

SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



THE CALL

STARRING: Deb Dixon as Mom AND Teresa Traxler as Bette

At times in our lives we experience moments that change us forever. A mother who is relaxing at home is unaware that her life will be changed by one simple phone call from her son.

by Elizabeth Krenik Traxler of LeCenter, MN

Elizabeth Krenik is the mother of four daughters and a 30-plus year veteran teacher who continually works at understanding that life is a process of learning. She has written articles that have been published in the "Chocolate" women's series; and plays that have been performed in her community. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, gardening and writing.



PATRICK

**STARRING: Joe Crook as Ezra, Mina Marie Johnson as Josephine,
Michael James as Jack, AND Clayton Rutschow as Patrick**

"I believe people by nature are good. I think we sometimes make mistakes and do bad things, but ultimately we are caring beings capable of compassion, love, and happiness."

This is the worldly view of Jack, a writer, who is having trouble coping with his niece's recent abduction. To help himself deal with it, he creates a story in which his views are put into play. This idealistic yet realistic play transcends the boundaries of what we believe about human nature through imagination, fear, love, and hope.

by Taylor Evan Johnson of Menomonie, WI

Taylor Johnson is a sophomore Theater major at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He is from Menomonie Wis. He hopes to make a career out of acting, but will always be writing as a hobby. Inspirations for his writing are Sam Shepard, Edward Albee, Neil Simon, and Tennessee Williams.



ENCORE

**STARRING: William Studer as Kit, Kate Kennedy as Rachel,
Dave Worley as Frankie, and Ty Mabley as Maxx.**

A group of aging Rock 'n Roll superstars clash backstage after a show. ENCORE provides a touching and funny glimpse at the crossroads of fame, fortune, family, and friendship.

by Joe Hendren of Spring Lake Park, MN

Joe studied Theatre Arts at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and regularly writes, directs, and acts for various theatres in the Twin Cities metro area. His scripts have recently won playwriting competitions at Lakeshore Players in White Bear Lake and the Northfield Arts Guild and have been produced at Lyric Arts Main Street Stage in Anoka, Masquers Theatre in Forest Lake, Rosetown Playhouse in Roseville and Elk River High School.



Minnesota Shorts Play Festival

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

7 p.m. & 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11

The Visitor

by Bob Thomas

Nothing Happened

by Scott Dixon

The Greatest Story Ever Edited

by Greg Abbott

The Proper Steps to Crying

by Jeffrey Alex Coe

Puppy Loathe

by Brendon Etter

Leaving Shore

by Debbie Feldman

The Call (7 p.m. only)

by Elizabeth Traxler

Patrick (9 p.m. only)

by Taylor Evan Johnson

Encore

by Joe Hendren

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THE VISITOR

STARRING: Randy Herget as Kelly AND Tammy Riesgraf as The Visitor

Kelly wakes up to find himself in a strange situation. A situation that, a few days before, he wouldn't have believed possible. Now he has to try to figure out how he got into it and how he is going to get himself out of it. Just when he does, he is confronted with a question, the answer to which will change the rest of his life.

by Bob Thomas of Minnetonka, MN

Bob is a retired engineer, song writer and playwright living in Minnetonka. Having studied playwriting at the Guthrie Theatre and the Playwrights' Center, Bob has had Playwrights' Center readings of "The Visitor" and his melodrama, "Love On The Prairie" (planned for full production in the summer of 2010). He has also written three Bible-based musicals that have been produced at a local church in Minnesota. Besides playwriting, he enjoys acting and directing in community theater. Bob also writes liturgical music that has been used in worship and special services across the country.

NOTHING HAPPENED

STARRING: Tim Sailer as Eric AND Stela Burdt as Jennifer

On New Year's Eve, Eric struggles to find the courage to pop the question to his girlfriend. So he does what any guy would do - have an imaginary conversation with his ex and hash out a solution before the ball in Times Square starts to drop.

by Scott Dixon of Lanesboro, MN

Scott Dixon is a resident artist with the Commonwealth Theatre Company in Lanesboro, MN, working as an actor, director and playwright. Besides his endeavors in the theatre, he has also written several short stories of horror and dark fantasy published in the small press. A complete list of current and upcoming projects is available at myspace.com/spokyscotty - including news of his newest full-length play, A MID-NIGHT DREARY, which will premiere this fall at the Commonwealth.



THE GREATEST STORY EVER EDITED

STARRING: Ariel Pink as Chris AND Ernest Briggs as Al

Could God get the Bible published in today's publishing world? Chris is a talented writer with the Old Testament in revision and a New Testament just written. But will it pass the "feel good" test of the shareholders at Good News Printing? When the editor says the ending needs to be lighter and thinks Jesus hanging around 12 guys is too gay, will Chris change the story plot to compromise her work so it can be in print?

by Greg Abbott of North Mankato, MN

Greg 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, "Snapped Shot," was chosen for the 2009 Great Plains Theatre Conference.



SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



THE PROPER STEPS TO CRYING

STARRING: Katie Drietz as the Corisande AND J. Alex Coe as Jay

Emotions are a beautiful part of life. They give human beings an understanding of how we cope with certain steps of life. We follow a man named Jay who ponders the very existence of emotion. During our journey, we will watch how the different people in Jay's story shape the emotion which will inevitably come into his own life. The Proper Steps to Crying gives a brief insight on how one man walks the path to a certain emotion: sadness.

by J. Alexander Coe of Roseville, MN

J. Alexander Coe grew up in Roseville. While living there, he developed a love for theatre and acted in plays all through his adolescent years. After graduating Roseville Area High School, he was accepted into the Musical Theatre BFA program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he's acted in numerous parts such as "Posner" in The History Boys and "Michael" in Dancing at Lughnasa. Both of these roles have earned him two Irene Ryan Scholarship nominations at the yearly Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Alex continues to act in the Theatre program at MSU and hopes to work as a professional actor when he graduates.

PUPPY LOATHE

STARRING: Ian Hathway as Galt AND Megan Proft as Lisa

A pretty woman sits on a park bench. She has a very cute puppy. Why does she have the dog? Is it a trap? For whom? What happens when they prey is larger than she intends? Does the hunter end up the prey? Does the hunter want to be the prey after all?

by Brendon Etter of Northfield, MN

Brendon Etter resides in lovely Northfield. He spends most of his time writing smutty plays for like-minded ne'er-do-wells. He will be published in a couple anthologies in the next two years (2009 and 2010 Best 10-Minute Play Anthologies by Smith & Kraus press). He's also shopping around his full-length play, Pro-micide, which is a hilarious story about murder and prom - everyone's two favorite special occasions. He runs the Very Short Play Festival in Northfield and was the author and director of the plays in the compilations, Sex With Seven Women and Sex With Seven Men. Puppy Loathe debuted as a part of Sex With Seven Men. He maintains a blog called A Play A Day & Lysteria (www.bleeet.blogspot.com) on which he wrote a play a day for 366 straight days.



LEAVING SHORE

STARRING: Brendon Etter as George AND Shari Setchell as Effie

George and Effie's relationship is at a crossroads. When Effie announces she plans to move across country, George must decide whether to go forward in the relationship. His fear of leaving the safety of shore and pushing off into the unknown, is a metaphor for his vulnerability and fear of leaving the security of his present relationship with Effie. The question is: Will he commit to the next level, despite his discomfort.

by Debbie Feldman of Brooklyn, NY

Debbie Feldman's plays and one-woman shows have been produced in New York City since 1998, including appearances in the Samuel French Off-Off-Broadway Short Play Festival. "Leaving Shore" was last produced in NYC in 2006. Earlier this year, the "Bonnie Blanchard" and "Ida Mae Murphy" monologues appeared in the Northfield Arts Guild's Very Short Play Festival IV and "Bonnie Blanchard" will be published by the International Centre for Women Playwrights. Also this year, "Trumpet Blues" appeared in the Universal Theatre Playwright Festival in Provincetown, MA and in Cedar Lane Stage's One Act Festival in Bethesda, MD.



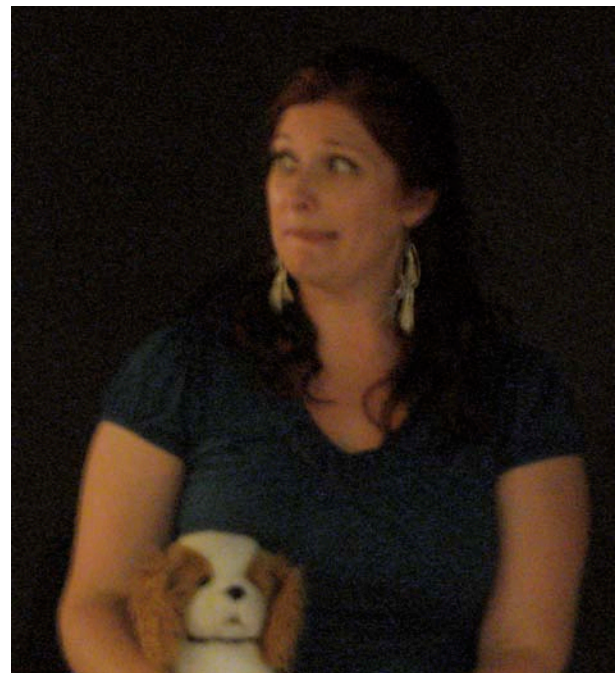


The Visitor (at left) stars Randy Herget as Kelly and Tammy Riesgraf as The Visitor.

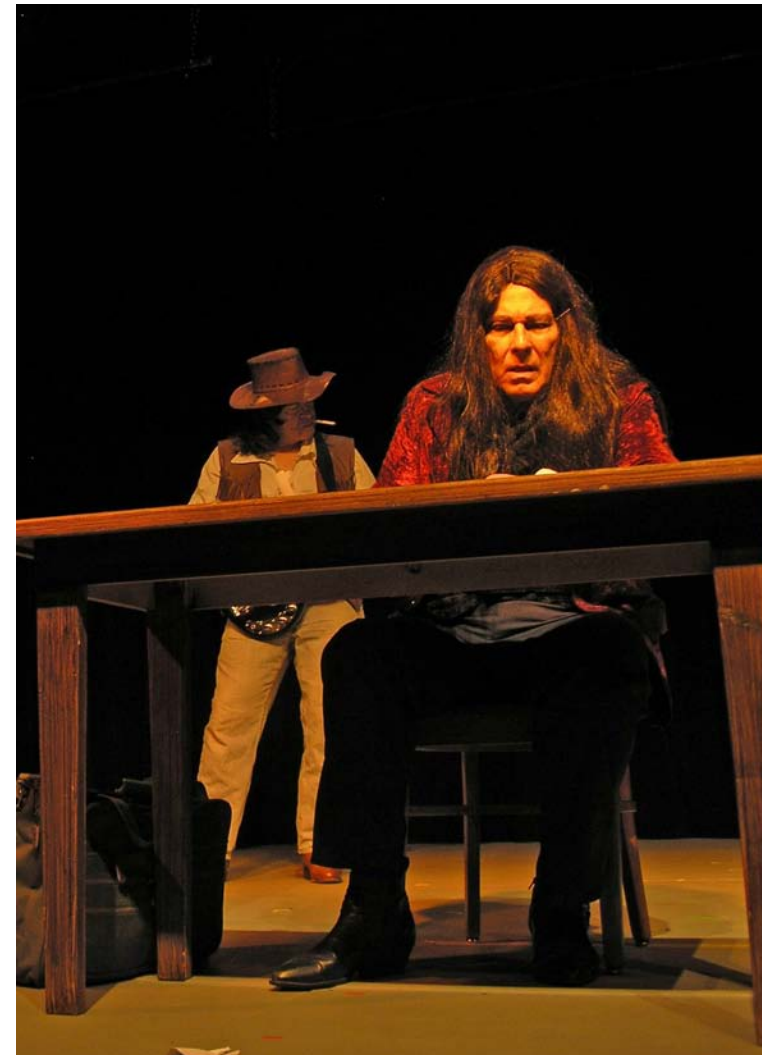
Puppy Loathe (below) stars Ian Hathway as Galt and Megan Proft as Lisa.



The Call (far left) stars Deb Dixon as Mom and Teresa Traxler as Bette

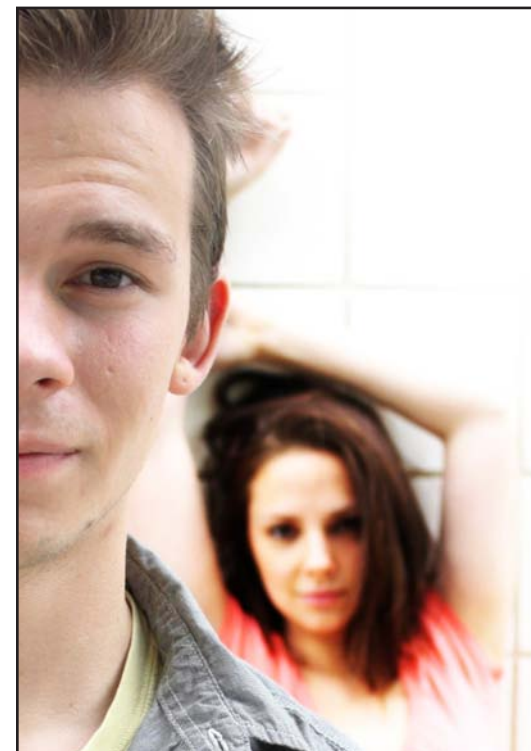


Leaving Shore (at left) stars Brendon Etter as George and Shari Setchell as Effie.



Encore (at left) stars William Studer as Kit, Kate Kennedy as Rachel, Dave Worley as Frankie, and Ty Mabley as Maxx.

The Greatest Story Ever Edited (below) stars Ernest Briggs as Al and Ariel Pink as Chris.



The Proper Steps to Crying (at left) stars J. Alex Coe as Jay and Katie Drietz as the Corisande.

Nothing Happened (above) stars Tim Sailer as Eric and Stela Burdt as Jennifer.