

**HESSTON  
COLLEGE**   
START HERE, GO EVERYWHERE

A SEASON OF LAUGHTER  
**HESSTON COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS**

# FOOL2



A COMIC FABLE BY **NEIL SIMON**  
DIRECTED BY **RACHEL JANTZI**

*Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.  
The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.*

PSALM 126:2-3

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"I have learned there is no spirit on earth, evil or otherwise, that can destroy a pure heart of devoted love." – Leon, *Fools*

Relations with Russia are strained as wars and invasions in the Middle East rage. Hostages are taken and diplomatic ties are cut. The summer Olympics are a topic of strife, the economy is considered a mess and a flood of refugees want to enter America to seek a new beginning. There is a presidential candidate who has spent most of their time in the spotlight of Hollywood. Increased funding to the military and defense budgets are a talking point in the election. Literal walls are a rally cry and there is a general sense of political mistrust.

The year was 1981 and we needed to laugh.

In 1981, Neil Simon wrote his play, *Fools*. It's a ridiculous play...just plain goofy. It's about a village that has been cursed with stupidity for over 200 years, and the teacher who desires to help them. And amid the one-liners and shenanigans, there is a story of community and love.

We need a moment to breath. While I firmly believe the theatre is a mirror of society and a venue for action, I also feel it is a place to simply come together and be entertained.

And here we are, again...The year is 2016 and we need to laugh.

Enjoy!  
Rachel Jantzi, director

**Please turn off all cellphones. No flash photography permitted. This play is produced by special arrangement through Samuel French, Inc.**

**There will be one 10 minute intermission**

## THANKS TO

Laurie Uhler and Helen Hocker Theatre in Topeka, Margaret Wiebe, Michele Hershberger, Jan Diller, Larry Bartel, Gary Oyer, The Art of Theatre class, Hesston College Facilities and Scott Jantzi

# FOOLS

## TIME AND PLACE

Long Ago, around 1890  
A remote Ukrainian village

## SETTINGS

The home of the Zubritsky family  
The village square  
The play covers a 24 hour time period

## CAST

Leon Tolchinsky	Noah Yoder
Snetsky	Autumn Gehman
Magistrate	Rebecca Reutzel
Slovitch	Billy Bass
Mishka	Chloe McNeil
Yenchna	Sarah Booth
Yanna	Caitlin Waits
Dr. Zubritsky	Jared Hurst
Lenya Zubritsky	Mariah Tribble
Sophia Zubritsky	Morgan Leavy
Count Gregor Yousekevitch	Tyler Huffman

## CREW

Stage Manager	Emily Griffioen
Set and Light Designer	Doug Peters
Technical Director/Construction	Bernie Barge
Set Construction	Jim Diller
Specialty Design (Clock, Fountain, Cow/Cart)	Ivan White
Costume/Hair/Make-up Designer	Rachel Jantzi
Light Board Operator	Joe Kabira
Sound Operator	Logan Swartzendruber
Props	Rachel Jantzi and Crew
Assistant Stage Manager	Andrea Peters
Backstage Crew	Grace Roth, Kathryn Roth, Cast
Costume Crew	Sadie Prowell, Mikayla Bomgardner, Kathryn Roth

\*\*For the younger generation...referenced 1981 events

*Soviet ties are tense following the Afghan invasion. Hostages had been taken in Iran. The U.S. boycotts the Moscow Summer Games. The economy is trying to revive after the upheaval of the 1970's only to go deeper into a recession in 1982. Cuban refugees are released by Castro and arrive in Miami. Reagan runs for office and wants to expand military funding introducing the missile defense program "Star Wars". "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Walls were topped with barbed wire and guarded with watchtowers, machine gun emplacements and mines. By the 1980's, this system of walls and electrified fences extended 28 miles through Berlin and 75 miles around West Berlin, separating it from the rest of East Germany. The East Germans also erected an extensive barrier along most of the 850-mile border between East and West Germany. (The History Channel)*