


HESSTON COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

Rachel Jantzi Director & Choreographer  
Holly Swartzendruber Music Director  
Rebecca Schloneger Conductor

A hand with dark nail polish holds a keychain with a blue toy car. The background is black.

# HANDS ON A HARDBODY

Book by Doug Wright // Lyrics by Amanda Green  
Music by Trey Anastasio and Amanda Green





## **HANDS ON A HARDBODY**

Book by Doug Wright // Lyrics by Amanda Green  
Music by Trey Anastasio and Amanda Green

Inspired by the true events of the acclaimed  
1997 documentary of the same name by S.R. Bindler,  
produced by Kevin Morris and Bindler.

HANDS ON A HARDBODY is presented through special  
arrangement with Samuel French. All authorized performance  
materials are also supplied by Samuel French.

*The videotaping or other video or audio  
recording of the production is strictly prohibited.  
Please silence all cellphones.*

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*Hands on a Hardbody* was inspired by true events out of Longview, Texas. One of the many local dealerships in a sea of Wal-Marts and Walgreens invited contestants to “keep their hands on it,” and the last one with their hands on the truck won it. As the days and nights wore on, a kinship developed among the competitors which added to the drama of the already high stakes event. It doesn't seem like such a crazy leap to pull it into the world of theatre. Of course, the contestants in our production sing, dance, and take their hands off without repercussion because they are mid-song. Regardless of all the theatricality, you can be assured there indeed was a sassy Janis Curtis, a hymn-singing Norma, the long-shot JD, and the rest of the crew who wanted to simply have their “piece of the pie.”

On a deeper note, I want to paraphrase Doug Wright, who wrote the book for the musical:

This is a story about America. For some, it is a land of promises with opportunities that can reward motivation and ambition. There is this darker side to those promises, the side that involves a survival-of-the-fittest mentality. That is a tension that currently exists in this country: how much do we long to get ahead, and how much do we collectively want to be compassionate citizens that bring our diverse culture forward? *Hands on a Hardbody* tries to ask questions of character and address that strange dichotomy.

# HANDS ON A HARDBODY

## CAST

In alphabetical order

Elizabeth Fulcher .....Kelli Mangrum, contestant  
Autumn Gehman..... Contest Fan  
Michele Hershberger +.....Janis Curtis, contestant  
Luke Hertzler..... Frank Nugent, KYKX DJ  
Kytrena Hightree..... Contest Fan  
Jaden Hostetter ..... Benny Perkins, contestant  
Alex Hunter..... Ronald McCowan, contestant  
Leah Huyard .....Virginia Drew, JD's wife  
Jen Lee \*..... Norma Valverde, contestant  
Nicole Loewen..... Heather Stovall, contestant  
Taylor Longenecker..... Chris Alvaro, contestant  
Mariana Martinez..... Maria Pena, contestant  
Chloe McNiel..... Cindy Barnes, public relations  
Gabby Ridpath..... Contest Fan  
Luccas Schmucker .....Greg Wilhote, contestant  
Therin Smith.....JD Drew, contestant  
Mariah Tribble..... Contest Fan  
Brent Yoder +..... Don Curtis, Janis's husband  
Jim Yoder +..... Dr. Stokes, Le Tourneau University  
Noah Yoder ..... Mike Ferris, sales manager

\*Guest Performer

+Faculty Performer

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

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## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### Act I

Human Drama Kind of Thing – Benny and Company  
If I Had This Truck – Contestants, Virginia, Don  
If She Don't Sleep – Janis and Don  
My Problem Right There – Ronald  
Alone With Me – Virginia and JD  
Burn That Bridge – Heather and Mike  
I'm Gone – Kelli and Greg  
Joy of the Lord – Norma  
Stronger – Chris  
Hunt With the Big Dogs – Benny

### Act II

Hands on a Hardbody – Frank and Mike  
Born in Laredo – Maria  
Alone With Me (reprise) – JD  
It's a Fix – Janis and Don  
Used to Be – JD and Contestants  
It's a Fix (reprise) – Heather  
God Answered My Prayers – Benny  
Joy of the Lord (reprise) – Ronald, Chris, Norma  
Keep Your Hands On It – JD, Virginia and Company

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Rachel Jantzi..... Director/Choreographer  
Holly Swartzendruber..... Music Director  
Ken Rodgers..... Rehearsal Accompanist  
Rebecca Schloneger..... Conductor  
Caitlin Waits..... Stage Manager  
Colton Adams..... Assistant Stage Manager/Light board  
Anna Breckbill..... Sound Board  
Mariah Tribble..... Assistant Student Director  
Doug Peters..... Scenic and Lighting Designer  
Bernie Barge, Jim Diller..... Lead Carpenters  
Sadie Prowell..... Costume Designer  
Andrea Peters..... Props

## BAND

Erica Baer..... Violin/Fiddle/Percussion  
Jenna Denlinger..... Violin/Fiddle/Percussion  
Aaron Diller \*..... Electric Bass  
John Ebaugh..... Drums  
Ken Rodgers +..... Keyboard  
Angus Siemens..... Double Bass  
Max Stauffer \*..... Cello  
Kendall Wohaska \*..... Guitar/Mandolin  
Jayce Yoder \*..... Guitar

*\*Guest Performer*

*+Faculty Performer*

HESSTON COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

## THANKS TO

Mitch Young, Brenna Peters, DaLonna Schroeder, Bill Zuercher, Scott Jantzi, Hesston College Facilities, Hesston College Bookstore, Karen Unruh, Rachel McMaster, Larry Bartel, Marissa Hochstetler, Gary Oyer, and our families who offer support.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Agco Corp. for the use of their facility and the kindness of their staff, Atomic Sports for providing the contestant shirts, and Rolling Wheels for the truck.

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## HESSTON COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

### UPCOMING PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

- **Bach Piano and Organ Festival** – March 10, Keim Center and Hesston Mennonite Church (HMC)
- **Andover Concert Series:** Ryan Hebert, organ – 7 p.m., March 13, HMC
- **Bel Canto Singers Spring Tour** – March 16 to 25
- **Bel Canto Singers concert** – 7 p.m., March 27, HMC
- **Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts:** Berta Rojas with Newton Mid-Kansas Orchestra – 4 p.m., April 8, Bethel College Memorial Hall
- **Faculty Recital:** Bradley Baker, piano – 7 p.m., April 24, HMC
- **Pen to Paper to Performance: Play Festival** – 7 p.m., April 27 and 28, Black Box Theater
- **Chamber Orchestra concert with sophomore soloists** – 7 p.m., May 11, HMC
- **International Chorale concert** – 4 p.m., May 12, HMC
- **Theatre Showcase** – 7 p.m., May 12, Black Box Theater
- **International Chorale European Tour** – May 15 to June 6
- **Summer Theatre camp** – Ages 11 to 14: June 4 to 9, Ages 14-18: June 18 to 23

## HANDS ON A HARDBODY

### PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Students interested in the performing arts – vocal music, instrumental music and theatre – can compete for performing arts scholarships at Hesston College. Several audition days are highlighted each year and offer a preview of music and theatre opportunities at Hesston. Students interact with music and theatre faculty and students, as well as attend classes and rehearsals. Students auditioning for a music scholarship may request a lesson with an applied instructor. For more information or to schedule an audition, review the audition requirements and complete the scholarship inquiry form at [hesston.edu/pascholarships](http://hesston.edu/pascholarships).

### HESSTON COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

Russell Adrian, D.M.A., Bel Canto Singers, music theory  
Caroline Anderson, M.M., viola  
J. Bradley Baker, D.M.A., piano  
Matt Blauer, trombone  
Dennis Danders, M.M., string bass  
Seth Girton, M.M., cello  
Howard Glanton, M.M., guitar  
Jeff Gordon, M.M., trumpet  
Rachel Jantzi, M.A., Theatre  
James Pisano, D.M.A. candidate, single reeds  
Ken Rodgers, M.M., Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, piano, organ  
Rebecca Schloneger, M.M., Chamber Orchestra, violin, pep band  
Kristin Shaffer, M.M., flute  
Brad Shores, B.M.E., percussion  
Holly Swartzendruber, D.M.A., voice, music theatre  
Cindy Thompson, M.M., oboe, English horn  
Celia Chan Valerio, D.M.A., harp

# HESSON COLLEGE



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**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.**

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[www.hesston.edu](http://www.hesston.edu)**

*In accordance with Kansas State Fire Marshal regulations, we request that you take a moment to identify the two emergency exits closest to you. Staff members have checked these exits and the other emergency equipment in this building and verify they are available for use in case of emergency. In case of an emergency, pay close attention to the announcer or your usher for important life safety information.*