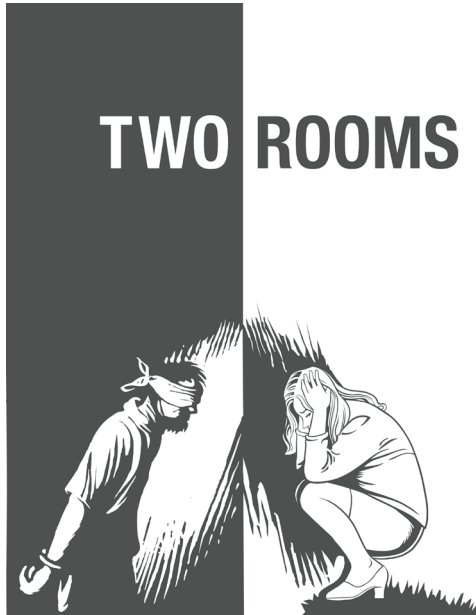


MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY'S J. WILLIAM AND MARY DIEDERICH
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION
DIGITAL MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS
MARQUETTE THEATRE
JAMIE CHEATHAM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS



By Lee Blessing

November 10 – 20, 2016

Directed by Bill Watson
Scenic Design by Katie Hauger '17
Costume Design by Cassandra Gherardini '17
Lighting and Sound Design by Nick Parrott '19

The Theatre Arts Program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

Two Rooms is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Originally Commissioned and Produced by: LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE
Des McNuff, Artistic Director || Alan Levey, Managing Director

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Michael Wells Michael Nicholas
Lainie Wells Madeleine Farley
Walker Harris Michael Young
Ellen Van Oss Rene Leech

SETTING

Place
A room

Time
The recent past, the present

There will be one-15 minute intermission

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Two Rooms was first produced professionally in 1988 and in looking at it against this current moment it seems, at first, somehow naïve, given all that has transpired since: September 11, of course, but the subsequent attacks in London, Paris, and Madrid, Two wars (at least the ones overtly involving American Armed forces), both of which continue more than ten years on, the collapse of multiple states in the post Arab Spring Middle East and most pointedly, in relation to this play, the horror of Syria over the last 3 years, the rise of the so-called Islamic state and the specter of highly visible American and Western hostages once again, to say nothing of the estimated thousands of non-western hostages held in the Syrian conflagration.

The Lebanon Hostage crisis depicted in this play alone took 104 foreign hostages over ten years from 1982-1992, with 241 American Marines and 58 French nationals killed by suicide bombers driving trucks into a Marine barracks. This following the 444 days that 52 Americans were held by Iranian students in the American embassy in Tehran in 1979-80. Despite these numbers when Ellen, the state department liaison who is minding and monitoring Lainie, says, through the lense of 1989, "We in State have to believe that the kidnappers are no more interested in dead hostages than we are. That ultimately the situation will be resolved – after a presidential election here, or a shift in the military or political situation there or whatever. A break will come.," it's crushing to see from 2016 how wrong that optimism was - that the cycle is upon us again, more daunting than ever before.

Finally, however, *Two Rooms* isn't really a conversation about these bigger questions. It's an engagement, instead with the intimate, immediate, personal journey of a loved and loving partner of a hostage: wrenching, helpless, howling to the un-answering, silent void, searching for meaning and the path through to tomorrow. It is a journey that has touched the Marquette community itself and in taking this journey with Lainie in 1989, the play still holds a space for us, in 2016, to enter into and wrestle with our own questions of helplessness and responsibility, meaning and faith, whether as citizens of this country that has an outside presence in the world or as the friends and family of loved ones who serve and to do so, put themselves in harm's way. The journey is difficult and answers are hard to come by, but it is one that demands our attention.

Bill Watson
Director, *Two Rooms*

A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining us for a few hours of live theatre. Without you as an audience, our work as a theatre is not complete. Your presence is a necessary part of what we do. Also, by purchasing your ticket, you are helping to support our high-quality productions. You help to provide the kind of quality that audiences have come to expect. You also help to provide a professional quality experience from which our students can continue to learn.

Word of mouth is always the best form of advertising, and we hope if you enjoyed your time with us, that you will pass along any good words to friends, families and acquaintances. This simple act also helps to keep our productions supported.

Very soon this show will end, the set will go into the dumpster, and all that will be left will be what you remember of your visit. That is the sum of all our hard work, and we hope you will leave with some lasting memories.

Thank you for being a part of our work!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Madeleine Farley (Lainie Wells)

Madeleine is a senior Theatre Arts and Women's and Gender Studies double major. She is ecstatic to be a part of *Two Rooms* and is extremely thankful to Bill for the opportunity to be a part of this powerful story. She has previously been seen on the Marquette stage in *As You Like It* (Phoebe), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Scout), *In the Red and Brown Water* (Ensemble), and *Our Town* (Rebecca). Most recently, she performed as Mary in *Censored on Final Approach* in collaboration with Renaissance Theaterworks. This will be her final show in the Helfaer and she would like to extend her thanks to everyone in the department, her parents, and her sister for making these years so unforgettable. Onwards and upwards!

Rene Leech (Ellen Van Oss)

Rene Leech, a sophomore Theater Arts and Digital Media major, is stoked to be performing such an influential show with such a talented cast. This is her second mainstage production, but first significant role. Rene would like to thank her director Bill, the cast and crew, and everyone who worked so hard to make this show amazing. She sends all her love to her family back in California, to Nick and Meggy her rocks, and to everyone who has ever supported her. Cheers and enjoy!

Michael Nicholas (Michael Wells)

Michael Nicholas is a junior Theatre Arts major from Palatine, Illinois. He has previously appeared on the Helfaer Theatre stage as Orlando in *As You Like It*, Marty McCabe in *Loose Lips Sink Ships*, and Peter in *Company*, and he can be seen next as George Antrabus in *The Skin of Our Teeth*. When he's not acting, he can be found singing with Marquette's premiere all-male cappella group, The Naturals. He's delighted to have been able to work with this amazing cast and crew, and he'd like to thank Bill Watson for all of his knowledge and insight. He'd also like to thank his family and friends for all of their constant love and support. Most of all, though, he'd like to thank his hair; he may not have liked it at first, but it's really grown on him. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Michael Young (Walker Harris)

Michael is absolutely thrilled to be a part of his fifth show here on the Helfaer stage. He is a senior, double majoring in Mathematics and Theatre Arts, and he was most recently seen as "Charles" in *Blithe Spirit* earlier this fall. Michael is thankful to have this wonderful opportunity to work with our insightful guest director from UW-Milwaukee, Bill Watson. He'd also like to thank the cast and crew for helping make this show so efficacious and meaningful, as well as his friends and family for all of their support and encouragement!

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Jamie Cheatham (Artistic Director)

Jamie Cheatham is a professional actor, director, fight director, and theatre educator. After 17 years of working professionally in New York City and 10 years of teaching at UW-Parkside, Jamie is thrilled to be at Marquette. He is a nationally recognized fight director with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) and the resident fight director for the Milwaukee Rep. Other professional work includes such theatres as: Alley Theatre (TX), Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Milwaukee Ballet, the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and the Georgia, Illinois, and NY Shakespeare Festivals. He received his MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Ashlee Elder (Props Master)

Ashlee is a senior at Marquette University studying Theatre Arts with an emphasis in Directing. She acts as the department's props master and takes pride in her work. Ashlee hopes that this piece touches you the way it did with her and wants to thank everyone who made this show happen.

Cassandra Gherardini (Costume Designer)

Cassie is thrilled to be designing the costumes for *Two Rooms*. She is a senior majoring in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in costume design. This is her first realized costume design show. In past years, Cassie has been seen acting on the Helfaer Stage in *Our Town* and as Mrs. Dubose in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and the MU Theatre faculty for all their support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Adam Hastings (Technical Director, Assistant Stage Manager)

Adam is a senior undergraduate student studying Biomedical Engineering, though he became involved with the theatre at the beginning of his junior year and hasn't looked back since. Now on his seventh show at Marquette, Adam contributes in construction, lighting, crew, and stage management capacities. He was delighted

to work with such amazing acting and production talent in *Two Rooms* and hopes that you enjoy the show!

Katie Hauger

(Set and Projection Designer)

Katie is honored to be taking on another design in her senior year! Previously, she has assisted with set work on *Censored on Final Approach*, *Lobby Hero*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, collaborated on costumes for *Loose Lips Sink Ships*, and helped paint most of the shows at Marquette. After doing light design for *Blithe Spirit* at the start of the year, she's moved on to another medium with the set and projections for *Two Rooms*. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their support, as well as Stephen (and the rest of the production team) for their advice and assistance.

Stephen Hudson-Mairet

(Chair/Scenic Design Supervisor)

As chair of the Department of Digital Media and Performing Arts, Stephen is blessed to be working with a great faculty, staff, and student body, and he is happy to share their great work with you. Thank you so much for your support of Marquette Theatre and Marquette's theatre arts students. This season, Stephen can be found designing scenery for *Lobby Hero* with Milwaukee Chamber Theater. You will see Stephen's next design on the Helfaer stage for *The Skin of Our Teeth* in February. Stephen lives quite happily in a very old house in Wauwatosa with his wife Heidi, and daughters Emma and Grace.

Nick Parrott

(Lighting and Sound Designer)

Nick is proud to be light designing his first mainstage show at Marquette. He did sound design for Marquette Theatre's *Blithe Spirit*, and also has been seen in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *As You Like It*, and *MUPS Musical Revue*. Be sure to catch him acting in *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *Anything Goes* in the spring. He would like to extend a huge thank you to his friends and family

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

for always loving and supporting him in everything he does.

Connie Petersen

(Costume Design Supervisor)

Connie is happy to return for her 15th year with her family here at Marquette University and to have the opportunity to work with Bill Watson and Cassie Gherardini. She received her B.S. degree in theatre from Northwest MO State University and M.F.A. degree in Costume and Scenic Design from SIU in Carbondale, IL. She is currently the Costume Shop Manager and Designer for Marquette University. She has also designed for Next Act Theatre, Des Moines Metro Opera, Denver Center Theatre Company, and Playmakers Repertory Company at UNC-Chapel Hill. Connie is enjoying her spare time in Elm Grove with her daughters, Emma and Olivia.

Wendy Rociles (Assistant Stage Manager)

Wendy is a sophomore at Marquette studying Advertising and Theatre Arts. She is thrilled to be working on *Two Rooms* this year with such an amazing cast, crew, and production team. This is Wendy's second mainstage show here at Marquette. Freshman year she was Assistant Stage Manager for the beloved kid's show *Ivy + Bean: The Musical*. Previous management credentials include Assistant Stage Manager at Linchpin Theatre in Chicago and Stage Manager for three years at Josephinum Academy. Special thanks to David Fehr, the person who introduced me to the realm of theatre, she wouldn't be here without you!

Sarah Schlehlein (Stage Manager)

Sarah is a junior, double majoring in Theatre Arts and American History. This is her first official mainstage of the season as Stage Manager, and she could not be more humbled to be able to work with this show. She would like to thank her Director, Bill Watson, the actors, and her production team for making this show be the most it could be. She's glad you came to experience this story with us, and hopes you enjoy the show.

Bill Watson (Director)

Bill Watson is an actor, director, and a teacher of acting and theatre for four university faculties over 30 years. He is currently an Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he was hired in 2004 to create an undergraduate Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting degree program that he headed for ten years before co-founding, facilitating, and directing for *Feast of Crispian* a Milwaukee based organization that uses Shakespeare texts and acting processes to help military veterans cope with issues arising from trauma and substance and alcohol abuse recovery. He has acted and directed with, among others, Shakespeare and Company, The Colorado Shakespeare Festival, The Seattle Repertory Theatre, First Stage, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and In Tandem theaters. In addition to the over 15 productions he's directed for UWM and *Feast of Crispian*, he directed Marquette University's 2013 production of *The Boys Next Door*, and is thrilled to be back.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	Adam Hastings
Stage Manager	Sarah Schlehlein
Assistant Stage Managers	Adam Hastings, Wendy Rociles
Company Manager	Julie Ahlgrim
Lighting and Sound Designer.....	Nick Parrott
Light Board Operator.....	Linda Pozen

PRODUCTION STAFF CONT.

Sound Board Operator	Caroline Norton
Set and Projection Designer.....	Katie Hauger
Scenic Design Supervisor	Stephen Hudson-Mairet
Master Electrician	Courtney Christophe, Linda Pozen
Deck Crew	Alison Cook, Dakota Mann, Ben Teich
Scenic Shop Assistants	Julie Ahlgrim, Courtney Christophe, Mary Crosby, Ashlee Elder, Madeleine Farley, Jordan Feger, Melia Gonzalez, Adam Hastings, Katie Hauger, Shelby Mellantine, Michael Nicholas, Nick Parrott, Sarah Schlehlein, Nadja Simmonds
Scenic Shop Build Crew.....	Alex Al-Akaila, Patricia Gomez, Patrick Hardie, Kelsey Harlow, Molly Hass, Chloe Hurckes, Madi Kec, Emily Kraus, Dakota Mann, Caroline Norton, Ben Teich, Katelyn Weber, Michael Young
Props Master	Ashlee Elder
Costume Designer	Cassandra Gherardini
Costume Design Supervisor.....	Connie Petersen
Wardrobe Supervisor	Margaret Tomasiwicz
Wardrobe.....	Madison Kec
Costume Shop Assistants	Marissa Ellison, Rebecca Gardner, Cassie Gherardini, Molly Hass, Veronica Mickley, Caroline Norton, Lily O'Leary, Anna Otto, Wendy Rociles, Kathleen Rock, Amelia Strahan, Margaret Tomasiwicz
Costume Shop Build Crew	Annie Kefalas, Hannah Mascio, Lily O'Leary, Kathleen Rock, Owen Su, Andy Zarnowski
Assistant to the Chair.....	Aileen O'Carroll
Assistant to the Artistic Director	A.J. Magoon
House Manager.....	Valerie Jandl
Box Office Assistants	Teagan Fisher, Gloria Johnson
Ushers.....	Theatre Appreciation Class

SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

Two Rooms, by Lee Blessing

When terrorists kidnap Lainie's husband, she keeps vigil at home while the press and the government vie for her ear. Programming for *Two Rooms* is supported by the Phylis Ravel Theatre and Social Justice Fund.

November 10 – 20

Fancy Nancy The Musical, based on the books by Jane O'Connor

Based on the beloved children's books. Fun and fanciness for the whole family!

January 14 – 15 & 21 – 22

The Skin of Our Teeth, by Thornton Wilder

The Antrobus family barely survives the Ice Age, The Great Flood, and a World War. Wilder's absurd and profound comedy told in a modern way.

February 16 – 26

Anything Goes, music and lyrics by Cole Porter

When gangsters, showgirls, and the well-to-do meet on a luxury cruise liner, music and merriment ensues! Be ready to tap your toes!

April 6 – 23

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

College of Communication

Kimo Ah Yun, Dean

Joyce Wolburg, Associate Dean

Sarah Feldner, Associate Dean of Graduate
Studies & Research

Full-Time Faculty

Jamie Cheatham

Fr. Grant Garinger, S.J.

Chester Loeffler-Bell

Stephen Hudson-Mairet

Debra Krajec

Connie Petersen

Theatre Operations Coordinator

Courtney Buid

Digital Media and Performing Arts

Stephen Hudson-Mairet, Chairperson

Marquette Theatre

Jamie Cheatham, Artistic Director

Part-Time Faculty

Amy Brinkman-Sustache

Todd Denning

Marti Gobel

Roxanne Kess

Maureen Kilmurry

John Schneider

Catey Ott Thompson

Jacque Troy

Mark Weinberg

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Richard Aiken

Antonio Antao

Bernadine Bausch

Margaret Blodgett

Brian Brush

Kathleen Falk

Norman Fons

Michelle Fronczak

Joan Hagner

Gladys Harvey

Matthew Jaeger

Patricia Jodat

Amanda Keeler

W. Andrew Kienzle

Jay Kirk

Janet Kowalski

Debra Krajec

Gary Krenz

Victoria Major

Lee Marquardt

John McArdle

James McGillis

Sarah Nedwek

Diane Noel

Farrokh Nourzad

Mary Anna Novotny

John Ricci

James Richie

Rosemary Selep

Sandra Shrock

Kathleen Smith

Anthony Stephens

Mary Utech

Mary Utschig

Sue Yee

Cecelia Zettel

Phylis Ravel Theatre and

Social Justice Fund

Kyle Burman

Courtney Buid

Patrick Fennelly

Vanessa Gamp

Stephen Hudson-Mairet

Matthew Jaeger

Debra Krajec

Chester Loeffler-Bell

Gary Meyer

Connie Petersen

Megan Walker

Joyce Wolburg

Drama Dept. Performance

Endowment Fund

The Hudson-Mairet Family

SPECIAL THANKS

CG Schmidt – material donation



The Kennedy Center

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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.