

TRIFLES

BY SUSAN GLASPEL

George Henderson (county attorney) Coy De Waal

Henry Peters (local sheriff and husband of Mrs. Peters) Dalton Straub

Lewis Hale (Wrights' neighbor) .. Luin Norris

Mrs. Peters (Sheriff's wife) Matthisen Witzel

Mrs. Hale (Wrights' neighbor and Lewis Hale's wife) Jessica Confer

The setting is an abandoned farmhouse in 1920s rural America

Director's Notes: on the title: trifles: something of little value, substance, or importance

Interpretation: The male characters are prejudiced in believing that nothing important can be discovered in areas of the house where Minnie spent most of her time. Their minds are clouded by prejudice and they disregard important clues as being mere "trifles" that women concern themselves with. They search the barn and the bedroom, places where men have dominance, rather than the kitchen, the only place where a woman would be in charge. One important line, spoken by the sheriff, says of the kitchen "Nothing here but kitchen things." This dismissal of the importance of a woman's life and the male reluctance to enter the "women's sphere" is key in the men's failure

to discover the crucial evidence for the case. Trifles is seen as an example of early feminist drama. The two female characters, Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale, are able to sympathize with Minnie, the victim's wife, and understand her possible motive, which leads them to hide the evidence against her. The men, meanwhile, are blinded by their cold, emotionless investigation of material facts.

The main "players" in the murder, Minnie (the murderer) and John Wright (the murdered), are never seen onstage. Their lives and personalities are fleshed out in the dialogue of other characters. The small cast and understated scenery both serve to turn the audience to the inward lives of the characters.

The title is derived from Lewis Hale's line "Well, women are used to worrying over trifles." The title also suggests that women's actions and concerns are considered by the men as mere "trifles."

The male characters are clear symbols of "law" and cold rationality, while the women display an intuitiveness representative of the psychoanalytic movement, evoking an interrogation of the value of superficial rational thought.

Mrs. Wright also acts as the "invisible" heroine for women's rights as the play was written and set during the suffragette movement.

Pay close attention to the items that the women place on the kitchen table, which is center stage. Each item provides a clue as to Minnie's state of mind leading up to the murder of her husband.

There will be a 15 minute intermission between Trifles and '65 Mustang. You may purchase snacks just outside the auditorium. (Proceeds go to the Drama department). Please do not take food or drink into the auditorium.

'65 Mustang

by Burton Baumgarner

This fun little play in five acts follows a 1965 Mustang through forty years of its life. Actors listed in order of appearance.

Scene 3: 1985

Mole (female) Shelby Wolff
Rat (male) Richard Johnson
Policewoman ... Zoe Sundstrom

Scene 1: 1965

Mary Gale Matthisen Witzel
Dad Luin Norris
Mom Lauren Johnson
Little Brother Teagan Landenberger
Kim Zoe Sundstrom
Stacey Christina Stafford
Nicholas Coy De Waal
Cute Tim Dalton Straub
Policeman Aaron White
Old Woman ... Lindsey Johnson
Boy 1 Richard Johnson
Boy 2 Jordan Raby

Scene 4: 1995

Leonard Luin Norris
Leo Coy DeWaal
Sam Dalton Straub
Janet Lauren Johnson
Radio Announcer Christina Stafford
Marie Lindsey Johnson
Carla Zoe Sundstrom
Jimmy Aaron White
Doctor ... Teagan Landenberger

Scene 5: 2005

Grandpa Nicholas Coy De Waal
Grandmother Teagan Landenberger
Son Aaron White
Daughter Jessica Confer
Grandson Richard Johnson
Granddaughter Shelby Wolff

Scene 2: 1975

Stan Luin Norris
Lisa Lindsey Johnson
Greg Richard Johnson
Olivia Lauren Johnson

Special note:

As you can see, there is a lot of overlap in casting. Just remember that these are separate scenes and the actors are not necessarily playing the same character in different scenes.

As always, actors respond to positive energy from the audience, so feel free to clap, whistle, shout, laugh (all at appropriate times, of course) and make the actors know that you are enjoying the performance.

Special thanks to:

The United Methodist Thrift Store for ALWAYS being utterly gracious and generous when it comes to play time. They always just let us have what we need.

Heritage Lumber Yard for being so helpful and for letting the us charge our purchases to the Drama department. It makes life a whole lot easier.

Susan Dinkel for being so generous with her time and helping us get our sound effects CD ready. Twice. So, yeah, she's patient, too.

Brandon Seeger who made the Mustang prop. It. Is. Awesome!

Rogie Wiswell for putting together the very program that is in your hands. She is a jewel.

For all of you who continue to support the performing arts here at SFCHS. You are the best!

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The Saint Francis Community High School
Drama Department proudly presents a double feature

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:30PM &
Monday, Dec. 11 at 7PM

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