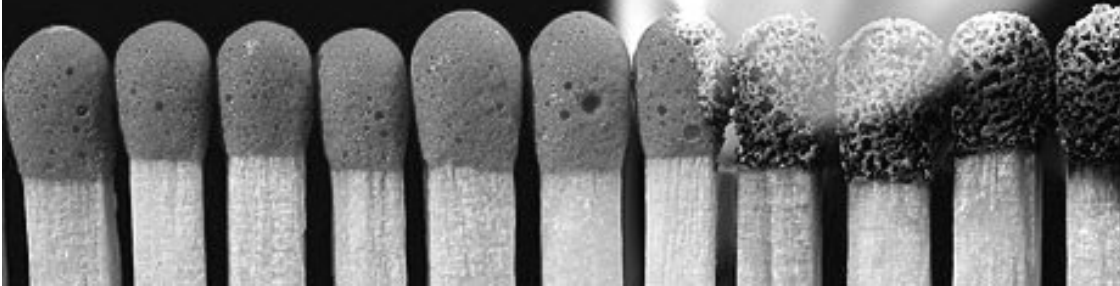


LEON THEATRE PRESENTS

# THE ARSONISTS

A MORAL PLAY WITHOUT A MORAL  
BY MAX FRISCH  
IN A NEW TRANSLATION  
BY ALISTAIR BEATON



“ONE THING IS CLEAR:  
IF YOU WANT TO FEEL COZY AND SAFE,  
THIS ISN'T THE PLAY FOR YOU.  
BUT IF YOU WANT TO FACE  
THE UNCERTAINTY OF OUR TIMES,  
THIS PLAY IS PERFECT.”

STEPHANIE HOUSE (MD THEATRE GUIDE)

FEB. 23 7PM & FEB. 24, 2018 3PM & 7PM  
@ THE LEON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

[WWW.LEONTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.LEONTHEATRE.COM)

# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

One reason why I love *The Arsonists* so much is that it incorporates several different periods of theatre history and makes use of historical elements to add to the richness (and absurdity) of this play. This play is from the period of theatre history immediately following the two World Wars in Europe and fits into the style of ABSURDISM due to the existential angst of this time in history. Max Frisch focused on the things he had observed living in Europe during the wars and the problems of individuality, responsibility, morality, and political commitment. The cast and crew found these issues to be very relevant to things we see going on in the world around us also. I introduced this play to the students by reading the timeline to the Penn State fraternity death last year. I found the senselessness of a young man dying in a room full of his "brothers", too busy texting each other and afraid of losing their fraternity status to call for help, to be especially relevant and poignant to the themes of this play. I am hoping this play encourages us all to be the STRONG TREES standing up to prevailing STRONG WINDS of our culture and communities.

This play brings in the use of a GREEK CHORUS of Firefighters. A Greek Chorus was used in Ancient Greek Theatre to be the voice of the audience, to say what the audience should be thinking and guide the understanding of the play. We chose to bring our chorus of firefighters from out of the audience to emphasize this allegiance with the audience. We also made the chorus a real "audience" to the events happening in the Biedermann household. They are the "watchers and not doers" of our culture. They represent Facebook commenters/tweeters/outraged voices shouting about what is happening, but never doing anything tangible to stop the events.

Next, Frisch calls this "a moral play without a moral" and names his main character, Biedermann, which translates to "Everyman." *Everyman* is the most well-known MORALITY PLAY from Medieval Theatre History. Everyman is summoned by Death to appear before God. Everyman tries to take all his friend, family, riches, and other worldly items with him. In the end, only his Good Deeds go with him to Heaven. So Biedermann as our Everyman is also summoned in this play. But as we come to see, he has no "good deeds" to accompany him anywhere. Thus the "moral play without a moral" or happy ending. Note that Frisch's original play he included an Afterpiece that is not a part of this version we are performing. In this Afterpiece, Biedermann and his wife are in the afterlife (and not the good place.) Biedermann is trying to convince his wife that they are in heaven when it is clear they are not in Heaven. He says that everyone he knows is in heaven, even his lawyer is in heaven, so why wouldn't they be? He is still unwilling to look at the truth of his situation. Unlike the medieval Everyman, no moral lessons are learned by Biedermann. Thus, our moral play is without a moral.

Frisch even gives a hat tip to SHAKESPEARE with a ghost at the table. In *Macbeth*, Banquo's ghost visits the table, that ghost is only seen by the guilty Macbeth. Perhaps that is why EVERYONE at the table sees this "ghost", they all share the guilt of these events. Also sharing the guilt are the firefighters, and all who just watch and make comments, instead of act when we see evil happening in front of our own eyes ...

# THANK YOU NOTES...

**My incredible Assistant Director, Kelsey Gilmore.** Her vision and ability to articulate and energize the cast took this production to another level. Nothing on that stage would be as interesting or as cohesive without her talent and kindness. She couldn't audition for the show because she had a Student Government trip during a crucial rehearsal time, but she wanted to be involved any way that she could. That is a true artist and ensemble member. That is Kelsey Gilmore.

**The Haisten family:** Costumes, Sewing Skills, Intermission Snacks, & Support!

**The Turknnett Family/Burrito Boarder:** Provided a DELICIOUS Cast/Crew Dinner

**Raa Middle School:** Costumes

**The Corven Family:** maps & blueprints

**Mike Mock:** Set Builder Genius (and not laughing out loud at my set drawings)

**Laura McArthur:** Set Dressing Skills

**Mr. Epting, Ms. Hembree, Ms. Hedrington, & Mr. Ardley, and the entire Leon Performing Arts Family and Leon Staff:** It takes a village to put on a play. Thanks for being my village. We know that every village needs an idiot, I am happy to be yours.

**Ms. Peck and the Theatre Techies:** Y'all make the stage/sound/light magic happen. I am grateful and always in awe of your skills!

**Leon Thespian Troupe #1429:** #checkthewebsite and thank you for being my strong trees. Your care for our Troupe and Leon Theatre is inspirational!

**Cast/Crew Parents:** You drive, you bring snacks, you support your students (and Leon Theatre) in HUGE ways! You are the real MVP's!

# AND PLEASE TAKE NOTE...

Even though we use a lot of PROP cigarettes, cigars, and wine in this production, they are just that, PROPS. No actual cigarettes, cigars, wine bottle were purchased or used by our students. They look very real at times (almost too real for Mrs. Marshall's comfort level.) Please know that our intent was in no way to glorify or exalt unhealthy choices for our students (or our audience.) It is our sincere hope that we all learn lessons from the choices made by the characters in this play to make STRONG choices that improve our own lives and the lives of all in our community.

# ARSONISTS CAST

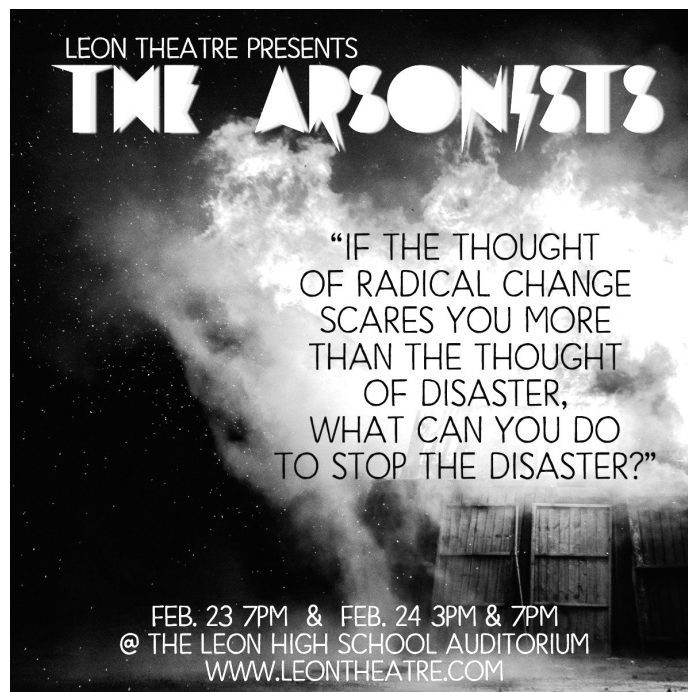
GOTTLIEB BIEDERMANN: TAIT TREADWELL  
BABETTE BIEDERMANN: AUTUMN MAXWELL  
ANNA, THE MAID: KENARA BROWN

JOSEF "JOE" SCHMITZ: TAVEION MICKENS  
WILLIAM "BILLY" EISENRING: JOHN MALLEY

POLICE OFFICER/CHORUS: EDDIE EDGERSON  
MRS. KNECHTLING: MACKENZIE GEIGER  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY: JAMIE MARTINEZ

FIREFIGHTER CHIEFS:  
TIA, HUETTEL, DEVIN KIMBER, & ZIRA BROWN

FIREFIGHTERS:  
PRESLEY ALLEN, CATE BILBREY, EMMA BRYSON, EDDIE EDGERSON,  
MACKENZIE GEIGER, MORGAN HARDENBURG, JORDAN JACKSON,  
MARY NEEL, GENESIS NERYS, SAM SCRIVEN, EVAN TREADWELL, MAGGIE WATSON



# PRODUCTION STAFF

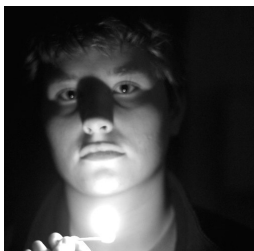
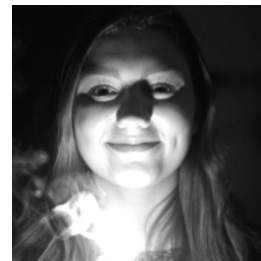
DIRECTOR	LEA MARSHALL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	KELSEY GILMORE
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	MIKE MOCK
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTORS	CAITLYN BURKE & AMELIA COOPER
SCENIC DESIGNER	MIKE MOCK
LIGHTING DESIGNER	AMELIA COOPER
SOUND DESIGNER	CADEN WESSNER
COSTUME DESIGN TEAM	CLAIRE HAISTEN, MALORI WALLACE, MOIRA SHOFFSTALL
MAKE-UP/HAIR DESIGN	CAITLYN BURKE
PRODUCTION MANAGER	ETHAN BIGELOW
STAGE MANAGER	AJZONEE WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	NAYLEN EASTERLING
CONSTRUCTION CREW	AMELIA COOPER, CADEN WESSNER, CAITLYN BURKE, ETHAN BIGELOW, JADA BASHE, TAIT TREADWELL, JOHN MALLEY, CARLIN QUINNELL
LIGHT OPERATOR	AMELIA COOPER
SOUND OPERATOR	CADEN WESSNER
PROPS	ASHLEY CAMPBELL, MADISON GEIGER
COSTUME MANAGER	DESTINEE EAVES, ISABEL BARTON
MAKE-UP/HAIR	GRACE LENGACHER, MIA FORD-GREEN, CECILIA MALLEY, ABBIGAIL SPROUL
MARKETING	FRAN LAGOS, ASHLEY CAMPBELL
BOX OFFICE MANAGER	ASHLEY CAMPBELL, AHMAD DARALDIK
HOUSE MANAGER	LANDON COLES, GRACE LENGACHER
CONCESSIONS	PEYTON MERLAU, JESSICA JOHNSON, MIA FORD-GREEN, MORGAN HARDENBURG, TIA HUETTEL, MALORI WALLACE
USHERS	ANNA SANNWALD, EVAN TREADWELL, FINLEA MCARTHUR, CECILIA MALLEY, MOIRA SHOFFSTALL, ASHLEY CAMPBELL, JADA BASHE

# CAST/CREW BIOS



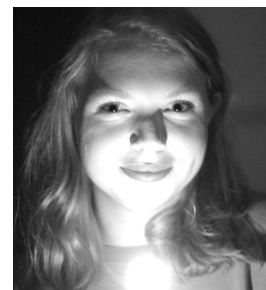
**Presley Allen** (Firefighter Chorus) is a freshman at Leon High School and is in her second show at Leon! She was last seen in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* where she played the coveted role of “woman holding a candle in that one scene” so going from that to playing a firefighter just made logical sense. She would like to thank her parents for teaching her that fire is bad and Mrs. Marshall for the chance to light matches in people’s faces for the headshots in this program. She would also like to thank her “nug” Wyatt and Cecilia Malley for writing her this incredible bio.

**Isabel Barton** (Costume Manager) is a freshman at Leon High School. She previously performed in the summer production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Leon High School and was Rosemary Fezziwig in a local production of *A Christmas Carol*. She was also Amber Von Tussle in *Hairspray Jr.* and Ti Moune in *Once On This Island Jr.*



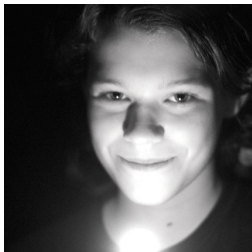
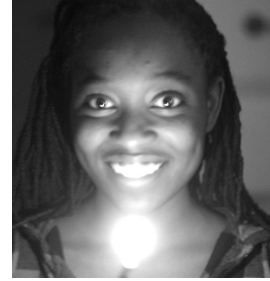
**Jada Bashe** (Construction Crew) is a freshman involved with Thespians, Peace Jam, and GSA. I’m in Theater 2 and love learning about all the different aspects from performing to tech. I’ve performed with Maclay and Raa with various productions and I’m really excited to see ideas become reality on stage in *The Arsonists*.

**Cate Bilbrey** (Firefighter Chorus) is a sophomore. This is her second Leon production. She is an inducted Thespian and Model UN treasurer. She would like to thank her family, friends, and the greatest, Lea Marshall.



**Kenara Brown** (Anna) is currently in 11th grade at Leon High School. She is in Mrs. Marshall’s 3/4 Honors Class and her other passions are art and chorus. This is her 5th theatrical performance on Leon’s stage and her 1st time in a major role. She would like to thank Mrs. Marshall for giving her this big opportunity and her mom for supporting her with everything she does.

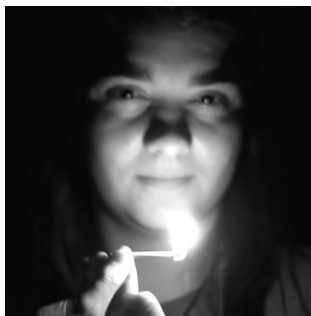
**Zira Brown** (Fire chief) is a senior and is so grateful to be a part of Thespians. It's been her lifelong dream to be a part of a family who loves and supports you no matter what. She's been in theatre for all of her high school experience, so she's definitely gotten to know everyone thoroughly. Her favorite thing about theatre is getting to hang out with friends for hours on end and just laugh with and at them. Theatre is so important to her. She hopes to continue it when she graduates!



**Emma Bryson** (Firefighter Chorus) is a 9th grader who is an aspiring Thespian. After coming to Leon, she jumped right into the theatrical arts and has loved every minute of it. As her first official time in a play she is ecstatic. She would like to thank her parents and Drama Mama Kelsey Gilmore who has helped her become a better actress and been super supportive.

GOOD LUCK EMMA ON YOUR 1ST SHOW- I'M SO PROUD! LOVE, MOM

**Caitlyn Burke** (Assistant Technical Director/Make-Up & Hair Design/Construction Crew) is a junior at Leon High School and devotes her life to Leon Theatre. Along with the fourteen Broadway productions she has been in/worked on, Caitlyn has been in nearly every Leon production. Caitlyn is currently single and looking for a job. If you are interested please contact (850)-867-5309. She would like to thank all her friends and family for being patient with her during tech week and thank Ashley Campbell because she didn't get mad when this bio was late.



**Ashley Campbell** (Props Master/Marketing Manager/Box Office Manager) is a junior at Leon High School where she is involved in the Student Government, Thespian Honor Society, Pierian Honor Society, Key Club, Melodears, and Capital Singers. She returned from a year abroad in Marienheide and Loope, Germany, where she became a certified fluent speaker, and she made her German theatre debut in TenSing Marienheide's self-written show Catch Me If You Can (Mellie). Locally, she has most recently performed in Leon High School's Steel Magnolias (Shelby),

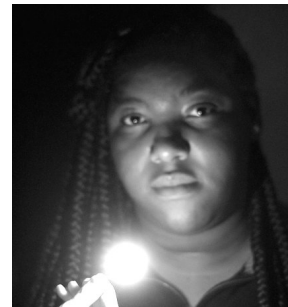
**(Ashley Campbell** continued) The Little Mermaid (Oceanette), and Harvey (Mrs. Chumley) as well as Quincy Music Theatre's Pirates of Penzance (General's Ward). She is having a great time learning about what goes into putting on a show behind the scenes, and would like to thank Mrs. Marshall and the cast and crew for making this such a memorable experience. Special thanks to her family for putting up with her many theatrical shenanigans.

**Amelia Cooper** works as the Assistant Technical Director, Light Designer, and Master Electrician for The Arsonists. This is her third time Light Designing for a Leon show, recent productions being Steel Magnolias and To Kill a Mockingbird. She is a member of three different choirs here at Leon, the most distinctive being Capital Singers. Amelia is a paid professional doing technical theatre work at FSU's Ruby Diamond Concert Hall and she plans on pursuing a BFA in Technical Theatre Design and Production. She has earned the rank of an International Honor Thespian and Amelia is a nominee for the Best and Brightest scholarship representing the category, Dramatics and performing arts, being the First Theatre Technician to represent Leon High school.



**Naylen Easterling** (Assistant Stage Manager) is the daughter of Katherine Easterling and Adam Perry and is stage managing her first show at Leon. She has previously performed with Pas De Vie Ballet in The Nutcracker and Spotlight on Dance, as well as with Jr. Thespians (Magnolia School and Raa Middle School) in Mungojerrie and Rumpleteaser, Skid Marks, A Play About Driving, Macbeth, Salvador Dali At The Beach, and others. She has also performed as Mrs. Meers in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Irena Synkova in I Never Saw Another Butterfly and White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland. She is also a singer/songwriter and has performed in various Tallahassee venues. She has received multiple awards at both District and State Thespian competitions. She would like to thank Mrs. Lea Marshall and Mrs. Paige Brey for encouraging her love for theatre. She would also like to thank Max Brey, Mia Pesta and the Theatre Arts Staff at Leon High School for all of the constructive suggestions they have made to help her improve.

**Destinee Eaves** (Costume Manager) is a senior in high school and is heavily involved with Thespians. She loves what she does and she also wants to thank her former and present theatre teachers and her current theatre pals for pushing her over and beyond.



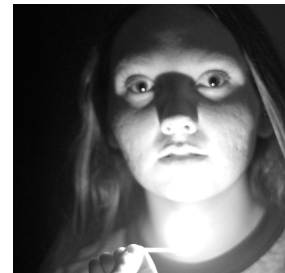


**Eddie Edgeron** (Police Officer/Firefighter Chorus) is a sophomore. Last year he played Tom Robinson in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. He'd like to thank Mrs. Marshall for allowing him to be a part of the theatre community and to everyone who supports him.



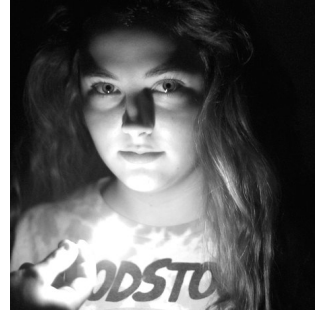
**Mia Ford-Green** (Make-Up/Hair/Concessions) is a Junior and this will be her seventh show at Leon. Leon was a part of *Prospect High: Brooklyn*, *Antigone*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Steel Magnolias*. Mia is heavily involved in *Thespians* and she would like to thank her former theatre teachers for pushing her to step out of her comfort zone to do the best she can on stage.

**Mackenzie Geiger** (Mrs. Ketchling/Firefighter Chorus) is a sophomore, and this is her second production with Leon High School. She made her theatre debut last spring in *To Kill A Mockingbird* as Ms. Maudie Atkinson. She wishes to thank Mrs. Marshall for the opportunity to be in this show and her parents for the rides to and from practice.



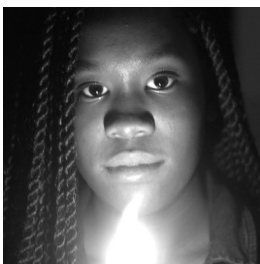
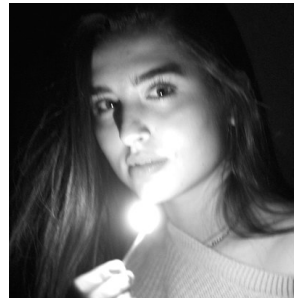
**Kelsey Gilmore** (Assistant Director) is a senior at Leon High School active in Rho Kappa, Student Government, Debate Team, Spanish Honor Society, Ladies of Distinction, Science National Honor Society, African American Culture Club, and El Cid. Kelsey has been a part of a numerous amount of productions at Leon including *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn), *Harvey* (Veta Louise Simmons/Marguerite), *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Calpurnia), *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Gypsy/Thief), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Oberon), *Antigone* (Teresaus Chorus), *Prospect High: Brooklyn* (Rachel), and *Dearly Departed* (Marguerite), as well as *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle) at Ruedigar Elementary, and *School* (The Matron) at Quincy Music Theatre. Kelsey has participated and been a proud member of *Thespians* Troupe 1429 and has received the honor of "Best in Show" for her contrasting monologues from *Fences* and *It Had To Be You*. She would like to thank her parents and all of her theatre teachers and mentors.

**Claire Haisten** (Costume Design) is a sophomore at Leon High School and this is her second show at Leon! She previously monogrammed a nightgown for Steel Magnolias and is thrilled to have the chance to expand her horizons. She worked tirelessly to make all the firefighter jackets and has a newfound respect for those that make them for real. She would like to thank her four dogs (except Junior), her parents for teaching her not to play with fire, and Cecilia Malley for writing her bio.



**Morgan Hardenburg** (Firefighter Chorus) is a sophomore and this is her second performance with Leon. She first made her debut in To Kill A Mockingbird as Ms. Stephanie Crawford. She would like to thank her mom, her grandma, and her boyfriend, Jonathan, as well as her supportive friends.

**Tia Heuttel** (Fire Chief) has been acting since first grade in which she played the role of 'piglet #3' in Fairy Tale Florenza. Her notable achievements include placing third in the 6th grade Fairview Middle School Spelling Bee and eating an entire block of cheddar in one sitting. She will probably be rich and famous when she is older. Tia would like to dedicate her performance to Bernie Sanders.



**Jordan Jackson** (Firefighter Chorus) has been involved in theatre since she was in elementary school. Her love for theatre has grown while taking Mrs. Marshall's theatre class over the years. Jordan dedicates her involvement in The Arsonists to her mom for igniting her love for acting.

**Devin Kimber** (Fire Chief) is a Theater 3 student and a member of the National Thespian Honor Society. He has participated in several shows including Willy Wonka, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and To Kill A Mockingbird. He would like to thank his teacher for always having a plan and for listening to all of his crazy symbolic ideas, as well as his girlfriend for constant encouragement and helping him memorize lines. He hopes you enjoy the show!



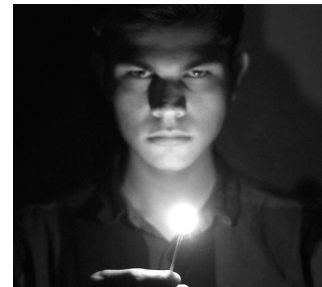
**Grace Lengacher** (House Manager/Make-Up/Hair) is a senior and this is her second time doing hair and makeup for Leon Theatre this year. She is the current President of Leon's Thespian Troupe and, when she isn't busy glamming up actors, she herself often performs. She has had several principle roles in the recent Leon Summer Musicals and plans to continue her musical career by pursuing a vocal performance degree.



**Cecilia Malley** (Make-Up/Hair) is the daughter of Paul and Almira Malley. This is her first time working a technical aspect of a show and she is very excited to explore this new area of Theatre! She would like to thank her family, Mrs. Marshall and the rest of the cast and crew of The Arsonists! She would also like to remind John that even though he is playing an Arsonist...please do not burn our house down.

SO PROUD OF ALL YOUR HARD WORK, CECILIA! LOVE, MOM AND DAD

**John Malley** (Eisenring) is a sophomore (technically. Mentally he can reach 70 years old at times.) He has previously been seen on the Leon stage at Dom Claude Frollo in The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Atticus Finch in To Kill A Mockingbird. He is also a part of the Leon Thespian Troupe. Additionally, he is very involved in Leon Chorus, being a member of Concert Chorale and Capital Singers, and the bass section leader for Mane Events. John is very thrilled to be a part of this fantastic show, and would like to thank Mrs. Marshall and the entire Arsonists cast and crew for helping him improve throughout this process, Kelsey Gilmore for breaking him, his friends, family, and Grace for all their love and support.

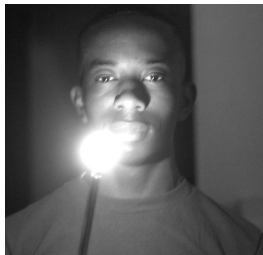


WAY TO SET THE STAGE ON FIRE, JOHN! LOVE, MOM AND DAD



**Jamie Martinez** (Doctor of Philosophy) is a senior at Leon. She was in To Kill A Mockingbird last year at Leon as well as Peter Pan at Raa Middle School. She was the best Crocodile ever (says Mrs. Marshall.) She wishes to thank Mrs. Marshall for this opportunity to play another dream role!

**Autumn Maxwell** (Babette Bidermann) is a senior who has participated in Thespians since her freshman year. She is the Thespians Troupe 1429 secretary and student director of Melodears. She previously appeared in Steel Magnolias as Annelle, Dearly Departed as Juanita (Understudy), and in the ensemble of Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. She would like to thank her boyfriend, friends, and family for their support, love, and patience. She would also like to thank the cast and crew for giving her such an amazing last show at Leon!



**Taveion Mickens** (Schmitz) has been in numerous plays here at Leon, ex. Harvey, Prospect High, To Kill A Mockingbird, and many others. He is a 4th year cadet and Executive Officer "XO" in Leon's MCJROTC program. He is also a 4th year Thespian at Leon.

**Mary Neel** (Firefighter Chorus), a freshman at Leon High School, is excited for her first Leon performance! She has performed in Seussical Jr. as a Who and a soloist in Broadway Bound, among others. She'd love to thank her mom for encouraging her to go for what she wants, her dad for always being there for support, and her grandmother, who shares her love of the arts. Her sister is okay.

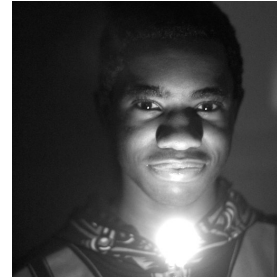


**Genesis Nerys** (Firefighter Chorus), she's a freshman at Leon High School. She has previously been seen in Thoroughly Modern Millie and Willy Wonka Jr. at Raa Middle School. This is her first performance at Leon High School and she plans to be in more throughout her years. She is a Thespian in Troupe 1429. She would like to thank her mom, Tami Wynn, for encouraging her to always aspire to do what she dreams.

GENESIS: CONGRATS FOR PUTTING ON AN EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE. GREAT JOB! MOM

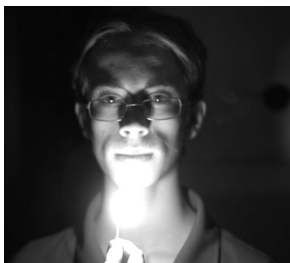
**Moira Shoffstall** (Costume Design), starting when she was young, she became a lover of music and art. She initially entered theatre to participate in a school play for kicks, but soon found she enjoyed performing. This led to her love of singing and creating costumes for the plays and musicals she participated in.

**Sam Scriven** (Firefighter Chorus), a freshman at Leon High School, has had numerous accomplishments in his past. Some of these include winning his 8th grade classroom spelling bee, graduating from the fifth grade with all Satisfactory Marks, and memorizing 12 minutes of The Lion King. In his free time, Sam enjoys inhaling oxygen, exhaling carbon dioxide, and undergoing cellular respiration. Sam's biggest role models are Doctor Doolittle and Tia Huettel, and he hopes to one day join King Arthur at the round table.



**Abbigail Sproul** (Make-Up/Hair) is the daughter of Michelle and Charlie Sproul. She is thrilled to be a part of her very first show at Leon and to be a part of the makeup team! She would like to thank her parents, her sister, her cat, and most of all Cecilia Malley, her very very bestest friend who wrote her this bio because she forgot.

**Evan Treadwell** (Firefighter Chorus) is a freshman and an active Thespian. He is also in Rebus Gestis (Latin Club). This is his first show at Leon.

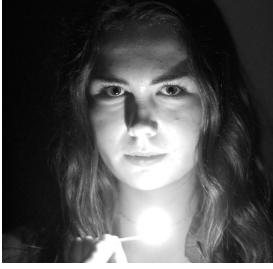


**Tait Treadwell** (Gottlieb Bidermann) is a junior and active Thespian. He previously played Dill in To Kill A Mockingbird and Aggelos in Antigone. He'd like to thank Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Meis for being huge inspirations, and his family for always putting up with him, and the cast and crew, y'all were wonderful to work with.

TAIT & EVAN, WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU! BONAM FORTUNAM!

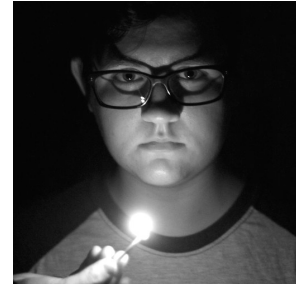
**Malori Wallace** (Costume Design) is a senior and in Theatre IV. She has competed in Thespian festival four years in a row for her costume design. She was in several shows at Leon including To Kill A Mockingbird as Scout and Steel Magnolias as Shelby. She would like to thank her parents for teaching her not to touch fire, her boo, Devin, for being her boo, her dogs Sprite and Tink, her friends for actually believing her when she said she was a senior, and her best friend Cecilia Malley for writing her bio.





**Maggie Watson** (Firefighter Chorus) is a sophomore, and *The Arsonists* is her first Leon production. She is also involved in the Leon Thespian Troupe, chorus, Fashion Club, Model United Nations, Peace Jam, and is a member of the Leon swim team. She would like to thank her directors, the cast and crew, God, and her family and friends.

**Caden Wessner** (Sound Design & Operation/Construction Crew) is thrilled to be working as the sound designer on his third show for Leon Theatre. Most recently he was Jem in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, a soldier in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, in the ensemble of *Anything Goes* at QMT, and was Stage Manager and Sound Designer for *Steel Magnolias*. He would like to thank his family, his teachers, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Peck, and Mr. Pursino, and his pets Simba, Bob, and Ross.



**Ajonzee Williams** (Stage Manager) loves theatre. She has been involved in it since ninth grade. One reason why she joined is because her best friend encouraged her to do it. This being her last year, she just wants to thank you for all the support towards Leon's Theatre Department.



THESE ACTORS (AND CREW) MAKE ME PROUD TO BE A TEACHER AND DIRECTOR.  
THANK YOU FOR TELLING THIS VERY DIFFICULT & ABSURDLY REAL STORY.  
THANK YOU FOR BEING STRONG TREES STANDING AGAINST STRONG WINDS.

# DESIGN NOTES...

The inspiration for the Biedermann house began when I saw a red round couch at a local thrift store. WHO HAS A ROUND COUCH?!?!? I was drawn to the circular shape because Absurdist plots are usually circular plot lines that never resolve or have character change. Plus it just seemed like a couch the Biedermanns would have in their house, right? That sparked (ha) the idea of everything in the Biedermann house being round. The circular furnishings seem to aptly symbolize the Biedermann's self interest ("at least it isn't our house.") and the idea that a fire needs wood (typically round shaped logs) to burn. I also went with the glass and silver theme for the house to give it a modern feel but not place it distinctly in one time period. I liked the idea of glass being created with fire and silver being refined by fire.

Then in contrast to all the round furnishings, the structure around their house is made up of jagged triangular angles, like the flames of a fire reaching up to the sky. And everything is off set, just a bit. Everything is not quite perfect, linear, or squared up correctly, because this is an Absurdist play and nothing should be at squared right angles.

The "mirrored" wall in the dining room was inspired by the Netflix show, Abstract: the Art of Design. In one episode, a designer used mirrored walls for a concert set so the audience could see themselves as a part of the show. I loved that idea for this show and it also paired nicely with The Arsonists as a reflection of society. And don't the Biedermanns seem like people with a mirrored dining room wall? I think they would enjoy watching their fine dining in duplicate every night. One unintentional effect was that the mirrored wall gives the Biedermann's dinner party a fun house feel. Which seems again to be a fitting design choice because it is a very circus like scene. The entire set is reminiscent of a three ring circus with the firefighters over in ring one, the Biedermann parlor for ring two, and the dining room as ring three. But who is the Ringmaster of this event? Is it Biedermann, or the Arsonists, could it be fate, or individual choices? Let the show begin...



OUR THEME FOR LEON THEATRE THIS YEAR IS STRONG WIND, STRONG TREES  
WHICH IS EXPRESSED SO PERFECTLY BY THE LINES FROM THIS POEM...

## GOOD TIMBER BY DOUGLAS MALLOCH

GOOD TIMBER DOES NOT GROW WITH EASE:  
THE STRONGER WIND, THE STRONGER TREES;  
THE FURTHER SKY, THE GREATER LENGTH;  
THE MORE THE STORM, THE MORE THE STRENGTH.  
BY SUN AND COLD, BY RAIN AND SNOW,  
IN TREES AND MEN GOOD TIMBERS GROW.

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