

TROY  
UNIVERSITY

Department of  
Theatre & Dance

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor  
Dr. Michael Thrasher, Dean, CCFA

The  
*Diviners*

By Jim Leonard, Jr.

Troy University Department of Theatre and Dance and  
The College of Communication and Fine Arts Present

# The Diviners

By Jim Leonard, Jr.

November 3-5 and 9-12, 2023

Trojan Center Theater

## Artistic Team

### Director

Quinton Cockrell

### Assistant Director

Will Hornsby\*

### Costume Designer

Brittany Dee Bodley\*

### Lighting Designer

James Arakas\*

### Scenic Designer

Ashley Ann Woods

### Props Designer

Will Hornsby

### Sound Designer

Zack Pappanastos

### Technical Director

Jennifer Glass\*

### Intimacy Consultant

Rebecca Yeager

### Dramaturg

Riley Chen

### Stage Manager

Maggie Scarbrough\*

\*indicates members of Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society

## Setting

The play takes place in the homes, fields, and public gathering places of the mythical southern Indiana town of Zion, population forty, a small and rural community with a few houses and farms along the river.

## Cast

<b>Buddy Layman</b> .....	Jamie Bishop*
<b>Jennie Mae Layman</b> .....	Riley Turberville*
<b>Ferris Layman</b> .....	John Ingram*
<b>C. C. Showers</b> .....	Reese Lemaster
<b>Norma Henshaw</b> .....	Grace Bennett*
<b>Darlene Henshaw</b> .....	Isabelle Braddock
<b>Goldie Short</b> .....	Alexis McNeal*
<b>Basil Bennett</b> .....	Caden Blackwell*
<b>Luella Bennett</b> .....	Anna Grace Willis*
<b>Melvin Wilder</b> .....	Caleb Quick*
<b>Dewey Maples</b> .....	Colton Suttles*

## Department of Theatre and Dance Faculty and Staff

Departmental Secretary II	Jane Barwood
Lecturer, Dance	Dominique Angel
Assistant Professor, Lighting Design	James Arakas*
Associate Professor, Department Chair	Tori Lee Averett*
Lecturer, Costume Shop Supervisor	Joyce Bamman
Lecturer, Dance	James Boyd
Associate Professor, Assistant Chair, Performance	Quinton Cockrell
Technical Director	Jennifer Glass*
Assistant Professor, Costume Design	Andrew Haueter
Lecturer, Dance	Adrienne Hicks*
Coordinator of Dance	Deborah Chappell Hicks
Lecturer, Musical Theatre, Playwriting	Tommy Newman
Assistant Professor, Dance	Jerome Stigler
Adjunct, Production Manager	Brittany Dee Bodley*
Adjunct, Theatre Performance	Alex Piper*

\*indicates members of Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society

## Production Staff

**Production Manager:** Brittany Dee Bodley\*

**Assistant Production Manager:** Maggie Scarbrough\*

**Assistant Stage Managers:** J. Kole Hovis, Juanita Rojas, Cody Woodfin

**Scene Shop Assistant:** Katie Bozeman\*, Lydia Standifer

**Scene Shop Crew:** Amelia Massa, Hannah Sanderson, Avery Gallahar\*, Karly Johnson, Olivia Szymanski, Paige Brummer, Emma Remaley, Kalibb Jackson, J. Kole Hovis, Madison Alward\*

**Properties Shop Crew:** Anna Grace Willis\*, Will Hornsby\*

**Costume Shop Supervisor:** Joyce Bamman, Andrew Haueter

**Costume Shop Assistants:** Riley Turberville\*, Victoria Tidwell\*

**Costume Shop Crew:** Jenna Kelley, Taye Bass, Emma Thomason\*, Kelsie Williams\*, Jasmin Aranda\*

**Wardrobe Crew Supervisor:** Victoria Tidwell\*

**Wardrobe Crew:** Ivana Taylor\*, Paige Brummer

**Electrics Shop Manager/Master Electrician:** Will Corbitt\*

**Electrics Shop Assistant Manager:** Aidan Kisker

**Electrics Shop Crew:** Max DeMarco, John Alloway\*, Ashlyn Bradford, Jackson Stroh, Chandler Greer\*, Chazney Livermore

**Lightboard Operator:** Holly Winchester\*

**Soundboard Operator:** Chris Ahlf

**House Manager:** Sami Taylor\*

**Marketing and Publicity Manager:** Anna Grace Johnson\*

**Assistant Marketing and Publicity Manager:** Gracie Smith

**Marketing Team:** Ashton Fisher, John Ingram\*, Lily Kate Gwin\*, Sami Taylor\*, Isabelle Braddock, Caden Blackwell\*, Alexis McNeal\*

**Box Office Managers:** Caleb Quick\*, Colton Suttles\*

**Graphic Design:** Anna Gordon

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## Director's Notes

*The Diviners* is a magical folktale about the inevitability of the mystical forces of nature.

Jim Leonard Jr.'s play examines the complexities of humanity's relationship to the animating forces of the universe through outwardly simple characters. The effect of the inexorable movement of these forces on individuals is of little consequence. Ultimately, what we want does not matter.

The playwright seems to be telling us that our human desire to interfere with nature's inevitability often only complicates or delays a natural process. Children will grow up. Life will flow into death. Rivers will flow. (Even when a river is dammed, the energy generated by the flow must be released in some way. The movement of the river may change drastically, but it does not stop.)

Basil, one of the play's simple yet wise characters, says, "Sometimes things happen – there's no way to stop 'em or change 'em, nothing better for trying. If a boy knows the weather, you call it a blessin'. It's a blessin'."

So, I ask you to think of *The Diviners* as an expedition, forward movement into the unknown. It begins on a moonlit night, a slow progress on a river that clefs a thick forest. The forest is dense and teeming with interesting life. The water on which you travel carries many mysteries within it. On this journey, there are important opportunities to observe the onward movement of the life force. There is no definite destination that will end the journey.

The time you spend in the theatre with *The Diviners* may end, but I hope the ideas and questions it generates will endure. As Einstein said, "Energy cannot be created or destroyed, it can only be changed from one form to another."

The forces of life must and will continue whether we want them to or not. When the outcomes do not align with our wishes, we mourn. When they happen to coincide with our desires ...

*"It's a blessin'."*

- Quinton Cockrell

## Upcoming Events

November 16–17, 2023

January 18–21, 2024

February 15–25, 2024

March 21–24, 2024

April 18–28, 2024

*Page to Stage*

*Heathers*

*Chaos*

*Dog Sees God*

*Into the Woods*



## Scholarship & Audition Dates

November 11, 2023

February 24, 2024

March 23, 2024



## Special Thanks

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Chancellor  
Mrs. Janice Hawkins  
Dr. Kerry Palmer, SVC Academic Affairs  
Dr. Jim Bookout, SVC Financial Affairs  
Sohail Agboatwala, SVC Student Services and Administration  
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*The Diviners* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)