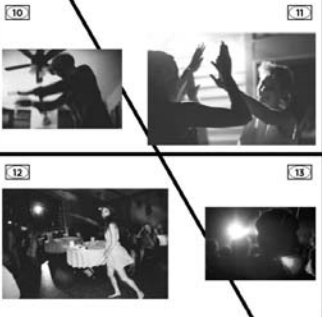


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9TH ANNUAL FRESHMAN SHOWCASE THE MONKEY KING

A World Premiere Devised Performance

DECEMBER 3 - 6, 2015
ARENA THEATRE



9TH ANNUAL FRESHMAN SHOWCASE
THE MONKEY KING

A World Premiere Devised Performance

DIRECTED BY
DERIC MCNISH

CAST

Narrator	Savannah Burbank
Young Monkey King	Evan Phillips
Sun Wukong, The Monkey King	Evan Houdek
Zhu Bajie, The Pig	Ben Bland
Young Pig	Grant Cleaveland
Sha Wujing, The Fish	Elizabeth Sauter
Young Fish, Subhodi	Ian Klahre
Yama, Goddess of Death	Brooke Lys
Jade Emperor	Bailey Davis
Chang'e, The Moon Goddess	Mickey Kost
Guanyin, Goddess of Compassion	Natalie Porretta
Green Orchid	Tammy Zhou
Green Orchid's Father	Salvatore Chimenti
Skeleton Woman	Beth Hendrickson
Tripitaka	Cuauhtemoc Vargas
Skeleton Woman's Skins	Kristina Bozin, Isabella Stenz, Raied Jawhari
Peach Girls	Brooke Bloomfield, Shelby Grace Claudia Caceres
Guards	Raied Jawhari, Salvatore Chimenti
Queen of Fertility Kingdom	Jennifer Semaan
Women of Fertility Kingdom	Isabella Stenz, Beth Hendrickson, Brooke Bloomfield, Claudia Caceres, Emma Klatt, Laura Moore, Mickey Kost, Kristina Bogin
Spider Sisters	Brooke Bloomfield, Jennifer Semaan Tammy Zhou, Delaney Klein, Emma Klatt Mickey Kost, Castille Nieri, Laura Moore
Demons	Jennifer Semaan, Delaney Klein Beth Hendrickson, Mickey Kost Emma Klatt, Castille Nieri
Death Girls	Delaney Klein, Shelby Grace

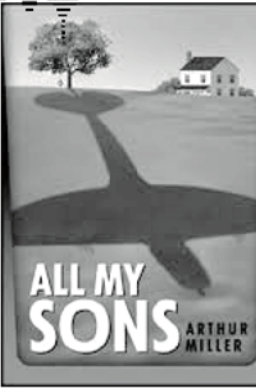
.....
The Monkey King will run approximately 60 minutes with no intermission

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**Gripping
 Drama by
 Arthur Miller
 Directed by
 Bob Robinson**



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LIST OF SCENES

1. Introduction to Monkey King
2. Peach Festival
3. Introduction to Monk
4. Introduction to Pig
5. Continuing the Journey/Encountering Young Monkey
6. Introduction to Fish
7. Fertility Kingdom
8. Campfire Scene
9. Skeleton Woman
10. Fish Comforts Monkey
11. The Four Encounter the Spider Sisters
12. Monkey Argues With Himself
13. Killing the Spider Sister
14. Spider Sisters' Lair
15. Finale

WHEN ENTERING THE THEATRE:

Please silence all cell phones, mobile devices, alarm watches and anything that makes noise. Flash photography is strictly prohibited.

Please be advised: The performance will feature strobe lights.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We are in the thick of MSU's themed "Year of China," an exploration of arts and culture meant to deepen cultural awareness, enrich the student experience, engage the community, and enhance global inclusiveness. This play is the Department of Theatre's contribution to this initiative and it has been a profound experience for all involved. *Journey to the West* is one of China's most well-known pieces of classic literature. We began by exploring this story, not only from its source, but also by inviting the wealth of international students at MSU to visit our rehearsals and share stories about these beloved characters. Through this outreach, we got not only a sense of the story and culture, but some new cast members! We welcomed Master Qi Shu Fang's Peking Opera Company to MSU for a residency funded by a "Creating Inclusive Excellence Grant" from the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Activities, in partnership with the English Language Center and the Department of Theatre. They staged some of the scenes you will see today and conducted a workshop on acting, makeup, and combat. This devised Freshman Showcase is truly a global product and an incredible example of cross-cultural learning and collaboration.

-Deric McNish

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

The story of *The Monkey King* dates back as far as four hundred years. The tale, is in fact, based on a true story of a famous monk: Xuan Zang of the Chinese Tang Dynasty (602-644). After a decade of numerous trials and tribulations, Xuan Zang arrived in India, the birthplace of Buddhism. *The Monkey King* is a whimsical rendition of Xuan Zang's journey using Chinese superstitions, fables, popular beliefs — anything the unknown author could find in Taoist, Buddhist, and Chinese religions. Adults and children alike could connect to the Monkey King because of his rebellious spirit. The ape protagonist embodied what the author was trying to convey: a rebellious spirit that must, at some point, realize his wrongs.

Throughout this production, you will hear many of the characters speak of enlightenment. Enlightenment, the Buddhist term and concept, is used to denote insight *prajna*, *kensho*, and *satori*; knowledge (*vidhya*), and the *nirvana* of distributing emotions and desires. It is the subsequent freedom or release to attain Buddhahood. The main reason for becoming enlightened is the ceasing of a personal craving and creation of a personal liberation. No one finds enlightenment the same way, because every individual is different. You will see how the characters in the story of *The Monkey King* differ, displaying how their journey to their enlightenment will vary. They may be traveling the same journey, but their emotional and mental journeys will not. On behalf of the entire cast, we hope you enjoy our production of *The Monkey King*.

-Claudia Caceres

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUEST ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Supported in part by a Creating Inclusive Excellence Grant from the MSU Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives.



QI SHU FANG



YINGXI REN



DING MEI KUI



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We would like to express our gratitude to the following donors who have generously supported the Department of Theatre by contributing during the past year to the Friends of Theatre and/or to the Gala in 2015 celebrating 55 Years of Summer Circle Theatre. If we have inadvertently left your name off this list, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we may make the correction as this list is current for donations processed as of 11/5/15.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

danced for 16. Her favorite roles have been Tootles in *Peter Pan* and Go to Hell Kitty in *Chicago*. She has trained on Circus Lyras with Starfish Circus Company, and has performed a dance for the Pistons. She hopes to gain skill with working with actors as a choreographer in this show. Castille would like to thank her family for always supporting her in every way. "Break legs my fellow Thespians! Xoxo!"

LORENA NDOKAJ (*Lighting Designer*) – Sterling Heights MI; Freshman, BFA Design. Lorena is excited to be a part of this wonderful production and help tell the story of the Monkey King through technical elements! She thanks her friends, family, and Netflix for their endless support.

NATALIE PORRETTA (*Guanyin*) – Dearborn Heights, MI; Freshman, BFA Acting. Natalie is thankful that she has this opportunity. The process of *The Monkey King* has been challenging and unique. The show is inspiring, funny and entertaining. Natalie would like to thank all of her new friends for making this experience an incredible one!

EVAN PHILLIPS (*Assistant Media Designer, Young Monkey King*) – Belleville, MI; Freshman, BFA Acting. Evan had a great time working with his fellow freshmen on a show that took a ton of hard work to create. Evan would like to thank his Mom, Dad and Nana for all of the love and support they have given him throughout the years.

ELIZABETH SAUTER (*Sha Wujing, Choreographer*) – Allendale, MI; Freshman, Arts and Humanities. Elizabeth recently starred as Turtle Wexler in Allendale High's production of *The Westing Game*. She has also been in numerous other shows, including *Anne of Green Gables*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Fools*. She enjoyed meeting everyone during this production and is grateful for having the chance to work on such a great show.

JENNIFER SEMAAN (*Queen of Fertility Kingdom, Spider Sister*) – Macomb Township, MI; Freshman, BFA Acting and Lyman Briggs. *The Monkey King* is a fun, upbeat show with wonderful people working on it.

CARLISLE SHELSON (*Stage Manager*) – Jackson, MS; Sophomore, Theatre and English. Transplanted southerner, braving her first Michigan winter. Last seen in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Watchman) at Columbia University. She sends her long-distance love to her family— thanks for just going with it, y'all.

ISABELLA STENZ (*Woman #3, Old Lady Skin, Music Director*) – Washington Township, MI; Freshman, Psychology major and Musical Theatre minor. Isabella is beyond excited to be a part of this amazing production. This is the 20th show she's performed in. She most recently played Mrs. Banks in *Mary Poppins*, and Agent 99 in *Get Smart*. She'd like to thank Deric for allowing her to be a part of this amazing experience.

CUAUHTEMOC VARGAS (*Scenic Designer, Tripitaka*) – Adrian, MI; Freshman, Theatre and Spanish. He is really excited to be a part of his first college show and to explore his passion for set design. He would like to thank his friends and family who supported him.

LUCY JANE WAGENAAR (*Costume Designer*) – Grand Rapids, MI; Freshman, Theatre and RCAH. Lucy was costume crew for FHC's *Willy Wonka* and costume crew head for their productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Leading Ladies*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. She just finished working on MSU's *Stage Door* and has volunteered in several costume shops including MSU's. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her and making sure she doesn't go too insane.

TAMMY ZHOU (*Green Orchid, Spider Sister, Hair and Makeup*) – China; Freshman. Tammy is delighted to be a part of *The Monkey King* because she has made so many friends.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager.....	Carlisle Shelson
Assistant Directors.....	Savannah Burbank, Bailey Davis, Ian Klahre, Brooke Lys
Music Director.....	Isabella Stenz
Script Team Captain.....	Mickey Kost
Script Team.....	Ben Bland, Brooke Bloomfield, Salvatore Chimenti, Beth Hendrickson, Raied Jawhari
Scenic Design.....	Cuauhtemoc Vargas, Evan Houdek
Research Assistant.....	John Thompson
Costume Design.....	Lucy Jane Wagenaar
Lighting Design.....	Lorena Ndokaj
Sound Design.....	Grant Cleaveland, Emma Klatt
Media Design.....	Joe Lancour
Assistant Media Design.....	Evan Phillips
Properties Design.....	Gabi Martin
Choreography.....	Castille Nieri, Elizabeth Sauter
Dramaturg.....	Claudia Caceres
Marketing.....	Ben Bland, Delaney Klein
Hair/Makeup Team.....	Kristina Bozin, Shelby Grace, Tammy Zhou

FACULTY AND GRADUATE MENTORS

Directing.....	Deric McNish
Script.....	Rob Roznowski
Stage Management.....	Stef Din
Scenic and Properties Design.....	Peter Verhaeghe*
Costume Design and Hair/Makeup.....	Stephanie Eubank*
Lighting Design.....	Heather Brown*
Sound Design.....	Lee Jones*
Media Design.....	Alison Dobbins
Choreography.....	Brad Willcuts
Dramaturgy.....	Dan Smith
Marketing and Musical Directing.....	Dave Wendelberger

*Master of Fine Arts Candidate

SPECIAL EVENTS

Post-Show Discussion on Thursday, December 3, 2015 (Following the Performance)

Director Pre-Show Discussion Sunday, December 6, 2015 @ 1:15 PM

SPECIAL THANKS

Master Qi Shu Fang, Ding Mei Kui, Yingxi Ren, Dr. Cecilia Pang, Dr. Carmela Romano-Gillette, Dr. Susan Gass, MSU's Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Activities, Ryan Duda, Center for Applied Inclusive Teaching & Learning in Arts & Humanities, English Language Center

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

BEN BLAND (*Zhu Bajie, The Pig, Marketing, Script Team*) – Indianapolis, IN; Freshman, English and Professional Writing. Ben finds it hard to believe that a year ago he had little experience with real theatre, and now he's in a production at MSU. He would like to thank everyone who has encouraged him along the way from first auditions to final curtain. Special thanks to Stefanie Davis; "that's the boy."

BROOKE BLOOMFIELD (*Peach Girl, PWVI, Spider Sister, Script Team*) – Linden, MI; Freshman, English and Spanish. Brooke is a member of the Honors College. She has loved how much she has learned about acting and writing throughout this show. Brooke thanks her high school teachers and her parents for inspiring her and getting her where she is today.

KRISTINA BOZIN (*Young Woman Skin, PWVI, Hair and Makeup Team*) – Chicago, IL; Freshman, Criminal Justice. Kristina Bozin, has participated in shows on stage, backstage, and has even been an assistant director during high school. She looks forward to her first performance as a freshman here at MSU. A special thank you to the staff, family, and friends who have supported her through the years.

SAVANNAH BURBANK (*Narrator, Assistant Director*) – Center Line, MI; Freshman, Theatre. Savannah has been doing theatre for years and is very excited to direct and act in her first college show. She wants to thank her family for always believing in her (and she figures if it's in the program, they will keep it for all of its sentimental value!)

CLAUDIA CACERES (*Peach Girl, "Pregnant" Old Woman*) – Freshman, BFA Theatre. She is excited you are here! Home is wherever her lovely Navy family is stationed. Claudia has gone *Into the Woods* as Jack's Mother to travelling to Edinburgh, Scotland to perform at the Fringe Festival. Love to her family for their infinite support!

SALVATORE CHIMENTI (*Script Team, Guard*) – Rochester Hills, MI; Freshman, BFA Theatre. Salvatore has done theater throughout high school starring in many shows such as *Bullshot Crummond, Arsenic and Old Lace, and Addams Family*. Salvatore is going to Michigan State to work on many more shows throughout his college theater career.

GRANT CLEAVELAND (*Sound Design, Young Pig*) – Rochester Hills, MI; Freshman, BFA Theatre. Grant is thrilled to be sound designing and acting in *The Monkey King!* Past roles include King Sextimus in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family*, and the Lion in *The Wiz*. Grant would like to thank his friends and family, sound design mentor Lee Jones, and of course Deric McNish.

BAILEY DAVIS (*Assistant Director, Jade Emperor*) – Traverse City, MI; Freshman, BFA Acting. Recent credits include *Curtains* (Chris Belling) with Miracle Productions, *The Hobbit* (Gandalf) with Old Town Playhouse, and *The Addams Family* (Lucas Beineke) with West Senior High Theatre. Bailey would like to thank his family and friends for their support and encouragement.

SHELBY GRACE (*Peach Girl, Death Girl, Hair/Makeup*) – Vicksburg, MI; Freshman, Theatre. Shelby would like to thank her parents David and Jennifer Grace for supporting her dreams and college career.

BETH HENDRICKSON (*Script Team, Demon, Skeleton Woman, Spider Sister*) – White Lake, MI; Freshman, Zoology and Theatre. This is Beth's first production at MSU. She is a member of the Honors College. Her most recent shows include Peter in *Peter Pan*, the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Veta Simmons in *Harvey*. In her spare time, Beth can be found eating at the cafeteria in Snyder-Phillips with Gabi Martin. She is so proud of everyone in the cast and crew for all of the hard work they have put into this show and she hopes you will enjoy it.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

EVAN HOUDEK (*The Monkey King, Sun Wukong, Scenic Designer*) – West Bloomfield, MI; Freshman, BFA Acting. Evan has had an unforgettable experience devising this show with his fellow first years and is very proud of the work everyone has put into it. Recent show credits include *You Can't Take it With You, The Mousetrap*, and the recent MSU Student Production of *No Exit*. He wants to thank his family and friends for their support and hopes that they will enjoy the show!!

RAIED JAWHARI (*Guard, Script Team*) – Fenton, MI; Freshman, Theatre. Thanks to his family for always being so supportive.

IAN KLAHRE (*Young Fish, Subhodi, Assistant Director*) – Alma, MI; Freshman, BFA Theatre. Ian was a four year member of Fremont High School Theatre where he played such parts as a caterpillar, a mother of the bride, and a deranged actor in search of a comeback. He also directed two shows in that time. Special thanks go to his father, Michael, for fostering his love for theatre and demonstrating that it was okay to pursue a career as an actor.

EMILY (EMMA) KLATT (*Actor, Assistant Sound Designer*) – Grand Ledge, MI; Sophomore, Theatre. Emily has been acting since she was a little girl, and she always knew she wanted to pursue it as a career. Her most recent theatre credits include: *Beauty and the Beast* (Chorus), *Les Misérables* (Mme. Thernardier), and *Phantom of the Opera* (Chorus) to name a few. She would like to thank her family for always supporting her in everything she does.

DELANEY KLEIN (*Death Girl, Spider Sister*) – Leland, MI; Freshman, Theatre. Her past credits include, *Sweeney Todd* as Mrs. Lovett, *Into the Woods* as Florida, *Peter Pan* as Wendy, and much more. She would like to thank her amazing cast and crew for providing an artistic and comfortable community. Also, her family for supporting her through everything. She hopes you enjoy the show!

MICKEY KOST (*Chang'e, Spider Sister, Demon, Script Captain*) – Holt, MI; Freshman, Psychology and Theatre Major. She had the chance to perform in the imáGen program last year in *Chess*, and is ecstatic to be back to officially make MSU her home. She would like to thank her loving and supporting family, friends, and ultimately God for encouraging her through this crazy and adventurous journey.

JOE LANCOUR (*Media Designer*) – Okemos, MI; Freshman, BFA Theatre. Joe would like to thank everyone at MSU for helping to put on such an incredible show. *The Monkey King* has been a journey from the beginning, and has really been a great way to start a theatre career at MSU!

BROOKE LYS (*Assistant Director, Yama*) – Howell, MI; Freshman, BA Theatre. Brooke is thrilled to be an assistant director for her first theatre production at MSU and to also be acting in it. She would like to thank the wonderful cast for their hard work and her mom for her ongoing love and support.

GABI MARTIN (*Prop Master*) – East Lansing, MI; Freshman, BA Theatre (Design). Gabi is very excited to be a part of this amazing program. In addition to seven shows at East Lansing High School, including *Hairspray, Sweet Charity*, and *The Wiz*, she returned to ELHS this year in a professional context as their Technical Director. Thanks for coming to the show, and enjoy!

LAURA MOORE (*Spider Sister, Woman of Fertility Kingdom*) – Dearborn, MI; Freshman, BFA Acting. Lau is so excited to kick off her MSU theatre career with *The Monkey King* – she's going bananas! Her favorite roles so far have been Rosie in *Bye Bye Birdie* and Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof!* She wants to thank her director, her cast-mates, and her family for all the support during this exciting process!

CASTILLE NIERI (*Choreography, Spider Sister, Demon*) – Warren, MI; Freshman, Theatre. Castille has been acting for 8 years and has