Welcome to a brand new year for Fort Lewis College Department of Theatre!!!

In addition to welcoming you to our new season, we also welcome some new personnel to our outstanding students, staff and faculty. Designer Craig Young has come to FLC to teach lighting and scenic design and Peter Salinger has joined us as Technical Director/Scene Shop Supervisor. We’re also pretty excited to have guest director, Danny Mitarotondo, on campus with us this fall. Not only has he directed this first show of the season, Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them, but he’s also teaching a course for us in playwriting. As our guest artist series has proven time and again, giving our students access to the professional world of theatre in this manner invigorates our program and encourages our students to stretch themselves beyond their expectations.

Following our current offering, we’re super excited to offer the Fort Lewis community an ingenious opportunity to explore the world of improvisational style theatre with 30 Neo-Futurist plays from Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: 30 plays in 60 minutes. Adapted from the brilliant Neo-Futurists out of Chicago, Illinois, and directed by Dr. Ginny Davis, this show promised to be one you can’t afford to miss—complete with a time clock to prove 30 plays can be performed in one hour!

Next spring, you won’t want to miss our production of Thoroughly Modern Millie, an adaptation of the 1967 film of the same name starring Julie Andrews and Mary Tyler Moore. Dr. Dennis Elkins, Visiting Professor and Acting Department Chair will direct this joint endeavor by the FLC Departments of Music and Theatre. And later in April, we have invited performance artist, Tim Miller, to campus for a weekend workshop and performance.

So, as you can see, our year is a full one and we extend the heartiest of invitations to join us as we continue to provide the finest and most innovative theatre for Fort Lewis College, Durango and the entire southwestern United States.

Dr. Dene Kay Thomas
President

Dr. Maureen Brandon
Interim Dean, School of the Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

Dr. Dennis Elkins
Interim Chair, Department of Theatre

PLEASE DON’T FORGET: • Turn Off All Electronic Devices • Flash Photography is Prohibited
This play is dedicated to the people of Durango and to every talented finger and mind that made it possible.

Thank you to Craig for his vision and bottomless work threshold; to Jane for her patience, caring and expert design; to Evan, who encouraged, supported and challenged me to make better and better work (your design is magical); Victoria for always being at my side with a smile; Alycia for jumping into any and all fires, no questions asked; to Peter for making our dream brick and mortar; to Shan, for his support and tireless PR, Marketing and positive energy; Kimberly, our deus ex machina; to the Hooters Team for their dedication, extra hours and talent; and to our talented Costumers and Crew – your work made this show.

To our incredible cast: Erin, your persistence, humor and humility amaze me; don’t stop acting, no matter what you do; to Brad: from the moment we met, you filled me with a sense of joy and hope; your energy is infectious and your potential boundless; keep going; to Mike: working with you was like waking up; you’re one of those collaborators I look for and cherish working with, always ready to go, always positive, and always full of ideas; if you come to NYC you have a friend, a director and playwright; to Meryl: yes, you can be a news anchor but please keep acting! you have a gift; to Miles: thank you for meeting a random stranger from New York and jumping into this project with no reservations; you’re one of a kind, my friend; to Felicia: for your endless enthusiasm, grace, and talent – for all of it, I am grateful; you’ve made a woman out of a piece of paper, something not even the New York production could accomplish; and to Dennis: Dennis. Thank you.

If this play is about anything it is about these people. I’ve seldom made a work of art so tapestried by talent, so enhanced by vigor. Thank you for reinvigorating me. Thank you for reminding me of the potential of good storytelling. Thank you for your heart, mind and courage.

And thank you, dear audience, for joining us.

This is yours.

Your director, Danny Mitarotondo
This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels. Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance. Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
Christopher Durang (1949, New Jersey) is an American playwright known for works of outrageous and often absurd comedy. His work often deals critically with issues of child abuse, Roman Catholic dogma and culture, and homosexuality. His plays have been performed nationwide, including on Broadway and Off-Broadway. Durang has performed as an actor for both stage and screen. Durang has received Obie Awards, a nomination for a Tony Award, numerous fellowships, and grants including a Guggenheim, a Rockefeller, and the CBS Playwriting Fellowship. He was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama in 2006.
Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind, which had its first performance on December 2, 1988, is now in its twenty third year, making it the longest-running show in Chicago. “TML” is an attempt to perform 30 plays in 60 minutes. Performers appear as themselves on stage. An unreproducible living newspaper is made each night, combining the political and personal, the visceral and experimental.

DIRECTED BY GINNY DAVIS

November 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 7:30pm  Matinee November 4, 3:00pm

Based on the 1967 film of the same name, Thoroughly Modern Millie tells the story of a small-town girl, Millie Dillmount, who comes to New York City to marry for money instead of love – a thoroughly modern aim in 1922, when women were just entering the workforce. Millie soon begins to take delight in the flapper lifestyle, but problems arise when she checks into a hotel owned by the leader of a slavery ring in China.

A comic pastiche shot through with outstanding musical numbers, Thoroughly Modern Millie is a classic of American Musical Theatre.

DIRECTED BY DENNIS ELKINS
Music by Jeanine Tesori & Dick Scanlan
Arranged by Jonathan Latta

March 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 7:30pm  Matinees March 23 and 30, 3:00pm