tunnel's walls are composed of concentric, wavy layers, creating a sense of depth and mystery. At the far end of the tunnel, a bright, circular light source illuminates the scene, casting a glow on the child and the surrounding walls. The overall atmosphere is one of wonder and exploration.

by David Lindsay-Abaire

In the foreground, the silhouettes of an audience are visible, showing the heads and shoulders of several people sitting and watching the performance. The silhouettes are dark against the lighter background of the tunnel, suggesting a live theatrical production.

CAST

Becca	Caylyn Kelly
Howie	Jacob Brackett
Izzy	Gen Haskins
Nat	Maddy Jakubowski
Jason	Luke Walker

CREW DESIGN AND PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Scot Mann
Assistant Director	Taylor Goodly
Stage Manager/Scenic Designer	Evie Hufstetler
Assistant Stage Manager	Hannah Gray
Technical Director	James Ogden
Sound Designer/Wardrobe	Janhavi Kulkarni
Costume Designer	Shelley Kuhlen
Light Designer	Aniyah Parham
Assistant Light/Electrician	Lauryn Green
Electrician	Eva Chidi-Maha
Props Designer	Frani Rollins
Props Manager	Danica Dilione
Assistant Props Designer	Laura Hiers
Assistant Props Designer	Diana Dupuis
Administrative Specialist/Graphics Designer	Penni Hartley
Dramaturge	Kate Grant
Scenic Assistant	Anna Stephens
Intimacy Choreographer	Michelle Ladd
Head Run Crew	Ella Brumbelow
Run Crew	Leah Carrier
House Manager/Run Crew	Taylor Shaw
Sound Board Operator	Tori Kershaw
Light Board Operator	Gabi Fox

SPECIAL NOTES:

RABBIT HOLE was commissioned by South Coast Repertory
(Martin Benson, Artistic Director; David Emmes, Producing Artistic Director) in Costa Mesa, CA.

Originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club,
Lynn Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer, at the Biltmore Theatre on January 12, 2006

Sound Design and Original Music by John Gromada

Dramaturge's Notes

Arguably the most important theme of "Rabbit Hole" is grief. It is central to the plot, and it is all-consuming for these characters. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most complex and misunderstood emotional processes not just in the world of the play, but in ours as well. The most important thing to remember as a viewer is that grief does not always look the same and it will not always make sense. This is true for everyone, not just Becca and Howie. Every single character in this play is grieving in one way or another. They are not just grieving the loss of a person, but they are grieving the loss of a life that could have been, they are grieving the loss of their reality, and on a certain level they are grieving each other because no one will come out of this experience unchanged.

On a psychological level, grief is not only crushing from the moment of loss but according to research, grief only gets worse the longer one sits in it. Because of that, it is highly recommended by mental health professionals that one gives themselves time and patience, but it is necessary that they try to return to their new normal or it will only get harder as time passes. This gives a more nuanced perspective as to some of Becca and Howie's actions during the show. It may appear strange or unnatural that they move on faster in some regards such as packing up Danny's pictures, but it is important to remember this is necessary, so they do not drown in their own anguish. However, many of the characters are also dealing with unresolved trauma from the sudden death of another family member and because of that they now have a complex trauma that compounds as the play continues and pops up in their everyday lives when emotion runs high. It is not a justification for their actions, but it is an explanation.

Lastly, it is important as a viewer to keep in mind that these characters are all in limbo. Danny's tragic passing happened 8 months ago. Not a month, not six months, not a year. They are stuck in this uncomfortable time of transition where no one has fully lost who they were, but they are not yet fully who they will be. Becca and Howie are dealing with their loss of parental identity and how they will re-discover their identities together. Izzy is pregnant, no longer a wild child but not yet a mother. Nat lost herself as a grandmother and now must fit back into the role of mother despite the fact her children are grown up. Jason is 17 and leaving high school but he is not yet an adult and not yet a college student. This play forces the characters to be in constant motion and much of the tension within comes from the pain it is causing and the feeling there is no safe place to land.

Overall, "Rabbit Hole" is a complicated play filled with uncomfortable emotions. But one of those uncomfortable emotions is hope and as someone who has spent months researching all the interworking of this play, I sincerely believe it succeeds as showing that grief may be never ending, but so is love. If it wasn't for stubborn and persistent love, grief would not exist. But even when times are painful and messy, these characters love one another so much they want to be there with each other in the weeds taking small steps back towards the light together.

I hope you enjoy the show as much as I do.

Kate Grant, Dramaturge

CAST & CREW



Jacob Brackett (Howie) is a recent Mercer University graduate excited for the opportunity to still contribute to theatre. Jacob has performed in various shows with Mercer University theatre and the Cherokee Historical Association. He plans to attend Regent University to receive his MFA in Acting. He would like to send a special shout out to his parents, Ken and Jami, and his brother Dylan.



Ella Brumbelow (Head Run Crew) is a junior here at Mercer University and is majoring in Psychology as well as minoring in Theatre and Marketing. She is very excited to be a part of this show.



Leah Carrier (Run Crew) is a freshman Marketing major and History minor at Mercer University. This is her first Mercer Theater production, but she is excited to be a part of this show and hopes to work on other productions in the future. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work.



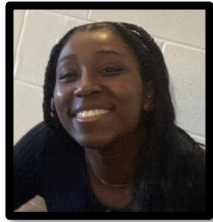
Eva Chidi-Maha (Electrician) is a Junior, Psychology and Spanish double major and a Theater minor at Mercer University. She has enjoyed working on Mercer's "Premiere Performances 2022," "Mercer Haunts", "Alice in Wonderland," and "The Divine Kerfuffle" and she is so excited to work as an electrician once again for "Rabbit Hole." She hopes to officially design lights for a show one day and even act in a few plays at Mercer during her senior year!



Danica Dilione (Props Manager) is a Theatre and Media Studies double major. She has been involved in theatre ever since she was a little kid, but only recently got into tech positions! She has loved working on this production and would like to thank all the cast and crew for helping make "Rabbit Hole" happen and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Diana Dupuis (Props Assistant) is a Junior Graphic Design major and a Theater minor at Mercer University. Diana has enjoyed creating custom props and seascape floor painting for Mercer's "Men on Boats" performance, assisting with "Alice in Wonderland" motorized hat props, and looks forward to all future Mercer Players productions. Diana would like to thank all of the Mercer faculty who have had the opportunity to teach her new and exciting new things and their support.



Gabi Fox (Lightboard Operator) is a Junior majoring in Public Health. She has worked on "Hamlet" "Eurydice" "The Goat (Or 'Who Is Sylvia?)" and "The Lightning Thief". She is excited to work with the rest of the cast and crew this semester and hopes everyone enjoys the show!



Taylor Goodly (Assistant Director) is a Junior majoring in Psychology and minoring in Theatre at Mercer University. She has worked on "Hamlet", a previous Mercer Theatre production. Taylor has also been a part of the props crew for "Eurydice" and wardrobe for "Premier Performances". She is very excited to be a part of this production!



Scrat Goss (Taz) is an alumnus of All About Animals Rescue. Scrat is approximately 7 years old. He loves all dogs, though he will bark at larger dogs he doesn't know. He loves his furfriends at home, especially Little Bit (his girlfriend). He is the mascot for the All About Animal Rescue Run/Walk. Think Scrat is cute? You should see his friends who are available for adoption at All About Animals.



Kate Grant (Dramaturge) is a Senior English major and Criminal Justice minor at Mercer. This is her first production with Mercer University. She wants to thank everyone in the cast and crew for being so kind and welcoming as well as her parents and friends for their continued support!



Hannah Gray (Assistant Stage Manager) is a native of Marietta, Georgia. Hannah is a junior pursuing an Elementary Education degree at Mercer University. She has almost a dozen years of theater experience onstage and behind it and her most significant accomplishment was serving as the stage manager on a Strand Theater Production. She has been a crew member in several Mercer Player productions and is proud to add "Alice in Wonderland" to that list.



Lauryn Green (Lighting Assistant) is a senior Media Studies major and a Creative Writing and Entrepreneurship double minor at Mercer University. Lauryn has enjoyed working on Mercer's "Z-4", "Phoenix", "Hamlet 2020", "The Goat (Or, 'Who Is Sylvia?')", "Eurydice", "Mercer Haunts", "Twelve Angry Jurors", "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical", "Alice in Wonderland", "A Divine Kerfuffle", and "Men on Boats". She is very thankful for all of the Mercer productions that she has been able to be a part of, and for the people she has been able to meet and grow with. Lauryn would like to thank her family for their continued support.



Penni Hartley (Administrative Assistant/Graphics Designer) is a Mercer Alumni with a B.A. in Art and Photography and is the Center Coordinator for Tattnell Square Center for the Arts, Art and Mathematics Departments, and the McEachern Art Gallery.



Gen Haskins (Izzie) is a Holistic Child major with a Theatre minor. Her previous Mercer Theatre credits include Lord of the Underworld in "Eurydice" and Ensemble for "The Lightning Thief Musical!" She is very excited to share this interpretation of "Rabbit Hole" with you and take a final bow with Mercer Theatre.



Laura Hiers (Props Assistant) is a Sophomore Elementary and Special Education major at Mercer. Her previous shows at Mercer include “A Divine Kerfuffle” and “Men on Boats,” and she is so excited to be doing props for the first time ever. She would like to thank the cast and crew for all their constant hard work and support.



Evie Hufstetler (Stage Manager/Scenic Designer) is a senior Music and Theatre double major at Mercer University. She has worked on various Mercer Theatre productions throughout her time at Mercer including “Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief Musical,” “Alice in Wonderland,” “A Divine Kerfuffle,” and “Men on Boats.” She spent last semester learning about set design and is excited to apply what she learned through designing this set. Evie would like to thank her family, Tori Kershaw, and the theatre faculty for their continued support!



Maddy Jakubowski (Nat) is a senior Criminal Justice and Psychology double major. Despite her busy schedule, she has still found time to do what she loves, theater. Most of her college theater experience has been behind stage: working wardrobe in “Eurydice” and “12 Angry Jurors”, and props for “Mercer Haunts”, “Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief the Musical”, and a “Divine Kerfuffle”. You may have recognized her from her performances in “Premiere Performances” and “Alice in Wonderland”. This show is bittersweet for most of the cast, including Maddy, as it will be their last performance with the Mercer Players before graduation.



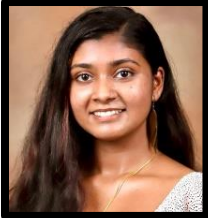
Caylyn Kelly (Becca) is a Junior Theatre and Communication Studies double major at Mercer University. Caylyn serves as our Business Manager of Alpha Psi Omega! You may have seen her as “Eleonora Duse” in A Divine Kerfuffle, “Caterpillar” in Alice in Wonderland, “Lynn” in Happy Family Play for One Acts Premier Performances, or in the role of “Father” in Eurydice. Caylyn also works in tv/film projects! She would love to give thanks to God, and to her family and friends for their support! She would also love to give thanks to the cast and crew for all their hard work, and hopes you enjoy the show!



Tori Kershaw (Sound Board Operator) is a junior Elementary/Special Education and Theatre major at Mercer University. Tori has been involved on the tech side of all of Mercer's productions for the past few years, but this is her first official board position! Tori would like to thank her family, Evie Hufstetler, and the theatre faculty for their continued support.



Shelley Kuhen (Costume Director/Costume Shop Supervisor) has been Mercer Theatre's Costume Director for 27 seasons. She designs the costumes and manages the costume shop as well. She wants to thank her family for their love and understanding as they have supported her through many crazy endeavors. She also thanks her costume shop crew for their countless hours of hard work and for their encouragement, love, and laughter.



Janhavi Kulkarni (Sound Designer/Wardrobe) is a Junior Psychology major. She has been a part of several Mercer Theatre productions, mostly as a cast member, such as "Hamlet 2020", "Eurydice", "Mercer Haunts", "12 Angry Jurors", and "Men on Boats". She assistant directed "Percy Jackson: The Lighting Thief Musical", and this year she is very excited to be a part of the crew for "Rabbit Hole". She cannot wait for everyone to see this amazing cast and crew!



Scot Mann (Director) is a professor of Acting and Directing in the Mercer Theatre Program and a Fight Master with the Society of American Fight Directors. He would like to thank the actors for their dedication and commitment to this project and the entire Mercer Theatre family for their support on this project.



James Ogden (Technical Director) is a member of the Mercer Theatre faculty. They would like to thank the cast, crew, and student workers for their time and skill on this project.



Aniyah Parham (Lighting Designer) is a Senior Theater and Africana Studies double major with a minor in Media Studies at Mercer University. She has worked on various Mercer Theatre productions throughout her time at Mercer and is excited to be a part of this show. She looks forward to future productions with Mercer Players. Aniyah would like to thank her mother for her continued support, and Frani for being supportive and teaching her everything she knows.



Frani Rollins (Props Designer) is the Program Director for Mercer Theatre and an Associate Professor of Design and Technology with the Mercer University Theatre Department. She would like to thank the Mercer Players, the Mercer Theater Program, and her family for being awesome, supportive, and inspiring people.



Taylor Shaw (Run Crew/ House Manager) is a Junior Computer Science major, and Theatre and Cybersecurity minor at Mercer University. Taylor has enjoyed working crew on several of Mercer's productions and looks forward to future productions with Mercer Players. Taylor hopes you enjoy the show and thanks everyone involved for their hard work and support.



Anna Stephens (Scenic Assistant) is a senior. Anna's work has been seen as prop designers for "The Goat or Who is Sylvia" and "Mercer Haunts," with her being the head prop designer for "A Divine Kerfuffle." Anna feels blessed to be able to work with the Mercer Players for one last show, and she is so thankful for these past four years!! Anna wants to thank her family and her wonderful boyfriend Garrett for always supporting and believing in her!!



Luke Walker (Jason) is a senior Psychology major at Mercer University and has worked on various Mercer Theatre productions throughout his time at Mercer. He is happy to be able to be a part of this production in the role of Jason and would like to thank the rest of the cast and crew for making an amazing show.

VISIT ALL ABOUT AMINALS AND SEE ALL THE WONDERFUL ANIMALS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION!!



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JUST A FEW OF SCRAT'S FRIENDS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION ARE...



LAYLA



LEXI



SIMON



JAMES



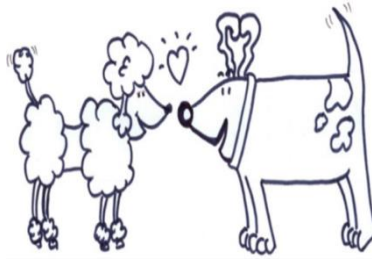
SANDY



MICAH

CAN'T ADOPT ? You *CAN STILL HELP*

RUN OR WALK to SUPPORT ALL ABOUT ANIMALS at the
15th Annual All About Animals Rescue Run/Walk will be held May 4, 2024!!
1 mile, 5k, and 10.2k



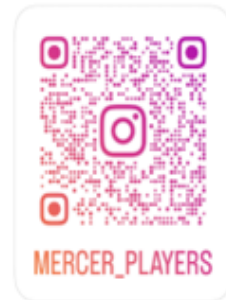
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FOLLOW US: <https://www.facebook.com/mercetheatre>

AND Mercer Players Student group on facebook at:



The Official Mercer Players Group



TATTNALL SQUARE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The historic church that has stood sentry for more than 100 years at the corner of Macon's College and Oglethorpe Streets, has experienced a renaissance to become Tattnall Square Center for the Arts.

The Center serves as a community theatre and arts venue, as well as home to the University's Theatre Department. Pews, carpet, and remnants of a 1960s remodel have been removed to make way for a new multi-purpose arts space. Sunday School classrooms have been transformed into teaching studios, a scenic shop with a two-story loft, costume shop and storage, and faculty offices. The Center accommodates visual and performing arts, lectures, film screenings, and workshops hosted by community arts organizations.

The Tattnall Square Center is the first effort in our arts-rich community to create a space where performing arts, visual arts, education and film could all be presented in one space.

