



# Tartuffe

*A play by Molière  
Directed by Laura Kraybill*

THE CIRCUS IS IN TOWN

# HESSTON COLLEGE THEATRE

## Director's Note:

Tartuffe, meaning “religious hypocrite,” was first performed in France in 1664 where it was immediately censored by King Louis XIV. While the king found the play “extremely diverting” he was likely encouraged by the Archbishop to ban it because of the unfavorable light it shed on religious men. However, Moliere makes clear in his preface of 1669 that he did not intend the play as a satire on religion but rather on religious hypocrisy. In seventeenth-century France there were brotherhoods of religious men who preached piety but used it as a way to gain political power and prestige. Only after several revisions was the play finally allowed to be performed in 1669. It was met with great public success and is the classic play we see today.

This particular production catapults us out of seventeenth-century France to the bizarre, other-worldliness of the circus. The three rings of the big-top tent highlight the clownish behavior of the characters. Costumes evoke the over-the-top showiness in which the characters revel. The cartoon-like movements are based on a type of acting called Commedia D’ell Arte, which was a popular theatre form in seventeenth-century

Europe. We have added the circus action which takes place before, during and after the acts (which are the play within the play) as an addition to the script, reminding us that what we are viewing is merely a façade. As masks are taken on and tossed off, perhaps we will question the masks of pride and image we wear in our own lives. Are they necessary forms of self-defense or simply clownish folly?

-Laura Kraybill

### Sources:

Lacouture, Jean, and François Rey. *Molière Et Le Roi*. éditions du seuil, 2007. Print.

Moliere, Jean Baptiste Poquelin De. Introduction. *Tartuffe*. Trans. Richard Wilbur. New York: Harcourt, 1963. Print.

### Notes:

*No photography or video recording allowed.  
Please turn off cell phones.*

There is one 10-minute intermission

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## Cast:

<b>Mme Pernelle</b> , Orgon's mother	Michele Hershberger
<b>Orgon</b> , Elmire's husband	JD Hershberger
<b>Elmire</b> , Orgon's wife	Taylor Zehr
<b>Damis</b> , Orgon's son	Megan Goodrich
<b>Mariane</b> , Orgon's daughter	Rachelle Adrian
<b>Valere</b> , in love with Mariane	Rachel Jantzi
<b>Cleante</b> , Orgon's brother-in-law	Nancy Zhong
<b>Tartuffe</b> , a hypocrite	Nathanael Ressler
<b>Dorine</b> , Mariane's lady's-maid	Savannah Sizer
<b>M. Loyal</b> , a bailiff	Brent Yoder
<b>Police Officer/Flipote</b> , maid	Becca Slabaugh
<b>Circus Crew</b>	Todd Lehman

## Crew:

<b>Stage Manager</b>	Charissa Graham
<b>Tech Director/Costumes/Set Design</b>	Megan Tyner
<b>Light Design</b>	Ethan Koerner
<b>Make-up/Costume/Hair Crew</b>	Havela Lehman
	Heather Dussinger
	Rachel G. Jantzi
<b>Stage Crew</b>	Mary Bender
<b>Props Manager</b>	Kristy Clouse
<b>Sound Operator</b>	Austin Brinkman
<b>Light Operators</b>	Mary Bender
	Heather Dussinger

**Location:** A circus tent in an unidentified time and place

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## Cast and Crew:

**Rachelle Adrian (Mariane)** has enjoyed acting and singing for church and school programs since she was 4. Most recently, she participated in the Minnesota State 4-H Arts in musical at the Minnesota State Fair. She competed on her high school speech team in creative expression and great speeches categories and advanced to sectionals her junior and senior years. Rachelle is a music major hoping to complete a bachelor's degree in music therapy after Hesston. She would like to thank Hesston for cultivating her continued growth and experience with the arts.

**Mary Bender (backstage crew)** has been involved with theatre since seventh grade when she landed a part in a production of TOM SAWYER. She has been fascinated ever since. Mary has been fortunate enough to participate in both classic musicals like FIDDLER ON THE ROOF and slightly more contemporary ones like YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN. After coming to Hesston, she had the opportunity to help with hair and makeup for the production of 12 ANGRY MEN, and had a wonderful experience. She is looking forward to what this production holds for both cast and crew, and to seeing how it will all come together.

**Austin Brinkman's (light and sound board operator)** theatre experience started last year when he helped with the spring production of SHE LOVES ME by working the light board, which he found enjoyable. Austin plans to major in athletic training and minor in youth ministry. Austin has had some sound board experience through his church youth group band. He has been interested in this type of technology since high school. Austin thanks Hesston for letting him help with the play and get more experience running light and sound boards.

**Kristy Clouse (props)** is a theatre major from Kalona, Iowa, who has been involved in theatre for seven years. Some of the plays she has been a part of include THE SOUND OF MUSIC and CINDERELLA. She would like to thank everyone who has helped her get to where she is today. She loves doing back stage work on plays and being on stage for musicals.

**Megan Goodrich (Damis)** is a sophomore from Michigan. Her first encounter with theatre was when she was 17 at The Tinshop Theatre in her hometown, where she did PIP-PIN! From watching Tony Award performanc-

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es, to working backstage and on production teams since her first theatre experience, she has continually dived deeper into learning about the areas of theatre and how it can be used. Theatre thrills and intrigues her and keeps her mind open and imagination well used.

**JD Hershberger (Orgon)** is a sophomore communications major and theatre minor. Coming from a theatre-heavy background, he relishes every chance he gets to perform, but prefers comedy. His experience includes acting in a variety of plays and musicals and directing one play here at Hesston.

**Michele Hershberger (Madamme Pernelle)** Drama flows through Michele's veins. Along with a BA in communication with a theatre emphasis from Goshen (Ind.) College, she has enjoyed such shows as THE BELLE OF AMHERST (Emily Dickinson), THE PROPHETS (Regent), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Puck), and SISTER MARY EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU (Sister Mary). She has directed several shows, including the Hesston College production of MOON OVER BUFFALO. But most of the drama happens in the classroom, where she has been known to throw pots, fling finger blasters and have a great time with the Bible, one of the most dramatic books of all time.

She's married to Del and has three children, one of whom shares the stage with her today.

**Rachel Jantzi (Valere)** is communications faculty in her fourth year at Hesston College. She holds a BFA and MA in speech and theatre performance and has appeared onstage in more than 70 productions throughout her professional and academic career. Rachel is often found choreographing, costuming and directing throughout the local area, most recently as the stage director for Hesston College's AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS. "Thanks to those in attendance for supporting a bunch of clowns... and we don't just mean the performing arts department! Ba-dum-dum-ching!" -Rachel :)

**Rachel G. Jantzi (hair and make-up)** Studying disaster management at Hesston College, Rachel has been involved with hair and makeup in plays such as HAIRSPRAY and 12 ANGRY JURORS. She has lived all over the U.S., from Arizona to Oregon and all the way to North Carolina. She participated in a couple of plays in high school, where she sang, acted and danced. Rachel came to Hesston planning to study nursing, but has since decided she might study social work or take on disaster management as a career.

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## Cast and Crew:

**Todd Lehman (Circus crew)** makes a return to the stage with this show as he hasn't been in a theatre production since high school. Thankfully, memorizing his lines proved to be less difficult than he anticipated. When not on stage, Todd serves as campus pastor; this being his sixth year in that role.

**Nathanael Ressler (Tartuffe)** is a sophomore Bible major at Hesston College. He has a deep love of theatre and the arts, and plans to incorporate theatre into his ministry. He was last seen on the Hesston College stage in the fall as a juror in 12 ANGRY MEN.

**Becca Slabaugh (Flipote/Officer)** is a sophomore who plans to graduate with an associate degree in youth ministry. She had the pleasure of participating in the 2013 spring musical SHE LOVES ME. After Hesston, she plans to go to Goshen (Ind.) College to pursue an interdisciplinary degree involving youth ministry, American Sign Language and theatre. Becca is enjoying her last semester at Hesston, and is excited to participate in the comedy TARTUFFE!

**Savannah Sizer (Dorine)** has become more involved in theatre this semester, and this is her Hesston College theatre debut. She is a freshman from Littleton, Colo., and is very close to her family, her parents Eric and Gina, brother Ethan and of course her three dogs, Gilmore, Lily May and Ruger. Savannah is an outside midfielder on the Hesston College women's soccer team. Throughout high school, she participated in D1 club soccer and was an active member of student government for four years. She thanks her wonderful family for supporting her dreams and believing in her and of course the oh-so-very-talented cast and crew of TARTUFFE! She wants to tell the audience to "get ready to be tartuffified, and enjoy the show!"

**Brent Yoder (Bailiff)** By day, Brent serves as the college's registrar. By night, he has appeared in college productions of A MURDER IS ANNOUNCED (Patrick), THE SECRET GARDEN (Dr. Craven), THE TRUE STORY OF CINDERELLA (Prince), THE BOYS NEXT DOOR (Jack) and SHE LOVES ME (Waiter). In between, he makes macaroni and cheese with broccoli and tuna and reads to his three daughters. Much thanks to his wife, Rachel for continuing to let him scratch his theatre itch.

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## **Taylor Zehr (Elmire)**

has been doing theatre since fifth grade when her big sister, Lauren, invited her to be in the high school's musical. She participated in nearly every production at her school from that time on, and played many different sorts of roles, including her favorite, Madame Thenardier in LES MISERABLES. You may have seen her in Hesston's production of 12 ANGRY JURORS in the fall. Taylor enjoys animals, reading, writing, singing and especially hanging out with her friends. She would like to thank all who have come to support Hesston College Theatre Program, and hopes that you enjoy the show!

## **Nancy Zhong Zenmeizhi (Cleante)**

This is Nancy's first year at Hesston College and she is majoring in economics and Bible and ministry. This is her third show. She played the Evil Queen in SNOW WHITE in middle school and Juror Number Four in 12 ANGRY JURORS at Hesston College. She loves theatre, bible studies, reading, playing badminton, cooking Chinese food and watching cat videos.

## Special thanks:

A big thank you to the creative team of Megan Tyner, Rachel Jantzi and Ethan Koerner, who took the crazy seed of a concept and helped it grow into something beautiful and graspable. Other thanks go to the Drama in the Church class, Ivan White for construction of the circus ring, Laurie Uhler and Topeka Civic Theatre, Cassandra Conley and Newton High School, Erin Hershberger, Greg and Holly Nickel, Ruby Graber, Jessica Cleveland, Angie Teeter, Bill Zuercher, Tabor College, Bethel College, Music Theater for Young People, Andrea Schrag, Pam and Jan in the bookstore, and Hesston College Facilities, especially John Miller and Marlo Duerksen.

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