

SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



THE BASKET

STARRING: Cynthia Riebesell as Lisa, Michaella Crnkovic as Marian, Jennifer Potocnik as Mother; Paul Boyer as Father; Adam Guss as Rick; AND Andrew Loraff as Paul
DIRECTED BY: Launa Helder

Lisa is trying to pack a gift basket for her boyfriend Rick, but when her family gets involved it becomes chaotic. Everyone has their own ideas for what to fill the basket with. No one seems anywhere near a compromise, there's food flying everywhere – and Rick is on his way.

WRITTEN by SOPHIA TOMANY of Mankato, MN

Sophia Tomany was born in Munich, Germany. She and her family moved to Arizona in 2000, and from there to Minnesota in 2005. She is a ninth-grader at West High School, and she lives in Mankato. Last year, her play "A Ticket for My Cat" was performed at Minnesota Shorts. "The Basket" is her second play.

THE GLASS HOUSE

STARRING: Ann Marie Omeish as Jan; AND Doree DuToit as Mother

The Glass House is a story about a mother's decline into the world of dementia, and how her daughter is impacted. It investigates how these women navigate between the heartbreak, humor and ultimately the unconditional love that they have for each other.

WRITTEN and DIRECTED by JENNIFER KIRKEBY of Minneapolis, MN

Jennifer Kirkeby has written 16 plays which have been produced. Kirkeby adapted "Madeline's Christmas," based on the book by Ludwig Bemelmans, and L. Frank Baum's "Dot and Tot of Merryland," both of which are published by Dramatic Publishing. Other adaptations to her credit include Nancy Carlson's "Harriet and Walt" (Baker's Plays), "Aladdin and His Magical Lamp," "The Mitten" by Jan Brett, and many more. Original plays include "Midlife Madness," an adult comedy, "Eyes Wide Open," a play about eating disorders (Baker's Plays) and "The Glass House," which was a winner in Bedlam Theater's 10-minute play festival (2011), MN Shorts 10-minute play festival, and a finalist in the Lakeshore Players 10-minute play festival. Kirkeby is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America, Inc., The Playwrights' Center and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.



SUPERHERO

STARRING: Carter Allen as Leonard; AND Tylinn Fahrni as Rachel
DIRECTED BY: Paul J. Hustoles

Have you been ignored, insulted, discarded all your life? You may be a Superhero.

WRITTEN by MARK HARVEY LEVINE of Pasadena, CA

Mark Harvey Levine has had over 600 productions of his short works all over the world from New York to Seoul to Sydney to Prague. His work has been translated into French, Hebrew, Japanese and Portuguese. Evenings of his plays have been produced in Amsterdam, Sao Paulo, New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Indianapolis and Columbus, OH. An evening of his plays entitled "Aperitivos" played in Brazil from 2005 to 2010, going on a National Tour of Brazil. He has won the Alan Minieri Award, Best Play and Audience Favorite from New York's 15 Minute Play Festival, Best Play (five times) from the "In A NY Minute" Play Festival (New York), 1st Place in the Claire Donaldson Festival (SD) and numerous other awards. His play "Surprise" was seen in last year's Minnesota Shorts Festival. He lives online at www.MarkHarveyLevine.com, and offline in Pasadena with his lovely wife and son.



Thanks to the 4Playwrights Project for their help with this festival. Also to KMSQ for promoting theater in the Playhouse Off 90 series.

Minnesota Shorts Play Festival



7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8

9-11 News Cycle
by 10th Anniversary Playwrights Commission

The Teleport Marketer
by Mitch DeDeyn

Gertie and the Gnome
by Mary Jost

Worms
by Jacob Kempfert

Zombies in Love
by Greg Abbott

Idealator
by Alex Hapka

Please don't feed the bears
by Layla Dowlatshahi

The Basket
by Sophia Tomany

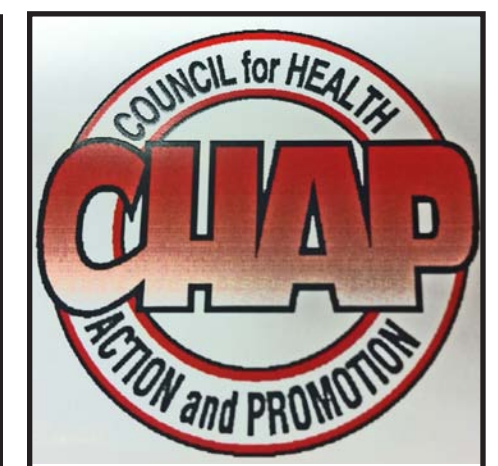
The Glass House
by Jennifer Kirkeby

Superhero
by Mark Harvey Levine

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**THE ACCUSING
PARLOR**
SEPT 16-18
& SEPT 23-24
Lincoln Community
Theater



Don't miss the 4Playwrights/Merely Players production of "The Accusing Parlor," a hilarious murder mystery where everyone has a motive and only one person can figure it out.



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SPECIAL FEATURE PLAY: 9-11 NEWS CYCLE

**STARRING: Tim Berry as Scoop; Paul Boyer as Dan; Deann Schloesser as Beth;
AND Bjorn Linder as John**

As the Free Press staff prepares for huge team coverage of the tenth anniversary of 9-11, other news events pop up that question whether a newspaper should give people the information they need or the news they want.

DIRECTED BY: Greg Abbott as a special tribute to the victims of 9-11



THE TELEPORT MARKETER

**STARRING: Jared Schwab as Larry Freemont;
AND Brendan Gaborik as Teleport Marketer**

In the 2050s, mankind is faced by a terrible new threat. Larry Freemont wants only to eat dinner and watch his favorite TV show. Instead, he is confronted by the dreaded teleport marketer.

DIRECTED BY: Jared Schwab

WRITTEN by MITCH DEDEYN of Mankato, MN

Mitch DeDeyn holds a B.A. in English Literature from Minnesota State University Mankato. His plays have been produced locally and nationally, including "JoAnna" by the 2010 Minnesota Shorts Play Festival, "Your Desolate Seat" by the Mankato Mosaic Theatre Company, "At the Bus Stop" and "Private Lives" by Winona State University's 24 Hour Theatre, and "Todd Walker in Japan" by San Diego's North Park Vaudeville. With author t.d. barna, he co-wrote and co-directed the 13-episode radio drama MAKa, a science fiction thriller that will soon begin airing on KMSU radio.

GERTIE AND THE GNOME

**STARRING: Lolly Foy as Gertie; Jaci Lageson as Maxine
AND Carter Allen as the Gnome
DIRECTED BY: Meredith Larson**



Maxine and Gertie are two longtime friends but Max has had enough of Gertie's obsession with garden gnomes. Their lives are changed forever when a strange visitor appears in Max's garden. Why is he there? And an even better question is why won't he leave?

WRITTEN by MARY JOST of North Mankato, MN

Mary Jost has been involved with theater for over 30 years as an actor, educator, director and playwright. Since 1996 she has been writing and producing plays. Her drama, *Maybe Next Time*, was featured in the 2009 Minnesota Shorts Festival. Another one of her shorts, *The Picnic*, was part of the Traverse Des Sioux Library touring story theatre in 2010.

WORMS

**STARRING: Michael Lilienthal as 1; Kristin Carr as Wife; Ethan Bartlett as Friend;
Zeke Bartlett as Stranger; Dan Roemildt as A; Nicholas Lilienthal as B;
AND David Roemildt, Rae Gleason, and Cassie Wierschke as Doctors
DIRECTED BY: Michael Lilienthal**



A man casually reads a harmless scientific article, but unexpectedly finds himself questioning the boundaries of his existence. He only seeks understanding -- his own understanding, and to be understood. But in a world strained to the limits of its own irrationality, can such understanding exist? "Worms" documents one man's unexpected obsession with microscopic worms, and delves into the frontiers of scientific understanding and theatre of the absurd.

WRITTEN by JACOB KEMPFERT of Orono, ME

Jacob Kempfert is the author of three full-length plays and multiple 10-minute and one-act plays which have been performed in a variety of venues across the Midwest. He is one of the founding members of the Fictionshark movement, and also the author of the internet comic "The Hubris of Apathy." His play "The Dead" was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Playwright Conference and the winner of the Robert C. Hamlet Playwriting Award. See his latest play, "The Accusing Parlor" next week as the featured Merely Players' production. He and his wife Anna currently live in Orono, Maine.

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ZOMBIES IN LOVE

**STARRING: Alex Adams as Frances; Austin Garcia as Calvin;
AND Rachel Conrad as Kit; With Ella Potocnik, Libby Guss, Andrew Garcia,
Jackie Nelson and Henry Nelson as Kids**



DIRECTED BY: Shannon Finnegan

Can Calvin find love while working in a Haunted House as a zombie, despite his failed plan to win over the lovely Kit Carson by auditioning for a play? And can Frances overcome her own fear about her relationship? Find out in this romantic comedy that doesn't fit the Jell-O mold.

WRITTEN by GREG ABBOTT of North Mankato, MN

During the past year, Greg's short play, "Vultures" was produced at the Festival of Ten in Brockport, NY, and by Rising Sun Theatre Company in New York City, NY; "A Cup of Love" was produced by Mankato Mosaic and performed at the Very Short Play Festival in Northfield, MN; and "Lessons in Water Safety" was a finalist for the Summer Splash Festival in Williston, ND. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild, the Minneapolis Playwright Center and the local 4Playwrights Project. In real life, he works for the School Boards Association and steals all the ideas for his plays from his wife and 12-year-old son.

IDEALATOR

STARRING: Russel Dugger as Cletus, AND Kat Lutze as Dimney



Where do our ideas come from? How do they just sporadically pop into our heads? Cletus, a well known writer, is wondering just that. He is having trouble finding his new inspiration and when all hope seems lost, in walks Dimney Daperna, a new idea. Though doubting, Cletus continues to speak to this inspiration and quirkiness unfolds.

WRITTEN and DIRECTED by ALEX HAPKA of Minneapolis, MN

Alex Hapka grew up in the small town of Hugo, MN. Since there wasn't much to do in a small town, often he would go into the cities to watch plays or enjoy feature-length pictures. After being in a few plays of his own, he decided to pursue his bachelor's degree in the art of theater. During his four years at Augsburg College, he developed an appreciation for film as well. Alex graduated with a major in film, as well as an additional major in theater. He has always been a fan of the art that is storytelling and developed his own sense of dialogue and genre.

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE BEARS

**STARRING: Terry Foy as Eddie; AND Jodi Gustafson as Chrissy
DIRECTED BY: Shelley Whitehead**



A park ranger stops an elderly camper from feeding the animals at Yellowstone National Park only to discover that the enforcement of the rules isn't so black and white.

WRITTEN by LAYLA DOWLATSHAHI of Minneapolis, MN

Layla Dowlatshahi's play, *Joys of Lipstick* was staged at The Producer's Club and at Lark Theatre, New York. The *Waiting Room* had a staged reading at the Annenberg Studio Theatre, University of Pennsylvania. The *Elevator* had a staged reading in Minneapolis and an excerpt of the play was published in MIZNA. She was a Many Voices Resident at The Playwrights' Center and was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts/Minnesota State Arts Board Grant and a Theatre Communications Grant for research and travel to Bosnia and Croatia to gather material for her play, *Foca*. *Seventh Inning Stretch* was performed as part of the Six Women Playwriting Festival.



**THANKS TO HY-VEE FOR
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