

AUGUSTANA COLLEGE THEATRE

2015-2016 Season

Crime and Justice



GETTING OUT

BY **MARSHA
NORMAN**

Augustana College

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Augustana College Department of Theatre Arts

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**GETTING
OUT**

BY **MARSHA
NORMAN**

Directed by

Jeff Coussens

Getting Out is presented through special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc. New York.

Video or audio recording of this performance is strictly prohibited.



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Arlie, Arlene and the Young Women of Arrowhead Ranch

At first glance, the action of Marsha Norman's play is simple, straightforward, and easy to describe in one sentence: Upon her release from prison after serving eight years for a violent crime, a young woman tries to adjust to her new life on the outside.

The title of the play is an obvious reference to the physical process of leaving the penitentiary, but for Arlene, "getting out" involves so much more. As a youth, Arlie has been in and out of various juvenile detention facilities and, due to a history of abuse, she is filled with rage. She exhibits violent behavior and copes with her own pain by causing emotional and physical distress to anyone who tries to get close to her.

Once released from prison, Arlie wants to be called Arlene so she can start her new life with a clean identity. But she very quickly realizes that before she can survive a life beyond bars, she must escape from the metaphorical prison of her past and exorcise the ghost of Arlie, the violent offender she used to be.

As I was preparing to direct this production, I had the opportunity to work with a small group of the young female residents of Arrowhead Ranch, a local treatment facility that has been serving at-risk youth since 1945. During the course of my 10 weekly visits to the ranch, I used acting games and exercises to help the residents learn non-violent means of expressing themselves. After getting to know these residents through my on-site class sessions, it didn't take long for me to realize that, like Arlie's path to become Arlene, their journey toward a free and better life must start with breaking the shackles of their past and accepting the challenges of their futures.

This performance is dedicated to the young women of Arrowhead Ranch.

–Jeff Coussens



CAST

Arlene	Sarah Baker
Arlie.....	Megan Hammerer
Guard (1) (Evans)	Keenan Odenkirk
Bennie	Samuel Langellier
Guard (2) (Caldwell)	Austin Allbert
Doctor.....	Christine Broughton
Mother.....	Madison Mortenson
School Principal.....	Sage Shemroske
Ronnie	Josh Pride
Carl.....	Debo Balogun
Warden.....	Nick Romero
Ruby.....	Emily Johnson

There will be one 10-minute intermission.



A NOTE FROM THE DRAMATURG

Set in the late 1970s, Marsha Norman's *Getting Out* shows the struggle of a woman coping with the horrors of her past while trying to integrate back into society. Like many formerly incarcerated people, Arlene was not given the proper rehabilitation to help her start a productive life once released. Many of the issues we see in the play, we still see in our prisons today.

During the 1970s, prisons began to hire more guards to deal with the rapid growth in prison populations. Many guards took it upon themselves to punish inmates by giving them terms "in the hole" without detailing what the prisoner had done to be sent there. Records show that women imprisoned during this time were given harsher and more embarrassing punishments, which often led to sexual harassment and even rape of women prisoners, normally perpetrated by prison guards. Due to growing tensions between inmates and guards, "at least fourteen major prison riots occurred between 1971 and 1992" (Morris and Rothman 222). The riots resulted in the deaths of more than 20 inmates. Because of this, the America Correctional Association (ACA) established a set of standards for prison conditions and programs (218). This caused a major divide between prison systems, as many still viewed incarceration as punishment, while others began to view it as rehabilitation.

Although we are more than 40 years removed from the ACA's set standards, we still face many of the same problems. The Women's Prison Association (WPA) states on its website, "There are now 200,000 women in prison or jail in the United States... an increase of over 750% in the last three decades, and nearly twice the rate of increase that men experienced." Though the rate of incarcerated women is increasing, there have been very few changes for rehabilitation and treatment. Our current prisons still have overcrowding and inadequate medical care, especially for pregnant inmates and inmates who suffer from mental illness or life-threatening diseases. But thanks to hit television shows like "Orange is the New Black," Americans are beginning to see the need for reform in our prisons.

– Jacob Kilburg

Works Cited:

Morris, Norval, and David J. Rothman. *The Oxford History of the Prison: The Practice of Punishment in Western Society*. New York: Oxford UP, 1995. Print.

www.wpaonline.org/

www.aca.org/ACA_Prod_IMIS/ACA_Member/Home/ACA_Member/Home.aspx



PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Jeff Coussens
Technical Director, Scenic Designer	Andy Gutshall
Lighting Designer	John Wiley
Costume Designer.....	Ellen Dixon
Sound Designer	Joe Olinger
Stage Manager.....	Audrey Johnsen
Dramaturg	Jacob Kilburg
Props Master	Tori Charnetzki, Jessica Holz knecht
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Jackson (Jake) Phillips
Light Board Operator	Jackson (Jake) Phillips
Sound Board Operator.....	Daniel Williams
House Manager	Luke Currie
Welder	Joe Goodall
Shift/Props Crew.....	Lauren Hagedorn, Shannon Ryan
Costume/Makeup Crew.....	Natalie Brown, Rami Halabi
Poster Design.....	Quan Vi
Set Construction	Cam Best, Emma Brutman, Amanda Caputi, Lauren Heiberger, Devin James, Ryan Janusz, Jacob Kilburg Samuel Langellier, Justin MacNaught, Joe Olinger, Rose Mary Peterson
Costume Construction.....	Emilee Droegmiller, Grace Holmes, Allyson Jesse, Amanda Kramer, Shannon Ryan



ABOUT THE CAST

Austin Allbert (Caldwell) is a first-year student from Morris, Illinois, majoring in creative writing and Scandinavian studies. This is Austin's second performance at Augustana. He is involved in many other activities, including choir, astronomy club and Black Squirrel Productions.

Sarah Baker (Arlene) is a sophomore from Ouray, Colorado, majoring in communication sciences and disorders, and theatre arts. This is Sarah's third production on the Potter stage. You may recognize her from last season's *Aesop's (Oh So Slightly) Updated Fables* and the fall production, *Machinal*. Besides theatre, Sarah is involved in residential life on campus and club lacrosse. She'd like to thank her friends and family for supporting her, and the amazing cast of *Getting Out*. Without their love and support she couldn't imagine where she'd be this crazy busy stressful term!

Debo Balogun (Carl) is a junior from Chicago, Illinois, and a double major in psychology and theatre arts. This is his sixth Augustana production. This year he is president of Alpha Psi Omega, co-president of Electric Theatre Unplugged, and a member of Heywire, Augustana's improv troupe. Some favorite roles he has played include Hungry Townsperson in *Elephant's Graveyard*, Man/Lover in *Machinal*, and Jaques in *As You Like It*. In March of 2015, he wrapped up his first professional role in Iowa City's Riverside Theatre's production of *Walking the Wire*. He would like to thank his friends, family and Jeff Coussens for their support.

Christine Broughton (Doctor) is a first-year student from Evanston, Illinois, planning to major in theatre arts. She was last seen on the Potter stage portraying Helen in the expressionistic drama, *Machinal*, directed by Jennifer Pople. Other activities at Augie include Cantilena women's choir and Augustana's improv troupe, Heywire. Christine would like to thank her family and friends for all their wonderful support.

Megan Hammerer (Arlie) is a junior from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, majoring in theatre arts and business (marketing). Megan is thrilled to be appearing on the Potter stage as a leading character in this show for the first time. Up until now you may have seen her as a bride in *Dracula*, as house manager or assistant stage manager for other shows, or performing in many of our non-mainstage theatre events. Megan loves performing and some of her favorite roles would be Christina Mundy in *Dancing at Lughnasa* and Penny Pingleton in *Hairspray*. Megan would like to thank her family and friends for their constant support and encouragement, because it means the world to her! Enjoy the show!

Emily Johnson (Ruby), a first-year student from McHenry, Illinois, is excited to be portraying Ruby in *Getting Out*, her second mainstage production. Emily also appeared in *Machinal* as the Stenographer. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her love of theatre and all the awesome people she's met through Augustana's theatre arts department.

Samuel Langellier (Bennie) is a sophomore from Normal, Illinois, majoring in theatre arts and Classics. Previous roles at Augustana include the butcher from *Aesop's (Oh So Slightly Updated) Fables* and Adam in *As You Like It*. He also has been involved in the construction of several productions. Thanks go out to all his friends for helping to keep things interesting.

Madison Mortenson (Mother) is a sophomore from Batavia, Illinois, majoring in biology and theatre arts. In the past, she has performed with Augustana in *The Passion of Dracula* and was the assistant stage manager for *Pinocchio Commedia*. She also is active with the Concert Band, where she plays the French horn, and as a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the national honors theatre fraternity. Thanks so much!

Keenan Odenkirk (Evans) is a sophomore majoring in theatre arts and computer science. This is his sixth production on the Potter Theatre Stage, including previous roles Professor Van Helsing in *The Passion of Dracula*, George H. Jones in *Machinal*, and Jason from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival featured production of *A Green River*. Keenan has enjoyed such roles as Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Orlando in *As You Like It*, and The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* while participating in improv and theatre groups between Augustana and his hometown in Tucson, Arizona. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Joshua Pride (Ronnie) is appearing in his eighth production at Augustana. Previous roles of note include Figaro in *Figaro*, Jason in *A Green River*, Renfield in *The Passion of Dracula*, Oliver in *As You Like It*, and Man in Bar in *Machinal*. He also enjoys writing and performing in Electric Theatre Unplugged, and making things up in Heywire. He would like to thank his family, friends, and anyone who decided to come see the production. He hopes you enjoy the show.

ABOUT THE CAST

Nick Romero (Warden) is a sophomore transfer student from Johnsbury, Illinois, majoring in biochemistry/pre-medicine. This is Nick's first performance on the Potter Theatre stage. Nick also is involved in the Heywire improv comedy group, the Rotaract group at Augie, and the Augustana League of Legends club.

Sage Shemroske (School Principal) is a first-year student from Buffalo Grove, Illinois, planning to double major in theatre arts and multimedia journalism and mass communications, with a minor in political science. This is her second show here at Augustana. However, Sage has previously been a part of shows such as *Pinocchio Commedia*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *Urinetown*. In addition to being a part of *Getting Out*, she works with Alpha Psi Omega and is a member of the Campus Democrats. Sage would like to thank her dogs, Wookiee and Moritz, for always supporting her.

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Jeff Coussens (Director) is the Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts at Augustana College. He earned his M.F.A. in acting from Indiana University and taught at the School of Drama, University of Oklahoma for several years prior to joining the Augustana faculty. During his 30-year academic career, Jeff has directed more than 50 stage productions and acted in more than 30 roles. He also has worked as a professional actor and director at the *Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival*, *The Black Hills Playhouse*, *The Brown County Playhouse*, *Street Player's Theatre*, and *Dollar Stock Summer Theatre*. Recent plays Jeff has directed for the Potter Theatre stage include *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Blood Wedding*, *The Secret Garden*, *Bat Boy*, *The Arsonists*, and *Something's Afoot*.

Ellen Dixon (Costume Designer) is in her 10th year as costume shop supervisor for Augustana College Theatre. She also designs and constructs costumes for *Opera @ Augustana*, and Genesis Guild Theatre during the summer. This is her 25th season with them. Her designs also have been featured at St. Ambrose University and Ballet Quad Cities. Prior to returning to the Quad Cities, Ellen was based in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, where she was in charge of wardrobe management and uniform development for the Biloxi Belle Casino and Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, and Harrah's Casino in New Orleans. She also has worked as a consultant for Harrah's Entertainment, developing costumes for their Memphis in May competition, Environmental Entertainers, and Mardi Gras Krewes. Her favorite costume period is circa 1450-1590.

Andy Gutshall (Technical Director, Scenic Designer) is the resident scenic and lighting designer for Opera@Augustana, and the technical director for the Department of Theatre Arts. He is a member of IATSE Local 85 and USITT. He designs custom Gobos for local businesses, and one of his designs can be found in the Rosco Gobo catalog. Andy has enjoyed designing lights for numerous dance companies in Minnesota, including 10,000 Dances, Young Dance, Saint Paul City Ballet, Ballet Arts Minnesota and CAAM Chinese Dance Theater. He earned his M.F.A. in technical theatre from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He holds a B.S. in theatre design/production from Illinois State University, as well as an A.S. in business management from the College of Dupage. He has been the production and technical operations coordinator for the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and was the facilities technical director at Concordia University-Saint Paul, where he taught stagecraft and lighting design.



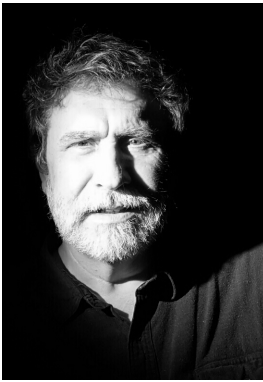
ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Audrey Johnsen (Stage Manager) is a sophomore triple majoring in English, women's and gender studies, and theatre arts. *Getting Out* is her third mainstage show at Augustana, and her first time stage managing. Audrey worked on *Machinal* and was in *Katrina: The K Word* previously, and is also a member of Electric Theatre Unplugged. She has been very grateful for the opportunity to stage manage this show and is extremely proud of the work everyone has put into it.

Jacob Kilburg (Dramaturg) is a junior from Goose Lake, Iowa. This is his first experience as a dramaturg. You may recognize him from his work onstage in Augustana productions of *Figaro* (Bazille), *Something's Afoot* (Flint), *Aesop's (Oh So Slightly) Updated Fables* (Lion/Narrator/Miller), and *As You Like It* (Corin). Jacob also was selected to be the Student Director for Augustana's production of *Trifles*. Other favorite previous roles include Georg Novack in *She Loves Me*, Mortimer Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Phillip Lombard in *And Then There Were None*, Mike Dillard in *Working*, and Simon in *Big River*. He would like to thank his parents, teachers and the Augustana Department of Theatre Arts for all of their support. Sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

Joe Oliger (Sound Designer) is a junior majoring in theatre arts and journalism. Joe has been a part of multiple productions at Augustana, including Dr. Seward in *The Passion of Dracula* and Amiens in *As You Like It*, as well as dramaturg for *Pinocchio Commedia* and assistant stage manager/sound designer for *Machinal*. Currently he is the experimental media chair for Alpha Psi Omega Honors Society, for which he managed this year's philanthropy event, "Running Scared," and directed this year's shadow cast of *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. As always he would like to thank his family for their continued support, his friends for keeping him sane, and his brothers for making him who he is today.

Jackson Phillips (Assistant Stage Manager), known as Jake, is a sophomore majoring in theatre arts and French, with a minor in Japanese. *Getting Out* is their fifth show with the Augustana College Theatre department. Previous involvement includes designing the lights for *Pinocchio Commedia*, running the light board for last year's mainstage productions of *Aesop's (Oh So Slightly) Updated Fables* and *As You Like It*, and running the sound board for *Katrina: The K Word*. This is Jake's first time doing anything involved with stage managing, and they are thankful to be given the opportunity. Jake hopes to use their experiences in the Augustana College Department of Theatre Arts to become a professional lighting designer after graduation, and would like to thank everyone who has helped them gain experience and become more knowledgeable about theatre.



John Wiley '83 (Guest Lighting Designer) is the head of production programs at Webster University, where he teaches technical direction and lighting. He is a graduate of Augustana College and the University of Missouri at Kansas City. John has designed for The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the Missouri Rep, the St. Louis Black Rep, Metro Theatre Company, Variety Children's Theatre and Geva Theatre in New York, among others. John's wife Kim is a writer. Their children, Kate and Nicholas, find it amusing when they get mentioned in program bios.



SPECIAL THANKS

The Augustana College Department of Theatre Arts would like to thank the following for their generous assistance to this production:

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Mrs. Anna C. Taylor
Kelsey Walljasper
Ms. Lyn Whiting
Mr. Peter Xiao



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sweeney Todd

In conjunction with Opera@Augustana

April 29-30 and May 6-7, 7:30 p.m.

May 1 & 8, 1:30 p.m.

Potter Theatre

THEATRE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Chair/Professor	Jeffrey Coussens
Assistant Professor	Jay Cranford
Assistant Professor	Jennifer Pople
Assistant Professor	Andy Gutshall
Costume Supervisor	Ellen Dixon
Administrative Assistant	Christina Myatt

