

HESSTON COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson

a powerful drama by
Jim Leonard, Jr.

directed by
Rachel Jantzi

featuring music from

**THE
Steel
Wheels**





And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson

Jim Leonard, Jr.

AND THEY DANCE REAL SLOW IN JACKSON
is produced through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.
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Director's Notes

This has been a tough show to direct and tougher to watch. It shows me things I don't wish to see and it makes me uncomfortable.

Elizabeth sits in her wheelchair in complete darkness. We hear her sing a child's tune, despite her age of 24. Out of the darkness, we hear voices that seem kind, but quickly turn to taunting. These are the voices in Elizabeth's head, the voices of the town that have left negative marks on her. As the lights brighten, the audience witnesses various events in Elizabeth's life, leading us to learn, through an ugly event, why she has become so very isolated.

The story is a familiar struggle, but we still can't seem to get it right. This show wrestles with how we treat those we don't fully understand and the consequences for one young woman when that understanding isn't offered.

Why did I choose this play? I figure, if I'm uncomfortable with the plot, maybe I should ask those who are at the heart of it and hurting, how I can help to change it.

Time and Place

The show takes place in several locations in and around Jackson, Indiana through a span of many years. It moves backwards and forwards through time and place.

"... [We] shouldn't concern ourselves too much with the problems of who knows what and when they know it---it's more important that the audience know where they are and who they are watching."

-Jim Leonard, Jr.

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

Cast

The Family

Mariah Tribble Elizabeth Willow
Caitlin Waits Beth Willow
Colton Adams Ben Willow

The Voices in Elizabeth's Mind and Various Townfolk

Noah Yoder First Man
Autumn Gehman First Woman
Therin Smith Second Man
Gracie Hochstetler Second Woman

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Production Team

Rachel Jantzi Director, Sound Design
Chloe McNeil..... Stage Manager
Doug Peters..... Scenic and Lighting Designer
Jim Diller, Bernie Barge Lead Carpenters
Ivan White.....Specialty Props (Elizabeth’s braces)
Sadie Prowell Costume Designer

Crew

Andrea Peters Light Board Operator
Anna Breckbill.....Sound Board Operator
*Courtney Grider Prop Master

**Halstead senior who has been shadowing the show process*

Thanks to

Larry Bartel and Marissa Hochstetler for poster design, Jason Klanderud for promo video, Gary Oyer, Facilities, Cheyenne at Schowalter Villa, Clayton Gladish and HMC, Scott Jantzi, Nicole Loewen

Special Thanks to

Dr. Jonathan Loewen M.D., Pinnacle Sports Medicine and Orthopedics for the donation of the new braces, which became the starting point for Ivan’s workmanship. Thanks also to The Steel Wheels for embracing this opportunity to collaborate.

Upcoming Theatre Performances in the Black Box Theater:

- *Light Eternal* - 7 p.m., December 9 (*Hesston Mennonite Church*)
- *Hands on a Hardbody* - 7 p.m., February 28 to March 4
- *Pen to Paper to Performance: Play Festival* - 7 p.m., April 27 and 28
- *Theatre Showcase* - 7 p.m., May 12
- *Summer Theatre camp dates coming soon!*



**Hesston College, a college of Mennonite Church USA,
educates and nurtures each student within Christ-centered community,
integrating thought, life, and faith for service to others in the church and the world.**

**Hesston College
Box 3000
Hesston, Kansas 67062**

**800-995-2757
www.hesston.edu**

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