

Starkville Community Theatre Presents

THE **Lion** in **Winter**

By James Goldman

Directed by Paula Mabry

November 10-13
and 15-19, 2005

The Lion in Winter is produced by special arrangement
with Samuel French, Inc., New York and London

The LION in WINTER

By James Goldman

Directed by Paula Mabry

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Henry II (King of England).....	Marcus Vowell
Alais (French Princess)	Natalie Kern *
John (Youngest son)	Ben Lang *
Geoffrey (Middle son)	Christopher Walrath *
Richard Lionheart (Oldest son)	Chris Tyer
Eleanor (Henry's wife).....	Marsha Williams
Philip (King of France)	Lyle Tate

**SCT debut*

Setting

Henry's Castle in Chinon (France)
~ Christmas Eve and Day, 1183

Act I

Scene 1.....	Henry's chamber, evening
Scene 2.....	Reception Hall, immediately following
Scene 3.....	Eleanor's chamber, moments later
Scene 4.....	Reception Hall, immediately following
Scene 5.....	Eleanor's chamber, soon afterward
Scene 6.....	Philip's chamber, immediately following

Intermission 15 minutes

Act II

Scene 1.....	Henry's chamber, late night
Scene 2.....	Henry's chamber, early the next morning
Scene 3.....	The wine cellar, immediately following

Crew

Special Consultant	Dominic J. Cunetto
Assistant Director	Clyde Williams
Set Design.....	Molly Watkins
Light Design	Bob Anderson, Edwin Ellis
Stage Manager.....	Ellen Triggs
Set Decoration.....	Diane Ellis, Paula Mabry, Wanda Thorne, Suzy Turner, and Edwin Ellis
Costume Coordinator	Maggie Corley
Properties Manager	Ellen Triggs
Properties.....	Diane Ellis, Edwin Ellis Lyle Tate, Wanda Thorne, and Marsha Williams
Hair Design	Jansen Fair
Lighting, sound operator	Edwin Ellis
Paintings	Diane Ellis
Lobby Decoration.....	Krista Vowell
Opening Night Party.....	Keith and Ruth Remy
Program.....	Patty Archer
Poster and Program Cover.....	Marcus Vowell



Construction Crew

Molly Watkins (chair), Bob Anderson, Dominic Cunetto,
Edwin Ellis, MJ Etua, Natalie Kern, Ben Lang, Kris Lee,
Don Mabry, Paula Mabry, Lauren McKissack,
Ron Palmer, Dave Pitalo, Kary Rogers, Mandy Rogers,
Paul Ruff, Lyle Tate, Caroline and Ellen Triggs,
Marcus Vowell, Christopher Walrath, Andrew Watkins,
Clyde Williams and Marsha Williams

About the Cast

Natalie Kern (Alais)

A Silverton, OR, native, Natalie became a Starkville resident three months ago. She holds a BFA degree in Theatre Performance from Chapman University in Orange, CA. She has performed in over fifty productions, including roles on the professional stage at Actors' Theatre of Louisville--*Dracula* (2000) and *Trepidation Nation* (2003)--and in Los Angeles with the Son of Semele Ensemble, one of the nation's top small production companies. She works in the Technical Services Department of MSU's Mitchell Memorial Library. *

Ben Lang (John)

Ben, like Natalie, has had extensive professional experience. He has performed in numerous TV productions, including roles in *Boston Public* (FOX), *Cold Case* (CBS), *West Wing* (NBC), and *ER* (NBC), in addition to stage roles at USM and Northwestern University. He has had roles in four Starkville High School musicals, under Paula Mabry's direction. An SHS alumnus (1999), he is currently pursuing a Business Management degree at MSU. "I thank my family for their support and patience, my girlfriend Lauren for her friendship and understanding, and God for his grace."

Lyle Tate (Philip)

A Tupelo native and 1999 MSU graduate, Lyle's role as Philip in *The Lion in Winter* marks his 22nd onstage performance with SCT. Among his favorite roles are as Brick in Tupelo Community Theatre's 2000 production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, David Lee in *The Foreigner* (SCT 2002), and Daddy in *Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got the Will?)* for SCT in 2003. He extends thanks to *Lion's* cast, design team, and production crew for making this show such a special experience. Lyle is employed at MSU in the Technical Services Department of Mitchell Memorial Library.

Chris Tyer (Richard)

Chris performed professionally during the summer and fall of 2004 with the Wayside Theatre in Middletown, VA. This summer he was a director at Stagedoor Manor Theatre Camp in Loch Sheldrake, NY. A Columbus native and graduate of Mandeville (LA) High and MSU, Chris's Irene Ryan nominations were for his roles as Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot* and as Dr. Frazier Alexander in *The Classics Professor*, both Theatre MSU productions. During 2004-2005 he was theatre director at Starkville Academy. *

About the Cast

Marcus Vowell (Henry)

Marcus's previous acquaintance with *The Lion in Winter* came in his role as Richard in the 1992 production at William Woods University, where he also performed in three other productions. A native of Little Rock, AR, Marcus attended Westminster College and graduated with a B. A. in Theatre from MSU, where he had major roles in eight Theatre MSU productions. His role as Henry marks his fifth appearance at SCT. He is public address announcer for the MSU baseball and volleyball teams. He thanks "my great stepkids, Peyton and Meghan, and especially my beautiful wife Krista for their serious love and support." *

Christopher Walrath (Geoffrey)

A Chicago native and Starkville High and USM graduate, Christopher is currently employed at Innovative Broadcast Services. Since departing Starkville in 1992, he has been working professionally in theatre, most recently off-Broadway in *Strozek: the Ballad of Bruno*, *Snow Dome*, and *In the Comfort of the Womb*. He also served as director and lighting designer for the independent Brooklyn production company, One Arm Red. He is completing work on two plays which he expects to produce in Austin, TX, next year. *

Marsha Williams (Eleanor)

A B.S. and M.S. graduate of LSU, Marsha is a charter member and immediate past president of SCT, which she has served in numerous other capacities—as director, assistant director, actor, among others. She won a Mississippi Theatre Association award as Best Supporting Actress as Lil in *The Octette Bridge Club*. Her recent performances include Clemmie in *Seeing Stars in Dixie*, Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Babs in *Marriage to an Older Woman*, and Ethel in *Moon Over Buffalo*. She is a Baton Rouge native and currently Research Associate at MSU's Social Science Research Center.

* Each of these performers received multiple Irene Ryan Acting Award nominations for outstanding individual performances in university productions. The awards are sponsored by the American College Theatre Conference.

From an Innocent Bystander...

In *The Lion in Winter*, as Goldman's allusions to *King Lear*, *Antigone*, and *Medea* remind us, and as the play itself reveals, drama's greatest attraction results from motivations, events, and outcomes within a single family. In this case, the medieval Plantagenets reflect a tangle of complex, volatile relationships, the core of fine drama.

Writing in the mid-1960s about the late 1100s, James Goldman maintains a consistent focus on both periods. For example, note Eleanor's references to and handling of mirrors, a common medieval literary and religious symbol of introspection and egotism as well as insight. Molly Watkins's set deftly captures the text's depiction of life as a game of chess. Henry's obsession with succession and transfer of property and his treaty with the French concerning Alais occur within a medieval context before primogeniture (under which the oldest surviving male heir obtained the father's legacy).

As a '60s play, *Lion* considers several late 20th century themes: the question of how an art form (in this case, drama) can or can not capture reality. Note, for example, the numerous references to "scenes," to posturing, to role-playing. Another modern issue, that of peace and war and how rulers oscillate between the two, also defines Henry's dilemma: a warrior who "fought and bargained all these years" but who, late in his life, "blundered onto peace" and now finds "how good it is to write a law or make a tax more fair or sit in judgment to decide which peasant gets a cow." But, like a modern politician, he recognizes how obtaining, holding, and transferring power becomes an incessant human motive.

Goldman unites the medieval and modern worlds of *The Lion in Winter*, on the negative side, with the constant presence of weapons—knives (repeatedly), daggers, swords. On the positive, as Henry tells Philip, "Surely, if we're civilized, it must be possible to put the knives away. We can make peace."

Much of Goldman's work in *Lion* emerges as ambiguous and speculative, a world of real and figurative shadows and light. Though set in a northern latitude on almost the longest night of 1183, amid the Dark Ages, *The Lion in Winter* beneath its shadowy surface, retains a sense of wonder ("The sky is pocked with stars. What eyes the wise men must have had to spot a new one in so many.") and, in keeping with the season, a sense of hope.

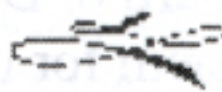
Edwin Warfield

Annual Production Giving Team

Contributions above the costs of a regular season subscription are tax-deductible and enable SCT to maintain high quality productions and reasonable ticket prices. SCT appreciates and acknowledges individual and organization donors.



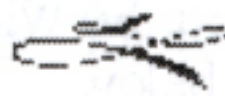
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Reserved Seating System

Thank you to each of you who participated in our reserved seating survey, administered during our season opener! The results of that survey are as follows: 59% of our season members want to try a system of designated seating, while 51% of our non-season ticket holders agree. SCT's Board of Directors decided that this majority merits our trying a new system for our spring shows. You may be assured that this is a trial period. The success (or failure) of the trial will determine whether the system will be continued, will be amended, or will be discarded. So what does that mean for you? We think you will find the answer below.

For Season Ticket Holders

1. Call the theatre (323-6855) or e-mail the box office (sct@dixie-net.com) to request that space be held. Just as always, leave your name, the date that you wish to attend the performance, the number of seats that you require and a telephone number where you may be reached.
2. If you hold a season ticket, state that you are a season ticket holder when calling or e-mailing and ask for the seats which you would prefer. You may be as specific as asking for seat 7 and 8 on row C. OR you may simply ask for an area such as front three rows, etc. You may just ask for the best seats available.
3. When the box office calls to confirm that seating is available for you on the night requested, they will also confirm the seating you requested OR make another arrangement. At that time, tickets designating those seats will be placed in an envelope with your name on them.
4. On the night of the performance, you will present your season's pass and your tickets designating your seats will be given to you.



*"The sky is pocked with stars. What eyes the wise men must
have had to see a new one in so many."*

~ Henry II

Reserved Seating System

Non-Season Ticket Holders

1. Call the theatre (323-6855) or e-mail the box office (sct@dixie-net.com) to request seating for a performance. Leave your name, the date of the performance which you wish to attend, the number of seats that you require, and a telephone number where you may be reached.
2. The box office will confirm the availability of seating or advise you of lack of availability. With this call, seating will be held for you on your chosen night or another night to which you have agreed should your first choice be unavailable. This reservation is for a seat in the theatre; it is not for a specific seat. A specific seat number may only be chosen when payment is received.
3. The box office will open at 5:00 p.m. on every night of a scheduled performance. On any of those nights you may come to the box office to pay for your tickets and select the seating that you prefer from those seats which remain open (for example: If your reservations are for Saturday night, you may come to the box office on Thursday night to pay for your tickets and, at that time, select your exact seat numbers for your Saturday night performance). Once you have paid for your seats, you will receive tickets designating the seats you have selected.

Major Points to Remember

- You must call or e-mail the box office to reserve space in the theatre.
- You must call for each production. No seats will be reserved for more than one production at a time.
- Once you receive a confirmation on your call, a space will be yours. Only when you have paid for the space will a designated seat be yours.
- If you hold a season's ticket, you have already paid for a space at each of our shows!
- Call EARLY! Your chances of getting what you want will be better!!

Ann Bonner, SCT President

Upcoming Dates...

November 13-14, 2005

Auditions for *Comfort's Broken Light*, SCT's entry into the 2006 Mississippi Theatre Association Festival, will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The show, which deals with a family contending with the reality of their patriarch who has developed Alzheimer's disease, features a cast of four: one older man and three women (his wife, daughter, and daughter-in-law). Scripts are available at the MSU Library's Access Services or by contacting director Molly Watkins at 312-3772 or molly@ra.msstate.edu.

December 5, 2005

SCT members Judy and Wayne Tubb and Max and Kirk Arnett will host this year's Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner getting underway at 7 p.m. Please bring your favorite dish and join your SCT family as we celebrate the holiday season.

December 12-13, 2005

Auditions for *Terror By Gaslight* will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, December 12 and 13. The show features a cast of 12, with parts for six men and six women of various ages. Directed by Lyle Tate, the show will open February 23 and run through the 26th and February 28-March 4. Those interested may check out a script from the MSU Library's Access Services or contact Lyle Tate via email at ltate@library.msstate.edu or phone: 312-3610.

January 13-15, 2006

SCT will host the 2006 Mississippi Theatre Association Festival in McComas Hall on the MSU campus Friday-Sunday, January 13-15. The festival will feature both high schools and community theatres competing for top show honors. In addition to the shows, the festival offers workshops, a vendor fair, socials and more. Please make plans to attend. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the box office at 323-6855 or send an email to parcher@library.msstate.edu.

February 12-13, 2006

Auditions for SCT's final show of the season, *Smoke on the Mountain*, will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday and Monday, February 12 and 13, upstairs at the Playhouse on Main. The musical comedy has a cast of seven: four men and three women ranging in ages from late teens to mid-40s. For more information contact director Pattye Archer at 312-1195 or parcher@library.msstate.edu.



The 2005-2006 Starkville Community Theatre Season is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

