It is the mission of the Belhaven University Theatre Department to train servant artists in the use of the art of 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 Southeast Theatre Conference and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology.
Belhaven University Theatre Presents

MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL
written by t.s. eliot
directed by joseph frost

Assistant Director
Kerri Courtney

Scenic Designer
Kris Dietrich

Technical Director
Brandon Whitlock

Assistant Director
Kerri Courtney

Stage Manager
Deanna Smith

Composer & Musical Director
Andrew Mark Sauerwein

Assistant Stage Managers
Ginny Holladay
Stephani Bishop

Sound Designer
Christopher Loecher

Lighting Designer
Annie Lowery

Costume Designer
Corey Searles
Cast Biographie

You’re a Good Man
Charlie Brown. She is thrilled to be in her first “Joe Show”.

**Whitney McMahan** is a Theatre production major here at BU. This is her first show at Belhaven, and she is very excited. Break a leg, everyone!

**Tessa Eltzroth** grew up in San Francisco and moved to Jackson 6 years ago. She is a junior social services major and theatre minor. Past Belhaven performances include Antigone, Paper Wings, and A Chocolate Affair. She has also performed with the Floodlight Theatre Company in Braids.

**Marla Hershberger** is a Senior theatre major from Richmond, Virginia. She enjoys both sides of theatre, acting and technical. Marla has recently performed in the musical revue, All You Need Is Love. She is delighted to have this opportunity to be on stage again at Belhaven. She would like to thank her professors and Kerri for their support, the beautiful cast, and her loving family and friends who have helped her through this intense learning process. Lastly, she would like to thank God for His faithfulness.

**Kirsten Didier** is a Senior Theatre Performance major and is excited to work with such a great cast. This is her third time on the Belhaven stage. Kristen appeared previously as Ursula in last fall’s production of Much Ado About Nothing and Anne in A Doll’s House. She has also worked backstage as an ASM for As It Is In Heaven and the light board operator for Ecclesiastes. She has loved her time at Belhaven and would like to thank you for coming. She hopes you enjoy the show!
Belhaven University Theatre Presents

Murder in the Cathedral

written by t.s. eliot
directed by joseph frost

Assistant Director
Kerri Courtney

Scenic Designer
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Technical Director
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Director's Notes

T.S. Eliot, considered by many to be one of the fathers of modern poetry, was commissioned to compose a theatre piece for performance at the 1935 Canterbury Festival; which had, for years, featured stories centered on the 1170 martyrdom of the Archbishop Thomas Becket, the patron saint of Canterbury Cathedral. Europe, in the 1920’s, was experiencing the growing presence of the Nazis in Germany and Fascism in Italy, and Eliot was particularly intrigued by the story of Becket, a religious man who resisted the political powers of his day. In creating this piece, Eliot not only penned a classic play, and a beautiful piece of long-form poetry, but also an enduring masterpiece that formidably stands at the intersection of religion and the theatre.

Murder in the Cathedral is a variation on the tragedy of the Greek drama, where the hero causes the downfall of a community because of the hero's own hamartia, or tragic flaw. Here, Thomas is tempted by the draw of ambition and self-preservation, but navigates around these selfish desires in order to uphold the beliefs of his community. The play uses the scale, verse, use of choral odes that are borrowed directly from the Greek, while breaking from the traditional in its depiction of a martyr’s death, and the direct-address undercutting of the knight’s justifications.

Our attempt, in the production, to use non-representative and non-realistic techniques, inspired by the work of avant-garde theatre directors (Peter Sellars, Robert Wilson, Richard Foreman), was driven by the desire to match the epic nature of the play and its stylized use of verse language. The work of these directors has less to do with realistic representation than the accentuated presentation of the essential elements of the play. The style we employ is
Cast Biographies

Pensacola, Florida. She has appeared on the Belhaven stage several times, including performing in Servant of Two Masters as Clarice, and As It Is In Heaven as Fanny. She also spends a whole lot of time in the costume shop, hoping to pursue a career in costuming. She would like to thank the amazing professors, the fabulous cast and crew, and her wonderful fish, Albee.

Anna Rebmann is a freshman Theatre major from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. She is delighted to be acting in her first production at Belhaven. Among her favorite theatre experiences in the past was the role Pippen in The Spider’s Web, and directing The Importance of Being Earnest as her high school Senior project. She would like to thank her family for their continual encouragement and love.

Amy Grabow is a Sophomore Theatre performance major at Belhaven University. Before studying theatre at Belhaven, she attended Montgomery College where she studied radio and received a spot in the Phi Theta Kappa honors society. Amy has had many opportunities to work in many different areas in the theatre department such as sound, stage managing, box office, set construction, lighting, and is now thrilled to be performing in Murder in the Cathedral. She would like to thank her awesome director, beautiful SM/ASM’s and God the Father – with whom all things are possible.

Mysie Falardeau is a Freshman Theatre performance major. In addition to theatre she loves art, poetry, and drinking as much coffee as humanly possible. She is excited to be a part of Murder in the Cathedral.

Eleanor Baxter is a Sophomore Theatre major. Here at Belhaven, she has been in Much Ado About Nothing, two years of the One Act Plays, As It Is In Heaven, and
acting into the future.

**Kristi Colvin** is a Senior Theatre major with an emphasis in theatre ministry. She is thrilled to be working on this show! She will graduate in May and get married 21 days later! Yay! She hopes to work with children, teaching or directing. She thanks Christ, her supportive family, hard-working SM team, and wonderful fiancé for helping her through this!

**Grace M. Varland** is a Junior Theatre performance major and is ever so excited to be taking part in her first “Joe Show”!! She loves physical theatre and hopes to pursue it past graduation. She sends her love to her family, the professional SM team, and her brother, Luke, who never settles for less.

**Erin Brownfield** is a Senior Theatre performance major from Texas. Before coming to Belhaven, she graduated from the Dell’Arte international school of physical theatre in California. Thanks to Joe for allowing her to be in this production, the lovely SM team for their hard work, her fellow Knights on stilts, her friends and loving family for their support, and to God, her creator, for giving her a passion for theatre.

**Danielle Davis** is a Senior Theatre performance major who will soon be entering her last two semesters at Belhaven. Her most memorable roles have been Belle in Beauty and the Beast, Phyllis Dale in 42nd Street, Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing, and Sister Jane in As It Is In Heaven. This is her first time playing a knight, and she loves all of the privileges and power it has brought her. Special thanks to her Abba, her lovely family, and her small and fierce roommate, Marie. Enjoy the show!

**Becki Haynes** is a Senior Theatre major from
of these directors has less to do with realistic representation than the accentuated presentation of the essential elements of the play. The style we employ is to specifically highlight and exaggerate those elements; such as the smoothness of temptation, the ominous approach of the knights, and the grand scale of the cathedral itself.

It is often common to assume that the director is the one who has sat in an office somewhere and dreamed up the vision of what happens on stage, fully formed; that the director comes into rehearsal with this vision, and tells everyone what to do. My process as a director has more to do with facilitating the creativity of the entire cast of collaborators, and to function as editor to balance the weight of ideas. This show would literally not be the same without any one of this crew and cast, and for their efforts, I am immensely grateful.

I cannot express enough thanks to my Assistant Director, Kerri, for all of the hard work and creativity she brought to this process.

Shannon, Nina and Darby, I want to thank you for your patience and sacrifice throughout this process. I hope that our audience is blessed by this production – thank you for being a part of tonight’s performance.

Joseph Frost, MFA
Chair, Belhaven University Theatre
Cast List

Thomas Beckett • Lex Quarterman

Messenger • Kirsten Didier

Priests • Krisit Colvin, Eleanor Baxter & Anna Rebmann

Chorus • Marie Warner, Whitney McMahan, Tessa Eltzroth, Amy Grabow

Tempters • Marla Hershberger, Ashley Elizabeth Murray, Grace Varland, Mysie Falardeau & Kerri Courtney (voice)

Knights • Scott Gaines, Becki Haynes, Danielle Davis & Erin Brownfield

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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.
Andrew Mark Sauerwein Composer & Musical director
Andrew joined Belhaven’s faculty in 2005 to establish the composition program. In addition to teaching composition, theory, and music in the worldview curriculum, he directs the Belhaven composer’s forum, pursues his fascination with composition and improvisation, and provokes collaborative creative projects in his students and colleagues, always finding inspiration in the character and beauty of his charming wife, Quita.

Ashley Elizabeth Murray is a Sophomore Theatre major here at Belhaven. She is so excited to be a part of this cast! Some of her past credits include: Much Ado About Nothing, Brigadoon, The Music Man, and Oklahoma! Ashley Elizabeth loves theatre, but also loves being outdoors riding her bike, hiking swimming, and generally playing outside (especially after the rain!) She would like to thank her awesome parents for always supporting her crazy dreams and Jesus Christ for guiding her every step of the way. Hebrews 12:1-3

Scott D Gaines is thrilled to be a part of Murder, his 10th production to perform in the Belhaven Theatre Department. Most recently, he was seen as Algernon in The Importance of Being Earnest, directed by John Maxwell. Other credits include: Ecclesiastes, First Draft, Much Ado About Nothing, and The Glass Menagerie. Many thanks to Joe and Kerri, the SM team, and his family. John 15:4-5

Lex Quartermann was born and raised in Europe. He has been in several productions at Belhaven including Kurt Gerstein, and A Doll’s House. Occasionally, he can be heard on the radio at WLEZ. He wants to thank his cast and the beautiful SM crew. He hopes to continue his
Cast Biographies

Joseph Frost is the Chair of Theatre at Belhaven College, and holds an MFA in Script and Screenwriting and an MA in Communication: Theatre Arts from Regent University. His acting resume includes a wide range of award winning work, such the independent feature film The Proper Care and Feeding of An American Messiah as well as on stage as Hamlet, and professional work at Red Clay Theatre (TN) and New Stage Theater here in Jackson. As a playwright, Joseph’s works have been staged around the country, including the Belhaven productions of his plays Braid, The Great Play, and The Memory Trilogy. Joseph’s directing experience includes the world premieres of Sandra Holcombe’s Grass Huts in Heaven, his own plays Disease, Braid, and The Playhouse, as well as productions of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Ionesco’s The Lesson, and the Belhaven University productions of Chekhov’s Uncle Vanya, Sophocles’ Antigone, Kurt Gerstein by Paul D Patton, and last season’s production of Ecclesiastes. Joseph is a member of Christians in Theatre Arts (CITA), the Dramatist’s Guild of America, a board member of the Fondren Theatre Workshop, and is the artistic director of the floodlight theatre company.

Kerri Courtney is happy to be closing out her four years at Belhaven College/University with her role of Assistant Director for Murder in the Cathedral. Kerri has enjoyed working alongside Joe in many productions such as Kurt Gerstein, Ecclesiastes, and Braid. She has appeared onstage in various productions at Belhaven over the the last four years including Fruma Sarah in Fiddler on the Roof, Amanda in The Glass Menagerie, Monica/Therese/Woman in First Draft, and Nora in A Doll’s House. Kerri is thrilled to be closing out the performance aspect of her academic career as the voice of Tempter 4. Thanks to everyone for teaching her how to be a servant artist.
Thomas Beckett

Thomas Becket was the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1662 until his death in 1670. His death was the result of conflict with King Henry II over the rights and privileges of the church in England. The archbishop of York and the bishops of London and Salisbury held the coronation of Henry the Young King in York, in violation of Canterbury’s privilege of coronation, and Becket had all three bishops excommunicated. Becket continued to excommunicate the kings allies in the church, until he was assassinated in Canterbury Cathedral by followers of the king. Pope Alexander canonized Thomas Becket shortly after his death, elevating him to sainthood.

Canterbury, because of its religious history, had always seen a large number of pilgrims. However, after the death of Thomas Becket, the number of pilgrims visiting the town grew rapidly. - Wikipedia

T.S. Eliot

Born in Missouri, T.S. Eliot was a literary critic, a playwright, and arguably the most important English-language poet of the 20th century. While at Harvard and Oxford, Eliot studied philosophy and poetry. Even though he became a British citizen at age 39, he still considered America to be his primary source of influence. During the writing of “Murder in the Cathedral”, Eliot drew heavily on the writings of Edward Grim, who was an eyewitness to the assassination of Thomas Becket. The play was commissioned by E. Martin Browne to be written for the Canterbury Festival in 1935. (wikipedia) The play itself can be viewed as a reaction to the time of rising fascism in Central Europe, as a protest to individuals in affected countries to oppose the Nazi regime’s subversion of the ideals of the Christian Church. (Stewart, Gaither. “Murder in the Cathedral or How the Sainthood of the Archbishop Became the Epiphany of the King)
Crew

**First Hand** • Becki Haynes
**Cutter** • Patsy Bessolo
**Stitchers** • Whitney McMahan, Marie Warner, Kristi Colvin, Ben Kelley, Kirstie Carter, Matt Reynolds, Laura Matthews, Scott Gaines, Ellen Thombley, Gene Stohlman
**Chainmail Master** • Mikael Jury
**Head of Wardrobe** • Kristi Colvin

**Master Electrician** • Gene Stohlman
**Asst. Master Electrician** • Whitney McMahan
**Light Board Operator** • Murphy Wilson
**Electrics Crew** • Moriah Whiteman, Murphy Wilson, Ashley Jane Buffinets, Tessa Eltzroth

**Sound Crew** • Amy Grabow
**Sound Board Operator** • Dave Harris

**Scenic Artists** • Ashley Murray, Scott Gaines, Tessa Eltzroth, Ellen Thombley, Luke Lennon, Laura Van Dalen, Rebekah Asher, Naomi Ahern, Amy Grabow, Stephanie Bishop, Murphy Wilson, Ginny Holladay, Erin Brownfield, Kerri Courtney, Addie Leake, Mysie Falardeau
**Stage Carpenters** • Dave Harris, Mysie Falardeau, Ashley Elizabeth Murray, Erin Brownfield, Scott Gaines, Gene Stohlman, Annie Lowery, Whitney McMahan
Crew

Publicity Coordinator • Michelle Boutros
Program Copy • Becki Haynes
Publicity Crew • Kelsey Barnett, Michelle Boutros, Erin Brownfield, Kerri Courtney, Becki Haynes, Marla Hershberger, Mandy McCullough, Carly Stearns, Whitney Wallace

House Manager • Jonathon Dixon
Asst. House Manager • Grace Varland
Ushers • Naomi Ahern, Joshua Harten, Alice Grimwood, Alex Fortin, Bethany Beshan, Deanna Varderver

Properties Master • Marla Hershberger
Asst. Properties Master • Anna Rebmann
Properties Crew • Matt Hester, Lex Quarterman, Danielle Davis

Box Office Manager • Bonnie McNair
Asst. Box Office Manager • Moriah Whiteman
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Photographer • Merianne Dietrich
Print Design • Emily Mabry, Melissa McLeod
Cantebury Cathedral
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Tessa Eltzroth grew up in San Francisco and moved to Jackson 6 years ago. She is a junior social services major and theatre minor. Past Belhaven performances include Antigone, Paper Wings, and A Chocolate Affair. She has also performed with the Floodlight Theatre Company in Braids.

Marla Hershberger

Kirsten Didier
This nationally recognized Honours 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 acknowledgement. Alpha Psi Omega is a National Honors Society. We have been honored here at Belhaven to have had our cast Iota Upsilon in place since 1938.
Upcoming Events

April 17
Guitar Ensemble Concert
Saturday, 7:30 pm, Concert Hall

April 20
Best of Belhaven II
Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Concert Hall

April 23 and 24
DOXA Spring Concert
Friday and Saturday 7:30 pm,
Bitsy Irby Visual Arts and Dance Center

April 24
"Glory to God"
Belhaven University and
Jackson Community Symphony Orchestra
and Choral Arts Concert
Saturday, 7:30 pm, Concert Hall

Theatre Department Faculty

Joseph Frost, MFA
Associate Professor of Theatre,
Chair of the Theatre Department
(601) 974 - 6148
jfrost@belhaven.edu

Louis Campbell, Ph.D.
Professor of Theatre
(601) 974 - 6473
lcampbell@belhaven.edu

Kris Dietrich, MFA
Assistant Professor of Theatre,
Faculty Designer
(601) 974 - 6475
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