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Vanities
May 6 - 8, 2007

Tech Tonies
May 10, 2007

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Supported by a grant from the Louisiana State Arts Council, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism and the Shreveport Regional Arts Council



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- John Allen (73), Alumni Association president



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Louisiana Tech University Theatre presents...

Winner of the Arthur W. Stone New Play Award

GUIDED TOUR

written by Peter Snoad

Scenic Design
David Kaul

Lighting Design
Casey Franklin

Costume Design
Joscelyne Oktabetz*



Properties Design
Noelle Smith

Sound Design
James Lanus*

Choreographer
Laura M. Beeman

Production Stage Manager
Katy Swann*

Directed by
Kenneth Robbins*

Production Team

Assistant Stage Manager..... Alice Allen*

Production Assistant..... Erron Clement

Dance Captain..... Laura M. Beeman

Technical Director..... Don Stevens*

Light Board Operator..... Rebecca Riisness*

Sound Board Operator..... Matthew Bass*

Wardrobe Crew..... Michaela Madison* and Amanda Tatum

Running Crew..... Cast and Crew Members

Set Construction Crew..... Theatre Majors and Minors & SPTH 290 Students

University Theatre Front of House Staff

Business Managers..... Leigh Anne Chambers*, Alice Allen*

Publicity Directors..... Sean Stewart Stevens, Natalie Weaver*

Publicity Assistant..... Anastasia Trammell

Accounts Manager..... Amy Updegraff

Box Office Manager..... Andrea Alexander*

Box Office Staff..... Sarah Spivey, Jami Windham, and Erron Clement

Box Office Night of Show..... Andrea Alexander*, Jami Windham, and Sarah Spivey

House Manager..... Leigh Ann Chambers*

*Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, National Theatre Honorary

Director's Notes

Here are the goals for the first biennial Arthur W. Stone New Play Award established by the School of the Performing Arts Department of Theatre:

- (1) To find the best possible play for production at Louisiana Tech
- (2) To produce the winning play as part of our main stage season
- (3) To bring the playwright to Ruston
- (4) To become part of the developing theatrical scene of the 21st century

With Guided Tour, the School of the Performing Arts has achieved each of these goals. The play is the best available to us out of the 402 full length scripts submitted and as evidenced by tonight's performance, it is being produced as part of our main stage season. The playwright, Peter Snoad, is with us for the final week of rehearsals and first two performances, assisting us with making the production as effective as possible. In addition, he is engaging with our students, faculty, and community in productive ways. What a joy it is to be able to ask the author about his intentions, his expectations, and his future plans for this and other works. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know him, and all in the Department of Theatre thank him profoundly for his drama, his characters, and his vision of the human condition. We also thank the Louisiana State Arts Council, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, the Office of Cultural Development, Department of Cultural Recreation and Tourism, and the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for their support through a Decentralized Arts Funding grant. We could not have accomplished our objectives without the support we have received.

This brings me to the final goal: becoming part of the 21st century theatrical scene. It goes without saying that every play has its beginnings, and it is a privilege to be a part of Guided Tour's initial impact on the world. The challenges of producing new works are significant. These characters have been seen only once before, and if I feel certain that they will be seen many more times to come. The work of the actors in creating Mr. Snoad's people and the visions for the work's existence provided by the student designers and technicians will become part of the play's heritage, regardless of where it finds a stage. And it should find many productions as Guided Tour possesses so many qualities unique to our world. That is what we mean by striving to become part of the theatrical future. Few theatres in this country are willing to devote its full resources to the production of new work, and as a result, the theatre of the 21st century is slow in taking shape. We within the School of the Performing Arts are dedicated to giving new works and new playwrights every opportunity to be explored by our students and experienced by our audiences. In this respect, we will be leaders. After all, isn't that the responsibility of all theatrical producing organizations: to be forging the art forward into the next generation?

Our task does not end with the closing night of Guided Tour. The Second Biennial Arthur W. Stone New Play Award will begin receiving submissions on October 1, 2008, with the goal of once again bringing to the Stone Theatre the very best new play available. The challenges for this project are enormous, matched equally by the benefits. I thank Peter Snoad for his remarkable play and look forward to the inundation of scripts which will begin this coming Fall. Who knows: the next play we select may be yours.

Kenneth Robbins, Director

The Performers

Joe Bell. Nick Harrison
Susanna Hatch. Amy Updegraff
Lindsay Pettigrew. Anastasia Trammell
Martha McNab. Laura M. Beeman
Alonzo. Corwin Jones

THERE WILL BE A 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION.
Out of consideration for fellow audience members and the cast,
please turn off cell phones and beepers.
Please, no flash photography or recording devices.

** Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, National Theatre Honorary*

The Cast



Nick Harrison (Joe Bell) received a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from Grambling State University and a Master's degree in Theatre with a focus in performance from Louisiana Tech. At Louisiana Tech, Nick appeared as Sam in *MASTER HAROLD...and the Boys*, and Sir John Falstaff in *Henry IV Part I*. He was seen as Kallipedes in *Dyskolos (The Grouch)* and most recently as El Brujo in *Zorro*. Nick also performed as Yellow Hawk in the performance of *Blue Jacket* in Ceasar's Ford. Nick received a Tech Tony for Best Male Cameo and another for Outstanding Achievement in Dance. He is currently an assistant professor at Grambling State University and manages wrestlers in his spare time.



Amy Updegraff (Susanna Hatch) is a sophomore Theatre major from Shreveport. Amy appeared last as Sexton in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She portrayed Juanita in *Dearly Departed* and Luisa in *Zorro*. At the International Thespian Conference in 2005, Amy played Isabella in *Broken But Not Torn*. At Caddo Magnet High, Amy played Mary Warren in *The Crucible*, Beth in *Merrily We Roll Along*, and Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Amy is an Honor Thespian member of the International Thespian Society. Amy is currently serving as Treasurer for Tech Theatre Players and is a member of Kappa Delta.



Anastasia Trammell (Lindsay Pettigrew) is a freshman Theatre major from Austin, Texas. Before coming to Louisiana Tech, she portrayed many roles at Georgetown High School including Nellie in *South Pacific* and Ophelia in *Hamlet* in 2006. In 2007, she portrayed Mrs. Pearce in *My Fair Lady* and Emily in *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*. For Georgetown's Summer Lease Stock, she performed as Lavinia in *Titus Andronicus*, Patient Griselda/Nell in *Top Girls*, and Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*. She received the Academic Excellence Award and was a member of the All-Star Cast at District One-Act Play. She was most recently in *Much Ado About Nothing* as a member of the Watch and Ursula at Louisiana Tech in Fall 2007.



Laura M. Beeman (Martha McNab) is a junior Theatre major from Bossier City. She has an Associate of Arts Degree in Theatre from Bossier Parish Community College. While there, she performed as Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and Panacea in *...Forum*. At Shreveport Little Theatre, she portrayed Connie in *Love, Sex, & the IRS*, as well as Catherine Sims in *The Foreigner*. Laura also served as a tour actor/director with the Missoula Children's Theatre. While with MCT, she performed as the White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland* and as the Witch in *Hansel and Gretel*. Laura worked with the Canterbury Summer Theatre in Michigan City, Indiana as an actress, stage manager, and choreographer. Laura was last seen as Leonata in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She would like to thank her husband, Clayton, for his love and support.



Corwin Jones (Alonzo) is a junior Psychology major from Shreveport. He performed in the Wesley Foundation Dinner Theatre in 2006 and 2007 at Grace United Methodist Church. At Louisiana Tech, he played Norvil Nesbit in the 10 minute play festival in Spring 2007 and Bob in the Writer's Workshop in the Fall 2007. He won Best Actor of 10 minute Plays in 2007.

Peter Snoad's plays have been produced and read throughout the U.S. and in Canada. *Guided Tour* had its first full production last year at Centre Stage-South Carolina in Greenville, SC after winning that theatre's New Play Festival in 2006. Previously, the play received three staged readings as a finalist in the national new play contests of Reverie Productions and the Hinton Battle Theatre Lab in New York City, and HRC Showcase Theatre in Hudson, NY. Peter has been honored with two other new play awards for *Guided Tour*: Louisiana Tech's Arthur W. Stone New Play Award and the Stanley Drama Award from Wagner College in Staten Island, NY. Among his other full length plays are *Rosa*, which premiered by Alarm Clock Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts in Boston, MA; *The Boiling House*, a finalist in two new play contests and *Orbiting Mars*, his latest work-in-progress.

Peter's short plays include *My Name in Art*, which was a 2007 Best of Fest selection at the Frontera Fest at the Hyde Park Theatre in Austin, TX, and which has been staged by theatres in California, New York, Massachusetts, and Ontario, Canada, and is published by Original Works Publishing; *Resistance* (produced by Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre for the Pittsburgh New Works Festival); *Entitled* (American Globe Theatre/ Turnip Theatre, New York City, New Gate Theatre, RI and Image Theatre, Lowell, MA); and *A Fresh Start* (Devanaughn Theatre, Boston). As an actor, Peter has been seen on stages in Boston, Vermont and New Hampshire -- favorite roles include the King in *Exit The King* and Sorin in *The Seagull*. Although he's now concentration on writing plays, Peter still does occasional film and voice-over work. He recently narrated a television film broadcast worldwide by the BBC profiling the 2007 Nobel Prize winners.

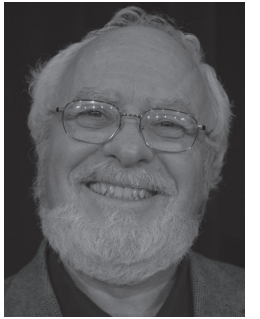
An enthusiastic organic gardener and Boston Red Sox fan, Peter lives in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, MA with his wife, Mindy, and daughter, Sasha. He is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild of America, the American Federation of Tele-

Meet the Playwright
Peter Snoad



Creative Team

Dr. Kenneth Robbins* (Director) has served as Director of the School of the Performing Arts since 1998, coming to Tech after thirteen years as Professor of Theatre at the University of South Dakota. Highlights of his career include recognition by the College of Education, Georgia Southern University, as Alum of the year, Louisiana Division of the Arts as a Fellowship recipient in Theatre, a Japan Foundation Arts Fellowship, and an appointment as a Fulbright Scholar to Skopje, Macedonia where he taught American Studies at Sts. Cyril and Methodius University. He has directed professionally at the Barter Theatre in Virginia, the Black Hills Playhouse in South Dakota, Stage West in Nebraska, and the Jacksonville Summer Repertory Theatre in Florida.



David E. Kaul (Scenic Design) is a second year graduate student from West Monroe. David received his Bachelor's from the University of Alabama. He worked as Technical Director for Strauss Theatre in Monroe from 1989-2005. He served as production designer for the Miss Louisiana Pageant at the Monroe Civic Center from 2000-2004. He designed lights for *LA Lyric Opera* at University of Louisiana at Monroe. David is a two-time nominee for Outstanding Artist by NELA Arts Council. He is a member of the State Contractor's Association and is also a member of IATSE, local 688.



Casey Franklin (Lighting Design) is a second year graduate student from Natchitoches, and has his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Louisiana Tech University. In 2005, Casey performed as Clyde in *Pump Boys and Dinettes*. He performed in *Opera Workshop 2005, 2006, and 2007*. He was seen as Ramon in *Zorro* at Louisiana Tech and last seen as Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing*.



Joscelyne Oktabetz* (Costume Design) is a junior Theatre major from Baton Rouge. At Louisiana Tech, she has portrayed Donna in *Gave Her the Eye* and Emma in *The Maternal Instinct*. Joscelyne was a Cantina Wench in *Zorro* and Shila in *Paint it Red and Call It Art*. She was last seen as Corad in *Much Ado About Nothing*.

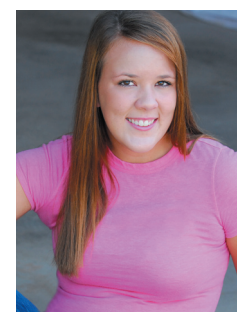


James Lanus III* (Sound Design) is a senior Theatre major from St. Francisville, LA. James is the founder and Artistic Director for the St. Francisville Transitory Theatre. He has served as producer and projectionist for *The Alphabet Backwards* as well as Production Coordinator for *You Can't Take It With You* for the St. Francisville Transitory Theatre. He was Production Stage Manager for *Dearly Departed* at Louisiana Tech. He worked as the sound engineer for *Zorro*. James is currently serving as President of Tech Theatre Players and preparing for a company composition of "Alice in Wonderland" this summer.





Noelle Smith (Properties Design) is a junior Theatre major from Tyler, Texas. She has served as House Manager for *Dearly Departed*, *Zorro*, and *Opera Workshop 2007*. She served as Assistant Stage Manager for *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Opera Workshop 2008*.



Katy Swann* (Production Stage Manager) is a junior theatre major from Oklahoma City. Last year, Katy served as Assistant Stage Manager for *W;T*, *The Opera Workshop*, and *Zorro*. She also played Nadine in last year's *Dearly Departed* and has performed at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Katy currently serves as the Recruitment Coordinator for the Theatre Department.



Don Stevens* (Technical Director) serves as the Technical Director and Instructor for the University Theatre. He has written, directed, and produced six shows for Big Bad Productions. A graduate of Louisiana Tech's Master's program, Mr. Stevens was awarded the John C. Trisler Award in 2003 and the Vera Alice Paul Award in 2004. As one of the founders of C.H.A.T. (Coffee House Acting Troup), he has been involved in bringing new works by local playwrights to the Ruston area. He has also been involved in productions with the University of Louisiana at Monroe, the University of the Ozarks, Louisiana Tech University and Ruston Community Theatre as an actor, director and technician. Mr. Stevens is a fencing instructor and teaches in Ruston.



Laura M. Beeman (Choreographer) is a junior Theatre major from Bossier City. Laura has been a choreographer for over 15 shows. Professionally, Laura has choreographed for Canterbury Summer Theatre in Michigan City, Indiana. Her favorite shows to choreograph at Canterbury include *Brigadoon*, *Mame*, and *Man of La Mancha*. In Shreveport, Laura most recently choreographed the Louisiana Premier of *High School Musical*, as well as *Guys and Dolls* for the Performing Arts Center. She has also choreographed *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Great American Trailer Park the Musical*, and *I Do! I Do!* at Shreveport Little Theatre. Laura choreographed several shows at Bossier Parish Community College, where she was an adjunct teacher, instructing the Dance for the Stage classes. Her favorite shows to have choreographed for BPCC include *Cinderella*, *Grease*, and *Peter Pan*.

University Theatre Faculty

Cherrie Sciro* is the Coordinator of Theatre and Professor in the School of the Performing Arts at Tech. Her Broadway and national credits include Production Coordinator of the Tony Award-winning productions *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Miss Saigon*. She was also the Production Manager for the Olympic Games in Barcelona and Atlanta. Her most treasured directing experience here at Tech is the 1999 production of *Six Women with Brain Death...*, which was awarded a total of 21 awards throughout the region and state, including the Richard A. Weaver Best Production Award, a first for the University Theatre. She directed last year's fall production of *W;t*, a play close to her heart because of its promotion for cancer awareness.

Mark D. Guinn* is an anomaly within his profession. Dancing the sword's edge between the artistic and production side of theatre, Mark found theatre searching for a new way to light his meta-matic sculptures. Twenty years later, with a lighting instrument in one hand and a sword in the other fightin', lightin', and directin' shows from NYC to Yokahoma and Memphis to Banff, Mark continues to pursue Einstein's observation, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science."

Paul B. Crook* teaches undergraduate, graduate acting and directing courses at Tech and supervises all student directing projects, he also serves as the Director of Recruiting for the Theatre Department. Productions directed at Tech include *Dearly Departed* and the World Premiere of *Such Stuff*. Professionally, Paul has acted and directed in a variety of theatres around the country. This past summer he directed *Macbeth* and *Smoke on the Mountain* for the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival in Durant, Oklahoma and *Smoke on the Mountain Homecoming* for Theatre Tuscaloosa in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Paul is married to Mary Fran Crook, and they have three children: George, CeCe, and Bryant Ford.

Dr. Kenneth Robbins has served as Director of the School of the Performing Arts since 1998, coming to Tech after thirteen years as Professor of Theatre at the University of South Dakota. Highlights of his career include recognition by the College of Education, Georgia Southern University, as Alum of the year, Louisiana Division of the Arts as a Fellowship recipient in Theatre, a Japan Foundation Arts Fellowship, and an appointment as a Fulbright Scholar to Skopje, Macedonia where he taught American Studies at Sts. Cyril and Methodius University. He has directed professionally at the Barter Theatre in Virginia, the Black Hills Playhouse in South Dakota, Stage West in Nebraska, and the Jacksonville Summer Repertory Theatre in Florida.

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Dianne Maroney-Grigsby is the Staff Choreographer at Louisiana Tech and teaches Dance for the Theatre. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Grambling State University and her Master of Arts from Louisiana Tech University. Dianne has instructed dance students in America, Europe, Asia, and Africa for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. She is also the choreographer for the Orchesis Dance Company. Ms. Maroney-Grigsby has been the featured dancer in Twin City Ballet Company. Her training is in Modern, Horton, Graham, Classical Ballet, Tap and Jazz techniques.

