2014 Festival of New American Plays

Downstage Theatre
April 8 - April 12, 2014

Entropy
by Jack Heifner
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8 & Friday, April 11

A Southern Belle Primer
(Or Why Princess Margaret Could Never Be a Kappa Kappa Gamma)
by Ted Swindley
Adapted from the book by Maryln Schwartz
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 & 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12

Full Buck Moon
by Staci Swedeen
7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10 & Saturday, April 12

Recommended for mature audiences

Sponsored in part by:

[Logos for TIPTONFordLincoln and SEA Theatre]
2013 - 2014

MAINSTAGE
Series

Stephen F. Austin State University
College of Fine Arts, School of Theatre and Mainstage Series
Present

April 8th - 12th, 2014

SFA Theatre
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Festival of New American Plays

Director: Jack Heifner

Assistant Director: Nick Pinelli*
Production Manager: April Gore*
Scenery: Angela Bacarisse
Lighting Design: Angela Bacarisse
Sound Design: Elyse Dishman

Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Theatre
is a member of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and
the Texas Educational Theatre Association, and an accredited
member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Sponsored in part by:

TIPTON Ford Lincoln
Nacogdoches, TX
Festival of New American Plays

Entropy

by

Jack Heifner

The Cast

Lee Ann..........................Anna Goldberg*
Eric.................................Tanner O'Neal
Sybil..............................Heather Abbott*
Larry...............................Joshua Wallace
Matt...............................Chipper Morris*
Candy..............................Sydney Whigam
Marta..............................Sarah Chavez*

Costume Design
Delia Owens

Fight Co-coordinators
Daniel Miller* and Nick Pinelli*

Stage Manager
Stephen Davis

Evening 1
7:30 p.m. April 8 and 11
Downstage Theatre

Time: The present and recent past.
Place: Various locations in Washington, D.C., and suburban Virginia.

There will be one ten minute intermission.

Credits marked with an asterisk (*) indicates that the student is a member of the Beta Phi cast of the Alpha Psi Omega, the national dramatics honors society.
A Southern Belle Primer
(or Why Princess Margaret Could Never be a Kappa Kappa Gamma)

by

Ted Swindley

Adapted from the book by Maryln Schwartz

The Cast

Hostess............................................................Katy Rutherford*
Daughter.............................................................Vanessa Hendricks*
Granddaughter.....................................................Cecily Maucieri
Hare Krishna................................................................John Brokow

Costume Design

Angela Bacarisse, Barbara Blackwell
Delia Owens

Stage Manager

Monika Zimmermann*

Evening 2
7:30 p.m. April 9 and 2 p.m. April 12
Downstage Theatre

Time: Spring
Place: The living room of "Ten Oaks Plantation" in Natchez, Miss.

There will be no intermission.

Credits marked with an asterisk (*) indicates that the student is a member of the Beta Phi cast of the Alpha Psi Omega, the national dramatics honors society.
SFA Theatre
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
Festival of New
American Plays
Presents

Full Buck Moon
by
Staci Swedeen

The Cast
Jill.................................................. Sloan Frierson*
Richard........................................... Keenan Chaisson
Buck............................................... Michael Dizon

Costume Design
Angela Bacarisse, Barbara Blackwell

Fight Co-coordinators
Daniel Miller* and Nick Pinelli*

Stage Manager
Connor Clark*

Evening 3
7:30 p.m. April 10 and 12
Downstage Theatre
Time: July
Place: A rustic cabin in the Catskills

There will be no intermission.

Credits marked with an asterisk (*) indicates that the student is a member of the Beta Phi cast of the Alpha Psi Omega, the national dramatics honors society.
Production Staff

Hair and Makeup Assistant Designer................................. Celeste Galey
Light Board Operator...................................................... Greg Albright
Sound Board Operator................................................... Shelby Gilliam
Floor Run Crew.............................................................. Rain Halbut, Amanda Lee, John Brokaw, Anna Drake
Wardrobe Master............................................................ Brianna Veselka
Wardrobe Assistant........................................................ Carly Nunn
Master Electrician.......................................................... Kaycee Counts
Props Master................................................................. Jalen Clark

Special Thanks
Tipton Ford, Rhonda Williams, Mark Porter, Susan Schindler, Melissa McMillan-Cunningham, Ronnie Clark, Florence Lunsford, Lisa Rodriguez, Rick Jones, Richard Ellis, Liz Barkowsky, Jason Monmaney, CC Conn

The taking of photographs or the use of any other recording device is strictly prohibited. Please turn off mobile phones and any personal devices.

Technical Staff

Technical Director.......................................................... Mark Porter
Assistant Technical Director............................................ Steve Bacarisse
Costume Shop Supervisor............................................... Barbara Blackwell
Administrative Assistant................................................. Liz Barkowsky
Publicity............................................................................ Robbie Goodrich, Office of Arts Information
Box Office Manager.......................................................... Diane J. Peterson
Prop Storage...................................................................... Bruce Moran, Head; Victoria Stoner, Assistant

Director’s Notes

Welcome to the Ninth Biennial Festival of New American Plays. This week we are proud to present exciting new works by our guest playwrights Staci Swedeen and Ted Swindley. The plays you are about to see performed are presented as “staged readings.” Professional theatres and producers use such readings in order to involve audiences and actors in the process of new play development. Plays are meant to be performed, and the best way to see whether a new play works is to present it in front of a live audience. This is where you come in—and we thank you for being here!

Each play in the festival has had only 10 rehearsals. The actors will be performing with the script in their hands, relying on their talent and training to interpret the text without the advantage of a long rehearsal process. These reading have been
designed to concentrate on the words of the playwrights and the talents of our young performers and designers. We have included a minimal amount of scenery, costumes and lights to give the writers what they envisioned in their scripts. We are attempting to present the world of the play as closely as possible to what the author has written. The results may be a different type of theatre from what you are accustomed to seeing. Our hope is that you will find this event both adventurous and exciting.

One of my goals when we started the Festival in 1998 was to bring established writers to our campus to work with our students. In the past, we have welcomed such famous American writers as Tina Howe, David Ives, Carol Hall, James McLure, Beth Henley, Gretchen Cryer, William M Hoffman, Barbara LeBow, John Cariani and Constance Congdon. We have always asked our invited playwrights to send us any script they wished to hear and, in return, we have promised to give them our best interpretation of the text. Another goal has been to give audiences in Nacogdoches the unique opportunity to see new plays while they are being created. Our first eight festivals were great successes. Now with this ninth festival, I hope the community will once again enjoy this celebration of “new theatre in the making.”

I wish to thank the faculty and staff of the School of Theatre. My special thanks to Professor Scott Shattuck for his guidance, to Nick Pinelli, my assistant director, for his creative contribution, and to April Gore for keeping this big machine running smoothly. I commend the cast, designers, stage managers and crew for the work they have done. Watching these young theatre artists learn and grow is the primary reason we are here. Finally, to Staci and Ted—thank you for trusting us with your plays and for coming to visit our campus. You inspire us with your words and astound us with your generosity.

Jack Heifner,
Playwright-In-Residence

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**About the Company**

HEATHER ABBOTT (Sybil, Entropy) is a junior theatre major and a graduate of Garland High School. Her SFA acting credits include Stage Door, The Madwoman of Chaillot, How I Became A Pirate, W/t, and The First Fireworks. She is a member of Improv Strikes Back.

SARAH CHAVEZ (Marta, Entropy) is a junior theatre major and a graduate of Chireno High School. On the SFA Mainstage, she has performed in Dead Man’s Cell Phone, The Madwoman of Chaillot, Three Sisters, Stage Door, and Charlotte’s Web. She has also directed Language of Angels and Quandary in Quanda.

KEENAN R. CHIASSON (Richard, FBM) is a freshman theatre major and a graduate of George Ranch High School. His previous performances at SFA include Romeo and Juliet on the Mainstage the student-directed productions Lone Star and Language of Angels.

MICHAEL DIZON (Buck, FBM) is a sophomore theatre major and a graduate of Rowlett High School. His previous SFA performance credits include roles in the student-directed productions of The Valiant and The Sandbox; this is his first appearance in a Mainstage.

SLOAN FRIERSON (Jill, FBM), is a junior theatre major, graduated from Center Point High School. Her SFA acting credits include Charlotte’s Web, Stage Door, spam: in all lowercase letters, Three Sisters, and A Midsummer Night’s Dream.
About the Company

She also directed 10,000 Cigarettes and assistant directed Godspell and Wjt. She is co-historian of Alpha Psi Omega and works part-time in the costume shop.

ANNA LEIGH GOLDBERG (Lee Ann, Entropy) is a junior theatre major and a graduate of Homer Hanna High School. She has performed in Charlotte’s Web, Godspell, Stage Door, The Madwoman of Chaillot, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Wjt, Adam and the Experts, The Second Beam, and The First Fireworks. She is a member of Improv Strikes Back.

VANESSA HENDRICKS (Daughter, SBP) has acted in Stage Door, How I Became A Pirate, Brilliants, and How to Succeed..., among others. Directing credits include Wjt, Tunnel of Love and The Tarantino Variation. She is the president of Alpha Psi Omega, and served on the Student Productions Advisory Committee. She is currently student teaching and assistant directing at Chapel Hill High School.

CECILY MAUCIERI (Granddaughter, SBP) is a freshman theatre major and a graduate of Plano East Senior High School, where she acted in several productions. At SFA, she has performed with Improv Strikes Back and worked in the props storage last semester.

CHIPPER MORRIS (Matt, Entropy) is a sophomore theatre major and a graduate of South Grand Prairie HS. He has performed in Dead Man’s Cell Phone, Charlotte’s Web, Stage Door, and the student productions Language of Angels, Melissa McHiney McNormous McWhale and Right Sensation. He also performed with Improv Strikes Back.

TANNER O’NEAL (Eric, Entropy) is a freshman theatre major and a graduate of Pine Tree High School. He has previously appeared on the SFA Mainstage in Romeo and Juliet, and in the student production The Valiant. He has also worked on crews for Blood Wedding and Lone Star.

KATY RUTHERFORD (Hostess, SBP) is a junior theatre major and a graduate of Foster High School. Her Mainstage credits include Stage Door, Steel Magnolias, and Three Sisters. She has also appeared in the student-directed Wjt, Miracle at Blaise, and The Second Beam. She recently directed Now We’re Really Getting Somewhere and currently serves as a member of SPAC.

JOSHUA WALLACE (Larry, Entropy) is a senior theatre major and previously attended Kilgore College. His SFA performances include Romeo and Juliet, Stage Door and Charlotte’s Web on the Mainstage, and the student-directed 2B (or not 2B). He was also on crew for Woman and Scarecrow.

SYDNEY WHIGAM (Candy, Entropy) is a freshman theatre major and a graduate of George Ranch High School. This is her first time appearing on the SFA Mainstage. Over the summer, she has worked as the choreographer and assistant director for a high school workshop at George Ranch High School.

Staff

ANGELA BACARISSE (Lighting and Scenic Designer; Costume Designer, SBP and FBM) received her BA in theatre from the University of Delaware and her MFA in Theatre Design from the University of Memphis. Angela supervises all costume and makeup designs for the School of Theatre productions. Her designs have also been seen at the Texas Shakespeare Festival, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Blowing Rock Stage Company, Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, East Texas Opera, Pioneer Valley Summer Theatre and the Summer Theatre at Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts, and the Asheville Lyric Opera. As a cutter draper,
she has worked on productions at the Alley Theatre in Houston, the Texas Shakespeare Festival, The Mac-Hayden Musical Theatre, and the Georgia Shakespeare Festival. She also has worked extensively with Dance companies in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas as a lighting designer. She worked in the wardrobe department for the films “Great Balls of Fire!” and “Ace Ventura 2: When Nature Calls,” and was the head tailor on the television series “Good Rockin’ Tonight.” She has also designed music videos for producer Joanne Cash.

BARBARA BLACKWELL (Costume Designer FBM / SBP / Costume Shop Supervisor) has been the costume shop supervisor at SFA since 2000 and teaches the Costume Technology lab. Her past designs include Blood Wedding, Godspell, “Master Harold”...and the boys, and Jump for Joy.

CONNOR CLARK (Stage Manager, FBM) is a junior theatre major and a graduate of Poteet High School. His previous SFA performances include Little Shop of Horrors and Romeo and Juliet on the Mainstage, and the Fredonia Players. He was assistant stage manager for Dead Man's Cell Phone and stage managed the Studio Hour Surprise.

JALEN CLARK (Properties Master) is a sophomore theatre major and a graduate of James Bowie High School. His previous stage features include Charlotte’s Web in Summer Rep and the student-directed The Valiant. This is his first major tech position at SFA.

STEPHEN DAVIS (Stage Manager, Entropy) is a sophomore theatre major and a graduate of Ross S. Sterling High School. His previous stage management roles include assistant stage managing for the Mainstage on Stage Door and Dead Man’s Cell Phone. He has also stage managed Wt and Language of Angels in the Downstage.

ELYSE DISHMAN (Sound Designer) is a senior theatre major minoring in music and education and a graduate of West Brook High School. Her previous sound design was on Brainpeople in the Downstage. She directed Stars this semester in the Upstage. She has also performed on SFA’s Mainstage in The Breasts of Tiresias.

CELESTE GALEY (Hair and Makeup Assistant Designer) is a sophomore theatre major and a graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School. Her previous SFA performances include Blood Wedding, Romeo and Juliet, and Stage Door on the Mainstage, and Charlotte’s Web in Summer Rep.

APRIL GORE (Production Stage Manager) is a junior theatre major. Her previous SFA performances include Godspell, Fredonia Players, 10,000 Cigarettes and Wt. She has choreographed for Brainpeople and Fredonia Players. April stage managed Charlotte’s Web, Tunnel of Love, Lone Star and The Concorde Fallacy and assistant stage managed Three Sisters and Little Shop of Horrors.

DANIEL MILLER (Fight Coordinator) is a junior theatre major. His SFA performances include Blood Wedding, Romeo and Juliet, Stage Door, Little Shop of Horrors, Three Sisters, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and the student directed Adam and the Experts and Tunnel of Love. He will spend the summer as an acting intern with the Texas Shakespeare Festival.

DELIA OWENS (Costume Designer, Entropy, SBP) is a senior theatre major. Over the past summer she worked as a costume intern with the Berkshire Theatre Group and she will be back again.
as a costuming assistant. She has assisted on numerous productions including Blood Wedding, The Madwoman of Chaillot, Three Sisters, on the SFA Mainstage and has designed the student directed For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls, and has been on wardrobe crew for the SFA Opera.

NICK PINELLI (Assistant Director) has directed Lone Star and Perchance. He served on the Student Productions Advisory Board, and is the vice president of Alpha Psi Omega. His SFA acting credits include Blood Wedding, Romeo and Juliet, Stage Door, Little Shop of Horrors, How I Became A Pirate, Brilliants, Love/Sick, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Rabbit Hole, Tunnel of Love, the Original Cast, and Improv Strikes Back.

MONIKA ZIMMERMANN (Stage Manager, SBP) is a sophomore theatre major and a graduate of ISS International School Singapore. She has stage managed Brainpeople in the Downstage and toured with Fredonia Players. She also assistant stage managed the Mainstage productions of bobrauschenbergamerica and Little Shop of Horrors.

The Playwrights

JACK HEIFNER (Director) Jack Heifner is best known for his play Vanities, which ran for five years in New York and became one of the longest running plays in off-Broadway history. His is also the author of Patio/Porch, Natural Disasters, Running on Empty, Bargains, Boys’ Play, Home Fires, Heartbreak, Comfort and Joy, Earth to Bucky, Dwarf Tossing, China Dolls and over 30 other plays produced in New York, Los Angeles and theatres around the world. Mr. Heifner has written the book to six musicals, including Leader of the Pack on Broadway and Vanities—A New Musical, which opened in New York in 2009. He has also written for television and film. Mr. Heifner was born in Corsicana, Texas and lives in New York City. Since 1997 he has been playwright-in-residence at SFA where he teaches play, screen and television writing one semester each academic year. Along with The Festival of New American Plays, at SFA he has also directed Home Fires, The Seagull, The Member of the Wedding, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying and Stage Door. Mr. Heifner is a member of The Dramatists Guild, The Writers Guild of America, Actors’ Equity Association and has been elected to The Texas Institute of Letters and The Texas Playwrights Hall of Fame.

TED SWINDLEY has directed and/or produced over 200 plays. He is nationally known for creating the hit musical Always... Patsy Cline, which opened in New York in June, 1997, while continuing to play throughout the world. Some of his directorial credits include world premieres, classics and musicals including Carnal Knowledge, Pacific Overtures, Follies, and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, and rotating repertory projects such as Thornton Wilder’s Our Town, The Skin of Our Teeth and Dangerous Liaisons with The Importance of Being Earnest.

Mr. Swindley was named to Esquire magazine’s register of Americans for Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Letters and was featured in Southern Living magazine. He was also the recipient of the Los Angeles Dramalogue Award for Outstanding Direction and nominated for the prestigious Los Angeles Critics Award for his work at the Pasadena Playhouse. He has also guest directed for the Texas Shakespeare Festival, Duke University, San Diego Repertory, Red Barn Theatre, Flat Rock Playhouse, Denver Theatre Center, Virginia Stage, Barter Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre, Ryman Auditorium, Actor’s Studio, York Theatre, and Pasadena Playhouse, to name a few. As Playwright and Author, Mr. Swindley created the hit musical Always... Patsy Cline, which has played all over the world.

Mr. Swindley has served as dramaturg on numerous new plays which had their premiere at Stages Repertory Theatre in Houston.
Internationally, he has directed touring productions in the UK and Australia. Mr. Swindley is the Founding Artistic Director of Stages Repertory Theatre, the second largest theatre in Houston, Texas. There he implemented such diverse programming as the Texas Playwrights’ Festival, for which he won national recognition in 1986 from the Wall Street Journal and Backstage magazine. His latest hit musical, _The Honky Tonk Angels_ and the sequel _Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular_ are playing in theatres throughout the United States. Other shows by Mr. Swindley which had world premieres are _Step into My Parlor; Bye, Bye Love: The Everly Brothers Musical, Summer of 66_; and _Swingstep_, which was nominated for the Dora Award (the Canadian equivalent of the Tony in America) for best musical.

He recently premiered a new musical comedy, _Bachelor Pad_, based on the short story “Thank You Anna,” by William Safire and featuring lounge music classics from the 50’s and 60’s. He has also written a play entitled _Stories My Grandmother Told Me_, a southern adaptation of _The Importance of Being Earnest_, and completed _The Honky Tonk Angels_ trilogy with _Bubba’s Revenge_. He has also written a series of children’s stories for the Christmas season. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Houston, a Master of Arts from Baylor University and a Bachelor of Arts from Furman University. He has studied at the Lincoln Center Institute and the Institute of European Studies in Vienna, Austria. Mr. Swindley is President/Executive Director of Ted Swindley Productions and APC, Inc. He is also an active member of the Dramatists Guild and the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers.

_STACI SWEDEEN_ was awarded a 2014 Individual Fellowship in Playwriting from the Tennessee Arts Council and the Arts and Letters Award in Drama. She has been commissioned by the Ensemble Studio Theatre and the Sloan Foundation, and awarded a New York State Council for the Arts grant. A Core Lark Theatre Fellow, she was also a Dramatist Guild Fellow.

_The Goldman Project_ was presented Off Broadway at the Abingdon Theatre and is published by Samuel French. Her full length comedy _Three Forks_ premiered at Florida Stage Theatre in West Palm Beach, Florida and was nominated for a Carbonell Award as Best New Work. _Three Forks_ was also selected by The Charlotte Repertory Theatre to receive its “Best New Plays in America” award. Her plays have been read or produced at Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Stamford Center for the Arts, The Players Club, WestBeth, Nat Horne, Synchronicity Space, the Terry Schreiber Studio and Hunter College Theatres in New York City, also the Newman Theatre of Westchester, The Alliance Theatre in Los Angeles, City Theatre of Miami, New Jersey Rep, Main Street Arts in Nyack and the Gallery Players of Park Slope and Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. She was the playwright in residence at The Kravis Center in West Palm Beach for several years.

_The Sleep Seeker_, a film she wrote and produced, won Best Short Film in the Westchester Film Festival and was the Audience Choice Award at the Valleyfest Film Festival. She has been selected for numerous residencies, including the Millay Colony, Healing Springs, Djerassi and the Fundación Valparaiso in Spain. A member of the Writers’ Guild of America, the Dramatist Guild, AEA, AFTRA, SAG, as well as the Players Club writing workshop in NYC and Emerging Artist Theatre, Mrs. Sweeden has instructed playwriting at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn. and at The Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven, Conn. She was also Literary Manager for Penguin Rep Theatre for seven years. As an actor, she most recently performed her one woman show _Pardon Me For Living: A Biting Comedy_ at the 2013 Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C. and she continues to be involved in readings of new work for numerous theatres. Ms. Sweeden, a native of Mount Vernon, Wash., recently relocated from Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. to Knoxville, Tenn. where she was executive producer of Flying Anvil Theatre.
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