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A Message from the Artistic Director

The Diviners. Who are they...what does that mean?

The use of the word "diviners" in this story is a metaphor for all the characters. Like the use of a divining rod to seek water, each character seeks to find something meaningful in their lives. For some it is spiritual guidance, for others it is simply getting by day to day. Some have deeper struggle to find inner peace.

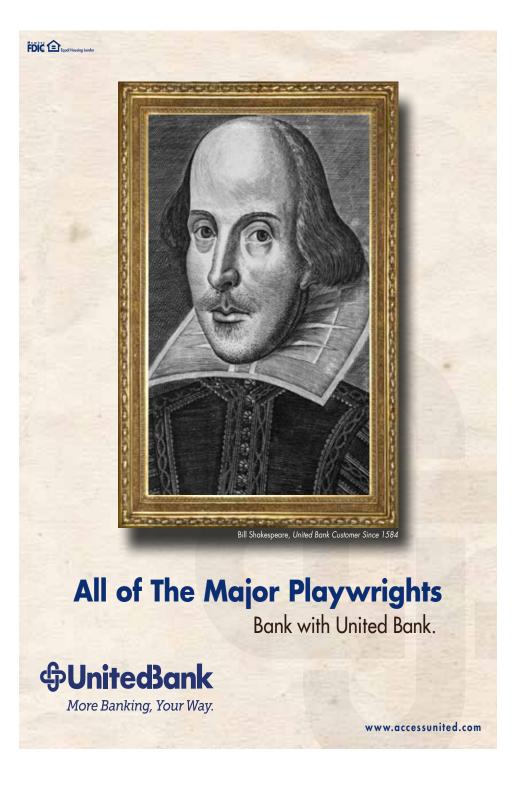
Jim Leonard, Jr.'s poetic Depression Era play about the people in the small town of Zion, AR depicts their tragedies and triumphs with humor and heart.

All of the memorable characters in this play have a deep sense of humanity. We hope that their story will touch your heart.

Enjoy,

Moun Richardon





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Thank You!

After collecting 18 years worth of set pieces, props, and costumes there was a lot to sort through for a recent spring-cleaning in our upstairs loft/attic.

A very special thanks to the following individuals who gave <u>countless hours</u> of their time and energies doing this much needed work

Ed Akerman, Shari Barron, Curtis Brown Raymond Crossnine, Frank Dansby, Walker Davis, Christopher Gansel, BJ Hughes, Jacob Maddox, Joshua Maddox, Jack McGinnis and Karen Sanford.

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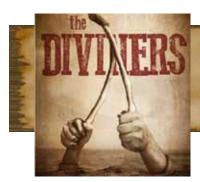


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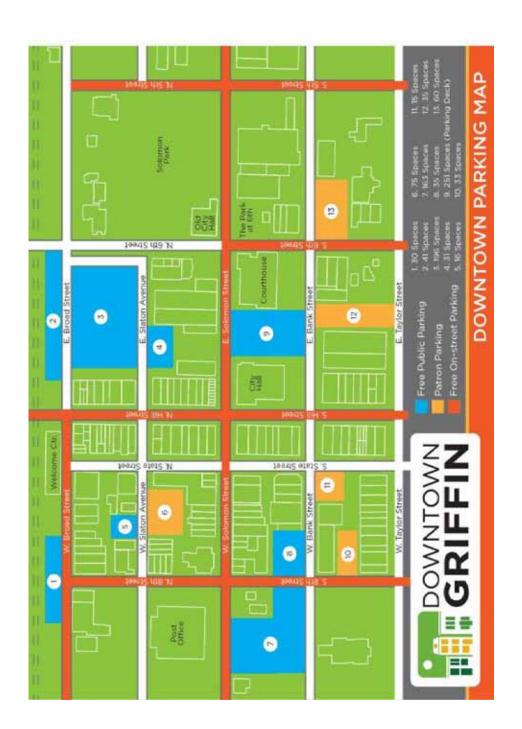


By Jim Leonard, Jr.

DirectorBJ Hughes
Set DesignBJ Hughes
Master CarpenterFrank Dansby
Rehearsal Stage ManagerJanice Aiken
Production Stage ManagerBetty Mitchell
CostumesNorma Richardson and Curtis Brown
Set Construction
Lighting DesignCurtis Brown
Original Music
Sound Design Jason Brown and BJ Hughes
Lighting TechnicianJason Brown
Sound TechnicianBJ Hughes
PublicityClark Douglas
Box Office

SETTING:

The play takes place in the homes and fields, and public gathering places of the mythical southern Indiana town of Zion, population 40. It is a small and rural community with a few houses and farms along the river.







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Act I

15-Minute Intermission

Act II

The Players

Buddy Layman - a boyJack McGinnis
Jennie Mae Layman - his sisterAlli Childers
Ferris Layman - their father, a mechanicBrian Love
C.C. Showers - a back sliding preacherChristopher Gansel
Norma Henshaw - owner of the Hoosier Dry-GoodesTaylor Blake
Darlene Henshaw - her nieceAlex Quick
Basil Bennett - farmer and local doctorFloyd Walker
Luella Bennett - his wifeKaren Stanford
Goldie Short - owner of the Dine-Away-CafeBetty Mitchell
Melvin Wilder - a farmhandAndrew Stewart
Dewey Maples - a young farmhandBenjamin Daughtery













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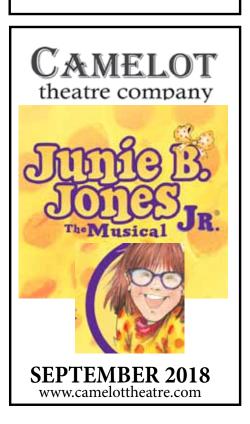
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The Players



TAYLOR BLAKE (Norma Henshaw) was last seen as Pattie in *Season's Greetings*. She is a 2017 Piedmont College graduate. She has two Bachelors degrees in Theatre Arts and History. Taylor has been a part of Piedmont College Theatre productions such as *Sweet Charity, Macbeth, White Christmas*, and *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. As part of her graduation requirements, Taylor directed and starred

in a production of Ellen Bryon's *Graceland*. This is Taylor's first season with the Main Street Players.



ALEXANDRA (ALLI) CHILDERS (Jennie Mae Layman) is excited to perform in her first show with MSP. Most recently, she has appeared in *The Secret Garden* (Ayah) with Front Porch Players and *All Shook Up* (featured ensemble) with Henry Players. Her favorite role was in *The Rocky Horror Show* as Janet Weiss with Griffin Opera House Theatre Project.

In addition, she has done numerous shows with Camelot Theatre Company both on stage and behind the scenes. She is so thankful for the amazing opportunity to be a part of this wonderful production.



BENJAMIN DAUGHTERY (Dewey Maples) is making his MSP debut with *The Diviners*. He attends the Dinoff School and has been very involved in their drama program. We welcome him to the Main Street Players' family.



CHRISTOPHER GANSEL (C.C. Showers) is making his second appearance on the Main Street stage having made his debut in *The War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast* earlier this season. Previous credits with other companies include Edward Bloom in *Big Fish*, George Milton in *Of Mice and Men* and Dan Goodman in *Next to Normal*. He would like to thank

Norma, Marian and BJ for giving him the opportunity to work with this wonderful cast and crew to bring this beautiful story to life. As always, he dedicates his performance to his lovely bride, Beth.



BRIAN LOVE (Ferris Layman) first appeared on the Main Street Stage as John Thayer and the 3rd Class Passenger in *Titanic, The Musical.* He is excited to be back on stage, because he is usually running around selling 50/50 tickets, working the box office, answering the phone and making reservations. He and his lovely wife, Carlee, have had a new addition to the Beall/Love clan, Preston.



JACK MCGINNIS (Buddy Layman) is beyond excited to be debuting with Main Street Players. He graduated Holy Innocents' Episcopal school last May, having contributed significant hours to their theater program. Fun fact: he played Dewey Maples in his school's production of *The Diviners* his sophomore year. This is only Jack's second production after

high school. His first was Messenger/Watchman in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Jack will be attending Bard College in August, where he will try to study theater, playwriting, music, and math while still graduating in four years. Wish him luck. Until then, special thanks go out to the cast, crew, Marian, Norma, his theater teachers and mentors, and especially BJ, who provided Jack with the opportunity to portray a beautiful character, and one of his favorites. Enough about Jack, he hopes you enjoy the show. Talking in third person is weird, at least he just needs to do it here, right? Oh wait...



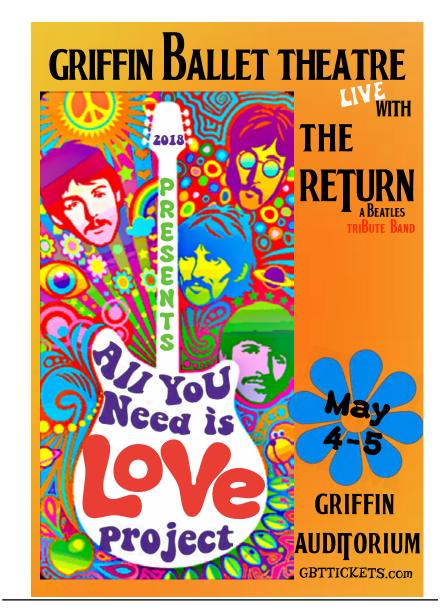
Stage Manager) played Phyllis in *Season's Greetings.* She has worked for Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts and with several theatres in the Atlanta area. She was a co-founder of the Suzi Bass Awards and volunteers with them and with as many theatres as possible. Recent projects

include *Visitors* at Staged Right Theatre, *Women's Shorts* at Out of Box Theatre, *As You Like It* with Folding Chair Theatre and *Much Ado About Nothing* at GSU/Perimeter.



ALEX QUICK (Darlene Henshaw) is a junior at Lamar County High School. She is deeply invested in the theater and loves to perform. She serves as an officer of her International Thespian Society Troop. As a freshman, she was cast as the lead role of Belle in *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* She performed the lead in her school's One Act play that went to State during her sophomore year. She was recognized

as an All Star Cast Member at the GHSA State Competition. With her ten-minute monologue, she won her Regional Literary Competition.





Main Street Players is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. As such, we rely on the overwhelming generosity of our supporters to operate. While our ticket sales provide part of the financial support for our productions, additional dollars and services are needed. Thank you for your support.

Thank you for your consideration.





Pavio

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 - 7:30 pm Dubbed the "Greek God of the Guste," Favin is a true world arbit who brings audiences to their feet with a unique style and Medizarinnean flavor. This sizzling gattarid, joined on Greek Incurrouk, bars & percussion, Mends Greek, flammoco, latin, and were Islaha floors. An international state a residion.



Monroe Crossing Tuesday, January 23, 2018 - 7:30 pm

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Sunday, November 12, 2017 - 4:00 pm

has Winds is an all-adult symphonic hand celebrating over 25 years of excellence in maintal partnersames. While composed pitnersity of maintainers from the metropolities Atlanta acres, it desers to total recentlership from instrumentalists from throughout Georgia. Under the shreaton of Ex Andreas Strauss, Tara Winds continues to be exceptioned as one of the fivest adult ensembles of the large interest partners as one of the fivest adult ensembles of the kind performing at prestigous evenum, feathersh and conferences, throughout the U.S. With a ministensitation of "Mains. Enjoyment for All Ages", Test Winds provides a concert experience for the whole family.

Night & Days starring Kevin Spirtas Thursday, April 19, 2018 - 7:30 pm

30 year acting vetoran heat know for Broadway appearances and RBC's daytime drains Days of Our Lives, Kevin Spelas sings familiar throadway songs and shares stories of this career on and off the set. This high-energy performance and daziling personality will capture your attention and your learns!

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Since then, she has also been cast as the Witch in *Into the Woods, Jr.* and the Raven in an original play, *By Horror Haunted,* which was a tribute to Edgar Allan Poe. This is her first performance with the Main Street Players. Alexandria looks forward to the experience and the friendships she will gain from participating in this and future plays.



KAREN STANFORD (Luella Bennett) just reprised her role as Goose in the October production of *Charlotte's Web*. Other roles at MSP include Mrs. Collins in *War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast* and Mrs. Dunlap in *Inherit the Wind*. She was honored as Main Street's Volunteer of the Year for the 2015-2016 season as she logged in over 150 hours of her time with set construction. As a young lady, Karen

was an avid participant in her high school's Thespian Club, as well as, performing in *Swingin' High* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*. She would also like to give a special thanks to her two children for their love and support.



ANDREW STEWART (Melvin Wilder) is a singer/songwriter/musician from the Griffin area with a passion for the performing arts. He fell in love with theater at a young age, starring as the Baker in Griffin High School's production of *Into the Woods* in 2000. Since then, he has performed on multiple stages all over the state of Georgia, mostly behind a microphone while playing a guitar or a piano.

Over the last several years, he has been heavily involved with the International Thespian Society at Lamar County High School. In 2017, he co-wrote and co-directed LCHS's One Act Competition play based on the works of Edgar Allan Poe. This is his debut performance with Main Street Players. Andrew is so thankful for the opportunity and is looking forward to working with Main Street as often as possible in the future.



FLOYD WALKER (Basil Bennet) has become a regular here at MSP. Roles include Uncle Harvey in Season's Greetings, Mr. Readick in War of the Worlds, the Panic Broadcast, Mr. Klemper in The Boys Next Door, Pops in 1940's Radio Hour, Reverend Jeremy Brown in Inherit the Wind, Bob Ewell in To Kill A Mockingbird, and Rodgers in Ten Little Indians. Floyd has appeared as Larry (the custodian) in

School House Rock, Reverend Doctor Harper and Superintendent Witherspoon in Arsenic and Old Lace and as Grandpa in Meet Me in Saint Louis with Camelot Theatre. For Henry Players he was Mitchell in Yes Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus and Judge Randolph in A Few Good

Men. He has also appeared as Doctor Agnagnus in The Miracle Worker with Front Porch Players. Floyd is delighted to be playing a "good guy" in this production and hopes you enjoy the show. He is a native of Griffin and has been married to Linda for the last 52 years and has six grandchildren.

Artistic Staff and Crew



JANICE AIKEN (Rehearsal Stage Manager) last appeared as Mrs. Dacos in *War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast*. Other performances at MSP include *Inherit the Wind* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She was recognized at the GAAA Heart for the Arts as Main Street Player's Most Valuable Volunteer for our 2016-2017 season. Janice serves on our board and has been volunteering for Main Street Players since the

fall of 2012. She has been invaluable to our organization and has worked the Box Office, sold concessions, ushered, trained others to usher, answered the phones, helped clean the theatre prior to openings, worked set construction, repaired props and is an integral part of our Theater for Young Audiences program.



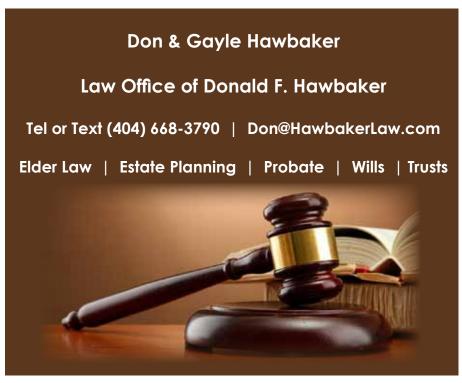
curtis brown (Lighting Design and Costumes) is a man with many skills having just appeared in multiple roles in Irma Vep. Earlier this year he played Jake Laurents and Mr. Stewart in War of the Worlds: The Panic Broadcast. Other roles at MSP include Judge Mel Coffey in Inherit the Wind, multiple roles in Charlotte's Web (2016 and 2017), Neil Tilden in 1940s Radio Hour, the Centipede in James and the Giant

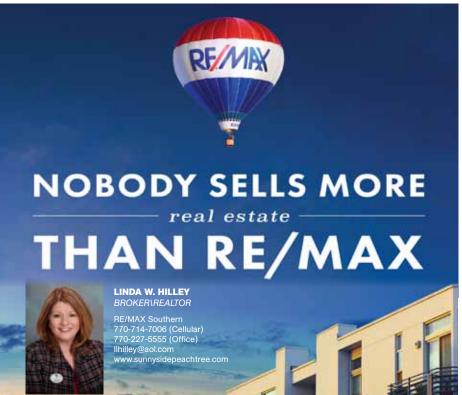
Peach and Norman Bulansky in *The Boys Next Door.* He has worked with Main Street in some capacity almost every season since 2002. Other favorite roles include Selznick in *Moonlight & Magnolias, Amos in Chicago* with the Henry Players and the Thurston rotation in *The Tuna* series, which toured the Southeast.



JASON BROWN (Lighting Technician) is a Griffin native who has been involved in the local arts for a few years. His involvement has included everything from designing programs to being Music Director for a group of students attending Junior Theatre Festival. His passion is working behind the scenes, especially lighting and sound design. He is excited to be working with this talented group of hard working

folks at Main Street once again!







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BJ HUGHES (Director and Scenic Designer) is in his seventh season as resident scenic designer for Main Street Players. Favorite shows he designed include Irma Vep, Inherit the Wind, The 1940's Radio Hour, Crimes of the Heart, A Trip to Bountiful, Titanic, the Musical, and Cotton Patch Gospel. In addition he has directed and designed 39 Steps, The Boys Next Door, The Odd Couple, Crimes of the Heart, A Trip to

Bountiful, Deathtrap, Ten Little Indians, On Golden Pond, and The Little Foxes. BJ has also produced and designed over 100 productions for Alliance Theatre Education as well as directing more than 80 of them. He has been a teaching artist there for 30 years. As an actor, BJ toured America for three years in classical productions of Shakespeare and Molière before settling in Atlanta where he has performed at the Theatrical Outfit, Horizon Theater, and Theatre in the Square and at the Alliance Theatre.



NORMA RICHARDSON (Artistic Director/ Costumes) is one of the founders of Main Street Theatre. Her theatre experience includes: acting, directing, writing and production management. She has been involved with theatre for most of her life and has appeared on a number of Atlanta stages. With Main Street, her credits include: Irma Vep, Inherit the Wind, Nunset Blvd., Titanic-The Musical,

Tuesday's With Morrie, Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and Then Some), Mama Won't Fly, Our Town, and on stage productions include; Southern Comforts, Driving Miss Daisy, The Little Foxes, The Guys, Steel Magnolias, Grace & Glorie, and Same Time Next Year. Her career in television began with Turner Broadcasting/CNN. After leaving Turner, she was an Executive Vice President with Primerica and General Manager for their corporate television production department for over 20 years. She is a native of Griffin, Georgia and is the Founding Artistic Director of Main Street Players.

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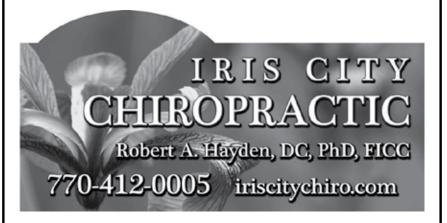
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