

The 44<sup>th</sup> Season

THE MILLSAPS PLAYERS

presents

“ORPHEUS DESCENDING”

A Play in Three Acts

by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

Directed by

LANCE GOSS

Scenery by

JOHN L. SULLIVAN, JR.

MARCH 6-9 and MARCH 13-16

AT 8:15 O’CLOCK

GALLOWAY ARENA THEATRE

MILLSAPS COLLEGE

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

DOLLY HAMMA..... Cathy Schroeder  
BEULAH BINNINGS..... Sara Jordan  
PEE WEE BINNINGS..... Stanley Graham  
DOG HAMMA..... Barry McGehee\*  
CAROL CUTRERE..... Joan Cutrer  
EVA TEMPLE..... Mary Lay  
SISTER TEMPLE..... Linda Hines  
UNCLE PLEASANT..... Bruce Partin  
VAL XAVIER..... Eddie Thompson  
VEE TALBOTT..... Mary Ann McDonald\*  
LADY TORRANCE..... Peggy Lutz  
JABE TORRANCE..... Jeverley Cook  
SHERIFF TALBOTT..... James McGahey\*  
WOMAN..... Margaret Stone  
DAVID CUTRERE..... Ramon McGehee  
NURSE PORTER..... Robbie Lloyd  
FIRST MAN..... Gene Aldridge  
SECOND MAN..... Joe Burnett

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The entire action of the play takes place in a general drygoods store and part of a connecting “confectionary” in Glorious Hill, a small Southern town, during a rainy season, late winter, and early spring.

### ACT ONE

Scene One: Late dusk.

Scene Two: A couple of hours later that night.

### INTERMISSION

### ACT TWO

Scene One: Afternoon, a few weeks later.

Scene Two: Late that night.

### INTERMISSION

### ACT THREE

Scene One: Early morning, the Saturday before Easter.

Scene Two: Sunset, the same day.

Scene Three: Half an hour later.

ORPHEUS DESCENDING produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 440 Park Avenue South, New York.

\*Member of Alpha Psi Omega, National Honorary Dramatics Fraternity.

### PRODUCTION STAFF FOR “ORPHEUS DESCENDING”

Lighting by  
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL\*

Stage Manager:  
BUDDY COOK

House Manager:  
ALEX WRIGHT

Assistants to Mr. Sullivan:

JAMES McGAHEY\* and EDDIE THOMPSON

PROPERTIES..... Clifton Dowell\*, Margaret Atkinson\*,  
Hugh Parker, Mary Lindsey, Diane McGovern

LIGHTING..... Doug McCullough\*, James McGahey\*

SOUND..... Barry McGehee\*, Ramon McGehee

COSTUMES..... Margie Hogg, Cheryl Seaton, Cindy Shell,  
Alice Wofford

MAKEUP..... Barbara Bradford\*, Becky Kelly, Brenda Gaddy,  
Arlan Brown, Regina Jordan, Cheryl Fuller, Maureen Smith,  
Genie Hathorn, Sharon Thornton, Celia Brunson, Dee Dee  
Lipscomb, Mary Craft, Anne Munday

SCENERY..... James McGahey\*, Eddie Thompson, Margie Hogg,  
Helen Lehman, Robbie Lloyd\*, Margaret Atkinson\*, Cheryl  
Fuller, Margaret Stone, Mary Ann McDonald, Phyllis Paulette,  
James Anderson, Dorothy Brunson, William Young, Ramon  
McGehee, Angelyn Sloan, Mary Lay

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#### ABOUT THE PLAYERS

PEGGY LUTZ— a junior theatre major from Canton, at Ole Miss appeared in THE DRUNKARD, RHINOCEROS, HENRY FOURTH, PART ONE, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING, MANDRAGOLA, with the Southern Stage '67 in OKLAHOMA!, SUMMER AND SMOKE, SKIN OF OUR TEETH winning two acting awards, with The Millsaps Players as Mary Tudor in THE YOUNG ELIZABETH and as Granny in the workshop production of THE AMERICAN DREAM, plays Lady Torrance.

EDDIE THOMPSON— a junior chemistry major from Wesson, member of the Millsaps band, appeared with the Co-Lin Players in IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE and acted as stage manager for their production of GEORGE WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE, with The Millsaps Players as Sir Francis Verney in THE YOUNG ELIZABETH and as Hunter in the workshop production of THE BROWNING VERSION, plays Val Xavier.

JOAN CUTRER— a sophomore political science major from Jackson, member of the pre-law club and an assistant in the Department of Political Science, has done backstage work with the Little Theatre, makes her first Players appearance as Carol Cutrere.

MARY ANN McDONALD— a junior religion major from Jackson, member of Kappa Delta, member of Pi Kappa Delta, the Concert Choir, the debate team, the BOBASHELA staff, at Provine appeared in CALAMITY JANE and THE PAJAMA GAME, with The Players in HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING, ANTIGONE, OLIVER!, DARK OF THE MOON, plays Mrs. Talbott.

JAMES McGAHEY— a junior theatre major from Calhoun City, at Hinds Junior College appeared in THE GLASS MENAGERIE, at the Jackson Little Theatre in WONDERFUL TOWN and FUNNY GIRL, with The Players in THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN, BECKET, MISTER ROBERTS, THE CRUCIBLE, LUTHER, HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING, ANTIGONE, THE YOUNG ELIZABETH, plays Sheriff Talbott.

SARA JORDAN— a sophomore history major from Purvis, member of Zeta Tau Alpha, member of the pre-law and the German clubs, in the Opera Workshop production of AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS and with The Players in DARK OF THE MOON, plays Beulah Binnings.

CATHY SCHROEDER— a junior history major from Vicksburg, in GOLD IN THE HILLS and MARY, MARY, in Vicksburg, at Mississippi State College for Women in LILIOM and ROYAL GAMBIT, appears for the first time with The Players as Dolly Hamma.

JEVERLEY COOK— a freshman history major from Jackson, member of Kappa Alpha, member of the pre-law club and Deutscher Verein, won the Best Actor Award at Wingfield, makes his initial Millsaps appearance as Jabe Torrance.

MARY LAY— a junior English major from Kossuth, appeared in the Opera Workshop AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS, appears for the first time with The Players as Eva Temple.

LINDA HINES— a junior speech major from Jackson, member of Kappa Delta, appeared in productions at Murrah and at the Little Theatre in WONDERFUL TOWN and FUNNY GIRL, takes her first role with The Players as Sister Temple.

ROBBIE LLOYD— a junior speech major from Jackson, member of Chi Omega, on the Dean's List of Honor Students, member of the debate team, Pi Kappa Delta, feature editor of the BOBASHELA, at Murrah in THE SOUND OF MUSIC, with The Players in HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING, in the title role in ANTIGONE, as the Dark Witch in DARK OF THE MOON, and in THE YOUNG ELIZABETH, directed The Players workshop production of THE BROWNING VERSION, plays Nurse Porter.

BARRY McGEHEE— a junior theatre major from McComb, president of Alpha Psi Omega and The Millsaps Players, appeared with The Players in ANTIGONE, THE CRUCIBLE, BECKET, THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN, DARK OF THE MOON, won the 1966 Millsaps Players Junior Acting Award for his performance as Tetzl in LUTHER and the 1967 Acting Award for Fagin in OLIVER!, directed The Players workshop production of THE AMERICAN DREAM, plays Dog Hamma.

STANLEY GRAHAM— a junior theology major from Jackson, member of Lambda Chi Alpha, member of B.S.U. and the M Club, appears for the first time with The Players as Pee Wee Binnings.

RAMON McGEHEE— a freshman pre- med student from McComb, member of Lambda Chi Alpha, played the title role in the recent Workshop production of THE AMERICAN DREAM, plays David Cutrere.

MARGARET STONE— a junior speech major from Vicksburg, on the Dean's List of Honor Students, member of the PURPLE AND WHITE staff, appeared with The Players in ANTIGONE, DARK OF THE MOON, THE YOUNG ELIZABETH, as Mommy in the Workshop THE AMERICAN DREAM, is seen as the Woman.

BRUCE PARTIN— a freshman pre-med student from Meridian, member of Lambda Chi Alpha, member of the Concert Choir, appeared with The Players in THE YOUNG ELIZABETH, plays Uncle Pleasant.

GENE ALDRIDGE— a freshman chemistry major from Oklahoma City, member of Lambda Chi Alpha, played Taplow in The Players Workshop THE BROWNING VERSION, is the First Man.

JOE BURNETT— a sophomore music major from Carthage, member of the Concert Choir and the Troubadours, member of the Ministerial League, on the Dean's List of Honor Students, in the Opera Workshop AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS, with The Players in the workshop production of THE BROWNING VERSION, plays the Second Man.

## ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

Unlike the other great Greek heroes, who were noted for their warlike exploits, Orpheus was famed for his amazing musical talent. He played the lyre and sang with such fantastic artistry that the wild beasts and the trees would follow him. He sailed with Jason on the Argo, and his incredible musical ability saved the lives of the Argonauts on several occasions.

Orpheus married the nymph Eurydice. One day as she was running through the woods, Eurydice was bitten by a poisonous snake and died. Orpheus was grief stricken over the death of his wife, whom he loved passionately, and determined to descend into the Underworld to get her back. The infernal gods were so enchanted by his music that they allowed him to lead his wife out, on the condition that he precede her and that he not look back at her. The couple were approaching the outer gates of the Underworld, when Orpheus, impatient to see his beloved wife, looked back. Eurydice immediately vanished into the houses of the dead once more, this time for eternity.

Orpheus was inconsolable over the loss of his wife and vowed never to love another woman. Infuriated by the vow of Orpheus, the wild Thracian women in an orgiastic frenzy tore him to pieces and ate his flesh.

BATTLE OF ANGELS, the first play by Tennessee Williams, was disastrously performed in Boston in the early forties and never reached Broadway. Mr. Williams went on to achieve greatness with such plays as THE GLASS MENAGERIE, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, SUMMER AND SMOKE and others. But he could not forget BATTLE OF ANGELS, so he rewrote it for a Broadway production. During its pre-Broadway tour it was for a time called SOMETHING WILD IN THE COUNTRY, but it opened on Broadway as ORPHEUS DESCENDING. Starring Maureen Stapleton, Cliff Robertson, and Lois Smith, the play enjoyed only mild success after its 1957 opening. Three years later Diane Ladd, a native of Lumberton, Mississippi, and a niece of Mr. Williams, revived the play off Broadway. This time it was a tremendous success. Marlon Brando, Anna Magnani and Joanne Woodward starred in the film version, which was called THE FUGITIVE KIND.

Writing in THEATRE ARTS, Richard Watts, Jr., said "Tennessee Williams is a dramatic poet of lost souls, and a stunning writer for the theatre. And the word 'stunning' is used almost literally, because the impact of his plays can overwhelm an audience with its sheer force. It is impossible, I think, justifiably to call them decadent; for all their concern with ailing spirits, their sheer vitality is too tremendous. ORPHEUS DESCENDING is not quite the masterpiece STREETCAR is. It lacks some of the rueful grace of THE GLASS MENAGERIE and the total impact of CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF or GARDEN DISTRICT. But it is a deeply moving work of art."