

Thank you for your interest in directing for Paris Community Theatre. We are very excited about our 2017-1018 Season. Enclosed are a list of our upcoming productions with brief plot descriptions, cast size, and set requirements. In addition, we have included some information about policies, procedures, and responsibilities of directors. The application to direct is a separate form that will need to be completed and returned to PCT either through the website, delivered personally during T-Fri office hours of 10-3, or emailed to office@pctonstage.com.

New to PCT is the Director/Board Liaison. This liaison is appointed by the Executive Committee of PCT and is designed to assist the director with all aspects of their production and can provide communication with the Board of Directors and Managing Director. This is a new position and it is the hope of the PCT Board of Directors that this position will make the directing process easier for the director and allow the Board to better support the production. The liaison will assist in publicity; offer guidance on production and design team members; and provide sources of items that may need to be gathered or purchased for a production.

Thank you for your interest in directing for PCT. If you have any questions, please get in contact with our Managing Director, Joshua Maxwell T-Fri from 10-3 at 903-784-0259 or office@pctonstage.com.

Thank You,

The PCT Executive Committee

2017-2018 Season and Dates

Lionel Bart's, Oliver

August 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, & 20th

The Foreigner, by Larry Shue

September 29th, 30th, October 1st, 6th, 7th, & 8th

Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck and Marcel Duhamel

February 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, & 11th 2018

Rumors, Neil Simon

April 6th, 7th, 8th, 13th, 14th, & 15th

Red, White & Blue Tuna, Ed Howard, Joe Sears, Jaston Williams

June 15th, 16th, 17th, 22rd, 23th, & 24th

OFF PLAZA

Inherit the Wind, Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

Dates TBD

Basic Descriptions, Cast Sizes, Set Requirements

The Foreigner, Larry Shue, Dramatist Play Services

In a fishing lodge in rural Tilghman County, Georgia, two English men, Froggy and Charlie, arrive as guests. After pleadings from his sick wife, the shy Charlie agreed to accompany Froggy on the trip. When people at the lodge try to talk to Charlie, he cannot find the words due to his terrible shyness. Froggy then claims that Charlie cannot talk because he is from an exotic country and does not understand English. Due to his supposed lack of ability to understand English, Charlie soon discovers scandals among some of the residents of the lodge.

- Charlie Baker – a meek proofreader for a science fiction magazine; he has a merrily adulterous wife whom he loves. He is witty and funny while also very smart. He is extremely shy but living at the lodge and being in contact with such wonderful people, Charlie soon comes out of his shell and eventually finds himself the center of attention as the hero.
- S/Sgt. "Froggy" LeSueur – a cheerful British Army man who teaches the use of explosives
- Betty Meeks – an elderly widow who owns a resort lodge and mothers her guests. She has a fun, sarcastic nature, but she is very nurturing to all who come in contact with her. She is a hard worker, and her weak body carries all of the work she has done throughout the years.
- Rev. David Marshall Lee – engaged to Catherine and, "it would appear, a good young man to have on our side".^[3] He comes in and out of the play and always seems like a charmer when the ladies are around. When it is just him alone with Charlie however, he begins to show his true colors.
- Catherine Simms – a pretty heiress going through an emotional time. She is kind and caring towards Ellard and quickly shows Charlie the same attention.
- Ellard Simms – Catherine's dim-witted brother, heir to half the family money if Catherine decides he is "smart enough to handle it". He is a kind, gentle hearted man but no one really gives him the time of day until Charlie comes into the picture. Charlie not only helps Ellard become more in tune with really how bright he is, but is also taught by Ellard what it means to be patient and lighthearted.
- Owen Musser – a superstitious, dangerous racist man that lives in town.

One Interior Set

Lionel Bart's Oliver, Music Theatre International Publishing

Bringing Charles Dickens' beloved novel to life, Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* takes audiences on a wild adventure through Victorian England. Join young, orphaned Oliver Twist as he navigates the London's underworld of theft and violence, searching for a home, a family, and - most importantly - for love. When Oliver is picked up on the street by a boy named the Artful Dodger, he is welcomed into a gang of child pickpockets led by the conniving, but charismatic, Fagin. When Oliver is falsely accused of a theft he didn't commit, he is rescued by a kind and wealthy gentleman, to the dismay of Fagin's violent sidekick, Bill Sykes. Caught in the middle is the warm-hearted Nancy, who is trapped under Bill's thumb, but desperate to help Oliver, with tragic results. With spirited, timeless songs like "As Long as He Needs Me," "Food, Glorious Food," and "Where is Love," *Oliver!* is a musical classic.

Characters/Gender/Role/Voicing

Oliver Twist	Male	Lead	Soprano
Artful Dodger	Male	Supporting	Soprano
Fagin	Male	Supporting	Baritone
Bill Sykes	Male	Supporting	Baritone
Nancy	Female	Supporting	Alto
Mr. Bumble	Male	Featured	Tenor
Widow Corney	Female	Featured	Soprano
Mr. Sowerberry	Male	Featured	Baritone
Mrs. Sowerberry	Female	Featured	Soprano
Charlotte	Female	Featured	Spoken
Noah Claypole	Male	Featured	Spoken
Bet	Female	Featured	Alto
Mr. Brownlow	Male	Featured	Spoken
Old Sally	Female	Featured	Spoken
Mrs. Bedwin	Female	Featured	Spoken
Adult Ensemble		Ensemble	4 part
Workhouse Boys	Male	Ensemble	2 part
Fagin's Gang	Male	Ensemble	3 part
Dr. Grimwig	Male	Ensemble	Spoken

Songs

Act One

- Prologue / Overture – Orchestra
- Food, Glorious Food– Workhouse Boys
- Oliver!– Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney
- I Shall Scream – Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney
- Boy for Sale – Mr. Bumble
- That's Your Funeral – Mr. Sowerberry, Mrs. Sowerberry, and Mr. Bumble
- Coffin Music – Orchestra
- Where is Love? – Oliver
- The Fight - Orchestra
- Oliver's Escape – Orchestra
- Consider Yourself – The Artful Dodger, Oliver, and Chorus
- You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two – Fagin and Fagin's Gang
- It's a Fine Life – Nancy, Bet, and Fagin's Gang
- I'd Do Anything– The Artful Dodger, Nancy, Oliver, Bet, Fagin, and Fagin's Gang
- Be Back Soon – Fagin, The Artful Dodger, Oliver and Fagin's Gang
- Capture of Oliver – Orchestra

Act Two

- Oom-Pah-Pah – Nancy and Chorus
- My Name – Bill Sikes
- As Long as He Needs Me – Nancy
- Where Is Love? (Reprise) – Mrs. Bedwin
- Who Will Buy? – Oliver, Vendors, and Chorus
- It's a Fine Life (Reprise) – Bill Sikes, Nancy, Fagin, and The Artful Dodger
- Reviewing the Situation" – Fagin
- Oliver! (Reprise) – Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney
- As Long As He Needs Me (Reprise) – Nancy
- London Bridge – Orchestra
- Reviewing the Situation (Reprise) – Fagin
- Finale – Company

Set in multiple locations in Victorian England

Of Mice and Men. John Steinbeck and Marcel Duhamel, Dramatist Play Services

Two migrant field workers in California on their plantation during the Great Depression—George Milton, an intelligent but uneducated man, and Lennie Small, a bulky, strong man but mentally disabled—are in Soledad on their way to another part of California. They hope to one day attain the dream of settling down on their own piece of land. Lennie's part of the dream is merely to tend and pet rabbits on the farm, as he loves touching soft animals, although he always kills them. This dream is one of Lennie's favorite stories, which George constantly retells. They had fled from Weed, after Lennie touched a young woman's dress and wouldn't let go, leading to an accusation of rape. It soon becomes clear that the two are close and George is Lennie's protector, despite his antics.

After being hired at a farm, the pair are confronted by Curley—The Boss's small, aggressive son with a Napoleon complex who dislikes larger men, and starts to target Lennie. Curley's flirtatious and provocative wife, to whom Lennie is instantly attracted, poses a problem as well. In contrast, the pair also meets Candy, an elderly ranch-hand with one hand and a loyal dog, and Slim, an intelligent and gentle jerk line-skinner whose dog has recently had a litter of puppies. Slim gives a puppy to Lennie and Candy, whose loyal, accomplished sheep dog was put down by fellow ranch-hand Carlson.

Despite problems, their dream leaps towards reality when Candy offers to pitch in \$350 with George and Lennie so that they can buy a farm at the end of the month, in return for permission to live with them. The trio are ecstatic, but their joy is overshadowed when Curley attacks Lennie, who defends himself by easily crushing Curley's fist while urged on by George.

Nevertheless, George feels more relaxed, to the extent that he even leaves Lennie behind on the ranch while he goes into town with the other ranch hands. Lennie wanders into the stable, and chats with Crooks, the bitter, yet educated stable buck, who is isolated from the other workers racially. Candy finds them and they discuss their plans for the farm with Crooks, who cannot resist asking them if he can hoe a garden patch on the farm albeit scorning its possibility. Curley's wife makes another appearance and flirts with the men, especially Lennie. However, her spiteful side is shown when she belittles them and threatens Crooks to have him lynched.

The next day, Lennie accidentally kills his puppy while stroking it. Curley's wife enters the barn and tries to speak to Lennie, admitting that she is lonely and how her dreams of becoming a movie star are crushed, revealing her personality. After finding out about Lennie's habit, she offers to let him stroke her hair, but panics and begins to scream when she feels his strength. Lennie becomes frightened, and unintentionally breaks her neck thereafter and runs away. When the other ranch hands find the corpse, George realizes that their dream is at an end. George hurries to find Lennie, hoping he will be at the meeting place they designated in case he got into trouble.

George meets Lennie at the place, their camping spot before they came to the ranch. The two sit together and George retells the beloved story of the dream, knowing it is something they'll never share. He then shoots Lennie, with Curley, Slim, and Carlson arriving seconds after. Only Slim realizes what happened, and consolingly leads him away. Curley and Carlson look on, unable to comprehend the subdued mood of the two men.

Characters

- **George Milton:** A quick-witted man who is Lennie's guardian and best friend. His friendship with Lennie helps sustain his dream of a better future. He was bound in teasing Lennie since he was young. He is described by Steinbeck in the novel as "small and quick," every part of him being "defined," with small strong hands on slender arms. He has a dark face and "restless eyes" and "sharp, strong features" including a "thin, bony nose."
- **Lennie Small:** A mentally disabled, but physically strong man who travels with George and is his constant companion.^[6] He dreams of "living off the fatta' the lan'" and being able to tend to rabbits. His love for soft things conspires against him, mostly because he does not know his own strength, and eventually becomes his undoing. Steinbeck defines his appearance as George's "opposite," writing that he is a "huge man, shapeless of face, with large, pale eyes" and "wide, sloping shoulders." Lennie walks heavily, dragging his feet a little, "the way a bear drags his paws," adding that his arms do not swing at his sides, but hang loosely.
- **Candy:** An aging ranch handyman, Candy lost his hand in an accident and worries about his future on the ranch. Fearing that his age is making him useless, he seizes on George's description of the farm he and Lennie will have, offering his life's savings if he can join George and Lennie in owning the land.
- **Slim:** A "jerk line skinner," the main driver of a mule team and the "prince of the ranch". Slim is greatly respected by many of the characters and is the only character whom Curley treats with respect. His insight, intuition, kindness and natural authority draw the other ranch hands automatically towards him, and he is significantly the only character to fully understand the bond between George and Lennie.
- **Curley:** The Boss' son, a young, pugnacious character, once a semi-professional boxer. He is described by others, with some irony, as "handy", partly because he likes to keep a glove filled with Vaseline on his left hand. He is very jealous and protective of his wife and immediately develops a dislike toward Lennie. At one point, Curley loses his temper after he sees Lennie appear to laugh at him, and ends up with his hand horribly damaged after Lennie fights back against him.
- **Curley's wife:** A young, pretty woman, who is mistrusted by her husband. The other characters refer to her only as "Curley's wife". Steinbeck explained that she is "not a person, she's a symbol. She has no function, except to be a foil – and a danger to Lennie."^[6]Curley's wife's preoccupation with her own beauty eventually helps precipitate her death: She allows Lennie to stroke her hair as an apparently harmless indulgence, only for her to upset Lennie when she yells at him to stop him

'mussing it'. Lennie tries to stop her yelling and eventually, and accidentally, kills her by breaking her neck.

- **Crooks:** Crooks, the black stable-hand, gets his name from his crooked back. Proud, bitter, and cynical, he is isolated from the other men because of the color of his skin. Despite himself, Crooks becomes fond of Lennie, and though he claims to have seen countless men following empty dreams of buying their own land, he asks Lennie if he can go with them and hoe in the garden.
- **Candy's dog:** A blind dog who is described as "old", "stinky", and "crippled", and is killed by Carlson.
- **Carlson:** A "thick bodied" ranch hand, he kills Candy's dog with little sympathy.
- **The Boss:** Curley's father, the superintendent of the ranch. The ranch is owned by "a big land company" per Candy.
- **Whit:** A young ranch hand.

Setting: Bunkhouse, Barn, and River Bank

Rumors, Neil Simon, Samuel French Publishing

The play starts with Ken Gorman and his wife, Chris Gorman at the 10th anniversary party of Charlie Brock, the Deputy Mayor of New York, and his wife, Myra.

Unfortunately, things are not going quite to plan. All the kitchen staff is gone, Myra is missing, and Charlie has shot himself in the head. Chris calls Charlie's doctor, but before Chris can tell him what has happened, Ken dictates that she not inform the doctor of anything that has happened, for the bullet only went through Charlie's ear lobe. It appeared that he had taken some Valium, and was falling asleep as he fired the gun, managing to miss his head.

Chris gets off the phone with Dr. Dudley just as the doorbell rings. Chris opens the door and lets in Lenny and Claire Ganz also friends of the Brocks. Lenny and Claire have just been in a car accident, and Lenny calls his doctor, who also happens to be Dr. Dudley, to ask him about his neck. Claire and Lenny exchange rumors that they have heard about Charlie and Myra, both convinced that one is having an affair. Finally, they confront Ken, who lets them in on the situation. Lenny declares they should call the police, but Ken disagrees. Before they can agree on anything, another car shows up. Ken goes back upstairs to Charlie's bedroom, and Claire opens the door to let in Ernie Cusack, a psychologist, and his eccentric wife Cookie. Claire, Chris, and Lenny engage the Cusacks in conversation, not telling them about the situation with Charlie.

Suddenly, a gunshot is heard. Ken comes out of the upstairs bedroom and requests Chris' presence, while Lenny distracts the Cusacks, then goes upstairs to check on the problem. It turns out Ken was taking the gun away, tripped on Charlie's slippers and accidentally fired the gun, which has made him almost deaf. As the Cusacks prepare dinner, the final guests arrive, Glenn (a politician running for State Senate) and Cassie Cooper, who have a very strained relationship and argue constantly. Act I closes as the Cusacks come out with a steaming dinner, Cassie furiously berates Glenn for making

her drop a crystal in the toilet, Chris trips on a telephone wire, Lenny's neck goes out, Cookie has a back spasm, and a very deaf Ken sits in absolute confusion.

Act II begins as dinner ends, the Cusacks and Coopers having been told the entirety of the situation. The guests decide to place blame for the situation on Ken. Cassie attempts to make Glenn jealous by blatantly flirting with Ken, indirectly clearing Ken's ears in the process. A mysterious woman, who Claire and Chris assume to be Myra, calls the house asking for Glenn. Things get serious as a police car pulls up the driveway. The guests furiously debate what to do, and decide to pretend that they hadn't noticed anything was wrong (they "had the music on too loud to hear the gunshots"). Just to be safe, the men decide for Lenny to play Charlie if the policeman asks for him, and for Ken to play Lenny. The policeman, Officer Welch, enters and interrogates them, and quickly gets suspicious as their story unravels. It turns out the policeman was just investigating Lenny's car accident, and no one is in trouble, but Glenn accidentally reveals the gunshot situation just as the officer begins to leave after talking to the police officer on the walkie talkie.

Now angered by what he has learned, Welch demands to see Charlie, and a disgruntled Lenny comes downstairs to "explain everything." Lenny, at first unsure what to possibly say, eventually gets carried away in his monologue and invents a ludicrous, rambling, and brilliant explanation for everything. Welch, partly out of exasperation, buys the story and leaves the house. The guests, elated at their escape, begin to troop upstairs to speak with Charlie and find out the story once and for all, but are delayed when an incredible development occurs in the basement.

Characters

5m, 5f

KEN GORMAN – (40) A well-to-do lawyer. Wealthy, but by no means pretentious.

Takes

charge of the situation. Married to Chris. Halfway through the show, a gunshot causes his temporary deafness.

CHRIS GORMAN – (mid-30's) Another lawyer, married to Ken. Beautiful, easily flustered.

Frantically tries to maintain normalcy at the party. Has recently quit smoking, which drives her to drink a bit more.

LENNY GANZ – (Late 30's, early 40's) – A wealthy accountant, distraught over the recent

destruction over his new car. Starts the show with an extreme case of whiplash.

Intolerant

of the gossip-lifestyle that he is often involved in.

CLAIRE GANZ – (Late 30's) – Lenny's wife. Very concerned with appearances (hers and others'). Starts the play with a swollen lip. Likes to gossip.

ERNIE CUSACK – (Early 50's) – a psychiatrist. Affable, smokes a pipe. Loves his wife very much. Tries to be as helpful as possible cooking the evening's dinner.

COOKIE CUSACK – (40's) – has her own cooking show. Suffers from extreme back spasms. Loves her husband very much. A bit absent-minded at times.

GLENN COOPER – (30-40) A handsome man running for State Senate. Worried about his own reputation. Struggles with placating his wife, who is convinced he is having an affair (which he may or may not be).

CASSIE COOPER – (late 20's, early 30's) Glenn's beautiful wife. Obsesses over her husbands' relationships with other women. Quick to anger. Must rub her quartz crystal to calm herself down.

OFFICER WELCH (M) – (30-50) – A city police officer having a rough night. Does not tolerate lying. Sees through the "classy" façade that these high-society types put up.

OFFICER PUDNEY (F) – (20-30) – Welch's partner. A strong but silent type.

Time Period - Contemporary

Settings Of Play - A house in Sneden's Landing, New York. An evening in June.

FEATURES / CONTAINS

Interior Set

CAUTIONS

Alcohol, Gun Shots, Strong Language

**Red, White & Blue Tuna, Ed Howard, Joe Sears, Jaston Williams
Samuel French Publishing**

Description

Act I

The show begins with two new-age hippie friends, Star Birdfeather (Sears) and Amber Windchime (Williams) driving back to Tuna, Texas at night. They are returning so that they can meet with old friends due to the 4th of July Homecoming Reunion and Fireworks display. They are nervous to see the state of the town, and are also nervous as to whether or not people will remember their 'past lives' from when they still lived in their hometown. They become so upset that Amber forces Star to pull over, and they hum to calm their inner peace (Until Star attempts to hum a Nancy Sinatra song, which angers Amber). They drive on apprehensively under the cover of the night.

The next morning, local radio station OKKK signs on and the DJ's Arles Struvie (Williams) and Thurston Wheelis (Sears) begin giving the daily announcements, which are focused around the 4th of July celebrations. The hot topic of the day is the dropping out of Didi Snavely (Williams) and Pearl Burras (Sears) from the Reunion queen contest, essentially ensuring that the stuck-up Vera Carp (Williams) will win. Also mentioned are several issues which are addressed throughout the show, including the Prayer Posse (led by Vera)'s drive to censor hymns, the members of Free White Texas attempts to declare the town of Tuna a free, independent white nation, and the wedding of Arles and Bertha Bumiller (Sears) the next day. The news is suddenly hit with a new hot topic, in that gay theatre director, Joe Bob Lipsey (Sears), has stormed off from his summer production of *Red, White, and Fabulous!* due to Vera saying he cannot sing a song about alcohol in a dry county. Local animal rights activist, Petey Fisk (Williams), also makes an announcement denouncing that all creatures with more than four legs are pests.

Meanwhile, at Bertha's home, she is doing her morning cleaning when Petey knocks on the door. They converse, and Petey brings up the subject of how Bertha only has six dogs left (the seventh having just died). Bertha suspects he has brought her another dog, but he explains how it is actually a cat that thinks it's a dog. She ends up taking it after he shows how well it fends off a pair of Jehovah's Witnesses, that Bertha dislikes because "[she] can't stand a Christian who doesn't like war." She agrees to take the cat, and sends Petey away.

Her extremely pregnant daughter, Charlene (Williams) comes down and is having one of her usual fits over her military husband, Rayford, being gone overseas. Bertha attempts to talk her down, but Charlene eventually has a tantrum over the lack of malted milk balls and locks herself in her room. Her brother, Stanley (Williams), comes downstairs hearing the commotion. They both tell Bertha that they aren't going to the Reunion for different reasons. Stanley leaves to go visit his Aunt Pearl. Bertha receives a call from her best friend, Vera, who has graciously offered to host the wedding at her home. Their phone call (focused on how Vera thinks Bertha shouldn't wear white tomorrow, as "[she] *is* marrying a divorced man"), is constantly interrupted by Vera's menace of a son, Virgil, and one of her Hispanic maid's (all named Lupe for ease of remembrance) issues with understanding Vera's cleaning instructions. Bertha ends the conversations, and writes Arles a note saying that when he arrives, he can find her at Didi's Used Weapon's Shop.

Stanley arrives at Pearl's, and he voices his issues with his mother and Arles having sex at such an old age. Pearl reassures him, saying that she didn't even start enjoying her sex life until she hit 65. Disgusted, Stanley has to leave. At Didi's Used Weapons shop (motto "if we can't kill it, it's immortal!"), Joe Bob has arrived demanding to purchase a suicide weapon. She tells him she simply can't, as she has lost too much money over the years agreeing to that, and he leaves. Pearl also arrives, and they discuss briefly how they can prevent Vera from winning, but Didi's senile mother begins to have a fit offstage, and Pearl leaves as Didi goes to attend to her.

Bertha arrives looking for Didi, but cannot find her. Arles arrives, and they begin to argue over details of the wedding and their honeymoon. The argument climaxes in Arles saying that the wedding is off, and storming out. Bertha begins to cry as Didi re-enters, and she comforts her, saying that she's sure she can find Bertha a good maiming weapon. Bertha leaves in sadness, and Didi receives a call from Pearl, who has figured out an evil plan on how to get back at Vera. Didi leaves her shop to go see her, which she is suddenly face to face with her husband R.R. Snavelly (Sears), a UFOlogist, who hasn't been seen for many years. She is upset with him, because in one more day he would have been pronounced legally dead. She begins to scold him and he shows that he has been abducted by aliens when he snaps his fingers, and she is unable to speak. She silently yells at him as they walk offstage.

Act II

That afternoon, Pearl discovers that her car is unable to start. Virgil Carp has also stolen his mother's car, so Vera has no way to get to her coronation ceremony. They see each other, say their respective silent insults, and politely ask each other for a ride. Vera suggests that they could borrow Lupe's old stick-shift, if Pearl knows how to drive it. Pearl reveals she can not only drive it, she can hot-wire it and bypass the lack of keys. After they begin their trip, Pearl suddenly wrecks the car to avoid a head-on collision. As they begin to fight, Vera realizes it's time for the coronation. They turn on the radio, and Thurston reveals that the winner, by a landslide, is Joe Bob Lipsey. Vera is aghast, stating that "this isn't the type of queen we had in mind." Pearl can only laugh, revealing that she and Didi were Joe Bob's campaign managers. The radio is suddenly overtaken by Arles, who has evicted Thurston and locked himself in the broadcast room, stating he isn't going to leave until Bertha takes him back. He begins to loop the Roy Orbison song Only The Lonely, in an attempt to get her back. Vera storms off.

At the reunion plaza, ditzzy Helen Bedd (Williams) and Inita Goodwin (Sears) have set up their food booth (Helen & Inita's Hot-to-Trot Catering) and are ecstatic over the boys who are returning for the reunion. Helen goes off to see one, and Inita remembers that she left her foot-powder for the square-dancing competition in the car. She sets out Pearl's prize-winning potato salad, and tells one of her many dumb boyfriends, Garland (Williams) to watch the booth. The stereotypical red-neck is almost incapable of running the food booth, and is constantly distracted by Virgil Carp's firecrackers near the building. Mayor Leonard Childers (Sears) runs up to the food booth, out of breath. He is frantic over his wife, Helen, having taken members of Free White Texas hostage (a subplot started in Scene II), Joe Bob's winning the reunion queen crown, and Virgil's fireworks. Garland calms him with a plate of Pearl's potato salad, which upsets Leonard's stomach. Garland says he doesn't know the issue with it, as it's "tangy, but

that's the way [he] likes it." It is revealed that the potato salad has been sitting in the heat for over two hours, having spoiled it. Garland exits to find Inita.

Vera appears, wielding her megaphone. She discovers that the potato salad has gone bad, and almost disposes of it, before deciding that since the town listened to Pearl, they can all just eat her potato salad and "God can sort out the rest." She is surprised when Reverend Spikes (Sears) appears, asking how long he's been out of jail. He begins to answer, and then runs off when he hears a siren, not realizing it's the sound of an ambulance, and not a police car. Joe Bob walks over, singing his formerly banned song. Vera begins to darkly insult him, before realizing she can easily dispose of him. She politely offers him a bowl of the rancid potato salad, free of charge. He eats it, and Vera quickly leaves. He realizes what has happened, and runs to find a rest room.

Helen re-enters, and gets a phone call from the maid whose car Vera stole. She says that she found Vera's lipstick in the back seat, and Helen encourages her to call the police. R.R. walks over to the food booth, saying he wants to taste one of Helen's barbecue sandwiches before he heads back out to space. Helen calls one of her girlfriends up to tell the outrageous story, and runs off to spread the rumor more. Star appears, looking for food, and is appalled at the extreme amount of cooked meat at the booth. Amber finds her, saying that she just accidentally ate a spoonful of guacamole with bacon in it, and she found it delicious. Star says she wants to see one more person, then they can go to New Mexico and get Amber cleansed. Amber leaves, and Star watches the "microcosmically militaristic" fireworks Virgil is still firing off. Stanley walks beside her, and he realizes that they used to go to school with him. They agree to head back to New Mexico together, but Stanley says he wants to see his Aunt Pearl one more time before he goes back. They leave, optimistic.

Helen and Inita quickly hear of the poisoned potato salad that has been eaten by almost every member of Tuna, Texas since they left the booth, and they decide they must leave. They pack their bags and take the potato salad away for good. Meanwhile, at Didi's, her and R.R. begin to fight again, and she enters her shop to find a weapon to kill him with. Petey arrives, with several animals that don't belong in the deserts of Texas. He explains to them that R.R. is going to take them to space, and they can come back after global warming, because the only things that will survive that are "coyotes and cockroaches. Madonna'll probably make it too." R.R. takes them, and the lights fade to the sound of a UFO taking off into space.

A radio announcement by Thurston says that the door Arles locked has been opened, and he has disappeared. Thurston says that Vera Carp has been arrested for grand theft auto and a warrant is out for Helen and Inita, but aside from that a good day was had by all. The lights return on Pearl's bedroom, where Stanley finds her proclaiming that she is on her deathbed for the potato salad affair and for wrecking Lupe's car. Stanley tries and fails to bring her to optimism, eventually saying that when she dies, her husband Henry at least won't take long to find a new wife. This puts her ornery fire back, and she shoos Stanley away so that she can find her nightgown with dogs on the front, because "it drives [Stanley's] Uncle Henry wild."

Arles and Bertha have driven to the Starlight Motel and have been eloped. They make awkward small talk, before Arles reveals a book his preacher cousin Slim gave him,

which is all about healthy sexual relations. As Bertha reads it, she becomes uncomfortable, jumping at Arles' mere touch. He calms her, saying they have to put the past behind them, and move on to better things. Bertha eventually gains courage and begins to start foreplay with Arles, which leads to Arles removing his pants and chasing Bertha around the stage. They run off, and return wearing only their nightgown and wifebeater, respectively. The curtain closes on the small town life of Tuna, Texas

Character:

Cast of characters

(In order of respective appearance)

Performed by Williams:

- Amber Windchime - Flower child, former Tuna resident
- Arles Struvie - A disc jockey at radio station OKOK, now in a relationship with Bertha Bumiller
- Petey Fisk - Employee of the Greater Tuna Humane Society
- Charlene Bumiller - Daughter of Bertha Bumiller and brother to Stanley; now a military bride
- Stanley Bumiller - Taxidermist, now residing in Albuquerque
- Vera Carp - Town snob and leader of the Prayer Posse
- Didi Snavelly - Owner of Didi's Used Weapons ("If we can't kill it, it's immortal")
- Helen Bedd - co-owner of "Helen & Inita's Hot-to-Trot Catering"
- Garland Poteet - Soda dispenser and one of Helen's many boyfriends

Performed by Sears:

- Star Birdfeather - Flower child, former Tuna resident
- Thurston Wheelis - A disc jockey at radio station OKKK
- Elmer Watkins - spokesperson for Free White Texas
- Bertha Bumiller - Housewife and mother to Jody, Stanley, and Charlene, now in a relationship with Arles Struvie
- Pearl Burras - Aunt to Bertha, whose potato-salad recipe is prize-winning
- Joe Bob Lipsey - the "not-the-marrying-kind" director of the Tuna Little Theater
- R.R. Snavelly - UFOlogist and husband to Didi, now returned to Tuna
- Inita Goodwin - co-owner of "Helen & Inita's Hot-to-Trot Catering"
- Leonard Childers - Entrepreneur and radio personality on OKKK
- The Reverend Spikes - Now out of prison

Full Length Play

Comedy

120 minutes (2 hours)

Time Period - Contemporary

Settings Of Play - The town of Tuna, Texas on the Fourth of July, the 2000's.

FEATURES / CONTAINS

Mime, Physical Comedy

Unit Set/Multiple Settings, Bare Stage/Simple Set

Contemporary Costumes / Street Clothes

CAUTIONS

Strong Language, Mild Adult Themes

Off Plaza Productions: These productions are not part of the regular PCT Season and may be performed at another venue beside the Plaza Theatre.

Inherit the Wind, Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, Dramatists Play Services

To be performed at Lamar County Courthouse, District Courtroom.

Description:

The play takes place in the small town of Hillsboro, in an unnamed state in the central part of the United States. (It is often assumed to be either Kentucky or Tennessee.) Scenes take place either in front of the county courthouse or in the courtroom. It takes place in the summertime "not too long ago".

Act One

Scene One

The play begins with local high school student Howard Blair looking for worms in front of the Hillsboro courthouse. Melinda appears, and they have a discussion about evolution which helps inform the audience about the claims of evolution. They exit when Rachel enters. Rachel convinces Meeker, the bailiff, to bring Bertram Cates out of his prison cell so that Rachel and Bert can talk. Meeker does so. Bert and Rachel's conversation tells the audience about why Bert taught evolution to his students. Rachel and Bert are in love, and hug. Meeker comes in as they are hugging, saying he needs to sweep. Rachel exits. Meeker tells Bert that Matthew Harrison Brady is coming to town to help prosecute the case. Meeker talks about a time when he was a young man, and saw Mathew Harrison Brady during one of his failed presidential campaigns. Bert's lawyer is not revealed, but Bert says his attorney is being provided by the *Baltimore Herald*. Bert and Meeker exit.

Reverend Jeremiah Brown enters speaks with the townpeople, Howard, and Melinda. Everyone is excited that Matthew Harrison Brady is coming to Hillsboro. When Timmy, a boy who lives in Hillsboro, sees the smoke from the arriving train, everyone exits. E. K. Hornbeck, a reporter for the *Baltimore Herald*, enters and in a soliloquy cruelly ridicules the people of Hillsboro. Hornbeck spots a monkey that someone has brought to town, and feigns conversation with it. The crowd enters with Matthew Harrison Brady, Mrs. Brady, Rev. Brown, and the Mayor. Brady makes a brief speech, which the crowd wildly cheers. The Mayor also makes a short speech, and makes Brady an "Honorary Colonel in the State Militia". The Mayor introduces Brady to Reverend Brown. Members of the Ladies' Aid Society set up a table and a buffet lunch on the courthouse lawn as Brady talks about how he will fight Cates' legal counsel. Hornbeck then announces that the defense attorney will be Henry Drummond, one of Brady's old friends and a well-known lawyer. The scene ends with everyone in the town escorting the Bradys to a nearby hotel and the introduction of Drummond who is regarded as the devil.

Scene Two

Scene Two occurs in the courtroom. Present are Matthew Harrison Brady, Henry Drummond, Tom Davenport, the Mayor, the Judge, and many townspeople (sitting behind the defense and prosecution and watching the proceedings). It is a day or two later, and jury selection is under way. Davenport, the local district attorney, questions Mr. Bannister to see if he is an acceptable juror to the prosecution. Bannister says he attends church on Sundays, and the prosecution accepts him. Drummond questions Bannister, and it is revealed that Bannister is illiterate. Drummond accepts Bannister for the jury. Jesse Dunlap is then called to the stand. Brady asks Dunlap if he believes in the Bible. Dunlap states "I believe in the Holy Word of God. And I believe in Matthew Harrison Brady!" Brady finds Dunlap acceptable. Drummond refuses to question Dunlap, and says Dunlap is not acceptable as a juror. Brady demands that Drummond provide a reason for refusing Dunlap, or at least ask him a question. Drummond asks Dunlap how he feels, then excuses Dunlap as unacceptable.

Drummond protests the use of the title "Colonel" by Matthew Harrison Brady and the Judge. Realizing that Brady's honorary title may have prejudiced the judicial proceedings, the Mayor confers with the Judge and they agree to make Drummond a "Temporary Honorary Colonel."

George Sillers is called as a potential juror. Brady briefly questions Sillers, then accepts him. Drummond asks Sillers some questions on religion and then evolution, then accepts Sillers as well. Alarmed, Brady tells the court that Sillers won't render impartial judgment. Drummond objects to Brady's use of the word "conform." Brady tells the Judge (although his comments are subtly directed at Henry Drummond) about the "Endicott Publishing Case," a trial in which Brady claims Drummond confused the jury so much that they delivered a wrong verdict. Drummond states that all he wants to do is stop "the clock-stoppers" from inserting religious belief into the Constitution. The Judge reminds Drummond that this is not a federal case, and that constitutional questions cannot be entertained. Drummond demands that they be included, but the Judge rules him out of order. The Judge also rules that the jury has been selected and court is finished for the day.

After recessing the court, the Judge announces that Reverend Brown will hold a prayer meeting later that night. Drummond says that such announcements from the bench are prejudicial, but the Judge says the court has recessed.

Act Two

Scene One

Scene One occurs in front of the courthouse later that evening. Two workmen discuss whether to take down the "Read Your Bible" banner which hangs over the entrance to the courthouse, and decide not to. They leave when they hear people approaching.

Brady enters with Hornbeck and some reporters from "Reuters News Agency", and discusses his past close relationship with Drummond. Brady accuses Hornbeck of biased reporting, but Hornbeck replies that he is a critic—not a reporter.

Reverend Brown and a crowd of supporters (including Drummond) enter for the prayer meeting. Brown engages in call and response with the crowd, preaching about how God created the world in six days. Brown condemns Cates, and Rachel (who has entered mid-sermon) demands that he stop. Instead, Rev. Brown condemns anyone who seeks forgiveness for Cates. Rachel becomes very distressed. Brady, increasingly uneasy with the tenor of Brown's sermon, interrupts him and quotes the Book of Proverbs: "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind..." Brady dismisses the crowd by reminding them of Jesus Christ's command to forgive.

After the prayer meeting, Brady approaches Drummond (who was in the crowd) and asks him why he is defending Cates. He accuses Drummond of having "moved away" from everything both men once believed in. Drummond replies, "All motion is relative. Perhaps it is you who have moved away by standing still."

Scene Two

Scene Two occurs in the courtroom two days after the prayer meeting. It is afternoon, and very hot. The scene opens with the trial already under way. Brady examines witness Howard Blair. Afterward, Brady and Drummond exchange heated words about speech-making during the trial. Drummond attempts to cross-examine Howard, but Brady repeatedly objects to Drummond's questions (which the Judge sustains). Drummond presents a monologue in which he declares morality is meaningless but truth is valuable, then dismisses Howard from the stand.

Davenport calls Rachel as a witness. Under Brady's questioning, she reveals that Cates stopped attending Rev. Brown's church after Brown preached that a local boy who had drowned was not saved because he had not been baptized. Cates angrily shouts that Brown had really preached that the boy was burning in hell. The crowd shouts Cates down, but Cates continues until order is restored. Brady again questions Rachel, demanding to know if Cates denied the reality of God and compared marriage to the breeding of animals. Cates again interrupts her response, yelling that his statements to her were private and just questions—not statements of fact. Rachel weeps on the stand, and Drummond objects to the line of questioning. Brady ends his examination, and Drummond allows Rachel to step down without cross-examination.

Drummond attempts to call three scientists as witnesses for the defense, but the Judge denies his request. Drummond asks if the judge will permit testimony about the Bible, and the judge does. Drummond calls Brady to the stand as an expert on the Bible.

Drummond attempts to question Brady about his knowledge of the writings of Charles Darwin, but the Judge rules these questions out of order. Drummond then asks Brady about the truthfulness behind the story of Jonah and the whale and other Biblical accounts. Brady states they are all true, and Drummond accuses him of wanting to throw all modern science out of the classroom. Davenport objects to Drummond's line of questioning, but Brady declares that Drummond is only playing into his hands. Drummond submits that science has forced the human race to abandon its faith in a literal interpretation of the Bible. God gave man the ability to reason, so why can't he use that ability to question the Bible, Drummond asks. He also asks Brady if the ability to think is what distinguishes a man from a sponge. Brady responds that God determines who shall be a man and who shall be a sponge. Drummond declares that

Cates only demands the same rights as a sponge: To think. The crowd in the courtroom erupts in applause.

Drummond changes his line of questioning. He asks Brady how old the earth is, and Brady replies it is about 6,000 years old. But if local rocks and fossils are millions of years old, Drummond asks, how can this be? Unnerved, Brady reasserts that the world was created in six days, as the Bible says. Drummond asks Brady if it isn't possible that, since the sun was not created until the fourth day, that the first "day" of creation wasn't in fact millions of years in length. Realizing that science and religion might be compatible after all, the crowd becomes vocally restive.

Brady responds by accusing Drummond of trying to destroy people's faith, and that God spoke directly to the authors of the Bible. Drummond asks him how Brady knows that God did not speak to Charles Darwin. Brady asserts that God told him that Darwin's works were not divinely inspired. Drummond mocks Brady as a "modern apostle" and concludes that no law can be just if its interpretation relies on the divine inspiration given to just one man, Matthew Harrison Brady. Brady is further unnerved, and declares that all men have free will. Drummond seizes on his statement, and demands to know why the law refuses to allow Bertram Cates to exercise his free will. Brady begins quoting the Bible at length, and Drummond continues to mock him. The crowd laughs at Brady. Drummond dismisses him from the witness stand, and Brady slumps in the witness chair while his wife rushes to his side and comforts him.

Act Three

The time is the day after the Brady/Drummond confrontation. It is early morning, and still very hot. Act Three consists of a single scene, and all the major characters are present. The courtroom is jammed with people, including several radio reporters and their bulky equipment. Cates asks Drummond if he will be found guilty. Drummond responds that when he was seven years old, he received a rocking horse named Golden Dancer as a gift. But it broke when he rode it the first time. Drummond advises him that appearances can be deceiving, and a clear-cut guilty verdict may conceal many things. He also implicitly criticizes Brady as all show and no substance. Their discussion ends. Before the trial begins, the Mayor speaks privately with the Judge in front of the bench. The mass media have been making the town look bad, and the Mayor asks the Judge to go easy on Cates should there be a guilty verdict.

The Judge opens the trial, and the jury enters. Cates is given permission to speak before sentencing occurs, and says the law is unjust. But his assertion is not a strong one, and he sits down without completing his statement. The Judge takes the verdict from the jury, and declares Cates guilty. He sentences Cates to a \$100 fine. The crowd is angry at the verdict, but many in the crowd are also pleased. Brady denounces the sentence as too lenient. Drummond says Cates will pay no fine and will appeal. Outraged, Brady asks permission to speak to the crowd. But the Judge declares the proceedings over and the court adjourned. The Judge exits.

In the chaos that ensues after the adjournment, Brady begins to deliver his speech and struggles to be heard. The crowd begins to leave, and the radio people turn off the microphones. Brady shouts even louder, trying to get the crowd's attention. Suddenly he collapses, and is carried out of the courtroom in a delirium. Hornbeck sneers at Brady

and calls him a political loser. Cates asks Drummond if he won or lost, and Drummond says he won by bringing national attention to a bad law. Hornbeck says his newspaper will pay Cates' bail to keep him out of jail.

Rachel enters, and tells Cates that she moved out of her father's house. She tells Cates that she tried to read some of Darwin's book, which she shows to him, but didn't understand it. She apologizes to Drummond and says she was afraid of thinking because thinking could lead to bad thoughts.

The Judge enters and announces that Matthew Harrison Brady has just died. Drummond is deeply saddened. Hornbeck sarcastically criticizes Brady at length, sarcastically saying that he died of "a busted belly," but Drummond says Hornbeck is being unfairly critical of religious belief. They argue about Brady's achievements. Hornbeck accuses Drummond of being overly sentimental, and leaves.

Cates and Rachel depart to catch a train; they are leaving town to be married elsewhere. Rachel leaves behind Cates's copy of Darwin's *The Descent of Man*. Drummond picks up both the Darwin book and a Bible, and leaves the courtroom with both books in his briefcase.

Characters

- Matthew Harrison Brady, a three-time presidential candidate and nationally known attorney. He is a Populist and still a dynamic public speaker, even though he is in his late 60s or early 70s.
- Henry Drummond, another nationally known attorney who was once Brady's closest friend and political confidante. He is about the same age as Brady.
- Bertram "Bert" Cates, a Hillsboro high school teacher in his 20s who has taught the theory of evolution in violation of a state law banning its teaching in classrooms.
- E. K. Hornbeck, a reporter for the fictional *Baltimore Herald* newspaper. He is young, sarcastic, cynical, and deeply opposed to religious belief.
- Rachel Brown, the Rev. Brown's daughter. She is 22 and the colleague/romantic interest of Bertram Cates. Her loyalties are torn between her father and Cates, and she is easily manipulated by others.
- Reverend Jeremiah Brown, a fundamentalist Protestant Christian preacher of indeterminate denomination who believes in Biblical literalism. He is widowed, and has a daughter.
- The Judge, a local county court judge who is subtly sympathetic to Rev. Brown's views.
- Howard Blair, a 13-year-old high school student who was in Bertram Cates' class.
- Melinda Loomis, a 12-year-old girl who believes strongly in the Bible.
- Tom Davenport, the local district attorney who prosecutes Bertram Cates.
- The Mayor, the top elected official of Hillsboro who is openly supportive of the Rev. Brown but also deeply political and concerned about the economic future of his town.

There are also a number of minor speaking roles. These include Meeker, a bailiff at the Hillsboro courthouse; Mrs. Sarah Brady, Matthew Harrison Brady's wife; Mrs. Krebs, a

loudly outspoken supporter of Rev. Brown and leader of the Ladies' Aid Society; Mr. Bannister, a local citizen; Elijah, an illiterate man from the nearby woods who sells Bibles to the crowd; Harry Esterbrook, a radio reporter from Chicago; Jesse Dunlap, a local farmer; George Sillers, an employee at the feed store; and the Storekeeper, Sillers' employer.

Full Length, Drama

21 men, 6 women, 2 boys, 1 girl, extras Many of the parts can be doubled

Total Cast: 30

Approved by BOD July 20, 2009; Additions are noted in italics and usually dated.

**Paris Community Theatre
Policies and Procedures
2009**

All Properties

All Paris Community Theatre properties are tobacco free.

No drugs or alcohol are allowed at any PCT facilities.

Thermostats must be returned to designated temperature.

All lights and equipment, including the light board must be turned off.

All doors must be locked when leaving the building.

During rehearsals, when trashcans are full, trash must be bagged and taken to the dumpster behind the Theatre.

With the permission of the director, food/drinks are allowed in designated areas; all traces of food and drink must be cleaned up each day by cast/crew. Liquids, including water, should never be put in the trash. (For Children's Theatre, see those policies and procedures.)

At all times, children must remain under the supervision of a parent or responsible adult.

A calendar of plays and events will be kept each year in the Theatre office. All events must be coordinated with the Board of Directors and the Theatre Manager. This includes rehearsal times, set building activities, removal of sets, etc.

Remember! Several groups work in the theatre. Please leave building in usable condition for others.

***Exceptions to various policies and procedures may be granted with the permission of the PCT Board of Directors.**

Paris Community Theatre Director's Responsibilities –

FACILITIES & SAFETY

1. All Paris Community Theatre properties are to be free of tobacco and illegal drugs.
2. Directors are responsible for making sure the building is shut down correctly. This includes: cleaning up any messes made during use, emptying full trash cans, returning thermostats to the designated temperature, turning off all lights and equipment, and locking all doors.
3. Only authorized personnel are allowed in the green room, makeup rooms, dressing rooms, and backstage areas. Authorized personnel includes cast, crew, and support staff.
4. At all times, children must remain under the supervision of a parent or responsible adult.
5. At strike, the play director, cast, and crew are responsible for clean up of all areas utilized by the production. Costumes and props must be left in designated areas (check with Office Manager).

PUBLICITY

1. Program information (cast, crew, synopsis) must be provided to the Office Manager two (2) weeks prior to opening of the play.
2. The board of directors must approve all videography.
3. PCT board members are in charge of public relations handle all media ads and releases, as well as other advertising, **however, play directors must coordinate with the designated members throughout the production to ensure adequate publicity.**

BUDGET & FINANCES

1. Purchases exceeding a production's approved budget require authorization from the PCT board of directors.
2. Receipts for reimbursement must be submitted to the office in a timely manner.

PRODUCTION

1. Special effects must be approved by the PCT board of directors. (Including but not limited to: gunfire, flash and fire effects, chemical effects, and motorized set/prop pieces.)
2. The PCT box office is responsible for deciding when a performance may begin **and whether there will be weather cancelations. However, the box office will consider the Director's opinion on the matter.**
3. **Any grievances or concerns should be submitted in writing to the board of directors.**
4. **Directors should keep the board of directors well informed of their production. Any variation from the above responsibilities requires approval of the board of directors.**