



**APRIL 11** through **APRIL 21**

THURSDAYS through SUNDAYS at 7:30pm

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Directed by **WALT JONES**



CSU Theatre presents

# COMIC POTENTIAL

by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Eric Prince

Scenic Design by Hannah Baldus

Costume Design by Maile Speetjens

Lighting Design by Bryan Hudson

Sound Design / Dance Choreography by Emma Kimball

Properties Design by Aubrey Beck

Dramaturge / Assistant Director: Sophia Guerrero-Murphy

Production Stage Manager: Melissa Michelson

## THE CAST

Adam Trainsmith . . . . . Mac Trowbridge

Jacie Triplethree . . . . . Emma Schenkenberger

Chandler Tate . . . . . Tim Garrity

Carla Pepperbloom . . . . . Sadi Thompson

Prim Spring . . . . . Kryssi Miller

Trudi Floote . . . . . Mary Kate Tracey

Lester Trainsmith, Hotel Desk Clerk, 1st Hotel Waiter. . . . Tony Vessels

The Doctor, The Farmer, Man in Dress Shop, Turkey . . . . Jack Krause

Marmion , The Son, 2nd Hotel Waiter, Technician . . . . Trevor Grattan

The Mother, The Farmer's Wife,  
Dress Shop Assistant, Prostitute. . . . . Taryn Gawronski

### PLEASE NOTE:

Jacie Triplethree is played by Brenna Otts for the performance Friday Feb. 8th

The Doctor, The Farmer, Man in Dress Shop, Turkey is played by Seth Klusmire for the performance Thursday Feb. 7th



# The Kennedy Center

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**The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ 44,  
part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program,  
is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.**

Additional support is provided by the U.S. Department of Education,  
the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation,  
The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein, and  
the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2012.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

**BAS BLEU**  
Theatre Company

# MARIELA IN THE DESERT

**FEB 2  
THRU  
MAR 3**

BY  
**KAREN ZACARIUS**

DIRECTED BY  
**ROBERT E. BRADY**

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There is one Intermission of 15 minutes

Please turn off all cell-phones and mobile devices for both Acts

*ACT ONE*

*Scene One: A TV studio*

*Scene Two: Same. Later that day.*

*Scene Three: Same. A few days later.*

INTERMISSION

*ACT TWO*

*Scene One: The studio. Same day.*

*Scene Two: The Grand Hotel Foyer. Same evening.*

*Scene Three: The studio. Same evening.*

*Scene Four: Grand Hotel Boutique. Same evening.*

*Scene Five: The studio. Same evening.*

*Scene Six: The Hotel restaurant. Same evening.*

*Scene Seven: The studio. Same evening.*

*Scene Eight: The Hotel Bedroom. Same evening.*

*Scene Nine: The Hotel Mombassa. Later that night.*

*Scene Ten: The studio. The next morning.*

**Time:** The foreseeable future when everything has changed except human nature.

*Comic Potential* is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Producing Technical Director . . . . .	Cory Seymour
Assistant Technical Director/Shop Foreman . . . . .	Brandon Ingold
Design Mentor . . . . .	Price Johnston
Production Admin. . . . .	Maggie Seymour
Assistant Stage Manager . . . . .	Payton Baily
Assistant Lighting Designer . . . . .	Andrew Killion
Assistant Sound Designer . . . . .	Alex Billman
Assistant Costume Designer . . . . .	Averie Floyd
Costume Shop Supervisor . . . . .	Janelle Sutton
Master Electrician . . . . .	Alex Ostwald
Audio Engineer . . . . .	Parker Stegmaier
Scene Shop Technician Props & Scenic Painting . . . . .	Annaleigh Timmerman
Scene Shop Technician Scenic Construction / Installation . . . . .	Taylor Webster
Director of Marketing . . . . .	Jennifer Clary
Publicity Coordinator . . . . .	Carrie Care
Director of Events . . . . .	Eileen May Krebs
Events Manager . . . . .	Peter Muller
Poster Design . . . . .	Nathan Young

## TECHNICAL CREWS

Properties Manager . . . . .	Annaleigh Timmerman
Light Board Operator . . . . .	Evan Christensen
Sound Board Operator . . . . .	Susan Downing
Properties/Running Crew . . . . .	Ryan Miller, Lily Warren, Seth Klusmire, Brenna Otts
Paint Crew . . . . .	Graham Lier, Mackenzie Cunningham
Electricians . . . . .	Tory Sheppard, Bonnie Prewitt, Brittany Lealman, Parker Stegmaier, David Culp, Analie Foland, Price Johnston, Nichole Killion
Costume Construction . . . . .	Siobhan Gleason, Katie Kramer, Jessica Alvis, Ann Allman, Alli King
Carpenters . . . . .	Bryan Connolly, Beka Davis, Cara Doyle, Keili Elliott, Zachery Krenytzky, Case McIntyre, Mac Trowbridge, Meredith Voyles



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member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He plans to achieve his ultimate goal in acting, becoming the first recurring Caucasian actor in Tyler Perry Movies. One love and big thanks for everyone's support

**TONY VESSELS** (Actor) is a senior Theatre/Journalism major. Past roles at CSU include PFC Santiago in *A Few Good Men*, Nagg in *Endgame*, and Rick Jones in *Zombies From the Beyond*. He also recently tried his hand as a Director of *The Bald Soprano*, at being the Assistant Lighting Designer for last semester's *Senior Dance Concert*, and performed in a touring children's theatre show, *The Amazing Food Detective*, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. Tony wants to pursue acting on stage and television post graduation, as well as writing and reporting for newspapers and/or magazines. This summer, Tony will be traveling to South Africa for five weeks with International Student Volunteers. He plans to become a certified sky-diver so that he may compete in Arizona at the end of the semester. Tony's favorite animal is the penguin.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

For a period in my life, some eighteen years in fact, I had the enormous privilege and pleasure of working in a dual role as a College theatre professor and as an associate of Alan Ayckbourn's wonderful theatre, the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough ( of “..are you goin’ to Scarborough Fair ? fame...”) For some years I directed the theatre's annual *festival of young people's theatre and dance* and I have memories of being in the theatre's small bar studio every Saturday morning teaching acting workshops to a room crowded with sixty or seventy rambunctious, eager children ages 8 to 16. At times Alan himself would make a guest appearance to chat with the children about theatre, and many guest actors and professionals would pop in. It was quite an exhilarating if exhausting time. We called the club “Rounders”, as Alan's theatre is and has always been a theatre-in-the-round experience, which we are of course emulating here this evening. One famous child from Rounders is the actress Joanne Froggatt who now plays Anna Smith, the love of Bates' life, in the blockbuster series *Downton Abbey*, with her inimitable “Yorkshire accent. Two of my own plays *Love Is In The Air* and *Red Roses* were also given professional productions by the theatre, after Ayckbourn personally read and approved the scripts. So, many happy memories, about which I could write so much more. I happened to be at the premier performance of *Comic Potential* back in 1998 with one of Britain's top actors, Janie Dee in the role of Jacie Triplethree – it's a delight to revisit the play for Colorado State University. Oh, and I did ask the author's permission to relocate all the events of the play from Britain to the United States. In the British theatre world Ayckbourn is regarded as something of a hallowed name. His plays have been produced endlessly in every corner of the region, and throughout Europe, and have kept some theatre companies alive. Knighted for his service to theatre, he remains a man of generosity, intelligence, with a priceless gift of humor and humanity. He has been kind enough to answer a few questions I posed for him about tonight's production. Please read on....

- Eric Prince

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[Carrie.Care@colostate.edu](mailto:Carrie.Care@colostate.edu)

### Why does theatre matter ? What makes it worth it all?

*Theatre was my first choice. In fact at the start it was the only choice open to me! Offers from film and TV just weren't exactly flooding in initially and, by the time they were, I felt it was far too late to start on a new career.*

*I have always concentrated throughout my life on what I term Basic Theatre. Defined by Stephen Joseph as, at heart, being a live meeting between two groups of people – the actors and audience; the one there to tell a story, the other to listen and re-act to it. The other trimmings, design, direction, lighting, sound, costume and props are options available to support, enhance and enrich this story-telling ritual, but never, never should they attempt to overshadow or obscure it.*

*What's left (and there's a lot left) is making the decision as to what to tell and how best to tell it. The actors (hereinafter referred to as The Company) may first decide to prepare their story. They might in some instances elect one of their number (hereinafter referred to as The Playwright) to devise a narrative and, if convenient, to write it down. They may go further and decide that to avoid disputes and resolve differences between them they also choose another to arbitrate (hereinafter referred to as The Director) to do this. This duty might, if felt appropriate, also be assigned to The Playwright. In certain cases, groups with strong identities may choose to dispense with these two previous appointments and go it alone and unprepared though I wouldn't advise it.*

*Whichever path they choose, it is important that although The Company are prepared for their meeting with their audience, they are never so rigidly rehearsed or inflexible as to give their audience an impression that they have no influence or impact on what they're watching or, worse still, that they mistake what they are witnessing to be a pre-recorded film or TV programme (hereinafter known as The Inflexible Mechanical Media).*

*If The Company abide by these simple principles, then they are practising Basic Theatre. Bravo!*

*This might be diluted (or polluted) occasionally by adding further elements such as for instance back-projection, slides or holographic images. But caution must be taken on two counts with this.*

- 1) The danger these might muddy or interrupt the bond between actor and audience.*
- 2) Be aware that no theatrical technical effect, however impressive or costly, can ever compete with an effect achieved by The Inflexible Mechanical*

**KRYSSI MILLER** (Actor) is a senior Theatre/Psychology double-major. Past CSU roles include Shebobo the Hobo in *Covert Vector*, Snake in *The Little Prince*, That Woman in *Quake*, Ann in *All My Sons*, Bobbi in *Some Girl(s)*, Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet*, Kimberly in *Kimberly Akimbo*, and Candy in *Cuckoo's Nest*. Kryssi will soon appear as Arvid in CSU's upcoming fantasy film project and as Annie in *Evil Dead: The Musical*. When not pretending to be someone else, Kryssi loves thundering after flocks of fleeing geese on her fiery steeds, jousting, or rocking out with her band Circana. Love and gratitude to the friends, familia, and fella.

**BRENNA OTTS** (Actor) is a sophomore Theatre major at CSU. Brenna recently featured as Cecily Cardew in CSU's *The Importance of Being Earnest* as Ilse in *Spring Awakening* for which she was nominated for an Irene Ryan KCACTF award. After *Comic Potential* appears next in the spring show, *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Brenna has loved working with the director, cast, and crew of *Comic Potential*, and has enjoyed grasping the opportunity.

**EMMA SCHENKENBERGER** (Actor) is a sophomore business major and a minor in theatre. *Comic Potential* is the fifth production that Emma has been involved in at CSU, but this will be her first time at getting to play an actoid! This performance is dedicated to Emma's sister.

**MAILE SPEETJENS** (Costume Designer) Maile is currently CSU's Stitcher/Draper. Originally hailing from Hawaii, Maile has designed and built costumes in both professional and academic settings ranging from Hawaii to Boston and Georgia. Some of her favorite shows have been *Hidden Man*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Rent*, *The Life and Times of Tulsa Lovechild*, and most recently, CSU's production of *Il Matrimonio Segreto*. She would like to thank the CSU Costume Shop for all of its support and great work during this production.

**SADI THOMPSON** (Actor) is a Theatre major. She recently transferred to CSU having grown up in Oklahoma. Sadi's past roles include Izzy in *Rabbit Hole*, Amy Lee in *Laundry and Bourbon*, and Claire in *Fuddy Meers*. This will be her first production at CSU. When not at the theatre, she enjoys camping and working to master her cooking skills. Love and thanks to Bryan and the furry ones.

**MARY KATE TRACEY** (Actor) is a sophomore Chemical Engineering major with a passion for theater. This is Mary Kate's third production at CSU. Former roles include Penny in the YPO production of *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* and Wendla in *Spring Awakening*. Mary Kate looks forward to being a part of future productions at CSU and highly encourages non-theater majors to get involved too.

**MAC TROWBRIDGE** (Actor) is a Junior Theatre Major. Being new to theatre Mac has appeared in one CSU production prior to *Comic Potential*, as Derek in *Reverse Cowgirl*. Aside from developing his acting ability, Mac has a passion for European football (soccer) and is a Manchester United supporter. Mac also is a

**TREVOR GRATTAN** (Actor) is a fourth year student with a double major in Theatre and Business: Management. His past shows with CSU include Herr Gabor and Herr Stiefel in *Spring Awakening* and multiple roles in *Chrysalis: The Kafka Project*. Later this semester, he will be appearing as a “deadite” in *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Outside of classes and productions, Trevor enjoys learning anything and everything about the theatre. After graduation, he plans on moving to Los Angeles to pursue his dream of becoming a professional actor. Thank you friends and family for supporting him throughout his journey.

**BRYAN HUDSON** is a senior, technical design and production Theatre major, focusing in lighting design. Recent lighting design credits at CSU include Domenico Cimarosa’s *Il Matrimonio Segreto (The Secret Marriage)* and the *2012 Fall Senior Capstone Dance Concert*. He has enjoyed working with the cast and crew and would like to thank the faculty and staff for making this an unforgettable experience.

**EMMA KIMBALL** The days of Emma Kimball’s life are consumed by her double majors and double minors in Dance, International Studies, Technical Theater & Political Science. She feels like a “natural woman” now that she’s gotten to sound design for a CSU show – “at last”! – and she’ll be riding off in her “chariot of fire” in December of this year. Her choreography credits include numerous CSU student and faculty dance concerts as well as her *Senior Capstone Concert* in Fall of 2012. Emma will have her “head in Mississippi” for the rest of the semester as she is the Assistant director and Choreographer for *The Evil Dead: The Musical* and Stage Manager for the *Dance Major Capstone Concerts*.

**SETH KLUSMIRE** (Actor) Acting experience in past CSU productions includes *Zombies from the Beyond*, *Woyzeck*, *The Amazing Food Detective*, a touring children’s theatre show, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, *Sweeney Todd* and also the role of Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He also happens to be a street walking cheetah with a heart full of napalm.

**JACK KRAUSE** (Actor) is a freshman Theater/Journalism dual major. This is his first university main season production, and his second acting role at CSU, his first being the Fire Chief in Ionesco’s *The Bald Soprano*. He will next appear as old Professor Knowby in the musical *The Evil Dead*. When not acting or making a fool of himself, he enjoys writing for the college magazine or reading the latest acclaimed satirical novel.

**MELISSA J MICHELSON** (Stage Manager) is a senior Technical Theater major. Melissa has recently stage managed CSU’s *Senior Dance Concert*, as well as Contemporary Dance Academy’s *Clara and the Nutcracker*, and High Country Conservatory of Dance’s *Winter Showcase*, both being staged in the Fort Collins Lincoln Center. Stage Managing tonight’s production is also Melissa’s senior thesis project and she could not have asked for a better cast, crew, team of designers, and assistant stage manager to be on the journey with her.

*Media. Often the same effect can be achieved by something as simple and satisfying as a piece of string.*

*Less is more; little is beautiful. Whether it be a single word, a line, a speech, a scene, or an act; whether a gesture, an inflexion, a shout or a facial expression. Always choose the minimum required to tell the story. Economy is more than finance.*

*That’s what I love about Theatre.*

**Can you recall the original inspiration for writing “Comic Potential” ?**  
*It sprang from my belief that laughter and love are closely allied. The film cliché of the lovers laughing together before making love remains a corny but truthful image.*

*But both concepts, laughter and love, are essentially devoid of logic. Why do we laugh at something? Why do we love this person and not that?*

*Machines, however humanoid in appearance cannot comprehend these two unique quirks of human behaviour. And if they could, they would suspect an illogical malfunction, surely? Jacie does.*

*The play divides the humans with humour, the humans devoid of humour, the actoids without humour and the actoid with humour.*

*How close are we to machines and how close to us are they? I hope the play combines both elements; it’s full of humour and it’s filled with love.*

- Alan Ayckbourn 11/12/2012

## ALAN AYCKBOURN Writer / Director

As one of Britain's most performed playwrights, Alan Ayckbourn has, to date, written 77 plays. Almost all received their first performance at the Stephen Joseph, with more than 35 of his works being subsequently staged in the West End, at the National Theatre or by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Major successes include *Relatively Speaking*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *Bedroom Farce*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *A Small Family Business*, *Henceforward...*, *Comic Potential*, *Things We Do For Love* and *House & Garden*.

Recent hits include Matthew Warchus' hit in-the-round Old Vic staging of *The Norman Conquests* which transferred to Broadway, earning a Tony for Best Revival of a Play; the National Theatre's popular 2010 production staging of *Season's Greetings* and this year, in the West End, Jeremy Herrin's acclaimed revival of *Absent Friends*. In 2013, his first major hit *Relatively Speaking* will return to the West End stage for the first time in more than 45 years. Alan stepped down as Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre in 2009, a post he held for 37 years, he continues to guest direct there.

His plays have been translated into 35 languages, won numerous awards nationally and internationally, and have been performed worldwide on stage and television.

In recent years, he has been inducted into American Theatre's Hall of Fame, received the 2010 Critics' Circle Award for Services to the Arts and became the first British playwright to receive both Olivier and Tony Special Lifetime Achievement Awards. He was knighted in 1997 for services to the theatre.

Source: Alan Ayckbourn's official website [www.alanayckbourn.net](http://www.alanayckbourn.net).

**DR ERIC PRINCE**, Professor of Theatre and Director of the Center for Studies in Beckett and Performance has published many essays, reviews and interviews on Samuel Beckett in leading international journals and directed many Beckett productions here at CSU and throughout Europe, including: *Endgame*, *Not I*, *What Where*, *Waiting For Godot*, *Footfalls*, *Embers*, *Play*, *All That Fall* and *Catastrophe* (in a bi-lingual Spanish/English production). Prince has written and directed productions of his own work in venues as diverse as London, Edinburgh, York, Augsburg, Utrecht, Amsterdam, Berlin and San Diego as well as creating children's theatre on the beaches of Yorkshire and multi-cultural theatre on the streets of Leeds. Six of his plays have been staged with success at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, two of them *Kafka's Last Request* and *Wildsea Wildsea*, receiving the prestigious London Sunday Times Playwriting Award and Best Production Awards (NSDF). Two plays, *Red Roses* (also directed for Bas Bleu Theatre) and *Love Is In The Air* were professionally produced in Britain by Sir Alan Ayckbourn's acclaimed repertory company, The Stephen Joseph Theatre. Prince's most recent CSU production was *The Importance of Being Earnest* and future plans include an original play and a new film production of a rarely seen Beckett play, *Eh Joe*.

## COMPANY & CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

**PAYTON BAILEY** (ASM) is a freshman just stepping into the theatre program at CSU. Some of her previous work for CenterStage in Goldsboro North Carolina includes Cecily Cardew in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, being ASM for *A Christmas Carol*, and Stage Manager for *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. At CSU she has been spot-op for *The Secret Marriage* opera and the 2012 Opera Gala. Payton thanks her amazing run crew, awesome cast, and Melissa, the best stage manager she could ask for.

**AUBREY BECK** is a Junior and a dual major in both Technical Theatre and Interior Design program. Aubrey has worked on many shows at CSU, but this is her first main stage head property design, and has proved to be an exciting adventure with many opportunities to develop and grow in experience and respect for the art of theatre. Aubrey also enjoys working for the Fort Collins Lincoln Center where she gets to take even more opportunities to grow her love for theatre.

**HANNAH BALDUS** (Scenic Designer) is from Aurora, Colorado, and a Senior Theatre Major who also has triple minors in Applied Napping, Doodling Sciences and Caffeine Induction Physics. *Comic Potential* is her Scenic Design thesis, so she hopes you enjoy the set, all four sides of it! She would like to thank Mom & Dad Baldus, as well as Susan Crabtree for their never-ending patience and support. She will take on the roles of Associate Scenic Designer and Charge Artist for *Evil Dead: The Musical* in the Spring."

**TIM GARRITY** (Actor) Recent roles at CSU include Professor Sunstroke, *Spring Awakening*; Duke Solinus, *Comedy of Errors*; Lady Bracknell, *The Importance of Being Earnest*; Extra, *Covert Vector*; Enemy Guard, *Random Dude*, *Four New Years Sketches*; Water Wars; Hamm in *Endgame*; Annibale, *The Gondoliers*; Major Malone, *Zombies from the Beyond*; Mr. Rhinehorn, *Swept Away*. Tim really enjoys theatre, film, and video games and hopes to get into all of them at some point in his life. Tim's passion lies in acting but what he truly treasures in life are the relationships he has made. Thanks for the help everyone.

**TARYN GAWRONSKI** (Actor) is a junior majoring in Social Work and this is her first show at CSU. Some of her favorite roles include Anne Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Ratty in *Wind in the Willows*, Millie Owens in *Picnic*, The Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz* and Elliot in *The One-Eyed Man is King* for which she received an OPOS nomination from Open Stage Theatre Company. Taryn has also received multiple awards for her monologue work at The World Championship for Performing Arts, held in Hollywood with over seventy countries involved. Taryn would like to thank the cast and crew for being so welcoming and hopes you enjoy the show.