

THEATRE EAST PRESENTS



ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD

BY GEORGE BRANT

OCTOBER 5TH 7:00 PM

OCTOBER 6TH 7:00 PM

OCTOBER 7TH 2:00 PM

2023-2024 SEASON

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east forsyth high school theater 8910 jot em down rd. gainesville; ga 30506

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD HAS BEEN ON MY RADAR FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS NOW AS A SHOW I WOULD LIKE TO EVENTUALLY DIRECT. WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (AS THE RINGMASTER SAYS), THE TIME HAS COME!

I HAVE SEEN THE SHOW TWICE, BOTH AT GEORGIA THESPIAN CONFERENCE, AND IT HAS BEEN VERY DIFFERENT YET VERY GOOD BOTH TIMES. ONE THING I DID NOT REALIZE WHEN I WATCHED THE SHOW WAS THAT ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD IS BASED ON TRUE EVENTS. ONCE I HAD THE IDEA THAT I MIGHT WANT TO DIRECT THE SHOW, I FOUND OUT THE AWFUL TRUTH THAT THIS WAS NOT A WORK OF FICTION.

WITHOUT SPOILING TOO MUCH OF THE STORY, I WILL TELL YOU THAT MARY, A PERFORMING CIRCUS ELEPHANT, GAVE A GRAND, HORRIFIC FINAL PERFORMANCE IN ERWIN, TENNESSEE IN SEPTEMBER OF 1916. THIS SHOW IS ABOUT THE EVENTS THAT LED UP TO THAT MOMENT AS TOLD BY THE PEOPLE OF ERWIN, THE CIRCUS, AND A TRAIN ENGINEER.

ALL OF THAT SAID, THIS HAS BEEN A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE. THESE THEATRE EAST STUDENTS HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO TELL YOU THE STORY OF MARY. I HOPE YOU ENJOY THE SHOW AS MUCH AS I HAVE HAD WORKING ON IT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Addison", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DIRECTORIAL TEAM

directed by

ADDISON WALDEN

assistant directed by

KYLEE BOWEN

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Technical Director

EASTON SIVER

Set Design Collaborators

SAVANNAH LIVINGSTON

KATE MITCHELL

MADIAN VELASCO

EASTON SIVER

Band Director

SAVANNAH LIVINGSTON

CIRCUS LINGO

HEY RUBE

A CALL FOR HELP, USUALLY GIVEN
BY THE RINGMASTER

FIRST OF MAY

SOMEONE WHO IS BRAND NEW TO
THE CIRCUS

JOEYS

ANOTHER NAME FOR CLOWNS,
WHO ARE THE LOWEST OF THE
LOW IN THE CIRCUS

RED-LIGHTING

WHEN THE CIRCUS FIRES
SOMEONE, LEAVES THEM BEHIND
OR THROWS THEM OFF TRAIN

JOHNNY TIN-PLATE

ANOTHER NAME FOR A RURAL
SHERIFF OR MARSHALL



CAST

THE CIRCUS

ANDIE ACKER.....RINGMASTER

JADEN BONCHEVA.....TRAINER

GRACE NISSEN.....BALLET GIRL

PHILLIP JOHNSON.....TOUR MANAGER

LUKE LOWREY.....STRONGMAN

CHRISTIAN THOMAS.....CLOWN

THE TOWN

RIA PARDUE.....HUNGRY TOWNSPERSON

JONATHAN PEREZ.....MARSHALL

ASHLYN MONTGOMERY.....MUDDY TOWNSPERSON

ANDREW BROWN.....PREACHER

XAVIER GRAHAM.....STEAM SHOVEL OPERATOR

MOLLY MERCK.....YOUNG TOWNSPERSON

KENZIE MILLER.....YOUNG TOWNSPERSON

MAKENNA NICHOLS.....AMBITIOUS TOWNSPERSON

DAKOTA MONTGOMERY.....MOTHERLY TOWNSPERSON

HUDSON WRAY.....VIVID TOWNSPERSON

JEWETT MOTE.....STRESSED TOWNSPERSON

GAUGE RUIZ.....ELDERLY TOWNSPERSON

THE RAILROAD

TANNER DECKARD.....ENGINEER

THE BAND

ABBY COOKE.....GUITARIST

CAIDEN BURGIS.....DRUMMER



CREW

STAGE MANAGING

MADIAN VELASCO.....STAGE MANAGER
MAGGIE PARKER.....ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
MEREDITH ENGLE.....ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

LIGHTING

HANNAH LITTON.....LIGHTING DESIGNER
CARRINGTON DARST.....LIGHTBOARD OPERATOR
KAS GORE.....SPOTLIGHT OPERATOR

SOUND

SAVANNAH LIVINGSTON.....SOUND DESIGNER

COSTUME

JACKSON HOWELL.....HEAD COSTUME MANAGER
OLLIE STACY.....HEAD HAIR/MAKEUP MANAGER
CANAAAN PAYNE.....COSTUME CREW
KAITLYN DECKARD.....COSTUME CREW
EMMA WIGLEY.....COSTUME CREW

SET

EASTON SIVER.....TECH DIRECTOR
SARAH ALLISON.....DECK CREW
CONNER CHADWICK.....DECK MASTER

PROPS

KATE MITCHELL.....PROPS MASTER
EMMA SMITH.....PROPS CREW

BIOS

ANDIE ACKER

RINGMASTER

Andie Acker is a junior at East Forsyth High School. You may have seen her in previous years in THE SPITFIRE GRILL(Ensemble), INTO THE WOODS JR. (Rapunzel), and ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (Princess No. 12). She would like to thank her family for their continued support and would like to extend a very special thanks to Mr. Whiskers for being her muse and inspiration. She is excited to play the Ringmaster and hopes you enjoy the show!

JADEN BONCHEVA

TRAINER

TJ Boncheva is a junior at East Forsyth High School. He is playing as The Trainer and this is his 3rd show as a performer. He was also in SEUSSICAL JR. (Wickersham Brother), THE SPITFIRE GRILL (Crew), INTO THE WOODS JR. (Jack), and ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (Crew). TJ would like to thank his friends for always being there to support him and make him laugh.

GRACE NISSEN

BALLET GIRL

Grace Nissen is a senior at East Forsyth High School, and she is ecstatic to be performing in ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD as the Ballet Girl! Grace is in her second season at Theatre East and feels extremely blessed to be a part of the program. Grace wants to thank her sweet family and lovely friends for their unending love and support.

PHILLIP JOHNSON

TOUR MANAGER

Phillip Johnson is a senior at East Forsyth High School. He is the Tour Manager and it is his first time in a lead role for one act. Phillip has also been a part of THE SPITFIRE GRILL (ensemble), ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (ensemble), Spotlight (Playing parts such as Lombard from THEN THERE WERE NONE to Judge Danforth from THE CRUCIBLE). He would like to thank his friends and family for everything they have done for him.

LUKE LOWREY

STRONGMAN

Luke Lowrey is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School and he plays the role of Strongman. Luke has also been a part of INTO THE WOODS JR. (Steward). Luke would like to thank his dogs Chloe, Wyatt, and Chewie, as well as his family for supporting him through the years.

CHRISTIAN THOMAS

CLOWN

Christian Thomas is a junior at East Forsyth High School and he is playing the role of The Clown. Christian has also been in Theatre East's other productions such as THE SPITFIRE GRILL(ensemble), INTO THE WOODS JR. (Baker), ONCE UPON A MATTRESS(Sir Harry). Christian would like to personally thank his Dad and Mr. Walden for helping him learn how to juggle in 2-3 weeks and his Mom for showing up to all performances of all of his shows.

BIOS

RIA PARDUE

Ria Pardue is a junior at East Forsyth High School and is portraying the character, Hungry Townsperson. She has been a part of multiple productions, such as playing the understudy of the Jester in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, Jack's Mother in INTO THE WOODS JR., and being on the crew for The SPITFIRE GRILL. Ria would like to express tremendous gratitude for her grandmother, who never fails to show support and love through every activity she participates in.

HUNGRY TOWNSPERSON

JONATHAN PEREZ

Jonathan Perez is a junior at East Forsyth High School and he is playing the role of The Marshal. Jonathan has also been a part of ONCE UPON A MATTRESS(ensemble). Jonathan would like to thank his Mother for all the love and support they've given to him in the last 8 months on his theater journey.

MARSHALL

ASHLYN MONTGOMERY

Ashlyn Montgomery (Muddy Townsperson) is a junior at East Forsyth High School. You may have seen her as Jack from INTO THE WOODS JR., or The Nightingale in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS. She would like to thank her castmates for all of their support and hard work that they have given and all that is still to come.

MUDDY TOWNSPERSON

ANDREW BROWN

Andrew Brown (Cast) is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School. He is The Preacher in ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD, as well as others such as INTO THE WOODS JR. (Rapunzel's Prince). Andrew would like to thank the wonderful people at East Forsyth's theatre team, for being the most supportive people he knows!

PREACHER

XAVIER GRAHAM

Xavier Graham (Steam Shovel Operator) is a senior at East Forsyth High School. He has been in the crew for many past shows such as OKLAHOMA (Crew), THE SPITFIRE GRILL (Crew), SEUSSICAL JR.(Crew), and more, but this is his first time in the cast. He would like to thank his family, but especially Mr. Addison Walden, who helped encourage and convince him that he could do well as an actor.

STEAM SHOVEL OPERATOR

MOLLY MERCK

Molly Merck (Young Townsperson) is in ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD and is in the 11th grade at East Forsyth High School. This is her third year of being in theatre! She has been in HILLBILLY HANKERIN(Betty), HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL(Gabriella) at NFMS, INTO THE WOODS JR. (Narrator), and SEUSSICAL JR. (Bird Girl) at East. She would like to thank everyone who helped her get this far in what is hopefully just the beginning of her theater career!

YOUNG TOWNSPERSON

BIOS

KENZIE MILLER

YOUNG TOWNSPERSON

Kenzie Miller (Young Townsperson) is an 11th grader at East Forsyth High School. She is super excited to be a part of Elephants Graveyard. You may have recognized her from her work on MATILDA at The Holly Theater in Dahlonega, or in Theater East's production of INTO THE WOODS JR. (Baker's Wife). As always, she wants to say a huge thanks to her family for their love and support. Kenzie also wants to thank her wonderful directors and crew for their hard work and dedication. She hopes you like the show!

KENNA NICHOLS

AMBITIOUS TOWNSPERSON

Kenna Nichols (Ambitious Townsperson) is a junior at East Forsyth High School. She is part of the ensemble, and this is her first time participating in one act. She has also been a part of SEUSSICAL JR. (ensemble), INTO THE WOODS JR. (Florinda), and ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (ensemble). She would like to thank her friends and family for always being supportive and giving her the opportunity to do the things she loves.

DAKOTA MONTGOMERY

MOTHERLY TOWNSPERSON

Dakota Montgomery is playing the Motherly Townsperson. This is her first time in a One Act performance and is very excited. She has been in several East Forsyth Theatre productions including INTO THE WOODS JR. (Little Red Riding Hood), OKLAHOMA (ensemble), and SEUSSICAL JR. (Bird Girl). Dakota would like to thank her parents and Mr. Walden for allowing her to be in an amazing production.

JEWETT MOTE

STRESSED TOWNSPERSON

Jewett Mote is a freshman at East Forsyth High School, and he is playing the Stressed Townsperson. Jewett has also been involved in shows at LMMS Drama Society and MATILDA THE MUSICAL (Escapologist) at the FoCAL Center in Cumming. Jewett would like to thank Ms. Norwood for introducing him to theatre and the Trident at Little Mill for always being there for him.

HUDSON WRAY

VIVID TOWNSPERSON

Hudson Wray (Vivid Townsperson) is a sophomore here at East Forsyth High School. This is his 3rd time in a Theatre East production, previously being in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (ensemble). This marks a milestone in his school career and he couldn't be more excited to pass it. He would like to contribute his success to his loving parents and his three cats.

GAUGE RUIZ

ELDERLY TOWNSPERSON

Gauge Ruiz (Elderly Townsperson) is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School and is super excited to be a part of ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD. Gauge has previously been a part of ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (Crew) and this is his first show acting! He is looking forward to seeing all of the great actor's performances and can't wait to act alongside them.

BIOS

TANNER DECKARD

ENGINEER

Tanner Deckard (Engineer) is a Senior at East Forsyth High School. He was in THE SPITFIRE GRILL (Joe Sutter) and ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (Dauntless) during his junior year. He is the president of the improv club, and he looks forward to continuing his theatrical career in the future. He is also interested in pursuing a career in science. He would like to thank his family for paying for all of his shows.

ABBY COOKE

GUITARIST

Abby Cooke (cast) is a senior at East Forsyth High School. She is the guitarist for the play and it is her first time being on the cast of a show. She also enjoys writing her own songs, singing in the worship band at her church, and performing at local open mics. She would like to thank her parents and brothers for supporting her throughout her passion for music.

CAIDEN BURGIS

DRUMMER

Caiden Burgis is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School, and he is the drummer in ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD, this is his first production at Theatre East. He would like to thank his mom and dad for the love and support of what he does.

MADIAN VELASCO

STAGE MANAGER

Madian Velasco is a junior at East Forsyth High School and the stage manager for ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD. She has assistant stage managed other Theatre East productions, such as ONCE UPON A MATTRESS, however, this is her first time being the stage manager. She would like to thank her sister, Kate Mitchell for her constant support and help, and her brother Jackson Howell.

MEREDITH ENGLE

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Meredith Engle (Crew) is in her junior year at East Forsyth High School. Serving as the assistant stage manager for the second time, she has previously performed in SEUSSICAL JR. (ensemble) and INTO THE WOODS JR. (Cinderella's stepmother) at Theatre East. Meredith gives many thanks to the cast and crew for their passion and love for the show, and to her parents for their endless support.

MAGGIE PARKER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Maggie Parker (Crew) is a junior at East Forsyth High School. She is an assistant stage manager, and it is her first time in this position. Maggie has also been a part of THE SPITFIRE GRILL (crew), ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (crew), and MATILDA (crew) at the Holly Theater in Dahlonega. Maggie would like to thank her grandparents for all the love and support they've given to her over the years.

BIOS

HANNAH LITTON

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Hannah Litton (Crew) is a junior at East Forsyth High School. She is the lightboard designer and it is also her first show! Hannah is very excited for this show and would like to thank her friends for encouraging her to be more involved in theatre and her family for all their support.

CARRINGTON DARST

LIGHTBOARD OPERATOR

Carrington Darst is a tenth-grade student at East Forsyth High School. He has worked on THE SPITFIRE GRILL, Theater Spotlight, and ONCE UPON A MATTRESS all as a spotlight operator. Carrington is the Lightboard Operator for ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD. Carrington is also a part of Beta Club, D&D club, Esports varsity team, and has learned a little bit about how to be a pilot.

KAS GORE

SPOTLIGHT OPERATOR

Kas is a sophomore at East Forsyth High School. She is the spotlight operator, and it is her first time in this position! Kas has also been a part of ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (ensemble). Kas would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her!!!

SAVANNAH LIVINGSTON

SOUND DESIGNER

Savannah Livingston (Sound Designer) is a Senior at East Forsyth High School. This is her third year in high school theater, she's also been a part of INTO THE WOODS JR. (Steward) and THE SPITFIRE GRILL (Crew), along with MATILDA (Crew) at the Holly Theater in Dahlonga. She is incredibly excited to be a part of All-State Theater this year. Savannah would like to thank her parents for constantly supporting her and giving their own time to allow her to do what she loves. Kachow!

JACKSON HOWELL

HEAD COSTUME MANAGER

Jackson Howell is a junior at East Forsyth High School. He was a part of the costume crew in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS and is the costume designer for ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD. He is super excited to see his ideas and designs on the stage and hopes the audience is too! He would like to thank his former costume designer, Sarah Groves, and the stage manager, Madian Velasco, for their constant help and support! He would also like to thank his parents for their love and respect for his position.

OLLIE STACY

HEAD HAIR/MAKEUP MANAGER

Ollie Stacy a junior at East Forsyth High School and works as a technician in the production of ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD. She has been in theater for seven years now and has performed in numerous productions. Besides performing, Ollie has been a technician for two years. She wants to thank her mother for always supporting her, and hopes to continue doing theater for years to come!

BIOS

CANAAN PAYNE

COSTUME CREW

Canaan Payne is a junior at East Forsyth High School she has been doing theatre for 6 years and this is her 5th show with Theatre East. She has done multiple shows as a part of the cast but also as a part of the crew. You might have seen her in OKLAHOMA (ensemble) or INTO THE WOODS JR. (Jack's Mother), as well as many others. She would like to thank her family and friends for their never-ending love and support, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

KAITLYN DECKARD

COSTUME CREW

Kaitlyn Deckard (crew) is a freshman at East Forsyth High School. She is a part of the Costume Crew for ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD, and this is her first time in this position at East Forsyth as well as her first Theatre Experience. Kaitlyn would like to thank her family for supporting her throughout her theatre journey, and her friends for getting her to start doing theatre

EMMA WIGLEY

COSTUME CREW

Emma Wigley (Crew) is a freshman at East Forsyth High School. She is a part of the Costume Crew for ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD, and this is her first time in any position at East Forsyth. In middle school, she was in Tech for the LMMS Drama Society. Emma would like to thank her friends for helping her when times get tough and her parents for supporting her Theater journey.

EASTON SIVER

TECH DIRECTOR

Easton Siver is a senior at East Forsyth High School. He is the Tech Director for ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD. He also serves as President of East's Theatre Troupe. He would love to thank his mom and sister for always supporting and encouraging him.

CONNOR CHADWICK

DECK CREW

Conner Chadwick (Crew) is a freshman at East Forsyth High School, and he is a part of the Deck Crew for ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD. In middle school, he was in Tech for the LMMS Drama Society, but ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD is his first Theatre East production. Conner would like to thank his family for supporting him throughout his theatre journey, and his friends for helping him step out of his shell.

SARAH ALLISON

DECK CREW

Sarah Allison (Crew) is a freshman at East Forsyth High School. She is in deck crew and this is her first time in this position. This is also her first production at Theatre East, as well as her first ever. She would like to thank her family and friends for always being there for her when she needed them.

BIOS

KATE MITCHELL

PROPS MASTER

Kate Mitchell (Crew) is a junior at East Forsyth High School. She is the Props Master and this is her fourth production in this position. Kate has previously been a part of OKLAHOMA (Crew), THE SPITFIRE GRILL (Crew), and ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (Crew) at Theatre East. She would like to thank her sister, whose dedication to her college's mathletes team is her biggest inspiration.

EMMA SMITH

PROPS CREW

Emma Smith (Props Crew) is a freshman at East Forsyth High School. This is her first-ever high school production! You may have previously seen her in productions with the LMMS Drama Society! She would like to thank her family and friends for giving her unwavering support during this process, as well as her parents for spending a little bit of extra gas to get her to and from rehearsal!

KYLEE BOWEN

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Kylee Bowen (Assistant Director) This is Kylee's third year with Theatre East, and she could not be more grateful! She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for all of their hard work and commitment to this wonderful show. She would also like to thank April Walden for being her best friend! Enjoy the show!

ADDISON WALDEN

DIRECTOR

Addison Walden (Director) is in his fourteenth year of teaching. Mr. Walden graduated from North Forsyth High School and then went to school at Georgia College and State University where he earned a BA in Theatre and an MAT in Education. He would like to thank his wife April, without whom he would not be able to do this job. He is proud of her for running East's Media Center and sponsoring Yearbook. He would also like to thank his daughters, Brianna and Raleigh, for sharing their father with 40+ teenagers and for being the sweetest young ladies in the world.

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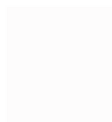
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2023-2024 Season!

OCT 5TH 7:00 PM
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ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD

NOV 9
7:00 PM



THEATRE SPOTLIGHT

JAN 25 7:00 PM
JAN 26 7:00 PM
JAN 27 2:00 PM



Much Ado About Nothing



MAR 21 7:00 PM
MAR 22 7:00 PM
MAR 23 2:00 PM &
7:00PM





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MR. ADDISON WALDEN
DIRECTOR

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