



The Kennedy Center
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival-
XLII

sponsored in part by
Stephen and Christine Schwarzman
The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund
U.S. Department of Education
The National Committee for the Performing Arts
Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2009.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

**We Gratefully Acknowledge
the Financial Assistance of
The Dick Blick Company**
*for their partnership in restoring the original Orpheum
scenery used in this production*

Thank you John Polillo and Linda Carter!

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Asa Trenchard, a live Yankee	.....	Mr. Coates II
Sir Edward Trenchard, a Hampshire Baronet.	.....	Mr. Yeater
Lord Dundreary	.....	Mr. Di Joseph
Lieut. Vernon, R.N.	.....	Mr. Diamond
Capt. de Boots	.....	Mr. Woessner
Coyle, attorney at law	.....	Mr. Dick
Abel Murcott, his clerk	.....	Mr. Sinks
Binny, a butler	.....	Mr. Bailey
Buddicombe, Lord Dundreary's man	.....	Mr. Roling
John Wickens, and under gardener	.....	Mr. Burns
Florence Trenchard	.....	Miss Kate Drost
Mrs. Mountchessington	.....	Miss Kelsey Cole
Augusta	.....	{ her daughters }
Georgina	.....
Mary Meredith	.....	Miss Noelle Templeton
Sharpe, Miss Trenchard's maid	.....	Miss Stephanie Alise Steele
Skillet, Mrs. Mountchessington's maid	.....	Miss Ivy Bekker

MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY:

A. Lincoln	.....	Mr. Tuor
Mrs. Lincoln	.....	Miss Misty Czapla
Col. Rathbone	.....	Mr. Barrow
Clara Harris	.....	Miss Eloise Moraux



SYNOPSIS OF SCENES:

Act I

- Scene One - The Drawing Room, Trenchard Manor
- Scene Two - The Library, Trenchard Manor
- Scene Three - The Red Room, Trenchard Manor
- Scene Four - The Dairy, on the Meredith Estate

-15 minute Intermission -

Act II - 10 days later

Scene One - The Dairy

Scene Two - The Library

Scene Three - The Wine Cellar, Trenchard Manor

Scene Four - a room in Trenchard Manor

Scene Five - Coyle's Office

Scene Six - The Drawing Room

Our Thanks to

THE ATTIC ANTIQUE SHOP

169 E. Water St., Galesburg

for supplying their fine furniture for this production

REDKEN

H THE Q
HEADQUARTERS
"Your headquarters for hair care."

117 East Jackson Avenue
Monmouth, Illinois 61462

309/734-6533

Sue Elliott
Missy Weir
Kelly Purlee
Missy Turnquist

\$5.00 off any
\$25.00 service

Expires 4-19-09

FROM THE CLIPBOARD OF THE DIRECTOR:

I believe the last time the Monmouth College Theatre toured a full-length production was in the mid 1970s — and that trip to the Clinton (Iowa) Showboat was certainly longer than our present trek to Galesburg — nevertheless we are very pleased to again be on the road and are excited and honored to perform in the historic Orpheum Theatre.

I want to commend our Symposium presenters (Prof. Thomas Best, Dr. Stacy Cordery, Mr. Jeffrey Rankin, and Dr. William Urban) for their talks on events surrounding the show, and to Mr. Ralph Whiteman and the Warren County Public Library for their loan of items from their Lincoln Collection.

Special thanks to Ms. Kate Francis and the Orpheum Theatre staff — they have been gracious hosts and talented co-producers.

I also want to acknowledge the work of Prof. Doug Rankin and his students who recovered and repainted many of the Orpheum's original (1916) stock of flats. We are happy to return these refurbished flats to the Orpheum for their use, and appreciate the Dick Blick Company's donation of canvas for this project.

Our American Cousin is an interesting piece of theatre history. Certainly best known as “the last play Lincoln saw,” it was also one of the most popular comedies of the mid-19th century. The performance of April 14, 1865 was in fact the 1000th presentation by Laura Keane's theatre company, an unheard of feat for the time. In the early and mid 19th century, melodramas like *Our American Cousin* were excellent popular entertainments, particularly to a rising middle class eager to take its place as a political and social force in society. By contemporary standards the plot is thin and the characters simple, but I would submit that in 2009 as in 1865, a positive outlook and good humor are important commodities, perhaps (both) in short supply.

So, please sit back and enjoy the marvelous surroundings of this “jewel of a theatre” as the Monmouth College Theatre presents *Our American Cousin*.



Mike Strom, Owner
905 South Main Street
Monmouth, Illinois 61462

Business 309-734-3839
Fax 309-734-2177
Home 309-734-9487

NOTES FROM THE DRAMATURGY GROUP:

(Theatre History students Dane Feenstra, Erin Kasanders, Monica Miller, Jenna Thompson, Jennifer Wheeler):

Our *American Cousin* is a play in three acts by Tom Taylor. The plot line centers on the meeting between an ignorant American and his aristocratic English relatives. It first premiered on October 15, 1858 at Laura Keane's Theatre in New York City.

Six years later, at the Ford's Theatre in Washington DC, the play's most famous perform-

ance took place. On April 14, 1865, during the second scene of the third act, the character of Asa Trenchard (played that night by Harry Hawk), spoke one of the funniest lines in the play. During the laughter that followed, John Wilkes Booth assassinated Abraham Lincoln. The timing of the assassination was perfectly calculated in hopes that the laughter would drown out any sound of a gunshot. After shooting, Wilkes jumped from the Lincoln Box to the stage, shouting "*Sic semper tyrannis!*" The state motto of Virginia, *Sic sem-*

per tyrannis is a Latin phrase meaning “Thus always to tyrants,” and is sometimes loosely translated as “Death to tyrants.” But some in the audience heard it as, “The South is avenged!”

Other cultural impacts of the play include those from the character Lord Dundreary. He became a popular icon due to his meaningless riddles or “dundrearyisms.” His style of beard also gave the English the word “dundrearies.”

Information found at:

<http://www.ouramericancousin.com/site/history/>

Laura Keene (1826-1873)

Laura Keene, a successful actress during the 19th century, became the very first female manager of theatre. She started her professional career as an actress in the London where she was born and raised. In 1852, she came to the U.S. and immediately found her place on the American stage. In 1855, Keene became the first female theatrical manager and started The Laura Keene's Varieties that same year. Eventually, she moved to her own self-titled theatre and had many years of success including managing the opening night of *Our*

American Cousin in 1858. Shortly after, her theatre closed but she still continued to act and produce plays. In 1865, Keene was also performing in *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre when President Lincoln was assassinated. Keene died on November 4, 1873.

Information found at:

<http://www.biography.com/search/article.do?id=9361736>

Melodrama

During the 19th century, melodrama was the primary form of theatre being performed. Melodrama is defined as a genre of theatre where exaggerated emotions, stereotypical characters, and interpersonal conflicts are the main premise of the play. Even though melodrama was most popular in the 1840s, it is still with us today in television, film, and theatre. Stylistically, melodrama uses music to enhance the scene's emotions as well as universal characters to portray good and evil throughout the performance. Usually melodramas are shorter in length, generally 2-4 acts. The longer five-act plays were used for more serious drama. Also, in melodrama, special effects were often used to portray disasters such as earthquakes, explosions,

and fires.

Information found at:

<http://novaonline.nv.cc.va.us/eli/spd130et/melodrama.htm>

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/melodrama>

Tom Taylor (1817-1880)

Thomas Taylor was born into wealth at Bishopwearmouth, which is located in present day Sunderland, in northeastern England. He attended three universities and began working as a journalist. He wrote for the *Morning Chronicle*, the *Daily News*, and *Punch* and was an art critic for *The Times* and *The Graphic*. Taylor was

a professor of English literature at the University College in London for two years. Taylor enjoyed theatre and performed pieces with children. In 1842, Taylor and his friends formed the Old Stagers. They were invited to perform at the Canterbury Theatre during the Canterbury Cricket Week. He was also stage manager and wrote epilogues performed at the Canterbury Cricket Week. The Old Stagers also performed in Royal Leamington Spa and the Theatre Royal. Four of Taylor's burlesques were produced at the Lyceum Theatre in 1844. He died at Wandsworth, London at the age of 62.



Electric Beach Tanning Salon

UNLIMITED TANNING FOR ONE MONTH
Only \$28.99 for College Students

421 1/2 North Main Street
Morrison, IL, 61462
309-734-4699



MEET THE COMPANY:

PAT ANDRESEN
(Co-Costume Designer) is costume shop foreman and has designed several productions in her three years at MC.



Musical Comedy Murders of 1940. Ivy is a member of Crimson Masque, and is thinking about potential majors in English or Elementary Education



MARCUS BAILEY
(Mr. Binny) is a first year student who has already made his mark in the Monmouth College Theatre with roles in *Lysistrata* and *A Night at the Mercury Theatre*. Marcus is a Psychology major, with an English minor, and career plans include doing research, writing, and being a Psychologist.



RYAN BURNS
(John Wickens) is a senior Philosophy major whose favorite role was *Ethel in Sam's*

Recycling Adventure. Ryan is a member of many Monmouth College organizations including Zeta Beta Tau, Listen Up!, and the Sam Thompson Society. Ryan's career goals include changing the world and being an assistant manager for the world's largest retail chain.

DEREK BARROW
(Col. Rathbone) is a junior who hails from Springfield, Illinois. Derek is a member of Phi Delta Theta.



MICHAEL T. COATES II

(Asa Trenchard) is a first-year student who plans to major in Computer Science, Communication, and Theatre. Michael is a member of the Pep Band, Anime Club, and is the Secretary for his residence hall Council. Michael plans to be a computer technician, or move to the dark side



IVY BEKKER
(Skillet) is a first year student whose previous theatre credits include *Lysistrata* and

by becoming a Video Game Master.

KELSEY COLE

(Mrs. Mountchesington) is a senior English major, and Spanish and Theatre minor. Kelsey is a member of FY Improv, SEA, Sulci, Crimson Masque, PRISM, and is an International Student Orientation Leader. Kelsey plans to write for a nonprofit organization, dealing with the environment,



gender, or LGBT issues.



MISTY CZAPLA

(Mrs. Lincoln) is a junior Communication and Public Relations major. Misty is a member of ASAP (Market-ing Co-Chair), MC-TV Fusion, and Crimson Masque. Misty looks forward to a career in Marketing/Pubic Relations and notes that she has over 25 brothers and sisters; an experience that makes her who she is today!



Family Video is celebrating 30 Years and we continue to open new stores each week.

Looking for a great career opportunity with a growing company?

Apply in-store or online today!

509 N. Main
Monmouth, IL 61462
(309) 734-5657

MICHAEL J. DIAMOND

(Harry Vernon) is a junior Math major with minors in Business and Media. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include *Urinetown*, *Lysistrata*, and dramaturgy work for *A Night at the Mercury Theatre*. Michael plans to work in the professional sporting world, and this summer has secured an internship with the Quad City River Bandits.



and he plans to be a broker on Wall Street, following in the footsteps of his MC academic idol, "Mr. Tough Guy." John is also a Special Olympian, having won two Gold Medals.

BRETT DI JOSEPH



(Lord Dunderery) is a first year student majoring in Communication. Brett is a member

of the Monmouth College Football team, the Wrestling Club, and Crimson Masque. Brett enjoys writing his own comedy material, and would like to become a comedy writer/actor.

ABBY DAVIS



(Assistant Director) is a first year student majoring in Theatre with a minor in History.

She is from Springfield, IL and is a member of Crimson Masque. Abby was last seen onstage in *Lysistrata*. Career plans include working with museums or historical sights such as New Salem or the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

KATE DROST

(Florence Trenchard) is a junior Theatre major who lists roles in *Proof* and *The Shape of*



Things as previous theatre favorites. Kate is a member of Crimson Masque, Alpha Psi Omega, and PRISM. She is excited to work with this cast in such a unique environment, and sends "Thanks" to family, fiends, and Lauren for constant support. Cheers!

JOHN FRANCIS DICK

(Mr. Coyle) is a junior Business Administration major who hails from Ireland.



John's production credits include several shows done in Ireland,



HEATHER HALL
(Assistant Director) is a sophomore Theatre and English Education major who is a member of Alpha Psi Omega,

Big Brothers Big Sisters, and student government at MC. Heather plans either to teach at the collegiate level or work in professional theatre, and she hopes her love of baking will make someone very happy some day.

TIELA M. HALPIN



(Augusta) is a junior Art major, Classics minor. Previous theatre favorites include roles in *Waiting for Godot*, *The Trojan Women*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Tiela is a member of Crimson Masque, Alpha Psi Omega, and the Art Alliance. Career goals include working in Advertising (with a graphic design focus), doing freelance music photography, or landing her dream job as a tattoo artist.



KRISSY HEINZMAN
(Assistant Director) is a first year Art major, Theatre minor. Previous theatre

credits include *Lil' Abner*, *Grease*, and *Lysistrata*. Krissy is a member of Sulci, the Art Alliance, FY Improv, and PRISM. Krissy looks forward to additional work in Assistant Directing and Stage Management, and plans to do all of her own Art Design and layout for every professional theatre production she's involved in.

SARAH KINDT
(Co-Costume Designer) is a sophomore Art Education major. Precious theatre credits include



Urinetown, *Charlotte's Web*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Sarah plans to be a high school art teacher, and once she was bitten by the theatre bug has never looked back!

MELISSA METZ (Georgina)



is a senior English and Theatre major, with a minor in Secondary Education. Favorite roles include Anna in *Baltimore Waltz* and the Idiot in *Woyczek*. Melissa is involved in Pi Beta Phi, Alpha Psi Omega, and Crimson Masque. After leaving Monmouth, Melissa plans to attend graduate school, studying literature and drama. Melissa bids a fond farewell to her MC

theatre friends — she'll miss you all!



ELOISE MORAUX

(Clara Harris) is a junior English major who comes to us from France.

Eloise is a member of the International Club at MC, and hopes to teach American History.

NICHOLAS R. MUNSON

(Stage Manager) is a sophomore Theatre major, Business minor. Previous theatre credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Urinetown*. Nicholas is a member of The Scotsmen, Crimson Masque, and Chorale.



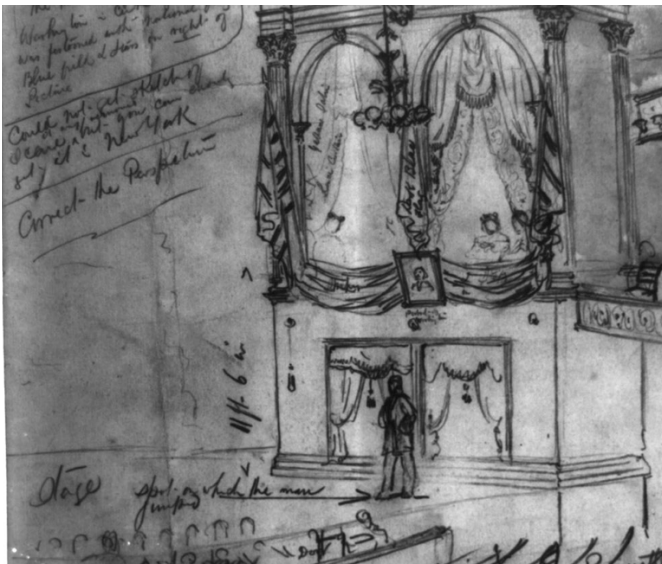
Nicholas plans to be a Stage/Production Manager, and has already been involved in more than 20 productions at Moline High School, the Quad Cities Music Guild and Monmouth College.



DOUG RANKIN

(Stage Design, Scenic Painter, Technical Director) is director of theatre at Monmouth College. Doug has

a MFA in scenery, lighting and costume design from Northwestern University. This marks the 75th production he has designed at Monmouth College. Doug was formerly technical director at the Orpheum. Among productions he has designed here are *Singin' in the Rain*, *Gypsy*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and most recently *Dust and Dreams*.



Artist's Rendering of Ford's Theatre Box

Waud, Alfred R. 1828-1891

NOTES: Title inscribed on verso. Inscribed left margin within image: Thick Honey-suckle. Inscribed upper right: The Portrait of Washington in center of box was festooned with national flag, Blue field & stars in right of picture. Could not get sketch of scene it was [vicious?] but you can easily get it [?] New York. Correct the Perspective. Inscribed within image as indicators: Stage; Spot on which the man jumped, 11 ft 6 in; orchestra row; Common cane chairs; Parquette; Rail of Dress Circle; Yellow satin; lace curtain; Portrait of Washington; Dark Blue Flag; Stripy; Entrance door from Dress Circle shown in ground plan.



ALEX ROLING
(Mr. Buddicombe) is a junior Political Science major who is a member of Crimson Masque and ScotSpeak!

Alex was last seen on the MC stage in *Lysistrata*. Alex plans to be an undercover political operative and to change the system from the inside.

**DEAN
ST. LEDGER**

(Scene Shop Foreman) has been building sets at MC for 10 years. Before that, Dean was supervisor of buildings and grounds at Monmouth College. He has been working at Monmouth for nearly 50 years—the longest of any employee.



**R. TYNAN
SINKS** (Abel Murcott) is a junior Public Relations major who lists Hot Blades Harry in

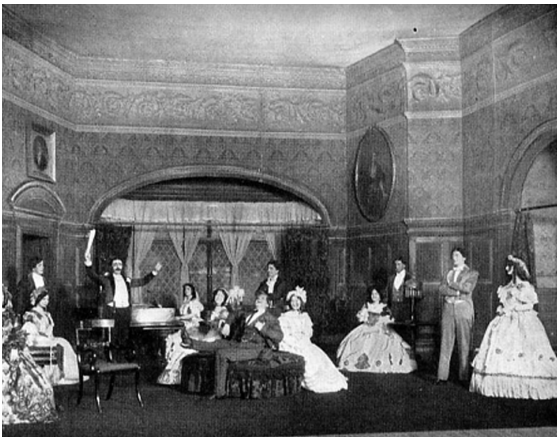
Urinetown as his favorite theatrical role. Tynan is a member of Zeta Beta Tau, Chorale, Sulci, and is a Writing Tutor. Tynan interned last summer for MTV, and plans to do PR work in the entertainment industry. Tynan is proud to have founded (along with Kelsey Cole) Monmouth's first poetry troupe — Sulci.

**STEPHANIE
ALISE STEELE**

(Sharpe) is a first year student with a double major in Classics and History. Her



**Lord Dundreary's song: Act I from
1858 New York Production**



Edward Sothorn as Lord Dundreary, sporting "Dundrearies."

favorite previous theatre role is Mildred in *Ah, Wilderness*. Stephanie is a member of Alpha Xi Delta, Wind Ensemble, Chorale, and Crimson Masque. Stephanie hopes to teach one day, but plans to dig (archeology) first!



**NOELLE
TEMPLETON**

(Mary Meredith) is a junior English major, Religious Studies minor. She is a member of Student Chaplains, and Covenant Groups. Previous theatre credits include *Waiting for Godot*, *All I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. Noelle plans to learn how to cook, to be a good wife and mom, and to volunteer a lot.

KYLE TUOR

(A. Lincoln) is a junior majoring in Communication and Public Relations. Kyle is a member of Phi Delta Theta, Up 'Til Dawn, the Football and Golf teams, and MC-TV. Kyle plans to get his Masters Degree in Marketing and to work in Advertising.



**WILLIAM J.
WALLACE**

(Director) is completing his 30th year at Monmouth College. Previous directing credits include

Urinetown, *The Trojan Women*, *The Music Man*, and *A Christmas Carol*. In addition to teaching Theatre at MC, Bill is the Public Relations Program Coordinator. Recently, he had made a number of trips to Scotland where his name has drawn many a quizzical response.

**MARK
WOESSNER**

(Capt. De Boots) is a first year student who played Cinesias in *Lysistrata* earlier



this year. Mark is an Anthropology major who plans to become an Archeologist. He is a member of Zeta Beta Tau and FY Improv. Mark can touch his elbows behind his back.

KEN YEATER

(Sir Edward Trenchard) is a junior Theatre major, History minor. Ken was in *The Shape of Things* at MC, and was also the lighting Designer for Carl Sandburg College's production of *Bat Boy: the Musical*. Ken plans to teach and direct at the College level, and notes that he loves theatre...way too much.



We Gratefully Acknowledge
Our Sponsors



Cottage Corner - 309/734-2680
1101 W. Broadway
Monmouth, IL. 61462

Italian Village - 309/734-2179
111 West 1st Ave.
Monmouth, IL. 61462

Dane Packaging International - 630/837-4133
805 S. Bartlett Rd.
Bartlett IL. 60103

Mike Thompson Trucking - 309/333-8210

First Ave. Pub
113 West 1st Avenue
Monmouth, IL 61462

Maple City Realty - 309/734-7130
107 E. Broadway
Monmouth, IL 61462

PRODUCTION STAFF:

Director: William J. Wallace

Set Design/Scenic Painter/Technical Director: Doug Rankin

Costume Design: Patricia Andresen, Sarah Kindt

Lighting Design: Jason Magafas

Stage Manager: Nicholas R. Munson

Prop Master: Ken Yeater

Assistant Directors: Abby Davis, Heather Hall, Krissy Heinzman

Light Board Operator: Abby Davis

Stage Crew: Nick Basala, Danni Connell, Matt Corrigan, Jennifer Erbes,
Stacey Field, Drew Johnson, Teresa Schryver

Load In Crew: Jared Braun, Heather Hall, Jeremy Lawson, Fletcher
Morgan, Nick Munson, Jake Shermerhorn, Janeve West

Construction Crew: Chris Baldwin, Alissa Diffenderfer, Scott Gilman,
Erin Hallas, Introduction to Technical Theatre Class, Jonathan
Matthews; Steve Novak, Jeremiah O'Steen, Dean St. Ledger,
James Shephard, Cody Shoultz, Ken Yeater

Costume Construction: Danielle A'Hearne, Pat Andresen, Michael
Coates, Ashley Downs, Sarah Kindt, Megan Thorndike

Pit Band: Coordinator-Steve Richter; Conductor- Tim Seyller;
Flute/Piccolo- Noelle Burks; Clarinet I- Amanda Miklavcic;
Clarinet II- Nora Carleson; Trumpet I- Kathy West; Trumpet II-
Aubrey England; Horn I- Lizzy McIntyre; Horn II- Jordan Pless;
Trombone I- Adam Keller; Trombone II- Natalie Lister; Tuba-
Kyle Vancil

Videographers: Josh Graber; Brent Sherman; Kelly Winter

Photographer/Poster/Program Design: Doug Rankin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Attic Antique Shop

Broadway Costumes™, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, www.broadwaycostumes.com

Dick Blick Art Materials

The Illinois Humanities Council for their support of the Symposium

Dr. Jeremy McNamara

Mark McDonald and WSEC-TV/PBS for *Illinois Stories* feature