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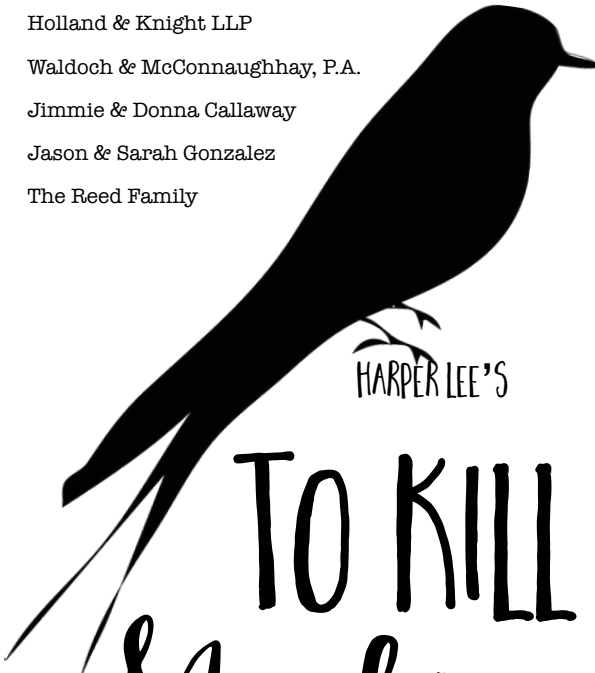
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... LOVE THE WORLD. WORK FOR NOTHING.  
TAKE ALL THAT YOU HAVE AND BE POOR.  
LOVE SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT DESERVE IT.  
DENOUNCE THE GOVERNMENT AND EMBRACE  
THE FLAG. HOPE TO LIVE IN THAT FREE  
REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS...

FROM MANIFESTO:  
THE MAD FARMER LIBERATION FRONT  
BY WENDELL BERRY



HARPER LEE'S

# TO KILL A Mockingbird

ADAPTED BY CHRISTOPHER SERGEL

DIRECTED BY KAFUI ABLORDEPEY  
& LEA MARSHALL

PRESENTED BY LEON THEATRE

2.24 & 2.25.17 @ 7:00 PM

**Parental Advisory:** To Kill a Mockingbird is appropriate for adults and young people ages 13 and up. It is one of the most read and beloved stories of all time. However, consistent with the time period in which the story is set, the play does contain racial slurs, as well as discussions of racial injustice and an alleged sexual assault.

“Tell someone to do something,  
and you change their life— for a day;  
tell someone a story  
& you change their life.”

{N.T. Wright}

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES...

Kafui and I began this process by attending the bold and brilliant *American Moor* play at FAMU in January. That set the tone that we would carry into our concept and directorial choices. We wanted our *Mockingbird* rehearsal process and show to be truthful and experiential of where we have come from as a country in racial inequality, and where we still need to go. We are not denying the existence of harsh words, feelings, prejudices, and people in 1935 Maycomb, Alabama or even in 2017 Tallahassee, Florida, and we hope by showing how ugly prejudice is that we might begin to have conversations and changes in how we live our lives.

“WE have made these messes: we, who are a single thing, whether our fears allow us to know the truth of that fully or not, we who speak it as a grand idea, but haven't then bravery to live it. The playwright, John Patrick Shanley said, “Theatre is a safe place to do unsafe things that need to be done... When its safety is used to protect cowards masquerading as heroes, it's a boring travesty.” So too this America. In our lives, as in our theatre, we must own our insecurity, our insensitivity, all our ignorance and self-serving ugliness, and forge ahead, not in spite of, but because of it. The unsafest of things is denial.”

{Keith Hamilton Cobb, actor/playwright *American Moor*}

“What we could do is not just read individual words but also read entire sentences or perhaps even entire novels. Then we might be able to figure out what the whole work is saying. Which might be a very powerful statement against racism. Which might by necessity involve showing the ugliness of racism.”

{Bob Howard on the removal of *To Kill A Mockingbird* from a school reading list}

Our Leon Theatre season this year has focused on how we REACT in FEAR vs ACT in LOVE. *To Kill A Mockingbird* is the perfect story to tell about FEAR vs. LOVE and the consequences of reacting in fear. It is a story that should change our lives by the telling of it...

# SET DESIGN NOTES...

## **MAYCOMB NEIGHBORHOOD:**

One idea that leaped off the page during my research into the script was the idea of INDIVIDUAL beliefs shaping a COMMUNITY (for better or worse.) I felt the houses in our Maycomb neighborhood shouldn't have walls because what happens inside the houses isn't contained just in the houses. The beliefs that people hold inside the walls of their homes influence the entire community. Privately held prejudices publicly convict an innocent man, a woman's struggle to break an addiction needs a bit of help from her neighbors, and another man comes out past his walls to save the lives of two children. Even Atticus can't keep his shooting skills privately behind his walls; it is needed for the protection of his community. We need each other. No man is an island, and no individual decision only affects one person. Our "private" reactions of fear influence our communities. But the good news is, so do our actions in love.

## **COURTROOM SCENE:**

Our stage courtroom is made up of pieces of our neighbor's furniture. Front porch gliders from neighbors, tables & chairs from friends' dining rooms, an antique typewriter from a local politician's collection, and even a few chairs from my very own living room. This is because our courtroom isn't a place of legality far removed from our everyday life. It is a living room, a family room, a dining room, and a front porch put together with pieces from the homes of our neighbors and friends. It is on those pieces of furniture that Maycomb citizens sit in judgment of those who are their neighbors and friends.

## **THE BOOK TREE:**

I had this vision for the iconic Mockingbird tree to be made totally out of books. Hardback factual books (law books, encyclopedias, and dictionaries) for the base and then paperback novels (fictional stories) for the branching leafy expanse. Let me just add that visioning a tree made totally out of books is easier than the reality of creating one on the stage. I would like to thank my husband, Adam Marshall, and a crazy set construction crew who worked way too many hours to make this a reality. It is TREEmendous. I beLEAF it adds so much to the set. I think it is deeply ROOTed to my vision. And I promise never to do it again.

Almost every prop and set piece harken us back to the 1930's. Sydney Hockett has also used many 1930's clothing items in her costuming. Surrounding ourselves with these tangible reminders of this time has been a great asset to our cast and crew. THANK YOU to so many Leon families that have trusted us with these precious heritage set pieces, props, and costumes. We have loved using these vintage items for this show!

**Atticus Finch:** John Malley  
**Jean Louse "Scout" Finch:** Malori Wallace  
**Jeremy "Jem" Finch:** Caden Wessner  
**Calpurnia:** Kelsey Gilmore/Zira Brown  
**Dill:** Tait Treadwell  
**Maudie Atkinson:** Makenzie Geiger  
**Stephanie Crawford:** Morgan Hardenburg  
**Mrs. Dubose:** Tia Huettel  
**Boo Radley:** James Hayes  
**Heck Tate:** Nate Caldwell  
**Judge Taylor:** Devin Kimber  
**Reverend Sykes:** Taveion Mickens  
**Mrs. Sykes:** Mia Ford-Green  
**Bob Ewell:** Sean Tterlikkus  
**Mayella Ewell:** Juliette Pfeiffer  
**Walter Cunningham:** Michael H. Alexandre  
**Mr. Gilmer, Public Prosecutor:** Matthew Samaan  
**Tom Robinson:** Eddie Edgeron  
**Helen Robinson:** Zira Brown/Kelsey Gilmore  
**Court Clerk/Nathan Radley:** Logan Chenicek  
**Courtroom Gallery:** Cate Bilbrey, Kinnedi Bonner, Kenara Brown, Naylen Easterling, Erika Fornero-Monia, Breanna Gregory, Jordan Jackson, Jamie Martinez, Chelsea Scoma

# Cast & Crew

**Stage Manager:** Ajzonee Williams      **Production Coordinator:** Caitlyn Burke  
**Properties Master:** Sam Hanson      **Lighting Design:** Amelia Cooper  
**Makeup & Hair Design:** Caitlyn Burke      **Sound Design:** Sam Hanson  
**Set Construction Crew:** Andrew Schaefer, Sam Hanson, Caitlyn Burke, Amelia Cooper, Victoria Tranor, Laura McArthur, Caden Wessner, Malori Wallace, Sean Tterlikkus, Tait Treadwell, Erika Fornero-Monia, John Malley, Mr. Blasquez & the Leon Shop students  
**Costume Designer:** Sydney Hockett  
**Front Porch Flowers:** Laura McArthur & Gina Resavage  
**Audience Greeter and Maycomb's Sweet Shoppe Employee:** Jessica Johnson

Thank You. . .

1930's Costumes, Set Pieces and Props have been loaned to Leon Theatre from Florida High, Ken Frederickson @ Theatre TCC, Leon Chorus, Scott Maddox, Laura Pichard Murphy, Laura McArthur, and the Leon Parents who graciously allowed me to tour your beautiful homes and choose from your precious antiques! THANK YOU!

**MICHAEL H. ALEXANDRE:** Michael is a very busy freshman involved in Young Actors Theatre, Jazz Band, Chorus, and Piano. He was last seen on the YAT stage as Pinocchio in Shrek, the Musical. During Mockingbird he has learned that "every part is important and has its challenges." He wishes to thank Mrs. Marshall for including him and Kafui for being such a help!



**CATE BILBREY:** Cate is a freshman member of our Thespian Troupe. She also is on the Model UN team and was a member of Dance Marathon! She has learned "there are no small roles, only small people." Her favorite moment in the show is when Judge Taylor says, "Let the record show that the witness has not been sassed." She thanks her family and friends for putting up with her!

**KINNEDI BONNER:** Kinnedi has been involved in plays at her church and is a freshman at Leon. She has learned just how far we have come in America since the 1930's and her favorite part of the play is Atticus' final monologue to the jury in the courtroom scene. She would like to thank Mrs. Marshall and her parents!



**KENARA BROWN:** Kenara is a sophomore at Leon and involved in Art Club, French National Honor Society, and Cantabile. She was involved in The Little Mermaid summer musical at Leon. This production has helped her to learn tolerance for people who have different views from her. She loves Atticus' final monologue and wishes to thank her mom, Mrs. Marshall, and God!

**ZIRA BROWN:** Zira is a junior at Leon and a member of our Thespian Troupe. She is in the Advanced Theatre class and portrayed Hoplon in Antigone in the fall play. This production has taught her that sometimes life is just unfair, but by surrounding yourself with good people, you will be able to get through anything. Her favorite moment is when Bob Ewell is yelling, and Atticus Finch interrupts him. She wishes to that God, Mr. Mitchell who is the reason why she joined Theatre, and Mrs. Marshall for teaching her a lot about herself and helping to make her into a better person.



**NATE CALDWELL:** Nate is a junior involved in Capital Singers, Madrigals, Mane Event, and teacher at American Karate Studios. He has been involved in so many awesome Leon shows such as Fiddler on the Roof, Phantom of the Opera, The Little Mermaid, and Advanced Theatre's Antigone. His biggest takeaway from this show is the idea of listening being crucial to growing intellectually individually and as a society. His favorite moments are Atticus making the transition from lawyer to father. Nate would like to thank his family, his instructors, Hunter, and Justin Kuritzkes.

**LOGAN CHENICEK:** Logan is a freshman and has been involved with Young Actors Theatre for 11 years but now makes his debut as three characters in one show on our Leon stage! This show is exciting to him because of the symbolism that is shown throughout the set. He would like to thank John Malley, Tait Treadwell, Kafui, and Mrs. Marshall!





**NAYLEN EASTERLING:** Naylen is a freshman and during the rehearsals for *Mockingbird* played almost every part in the show as our swing! She is very proud of her dual portrayal of Courtroom Spectator and “Third Man” as it has taught her that everyone has an important part to play. She has been involved in the summer musical at Leon and was Mrs. Meers in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at Raa last year. Her favorite moment of *Mockingbird* is the final scene with Atticus and Scout. She wishes to thank Mrs. Marshall who has somehow dragged Naylen into another show she originally wasn’t planning to be a part of, and Kafui for being inspirational.

**EDDIE EDGERSON:** Eddie is a freshman at Leon. This is his first theatrical experience! This show has shown him the struggle of acting and convinced him that those struggles can be fun! His favorite moment is when his character, Tom Robinson, takes the stand. He wishes to thank the directors for giving him the opportunity to be in this production.



**MIA FORD-GREEN:** Mia is a sophomore and is active in the Leon Thespian Troupe. She has been seen on the Leon Stage in Prospect High and ITS District Competition. Through this production, she has learned that teamwork makes the dream work! Her favorite moment of the show is Atticus’ closing monologue. Mia would like to thank Mrs. Meis and Mr. Mitchell for instilling the love of theatre into her!

**ERICA FORNERO-MONIA:** Erika is an exchange student from Tuscany, Italy! She is involved in the Interact Club, Yarn Club, Art Club, Soccer Team, Swim Team, Thespians, and Springtime Tallahassee’s Belles & Gents. She was involved in theatre in Italy and has jumped right into Advanced Theatre class here in America. She was in *Antigone* in the fall and her favorite moment in this show is when she is a “man” in the mob. This show has taught her how a director has to have everything in the scene imagined in their mind already. She wishes to thank her theatre class for becoming her new family, the super Mrs. Marshall, and her amazing host parents for all the things that they do for her!



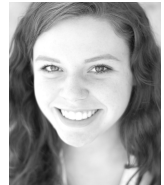
**MAKENZIE GEIGER:** Makenzie is a freshman, and this is her first time being on the stage since she was in the *Music Man* in elementary school. She is also involved in her church. Her biggest lesson learned during this play is that stereotypes are created by a lack of understanding, and we need to learn how to (as Atticus says) “put yourself in someone else’s skin” to understand them. She also enjoys portraying a 1935 character who was not racist. Her favorite part of the show is Mrs. Dubose saying, “Don’t say to ‘Hey’ to me you ugly girl!” because it is hilarious. She wishes to thank Morgan for convincing her to try out, her parents for all the rides home, and Mrs. Marshall for giving her this amazing opportunity.

**KELSEY GILMORE:** Kelsey is a junior who is also involved in the Debate Team, SGA, Key Club, El Cid, Ladies of Distinction, Thespians, and the Spanish Honor Society. She has been involved in too many Leon productions to list and earned Superiors at District Competition for her Duet Scene and Contrasting Monologue. She has learned from this show that not all things are fair or equal. Her favorite moment of this show is when Atticus yells at Bob Ewell. She wishes to thank her parents, Mr. Mitchell, and Mrs. Marshall.



**BREANNA GREGORY:** Breanna is a freshman and was involved in several plays at Raa Middle School. This play has taught her that you shouldn't assume things or judge people. Her favorite moment is Atticus' long monologue in the courtroom. She wishes to thank Jordan for doing this show with her and Mrs. Marshall for picking such a great play!

**MORGAN HARDENBURG:** Morgan is a freshman, and this is her first time onstage since she was a young elementary school student! She is involved in many volunteer activities through her church youth group. This show has taught her that you should walk around in other people's shoes before you judge them and that justice should be blind. One of her favorite moments in the show is when Jem mimics the rabid dog. Morgan would like to thank The Academy™, Jesus, Devin, her parents, Lin Manuel-Miranda, Mrs. Marshall, and Kafui!



**JORDAN JACKSON:** Jordan is a freshman and is also a Leon Cheerleader. She was in several productions at Raa Middle School and loved her experiences in those plays. This play has taught her that we have come a long way since the 1930's, but we still have a long way to go. Her favorite moment of the show is Atticus' closing argument in the courtroom. She wishes to thank her mom who inspired her to act and God for continuing to bless her!

**JAMES HAYES:** James is a senior at Leon and will be greatly missed next year! He is an active member of our Thespian Troupe and is in the Advanced Theatre Class. He was a part of the fall Antigone play as Creon Chorus. He will be representing the Thespian Troupe at State with the large group acting scene from the play AP Theatre. During this show, he has learned a lot about subtext, since his character doesn't speak much and has to say volumes with just his physicality and face.



**DEVIN KIMBER:** Devin is a freshman and plays football for Leon, leads worship at his church, and serves at the Big Bend Homeless Coalition. He is in Theatre 2 at Leon and has appeared onstage at Raa Middle School in both musicals and the 8th grade play. Being the judge has taught him a lot about justice and fairness, both of which should be color blind. His favorite moment of the show is Mrs. Dubose saying, "Don't say 'hey' to me you ugly girl!" He wishes to thank his parents, Mrs. Marshall, and Kafui.



**JOHN MALLEY:** John is a freshman and is involved in Thespians, Mane Event, and Teen Court. He spent three years in Trinity's theatre department and was the founding president of their Jr. Thespian Troupe! He says that he has grown both as an actor and as a person during this production. He loves every minute of this show, but his final closing arguments as Atticus Finch are his favorite moments onstage. He wishes to thank his family and friends for all their love and support. He also thanks Kafui and Mrs. Marshall, as well as every other teacher who has helped him grow as an actor.



**JAMIE ALEXANDRA MARTINEZ:** Jamie is a junior and is active in El Cid, Mu Alpha Theta, and her church youth group. Her last time on stage was in Raa Middle School as the Crocodile and Nana, the dog in Peter Pan Jr. Her favorite moment of the show was during a rehearsal where the cast was doing improv in character, and Bob Ewell was talking about his cow, Myrtle. She would like to thank everyone involved in this production for making it such a great play to be a part of, especially Mrs. Marshall and Kafui!



**JULIETTE PFEIFFER:** Juliette is a junior and involved in Thespians, Dance, and Ladies of Distinction at Leon. She has been seen on the Leon stage in Dearly Departed, Prospect High: Brooklyn, Harvey, and Antigone. Recently she student directed a scene for District Competition. This show has taught her to care about other people's scenes and to not only think of her own time on stage. Her favorite moment is when Atticus leans up against the wall in a most attractive manner. She would like to thank her grandparents for picking her up from rehearsals, especially her Nana for inspiring her, and her mom for helping her understand this challenging role.



**MATTHEW SAMAAAN:** Matthew is a senior at Leon and a part of our Thespian Troupe. We will miss his good humor and leadership skills in our troupe next year! He recently earned a Superior in his ensemble acting debut for a large group acting scene! During this show, he has learned how hard some things can be (like acting!) His favorite moments are in the courtroom but he is not thrilled when he has to shout in Tom Robinson's face. He would like to thank his parents and Mrs. Marshall.



**CHELSEA SCOMA:** Chelsea is a junior and is involved in Model UN, Thespians, and Peace Jam. She has also studied at the Vienna Opera School in Austria! She has learned so much by being in this show about remaining calm & civilized, even when people are rude to you and to put yourself in someone else's role before you judge them. She would like to thank John Malley for rocking it, Sean for being awesome, James for being the perfect Boo, and the directors for putting together this important play!



**TAIT TREADWELL:** Tait is a sophomore and is also involved in Boy Scouts, Rebus Gestu and our Thespian Troupe. He participated in our fall play, Antigone. He has learned "people will hear what they listen for and see what they look for" as he has rehearsed this play. His favorite moment in the play is when Atticus yells at Bob Ewell to sit down! He would like to thank Mrs. Meis for being the first person to encourage him to be involved in theatre and his parents for their love and support!





**SEAN TTERLIKKIS:** Sean is a senior and is the President of our Thespian Troupe. He has been involved in Phantom of the Opera, Harvey, The Little Mermaid, Dearly Departed, Prospect High: Brooklyn, And Then There Were None while at Leon. His favorite moment of the show is when Atticus can't hold his emotions in after his children are almost killed. He would like to thank Danny DeVito, Hirohiko Araki, and Kafui.

**MALORI WALLACE:** Mallory is a junior and is involved in Capital Singers, Melos, and our Thespian Troupe. She has been in The Little Mermaid and Antigone on our Leon stage. During the rehearsal process for this show, she has learned that the way you say something makes a big difference! He favorite moment of the show is the end when she and Atticus talk about Boo Radley. She wishes to thank Kafui, Mrs. Marshall, her parents, and her friends for constantly encouraging her and giving her confidence that she could do this part with a style and grace that is perfect for this role!



**CADEN WESSNER:** Caden is a sophomore and is involved in Thespians, Chorus, and Tempo at Leon. He was in The Little Mermaid summer musical on the Leon stage. He will be performing at the State Thespian Competition in a group acting ensemble. This show has taught him that even though we are all different, we all belong to the same community. His favorite show moment is Atticus' final speech to the jury. He wishes to thank his mom & dad, Mrs. Marshall, Kafui, his dog, his hamster, and his grandparents.

**CAITLYN BURKE:** Caitlyn is a sophomore at Leon and served as Production Coordinator for this show. She was also in Antigone with her Advanced Theatre class and was involved in many plays at Raa Middle School and will be performing at the State Thespian Competition in a large group acting ensemble scene. This show has taught her that even if your opinion is unpopular, it is still valid. He favorite moment of the show is when Bob Ewell follows Atticus outside of the courtroom and threatens to kill him. She wishes to thank Johnny Depp, Mrs. Marshall, Cheryl Stinson, Chris Stinson, Mary Granger, Sassy the cat, Chance the dog, Illana. Love to all and thanks for supporting her!



**AMELIA COOPER:** Amelia is a junior involved in Theatre Tech, Chorus, Thespians, Gay/Straight Alliance, Woodshop, Cantabile, and LEGOS! She has been a sound technician for PAWS, Hairspray Jr., Once Upon This Island Jr., and The Little Mermaid. During this show, she has learned that Stage Managers need to be paid! He favorite moments of the show are when Bob Ewell is yelling. She wishes to thank Mrs. Peck (a.k.a. Peckles) for being the best tech teacher and Mr. Peck for teaching her cool stuff whenever she works tech with him!

**SAM HANSON:** Sam is a senior who is involved with Thespians and also works at Red Elephant. He has worked tech for The Little Mermaid, Antigone, and Fiddler on the Roof. During this show, he has learned that a tree made out of books is really a tree made out of trees. His favorite moments in the play are the reactions from the spectators when they hear the language used in the courtroom! He wants to thank his wingman, Ian.



**ANDREW SCHAEFER:** Andrew is a junior and a Lead Engineer for the Robotics Club at Leon. He has helped with many construction projects and recently worked tech for Fairview's Hairspray Jr. He likes doing set design and construction because it is fun seeing what you design used onstage and making people happy. He wishes to thank Mr. Barrable and Mr. Blasquez!

**VICTORIA TRANOR:** Victoria is a junior and is involved in Anime Club at Leon. She has taken Theatre 1 and Theatre Tech classes at Leon and she has learned how awesome it is to be in a show. Her favorite show moments are the ones where she laughs with everyone and she wishes to thank everyone involved in this production!



**AJZONEE WILLIAMS:** Ajzonee is a junior at Leon. She is also involved in the Culinary Club. She was the stage manager for our Advanced Theatre Class Production of Antigone. During this show, she has learned that life is not always fair. Her favorite moment of the show is when Bob Ewell is being questioned by Atticus, and it is revealed that he is left handed. She would like to thank Mrs. Marshall for choosing this play and her mom and dad for supporting her in her theatrical endeavors.

**LEA MARSHALL & KAFUI ABLORDEPPEY:** I am indebted to Kafui Ablordeppey who co-directed this show with me. I have known Kafui since he was in middle school (and much shorter than me.) This summer as I was reading and rereading the script, I became increasingly uncomfortable with directing this with only my vision and limited life experiences. My mind immediately went to my friend and very talented thespian, Kafui Ablordeppey. When I approached him this summer, I had NO IDEA that he played Tom Robinson in a community theatre production a few years ago. I just knew that I couldn't tackle directing this challenging show by myself. Kafui agreed, and his perspective, humor, and acting coaching flow through every moment of the show. It has been a labor of learning and listening for both of us! We have not agreed on every decision and the back and forth flow of ideas has made this show stronger, and I hope the cast/crew has benefitted from seeing us disagree artistically at times and the process of give and take that is involved in any endeavor we undertake as colleagues and human beings.

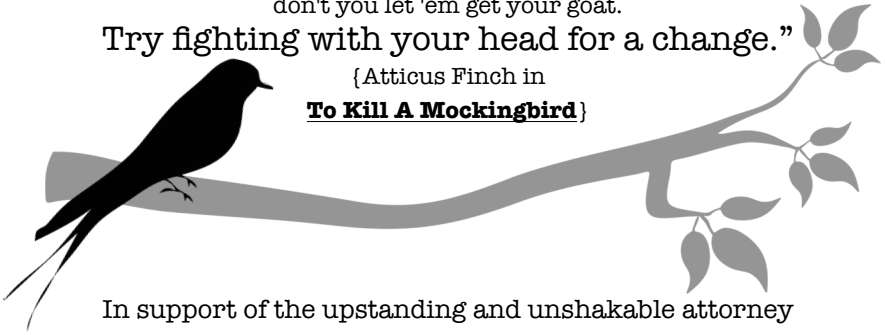


“You just hold your head high  
and keep those fists down.  
No matter what anybody says to you,  
don't you let 'em get your goat.

Try fighting with your head for a change.”

{Atticus Finch in

**To Kill A Mockingbird**}



In support of the upstanding and unshakable attorney  
from Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird,  
Leon Theatre thanks these Wonderful Law Firms  
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**The Reed Family**

THANK YOU for your support of LEON THEATRE  
& helping us tell a more beautiful story.

The funding from Finch's Fight With Your Head Club as well as  
proceeds from the donations collected during this production will  
make it possible for us to take 47 Thespians to the Florida  
Thespian State Festival/Competition during Spring Break!

THANK YOU CLUB MEMBERS & AUDIENCE!

LEON THEATRE EXISTS TO  
INTENTIONALLY,  
RESPECTFULLY, &  
EXCELLENTLY,  
TELL A MORE BEAUTIFUL STORY  
THAT INFORMS, INFUSES,  
INSPIRES, INVOLVES,  
& **IMPROVES**  
OURSELVES & OUR AUDIENCE.

*for more information...*

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