

SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



JESUS NEEDS A PHOTO I.D.

STARRING: Paul Boyer as Jesus; John Zehnder as Disciple; Tommy Emery as Election Judge; Deann Schloesser as Donkey Woman; Bjorn Linder as Elephant Man; AND the MN United Players as Voters

DIRECTED BY: Greg Abbott

Jesus comes to Mankato to vote on the Constitutional Amendment to limit marriage to between one man and one woman. But alas, even Jesus needs a government-approved voter I.D., and it will take a miracle for the Election Judge to let Him pass.

WRITTEN by the MN United writers

This play was written as a project by several playwrights to draw attention to this fall's Constitutional Amendment votes and urge "No" votes on both ballot questions. The writers support Minnesota United for All Families, a broad coalition of organizations that support the right to marry for all committed couples in Minnesota.

THE CREATION OF THE CUBICLE

STARRING: Robert Hermann as Rogers; Steve Smith as Johnson;

AND Amy Nowicki as Crawford

DIRECTED BY: Randy R. Schmidt



Most of us know about the suffocating effects of a cubicle, but where did it come from? Who created such a monstrosity? Two names: Johnson and Rogers. Find out what happened the night the cubicle was conceived.

WRITTEN by ELLIE SCHMIDT of St. Paul, MN

Ellie Schmidt is a freelance writer, jewelry designer and outdoor enthusiast. "The Creation of the Cubicle" is the first short play Ellie has written and she's wildly excited to be a part of the festival. Ellie is new to the theatrical world, although she did have a minor acting role in a Shakespeare in the Park play in college. After her performance, however, Ellie quickly realized she was a horrible actress and decided to focus on writing instead. Ellie grew up in Cottage Grove, MN, where she spent her time dreaming of warmer weather. After graduating from Winona State University with a B.A. in history, she moved to Phoenix, AZ. From there she journeyed to Denver, CO. After a delightful turn of events, Ellie met her husband, Randy, and moved back to Minnesota. They currently live in Saint Paul with a multitude of plants.

OUR LITTLE ANGEL

STARRING: Dan Clement as Greg; AND Amy Scruggs as Carol

DIRECTED BY: Molly Smith



A couple enjoys taking their two-year-old daughter trick-or-treating for the first time -- until they are left alone with her tempting bag of Halloween candy.

WRITTEN by Steven Korbar of Torrance, CA

Steven's full-length and one-act plays have been produced in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and throughout the United States and Canada. His drama, "Table for Four", was published in Smith and Kraus' "Best Short Plays of 2010"; as was his comedy "Mrs. Jansen Isn't Here Now". Other productions include "I Understand Your Frustration" at the Turtleshell Theatre NYC, "Let Go" at Future Ten in Pittsburgh, "Hard" at Elephant Stageworks in LA, "Circles" at Shelterbelt Theatre in Omaha and "What are You Going to Be?", which won the "Merce" award at the 2011 10-minute play festival at the Secret Rose Theatre in LA.



**THANKS TO HY-VEE FOR
TICKETING AND COOKIE SALES**

Minnesota Shorts Play Festival



7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6

Ed & Larry are Red

by Sam Graber

The Real Family

by Michele Markarian

Now It's Judy's Turn to Cry

by t.d. barna

First Date Frappe

by Mitch DeDeyn

Death in a Park

by Austin K. Steinmetz

The Party

by Katherine Glover

Jesus Needs a Photo I.D.

by Minnesota United writers

The Creation of the Cubicle

by Ellie Schmidt

Our Little Angel

by Steven Korbar

OUR SPONSORS:



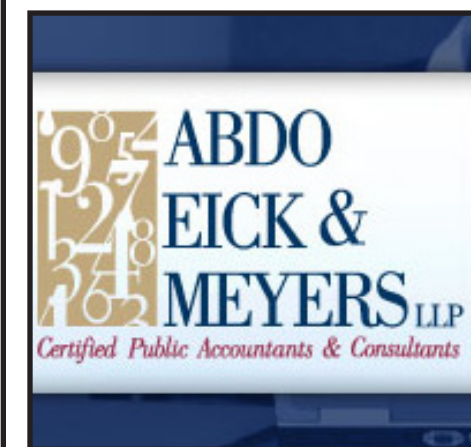
HELEN'S INNER

CIRCLE

**SEPT 28-30
& OCT 5-7**

**Lincoln Community
Theater**

Don't miss the 4Playwrights/Merely Players production of "Helen's Inner Circle," a comedy that takes you back to a time when hair was short and skirts were long.



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ED & LARRY ARE RED

STARRING: John Eichenlaub as Ed; Adam Sharp as Larry;
AND Cynthia Uhrich as Leo McGarry and CJ Cregg
DIRECTED BY: Scott Pakudaitis

In a dark dungeon, two statisticians we all (didn't really) know become panicked by the political control they wield.

WRITTEN by SAM GRABER of Minneapolis, MN

Sam Graber has become widely heralded as the nation's skinniest emerging playwright. After his 2009 book and score for "FISH! The Musical!" was taken to Las Vegas for production, his one-acts "The Future Of Hawaii," "Wedding Song" and "The M Word" were staged at various 2010 national festivals. "In Congress with the Night" received its 2012 premiere at Seven Stories Theater (WV). His plays have been produced by the New Mystics Theater Company, Box Wine Theater, Venture Theater, Mildred's Umbrella Theatre, City Theatre of Independence, and Cluj Theater. His work is published by Dramatic Publishing. He lives outside Minneapolis, MN, where the temperature is 309 degrees colder than wherever you are.

THE REAL FAMILY

STARRING: John Zehnder as Brian; Bjorn Linder as Dad
AND Esther Hoffmann as Mom
DIRECTED BY: Launa Helder

When Brian tells his family that it's time for him to seek out his real parents -- a supermodel and a European count basketball star - he learns more than he bargained for about where he came from.

WRITTEN by MICHELE MARKARIAN of Cambridge, MA

Michele is a writer and actor based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her short plays have been presented by the Boston Theatre Marathon, the Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport, YAT in South-West London, the Fine Arts Association of Ohio, and others. Her ten-minute play "Old Friends" was a finalist for a 2006 Heideman Award from Actors' Theatre of Louisville. Michele's play "Parents of Typical Children" was shortlisted at the Gold Dust Competition for Playwrights and shown at the London Theatre, New Cross in July of 2012. Her plays have been published by Dramatic Publishing, Heuer Publishing, and in the Book of Estrogenius. Her short fiction can be found in the anthologies "Families: the Frontline of Pluralism" and "View From the Bed; View from the Bedside" by Wising Up Press, and in the online anthology, "In Her Place; Stories of Women Who Get Around" (<http://inherplace.org>), as well as on www.yesteryearfiction.com. Michele is a member of the Dramatists Guild.



NOW IT'S JUDY'S TURN TO CRY

STARRING: Kevin Mock as Momma; AND Maria Meyer as Nubia
DIRECTED BY: Cynthia Riebesell

There's Nubia (vivacious and rockin'), there's Judy (taking what's not hers), there's Johnny (the prize), then there's Momma (a woman like no other) and finally there's life itself. Laughs, tears and a whole lot of fun.

WRITTEN by t.d. barna of Eagle Lake, MN

t.d. barna has penned a dozen full-length plays, 15 short plays and is currently working on his 4th and 5th full-length musicals (simultaneously). His works have been performed regionally. He is extremely excited that Merely Players has agreed to stage his new comedy, "Helen's Inner Circle" September 28-30 and October 5-7 at the Lincoln Community Theater. This is t.d. barna's third year with the Minnesota Shorts Play Festival.



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FIRST DATE FRAPPE

STARRING: Pat Christman as Mark; AND Tracy Stokes as Linda
DIRECTED BY: Tim Berry

Mark and Linda are on a blind date. Will the sparks fly or will the frappes spill?

WRITTEN by MITCH DEDEYN of Shoreview, MN

Mitch DeDeyn holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from Minnesota State University Mankato. More than 20 of his plays have been produced by organizations, including the Minnesota Shorts Play Festival, Mankato Mosaic Theatre Company, KMSU Radio, Blue Earth Reader Workshop, Winona State University, and North Park Vaudeville.



DEATH IN A PARK

STARRING: Amy Jo Mickelson as Claire Carson; AND Noelle Lawton as Death
DIRECTED BY: Travis Carpenter

Claire Carson flips a penny into a fountain wishing for a change of luck, a change of life, but instead, finds Death in a park. DEATH IN A PARK is a dark comedy about what keeps us from living and how we fight to keep from dying.

WRITTEN by AUSTIN K. STEINMETZ of Columbus, OH

Austin's recent accomplishments include the 2011 and 2012 Theatre Oxford National 10-Minute Play Contest Grand Prize Winner, 2012 Heartland Theatre Company's National 10-Minute Play Contest Winner, 2012 Columbus Bicentennial Playwright Festival Winner and 2011 MadLab Theatre's Greatest Hits among others. He thanks his wife, Cara, for everything he writes—God knows she hears it over and over again, yet makes it better every time.



THE PARTY

STARRING: Julie Peck as Linda; Erik J. Nelson as Jack;
AND Adam Guss as Mark
DIRECTED BY: Maggie Maes

A couple comes home from a weekend vacation to find their living room trashed, but they disagree on whether they should punish their socially awkward son for having an unsupervised party -- or praise him.

WRITTEN by KATHERINE GLOVER of Minneapolis, MN

Katherine Glover is a writer, journalist, performer and storyteller. She's written four solo storytelling shows and performed them at theater festivals throughout the U.S. and Canada; her most recent show, "Dead Wrong," deals with a wrongful conviction case. Katherine has also appeared on Minnesota Public Radio's "In The Loop" and is featured at numerous Minneapolis comedy shows and spoken word events, including Two Chairs Telling, Pillsbury Theatre's Late Nite Series, Hot Dish, Women Stand Up!, Cheap Theatre, and the Monday Night Comedy Show. She's president of the board of Northstar Storytelling and produced its 2011 Tellabration! festival, "A World of Stories." For more info, visit katherineglover.net.

