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STAGE COACH PLAYERS PRESENTS

To Kill A **MOCKINGBIRD**

June 4-6, 11-14, 2009

ADAPTED BY

CHRISTOPHER SERGEL

FROM A NOVEL BY

HARPER LEE

DIRECTED BY

CLARK NEHER



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STAGE COACH
PLAYERS

Upcoming Shows for 2009

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Steel Magnolias

Directed by Jan Kuntz
July 9 to 19, 2009

Hello, Dolly!

Directed by Mike Scorzo
August 6 to 16, 2009

Bus Stop

Directed by Barbara Andree
September 10 to 20, 2009

Nunsense

Directed by Orv Kersten
October 8 to 18, 2009

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Annex Theatre Company Dreamers Theatre Group

Legend of Sleepy Hollow

September 21 to 27, 2009 at the Egyptian Theatre
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TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Place: Macomb, Alabama

Act I

Scene I Summer, 1935
 Scene II A few weeks later
 Scene III Later that same night
 Scene IV The next Monday

Act II

Scene I 10 minutes later
 Scene II Early Fall evening

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CAST LIST

(in order of appearance)

Jean Louise (Scout) Finch Allison Hunter-Rosene
 Maudie Amy Whelan
 Calpurnia Bibi Lebechi
 Stephanie Barbara North
 Heck Tate. James J. Malouf
 Judge Taylor Brad Pietens
 Jeremy (Jem) Finch Steven Scheele
 Mrs. DuBose Michele Wade
 Rev. Sykes Kiarri Andrews
 Mayella Ewell Liz Pickett
 Bob Ewell Don Floyd
 Charles Baker (Dill) Harris Ross Floyd
 Atticus Bernie Schuneman
 Cunningham. Brian Corr
 Tom Robinson Vincent Giles
 Horace Gilmer Greg Anderson
 Parishioners Chiagozie and Ogechi Onyewuchi
 Extras for Jailhouse Scene. Alex Smith, Al Hitchcock

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CREW LIST

Director Clark Neher
 Assistant Director/Stage Manager Anita Biletzky
 Costume Design Laura Hunyard
 Light Design Mark Hunyard
 Set Design Peter Biletzky
 Props Nancy Schuneman
 Master Carpenters Bernie Schuneman, Bob Cain, Don Floyd
 Fight Scene Choreography David Booth
 Light Board Operator Bill Kator
 Set Decorators Diane Lyon, Marcy Biletzky
 Set Painters Roberta Maxfield, Barb Kolb
 Sound Crew Elizabeth Becker, Tom Grady
 Light Crew Mark Hunyard, Bill Kator, Reanne Carlson, Todd Toles
 Set Construction Bernie Schuneman, Bob Cain, Pete Biletzky,
 Don Floyd, Clark Neher, Brad Pietens, Eric Biletzky,
 Sara Schuneman, Anita Biletzky, Nancy Schuneman,
 Amy Whelan, Vince Giles, Barbara North
 Special Thanks Todd Toles, Star Optical, Immanuel Lutheran Church,
 Barb Andree, Carpetland, Pat Klein, Brian Maxfield

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Although *To Kill a Mockingbird* takes place in the 1930s in a small southern town, the theme remains universal and timely. *To Kill a Mockingbird* vividly reminds us that bigotry can best be ended when we learn to stand in the shoes of others.

The play's focus on empathy goes beyond race relations. Scout, Jem, and Dill, the play's children, learn to respect others and, because they weep about the injustices afflicted upon minorities and non-conformists, we can hope that the younger generation will do better than their elders in bringing about full justice for all.

The above two paragraphs were written as Director's Notes for the 1992 Stage Coach production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The good news is that since that production much progress has been made in the way we all get along in our society.

The cast hopes that *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be more than a one-time theater experience. We want the performance to be an incentive to work every day, in all our relationships, toward a world where the mockingbirds can sing without fear, where justice triumphs for all, and where all of us weep when this ideal is not reached.

CAST BIOS



Greg Anderson – Horace Gilmer

Greg's most recent stage appearance was as Sir Edmund in *The King & I*. His first appearance for SCP was as the Inspector in *Witness for the Prosecution* in 1991, which was also directed by Clark Neher. In between Clark's shows, Greg has appeared in lots of comedies and musicals. He is Past President and SCOTY award winner for SCP and currently holds the Board of Directors position of Controller.



Kiarri Andrews – Rev. Sykes

Kiarri is an NIU alum but is originally from Chicago, graduating from Whitney Young High School - the alma mater of our First Lady Michelle Obama. He has been recently seen in CCT's production of *Back to the 80s* as 'jockey but jerky' Michael Feldman and at Stage Coach Productions as Lun Tha in *The King and I*. He is scheduled to attend the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) of New York in the Fall. "Many thanks to my family, my wonderful friends (shoutout to SKEW), my great co-workers and employers in the Admissions office, my mother, and my God - without whom nothing is possible."



Brian Corr – Mr. Cunningham

Two previous stage appearances last summer have seen Brian run the gamut from a lying, cheating, murdering adulterer in *Heaven Can Wait*, to a fairly boring doctor in *The Curious Savage*. Brian and wife began rehabbing their home seven years ago with the project expected to take 20 years. Today it is still a 20 year project. In his spare time Brian is learning to play guitar, but holds no threat to Carlos Santana. His special thanks to his family for tolerating his time away for rehearsals. Also thanks to everyone at SCP who have taught and continue to teach him more everyday about the theatre.



Don Floyd – Bob Ewell

To Kill a Mockingbird is Don's first theatrical undertaking since high school (where he played Third Caveman in a production of the classic *Um! Squirrel Good!*). Don was a professional community organizer for twenty-five years and worked with President Barack Obama for several years in Chicago. Don and his family moved to DeKalb seven years ago, where he has split his time as a stay-at-home dad and political consultant.



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Amy Whelan – Maudie

Amy has been on stage for a number of years in various roles. She was last seen in *Heaven Can Wait* as Mrs. Ames. Some prior roles have includes Jane Tate in *It Runs in the Family*, Florence Unger in the female version of *The Odd Couple*, Juanita in *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*, and Gillian in *Bell, Book and Candle*. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is one of Amy's all-time favorite novels and she feels truly blessed and humbled to be able to play the roll of Miss Maudie. Amy has been a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing for 16 years. She lives in DeKalb with her wonderful husband, Jeff, and their two precious boys, Liam and Donovan.

Clark Neher – Director

Clark and his wife Arlene have lived in DeKalb for forty years. He has been active in StageCoach since 1975 as actor, director, crew and president. Clark directed *To Kill a Mockingbird* at StageCoach in 1992, and is pleased to have the opportunity to do so again.

Anita Biletzky – Assistant Director/Stage Manager

A member of SCP since 1993, Anita is delighted to reunite with Clark for this wonderful show. Working backstage as Stage Manager, Producer, and Assistant Director over the years is her favorite form of recreation. She served on the Board of Directors for 5 years, with 2 years as President. Anita was named the Stage Coacher of the Year in 2001. When not at SCP, she delights in the antics of her 5 fabulous grandkids Gordy, Will, Spencer, Clara and Kenny. Thanks to hubby Pete and her great family for jumping on the *Mockingbird* bandwagon again.




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Ross Floyd – Charles Baker (Dill) Harris

You may have heard Ross in StageCoach Players' recently produced *Live Radio Broadcast*, in which he played several roles, including the part of Dan Reid, the Lone Ranger's nephew. As a student at Clinton-Rosette Middle School, Ross enjoys social studies and math and is an active member of the Forensic Club. Basketball and baseball are his favorite sports; he's played on teams for both every year since kindergarten.



Vincent Giles – Tom Robinson

Love of theatre, music and ghost hunting sum up the life of Vincent Giles. High School and college years found him participating in several shows, including a previous appearance as Tom Robinson in the Lincoln College presentation of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. He loves to write plays, and as for ghost hunting, Vincent says it is scary and fun, but can everybody do it? No! Special thanks to his mother, grandparents, the Lang family, his theatre coaches over the years, Ms. Jones and Nadine Franklin.



Allison Hunter-Rosene - Jean Louise (Scout) Finch

Allison, 13, is very excited to be playing the part of Scout. She has appeared in many SCP productions, including most recently, *The King and I* and *A Christmas Carol*. Some of her favorite roles have included Annie in *Annie Jr.*, at Huntley Middle School, and The Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol* at SCP. When she's not on stage, Allison can be found practicing her clarinet, her saxophones, and dancing, singing, or baton twirling. Thanks to Mr. Neher and everyone involved in producing *To Kill a Mockingbird* for making this a great experience. Enjoy the show.



Bibi Lebechi – Calpurnia

To Kill a Mockingbird marks the SCP debut for Bibi. She began a major in Theatre Arts at Howard University College of Fine Arts in Washington DC, but switched to Finance at UCMF in Maryland. Since her recent return to acting, Bibi has appeared in several short films and independent projects, while training with ActOne Studios, Second City Training Center in Chicago and The Artistic Home Theatre and Acting Studio. Bibi recently completed a theatrical production with the Chicago ScriptWorks and the Artistic Home Theatre and Acting Studio. She wishes to thank God, her husband, friends, and relatives for their endless support. She is delighted to be joined onstage by her two children, Chiagozie and Ogechi Onyewuchi.

**James J. Malouf – Heck Tate**

Previous acting experiences include playing twin brothers Evelyn and Rupert in *Corpse*, File in *Rainmaker*, Mercutio in *Romeo & Juliet*, John Witch boy in *Dark of the Moon*, and Shepherd Henderson in *Bell, Book & Candle*. James has also written, acted in and directed three plays. He just recently moved back to Illinois after being a radio announcer in Central Wisconsin for seven years. While this is James' first show with SCP, he has been working at becoming a professional actor and writer since the age of 12. Special thanks to family and friends for their love, to Joy and her family for their care and support. As always, a very big thanks to the audience for all they bring to each show. They are not only what we do this for but why we enjoy it.

**Barbara North - Stephanie**

Barbara has 30+ years of memories with SCP including her favorite roles as Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Meg Brocky in *Brigadoon*, Charlie, a "male" role in *Good-by Charlie*, Ivy in *Critic's Choice*, Abigail Adams in *1776*, Mae Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie* and Miss Maudie in the 1992 production of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Barb has been a member of SCP since 1972, has served on the Board of Directors and was a recipient of the Stage Coacher of the Year (SCOTY) award. A graduate of Northwestern University she dramatized children's literature for the University's radio station WNUR. Each program began with "Good morning, boys and girls. This is the Radio Lady." Special thanks to Clark for welcoming her back after 17 years away from SCP, and thank you to Lucille Aikens, Judy King, Millie Olson and Mac Brown who opened the doors to the magic that was "theatre in the cornfields of Barber Greene and Loves Roads".

**Liz Pickett – Mayella Ewell**

Mary Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* and a Narrator in *Aladdin* are just two of Liz's previous acting performances. As a youngster Liz was homeschooled until 8th grade. She earned her CNA certificate earlier this year and currently works in Chicago. In her spare time Liz loves to read and go bike riding. She thanks her mom for all her encouragement, and all her friends and family who come to see her performances. Thanks also to her friends in CCT for casting her for such wonderful roles and believing in her acting talent.

**Brad Pietens – Judge Taylor**

Brad and his wife Linda have been residents of DeKalb since 1981. He made his StageCoach debut in 1992 as Judge Taylor in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The fact that some 17 years later he has again been cast in that same role is a testament to the breadth of his dramatic ability. Brad has also appeared

in *Jugger's Rain* in 1994 and *Inherit The Wind* in 2006. As a recent retiree from NIU, he's looking forward to more active involvement in future StageCoach activities.

**Steven Schelle – Jeremy (Jem) Finch**

Steven acts in school any chance he can and has been involved in several church plays. He appeared at SCP in *A Christmas Carol* in '04. He's in 8th grade and hopes to continue his amateur acting career and eventually become a professional. Steven thanks his family and dedicates his performance to his Grandpa, may he rest in peace.

**Bernie Schuneman – Atticus Finch**

This is Bernie's 21st season with SCP. He has acted, directed, built sets, run lights, served on the board of directors and served as President. In tandem with all that, he has worked at NIU where he is currently Supervisor of Production Control in the IT Department. His "Rainman-like" facility with numbers is forever fascinating to friends and family. Special thanks to his lovely wife Nancy for her ongoing support and for allowing him to indulge his craze for acting on a regular basis. Thanks also to daughter Sara for her help, as always, with learning his lines.

**Michele Wade – Mrs. DuBose**

Michele has performed in 85 shows and has worked backstage, from directing to running special effect in 35 shows. Various acting roles include Mrs. Helen Potts in *Picnic*, Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*, Baglady/Berstein in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Sweet Pea in *Death By Chocolate*, Jack's mother in *Into The Woods*, Jewel in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Little Mary Morgan in *Ten Barrooms in One Night* and Rachel in *Anne of Green Gables*. Michele teaches 3rd grade in Plano and next year will become literature instructor for K-1. Last fall she made her first CD titled "Songs For My Family". Special thanks to Clark for giving her a role in *Mockingbird*, one of her all time favorites and to brother Mark, a real life Atticus.



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