

# Proof

Written by David Auburn  
Directed by Paul B. Crook



# {PROOF}

A Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play by David Auburn

Sarah Flanagan

Aaron M. Anthon

Molly Page

Jacob D. Guinn

Lighting Design

Steven Vick

Sound Design

Jamie Robinson

Properties Design

Kelsey Mardis

Costume Design

Destiny Garcia

Scenic Design

Rachael Anne Pace

Hair/Makeup Design

Alicia M. Goodman

Production Stage Manager

Payton D. Wilburn

Assistant Director

Rowan Johnson

Directed by  
Paul B. Crook

Special Thanks to

Second Chance Retail and Consignment

and David Morgan

for your help in making our production possible.

Up Next...

## The Suicide

Written by Nikolai Erdman

Directed by Nigel Poulton

(April 23-27 + April 30) - May 4, 2013

7:30pm [Stone Theatre]

Auditions will be held March 12 + 13

We are excited to welcome Mr. Poulton as our guest director, who is coming to us directly from his work with Gladiator star Russell Crowe.





Cherrie Sciro is the Coordinator of Theatre and Professor in the School of the Performing Arts at Louisiana Tech. She is also known nationally for her Broadway credits which include Production coordinator of the tony award- winning productions of *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and *Doin' What Comes Natur'lly*; an All-star tribute to Ethel Merman, featuring Laine Kazan, Patti LuPone, Andrea Martin, Elaine Stritch and Bette Midler. In addition she was also the Road Manager for the 1999 Hard Rock Rockfest in Atalnta, GA, and the Stage Manger for the 2001 New Year's Eve in Time Square in New York City. Her International credits include the London, England productions of *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Follies*, and *Sunset Boulevard*. She also served as the Production Manager for the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain and Atlanta, Georgia.



Don Stevens is the Technical Director and has written, directed, and produced six shows for Big Bad Productions. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech's Master's program and recieved his second MA in English in the summer of 2011. Don 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 Troupe), he has been involved in bringing new works by local playwrights to the Ruston area, and has 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. Don is a fencing instructor.

# The Performers

- Sarah Flanagan.....Catherine
- Aaron Michael Anthon.....Hal
- Molly Page.....Claire
- Jacob D. Guinn.....Robert
- Abigail Machowski.....Flautist

# Production Team

- Director.....Paul B. Crook
- Production Stage Manager.....Payton Wilburn
- Assistant Director.....Rowan Johnson
- First Assistant Stage Manager.....Katie Dumas
- Production Assistant.....Hannah Miglicco
- Dramaturg.....Richard Bennett
- Technical Director.....Don Stevens
- Light Board Operator.....Sydney Mayeux
- Sound Board Operator.....Alison Wyant



## Director's Notes

What is "genius?" How do we define it and how do we recognize it? Why is it so often linked to mental illness or mental instability? These are just a few of the questions explored by David Auburn in his Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning play, *Proof*. Auburn never answers those questions, indeed, he never sets out to do so, but he leads us through various examinations of them with his play.

Interestingly enough, Auburn didn't set out to write a play about genius--or math. Instead, he began with an interest in writing a play about two siblings fighting over the provenance of an important document believed to be written by a recently-deceased parent. From that germ of an idea, coupled with his reading of G.H. Hardy's *A Mathematician's Apology*, the play *Proof* was born. And while the play certainly features the origin of the idea, it expands and covers so much more.

One of the things that has drawn me to this play, from the time I first saw it performed, is how detailed and layered it is. I've often said that this play isn't really about math...but if that's your frame of reference, then it is. Also, depending on where you're viewing the play from, it's about: dysfunctional families, mental illness, filial love and responsibility, the human capacity for generosity, burgeoning love, and yes, genius. The genius (there's that word again, sorry) of this play is that each person who sees it will find themselves watching a show different from the people in the seats to either side.

Wow, that's a mouthful! So. From my seat, then, the view of *Proof* is a study of the human capacity for greatness, and the toll it can take on the mind. I am fascinated by the way that we, as humans, interact with brilliance when we encounter it, for it certainly can be intimidating. With each viewing of the play, I am intrigued anew by our fears of the greatness and the genius we are capable of ourselves. When asked, in the play, how good her head for numbers is, Claire responds with "...I guess I got about one-one-thousandth of my father's ability. It's enough." Why doesn't Claire want more? Is there more that she's capable of, but she's just avoiding? How much is "enough?"

These questions, and more, are what have drawn me to this play. In fact, it's the exploration of questions that draw me to any great work of Art. And, I think, the questions posed by great Art are what keep us coming back again and again.

Thank you for joining us this evening. Collaborating with our student Artists is always a joy, and we are pleased that you can be here to share in the collaboration. We hope you enjoy tonight's show, and that you'll come back and join us again in the future.

-Paul B. Crook,  
Director



Dianne Maroney-Grigsby is the Staff Choreographer and an Instructor in the School of the Performing Arts. 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 Orchestis Dance Company. Dianne has been the featured dancer in Twin City Ballet Company. Her training is in Modern, Horton, Graham, Classical Ballet, Tap and Jazz techniques. She teaches Dance for the Theatre.

Let X equal the quantity of all quantities of X.

Let X equal the cold.

It is cold in December. The months of cold equal November through February.



Dr. Kenneth Robbins has recently stepped down as Director of the School of the Performing Arts and to focus on his role as Professor and playwright. 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.

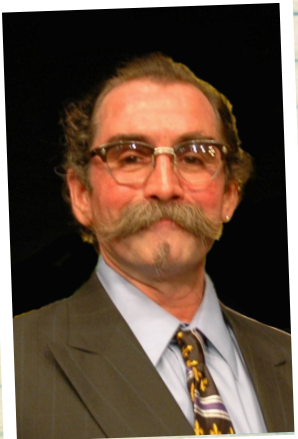
The bookstores are infinite and so are never full except in September.



# Theatre Faculty



Paul B. Crook is an Associate Professor of acting and directing and supervises all student directing projects, in addition to directing and occasionally acting for the Department of Theatre. He also serves as the Director of Recruiting for the Department. Paul has previously served as the Director of Theatre Arts for Andrew College in Cuthbert, GA; as the Artistic Coordinator for the SecondStage Theatre in Tuscaloosa, AL; as the Associate Artistic Director for the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival in Durant, OK; and currently serves as the Artistic Director of The B & B Theatre, a professional summer theatre company that he formed with his wife, Mary Fran, a theatre professor at Grambling State University. Paul and Mary Fran have four precocious children: George, CeCe, Bryant Ford, and Mary Ellis.



Mark D. Guinn is the Director of the School of Performing Arts, Production Manager and Professor in the SPA. He 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." Mark recieved the 2010-2011 University Senate Chair Award as the "outstanding professor of the year."

# The Performers

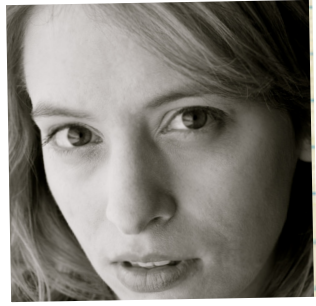


Sarah Flanagan (Catherine) is a first year graduate assistant from Western New York. Graduating summa cum laude from Fredonia State University with a BA in Theatre and a second BA in Movement, she is thrilled to be continuing her theatre education here at LA Tech. Past credits outside the department include working for Trumpet in the Land Amphitheatre for two years as a properties master, stage manager, scenic artist, and actor; fight captain, Young Macduff, Young Siward, and others in Macbeth, directing for Fredonia's annual 24 Hour Play Project; and designer/director for Creative Arts Theatre Stars (CATS) of Ellicottville, a nonprofit children's summer theatre program sponsored by her hometown's Rotary Foundation. Sarah is a registered Actor/Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors.

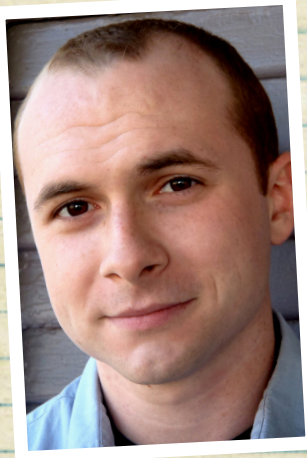


Aaron Michael Anthon (Hall/Harold Dobbs) is a first year graduate student from Monroe, LA. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from University of Louisiana at Monroe. At Louisiana Tech he played the roll of Cig-Man in KAB Man, Hortensio in Taming of the Shrew, Henry in Frankenstein, and Hans Van Ripper in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow with the Strauss Young Troupe. With the Strauss main-stage he played Noodul (Chuck's boys) in Footloose. He would like to thank his family for their love and support.





Molly Page (Claire) is thrilled to be onstage this quarter in her first acting role at LA Tech. Previous credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *The Miracle Worker* (Kate Keller), *Noises Off!* (Brooke), *Twelfth Night* (Maria), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Kitty). A native of Northeast Alabama, Molly graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Alabama with a degree in English. Thanks to Sally for being a sister and friend, wholly unlike the two David Auburn wrote



Jacob D. Guinn (Robert) is a senior Theatre major here at Louisiana Tech University. Most recently, Jacob has been seen on the LA Tech stage as KAB Man and was a performer in the production of *Fights Before Christmas*. Last summer, Jacob traveled a whirlwind tour of 4 different theatres in North Carolina, West Virginia and Ohio. He has worked professionally as a Fight Director, Pyrotechnician, and Actor. Currently he is working as an armorer for Lightningheart Armory, a company he co-founded with fellow LA Tech Student Richard Bennett. Jacob is very excited to be performing for you this evening and hopes that you enjoy yourself and continue to support local theatre!



Abigail Machowski (Flautist) is a freshman Theatre major from Bossier City, LA. She is a graduate from Parkway High School. She would like to thank her mother and father for their continuous support, and show gratitude for the support of her high school theatre teacher Julie Edwards. Abbie is a member of LA Tech University's Band of Pride.

## Tech Theatre Players

Come and join the oldest social organization at Louisiana Tech.

Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:05pm.

President - Rachael Anne Pace

Vice President - Jacob D. Guinn

Secretary - Alison Wyant

Treasurer - Paula Rae Brown

Parliamentarian - Rhett Davis

Historian - Steven Vick

## ΑΨΩ

National Theatre Honor Society

President - Payton D. Wilburn

Vice President - Rowan Johnson

Treasurer - Thomas Comb

Secretary - Destiny Garcia

# Administrative Team

Executive Director.....Cherrie Sciro

Business Manager.....Alicia M. Goodman

Publicity Directors.....Rowan Johnson + Rachael Pace

Accounts Manager.....Payton Wilburn

Box Office Manager.....Molly Page

House Manager.....Lasharae Jacobs



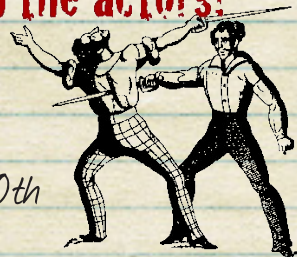


Kelsey T. Mardis (Properties Design) is a senior Theatre major. She is extremely excited to be a part of another wonderful Louisiana Tech Theatre production. She has previously had the pleasure of working professionally at Horn in the West Outdoor Drama in Boon, NC, most recently this summer as the properties designer/master. She extends all of the love and good vibes to her theatre family, near and far, her biological family that supports her ridiculous endeavors, mentors, squirrels, and her hammock.



Jamie Robinson (Sound Designer) is a junior theatre major from Oak Grove, Louisiana. This is her first opportunity to sound design, but her previous theatrical experience includes: Fastrada in Pippin, Trash Ninja in KAB Man, First Assistant Stage Manager for Our Town, and Second Assistant Stage Manager for So In Love. Jamie is also a singer/songwriter/guitarist, playing at such venues as Six Flags Over Dallas, the Louisiana Hayride, Nashville Palace, and was a co-host of the local Nashville television show Nashville Spotlight. Jamie's other credits include fifteen years of training with Missy Crain School of Dance, serving as an assistant instructor for three.

## don't stab the actors!



Twenty-second Annual  
Stage Combat Workshop

Louisiana Tech University, March 29th + 30th

[www.latechuniversitytheatre.com/pages/stagecombat.html](http://www.latechuniversitytheatre.com/pages/stagecombat.html)

For more information, please call (318).257.5271 or email [scu@latech.com](mailto:scu@latech.com)

# Production Team



Payton D. Wilburn (Production Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre major from Pineville, LA. This is her first time to PSM. She is the president of APO, a coach for Bulldog Aquatics Club, and a published poet. She would like to thank her parents for believing in her, Kyle for supporting her, her dog Kora for always greeting her with a wagging tail, and her theatre family for all the love over the past four years. And Rachael (you're my BFF and I love you with my whole heart).



Rowan Johnson (Assistant Director) comes to us from an international physical theatre background. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Hendrix College, and has traveled extensively pursuing higher education in movement and drama at such schools as the Accademia dell'Arte, Flic Scuola di Circo, and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Johnson is a member of the International Order of the Sword and Pen, the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat, and the Society of American Fight Directors. She has recently directed *We Are Thy Labyrinth* for the SDU International Arda Kanpolat Theatre Festival in Antalya, Turkey, and physical theatre productions across Italy. She would like to thank her IOSP family for encouraging her to never stop training, and give a special salute to Clive Hobson for insisting that she eat, sleep, and dream amongst the chaos.



A good day. Some very good news from Catherine.



Rachael Anne Pace (Scenic Design/Charge Artist) is a senior Theatre major from Covington, LA. This is her first opportunity to do scenic design, and she would like to thank her professors for helping her through this exciting process. One of her favorite acting roles at Tech was KeeLaBelle (Irene Ryan Nomination) in *KAB Man*, who doesn't like to be a trash-fighting superhero? superhero? She is the president of TTP, a member of APO, and will be going to KCACTF for the 10-minute play festival. Rachael loves her theatre family, Payton "P-Willy Pegleg" Wilburn, band member Kelsey "Short-stach" Mardis, long lost Irish sister Sarah Flanagan, and her lovely roomies for putting up with the kitchen-converted-drafting table design chaos. She has

I know I'll get there. I am an auto and hears a faint cough. I am not in the world's cause for optimism. Talking with students helps. So does being outside, eating meals in restaurants, riding busses, all the activities of 'normal life.



Alicia M. Goodman (Hair and Makeup Design) is a second year graduate student from Arcadia, Florida. At Flagler College, she received her B.A. in Theatre Arts. Her previous hair and makeup designs include *Pippin*, *Opera Workshop: Love and Luck*, and assistant designer for *Our Town*. She is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, Alpha Chi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Golden Key Honor Societies.

Most of all Cathy. The years she has lost caring for me. I almost wrote 'wasted'. Yet her refusal to let me be institutionalized--her keeping me at home, caring for me herself has certainly saved my life. Made writing this possible. Made it possible to imagine doing math again.

Where does her strength come from? I can never repay her.



Paula Rae Brown (Co-Lighting Designer) is a senior theatre major originally from Jackson, MS. In 2012, she was Assistant to the Lighting Designer for *Robin Hood*. She is excited to take another step in her discovery of design. She thanks the faculty, especially Paul B. Crook, Cherrie Sciro, and Mark Guinn for their belief in her desire and drive. To her Co-Designer, Steven Vick, she gives the most solid of fist bumps. She congratulates her fellow seniors who each serve lead roles in the cast and creative team. *Proof* is a show that has been near and dear to her heart for years, and she is grateful for the chance to contribute to its production so creatively. Like a tangent dragon, y'all!



Steven B. Vick (Co-Lighting Designer) is a sophomore theatre major. His previous experience includes Lighting Assistant for *Pippin* in spring 2012 as well as lighting design for *Fights Before Christmas* and *Opera Workshop: Love and Luck*. He is the Historian of Tech Theatre Players. He was born in Baton Rouge, but raised in El Dorado, AR.

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Destiny Garcia (Costume Design) is a junior and double majoring in Biology and Theatre. She is from New Orleans and came to Tech with a Presidential Scholarship. This is her second show to design costumes for, after La Tech's Production of *Pippin* last Spring. She has also acted on the Stone Theatre stage in such roles as Annie Oakley and Mrs. Potts in *Opera Workshop*, and Mrs. Soames in *Our Town*. She feels very fortunate to have landed in such a supportive and creative academic environment with so many talented mentors.