



A Bug in Your Ear stars Eyrn Tvette as Jeanne, Renee Emerson as Calliope and Brendan Berg as Tripp.



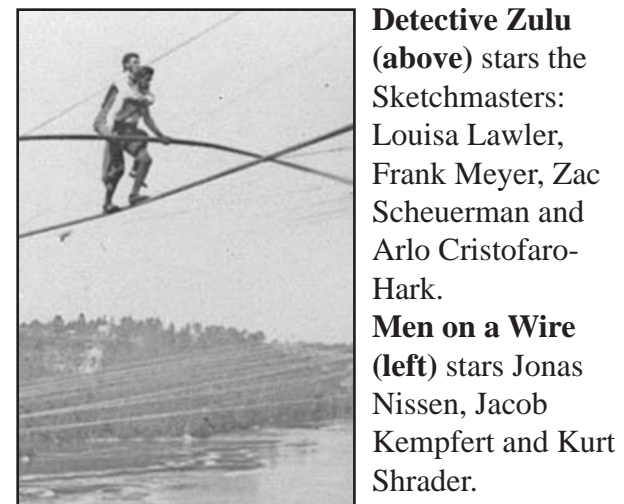
PC Street stars Megen Nicole at Trish, Hazen Marcoe as Cookie, Charla Bailey as Oscar and Greg Abbott as Elmo.



Maybe Next Time stars Christopher Sparacino as Tyler, Jeremy Warden as Jason, Jim Hatleli as the Custodian and Pete Steiner as Offstage Announcer.



Professor Confessions stars Jacob Kempfert, David Kelly, Emily Kimball, Dane Christenson, Alissa Kludtke and Rosanna Barker.



Detective Zulu (above) stars the Sketchmasters: Louisa Lawler, Frank Meyer, Zac Scheuerman and Arlo Cristofaro-Hark.
Men on a Wire (left) stars Jonas Nissen, Jacob Kempfert and Kurt Shrader.

Minnesota Shorts Play Festival



ALL-AGES SHOW LINEUP
2 p.m. & 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12

Detective Zulu
by Arlo Cristofaro-Hark

Men On a Wire
by Jacob Kempfert

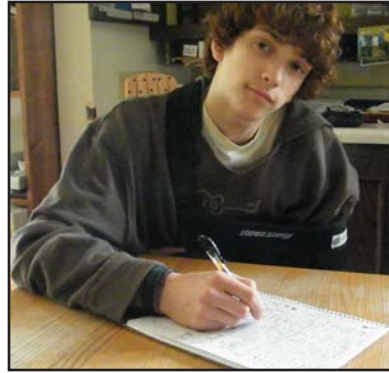
Maybe Next Time
by Mary Jost

Professor Confessions
by Paul Gansen

A Bug in Your Ear
by Maureen Berg

PC Street
by Greg Abbott

SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



Detective Zulu

Detective Zulu is a noir parody piece featuring a crazy woman named Lola Tonkins (Louisa Lawler), who bursts into Detective Zulu's Rent-a-space office pleading for help. Zulu (Frank Meyer) is immediately wrapped up (against his will) in an inquisitive sequence of events that leads to a scene involving a burglary, a bubble gun, and a Subway sandwich.

by Arlo Cristofaro-Hark of Lonsdale, MN

Arlo Cristofaro-Hark, 14, has been in an assortment of theatrical performances such as; Holes, Our Town, The Mouse That Roared, Detective Zulu and The Bench. For the last six years, Arlo has been a participant in Northfield's Young Peoples Theatre Workshop, where kids write and perform plays in three short weeks. Arlo will also continue into his third year of the VSPF & second year of PSPF (Very short Play Festival & Particularly Short Play Festival) and he plans to go on to Professional Theatre as he gets older.



Men on a Wire

One thousand feet above street level, two men have strung a tightrope between two skyscrapers. One man wishes to wax philosophic about various human experiences, while the other man only wishes to reach the other side alive. Their journey is complicated by the arrival of a third man from the other side, and all three must confront the thin lines between life and death, theory and practice, salvation and perdition. At turns erudite and inapt, "Men on Wire" is an existential comedy of the absurd that asks all of mankind's deepest and most pressing questions without bothering to answer any of them.

by Jacob Kempfert of Mankato, MN

Jacob Kempfert is a playwright, poet, and fiction writer. His shorter plays have been performed in a variety of venues across the Midwest. He is the author of two full-length plays and three collections of poetry. He is also the author of "The Hubris of Apathy," an internet comic.

Maybe Next Time

High school students, Jason and Tyler, are two former childhood friends who separated due to life circumstances. Their paths cross after school hours in the commons area. Tyler, a constant victim of harassment, has just been suspended for retaliation against his aggressors. Jason tries to lend a sympathetic ear and, in the course of their encounter, he comes to the realization that while not directly involved in the bullying he is very much a part of a problem.

by Mary Jost of North Mankato, MN

Jost has been involved with youth and children's theater for over 30 years as an actor, educator, director, and playwright. Since 1996, she has been writing and producing one act plays for middle school audiences. She has a B.S. in Speech, Theatre and English and an M.S. in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Since 1993, she has taught 7th grade Communications and directed Drama Club at Dakota Meadows Middle School in North Mankato.



SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



Professor Confessions

Professor Confessions is a comedy that follows a college professor through a semester of classes that seem to be filled with students with a skewed view of what their education should be. From zany colleagues to dimwitted students who never seem to say his name right, Joe Krompet is pushed to his limits and contemplates some serious issues with collegiate teaching.

by Paul Gansen of North Mankato, MN

Paul Gansen is currently a student at Minnesota State University, Mankato pursuing a degree in math education. In May 2008, he graduated from Bethany Lutheran College, in Mankato, with a B.A. in Theatre. He was introduced to the stage at the age of 7 as Tiny Tim in the Maple River High School production of A Christmas Carol and hasn't left since. His talents have been showcased on the BLC stage for many years. Paul has had the honor of acting in Theatre Physics 13, Theatre Physics 14, and The Essential Lunatic, for which he received an Irene Ryan Scholarship nomination at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

A Bug in Your Ear

A Bug In Your Ear asks the comedic question: "Is it really possible to follow our dreams?" Two well-meaning grandmothers give their grandson advice earned over a lifetime.

by Maureen Berg of Minneapolis, MN

Berg's 15 years as a lawyer gave her insights into the workplace that inspired her first full-length musical: Got It Made, as well as its shortened version, (Almost) Got It Made, which had a sell-out run in Minneapolis in 2007. (See www.hitplays.com.) Her 10-minute play, Decomposition, was featured in two regional theater festivals in 2008, and her even shorter Lawyers In Love was at the Northfield Very Short Plays Festival in 2009. Maureen's other theater-writing credits include sketch comedy with a comedy troupe in Chicago – The Public Offenders – and a number of original student musicals while in college and law school.



PC Street

Because of FCC complaints, Fun Street's producer has to break the news that his characters have to be more politically correct during the children's show. Will Cookie Monster have to stop eating cookies? Will Oscar no longer live in a garbage can? Will politically correct thinking take over the world? We vote for a little common sense.

by Greg Abbott of North Mankato, MN

Abbott works in communications for public schools. He has had three short plays produced in Northfield and San Louis Obispo, Calif., and another was a finalist in Washington, D.C. His latest full-length play was chosen for the 2009 Great Plains Theatre Conference. A cookie addict, he admits never quite liking Elmo, who he claims has unjustly bumped off Super Grover.

