Department of Theatre and Performance Studies present

Three Sisters

By Anton Chekhov
Directed by Rick Lombardo

March 16-26, 2017 | $5-20
Thu.-Sat. 8pm | Sun. 2pm |
Stillwell Theater

KSUTheatre.com

Welcome to this performance of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University. Our exciting, diverse and provocative 2016 – 2017 season includes new work, world-class guest performers, and some of the finest contemporary writers for the stage including Tarell Alvin McCraney, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, Rick Elice, and Anton Chekov. This season represents a broad range of work, voices, and perspectives. Thank you for joining us for these unique theatrical adventures.

Our distinctive undergraduate BA theatre and performance studies program, led by our accomplished faculty and staff, is designed to explore the rich variety of theatrical forms, while encouraging the development of theatre artists who care deeply about the world they inhabit. Our majors can explore a wide range of study that includes theatrical production, musical theatre, acting, storytelling, performance of literature, performance art, the development of new work, and the performance of self in everyday life.

Central to our mission is the cultivation of students as artist-scholars who embrace the marriage of research, analysis, and the creation of socially relevant theatre and performance. What you will see in a few moments reflects these values. We provide multiple opportunities for our students to create, witness, and critique performances ranging from dramatic scripts and musical theatre to literary and folk traditions, original ethnographic field research, and contemporary movement.

I invite you to explore our website, where you can meet our faculty, familiarize yourself with our programs and concentrations, and also learn much more about the remaining performances in our season.

Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

Rick Lombardo, Chair and Artistic Director
Department of Theatre and Performance Studies

KSU Department of Theatre & Performance Studies Presents

Three Sisters

By ANTON CHEKHOV
Translation by Tracy Letts

Director
Rick Lombardo*

March 16-26, 2017
Howard Logan Stillwell Theater

Lighting Design
Rebecca Makus*

Scenic Design
Ming Chen*

Costume Design
Erik Teague†

Original Music
Haddon Kime †

Sound Design
Rick Lombardo*

Technical Director
Kenyon Shiver*

Asst. Director
Nathaniel Gesualdo

Stage Manager
Paige Wiggins

Asst. Stage Managers
Jessica Smith
Steven Taylor

Vocal Coach
Jan Wikstrom*

† Guest Artist
*TPS Faculty/Staff

“Three Sisters (Letts)” is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

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CAST

Olga  Haley McFadden
Masha  Shannon Murphy
Irina  Alice Garriga
Andrey  Hayden Rowe
Natasha  Tori Thompson
Vershinin  Danny Crowe
Kulygin  Samuel Chase
Tusenbach  Brandon Bayani
Chebutykin  Jim Wallace
Solyony  Matthew White
Fedotik  Brady Brown
Rode  David Wells
Anfisa  Ana Overton
Ferapont  Denny Holmes
Servants  Kyle Corbett
          Truman Griffin
          Lindsay Ross
          Jessica Smith
          Steven Taylor

LOCATION, TIME

The Prozorov Family Home, Rural Russia - 1896

Three Sisters will be performed with a 15-minute Intermission

FACULTY

Margaret Baldwin Pendergrass, Jamie Bullins, Ming Chen, Judith Cole, Jim Davis, Angela Farr-Schiller, John Gentile, Rick Lombardo, Harrison Long, Rebecca Makus, Charles Parrott, Karen Robinson, Amanda Wansa-Morgan, Jan K. Wikstrom

CREW

Production Assistants  Hayden Rowe, Danny Crowe, Meg Harkins,
          Haley McFadden, Gabriela Bueno, Paige Wiggins,
          Marion Wright
Master Electrician  André Allen
Assistant Master Electrician  Lindsay Samples
Electricians  Kat Cole, Adam Fernandez, Susannah Cook,
          Sarah Grossman, Gabriella Gordon, Courtney Earl,
          Tad Cameron
Scenic Charge  Elizabeth Jarrett
Scenic Painters  Eugenia Solana, Carol Le
Properties Design  Melissa DuBois
Properties Assistant  Alex Smith
Running Crew  Kyle Corbett, Lindsay Ross,
          Truman Griffin
Wardrobe Mistress  Ashley Behrend
Wardrobe Assistants  Romei Hinds, Kimberly Van Laningham,
          Janecia Sampson
Assistant Lighting Designers  Anna Eck, Daniella Ampudia
Light Board Operator  Jack Weber
Scenic Assistants  Joel Hicks, Connor Lyles,
          Gal Moskovitch, Carol Le,
          Ashton Montgomery, Brandel Butler,
          Anna Lee, Nick Edwards
Assistant Costume Designer  Daniella Ampudia
Draper/First Hand  Andrew Hobson
Costume Assistants  Ann Eck, Dylan Carter
          Sarah Baird, Alicia Williams,
          Amy Reynolds, Elaina Trent,
          Alexa Zach, Anneka Zee, Althea Patterson
Sound Board Operator  Harper Ford
Assistant Dramaturges  Donovan King, Skylar Resna Jackson,
          Sami McBrayer
Brandon Bayani is portraying the role of Tusenbach and is a freshman. His major is Theatre and Performance Studies with a concentration in Acting. He has been in one KSU production and that was this past 24-Hour Play Festival and played many characters in the same play. Outside of KSU, Brandon has been Mal/Lucas Beineke in Addams Family the Musical. As well as been a part of the award winning Ensemble of I Never Saw Another Butterfly.

Brady Brown, who portrays Fedotik, is a Junior at Kennesaw State University where he majors in Theatre and Performance Studies with a concentration in Acting. He starred in the Ensemble of the 2015 Coming Out Monologues, as Pentheus in the staged reading of The Followers, and as Father Kenny in A Man of No Importance.

Samuel Chase is playing the role of Kulygin in Kennesaw State’s production of Three Sisters. He is a Senior here in the Theatre and Performance Studies department with a concentration in Acting. Some of his productions on campus include Governor Bellingham in The Scarlet Letter, Detective Starnes in Parade, and Thomas Jefferson in Lewis and Clark: Road to the Pacific. Off campus he has played such roles as Judas in Godspell, the Baker in Into the Woods, and Jean Valjean in Les Miserables. Samuel is also a member of KISS: Kennesaw Improv Society Stupid, and has been a writer for the 24-Hour Play Festival during his time here.

Denny Holmes is a transfer student in the role of Ferapont. He is in the Theater and Performance Studies Degree program concentrating in Acting. This is Denny’s first KSU role. He has performed in two short films as Richard Nixon in Richard Nixon Getaway Driver and as Coach in Rain’s Decision.

Danny Crowe is in his final year as a Theatre and performance studies student at KSU. Select KSU credits include, Melchior Gabor (Spring Awakening), Whizzer (Falsettos), Robbie Fay (A Man of No Importance), Hugh Dorsey (Parade), and Sergius Saranoff (Arms and the Man). His professional credits include Banquo (Macbeth), Lumiere (Beauty and the Beast), Aldolfo (Drowsy Chaperone), and Jack (Leading Ladeis), all through the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival.

Alice Garriga is playing the role of Irina in Kennesaw State’s production of Three Sisters. She is a sophomore majoring in Theater and Performance Studies with a concentration in Acting. Alice is a member of Kennesaw Improv Society, Stupid! Some of Alice’s productions on campus include the 24-Hour Play Festival and the Coming Out Monologues and K.I.S.S’s Spring Showcase. Off campus she had played Pauline Barrett in Spoon River Anthology and Martha in The Rimers of Eldritch and participated with K.I.S.S at the Atlanta Fringe Festival.

Shannon Murphy will be playing the role of Másha. Shannon is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies major, Acting concentration at KSU and is thrilled to be returning to the Stillwell stage and the direction of Rick Lombardo. Shannon has was previously seen on the KSU stage in The Killer (Edward) and Spring Awakening (Ilse). She made her professional debut as Dolly in The Threepenny Opera at 7 Stages this past fall. Enjoy the show!
Ana “Mizzo” Overton, who is portraying Anfisa, is a senior majoring in Theatre and Performance Studies, with a concentration in acting. Since transferring to KSU in the fall of 2015, she has been involved at KSU as a director in the 24-Hour Play Festival 2015 and the 7th Annual 10-Minute Play Festival 2016, and assistant director in A Man of No Importance and Albatross, both fall 2016. Outside of KSU, she has been a director for 20 years in her local community, Dunwoody, and most recently assistant director for Foxglove, performed by the Teen Ensemble at the Alliance Theater, summer 2016. Right now she is concurrently involved with KSU Opera Theater’s Speed Dating Tonight as a performer.

Victoria “Tori” Thompson (Natasha) is a junior Theatre & Performance Studies major. Over the summer, she studied at The Gaiety School of Acting in Ireland. She is a member of the KSU Tellers, and also performed in KSU’s 2016 10-Minute Play Festival.

Jim Wallace plays Chebutykin. Any way you slice it, Jim is a Senior majoring in the acting concentration in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies. Most recently he performed the role of King Lear in a one showing production of Scenes from King Lear, which was also directed by Rick Lombardo. Jim played Adam in the Georgia Shakespeare Festival production of As You Like it. In collaboration with the Department of Dance at KSU he created a performance with dancer Christopher Hall entitled The Yellow Birds, which Jim adapted from Kevin Powers’s book by the same name. It deals with the trauma of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He had a principle role in Dreams at the End of a Rope, a film about the history of lynchings in the United States. Jim has been in a total of twelve stage productions at KSU. In addition to As You Like It, non-KSU productions include three films and one TV commercial.

David Wells is a freshman at Kennesaw, and is majoring in Theatre and Performance Studies with an Acting concentration. He is extremely grateful and excited to play the role of Rode in Three Sisters! He has appeared in KSU’s 24-Hour Play Festival as a character named August. As an alumni of Baldwin High School, David had the amazing opportunity to play roles such as Seaweed in Hairspray, Lysander in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Roger in Grease, and many others.

Matthew White, playing the role of Solony, is a sophomore Theatre and Performance Studies major, with a concentration in Acting. Matthew was also in KSU’s last season productions of Parade and The Killer, where he played the roles of Mr. Peavy and the Drunk Man, respectively. Matthew is ecstatic to work on this production of Three Sisters with everyone!

Hayden Rowe is a Senior is very excited to be a part of Three Sisters here at Kennesaw State University. Other credits at KSU include A Man Of No Importance (Alfie Byrne), Parade (Frankie Epps), Spring Awakening (Otto), and Bloody Pulp (Shorty). Professional credits include MacBeth (MacDuff) and The Drowsy Chaperone (George) both with The Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Rick Lombardo (Director) is Chair and Artistic Director of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, where last season he directed the TPS production of Spring Awakening. Just this winter he directed two New York premieres Off Broadway, Ring Twice for Miranda at City Center Stage 2 and Albatross at 59E59 Theatres, which he had previously directed in Boston (2015 Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Production), at Gloucester Stage Company and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Lombardo was the Artistic Director at San Jose Repertory Theatre (LORT B) for six seasons, where he directed the world premieres of The Snow Queen (New York Musical Theatre Festival Outstanding Production and Publishing Awards), Game On (Theatre Bay Area Award Best New Play 2014), and Love in American Times, among many others. For 13 years he was the Producing Artistic Director of Greater Boston’s New Repertory Theatre, where his productions were regularly recognized with awards and for which he received the 2008 Elliot Norton Prize for Sustained Excellence. His New Rep production of Bill W. and Dr. Bob played an engagement Off-Broadway at New World Stages. He has served on the boards of the Society of Directors and Choreographers and the National New Play Network. www.ricklombardo.net.
Ming Chen (Scenic Designer) Born in Shanghai, China, Ming Chen is currently a full professor/theatrical designer at KSU. She is the author of Visual Literacy for Theatre, a 556-page textbook on design. Her theatrical designs were seen at Prague Quadrennial in Czechoslovakia, China’s National Stage Design Exhibition in Beijing and Tokyo, the Kennedy Center American College Dance Festivals in NYC and Washington D.C., Shanghai International Arts Festival, Shanghai Theatre Festival and The National Theatre in China, Edinburgh Festival Fringe in UK, several cities in India, many theatres in Atlanta, including the Alliance Theatre, Horizon Theatre and Atlanta Ballet, and university theatres such as SUNY at Buffalo and Cornell University. She received design awards from Prague Quadrennial (co-design) and Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Drawing from her cross-cultural experiences, she directed many intercultural projects which received numerous grants, including funds from National Endowment for the Arts, the Cultural Services of French Embassy, the Georgia Humanities Council, the French Consulate in Atlanta, Confucius Institute, and Coca Cola Foundation.

Erik Teague (Costume Design) is a freelance Costume Designer based out of Alexandria, VA. A native of Cartersville, GA, he holds a MFA in Costume Design from Boston University and a BA in Theatre and Performance Studies from Kennesaw State University. As a proud alumna of the program, he is honored to make his return to the Stilwell stage. Some designs of note are The Flying Dutchman, La bohème, Odysse, Trouble in Tahiti, Wilde Tales and Ariadne in Naxos for the Glimmerglass Festival, Costumes and Puppets for The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me at the Washington National Opera. Il Pietra del Paragone for Wolf Trap Opera, Equus at Constellation Theatre, The Man in the Iron Mask at Synetic Theatre, Mary Poppins at the Olney Theatre Center, The Wedding Dress and The Last of the Whyos at Spooky Action Theatre Company, 1001 Nights: A Love Story About Loving Stories with the Center for Puppetry Arts, Les Liaisons Dangereuse, The Crucible, The Rocky Horror Show and Spring Awakening at Actor’s Express where he is an Associated Artist, The Snow Queen and Evita at Serenbe Playhouse, The Sleepy Hollow Experience at Old Sturbridge Village of Massachusetts, 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea for the Georgia Aquarium, The Museum At Night for The High Museum and The Navigator at 7Stages. He is a two time Suzi Bass award winner and two time Helen Hayes award Nominee. www.erikteagedesign.com

Rebecca Makus (Lighting Designer) holds an M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts and a B.A. from Smith College and is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Kennesaw State University. Her work frequently includes custom designed and built light objects that are unique for each production. Her international work includes designs at Lyon Opera Ballet, Nuf eld Theatre at Lancaster University, Opera de Monte Carlo, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Sibiu International Theatre Festival. She has also worked extensively in New York City for over 10 years including shows at Lincoln Center, Mint Theatre, Dance New Amsterdam, Dance Theatre Workshop, P.S. 122, HERE Arts Center and D.R.2 Theatre.


Nathaniel Gesualdo (Assistant Director) is a senior performance studies major in his last semester at KSU. He has acted in multiple productions at KSU and is so grateful for the opportunities he has had to work on directing in his final year, especially the opportunity to work one one of Chekhov’s Masterpieces, Three Sisters. He wants to thank all of his friends, family, and mentors that have helped him along his journey.

Paige Wiggins (Stage Manager) is a sophomore Theater and Performance Studies major at KSU with a Design/Tech concentration. Her KSU credits include Assistant Stage Manager for The Killer, Assistant Stage Manager for The Followers, Stage Manager of Branches Etched Across The Sky, and Stage Manager for the 2016 MTE Showcase. Her professional credits include Assistant Stage Manager for Thankskilling! The Musical at Dad’s Garage Theater Company.

Jessica Smith (ASM) is a freshman Theatre and Performance Studies major with a Design Tech Concentration. This is her first show here at KSU and she is thrilled to be apart of it. Some of her previous credits include Stage Manager for Langston Hughes’ Production of Shrek: The Musical as well as The Gift.

Steven Taylor (ASM) is a Theatre & Performance Studies major and this is his first production at KSU as an Assistant Stage Manager, and is very thankful for the opportunity. KSU performance credits include A Man of No Importance and Parade. He hopes that you all will enjoy the show.
Anton Chekhov’s *Three Sisters* first premiered in 1901 at the Moscow Arts Theatre under the direction of K.S. Stanislavsky to somewhat lackluster reviews. The early audiences did not fully understand the work which would become part of a new form of expression called realism. *Three Sisters*, nevertheless did achieve success with critics and an audience who found a deep meaning in the show, but for Chekhov, the show was simply about the cultured Prozorov family and their life in a dreary and simple provincial town far removed from the excitement and refinement of Moscow. Olga, Masha, Irina, and Andrey all have their own stories to share while they await something more, something beyond the horizon and deeply rooted in a return to the life they once knew.

Born January 29th, 1860 in Taganrog, Russia Anton Chekhov was the son of a shop owner and the grandson of a serf; a class of life-long indentured servants bound to the land on which they lived. Chekhov’s grandfather bought his freedom before the serfs attained their emancipation in 1861. Afterwards, his family moved to Moscow, where Chekhov attended classes at Moscow University, ultimately graduating with a degree in medicine. Chekhov worked as a practicing physician even as he continued to write, something he had started while in college at the suggestion of his journalist brother Alexander. By the mid 1880s Chekhov was primarily focused on his writing career, becoming a founder of the modern short story and an incredibly successful practitioner of the form. His theatrical writing found success with one-act farces while his more serious full length plays struggled to find success. He finally achieved notoriety in 1895 with *The Seagull* but it would not be until 1898 that he experienced his first true success when the show was re-staged at the Moscow Arts Theatre, which would become a frequent site for Chekhov’s most famous plays. While he was influenced by realists such as Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Chekhov found his own unique voice in his ability to take mundane situations and turn them into a discussion about much deeper ideas. Chekhov continued to write, amassing hundreds of short works of fiction, and several plays, while still maintaining his work as a physician when needed. Ultimately, tuberculosis contracted in the 1880s would lead to his death in Germany in 1904 where he had gone in search of treatment. Chekhov’s legacy lives on well after his death, his influence on theatre and thought both in Russia and the rest of the world is still felt today.

*Three Sisters* takes place during a dynamic period in Russian history. The economy was struggling and the working class, feeling the brunt of the socio-economic pressures, began to rebel against the educated upper classes whom they resented for their excesses that often came at the direct expense of the working class. The upper classes responded by developing a fixation on tangible extravagant possessions. The gifted Samovar from Act 1 is a perfect example of the upper classes being out of step with the reality of their historical moment, the samovar was an excessive possession favored by the rich while the shifting times reinforced Olga’s cries of “A samovar! That’s awful!”. In Chekhov’s typical fashion, a mundane moment of a fairly standard upper class gift becomes a moment of thought that establishes the foundation the play. The Prozorovs and their friends are the upper class elite. While others are introduced, including Andrey’s local love Natasha, the pecking order is firmly established with Olga’s criticism of Natasha’s sash “simply not going well”. As the years pass, it becomes more obvious to the Prozorovs that the world they know has changed begging the question: What do we do when the ground we stand upon is no longer the ground we know? How do we adapt? And, is clutching to the past the answer for navigating the uncertainties of the future? Chekhov explores these questions through the honest and emotional interactions of his three sisters as they attempt to navigate a new world, much like we as a country are learning to navigate ours.

Donovan King
Assistant Dramaturg, *Three Sisters*
KSU TPS Major || Performance Studies Concentration
STAFF

Rick Lombardo, Artistic Director
Dawn V. Eskridge, Production Manager
Angela Farr Schiller, Resident Dramaturge
Kenyon Shiver, Technical Director
Daniel Terry, TPS Facilities Manager
Brittany Johnson, Costume Shop Manager

Kathie Beckett, Director of Marketing and Communications, College of the Arts
Joshua Stone, Graphics Supervisor & Webmaster, College of the Arts
Brenda Curtis, Marketing Associate, College of the Arts
Michael McGehee, Business Manager, College of the Arts
Mosfica Klay, Associate Business Manager, College of the Arts

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Alicia Williams, Daniella Ampudia, Dylan Carter, Althea Patterson, Costume Shop
Anna Eck, Sarah Baird, Elaine Trent, Costume Shop

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Chidiebube Ogbuagu, Kaitlyn Pittmon

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FALL

**GOD OF CARNAGE**, by Yasmina Reza, directed by Rick Lombardo, (August 19, 2016), T&PS Faculty Benefit Reading, Stillwell Theater

**24 HOUR PLAY FESTIVAL**, (August 27, 2016), coordinated by Jamie Bullins & Amanda Wansa Morgan, Stillwell Theater

**ALBATROSS**, by Matthew Spangler & Benjamin Evett, (September 8-10, 2016), directed by Rick Lombardo, Stillwell Theater

**IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER**, by Tarell Alvin McCraney, (September 20-25, 2016), directed by Angela Farr-Schiller, Onyx Theater

**THE COMING OUT MONOLOGUES PROJECT**, (October 6-7, 2016), coordinated by Karen Robinson & Jessica Duvall, co-produced with GLBTIQ Student Retention Services, Onyx Theater

**A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE**, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, music by Stephen Flaherty, book by Terrence McNally, directed by Amanda Wansa Morgan, co-produced with the School of Music, (October 13-23, 2016), Stillwell Theater

**ITHE FOLLOWERS**, by Margaret Baldwin, (November 1-3, 2016), directed by Margaret Baldwin & Michael Haverty, Onyx Theater

**K.I.S.S. SHOWCASE**, Student Improv Company, (November 11-12, 2016), coordinated by Jamie Bullins, Onyx Theater

**KSU TELLERS SHOWCASE**, Student Storytelling Concert, (December 2-3, 2016), directed by Charles Parrott, Onyx Theater

SPRING

**STORIES FOR A WINTER NIGHT: CHRIS COLLINS**, (January 26-28, 2017), coordinated by Charles Parrott, Stillwell Theater

**PETER AND THE STARCATCHER**, written by Rick Elice, based on the novel by Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson, directed by Karen Robinson, (February 7-12, 2017), Onyx Theater

**NEW WORKS & IDEAS/DON QUIXOTE UGLY/10MPF/TPS PADERBORN PROJECT**, coordinated by Margaret Baldwin, (February 20-26, 2017), Onyx & Stillwell Theaters

**THREE SISTERS**, by Anton Chekhov, directed by Rick Lombardo, (March 16-26, 2017), Stillwell Theater


**KSU TELLERS SHOWCASE**, Student Storytelling Concert, (April 28-29, 2017), directed by Charles Parrott, Onyx Theater

**MTE SHOWCASE**, (April 20, 2017), directed by Amanda Wansa Morgan, Onyx Theater