COMING SOON!

Silent Sky
by Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Merlaine Angwali

PRESENTED BY THE UW OSHKOSH THEATRE DEPARTMENT

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH
FOND DU LAC PRESENTS

AUDITIONS DEC. 6-7

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE 7-8:30 PM

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh/
Fond du Lac Presents

FAREWELL
December 8th, 2021
11 am-2 pm in the University Commons
You made it to the end of Fall Semester!
Celebrate with FREE pizza, hot chocolate, music,
bingo, a scavenger hunt, games, crafts, and card making!
Big-ticket prizes will be available to win!

Sponsored by:
THE INTERSECT

ALL IS CALM
THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914
ALL IS CALM

By Peter Rothstein
Vocal Arrangements by Erick Lichte and Timothy C. Takach

Chris Flieller
Director
Eva Thelen-Dunphy
Musical Director
Cheryl DuBrava
Costume Design
Allison Brunet
Stage Manager
Michael Dunphy
Assistant Musical Director/Rehearsal Accompanist

WHEN: 1914
WHERE: THE WESTERN FRONT

ALL IS CALM: THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914 runs approximately 60 minutes with no intermission. Please wear masks properly throughout your time spent in the building and theatre. We thank you for your cooperation.

ALL IS CALM: THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914 was developed and produced by Cantus Vocal Ensemble and Theater Latté Da in Minneapolis, MN, December 2007. The show premiered Off-Broadway in 2018, produced by Laura Little Theatricals.

AUDITIONS FOR UWO/FOND DU LAC
Department of Theatre’s Spring Show

Contact: Chris Flieller, Director
414-581-3554 /fliellerc@uwosh.edu for information

UWO-FDL will be holding community wide auditions for its spring 2022 production of Inherit The Wind by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee (not that Robert E. Lee) on Thursday, January 13 and Friday, January 14, 2022 from 6pm-9pm, in Room A-216 in the Art Wing of the UW-FDL Campus.

- Inherit the Wind is based on the celebrated Scope’s Monkey Trial of 1926, a true story in which an elementary schoolteacher was arrested and put on trial for teaching the theory of evolution in his classroom.
- Age Ranges – 10 years old to 70 years old.
- There are as many as 21 men, 6 women and 2 children. Some doubling may occur.
- Rehearsals for leads will begin Tuesday, February 15, 2022. The play opens Thursday, April 28, 2022 and run through Saturday, April 30, 2022. Minor roles will begin rehearsing Tuesday, March 29, 2022.
- All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to audition regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identification or sexual orientation.
- Auditioners will be asked to read a short passage from the script, which will be provided for you at your audition, or which you can obtain when you call to secure your audition slot.
- The play takes place in Tennessee in the year 1926. You may be asked to speak with a southern dialect.
- Auditioners will be seen either individually or in groups, in 15-20 minute slots, and then released. Please call Chris on his mobile phone at 414-581-3554 to secure a time or for any other questions.
regularly featured soloist for the Lighthouse Big Band, the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band and the nationally televised Heart of the Nation Masses. She also serves as lead singer of “Eva and the Swizzle Sticks,” a jazz combo that performs regularly at the Thehma Sadoff Center. She has also served for several years as assistant director and costumer for the “On Stage @ THELMA” children’s theatrical summer camp. Eva is a member of the Board of Directors for the Fond du Lac Community Theater, where she can regularly be seen on stage, in the pit orchestra, or behind the scenes directing children’s theater. Eva lives in Fond du Lac with her musically gifted husband Michael, son Arthur, and Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Nigel.

**Michael Dunphy** (Assistant Musical Director/Rehearsal Accompanist)

Michael Dunphy, Fond du Lac native, accompanist, trombonist, music director, arranger, composer received his B.A. in Music from Marian University. He has been the rehearsal accompanist/pit orchestra pianist for many productions, including *Into the Woods* with Lomira High School; *The Addams Family* at Chilton High School; *Elf*, *Spamalot*, and *Shrek* with the FDL Community Theatre; and, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Fiddler on the Roof* with St Mary's Springs Academy. Michael was music director for "9 to 5" at FDL Community Theatre and *The Gilbert & Sullivan Follies* at UWO. He has had the pleasure of performing in the 132nd Army Band, Fond du Lac Symphonic Band, Lighthouse Big Band, Water City Jazz Orchestra, and the South Shore Chorale. Michael has composed and arranged music for Fond du Lac Area Children's Chorale, Milwaukee Catholic Archdiocese, 132nd Army Band, and Marian University Chamber Choir. When he's not making music in some capacity, Michael enjoys teaming up with his talented wife, Eva, and wrestling with his son, Arthur, and corgi, Nigel.

**Allison Brunet** (Stage Manager)

Allison has a history of being stage crew in musicals through high school and middle school. While this is her first show being stage manager, she is very happy to be able to be part of shows even after high school.

**Cheryl DuBrava** (Costume Design)

Cheryl is a self-taught costume aficionado, having costumed over 50 musicals, plays, or other productions for various schools/organizations in the FDL area. She enjoys volunteering at Bingo for Critter Junction Pet Rescue and creating the newsletter for FAREA (FdL Area Retired Educators’ Association). Although officially retired from FDL High School as a special education teacher, Cheryl works part-time for Advocap and always has creative projects going that keep her busy.

**SPECIAL THANKS**: We are very grateful for the support of many individuals who helped bring this play to fruition: Douglas Bord-Pire, Cheryl DuBrava, Christine Reeves, Robert Reeves, Jane Flieller, Milt Flieller, Jon Gilliland, Linda Lueck, FDL Army Navy Store

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**ALL IS CALM**

**Peter Rothstein, Playwright**: Peter Rothstein has directed 72 mainstage productions for Theater Latté Da in Minneapolis, including 11 world premieres. Other recent collaborations include the Guthrie Theater, the Children’s Theater Company, Minnesota Opera, Illusion Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Minnesota Orchestra, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Seattle’s 5th Avenue Theater, and Asolo Rep. He is the creator of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* and *Steerage Song*, a docu-musical created in collaboration with Dan Chouinard.

Peter was named the 2015 Artist of the Year by the Star Tribune, Theater Artist of the Year by Lavender, and Best Director by City Pages. He has received nine Ivey Awards and has been awarded grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation. He holds a B.A. in Music and Theater from St. John’s University and a Master of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Erick Lichte, Vocal Arranger**: Erick Lichte has been hailed by the Washington Post for the “audacity” of his programming and noted by the Chicago Tribune for the “meticulous preparation” of his choirs. Fanfare Magazine declared that he created and helmed “the premier men’s vocal ensemble in the United States.” As a founding member, singer and Artistic Director of the male vocal ensemble Cantus, Lichte created and sustained one of only two full-time vocal ensembles in the United States. His work with Cantus garnered the 2009 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, the highest honor from the professional choral organization, Chorus America. In January 2013, Lichte began his tenure as Artistic Director of Vancouver BC’s Choir Leoni Men’s Choir, one of the most active and popular amateur choirs in North America. His first recording with Choir Leoni, “Wandering Heart,” received a perfect five-star review from the UK’s prestigious Choir and Organ Magazine; and Oregon Arts Watch declared that under his leadership, Choir Leoni is now “one of the best male choirs on the continent.”

**Timothy C. Takach**: Reviewed as “gorgeous” (Washington Post) and “stunning” (Lawrence Journal-World), the music of Timothy C. Takach is rapidly gaining momentum in the concert world. Applauded for his melodic lines and rich, intriguing harmonies, Takach is a full-time composer and has received a number of commissions from various organizations including VocalEssence, the St. Olaf Band, Cantus, Pavia Winds, cellist Kirsten Whitson, Lorelei, The Rose Ensemble and the University of Notre Dame DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. His compositions have been performed on A Prairie Home Companion, The Boston Pops holiday tour, multiple All-State and festival programs and at venues such as the Library of Congress, Kennedy Center and Royal Opera House Muscat. Takach has been awarded grants from the American Composers Forum, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, and the Minnesota State Arts Board and Meet the Composer, and yearly ASCAP awards since 2004. He studied Music Theory and Composition at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, where he graduated with honors. Takach lives in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.
ALL IS CALM
A SHORT ACCOUNT OF WHAT LED UP TO THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914

In July 1914, millions of young men, of all ages and backgrounds, eagerly enlisted to beat back the Kaiser’s formidable war machine and rescue Europe from the clutches of the “Hun”. It all seemed so romantic and adventurous. With so many able-bodied soldiers joining the cause, most of the enlisted men were sure that Germany would be defeated by Christmas, and that they would return home as heroes.

What these callow youth discovered when they actually engaged in battle with the Germans at the Western Front was a fighting force that was better trained, better equipped, and more organized than they could ever have realized. They also found hellish conditions in the rain-soaked trenches rife with lice, fungus, fetid mud, and rats the size of small dogs. This was not the musket and sabre warfare of their grandfathers, fought on a pitched field; this was brutal, ugly, impersonal wasting of lives by sniper, mortar, shrapnel, and the new bio-weapon -- mustard gas. Hopes soon faded that the war would be over by Christmas, or even by the next Christmas. It, in fact, lasted until November 1918.

That something as decent and genuine as the Christmas Truce arose from the daily atrocities occurring on the front lines is truly miraculous, and more deeply affecting than any fiction could evoke. For an all too brief time on Christmas of 1914, the world witnessed the Human Spirit beat back the Spectre of Death, that average men could transform No Man’s Land into Common Ground. All Is Calm is the story of that event.

Keep hope in your heart and Merry Christmas.

FROM THE DIRECTOR, CHRIS FLELLER

When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. — African Proverb

War is Hell. — General William T. Sherman

The events of 1914 stand out so starkly against the backdrop of “the war to end all wars”, and resonate so deeply with our fractured society of today, that it was an easy choice (albeit a challenging one) to produce this piece and rejuvenate the theatre program here at UWO/FDL. This play is all about taking a stand to do something good in the world; something that will, though for a short time, make a positive difference in people’s lives. We here at the FDL campus are taking the stand that theatre should and will go on making a positive difference in the lives of individuals and the community at large.

Robert Christopher Reeves: Robert has been involved in theater work from the tender age of eight for both school productions in Berlin and Missoula Children's Theater productions in Green Lake. In high school, he performed in several productions including Sound of Music, Music Man, Guys and Dolls and Beauty and the Beast, and was heavily involved in music. At UW-Oshkosh, he played Bernard in Boeing, Boeing. Most recently, he performed in the local musical Repeat after Mi (In Quarantine). Outside of the arts, Robert is an historian, teacher and author, self-publishing a novelette titled Korinna: The Woman with the Spear.

Daniel Schneider: Daniel has been in a number of shows over the last few years, most recently as Franklin Hart in Fond Du Lac Community Theatre’s production of 9 to 5. He hopes that you are as moved by All is Calm as he has been; one of the most poignant pieces of theatre in which he has had the privilege of taking part.

Emily Weinberger: Emily was very involved in her high school music department. She is now a sophomore at UW-Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, majoring in Elementary Education. This production marks Emily’s first production, post-Covid.

Chris Flieller (Director) A fixture both on and backstage for more than three decades in Milwaukee, Chris has numerous credits to his name. Among the companies for whom Chris has acted in his long career are In Tandem Theatre, Skylight Opera Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Theatre X, First Stage Children’s Theatre, and the Marcus Center/Milwaukee Repertory. Chris spent more than twenty years as co-founder and Artistic Director of In Tandem Theatre in Milwaukee. In addition to playing Stusach Zieinski in nearly three hundred performances for In Tandem’s smash hit holiday show A Cuddy Caroler Christmas, Chris has appeared as Mr. Potter/et al in Merry Chris-Mess, Bellomy in The Fantasticks, Charley in Scrooge In Rouge, Scrooge in A Twisted Carol and Perkins in Ernest In Love.

Chris was seen as the father in W.B. Yeats’ Purgatory for Milwaukee’s Irish Fest, Juno and The Paycock with the Resident Ensemble Players in Delaware, and Bottom in Optimist Theatre’s A Midsummer Night's Dream. Chris has also performed with Kansas City Dinner Theatre and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Most recently, he was a guest artist for UWO’s production of Beach on the Moon as The Gentleman.

Among Chris’s many directing credits are Wonder of The World, nine years of Shaw Shorts (in collaboration with Milwaukee Chamber Theatre’s Annual Shaw Festival), The Eight: Reindeer Monologues, Holiday Hell, The Chosen, Home, The Afghan Women, the world premier of Stuck, Equis (in a co-presentation with the UWM B.F.A. Acting Program), Old Wicked Songs, the American premier of The Nightmare Room, and Burying The Bones. Any Given Monday and Lamps For My Family for In Tandem. Chris is the proud recipient of the Artist of the Year Award from the Milwaukee Arts Board 2017 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the 2019 Footlights Peoples’ Choice Awards.

Eva Thelen-Dunphy (Musical Director) Eva started her career with violin lessons at the age of five. In middle school, as the result of encouragement from her choir director, Eva found her voice and pursued her education in vocal performance and choral conducting. She holds a degree in Music from Marian University, having studied under the direction of David Hein. Eva serves as choir director for Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac and is a...
THE CAST & CREW

Kenton Baker: Kenton is currently the Choir Teacher at Ripon High School. A New Mexico native, he has been active in the opera/theatre community in Las Cruces, NM taking part in musicals, including the title role in The Mikado, Serse, and The Music Man, in addition to multiple cabarets, prior to relocating to Wisconsin in 2020. At Ripon High School, he has music directed Peter and the Starcatcher, Singin’ in the Rain, and Mamma Mia! Kenton is excited to be part of the cast for his first show in Wisconsin.

Trevor Clementi: Trevor often performs with Fond du Lac Community Theatre, and serves on their board of directors. Favorite roles include Sweeney Todd (Sweeney Todd) and Quixote/Cervantes (Man of La Mancha). Trevor works for UW Oshkosh and lives with his wonderful fiancée Ellie, their two cats, and their giant fluffy puppy.

Joseph Gallo: Joseph is thrilled to be working in the performing arts again. Regional credits from local theaters include Prince Eric (The Little Mermaid), Dr. Fine/Madden (Next To Normal), Lt. Cable (South Pacific), Brad Majors (Rocky Horror Show), Melchior (Spring Awakening), Jack Kelly (Newsies), Che Guevara (Evita), and Jamie Wellerstein (The Last Five Years). Joseph works as an RN at Hope Health and Rehab in Lomira, caring for residents. He would like to thank Chris, Eva and Michael for encouraging him to audition and for helping the show become all it can be. Enjoy the performance.

Myles Hensel: As a freshman studying microbiology at UW-Fond du Lac, Myles is excited to begin a new chapter his of acting career. His previous experience includes The Addams Family and Little Women as Gomez and Laurie, respectively.

Mason Kind: Mason is a freshman at UW-Fond du Lac, majoring in medical technologies. He took part in theater throughout his high school career in productions such as The Addams Family, Little Women and the Wizard of Oz. He is excited to continue doing theater in college.

Ceryck Krenke: Ceryck is excited to be performing on stage for the first time since high school, where he played a pastor with a lisp in the comedy Holder Posey. Though he will not be attempting a lisp in this show, he will still try to make the audience laugh, cry and take no offense at his attempts at British dialect. He is grateful to the director, Chris Flieller, and to all the great performers for their patience and guidance throughout rehearsals and for helping him break out of his shell. Just as the musical is about forming unlikely friendships and bonds during chaos, so was this theater experience as a whole. Being surrounded by such talent has blown him away and he hopes the audience will feel the same.

Eliza Rabe: Eliza is a senior at Winnebago Lutheran Academy where she has performed in every production held over the past four years. Some of her favorite roles include Kathryn in Radium Girls and Gloria in Bye Bye Birdie. Eliza is still deciding on where she will attend college next fall but plans to continue being involved in theatre wherever she lands. In her spare time, she enjoys playing soccer and attending dance classes.

Christine Reeves: Christine is truly honored to perform alongside such amazing talent. Christine has performed in all types of genres from professional children’s theatre, radio/TV, musical theatre and drama, to the West End Opera's production of Aida. Favorite roles include Jesus Christ Superstar (Apostle Woman, Mother Mary), Quilters (Daughter), and most recently Noises Off! (Dotty/Mrs. Clacket). This is Christine's first show with UWO/FDL, however you might recognize her from the Thrasher Opera House in Green Lake and The Grand Opera House in Oshkosh.

There are some things that you will notice about this production that I think I should clarify. First, there are female actors in the show, and only men were allowed to see combat in WW1. I cast women in this piece for two reasons: one, I wanted to give all students an opportunity to participate in the project, and allow my female students the chance to hone their acting skills on stage; two, I wanted to make the gentle point that war affects everyone, whether they see combat or not - men, women, young, old, mothers, fathers, daughters, sons.

You may also experience a bit of confusion at each actor playing multiple characters, sometimes switching accents and helmets within the space of a few minutes, depending on from where the character hailed or for which side they were fighting. Again, two reasons: one, as this is an educational experience for the students, I wanted to give them all a variety of accents, moods, and characterizations to explore; two, I wanted to drive home the point that war is a cruel and indiscriminate equalizer – death can come to all and everyone and underneath the uniforms, we’re all strikingly the same.

But just as one can easily take up arms to level a foe, one can just as easily take up a song to welcome a friend. The infantrymen and foot soldiers who participated in that miraculous week during the winter of 1914 showed a special kind of courage, until the generals ordered them back into their trenches to resume the carnage. Perhaps these brave souls can show us a way toward bridging some of the barriers that we are struggling with today.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful holiday.

CAST LIST IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY SPEAK

Myles Hensel  Daniel Schneider
Joseph Gallo  Kenton Baker
Trevor Clementi  Robert Christopher Reeves
Eliza Rabe  Christine Reeves
Ceryck Krenke  Emily Weinberger
Mason Kind