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Playbill for the Robber Bridegroom, 2010

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The Robber Bridegroom

Book and Lyrics by Alfred Uhry
Music by Robert Waldman
adapted from the novella by Eudora Welty

directed by Scott Ferguson
with musical direction
by Joseph Montelione



MCCOY THEATRE



Rhodes College

—1818—

McCoy THEATRE STAFF

Professor and Artistic Director	Julia "Cookie" Ewing
Managing Director	Kevin Collier
Chair of Theatre and Associate Professor	David Jilg
Assistant Professor and Technical Director	Laura Canon
Assistant Professor	Dave Mason
Instructor	Jamie Mann
Student Associate for Theatre	Ed Porter
Box Office Assistants	Amanda Blagg, Brent Butgereit Kilby Hodges

Dear Friends,

Time flies when you are having fun! We have been having so much fun, none of us noticed twenty-nine seasons passing! It is hard to believe the McCoy Theatre has been operating longer than our students have been on this earth! Yet it is because of the students we have had so much fun; they breathe fresh life into these walls every day. We are blessed, for the McCoy will forever be young and adventurous!

We are a small department but, as Miss Laura says, we do like to ask large questions. Thank you for asking those questions with us. Thank you for being a part of the next generation of artists, scientists, and leaders of the community. Let us send a quiet but very genuine thank you to our guides, mentors, and founding parents, so to speak. Ray Hill started the theatre program in earnest when the college was Southwestern at Memphis, asking very large questions indeed, presenting plays by Beckett, Ionesco, and Albee before they became household names. Betty Ruffin followed, giving an air of elegance to the work. Tony Lee Garner then harnessed all the energy by turning the Zeta house into a producing house, and *voilà*, the McCoy Theatre!

From Sondheim to Shakespeare to Charles Mee, from original works to adaptations, from guest artists to our production of *Nicholas Nickleby*, we have had a blast! There are so many memories, so many faces, so much love it is impossible to list every person who has had an impact on this space. Theatre is a collaborative art, and everyone who has come through our doors has participated in creating magic.

So here's to the past – the past that shaped our present! Here's to the future – a future full of promise and excitement; a future full of challenges and growth; a future offering the next generation a place to discover its voice.

Cookie

MCCOY THEATRE
RHODES COLLEGE

presents

The Robber Bridegroom

book and lyrics by Alfred Uhry

music by Robert Waldman

directed by Scott Ferguson

made possible through the generosity of the Mike Curb Institute

musical direction by Joe Montelione

assistant direction and choreography by Jordan Nichols

Cast

Jamie Lockhart	Michael Towle
Clement Musgrove	John Hemphill
Salome Musgrove	Mary Buchignani-Hemphill
Rosamund	Nicole Hale
Little Harp	Ed Porter
Big Harp	Chris Davis
Goat	Zach Pless
Goat's Mother	Kilby Hodges
Airie	Lee Bryant
Raven	Jennifer Henry
Mike Fink	Chase Ring
Residents of Rodney	Courtney Church, Kilby Hodges Steven Johanson, Rose Spencer Corbin Williams, David Yarbrough

THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM is presented
through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
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Phone: 212-541-4684 • Fax: 212-397-4684 • www.MTIShows.com

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The Band

Joe Montelione	piano
Anson Jeng	violin
Chip Henderson	banjo
Will Lang	banjo
John Ross	guitar
Josh Anderson	guitar
Ben Walsh	bass
Joshua Fuchs	drums

Crew

Technical Director	Laura Canon
Stage Manager	Tory Adcock
Assistant Stage Manager	Lindsay Recknagel
Stage Management Mentor	Lindsay Johnson
Set and Lighting Designer	Laura Canon
Costume Designer	David Jilg
Rehearsal Accompanist	Andrew Drannon
Costume Shop Supervisor	Miriam Patterson-Smith
Set and Lighting Crew	Jyo Carolino, Quentin Hebda, Alec Lindman Caitie Miller, Aaron Nussdorf, Roy Rainey, Lindsay Recknagel, Chaoli Sun
Costume Construction	Joslyn Hebda, Kilby Hodges, Tracy Lian Jenkins Omair Khattak, Rhiannon Mancinelli, Lindsay Recknagel, David Yarbrough

The Story Quilts were designed and constructed by Laura Canon and Lindsay Johnson.

Special Thanks to Helen Ewing for the other handmade quilts used by the cast.

The Artists

Tory Adcock (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior Greek and Roman studies major from Nashville. At the McCoy, she has previously assistant stage managed *Shakuntala Reductia* and *The Skin of Our Teeth*. She is the vice president of CAESAR and president of Eta Sigma Phi.

Lee Bryant (Airie/Ensemble) is a senior theatre and environmental studies double major. At the McCoy, she has appeared in *Reckless* (Ostrander Award) – for which she also designed the set – *The Elephant Man*, and *The Skin of Our Teeth*. She has also appeared in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Theatre Memphis.

Mary Buchignani (Salome), class of 1988, is a well-known actress around town. At the McCoy, she has appeared in *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *Wonderful Town*. Some of her community credits include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Anton in Show Business*. When she is not on stage, Mary is a legal assistant, a tap dancer and cake decorator, though not necessarily at the same time.

Laura Canon (Technical Director/Set and Lighting Designer), a Rhodes alumna, is a professor for the theatre department. She has designed the lights and the sets for a majority of the McCoy's 30 seasons. Miss Laura is an avid pontooner who hails from Walnut Lake, Mississippi. In the McCoy's 1988 production of *The Robber Bridegroom*, she played Salome.

Courtney Church (Ensemble) is a senior music major, whose interests include songwriting, painting, and dancing. Around town, she has appeared in *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Evita*, and *Into the Woods*. She is a member of AOPi and Rhodes Singers.

Chris Davis (Big Harp), class of 1989, played Little Harp in the McCoy's 1988 production of *The Robber Bridegroom*. Some of his other McCoy credits include *As You Like It*, *All My Sons*, and *The Threepenny Opera*. He has also returned to the McCoy to direct *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Ubu Roi*, and *Not About Nightingales*. He is a journalist for *The Memphis Flyer*.

Andrew Drannon (Rehearsal Piano Accompanist) is a composer and advocate for alt-classical experimental music. He holds a double M.M. degree in Music Composition and Piano Performance from the University of Memphis and a B.A. in Music with honors from Rhodes.

Scott Ferguson (Director/Choreographer) hails from Chicago and is thrilled to be back for his third venture with the wonderful folks at Rhodes College, having previously directed *The World Goes 'Round* and *Gianni Schicchi*. He is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of TheatreBAM Chicago where he wrote and created the hit show, *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live Too!* He recently wrote a new children's musical that will be produced as a touring show

with Playhouse on the Square this spring called *The Main Street Kids' Club: A MathStart Musical*. As a proud Artistic Associate of About Face Theatre, Scott has directed *Xena Live! Episode One*, the Jeff award-nominated *Xena Live! Episode Two*, *Xena Lives! The Musical*, and *Say You Love Satan*. Also in Chicago, Scott has directed for Bailiwick, Chicago Children's Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook & Watertower. Regionally, he has directed for The Fulton Opera, The Wohlfahrt Haus Theatre, The Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre, and Playhouse on the Square. Favorites include: *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Evita*, *Bat Boy: The Musical*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Floyd Collins*, *Aida*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Saucy Jack & the Space Vixens*, *Big River* and *Altar Boyz*. www.scottfergusonlive.com

Nicole Renee Hale (Rosamund), a graduate of Ashland University, was a 2009-10 Associate Acting Company member at Playhouse on the Square, where some of her credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, and *Jacques Brel*. She has also worked at the Huron Playhouse.

John M. Hemphill (Clement Musgrove), a native Memphian, returns to the McCoy after having last been seen in *The Skin of Our Teeth*. He has performed in many Memphis shows including *Greater Tuna*, *The Odd Couple* and *Guys and Dolls*, for which he won the 2004 Ostrander Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical. John is married to the beautiful and multi-talented Mary Buchignani

Jennifer Henry (The Raven) is the Assistant Director of Theatre Education at Playhouse on the Square, where some of her credits include *Narnia* and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. She will soon be appearing in *Peter Pan* at Playhouse and then will be touring nationally with Michael Towle and The Hampstead Stage Company.

Kilby Elisabeth Hodges (Goat's Mother/Ensemble) is a sophomore theatre and history major. At the McCoy, she has appeared in *Shakuntala Reductia* and has worked backstage for *Reckless* and *The Elephant Man*. Outside of the McCoy, she has appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Pride and Prejudice*.

David Jilg (Costume Designer) is the chair of the theatre department as well as a Rhodes alumnus. He has designed many award-winning sets and costumes for the McCoy, and also directed last season's production of *Reckless*.

Steven Johanson (Ensemble) is a junior political science major. Previously at the McCoy, he played Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*. He has also appeared in *Les Miserables* at the Virginia-Samord Theatre and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Altamont Theater. He is a member of Woolsocks and the Rhodes College Diplomats.

Lindsay Johnson (Stage Management Mentor), class of 2008, is excited to return to the McCoy where, as a student, she stage managed *Lysistrata*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and *Tongue of a Bird*. Since then, she has stage managed two shows at the Towne Centre Theatre in Nashville. She spent last year teaching in India and is also an experienced knitter.

Joseph Montelione (Music Director) has been an assistant professor of music at Rhodes College since 2008. His responsibilities include teaching the trumpet studio, conducting, chamber music, orchestra and directing the orchestral performance division. As an orchestral trumpeter, he has performed with the Alabama Symphony, Moscow State Radio Symphony, Bayreuth Festival Orchestra, Erie Symphony and Washington Symphony Orchestra. He has been seen in the Broadway pits of *Victor/Victoria* with Julie Andrews, *The King and I* with Lou Diamond Phillips, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with Nathan Lane. As a commercial artist he has worked with Billy Joel, Tony Bennett, Charlie Daniels, Don Menza, Bob Minzter and Wessell Anderson. Equally skilled at the podium, Dr. Montelione has conducted a wide variety of esteemed groups. Joe holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Southern California, a Master of Arts degree from George Mason University and a Bachelor of Music from the State University of New York College at Fredonia.

Jordan Nichols (Assistant Director/Choreographer) is excited to be working at the McCoy! New York credits: *The Fantasticks* (Off-Broadway); *Newsies* (reading); *Gypsy* (Westchester Broadway). Jordan was in the world premiere of Michael John Lachiusa's *Giant* at the Signature Theatre in D.C. Other favorite credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Ragtime*, and *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* Most recently, at Playhouse on the Square, he played Link Larkin in *Hairspray* and choreographed *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Zach Pless (Goat) is a sophomore English literature major whose hobbies include theatre and music. At the McCoy, he has appeared in *The Elephant Man* and *Shakuntala Reductia*. At the Pull-Tight Theater, Zach has appeared in *Oklahoma!* and *Hello, Dolly!*

Ed Porter (Little Harp) is a senior theatre major. At the McCoy he has appeared in *The Elephant Man* (Ostrander Award), *Reckless*, and *Lysistrata and the Death of Cupid*. At The Circuit Playhouse, he has appeared in *The History Boys* (Ostrander nomination) and *Rabbit Hole* (Ostrander nomination). He has also worked for the Tennessee Shakespeare Company and the Williamstown Theatre Festival.

Lindsay Recknagel (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore theatre major, who has previously stage managed the McCoy's production of *Shakuntala Reductia* and assistant stage managed *The Elephant Man*. She enjoys dancing, film, flying disc, and France.

Chase Ring (Mike Fink/Ensemble) is a sophomore neuroscience and theatre double major who has previously been seen in the Topics in Performance class production of *Metamorphoses*. At Briarcrest High School, he appeared in *Hello, Dolly!*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* He would like to thank his family and friends.

Rose Spencer (Ensemble) is a freshman from Spartanburg, South Carolina. She is a member of Kappa Delta, and she enjoys dance and singing. In Spartanburg, she has appeared in *The Canterbury Tales* and *The Nutcracker*.

Michael Towle (Jamie Lockhart), class of 2008, has appeared in the McCoy's productions of *The Tempest*, *Lysistrata and the Death of Cupid*, and *La caja misteriosa*. He also played guitar in *The Rocky Horror Show*. Elsewhere in Memphis, he has been seen in *The History Boys*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, and *Frost/Nixon*. He is currently studying for his Masters degree in geophysics at the University of Memphis.

Corbin Williams (Ensemble) is a first-year student whose interests include theatre, music, and rowing. In Nashville, he has appeared in *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Zombie Prom*. He is a member of Woolsocks and Pi Kappa Alpha.

David Yarbrough (Ensemble) is a junior computer science major who has appeared at the McCoy in *Shakuntala Reductia*, *The Elephant Man*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. He also served as assistant stage manager for *Reckless*.

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2009-2010 production photos courtesy of Skip Hooper.

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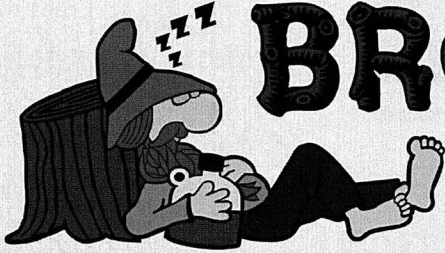
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The McCoy Theatre infrared hearing system is the gift of the Menke Foundation in honor of Edwin Howard.

The McCoy Theatre is the producing component of the academic program of the Department of Theatre. In order to continue producing plays, our production costs must be met through gifts and subscriptions, as well as single ticket sales. Through your financial support and your intellectual curiosity, you are literally giving life to this important developmental stage of an incredibly valuable art form. We extend our deepest thanks to our supporters and hope that others will consider becoming a Benefactor or Patron of the McCoy Theatre.



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