

# ABOUT THREEPENNY

there is no doubt that “the threepenny opera” is one of the masterpieces of twentieth century theatre. from its introduction in 1927 (200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appearance of john gay’s “beggar’s opera,” on which it is grounded), “threepenny” has been a center of controversy and acclaim. **the present version**, which retains kurt weill’s original score and his own arrangements, is marc blitzstein’s translation and adaptation of bertolt brecht’s german libretto. it was originally made for a brandeis university festival in 1952; two years later, in march 1954, it opened for an intended brief run at the theatre de lys, off broadway in the heart of new york’s greenwich village. **the audience** and critical acceptance was so great that when the play for which “threepenny” had to vacate the de lys closed, “threepenny” was at once revived. it became a permanent part of the new york theatre scene, where it closed last season - more than seven years later - to become the longest running musical in the history of world theatre. “**threepenny**” has since been performed throughout the western world, with several productions running at one time in its native germany (where hitler had banned it and from which both weill and brecht had fled in the early thirties). **the universality** and the timeless appeal of “threepenny” have long been established, as has the influence on the whole of musical theatre of this work of singular genius. goddard lieberson, president of columbia records (which has been a leader in the revival of interest in weill and brecht through the definitive recordings of their works by weill’s widow, lotte lenya) has explained a part of “threepenny”’s appeal to our own time: “**we are in a period** which feels some kind of special affinity for the ‘stimmung’ of the berlin between two disastrous wars. not without a certain amount of nervousness, one may ask ‘why?’ are we between wars? i suppose we are, unless, happily, all wars are to be banished, and we have had the last of them, but unfortunately, we cannot be sure of that, and so the weill-brecht smelting of ironic disenchantments with brittle optimism produces just the kind of metal we need for our present-day intellectual meccano sets.”

the  
**millsaps players**  
in association with

the **department of music**  
present

# THE THREE PENNY OPERA

(die dreigroschenoper)

music by **kurt weill**  
book and lyrics by **bertolt brecht**  
english adaptaion by **marc blitzstein**  
(suggested by “the beggar’s opera” by john gay)

directed by  
**lance goss**

musical director  
**richard alderson**

designed by  
**frank hains**

choreography by  
**albia kavan** and **rex cooper**

**may 8, 9, 10, 11, 1963**  
millsaps college  
christian center auditorium  
**8:15 p.m.**

# SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

## act one

**prologue** - a street in soho, london

**scene 1-** peachum's beggars' outfit shop

**scene 2-** an empty stable

**scene 3-** peachum's beggars' outfit shop

## act two

**scene 1-** the stable

**interlude** - a street

**scene 2-** a brothel in wapping

**scene 3-** newgate prison

## act three

**scene 1** - peachum's beggars' outfit shop

**interlude** - a street

**scene 2** - newgate prison death cell

(the entire action occurs in london before and during queen victoria's coronation)

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## act one

**overture** - the **threepenny** orchestra

**ballad of mack the knife** - street singer

**morning anthem** - peachum

**instead of song** - mr. and mrs. peachum

**wedding song** - macheath's gang

**army song** - mack, tiger brown and gang

**love song** - macheath and polly

**ballad of dependency** - mrs. peachum

**first threepenny finale**

**the world is mean** - polly, mr. and mrs. peachum

## act two

**entr'acte** - the **threepenny** orchestra

**melodrama & polly's song** - polly and macheath

**pirate jenny** - jenny

**tango ballad** - macheath and jenny

**ballad of the easy life** - macheath

**barbara song** - lucy

**jealousy duet** - lucy and polly

**second threepenny finale**

**how to survive** - macheath, mrs. peachum and chorus

## act three

**entr'acte** - the **threepenny** orchestra

**useless song** - peachum and beggars

**solomon song** - jenny

**call from the grave** - macheath

**death message** - macheath

**third threepenny finale**

**the mounted messenger** - the company

**ballad of mack the knife (reprise)** - street singer

# THE PLAYERS

a street singer - **doug price**

mr. j. j. peachum - **johnny morrow**

mrs. peachum - **lynda tanner**

filch - **eddie harris\***

polly peachum - **kaye green\***

macheath (mack the knife)- **gerald jacks**

jenny - **beth boswell**

reverend kimball - **barry skelton**

tiger brown, police commissioner - **melvyn smith**

warden smith - **bill kemp\***

lucy brown - **faye tatum**

## macks's gang

readymoney matt - **dickie roberts**

crookfinger jake - **pete kuka**

bob the saw - **george morrison**

walt dreary - **marcy dupre**

## girls

betty - **pat galloway**

dolly - **laura trent**

molly - **betty barron**

coaxer - **susan zeiss**

## cops

**elwood thornton**

**douglas watson**

## thieves, beggars, etc.

thelma bailey, yvonne thornburg, lea oliver, joan terry, barbara diffrient, jimmy christmas, crawley stubblefield.

\*denotes alpha psi omega members

**the threepenny orchestra**  
reeds - **eddie melton, tommy christopher**  
piano, celeste, harmonium - **bill mathews**  
trumpets - **john nelson, don hickman**  
trombone - **charles knox**  
percussion - **houston davis**

produced by special arrangement with tams-witmark, new york.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

stage managers - **john aldridge\***, **frieda majors\***  
house manager - **jonathan smith**  
lighting technician - **keith alford\***  
makeup chairman - **nancy blackmon\***  
costume mistress - **pauline watkins\***  
property master - **douglas watson**  
publicity chairman - **huey jones\***  
program design - **charles dillingham**  
program editor - **jack ryan**  
costumes from - **eaves of new york**

### committees:

wardrobe - **kay brunton, susan slocum, cissie bolling**  
makeup - **marjorie buie, betty mcmullen, patsy carmichael, diane barba**  
publicity - **jim hand, mimi sutton, virginia alford, judy harrigill, janice toon, marion taylor, rosemary hillman**  
properties - **johnnette wilkerson\*, ann degraffenreid, rex stallings\*, betty katherine denton\*, steve cannon, carol gower, kay brunton**  
scenery - **tom mcclary, pete kuka, jim miller, mary jane ray, willie claire smith, mary elizabeth witherspoon, david hedgecock, mary ivy**

## ABOUT THE CAST

**gerald jacks** – makes his players' bow as mack the knife. a freshman kappa sigma from cleveland, he's a member of the "m" club.

another freshman, **johnny morrow**, a pike from jackson with several leading roles at central high to his credit, makes his first millsaps appearance as mr. peachum

a sophomore from heidelberg, **lynda tanner**, a member of the madrigal singers, is introduced to local audiences as mrs. peachum.

**kaye green**, a sophomore kd from clinton, member of the madrigals, players

veteran with such shows as **the browning version, romanoff and juliet** and **suddenly, last summer** to her credit, plays polly.

**melvyn smith**, a junior from vicksburg, member of odk and the football team, debuts as tiger brown.

**doug price**, a junior ka from jackson, majoring in math, photographer for the college public relations department, is the street singer.

a freshman kd from cleveland, member of the homecoming court, **beth boswell**, takes her first millsaps role as jenny.

players' veteran **eddie harris** makes his farewell appearance as filch, a senior odk member, ed's been in such players' productions as **death of a salesman** (willy loman), **julius caesar** (brutus), **summer and smoke, camino real, destry rides again, romanoff and juliet, the teahouse of the august moon, kismet, the browning version, small war on murrell hill**, and **the madwoman of chaillot**.

**pete kuka**, a freshman from miami, backstage worker on all productions this season and assistant stage manager for **the sea gull**, is jake.

**dickie roberts**, a sophomore sig from mobile, president of the canterbury club and a cheerleader, debuts locally as matt.

making his second local appearance, freshman lambda chi **george morrison** was the young doctor in **suddenly, last summer**, tonight is bob the saw.

a freshman from natchez, **marcy dupree**, makes his first millsaps appearance as walt.

**faye tatum**, a junior bso from lumberton who has been in such players' shows as **destry rides again**, president of the german club, tonight is lucy.

another veteran millsaps actor, **bill kemp**, a junior english major from dequincy, louisiana, is warden smith, he's been in such shows as **julius caesar, small war on murrell hill, the sea gull, camino real** and **destry rides again**.

**elwood thornton**, a memphis freshman, active in high school dramatics, tonight is a cop.

still another first-timer, **barry skelton**, a freshman from wiggins, is reverend kimball.

**douglas watson**, seen earlier this season in **madwoman**, is another cop.