

Theatre Arts Guild presents

Jury
of Her Peers

An adaptation of
Susan Glaspell's
Trifles
by Lindsay M. Bytof

Directed by
Lindsay M. Bytof

Scenery Designed by
James Hennessey

Lighting Designed by
Haley Brown

Props Designed by
Aaron Gotlieb

Sound Designed by
Jillian Haughey

Costumes Designed by
Corinea Austin

Stage Managed by
Ariel Ford

TIME AND PLACE

The Wright farmhouse in rural Iowa, around 1916

~The play is performed without intermission~

THE CAST

Minnie Wright, *wife of John Wright* Sienna Eger
Lewis Hale, *neighboring farmer* Leroy Jackson, III
Henry Peters, *Sheriff*. Matthew Wright
Mrs. Peters, *Sheriff's wife* Elaine Marwies
Mrs. Hale, *Lewis's wife* Karli McNaughton
George Henderson, *County Attorney*. Phil Mann

**For the comfort and safety of our performers, crew,
and audience,
we kindly request all members of the audience wear a face
mask while attending the play.**

During the performance, set all electronic devices to silent.

**The use of cameras or recording devices is not allowed.
Anyone disturbing the performance will be asked to leave.**

**Before and after the performance only,
PLEASE take pix and share your experiences on
social media!**

#gsutag

#seeyourselfinthearts

#thestateway

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director	Sally J. Robertson
Production Manager	Courtney Loner
Technical Director	James Hennessey
Academic Theatre Professional	Aaron Gottlieb
Shop Supervisor	Courtney Loner
Student Assistants	Shana Jackson, Paris Stone
Scenic Charge	Brendan Cobb
Stage Manager	Ariel Ford
Light Board Op	Edima Ubom
Sound Op	Ariel Ford
Stage Management Consultant	Kristen Hennessey
Graphic Artist	J. Ashley Butler
Production Photographer	Kathleen Everett
Box Office Manager	Bebe Adeogun

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Susan Keating Glaspell (July 1, 1876 – July 28, 1948) was an American playwright, novelist, journalist and actress. With her husband George Cram Cook, she founded the Provincetown Players, the first modern American theatre company. First known for her short stories (fifty were published), Glaspell also wrote nine novels, fifteen plays, and a biography. Often set in her native Midwest, these semi-autobiographical tales typically explore contemporary social issues, such as gender, ethics, and dissent, while featuring deep, sympathetic characters who make principled stands. During the Great Depression, Glaspell worked in Chicago for the Works Progress Administration, where she was Midwest Bureau Director of the Federal Theater Project.



Since the late 20th century, critical reassessment of women's contributions has led to renewed interest in her career and a revival of her reputation. Glaspell is today recognized as a pioneering feminist writer and America's first important modern female playwright. Her one-act play *Trifles* (1916) is frequently cited as one of the greatest works of American theatre. —*from Wikipedia*



Use this QR code or go to the following webpage to learn more about this creative woman:
<http://sites.gsu.edu/tag/program-notes/>

Director's Notes

"A good wife, a true woman...puts her own grievances out of sight to drive away with pleasant smiles the clouds that gather around her husband's gloomy brow."- Goedys Lady's Book, 1830-1878

The play, *Trifles*, by Susan Glaspell, was first performed and published in 1916. The author herself played the role of Mrs. Hale. Inspiration for the plot came from the true story of the Hossack murder, a case Glaspell had covered as the only female reporter for the *Des Moines Daily News* in 1900. In 1917, Glaspell continued her exploration of the story with "A Jury of Her Peers" a short story as told through Mrs. Hale's eyes.

In these renditions, the character Minnie (the widow, and later, accused), is never seen, merely talked about. She exists only through the accounts of men. I believe Glaspell felt Minnie's real life counterpart (Margaret Hossack) was also defined and surrounded by the men who led the investigation, prosecuted the case, and sat on the jury. Margaret Hossack was left too exposed by the case, vulnerable, and unsupported by the legal system of the day and Glaspell's impulse was to shield her fictional woman from the same judgment.

However, what I wanted most after reading the play and short story, was for Minnie to speak for herself. So, I set out to re-open this "cold case" through adaptation, research (greatly aided by Patricia L. Bryan and Thomas Wolf's nonfiction book *Midnight Assassin*), and working with this company of actors to create a nuanced reflection on what women face when they meet the criminal justice system; an exploration of where it was then, and where it is today.

The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution became law in August 1920, making it illegal to deny someone the vote based on a person's sex. Many Black women (and men, but this story is about women) would continue to be disenfranchised for decades due to state laws that enforced poll taxes and literacy tests. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 gave women the right to serve on federal juries, but it wasn't until 1973 that all 50 states passed similar legislation. It was not until 1975 that the United States Supreme Court found a constitutional protection for the right of women to serve on juries.

At *Trifles* premiere performance in 1916, women could neither vote, nor serve on a jury. We ask you, today, to be the jury, to hear the arguments of our attorneys, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters, to weigh the facts with your own morality and ask "how do we find the defendant?"

Lindsay Bytof, Director/Adaptor

~For my mother, Rebecca S. Bytof, an Iowan.~

ABOUT THE CAST

*Denotes first appearance with Theatre Arts Guild [TAG]
“Georgia State University|Perimeter College” is abbreviated
GSU|PC

***Sienna Eger** (Minnie Wright) *she/they* is a senior at GSU’s Honors College where she is working toward her B.I.S. in theatre with a concentration in acting for theatre and film performance. Within her degree, she is studying a thematic concentration in gender and race in theatre and arts and will also graduate with a minor in German. *Jury of Her Peers* is Sienna’s first production ever, and she is so excited to be working with the wonderful people at TAG. Sienna would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support in her journey as well as her director, Lindsay Bytof, for giving her this opportunity.

***Leroy Jackson III** (Lewis Hale) *he/him* is currently a theatre pathway student at GSU|PC and he is studying to be an actor. *Jury Of Her Peers* is Leroy’s first production here and he is determined to make a name for himself in the arts world. He was a performer in a musical at Smith Barnes Elementary School when he was in the fifth grade. His favorite quote (from Sir Francis Drake via *Uncharted*) resonates with him deeply: “Greatness comes from small beginnings”.

***Phil Mann** (Attorney Henderson) *he/him* holds a B.A. in Contemporary Theatre Practice from East15 Acting School, London, U.K. Atlanta Theatre credits include: Algernon Moncrieff in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Aris Theatre), Richard Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Merely Players), Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* (Sh!t-faced Shakespeare), and Charles Condomine in *Blithe Spirit* (JesterHall).

***Elaine Marwiah** (Mrs. Peters) *she/her* is an Atlanta Campus GSU student where she is currently working on earning her BIS in Theatre Performance. This is Elaine’s first production with TAG, and she is extremely honored and enthusiastic to have this opportunity. Over the past few years Elaine has worked as a freelance makeup artist and hair stylist. She also studied Marketing before deciding to follow her passion and fully focus on a career as an actor. Elaine has also competed in the Atlanta Black Theater Festival Monologue Competition where she placed second. Aside from acting, Elaine loves to try new baking recipes as she has a major sweet tooth.

***Karli McNaughton** (Mrs. Hale) *she/her* is a Flagler College graduate where she earned her BA in Theatre Arts with a concentration in acting. This is Karli’s first production with TAG and she is very grateful and excited to work with the local community theatre through the arts. Over the past ten years, Karli has been fortunate enough to work in productions such as *The Women* (Flagler College), *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Middletown High School) as well as multiple performances at Walt Disney World with her hometown community theatre, Milton Theatre.

***Matthew Wright** (Sheriff Henry Peters) *he/him* is delighted to make his acting debut with TAG in *Jury of Her Peers*. His training ranges from Stanislavsky and G.O.T.E methods with Kia E. Coaching to Intro to Meisner with Steven Ditmyer. In addition, Matthew is an adept martial artist. He also can't wait to use his Australian dialect. Matthew looks forward to his tv, film, and theatre career! Power to the women!

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF

***Corinea “Coco” Austin** (Costume Designer) *she/her* is a Kentucky native and Savannah College of Art and Design graduate. Her love of design, color, drama, and books brought her to the theatre world at a young age. After graduating she gained her experience as a freelance designer and tailor in the entertainment world, and started off her career in theatre as a costume shop stitcher for local plays and musicals. Between costume design and her 2nd hand fabric store, Fiibers Fabric, she still enjoys freelance pattern design and illustration work. For more projects go to www.corineaaustin.com.

Haley Brown (Lighting Designer) *she/her* is delighted to be working once again on the GSU Perimeter College stage and contributing to bringing this mystery to life. She has worked with various theaters along the East Coast, including the Out Front Theatre Group, Thin Air Theatre Company, Berkshire Theatre Group, Synchronicity Theater, Stagedoor Manor, The Warehouse Theatre, GLOW Lyric Theatre, Center Stage South Carolina, and the Alliance Theatre. Haley is currently in her final semester of pursuing her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia. You can check out her work at www.haleybrowndesign.com or follow her on Instagram @haleybrowndesign.

Lindsay M. Bytof (Director/Adaptor) *she/her* has been a Lecturer at GSU|PC since 2017. She holds an M.F.A. in Acting from Florida State University/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training and an M.A. in Applied Theatre from University of London, Goldsmiths College. Her directing work has been featured at the Atlanta Fringe Festival (*Cyberpunk's Not Dead*) and the Atlanta App Co. Alumni Series (*Fat Juliet*). TAG directing credits include: *Triumph of Love*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Eurydice*. She also served as Dialect Coach for *Is he Dead?* She thanks Phil for his love and support.

***Edima Ubom** (Crew Member) *she/her* is a first year theatre major and this is her first time working on a theatre production. She has worked as a production assistant, actor, and sound mixer on film sets. Edima is interested in scenic design and construction and loves the process of seeing productions come to life. She hopes you are excited as well to experience the fruition of everyone's hard work and talent.

***Ariel Ford** (Stage Manager) *she/her* is a freshman this year, and is a theatre major. This is her first production with Theatre Arts Guild and her second production as Stage Manager. Ariel also enjoys performing on stage, and has taken part in productions of *Sister Act*, *Footloose*, and *Alice in Wonderland* (Duluth High School). She hopes you enjoy the show!

Aaron Gotlieb (Props Designer) *he/him* returned to Atlanta a 'Complete Fool' after completing his MFA in Physical and Devised Theatre at Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. In addition to creating, directing and performing in his own work, he has been performing and building props at theaters across Atlanta and the Southeast for over a decade. Currently, he is the Academic Theatre Professional at GSU|PC.

Jillian Haughey (Sound Designer) *she/her* is a GSU|PC alumna. She is thankful to have had such wonderful mentors from her time here. Jillian's designs with TAG include *Lucky Stiff*, *Eurydice*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. She served as audio engineer for *The Theory of Relativity*. Her prop designs have been seen at Aurora Theatre, Serenbe Playhouse, Synchronicity Theatre, and Theatrical Outfit's Summer Stage.

James Hennessey (Set Designer/Technical Director) *he/him* graduated with a B.A. in theatre from Winthrop University. Immediately following he moved to Atlanta to begin his technical theatre career, where he worked as a general technician with a focus in carpentry, rigging, run-crew, and technical direction at Georgia Shakespeare, The Alliance Theatre, Georgia Ensemble, and The Atlanta Lyric Theatre.

Courtney Loner (Production Manager) *she/her* graduated from Kennesaw State University with a music degree and a minor in technical theater. She has been working professionally either on stage or off in the Atlanta area for over 20 years.

Sally J. Robertson (Artistic Director) *she/her* has been working in professional theatre for over 25 years as an actor, director, and producer. Sally is Professor of Theatre and Chair of the Fine Arts Department at Perimeter College.

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College**

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All funds go toward production expenses.

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Or through our GSU Foundation account:
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2022 - 2023 Theatre Arts Guild Season

...is still being decided! Please subscribe to one of our information channels on the previous page to get updates first.

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<i>*Thank you, all, from our</i>	<i>hearts, we thank you!*</i>

SPECIAL THANKS

Perimeter College Dean's Office, GSU|PC Facilities,
 GSU PawPrints, GSU|PC Police, GSU Auxiliary
 Services, Joni Morrill,
 Norman Richards, Linda Diaz, Jani Faison,
 our student and community volunteers.

*Due to printing deadlines, it is impossible to list all
 who have helped put this show together. We thank all
 of those whom we may have omitted.*

THEATRE ARTS GUILD

Theatre Arts Guild is dedicated to enhancing the educational development of the Perimeter College, Georgia State University student through theatrical productions which demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the arts and literature in the human experience. To achieve these goals, Theatre Arts Guild produces a wide range of theatrical genres from classical to contemporary theatre and provides opportunities to experience a theatrical environment of professional standards involving the Atlanta Theatre Community.

For over 50 years the Department of Fine Arts at the Clarkston campus of GSU has a history of offering an Associate of Arts Degree in Theatre, with classes in acting, directing, and technical theatre.

For information on classes, call 678-891-3601
or email pctheatre@gsu.edu.

For more information about audition dates or performances,
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