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baron **Carmen Hernandez**

conductors **Sue & Duane Decker**

engineer **Ann Duchow**

engineer **Ryan Michael Decker**

engineer **Alex McCarthy**

City of Dubuque Leisure Services

Without the generosity of these individuals and organizations, today's performances would not be possible.

special thanks

The director and artistic director would like to recognize and thank:

The City of Dubuque and Leisure Services
Ms. Megan MacLeod and The Academy of Ballet
Mr. Colin Muenster and Dubuque Art Theatre
Ms. Sandye Voight and the Telegraph Herald
Ms. Mary Zanger

bios - continued

TRACI EVERS (The Girl) is beginning her senior year at Loras College completing majors in Elementary Education, Special Education, and Spanish. After spending a semester in Spain, she spent her summer teaching a job skills class at Area Residential Care and waiting tables at Star Restaurant. Favorite Loras roles include Kuan Yin in *Monkey King*, Brooke Ashton in *Noises Off*, and various characters in one-act performances. She thanks her family and friends for providing tremendous support in all of her endeavors and Trainwreck Productions for the opportunity to continue her love of theatre this summer.

JAKE HEIMS (Youth) is a senior Physical Education student at Loras College. He has spent his summer working at the Dubuque Community YMCA. Jake has been active in theatre for eight years playing a wide variety of roles in a number of different productions; Most notably as Senior Mustachio in the original production *Outside the Box*. He would like to thank all of his friends and family for all of their support as he begins to see his amateur acting career wind down.

ALEX MCCARTHY (Director) is entering his senior (but not final) year at Loras College completing Creative Writing and Secondary Education majors and a Theatre minor. Very busy this summer, he also did tech for Fly-By-Night's *Enchanted April* and portrayed Roscoe Dexter in the Grand's *Singin' in the Rain*. Favorite roles include Sir Osric in *Hamlet & Roesencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead!*, Mr. McQuenn in *Urinetown*, and Charlie Blossom in *Working*. He looks to add produced playwright to his resume this spring as his Senior Creative Writing Thesis will be performed on the Loras stage. He thanks his family for supporting him in his passion for the theatre arts and the creative process.

For more info, check out our website at
www.TrainwreckProductions.org



presents...

THE GAME

by **Louise Bryant**

Directed by **Alex McCarthy**

featuring...

Jake Heims
as Youth

Traci Evers
as The Girl

Whitney Arnold
as Life

RM Decker
as Death

Stage Managed by **Mandy Brosius**

August 20, 2011 American Trust River's Edge Plaza

THE GAME is taken from *The Province Plays*. New York: Frank Shay, 1916.
It is now in public domain and therefore performed without royalties.

from the director

One of the first things that drew me to *The Game* was its essence of timelessness. In a generation defined by the way we communicate, different than any other generation before us, we are so consumed by the social media revolution with Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube consuming our lives. The notion of something being timeless is almost a foreign concept to my generation at the very least. And despite the fact that we are moving toward a paperless society more and more every day with Nooks and Kindles replacing that new book smell, *The Game*, a play that was written over 95 years ago tells a story that is more than 95 years old, but does so in a way that we can all understand. One of the difficulties for the cast and, indeed, for me in our rehearsal process was finding the time of this story. It was written in a time when the world was changing; World War One had passed, but World War Two was yet to come. The Industrial Revolution had changed the world, but we were nowhere near the world we would be in fifty years - let alone ninety-five. Yet despite all that, if you tweak a few words and change a few names, you wouldn't have a hard time believing that this story was written five years ago, because that is the strength of the story. It is rooted in human issues which have been the same for well over 95 years. The ideas of life, death, love, and suicide are concepts that are still present in our daily lives.

Another idea, or concept, which I believe this story encapsulates, and an idea that I thought we really worked hard to bring out, is that what is the most important thing in one person's life is nothing but a game to someone else. As Washington works to figure out the debt ceiling - playing with the fates of the everyday person in an attempt to fix everyone's problems - and as we fight wars in countries the majority of people at this production have never seen, it seems so trivial to those in power. As Youth and The Girl's future hang on the knees of fate, it is only a game to Life and Death; the way that all of the biggest issues of the world appear to only be a game to those who have the power to determine our fates. *The Game* is a morality play that is wrought with a combination of basic human emotion laced with philosophical commentary about the nature of power and fate.

I couldn't have asked for a better cast and crew to tell this story with me. The directing process has been a blast and the way we have been able to come together to tell this story has been beyond incredible. I lastly want to thank you, our audience, for giving this story a purpose. Without you showing up with open eyes, attentive ears, and open hearts, this story would have no meaning. I sincerely thank you for supporting Trainwreck Productions.

- Alex McCarthy

featured music

"Charlotte's Song" by Daniel Cripps (Live)

"Die Die Die" by The Avett Brothers (Live)

"Trainer Theme" from *Pokémon* by Nintendo® (Recorded)

"Song for a Girl" by Daniel Cripps (Recorded)

cast

Youth Jake Heims
The Girl Traci Evers
Life Whitney Arnold
Death RM Decker

production team / trainwreck productions staff

Director / Managing Director Alex McCarthy
Stage Manager, Dance Assistant Mandy Brosius
Publicity Coordinator / Artistic Director RM Decker
Music Coordinator Whitney Arnold

bios

WHITNEY ARNOLD (Life) is excited to be a part of this "Trainwreck" with friends, both old and new. She will be finishing up at Loras College this December where she has been in several productions and has been the costumer for the past year. Recent roles include Mme Josephine in *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, Dan's Wife in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, various characters in *L.O.R.A.S. Radio: A Christmas Carol* and *An Evening with Sherlock Holmes* Radio Show. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her and attending everything, as well as all of you for coming and supporting local theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show!

MANDY BROSIUS (Stage Manager) will be entering her second year of college at Loras College in just a few weeks. She is currently studying a major in Early Childhood Education with a Spanish minor. She also works part time at ABC Learning, an early childhood education center. During her free time Mandy enjoys spending time with the Loras Players. She loves to be a part of theatre in any way, whether it's acting on the stage or helping out backstage. She would like to thank her family for encouraging her as she continues to grow in her theatrical experiences. She would also like to thank the Loras Players and Trainwreck for allowing her the opportunity to be a part of their team.

RYAN MICHAEL DECKER (Death) graduates this May with a B.A. in Acting & Performance and minor in Music from the University of Northern Iowa. In Cedar Falls, he is a busy actor, director, and arts administrator at Strayer-Wood Theatre, UNISTA, and the Interp Theatre. He is President of the UNI Student Theatre Association and Treasurer of theatre honor society Alpha Psi Omega TAP. His short play *Can't Turn Off the Dark* premieres September 11th at Gallagher-Bluedorn PAC. He was last seen in Dubuque as Ms. Sunshine in the Grand's *Chicago* and Jerry in TWP's *The Zoo Story*. In his spare time, he plays in multiple bands and writes. Thanks go to Mom & Dad. RyanDecker.voalsite.com

Bios continued on back...

Performance is approximately 30 minutes and will have no intermission.