Belhaven University Theatre Department presents
Book by Rupert Holmes, Lyrics by Fred Ebb, Music by John Kander.
Additional Lyrics by Kander & Holmes

Directed by Stewart Hawley

Curtains
“The musical comedy whodunnit”

Center for the Arts 835 Riverside Drive, Blackbox Theatre

Belhaven University
It is the mission of the
BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY
THEATRE DEPARTMENT
to train servant artists in
the use of the art theatre
to serve their Community,
their Collaborators, and their Creator.

The Theatre Department
at Belhaven University
is accredited by the
National Association of
Schools of Theatre
and a member in good standing with
Christians in Theatre Arts
Southeastern Theatre Conference
Mississippi Theatre Association
United States Institute of Theatre Technology
Theatre Communications Group
This nationally recognized Honors Society is not a fraternal organization but rather a society organized by those who believe that a dedication to the theatre and good academic standing deserves recognition and acknowledgment. We have been honored at Belhaven to have had our cast, Iota Upsilon in place since 1938.

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THE BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

Curtains
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Book by Rupert Holmes
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Additional lyrics by Kander & Holmes
Directed by Stewart Hawley
Assistant Directed by Sonja Hakkinen

CHOREOGRAPHER
LAURA MORTON

COSTUME DESIGNER
NADINE GRANT

MUSIC DIRECTOR
DR. REBECCA GEIHSLER

SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGNER
KRIS DIETRICH

STAGE MANAGER
COURTNEY RODGERS

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
REBEKAH BERT
**DIRECTOR’S NOTES**

*Curtains* is based on the original book and concept by Peter Stone. The musical is a send-up of backstage murder mystery plots, set in 1959 at The Colonial Theater in Boston, Massachusetts. The story follows the fallout when the supremely untalented star of Robbin’ Hood of the Old West is murdered during her opening night curtain call. It is up to a police detective who is an avid musical theater fan to save the show, solve the case and maybe even find love before the show reopens, without getting killed himself.

Stewart Hawley, Director of *Curtains*

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**DIRECTOR’S BIO**

Stewart Hawley is from Houston and currently in his second year at Belhaven University as Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre. Last year, he directed *The Drunkard*. In Houston, Stewart directed such shows as *Into the Woods, Fences, Fiddler on the Roof, School House Rock, Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, and *The Skin of our Teeth*. He holds a MFA in Directing and is working towards a PhD in Theatre. Stewart is one of four Christian certified Stage Combat Teacher by the Society of American Fight Directors. He would like to thank his wife Cheryl and his kids, Caitlin and Casey, for their support and long suffering which enables him to continue his art.
Rupert Holmes, the author of the book *Curtains*, is also a lyricist, composer, and arranger. He was the first person in Broadway history to singly win Tony awards for both Best Book and Best Score of a Musical for his creation *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which also won the Tony award for Best Musical. The Drama Desk awarded him and *Drood* the identical honors, adding another for Holmes in their additional category of Best Orchestration. His recent Broadway hit *Say Goodnight Gracie* about the life of George Burns received a 2003 Tony nomination (and the 2004 National Broadway Theatre Award) for Best Play. His Broadway comedy-thriller *Accomplice* won him the Mystery Writers of America “Edgar” award for Best Play, the second time he’s received their highest honor. Holmes also created and wrote the Emmy award-winning TV series *Remember WENN*. His first novel, *Where The Truth Lies* is now a motion picture starring Kevin Bacon and Colin Firth, premiering at the Toronto Film Festival in September and opening across the U.S. this October. Just released is his mystery novel-with-music for Random House, *Swing*, which has already hit the top ten fiction lists of both the San Francisco Chronicle and Amazon.

John Kander & Fred Ebb (Music & Lyrics) were introduced by their mutual music publisher Tommy Valando in 1962. They first collaborated on an unproduced musical called *Golden Gate*, which producer-director Harold Prince called “...basically a test to see if the collaboration was any good.” They wrote *Flora the Red Menace*, their first musical to be produced on Broadway, in 1965, in which Liza Minnelli made her Broadway debut. Another early collaboration was the industrial musical *General Electric presents Go Fly a Kite* written with Walter Marks for General Electric’s 5th Electric Executives Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1966. Kander’s and Ebb’s greatest acclaim came from the musical *Cabaret* (1966) and the 1972 film version. The musical, directed by frequent collaborator Harold Prince, was a major success, with a Broadway run of over 1,100 performances. It won a Tony Award as the season’s best musical, and its original cast recording won a Grammy Award. The film, directed by Bob Fosse, won eight Academy Awards. The musical *Chicago* (1975) after an excellent initial run of 936 performances was revived on Broadway in 1996 to become an even greater hit. It has become the longest-running revival in Broadway history, and the 2002 film version was also a great success, including an Oscar nomination for the collaboration. Other Broadway successes included *Woman Of The Year* (1981), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1992), and, posthumously for Ebb, *Curtains* (2006).
CAST

Connor Bingham  Sidney Bernstein
Megan Cash  Brittney
Jill Cromwell  Carmen Bernstein
Adam Dunnells  Grady
Chadwick A. Harman  Lt. Frank Cioffi
Eric Henderson  Oscar Shapiro
Courtney Hollifield  Jamie
James Kenyon  Harv
Joy Kenyon  Roberta
Thaddeus Morris  Bobby Pepper
Madison Parrott  Jessica Crenshaw/
                Detective O’Farrell
Joshua Pirtle  Randy
Melissa Rey  Bambi Bernet
Morgan Robertson  Nikki Harrison
Tymothe Thompson, Jr.  Aaron Fox
Crockett Ward  Christopher Belling
Ellen Wise  Georgia Hendricks

ETIQUETTE

Please turn off all cell phones and other devices in consideration for actors and audience members. No photography or video is allowed during the performance. Please check with the house manager if you are interested in any production photos.

THANK YOU

SOUND NOTICE

*A stage weapon will be fired offstage as a sound effect during this show.

*There will be a 15 minute intermission*
Crew

House Management
Advisor - Bonnie McNair
House Manager - Lizy Hurlbert
Asst. Stage Managers - Laina Faul and Frannie Maas

Publicity
Advisor - Bonnie McNair
Program Cover & Poster Design - Mallory Shields
Program Layout & Design - Lizy Hurlbert and Margret Hollis

Box Office
Box Office Manager - Bonnie McNair
Box Office Staff - Dixie Lee Trimm & Daniel Wimberly

Scenery
Head Carpenter - Lauren Tobin
Carpenter/Construction Crew - Andrew Bakarich, Paige Dawkins, Adam Dunnells, Frannie Maas, Crockett Ward, Megan Cash, Jill Cromwell, Ethan Polson, Courtney Rodgers, Melissa Rey & Jasmine Calvert
Key Grip - Margret Hollis
Rigging/Scenery - Sonja Hakkinen, Paige Dawkins & John Alford

Props
Faculty Advisor - Rebekah Bert
Properties Master - Rachel Anderson
Props Run Crew - Morgan Hillman
Props Construction Crew - Hannah Gaudet, Eric Henderson, Madison Parrott & James Kenyon

Lighting & Sound
Accompanyist - John Barnts
Master Electricians - Margret Hollis & Thaddeus Morris
Lighting Crew - Conner Bingham, Craig Fairbanks, Alex Fortin, Morgan Hillman & Courtney Hollifield
Light Board Operator - Lauren Tobin
Sound Board Operator - Theo Lott
Follow Spot Operators - Alex Fortin, Morgan Johnson & Daniel Wimberly

Costumes
Faculty Advisor - Nadine Grant
Dressers - Andrew Bakarich, Stephanie Salinas & Leigha Ellis
**Biographies**

**Connor Bingham** (Sidney Bernstein) is a sophomore theatre student, and a native of Mississippi. This is his first production here at Belhaven. He would like to thank you for coming, and hopes you enjoy the show.

**Megan Cash** (Brittney / Bambi understudy) is very excited to act, sing, and dance in her first musical. She has appeared in Belhaven’s 24-hour Theatre Festival and the annual One Acts last year. Her hobbies include reading, bird watching, reading, doing her Greek homework, and reading. She has enjoyed working with the cast and crew of *Curtains*, and will miss it when it’s over.

**Jill Cromwell** (Carmen Bernstein)
Jill is a senior performance major here at Belhaven University, excited to partake in her last mainstage performance. She has appeared in *The Bald Soprano*, *Eleemosynary*, and most recently, *The Drunkard*. It’s been a journey here at Belhaven and she looks forward to see what God has in store for the future.

**Adam Dunnells** (Grady) is a freshman mathematics major. This is his first on-stage performance at Belhaven. His last performance was as Truffaldino in his high school’s production of *The King Stag*. This is the first musical that he’s been a part of. Adam is very excited to be a part of *Curtains* and hopes everyone enjoys the show.

**Chadwick A. Harman** (Lt. Frank Cioffi) is a senior arts administration major. This is his third production with Belhaven University. Chad has been acting in both musical theatre and traditional theatre for the past six years. Some noteworthy roles include: John Mayfair (*The Mayfair Affair*), Sky Masterson (*Guys and Dolls*) and Dr. Nevill Craven (*Secret Garden*). He has also been featured in shows such as *The Light in the Piazza*, *South Pacific* and *Les Misérables*.

**Eric Henderson** (Oscar Sharpio) is a junior at Belhaven University. He has performed in *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Drunkard*, *Ice Island: The Wait for Shackleton*, and more. He has hopes of pursuing the BFA program here and to start working immediately after completion.
Courtney Holifield (Jamie) is a freshman musical theatre major from Clinton, MS a place where everyone wanted to be a part of show choir. She was a member of her school’s show choir for five years and grew a huge passion for music and performance. When she was younger, Courtney performed in children shows such as 101 Dalmations and Aristocats. Theatre played a very small part in her life, until her voice teacher at MS School of the Arts exposed her to musical theatre. This is Courtney’s first Belhaven production. She is very excited and thankful to be a part of this show and share the stage with such a talented cast.

James Kenyon (Harv) is a freshman theatre performance major hailing from Miami, Florida. He is thrilled to be joining the Curtains cast after participating last fall’s An Evening of One-Acts. Although he enjoys acting on stage, his true passion is in directing, which he hopes to pursue here at Belhaven. James enjoys playing cards, swing dancing, exploring outdoors, and hanging with friends. He thanks God for allowing him to study at Belhaven and his friends and fellow cast members for all their support and encouragement.

Joy Kenyon (Roberta) is a junior music major with a musical theater emphasis from Miami, Florida. She enjoys singing, food, and spending time with friends and family. Her previous Belhaven shows include What I Say Goes: A Musical Revue of Motherhood, Into the Woods, The Pied Piper of Hamlin, The Drunkard, and Game of Chance. She is excited to perform in Curtains and hopes that everyone enjoys the show.

Thaddeus Morris (Bobby Pepper), currently a first semester senior majoring in musical theater, was last seen on the Belhaven stage as Tom Crean, an Irish seaman and Antarctic explorer in Ice Island. Previous appearances at Belhaven include The Drunkard, Henry V, Into the Woods and the fall 2013 and 2011 Musical Review. During the summer he has performed with San Antonio Performing Arts in Hot Rod, Flapper and Give My Regards to Broadway. Thaddeus would like to thank Stewart Hawley and the rest of the theatre faculty for this opportunity to grow and showcase the talent God has given him.

Madison Parrott (Jessica Crenshaw/ Detective O’Farrell) is a native of Jackson, MS, and is a sophomore majoring in musical theatre. She previously had the opportunity to perform in Belhaven’s productions of Henry V, The Drunkard, and Johanne d’Arc, and is thrilled to be able to perform in Curtains! Madison has a passion for performing, and has enjoyed acting, singing and playing the piano in a variety of venues. She spends her spare time attending plays and concerts, sewing, and designing costumes.
Joshua Pirtle (Randy) is a freshman musical theatre major, and very excited to be a part of the cast for Curtains. He has recently been in Guys and Dolls at Black Rose Theatre as well as You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown at Northwest Rankin High School. He loves to sing and act, but he ultimately lives for the Lord through everything that he does. Joshua is so excited to once again take the stage, and he wishes all of his fellow cast members a wonderful show!

Melissa Rey (Bambi Bernet) is a sophomore musical theatre major from Miami, Florida. She has previously been seen on the Belhaven stage in The Drunkard and in Shipwrecked! She is positively thrilled to be back, in Curtains, and would like to thank her wonderful cast for all the support.

Morgan Robertson (Nikki Harrison) celebrates her final undergrad musical! The past four years have been filled with many exciting roles including Cinderella in Into the Woods and Player 3 in Shipwrecked: the Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont. Morgan will graduate in May with a Bachelor of Arts in Music with an emphasis in Musical Theatre. She is very thankful to have worked with this cast and crew. Here’s to the future!

Tymothe Thompson Jr. (Aaron Fox) is a sophomore at Belhaven University. He has performed in over thirty musical productions of the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the past ten years with theatres such as KNS Theatre, WINGS Performing Arts, Gulfport Little Theatre, A.C.T., and MGCSO. Some highlights include Edna in Hairspray, Adolfo Pierelli in Sweeney Todd, and Jack in Into the Woods. He recently performed in Belhaven Theatre’s productions of The Drunkard and Ice Island. He hopes you thoroughly enjoy tonight’s performance as much as he has enjoyed working with this talented cast! Acts 1:7-8

Crockett James Ward (Christopher Belling) is a junior theater performance major with a minor in biblical studies. This is Crockett’s first time on the stage at Belhaven University. He is a junior transfer student from Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Ellen Wise (Georgia Hendricks) is from Seattle, WA, and is a senior music major at Belhaven studying composition and vocal performance. Ellen has been in two other Belhaven musicals; Into the Woods as Little Red Riding Hood and The Light in the Piazza as Clara. Her sophomore year, Ellen also co-directed and performed in a student produced musical revue. She would like to thank her parents for all their love and support, her roommate Sonia for helping her learn her lines in the most entertaining ways, and Jesus for pursuing her in in every moment.
**Musical Director**

Dr. Rebecca Geihsler, a native of New Orleans, has served as an adjunct music instructor at Belhaven University since 2009 teaching private voice, music history, popular music, music appreciation, and vocal fundamentals. She served as the music director for Belhaven’s 2012 production of *Into the Woods* and has recently sung the role of Letitia in Mississippi Opera’s production of *Old Maid and the Thief*. Dr. Geihsler holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Centenary College of Louisiana, a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance, and Doctor of Arts in Vocal Pedagogy from the University of Mississippi, where she held a University Fellowship and an Assistantship in Opera. She has been a finalist in both State and Regional NATS Student Auditions and represented the University of Mississippi on several occasions in performances at the National Opera Association Convention and the Midwest Opera Festival. She is a member of Pi Kappa Lamda and the National Association of Teacher’s of Singing. She lives in Clinton with her husband and five children.

**Accompanyist**

John Barnts is grateful to be playing musicals again. During his twelve years as a Fine Arts teacher and administrator in Southern California, he played a musical every spring. But in the summer of 2011 he left his career in education, threw his wife and three kids into a moving van, and drove to Mississippi for seminary. After two years of writing papers and studying theology, he is glad to be back on the bench playing saloon music. Thanks Belhaven.

**Choreographer**

Laura Morton is originally from Houston, TX where she received her initial training in classical ballet, jazz, and modern from prestigious dance educators such as Anne and Nicholas Polajenko and ABT’s Alexander Minz. Her professional credits include Milwaukee Ballet, Delia Stewart Dance Company, and Ad Deum Dance Company. Morton has served on the faculties of Summer Arts Session (Ravensburg, Germany), Pacific Northwest School of Ballet (Seattle, WA), Evergreen City Ballet (Auburn, WA), Houston Metropolitan Dance Center (Houston, TX), Houston Ballet Ben Stevenson Academy (Houston, TX), and Ad Deum Dance Company (Houston, TX). Morton is an Associate Professor of Dance, Director of the Ballet Division, and Resident Choreographer at Belhaven University where she has created over twenty-five classical/neo-classical, as well as musical theatre choreographic works.
Theatre Missions

This May, eight members of the theatre department have the opportunity to go to Western Europe and be a part of the work God is doing there. They will be connecting with a few organizations and churches that have a heart for sharing the gospel with the people of Europe through the arts. They will have the chance to see how God is using different artists to impact people’s lives, and hopefully learn from them as well as share with them what they have to offer as a group. They will be performing various pieces surrounding the idea of young people acting out their faith, including historical, biblical, and personal accounts. Their journey is still in the making, but with your prayers and support, they will be participating in The Imagine Arts Festival in Denmark and performing in other parts of Western Europe.

If you would like to support them as they step out in faith, please consider doing so financially. This tax deductible donation can be submitted via mail, check made payable to Belhaven University, and put Theatre Missions Trip in the Memo line. Please mail them to Belhaven Theatre Department, Belhaven University, 1500 Peachtree St, Jackson, MS 39202.

If you are unable to support financially, please support them in prayer as they prepare and embark further on this journey.

Thank you for your support.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

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