

student news and profiles

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

FALL 2007

In the Green Room for *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*

“If the law is of such a nature that it requires you to be an agent of injustice to another, then I say, break the law.”

- Henry David Thoreau

MEET THE CAST AND CREW

Lucas Sweet (Henry David Thoreau)

Why are you excited to be in this play? It is a great challenge and it echoes the sentiments of our generation – we search for a voice against the injustice and greed we face on a daily basis.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy in this production? It is a great chance to see how a single person can affect the world around them with their passion and beliefs.



Matthew Smith (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

What do you think the audience will most enjoy in this production? They will get a better understanding of the themes which Thoreau held sacred and how universal they are.



Joey Lesiak (Bailey)

What makes this acting experience different from previous productions? I usually play over the top characters and this one is a little more realistic.

What is your favorite line from the play? “I want you to be yourself, not your idea of what you think is someone else’s idea of yourself.”

Judd Farner (Sam Staples)

What makes this acting experience different from previous productions? I have never acted under the direction of Laura Jones. I hope to come out with a different perspective.

What is your favorite line in the play? “To be alive is to be awake.”

Quentin Schroeder (Thoreau’s brother John)

What makes this acting experience different from previous productions? Learning about and playing such deep characters makes this experience more meaningful in relation to my personal life.



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What do you think the audience will most enjoy in this production? I think the audience will make a profound connection with the play because of the relevancy of Thoreau's ideas today.

Megan Guidarelli (Thoreau's mother)

Why are you excited to be in this play? Because the themes and issues presented in it – environmental conservation, taxes funding war, citizens disagreeing with their government - are surprisingly current today. It has a completely relevant message.

What is your favorite line in the play? "But the government gets persnickety about taxes."

Erin Fried (Ellen Sewell)

What makes this acting experience different from previous productions? This production can't be categorized as either a comedy or a drama fully – it's more in touch with reality and real people.

What is your favorite line in the play? "Sail on the wind with your wings."



Soleil Lean (Lydian Emerson)

What makes this acting experience different from previous productions? Every experience is different, every play. I learn so much during each production about my peers, theatre, and myself. That's the part of being involved I love most – self growth.

Henry Williams (Isaiah Kelley)

What do you think the audience will most enjoy in this production? The wit and personality of the play, its creativity, and the historical standpoint.



Jean Schuman (Widow Sarah Mae Ball)

What makes this acting experience different from previous productions? I have never done a historical drama so the costumes, the language, and the set is different from anything I have been part of before.

Lindsey Beechwood (Townsperson Polly Smith)

Why are you excited to be in this play? I really like Laura Jones as a teacher and so I'm thrilled to be acting in one



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of her shows. Her directing style is intimate and she makes you feel important. Also, I love Susan Crabtree's set design. It's unlike anything I've ever seen and I'm really excited to see it, full-scale, in the theatre.



Faith Harbert (Assistant Director/Stage Manager)

What do you think the audience will most enjoy in this production? The idealism of Thoreau and how he really wanted to change the world will be inspiring.

What is your favorite line in the play? "We love without knowing it. A man – or a woman – can't love on a schedule!"

Matt Block (Townsperson & Assistant Stage Manager)

What do you think the audience will most enjoy in this production? They will enjoy Henry's passion, fervor and quirkiness.

What makes this acting experience different from previous productions? I've never played a drink or been an Assistant Stage Manager before!

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Laura Jones

Dr. Laura Jones is a graduate of Northwestern University, received a masters from the University of Illinois and a doctorate from the University of Denver. Dr. Jones teaches acting, directing, and theatre history, with the primary focus of her research in twentieth-century performance theory and criticism. She has a special interest in works by and about women. Laura's three decades of directorial credits have ranged from Shakespeare to Arthur Miller and Moliere to Neil Simon. She has staged works by Nobel Prize-winning playwright Samuel Beckett in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. In 2006-2007 she will be directing productions at Colorado State and at the Bas Bleu Theatre Company in Fort Collins. Dr. Jones is as interested in process as in product, and strives to continually improve her skills as a teacher. She is a professional development mentor for the Leadership Institute of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education, a juror for the Wyoming Arts Council and an adjudicator for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. In 2003 she was awarded the higher education theatre educator of the year award from the Alliance for Colorado Theatre.

[Buy Tickets to The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail](#)

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