

Belhaven College Theatre
Department's
2009-2010 Season

A Doll's House by Henrik Isben
Directed by Dr. Louis H. Campbell
October 22-24, 28-31, 2009

One Acts Festival
December 1-2, 2009

Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde
Directed by Guest Director John Maxwell
February 18-20, 24-27, 2010

Senior Recital
Moriah Whiteman and Erin Brownfield
March 11, 2010

Murder in the Cathedral by T.S. Elliot
Directed by Joseph Frost
April 15-17, 21-24, 2010

BELHAVEN COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

Henrik Ibsen's

*A Doll's
House*

DIRECTED BY DR. LOU CAMPBELL

TECHNICAL
DIRECTOR
&
SCENIC
COORDINATOR

WILL HANKINS

ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR

ERIN BROWNFIELD

LIGHTING
DESIGNER
&
COSTUME
COORDINATOR

KRIS DIETRICH

ASSISTANT
LIGHTING
DESIGNERS

COREY SEARLES
&
ANNIE LOWERY

STAGE MANAGER

BECKI HAYNES

ASSISTANT STAGE
MANAGERS

MURPHY WILSON
&
WHITNEY
MCMAHAN

DIRECTOR'S CONCEPT

Dr. Lou Campbell, Director

The essential message of Ibsen's play deals not only with priorities and values in marriage, it deals with communication in a relationship. A marriage takes two people giving 100% of their time each to make a relationship work. From a Christian world view, each person in a relationship should submit to the Lord and to scriptural requirements and mandates in order to make a relationship work. Anything less would be compromise. Ibsen's play deals with many level of such a compromise, from honest intentions to help each other, to honoring each other and to advancing ones own perception of each other until one day to realize that all these things are gloss on a relationship, not deep commitment. Re-read your marriage vows, made before a Holy God regarding your marriage, or for those who seek to marry, recognize that your vows are not to each other but to a sovereign God. No wonder so many flippant comments have interspersed today's "marriage contract" which obviously has little or no intent of being fulfilled in a post-modern world.



Special thanks to:

Laura L. Campbell, Robert Childress, Justin & Lee Craig, Opal Elenbaas, Joseph Frost, Becki Haynes, Jamie & Miriam Lamar, Sheila Lyons, Deanna Smith, Issac Smith, Newstage Theatre, Grace Varland, Rebecca Yantis, and DHL delivery service.

Publicity Coordinator
Publicity Crew

Eleanor Baxter
Kirsten Didier*
Jonathan Dixon
Lex Quarterman*
Danielle Davis

Program Copy

Set Construction

Jesse Emling
Mysie Falardeau
Anna Rebmann

Sound Designer
Sound Board Operator

Christopher Loecher
Matt Hester

Light Board Operator
Lighting Crew

Eugene Stohlman
Jesse Emling
Mysie Falardeau
Dave Harris
Anna Rebmann
Eugene Stohlman

Head of Wardrobe
Wardrobe Crew

Scott Gaines*
Ashley Buffinet
Ashley Murray

Child Wrangler

Danielle Davis

Box Office Manager
Assistant Box Office Manager
Box Office Crew

Kerri Courtney*
Moriah Whiteman*
Amy Grabow
Ashley Murray*

**Alpha Psi Omega members*

CREW LIST

House Manager	Marla Hershberger*
Assistant House Managers	Elizabeth Davis Marie Warner
Ushers	Eleanor Baxter* Erin Brownfield* Andrew Craig Tessa Eltzroth Mysie Falardeau Ginny Holladay Alice Grimwood Drew Lamb Annie Lowery* Carla Martinez Corey Searles* Laura VanDalen
Props Master	Deanna Smith*
Assistant Props Master	Grace Varland*
Props Crew	Kristi Colvin* Ginny Holladay
Run Crew	Murphy Brown Erin Brownfield Kristi Colvin Jesse Emling Whitney McMahan Anna Rebmann Deanna Smith Eugene Stohlman

CAST

Nora Helmer	.....	Kerri Courtney*
Torvald Helmer	.....	Dave Harris
Dr. Rank	.....	Lex Quarterman*
Mrs. Christine Linde	.....	Stephanie Bishop
Nils Krogstad	.....	Jonathan Dixon
Anne (Nurse)	.....	Kirsten Didier*
Maid	.....	Grace Varland*
Ivar	.....	Mathias Lamar
Bob	.....	Alex Craig
Emmy	.....	Victoria Lamar

**Alpha Psi Omega members*

Background of “A Doll’s House”

The function of classical theatre is to entertain, inform and in this case challenge the audience to assign meaning to life’s experience in the context of their world view. In an age where relativism has pervaded all levels of thought, and social conscience is conveniently used for selfish agendas, it is helpful and appropriate to step back from the issues to gain a more universal point of view.

Marriage is the union between two people to form a line of perpetuity. Traditionally, in the passion of a new relationship the term “love” flows eloquently all the way to the altar, where two people make a vow before a Holy God to cherish, honor and obey each other until death. Marriage vows are not merely a social contract between two people, or a convenient agreement of co-habitation until something better comes along. It is a bond where two people become one! Today there is little difference between the divorce rate of Christians and pagans.

Henrik Ibsen tested the pulse of marriage and accurately assessed that the foundational issue of a relationship was flawed if the element of sincere love was missing. The focus of all the elements of love as amplified in I Corinthians and in the rest of the Bible is designed to serve as a guideline for communication not only between God and man but between a man and a woman in a marriage. Physical obsession is not love but often drives a relationship. The consequences of a dissolved marriage today have altogether to do with collateral damage. The least possible damage is a separation between two people. But often, as in the instance in this production, children are left without highly visible role models and in fact the role model of parents is easily dismissed through the convenience of divorce.

Closely examine your relationship with the one to whom you devoted or anticipate devoting yourself in light of the content of this work. Spend more time with the person who has committed their life to you and take care that you inculcate all the elements identified in Scripture, and intentionally sacrifice your ego to forgive and be forgiven by the partner of the opposite sex to whom you gave your vow. And also, spend more quality time with your children, your lineage, designed by our Creator to be the prosperity of a wholesome relationship. God bless you in your relationship with Him and with your family.

Jonathan Dixon (Krogstad)- is a Senior Theatre Ministries Major at Belhaven. He has recently appeared as Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, a Zanni in *A Servant of Two Masters*, and participated in the Joshua Squad’s trip to Brazil. As he graduates, he will aggressively pursue the teaching and practice of the arts and ministry in life and occupation.

Dave Harris (Torvald)- was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas. He has been an active member of his church for many years. He has also been involved in many productions, including *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Peter Pan*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. He would like to thank his friends and family, who have all been a great source of encouragement to him.

Mathias Lamar (Bob)- is enjoying being in his first stage production, but he can be seen in an episode of *Lomax, the Hound of Music*. When he is not busy being homeschooled, he enjoys soccer, reading about pirates and space, and playing with his Legos.

Victoria Lamar (Emmy)- has decided not to trade her hair for anyone else's, even after many requests to do so. Now stop asking already! One of her favorite activities is taking a book and pretending to read, just like her older siblings.

Lex Quarterman (Dr. Rank)- is a Junior Theatre Performance Major who was born in Lisbon, Portugal, raised in Odessa, Ukraine, and is currently studying in Jackson, Mississippi. He has no idea where he’s going next. Lex has been in productions such as *Kurt Gerstein*, *Servant of Two Masters*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. He wants to thank the cast and crew of *A Doll’s House*, especially the beautiful SM and ASMs.

Grace Varland (Helen)- is a Sophomore Theatre Performance Major from Spring Arbor, Michigan and is more than surviving her second year at Belhaven. She has also appeared onstage at Belhaven in *Much Ado About Nothing*, *All You Need Is Love Musical Revue*, and has worked on the run crew for other shows. When not at the theatre, Grace enjoys dancing (ballet, modern and Irish-step) and climbing trees. So many thanks to her parents, all of her brothers, the cast and crew of *A Doll’s House*, and to the Most High, whose timing is perfect.

BIOGRAPHIES

Stephanie Bishop (Mrs. Cristine Linde)- has performed theatre for over 10 years. *A Doll's House* is her first production with the Belhaven Theatre Department. Her previous roles include the Housekeeper/dancer in *Cinderella*, Fiona in *Brigadoon*, the Gypsy dancer in *La Traviata*, and various ensemble roles. Stephanie is thankful for the opportunity to study performing arts here at Belhaven College. In her spare time, she loves to dance, sing, write children's stories, play some recreational sports, attempt handsprings and play act with friends. One more thing she'd like to say-Soli Deo Gloria!

Kerri Courtney (Nora)- is a Senior Theatre Major from Richland, Mississippi. In her past four years at Belhaven, Kerri has appeared onstage in many roles including Fruma Sarah in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, and corpus member in *Kurt Gerstein* and *Ecclesiastes*. Kerri is thrilled to be returning to the stage as Ibsen's classic character, Nora Helmer. She would like to thank Dr. Lou for giving her this challenging and exciting opportunity. She hopes the audience will enjoy (with sorrow) one of the most well-known realistic dramas in history, that still echoes its truth today. Thanks, as always, to her family and to Michael, without whom no success is as sweet, and to God, without whom nothing is possible. Enjoy the show.

Alex Craig (Ivar)- recently started Pre-K at Kids Konnection in Richland. Over the summer, he took swimming lessons and played t-ball for the Florence Bombers. He loves Transformers, working on things with his dad, and football. When he grows up, he hopes to play football for the Mighty Auburn Tigers.

Kirsten Didier (Anne)- is a Senior Theatre Performance Major and is excited to work with such a great cast. This is her second time on the Belhaven stage. Kirsten appeared previously as Ursula in last fall's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. She has also worked backstage as an ASM for *As It Is In Heaven* and was the light board operator for *Ecclesiastes*. She has loved her time at Belhaven so far and would like to thank you for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!

ACT I VICTORIAN NORWAY

ACT II 20th CENTURY

ACT III PRESENT DAY

THE PLAY TAKES PLACE IMMEDIATELY AROUND CHRISTMAS.



During this performance, there will be two ten minute intermissions between acts as each set piece is replaced with its counterpart.



PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES IN CONSIDERATION FOR ACTORS AND AUDIENCE MEMBERS AT INTIMATE RANGE IN THIS PRODUCTION.

NO PHOTOGRAPHY OR VIDEO IS ALLOWED DURING THIS PERFORMANCE. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE HOUSE MANAGER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY PRODUCTION PHOTOS.

THANK YOU

CHARACTER SUMMARIES

Torvald (Late twenties)

Torvald Helmer, Nora's husband of eight years has been promoted to manager of the bank. Trained as an attorney, Torvald has preoccupied his professional development in banking and finance, providing a rising middle-class living through his own efforts. Focused on business, Torvald spends a great deal of his time at home in his study, avoiding general visitors and interaction with his children. He sees himself primarily as the bread winner responsible for the financial welfare of his family and as a proper guardian for his wife. Particularly preoccupied with the details of his profession he is oblivious to communicating, especially with his wife. He has been awarded Nora from her father as a trophy to his abilities as a respectable businessman. He is obsessed with his little bride and finds her a perfect fit to an adoring relationship. Yet, in the last act of the play, he manifests that he only thinks he is in love and has not cared for her or nurtured her beyond his own desires.

Nora (mid twenties)

The wife of Torvald Helmer, Nora has never been on her own, going immediately from being in the care of her father to that of her husband. Inexperienced in worldly matters, Nora is impulsive. As a result of her husband's preoccupations with his work, she is often left alone and perceives her role as child bearer to her husband and without personal goals or aspirations. But the play questions the extent to which these attributes are mere diversions that Nora engages to negotiate the patriarchal dominance she faces daily. The audience learns in the first act that Nora is independent enough to negotiate the loan to make Torvald's holiday and recovery possible, and over the course of the play, Nora emerges as a naive woman who realizes that she is not in love but merely being kept. Her assertion of independence demonstrates the collateral damage such shallow commitments create.

Dr. Rank (mid forties)

Torvald's personal friend and close to the family, Dr. Rank embodies and subverts the theatrical role of the male moral force that amplifies contemporary post-modern plays. Rather than providing moral guidance and example for the rest of the characters, Dr. Rank is a corrupting force, both physically and morally. The Doctor confesses his desire for Nora in the second act and goes off to die in the third act, leaving a visiting card with a black cross to signify that--for him--the end has come.

Mrs. Linde (late twenties)

An old schoolmate of Nora's, Mrs. Christine Linde comes back into Nora's life after losing her husband and mother. After the death of her husband, she had to work hard to support her aging mother and two younger brothers. Now, with her mother dead and her brothers being adults, she is unattached. Pressed for money, Mrs. Linde successfully asks Nora to help her secure a job at Torvald's bank. Ultimately, Mrs. Linde decides that she will only be happy if she goes off with Krogstad. Her worldly viewpoint provides a foil to Nora's youthful impetuosity. She seeks the physical and comfortable aspects of a relationship. Her pragmatic relationship with Krogstad also provides a point of comparison with that of Nora and Torvald, but that relationship is one of convenience and security for her, and not based on love.

Krogstad (late twenties)

Nils Krogstad is a man from whom Nora borrows money to pay for their trip to Italy when Torvald was in poor health. He is a boyhood acquaintance of Torvald's and an employee at the bank which Torvald has just assumed management. Krogstad is easily swayed and ignores moral and ethical issues as manifest in his involvement in a work scandal many years previously. As a result, he is not respected and his career compromised. When his job at the bank is jeopardized by Torvald's refusal to work with a man he sees as hopelessly corrupt, Krogstad blackmails Nora to ensure that he does not lose his job.

Bob, Ivar, and Emmy (7, 5 and 3 years old)

The Helmer children, products of proper marriage relationships and expectations. Raised primarily by Anne, Nora's old nurse and now nurse to her children. The children spend little time with their mother or father. The time they do spend with Nora consists of Nora playing with them as if she were just another playmate.

Anne (sixty)

The family nurse. Anne raised Nora from a young age when Nora had lost her mother. She stayed on to raise Nora's children. Anne is a competent care giver that provides Nora with a perfect excuse to leave her children at the end of the work.

Helen (thirty five)

The Helmers' housemaid. She is an efficient and a thorough manager of the home and all its issues.

