

SFA College of Fine Arts and School of Theatre present



2010 Festival of
New American Plays

April 27 - May 1
Downstage Theatre

A World on Stage

Jump for Joy by Jack Heifner

Tuesday, April 27, and Friday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.

The Adventures of Homer McGundy, Revised

by Barbara Lebow

Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, 2 p.m.

Seduction by James McLure

Thursday, April 29, and Saturday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

SFA *Theatre*
School of
Stephen F. Austin State University

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A Note from the Playwright-in-Residence

Welcome to the Seventh Biennial Festival of New American Plays. We are proud to present exciting new works by our guest playwrights Barbara Lebow and James McLure. The plays you are about to see performed are presented as "staged readings." Professional theatres and producers use such readings in order to involve audiences and actors in the process of new play development. Plays are meant to be performed, and the best way to see whether a new play works is to present it in front of a live audience. This is where you come in—and we thank you for being here!

Each play in the festival has had only ten rehearsals. The actors will be performing with the script in their hands, relying on their talent and training to interpret the text without the advantage of a long rehearsal process. These readings have been designed to concentrate on the words of the playwrights and the talents of our young performers and designers. We have included a minimal amount of scenery, costumes and lights to give the writers what they envisioned in their scripts. We are attempting to present the world of the play as closely as possible to what the author has written. The results may be a different type of theatre from what you are accustomed to seeing. Our hope is that you will find this event both adventurous and exciting.

One of my goals when we started the festival in 1998 was to bring established writers to our campus to work with our students. We have always asked our invited playwrights to send us any script they wished to hear and, in return, we have promised to give them our best interpretation of the text. Another goal has been to give audiences in Nacogdoches the unique opportunity to see new plays while they are being created. Our first six festivals were great successes. Now with this seventh festival, I hope the community will once again enjoy this celebration of "new theatre in the making."

I wish to thank the faculty and staff of the School of Theatre. My special thanks to Professor Scott Shattuck, for his guidance and for directing one of the evenings, and to Juanita Finkenberg, for her help with the movement. I commend the cast, designers and crew for the work they have done. Watching these young theatre artists learn and grow is the primary reason we are here. Finally, to Ms. Lebow and Mr. McLure—thank you for trusting us with your plays and for coming to visit our campus. You inspire us with your words and astound us with your generosity. We dedicate this evening to you.

Jack Heifner
Playwright-In-Residence

**SFA SCHOOL OF THEATRE
and the
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
present**

A Festival of New American Plays

Directors: Jack Heifner & Scott Shattuck

Scenery by Dana Gloege

Lighting by Angela Bacarisse

Sound Coordinator: CC Conn

Production Manager: Brittany L. Nelson *

Company Manager: Arrie Allen Tucker *

April 27 - May 1, 2010

Downstage Theatre

About the Cast

Diedre Cantrell (Cleo Van Pelt - *Seduction*) is a senior transfer student from Kilgore College. While at SFA, she has appeared in *Frenzy for Two or More*, *Degas*, *C'est Moi* and *Getting Away with Murder*. While at Kilgore College, she performed in *Taming of the Shrew*, *Bus Stop* and *The Laramie Project*.

Garrett Cross (Graves/Tex - *AHM*) is a senior from Texarkana High School who has made previous appearances in the Mainstage productions of *Twelfth Night* and *The Heidi Chronicles*, as well as *Coffee and John*, *Line, Flop Cop*, *The Rising of the Moon* and *This Day Forward*.

Amelia Fultz (Suzy - *Seduction*) is a freshman from Elkins High School in Missouri City. While there, she appeared in *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Secret Garden*. She has also performed in a production of *Wait Until Dark* at Fort Bend Theatre.

Jonathan Garcia (Homer/CC/Billy - *AHM*) is a sophomore from Weslaco. He has previously appeared in *Woyzeck* and *Bad Boy Nietzsche!*, as well as being a 2009-2010 member of The Original Cast. While at Weslaco High School, Jonathan performed in *The Girl in the Mirror* and *Asylum*.

David Hathway (Man #2 - *JFJ*) is a senior from El Campo who has previously appeared in *Twelfth Night*, *Picnic*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Too*, *The Elephant Man*, *Big River*, *Lend Me A Tenor* and *Take Five*. David has also directed the Downstage *Bad Boy Nietzsche!* and the Studio Hour *Degas*, *C'est Moi*.

Jt Hearn (Tim Faraday - *AHM*) is a sophomore from Rains High School in Emory. He has appeared in *Twelfth Night*, "Master Harold"...and the boys, *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Too*, *The Heidi Chronicles* and *Big River*. It is also a 2009-2010 member of The Original Cast.

Callum Patrick Hughes (Emil Proctor - *AHM*) is an American Theatre Arts student from Oxfordshire, England. At SFA, he appeared in *Woyzeck* and co-wrote the Downstage *Coffee and John*. Previously, he has appeared in productions of *A View from the Bridge*, *All Men Are Whores* and *The Great God Brown*.

Justin Lee Hughes (Darcy Dillon - *Seduction*) is a junior from Alief Elsik High School in Alief. At the Lamp-Lite Community Theatre in Nacogdoches, Justin has appeared in productions of *Picnic*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Passion of Dracula* and *Pillow Talk*.

Rosie Kolbo (Perseverance - *Seduction*) is a junior from Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas. Previously, she has acted in *Woyzeck*, *The Rising of the Moon*, *A Life with No Joy in It*, *Fiddlers in the Forest* and *Ferris Wheel*.

About the Cast (continued)

Cynthia Law (Rowena/Vera - *AHM*) is a sophomore from Hamshire-Fannett High School in Hamshire. In the past, she has appeared in *Woyzeck*, *Big River*, *Shakespeare and Mushrooms* and *Lunch with Ginger*. Cindy is also a 2009-2010 member of The Original Cast.

Margaret Lewis (Narrator - *AHM*) is a junior from Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas. Previously, she has acted in *Woyzeck*, *The Elephant Man*, *Bad Boy Nietzsche!*, *The Red Key* and *The Mystery at Twicknam Vicarage*. She was also the dramaturg for *A Raisin in the Sun*.

John Lisi (Kirk - *Seduction*), a freshman, has appeared in the Studio Hours *The Hardy Boys and the Mystery of Where Babies Come From* and *Fiddlers in the Forest*. At North Mesquite High School, John performed in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Diviners*, *The Crucible* and *And Then There Were None*.

Adam McCoy (George - *Seduction*) is a senior Northeast Texas Community College transfer student from Daingerfield who has previously appeared in *The Elephant Man*, *Coffee and John*, *Frenzy for Two or More*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Line*, *The Bathroom Door*, *Post-Its*, *Perchance* and *Getting Away with Murder*.

Robert R. Meza (Man #1 - *JFJ*) is a junior from Cypress who has appeared in *Twelfth Night*, *Picnic*, *The Elephant Man*, *Big River*, *Coffee and John*, *Cornbury: The Queen's Governor*, *As You Like It*, *The Bald Soprano* and *The Gas Heart*. Robert was also a two-year member of The Original Cast.

Erin Morris (Andy - *Seduction*) is a senior from Frisco High School in Frisco. Previously, she has appeared in *Woyzeck*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *As You Like It* and *10,000 Cigarettes*. She also directed the Studio Hour *Post-Its*.

Emma Palizza (Woman #2 - *JFJ*) is a junior from Northland Christian School in Houston who has previously acted in *Woyzeck*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Too*, *Picnic*, *Coffee and John*, *Post-Its* and *The Salmon Tribunal*. Emma has also been a member of The Original Cast since the fall of 2008.

Sammy Stanphill (Janet - *Seduction*) is a senior from Katy. She has appeared on the SFA Mainstage in *Woyzeck*, *Picnic*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *This Day Forward* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Other SFA acting credits include *Coffee and John*, *Happy Mug*, *Da 'Nile* and *Perchance*.

Allen M. Titel Jr. (Samuel/Fabro/Maxwell - *AHM*) is a sophomore from Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land. Previously at SFA, Allen has appeared in *Woyzeck*, *The Weir*, *Ferris Wheel* and *The Sniper*. His high school credits include *Mary of Scotland*, *Dearly Departed* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

Jump for Joy
by Jack Heifner
Tuesday, April 27, & Friday, April 30

Clara Erin Whitmire
Man #1 Robert R. Meza *
Man #2 David Hathway *
Woman #1 Victoria Williams
Woman #2 Emma Palizza *

Time: The present and, sometimes, the past.

Place: Various locations in and around Ventura Boulevard
in the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles, California

There will be one intermission.

Director Jack Heifner
Assistant Director Brooke Ashley Dennis
Stage Manager Atyel Salazar
Costume Designer Barbara Blackwell
Choreography Juanita Finkenberg, Zane A. Whitney Jr. *
Live Sound Effects Benn May, Lamar Jefferson

Jack Heifner is best known for his play *Vanities*, which ran for five years in New York and became one of the longest running plays in off-Broadway history. His is also the author of *Patio/Porch*, *Natural Disasters*, *Running on Empty*, *Bargains*, *Boys' Play*, *Home Fires*, *Heartbreak*, *Comfort and Joy*, *The Lemon Cookie*, *Dwarf Tossing* and over thirty other plays produced in New York, Los Angeles and theatres around the world. Mr. Heifner has written the book to six musicals, including *Leader of the Pack* on Broadway and *Vanities—A New Musical*, which opened in New York last year. He has also written for television and film. Mr. Heifner was born in Corsicana, Texas, and presently lives in New York City. Since 1997 he has been playwright-in-residence at SFA, where he teaches play, screen and television writing one semester each academic year.

The Adventures of Homer McGundy, Revised

by Barbara Lebow

Wednesday, April 28, & Saturday (matinee), May 1

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Graves/Tex | Garrett Cross |
| Homer/CC/Billy | Jonathan Garcia |
| Tim Farady | Jt Hearn * |
| Emil Proctor | Callum Patrick Hughes |
| Rowena/Vera | Cynthia Law |
| Narrator | Margaret Lewis |
| Samuel/Fabro/Maxwell | Allen M. Titel Jr. * |
| Sheriff/Harley | Zane A. Whitney Jr. * |

Act I: Oklahoma, 1911 and Kansas, 1921

Act II: California, 1931

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Director | Scott Shattuck |
| Assistant Director | Miguel Maymí * |
| Stage Manager | Barbara Grimes |
| Costume Designer | Julie Glover * |

Barbara Lebow, a Santa Barbara resident, was born in New York and moved to Atlanta in the 1960s, eventually becoming playwright-in-residence at Academy Theatre. Among her plays there are *A Shayna Maidel*, *The Left Hand Singing*, *Cyparis*, *The Keepers*, *Trains*, *Little Joe Monaghan*, *Tiny Tim is Dead*, and several plays for young audiences. Theatres producing her work include Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Hartford Stage Company, Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, the Berkshire Theatre Festival and Ensemble Theatre of Santa Barbara. *A Shayna Maidel* (Off-Broadway 1987-89) continues receiving regional and international productions. Its adaptation received a Best Picture Emmy in 1992. In addition to her own writing, Barbara facilitates play creation with disenfranchised segments of the population. Most recently, she worked with residents of Los Prietos Boys Camp, supported by a grant from the Fund for Santa Barbara. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship in Playwriting, a TCG/Pew Theatre Artists Residency, an NEA/TCG Residency, an Atlanta Mayor's Fellowship in the Arts, a Georgia Governor's Award in the Arts, and a Distinguished Service Award from the Santa Barbara County Probation Department. She was recently a Michael Douglas Distinguished Visiting Artist at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Her recent plays include *La Niñera: The Nursemaid*, *The Phenom*, and *Plumfield, Iraq*.

Seduction
by James McLure
Thursday, April 29, & Saturday (evening), May 1

Suzy Amelia Fultz
 George..... Adam McCoy
 Andy Erin Morris *
 Kirk John Lisi
 Janet Sammy Stanphill *
 Troy Blake Weir
 Darcy Dillon Justin Lee Hughes
 Perseverance Rosie Kolbo *
 Cleo Van Pelt Diedre Cantrell

There will be one intermission.

Director Jack Heifner
 Assistant Director Brooke Ashley Dennis
 Stage Manager Chris Barcus
 Costume Designer Tiffany Craig *
 Choreography ... Juanita Finkenberg, Zane A. Whitney Jr. *

James McLure was educated by the Jesuits and attended Southern Methodist University. He was a member of the Lion Theatre Co. in New York City in the late 1970s. He appeared as an actor at the New York Shakespeare Festival as well as the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. His Broadway debut was in 1979 with the production of *Lone Star and PVT Wars*, which originated at the Actors Theatre of Louisville. *Lone Star* and his play *Laundry and Bourbon* were produced together the following year at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, New Jersey. Subsequent plays include *Thanksgiving*, *The Very Last Lover of the River Cane*, *Fran and Brian*, *The Day They Shot John Lennon*, *Max and Maxie*, *Ghost World*, *Drive in Dreams*, *Copper Camp* and his latest, *Used Cars*. His play *Wild Oats* was an official entry in the 1984 Olympics performed at the Mark Taper Forum. He has worked in film and television—having written “Kingfish,” which starred John Goodman. He has also worked with Kathy Bates, Sigourney Weaver, Mercedes Ruehl, Powers Boothe, Robert Altman and Walter Hill. His screen play “PVT Wars” has been optioned by Farhad Mann Productions. Mr. McLure is delighted to be back in Texas.

About the Cast (continued)

Blake Weir (Troy - *Seduction*) is a senior from Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land. Previously, Blake has appeared in *Twelfth Night* and the Downstage productions of *Bad Boy Nietzsche!*, *The Weir*, *Defacing Michael Jackson* and *The Red Key*.

Erin Whitmire (Clara - *JFJ*) is a junior originally from Wink. *Jump for Joy* will be her acting debut at SFA. At Wink High School, Erin appeared in *Her Senior Year*, *The Marvelous Playbill* and *A Young Lady of Property*. She is also a member of Driving Jacks and is the service coordinator for Big Jacks.

Zane A. Whitney Jr. (Sheriff/Harley/Asst. Choreographer - *AHM*) is a senior whose acting credits include *Woyzeck*, *Tribute*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Six Degrees of Separation* and *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*. He has been the choreographer mostly recently for *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Victoria Williams (Woman #1 - *JFJ*) is a junior from Lamar High School in Houston. She has previously acted in the Summer Rep production of *Picnic*, as well as *Defacing Michael Jackson*, *Stones and Bones* and *Shakespeare and Mushrooms*.

About the Artistic Staff

Angela Bacarisse (Lighting Designer) has designed over 200 productions in academic and professional theatres across the country. Although she is best known at SFA for her costume and hair/makeup designs, she has designed lights for SFA Dance Rep and for *Crimes of the Heart*.

Chris Barcus (Stage Manager - *Seduction*) is a junior radio/television major from Houston. At SFA, Chris has been on paint crew for *The Elephant Man* and light hang crew for *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Frenzy for Two or More*.

Barbara Blackwell (Costume Designer - *JFJ*) is in her tenth year as costume shop coordinator. She has also designed or co-designed costumes for "*Master Harold*"... and the boys, *Tribute*, *The Member of the Wedding* and *Trudi and the Minstrel*.

CC Conn (Sound Coordinator) holds an MFA from Indiana University. Her most recent SFA designs include lights and sound for *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Twelfth Night*, "*Master Harold*"... and the boys, *Picnic* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Too*, and sound for *Woyzeck*.

Tiffany Craig (Costume Designer - *Seduction*) is a junior from Western Hills High School in Fort Worth. She has been the costume designer for the Downstage productions of *Coffee and John* and *The Ugly Duckling* and the assistant costume designer for *Twelfth Night* and the SFA Opera *Susannah*.

About the Artistic Staff (continued)

Brooke Ashley Dennis (Assistant Director - *Seduction & JFJ*) is a senior from Galveston. She was the wardrobe master for *A Raisin in the Sun* and The Original Cast and on wardrobe crew for *Twelfth Night*, *Woyzeck* and *The Heidi Chronicles*. Brooke has also directed a performance of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Juanita Finkenberg (Choreographer - *Seduction & JFJ*) earned her MA from California State University in Los Angeles. Her most recent credits at SFA include *Susannah*, *Woyzeck*, "Master Harold"... and the boys, *Picnic*, *The Elephant Man*, *Big River*, *The Bartered Bride* and *As You Like It*.

Dana Gloege (Scenic Designer) holds a BFA from Texas Tech and an MFA from Brandeis. He has a background in commercial design as well as theatre. Since coming to SFA in the fall, he has designed scenery for *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Twelfth Night*.

Julie Glover (Costume Designer - *AHM*) has previously designed costumes for *The Weir*, *The Typists* and *The Piano Lesson*, and was the costume coordinator for the 2008 Playreading Festival. She graduated from Galena Park High School and just finished a year-long internship at the Arizona Theatre Company.

Barbara Grimes (Stage Manager - *AHM*) is a freshman from Naaman Forest High School in Garland. While at SFA, she has been on load-in crew for the Mainstage productions of *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Woyzeck* and on light hang crew for *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Bad Boy Nietzsche!*.

Miguel Maymi (Assistant Director - *AHM*) is a senior from Copperas Cove. He directed *A Life with No Joy in It* and assistant directed *Woyzeck*. His lighting design credits include *Coffee and John*, *The Weir*, *Purgatorio*, *The Red Key* and "Christmas at the Movies." Miguel is also the secretary of Alpha Psi Omega.

Brittany L. Nelson (Production Manager) is a senior from Midlothian who has previously stage managed *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Frenzy for Two or More*, *The Red Key*, *Crimes of the Heart* and the 2009-10 season of The Original Cast. She has also assistant stage managed *Big River*.

Atyel Salazar (Stage Manager - *JFJ*) is a senior Angelina College transfer student originally from San Augustine. Previously, Atyel has written *Getting Away with Murder*, which was performed as a Studio Hour and also worked as a projectionist for The Original Cast.

Scott Shattuck (Director - *AHM*) is Director of the School of Theatre at SFA, where he has directed *Twelfth Night*, *Big River*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *This Day Forward*, and *Cornbury: The Queen's Governor*. He has also directed at Jean Cocteau Repertory, Texas Shakespeare Festival and Arkansas Repertory Theatre. He holds an MFA in Directing from the University of Texas at Austin.

Arrie Allen Tucker (Company Manager) is a junior from Nacogdoches. He stage managed *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Defacing Michael Jackson* and *Line* and assistant stage managed *The Heidi Chronicles*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and The Original Cast.

Production Staff

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Costume Shop Supervisor | Barbara Blackwell |
| Master Electrician | Jason Cook * |
| Light Board Operator | Kristi Young |
| Sound Board Operator | Kaitlyn Turney |
| Sound Design | THR 480 |
| Properties Master | Kayla Gaiennie |
| Wardrobe Master | Rose Downing |
| Wardrobe Crew | Virginia Arteaga, Hannah Cole, Christina Williams-Edwards |
| Run Crew | Randy Hill, Lamar Jefferson, Benn May, Jason Monmaney |
| Light Hang Crew | Kaitlyn Turney, Sandur Young |
| House Management | Alpha Psi Omega |
| Programs | Rick Jones, Katrina Tarson |
| Publicity | Sylvia Bierschenk, Office of Arts Information |

* Indicates membership in the Beta Phi cast of the Alpha Psi Omega National Honorary Dramatics Fraternity.

All plays in the Festival of New American Plays are produced by special arrangement with the playwrights.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgments

Liz Barkowsky, Friends of Theatre, Grush Productions,
Dr. Rick Jones, Herbert Midgley, Dr. Alan Nielsen,
Prof. Allen Oster, Jackie Rosenfeld,
Wesley Foundation

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- Mr. Kyle Kennedy
Assistant Professor
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Professor
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Professor
- Mr. Jack Heifner
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