Festival Playhouse of Kalamazoo College 49th Season:

FABLES & FAIRY TALES

Spring 2013
Into the Woods by Steven Sondheim & James Lapine
Thursday – Sunday, May 16 – 19

This Tony, Drama Critics Circle, and Drama Desk Award winning show helped change the American Musical. Stephen Sondheim’s sophisticated scores and ironic, wistful lyrics are never represented better by such songs as Giants in the Sky, Agony, and Children Will Listen. Into the Woods features such characters as Jack, Little Red Ridinghood, and Rapunzel all converging in a contemporary twist on the fairy tale: What happens the day after they lived happily ever after?

Vocal and Musical Direction by Professors James Turner and Tom Evans.

www.kzoo.edu/theatre/

In The Next Room
(or The Vibrator Play)
BY SARAH RUHL
February 28 – March 3, 2013
KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
FESTIVAL PLAYHOUSE
Nelda K. Balch Playhouse • Box Office/Info: 269.337.7333 • www.kzoo.edu/theatre
"Fables and Fairy Tales"

On behalf of our faculty, staff, guest artists and especially students, welcome to Festival Playhouse of Kalamazoo College!

Fable: "A story about supernatural or extraordinary persons or incidents that teaches a moral lesson."

Fairy Tale: "A fanciful tale of legendary deeds and romance."

Such are the plays that comprise the 49th season of Festival Playhouse of Kalamazoo College. William Shakespeare’s Titus Andronicus is both supernatural and legendary. In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play) by Sarah Ruhl combines extraordinary incidents and romance. And Stephen Sondheim’s Into the Woods uses the fairy tale to depict "the day after they lived happily ever after." All three plays have extraordinary characters and teach us a moral lesson!

Our season kick-off on September 22 was a very special "fable" event: the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership, as part of the WITH / OUT — ¿B O R D E R S? series, and the Festival Playhouse of Kalamazoo College Diversity Guest Artist Series, presented the one-man show, The Return of Border Brujo, written and performed by world-renowned performance artist, writer, activist, and MacArthur Fellow Guillermo Gómez-Peña. The Festival Playhouse Diversity Guest Artist Series is committed to providing culturally diverse art free to the Greater Kalamazoo community. Previous Diversity Guest Artist Series performances include Oni Faida Lampey in The Dark Kalamazoo, Lisa Kron in 2.5 Minute Ride, and Jose Torres Tama in The Cone of Uncertainty.

Our Fall mainstage production of Titus Andronicus provided no better example in the Shakespeare canon of a play that has undergone a complete transformation in terms of popularity and critical opinion. Once regarded as one of the Bard’s worst plays — to the point where some historians believed that Shakespeare couldn’t possibly have written it — Titus Andronicus now enjoys a reputation of Shakespeare at its most theatrical, shocking, (and yes,) violent. Directed by guest artist Kevin Dodd, our production focused on the cycle of violence perpetuated in societies, especially when "soldiers return from war." One of Dodd’s many innovations in the production added a ‘Chorus of Collateral Damage.’ “As a nation, we export violence,” Dodd notes. “Our production asks the question: when they all come home, what happens then?

We are proud that Kalamazoo College student playwrights - Dana Robinson K'12 (Outdoors) and Rebecca Staudenmaier K'12 (The House of South) - once again participated in the Theatre Kalamazoo New Playfest, produced at The Epic Center in downtown Kalamazoo, January 25 and 26th. We also produced, Bringing Home the Bones, a specially commissioned 10-minute play from world-renowned Kalamazoo author Bonnie Jo Campbell (Once Upon a River)!

As always, we featured the work of our “best and the brightest” in student-directed plays, young artists who support the great tradition at Kalamazoo College of students creating their own theatre in our Senior Performance Series. In the Dungeon Theatre in Winter term, Abby Wood directed Neil LaBute’s Bash, while Imani Michelle Sims staged Progress, an environmental theatre piece by Imani and Marissa Rossman, based on her Senior Individualized Project research on women’s reproductive rights in Nazi Germany.

Tonight, for our Winter term mainstage, we present the Southwest Michigan Series. Such are the plays that comprise the 49th season of Festival Playhouse of Kalamazoo College! In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play) by Sarah Ruhl, directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Karen Berthel. At the “Dawn of the Age of Electricity,” in post Civil War America, Catherine Givings listens with great curiosity and wonder at the door of her husband’s medical laboratory, where he treats “hysterical women” with his brand new electrical device. Called a “comedy about marriage, intimacy, and electricity,” In the Next Room was nominated for the 2010 Tony Award for Best Play, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. The New York Times has called Sarah Ruhl, also the acclaimed author of The Clean House and Eurydice, “one of the most gifted American playwrights to emerge in recent years,” and In the Next Room “a fresh ... funny play ... as rich in thought as it is in feeling.”

We close our season in Spring with the popular and provocative musical Into the Woods by Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine. This Tony, Drama Critics Circle, and Drama Desk Award winning show helped change the American Musical. Stephen Sondheim’s sophisticated scores and ironic, wistful lyrics are never represented better by such songs as Giants in the Sky, Agony, and Children Will Listen. Into the Woods features such characters as Jack, Little Red Ridinghood, and Rapunzel all converging in a contemporary twist on the fairy tale: What happens the day after they lived happily ever after? We’re thrilled to be working with our Music Department once again with Vocal & Musical Direction by Professors of Music James Turner and Tom Evans.

As you can see from the above, we continue to strive to make the theatre experience at the center of the liberal arts environment: an intersection of knowledge, creativity, and education for our entire community

Theatre that is always provocative. Theatre that is always thoughtful.

Thank you for choosing the theatre tonight!

Ed Menta
Professor & Director of Theatre
Festival Playhouse Season 2012-13
House Management Notes

The use of any recording device is strictly prohibited.

Switch cellular phones and anything else that makes noise to silent during the performance.

Patrons who leave their seats during the performance will be reseated at the discretion of the house manager.

Festival Playhouse gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation.

~ There will be one 10-minute intermission ~

FESTIVAL PLAYHOUSE
OF KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
PRESENTS:

IN THE NEXT ROOM
(OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY)
by Sarah Ruhl

Dr. Givings...........................................Alden Phillips
Catherine Givings.............................Grace Gilmore
Mrs. Daldry........................................Rudi Goddard
Annie..................................................Abigail Taylor
Leonard Irving....................................Joe Barth
Elizabeth...........................................Saribel Pages
Mr. Daldry...........................................Travis Braun

Personages:
Dr. Givings – A specialist in gynecological and hysterical disorders
Catherine Givings – His wife
Sabrina Daldry – His patient
Annie – Dr. Giving’s midwife assistant
Leonard Irving – Dr. Giving’s other patient, an Englishman
Elizabeth – An African-American woman, and a wet nurse by default
Mr. Daldry – Sabrina Daldry’s husband

Place:
A prosperous spa town outside of New York City, perhaps Saratoga Springs.

Time:
The dawn of the age of electricity; and after the Civil War; circa 1880s.

Scene Breakdown:
Act 1, Scene 1: Home and Office of Dr. Givings. It is mid-November.
Act 1, Scene 2: Next day. Same place.
Act 2, Scene 1: Two weeks later.
Act 2, Scene 2: Five days later.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Technical Theatre
Jon Reeves
Nick To
Joe Westerfield
Colin Klein

Stage Manager
Katie Anderson
Kat Barrett
Tammy Boutros
Anya Opshinsky

Assistant Stage Managers
James Villar
Sierra Moore
Phoebe Solomon
Laura Manardo
Joanna Drentlaw
Imani Sims

Assistant Lighting Designer
Angela Fong
Espirit Autenreith
Casey Sullivan
Jennifer Cho

Light Board Operator
Katelyn J. Anderson
Cassandra N. Chorny
Melany R. Diaz
David Huerta
Lucy B. MacArthur
Indigo A. McCollum
Arik R. Mendelevitz
Phoebe J. Solomon
Casey Sullivan
Keeney A. Swearer
Mira A. Swearer
Emily M. Walsh
Mallory E. Zink

Sound Design

Sound Board Operator

House Manager

Props Master

Fly commander

Fly 1

Fly 2

Fly 3

Snow 1

Snow 2

Costume 1

Costume 2

Shop Crew

Faded Pink Furniture: Catherine Givings & the Woman Question

In her book, Suggestions for Thought, Florence Nightingale, celebrated English author and social activist, asked a question of the girls that were born into the English high culture in the late nineteenth century: "Is discontent a privilege?" She challenged young ladies to think critically about what Victorian author, Dinah Maria Mulock describes as "the flummery and flattery" they were bred to embody.

When the progressive era and the industrial revolution began challenging traditional gender roles, Nightingale’s “Woman Question” became an important one. Suddenly, as new expectations were thrust upon a generation of women who were bred to “prick time to death with crochet and embroidery needles” (Mulock), traditional gender roles were split at their frilly seams.

Halfway across the world and over a century later, in the playwriting department at Brown University, Sarah Ruhl grappled with this question of gender socialization in her development of In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play), a modern fable that follows Catherine Givings, the wife of progressive but disillusioned doctor in their home in Saratoga Springs, New York. With his own invention, an electric vibrator, Dr. Givings treats patients suffering from “hysteria,” a catch-all anxiety disorder with symptoms ranging from restlessness to "causing trouble." All the while, Catherine sits in the next room, burdened with dissatisfaction and boredom.

As Catherine embarks on a journey of self-exploration, intimacy, and every shade of light and dark that emerged at the dawn of electricity, Ruhl addresses The Woman Question with astounding eloquence. Sitting in her bow-windowed prison, turning the pretty glass lamps on, and off, and on again, coping with her inability to nurse her child, and straining her ears to hear the moaning emanating from her husband’s operating theatre, Catherine looks from herself, to the décor, and back again, wondering all the while if anything distinguishes her from the faded pink furniture. It is nearly impossible to tell the difference.

The answer to Nightingale’s question is a resounding “No.”

Jane Huffman, K’15, Dramaturg
ARTISTIC STAFF

Director
Karen Berthel
Costume Designer
Elaine Kaufmann
Production Design
Lanford J. Potts
Dramaturg
Jane Huffman

THEATRE ARTS FACULTY AND STAFF

Department Chair and Performance Director
Karen Berthel
Director of Theatre
Ed Menta
Lighting Design
Lanford J. Potts
Director of Technical Theatre
Jon Reeves
Theatre Arts Coordinator
Michelle Connolly

GUEST ARTISTS AND VISITING PROFESSORS

Guest Artist (Fall)
Guillermo Gómez-Peña
Guest Director (Fall)
Kevin Dodd
Intro. to Costuming and Design
Elaine Kauffman
Fundamentals of Acting (Winter)
Valerie Miller
Introduction to African-American Theatre
Darryl Davis
(Spring)
Fundamentals of Acting (Spring)
Liza Bielbly

FESTIVAL PLAYHOUSE COMPANY

Scene Shop Foreman
Tammer Boutros
Box Office Manager
Michelle Connolly
Printer
Allegra Print and Imaging
Program/ Poster Design
Brakeman Design

SPECIAL THANKS

Stacy Bartell, Laura Livingstone-McNelis, Patrick Niemi, Greg Roehrick, Shannon M. O’Neill, Paul Smithson, The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Western Michigan University Theatre, Illinois State University School of Theatre

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival XLIII
Presented and Produced by
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theatre education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theatre productions. 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, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

A faculty colleague attends those productions that are entered on the Associate level. This includes a response session with the company following the performance. The director will be provided with a written response to the work, a copy of which will be forwarded to the regional chair. The response may be accompanied by nominations for awards, including the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions. An associate production is not eligible for tour to the festival, though the institution is eligible for all other awards.

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

EMILY STILLMAN

(1993-2013)

Left to Right: Bonnie Jo Campbell, Megan Rosenberg, Emily Stillman, Kelly Eubank, Aliera Morasch. Photo by Chris Magson.

Emily Stillman had graced many of our Theatre Arts classes in her short time on our campus. She also acted in the Festival Playhouse production of *Bringing Home the Bones*, by Bonnie Jo Campbell, our entry in the *Theatre Kalamazoo New Playfest* last month. Since she had planned to double major in Psychology and Theatre Arts, we had looked forward to her acting in many more shows, and taking many more classes. Although our loss is miniscule compared to that of her loving family, we will always remember Emily for what she did give us in that too brief period: a truly caring and warm spirit that left an everlasting effect on everyone she touched.

PRODUCTION BIOS

**Katie Anderson** (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a sophomore Theatre Arts/Studio Art double major and has been working on lighting for the Festival Playhouse for the last year. When not running around in the dark, she can be found knitting or doodling in the corners of her notebooks.

**Sprite Autenreith** (Snow Crew) is a first year prospective English major with a penchant for words, ballistite, Rosco 80, and whatever else is extreme. This is her second show with Festival Playhouse.

**Kathleen Barrett** (Light Board Operator) is a senior and occasionally works on Festival Playhouse productions. You may remember her fantastic performance as "The Little Old Man" in 2009's legendary production of *Rhinoceros*. She is excited to sit next to Nicholas A. To in the light booth and push all of his buttons. She will try to avoid hitting the Blackout button no matter how tempting it may be.

**Joe Barth** (Leonard Irving) is a senior Math major. This is his second appearance in a Festival Playhouse production. Joe would like to thank the stellar crew and his superb cast-mates for making this experience so great, as well as the incredible Professor Berthel for giving him the opportunity to speak in a British dialect.

**Tammer Boutros** (Sound Designer) is a senior Theatre Arts/Chemistry double major who is interested in special effects and design.

**Travis Braun** (Mr. Daldry) is a senior Economics major. This is Travis' first endeavor with Festival Playhouse. He spends his falls playing football for Kalamazoo College. Next year he will be attending Law School at the University of Missouri.

**Jennifer Cho** (Costume) is working for Festival Playhouse for the second time. She is a Political Science major at Kalamazoo College and is part of K-Crew. She participated as a costume crew in *Titus Andronicus* last quarter.
**Johanna Drentlaw** (Fly 2) is a first-year and possible music major. This is Johanna's second show for Festival Playhouse. Last quarter she was in Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* as part of the Chorus of Collateral Damage.

**Angela Fong** (Deck Crew) is a first-year student and this is her second production for Festival Playhouse. She is considering pursuing a Theatre Arts minor. Throughout her three years of stage crew doing everything from sound and lights to stage-managing, she has never been on deck crew.

**Grace Gilmore** (Catherine Givings) is a sophomore Theatre Arts and Religion double major at Kalamazoo College. This is her fourth production with Festival Playhouse. Past roles of hers have included "Betty/Edward" in *Cloud Nine* and "Marca" in *Titus Andronicus*. She is also a member of K's improv team, Monkapult. She is thrilled to be a part of such a touching and powerful play and hopes that the audience feels the good vibrations of this electric show.

**Rudi Goddard** (Sabrina Daldray) is thrilled to be involved in her eighth Festival Playhouse production! She would like to extend many thanks to the cast and crew for making this a surprisingly comfortable ride, to her family and friends for their unending support and their ability to overcome the shock of the word 'vibrator,' to the Fruit Fly Trap for being persistently gleeful about the word 'vibrator,' and finally to Professor Berthe! without whom none of this would have been possible.

**Jane Huffman** (Dramaturg) is a sophomore Theatre Arts and Creative Writing double major at Kalamazoo College. This is her fifth Festival Playhouse production, and she's thrilled that her first endeavor in dramaturgy could be such a vibrant experience. She extends her thanks and congratulations to the entire company for their fearless.

**Laura Manardo** (Fly 1) is a sophomore English major with an emphasis in writing and an avid member of Kalamazoo College’s a cappella group, The Limelights. This is Laura's second involvement with Festival Playhouse. Laura’s favorite household chore is sanitizing countertops. Enjoy the show!

**Sierra Moore** (Props Master) is a Senior English Major and Theatre Arts Minor. This is her eighth Festival Playhouse production, although it’s her first time working behind the scenes. She doesn’t remember why she agreed to do this in the first place and will probably be institutionalized by the time you read this. Enjoy the show!

**Any Opshinsky** (Sound Board) is a sophomore Theatre Arts major, Monkapult improviser, queen bees Frisbee team member at Kalamazoo College. She has performed in productions of *Kahani* and *Cloud Nine* for the Festival Playhouse. This is Anya's first production working behind the scenes.

**Saribel Pages** (Elizabeth) is a Sophomore Anthropology/Sociology Major and when not in class, volunteers as part of the K-Crew or can be found knitting. Always. Knitting. This is Saribel’s first performance with Festival Playhouse. She is forever grateful that her roommate talked her into auditioning.

**Alden Phillips** (Dr. Givings) is a senior Theatre Arts and English double major who is excited to be working with such a talented company on such an incredible production. He would like to thank his friends and family for their everlasting support, particularly those relatives who have come to see this play even after being thoroughly briefed about the suggestive subject matter it contains. Cheers!

**Lanford J Potts** is delighted to return to the theatre department and work with the talented team of *In The Next Room*. He would like to thank his family, children Brittany, Evann, Elena, puppy Brodie, and fabulous wife Barbara, for allowing him to pursue his passions.

**Imani Michelle Sims** (Fly 3) is a senior. She's done a ton of shows for Festival Playhouse and her heroes are Helen of Troy and Cleopatra VII. As DSA of the Theatre Arts Department, she would like to say "Join Us..."
**Phoebe Solomon** (Fly Command) is a senior and likes welding and is fierce. She also misses her cat, Chief.

**Casey Sullivan** (Costume) is working behind the scenes for a show for the first time. For Festival Playhouse, he has performed in *Rhinoceros, Alison Shields, 4:48 Psychosis, Line,* and *Titus Andronicus.*

**Abigail Taylor** (Annie) is a first year at Kalamazoo College and has loved being in her first Festival Playhouse production! She is a prospective Anthropology/Sociology major and enjoys reading, practicing yoga, and spending time with friends in her free time. Abby would like to thank everyone who supported her in auditioning for this show and the rest of the cast and crew for all of their hard work. Enjoy!

**Nick To** (Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre Arts major. He likes white-cheddar popcorn and chicken wings (BDubs!). He still listens to Jim Dale’s Harry Potter books on tape to fall asleep and sometimes reverts to his alter ego: Red Panda. Prior to this production he was afraid of vibrators… whether or not this fear has been averted is debatable.

**James Villar** (House Manager) is a sophomore majoring in both Psychology and Theatre Arts. He was an actor his first-year Fall and Winter quarters, but most recently was the Assistant Stage Manager for *Titus Andronicus.* As the days go by James is wondering what he should try his hand on next on his way to becoming a Theatre Arts major.

**Joseph Westerfield** (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to be working on the production of *In The Next Room.* He is a sophomore Anthropology/Sociology and Theatre Arts double major Longview, Washington. This is his fifth production for the Festival Playhouse, but his first non-acting role. His favorite duty as ASM is eating the left over rehearsal cookies. When he isn't taking line notes, Joseph can be found dissecting French grammar patterns.

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**FESTIVAL PLAYHOUSE IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THEATRE KALAMAZOO!**

www.theatrekalamazoo.org

**Kalamazoo Civic Theatre**

*The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley ~ March - 14, 2013*

*Broadway Bound ~ April 5 - 20, 2013*

**Farmer’s Alley Theatre**

*The 39 Steps ~ April 12 – 28, 2013*

**Miller Auditorium**

*Wicked ~ April 24 – May 5, 2013*

**The New Vic Theatre**

*Same Time, Next Year ~ February 15 – March 16, 2013*

*The Love List ~ March 29 – April 27, 2013*

**WMU Theatre**

*Macbeth ~ March 14-24, 2013*

*Kiss Me Kate ~ April 11- 20, 2013*

**Black Arts and Cultural Center**

*Death of a Salesman ~ March 8 – 17, 2013*
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