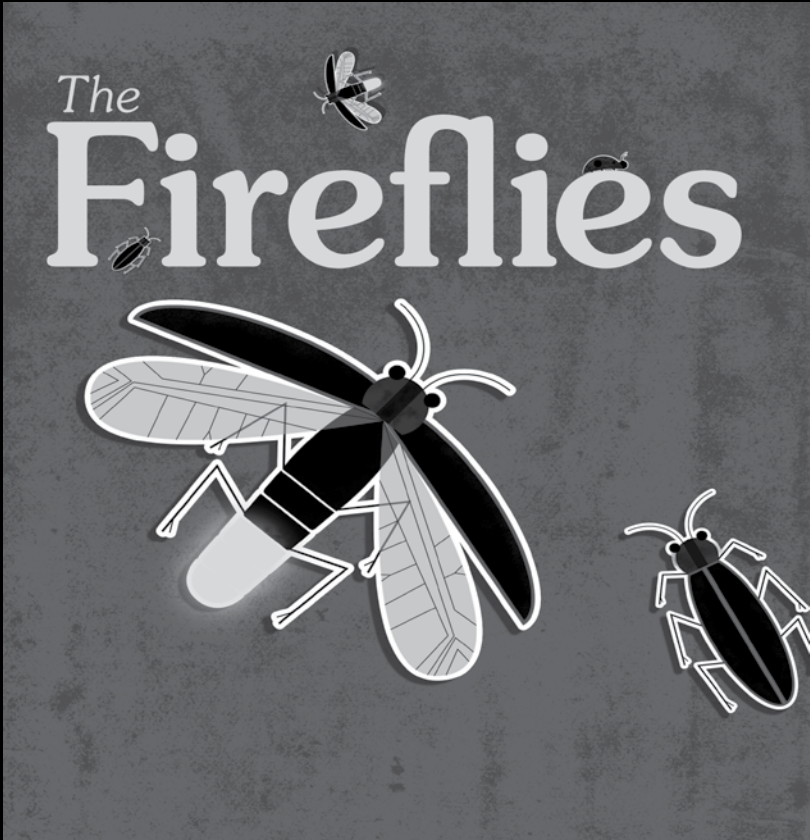


In observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, CMU University Theatre presents



Based on the book by Jan Karafiát

Adapted by Lauren McConnell

Music Arranged and Composed by José-Luis Maúrtua

Choreographed by Annette Thornton

Directed by Nancy Eddy

Bush Theatre, Moore Hall

April 3 - 7, 2013

The Fireflies

Adapted by Lauren McConnell

Inspired by the musical play by Kamila Rosenbaumová and Vlasta Schönová and based on the book by Jan Karafiát

Director.....	Nancy Eddy
Musical Arrangements and Original Music.....	José-Luis Maúrtua
Music Director/Pianist & Vocal Coach.....	Mina Son
Choreographer.....	Annette Thornton
Dramaturg.....	Lauren McConnell
Assistant Dramaturg.....	Alex Nye
Scenic and Lighting Designer.....	Stan Jensen
Costume and Makeup Designer.....	Ann Dasen
Costume Director.....	Stephanie Henderson
Technical Director.....	Dan Daugherty
Sound Designer.....	Adam Walters
Wing Designer/Engineer.....	Matt Kurzyniec
Dance Captain.....	Paige Wisniewski
Original piano/vocal typesetting on Finale and Sibelius Notation Programs.....	Jarrett Goodchild & Evan Boegehold

Cast

Narrator.....	Vera Meisels
Narrator (understudy).....	Hannah Eisenstein
Broucek.....	Matt Kurzyniec
Mother Firefly.....	Sarah Bomber
Father Firefly.....	Alexander Cabala
Bérushka.....	Hayley McInerney
Godmother.....	Megan Barnard*
Veronica.....	Rebecca Hochhuth
Father Firefly from Twigs.....	Scott Sorrell
Son Firefly from Twigs.....	David Bradley
Bumblebee/Boy.....	Ben Schilling
Daisy/Ghost/Snow/Girl.....	Calyn Liberati, Marcie Herbert and Loren Walker
Rose/Ghost/Snow/Girl....	Alexandra P. Lyon, Caylin Waller and Paige Wisniewski

Production Team

Stage Manager.....	Emily Gardner
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Katie Freeman
Props Master.....	Catherine Callahan*
Master Electrician & Light Board Operator.....	Kevin Neuman
Sound Board Operator.....	Adam Walters
Costume Crew Head.....	Shelbie Moore
Makeup Crew Head.....	Anne Kozlowski
Costume & Makeup Crew.....	Dan Bennett, Annie Brower, James Campbell, Britton Dennis, Caitlin Eldred, Ann Marie Foley and Leslie Heath
Stage Crew.....	James Crowley, Kevin Howe and Katie Polhemus
Poster and Program Cover Artist.....	Jonathon Russell
House Manager and Promotion.....	Jim Hickerson
Assistant House Manager.....	Isaac Wineman

**Members of the National Honorary Theatre Fraternity - Alpha Psi Omega*

Performance Notes

- Following the performance there will be 20 minute Talk-Back with Vera Meisels and the playwright.
 - The performance will run approximately 75 minutes with no intermission.

Special Thanks to:

Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, Karel Švenk,
Robert Brock, Adolf Aussenberg, Franta Pick, Charlotte Buresová,
Hanus Thein, Bedrich Lederer, Renée Gärtner-Geiringer and others who
helped with music, sets, lights, costumes and narration for the original
production of *The Fireflies* in Terezín. Elizabeth Stoner-Cameron,
Steve Berglund

Thank you for coming!

For the comfort and enjoyment of our patrons, we ask that you please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the performance. In order to provide a clean and safe environment, we do not allow food and drink in the theatre.

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

The History of Terezín's *The Fireflies*

Theresienstadt (also known as the Terezín Ghetto) was a walled military fortress built during the 18th century in what is now the Czech Republic. It was named after the Habsburg Empress Maria Theresa. During World War II, the Nazis took over the military town, forced out all its inhabitants and established Theresienstadt as a concentration camp for Jews. Many prominent Jewish intellectuals, artists and World War I veterans from Czechoslovakia and elsewhere in Europe were sent to Theresienstadt because they had special status. Theresienstadt was thought to be a "final destination" camp. But in time, as the system of death camps further East was established, Theresienstadt became a transit camp. Thousands of Jews were transported to Theresienstadt, then later transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and other extermination camps where they were killed. Approximately 15,000 children went through Theresienstadt; about 90% of them later perished in death camps.

The Nazis banned cultural activities in the camp at first, but later came to realize that these activities could benefit them by keeping the inmates occupied. So, in spite of terrible crowding, lack of sanitation, and nutritionless food, Theresienstadt developed a vibrant cultural life. The children's musical play *The Fireflies*, produced in May 1943, was part of this cultural blossoming. (It is worth noting that the more famous children's opera *Brundibár*, also produced in the camp, came after *The Fireflies*.)

The play *The Fireflies* was based on protestant pastor Jan Karafiát's popular 19th century children's book. Before the war, dancer and choreographer Kamila Rosenbaumová had staged a dance performance with narration from *The Fireflies* at her dance studio in Prague. When she was transported to Terezín, she started working with the children in the camp with the intention of putting on a similar performance there. Actress Vlasta (or Vava) Schönová suggested that instead of having just a narrator, the children should play the characters and act out the story. The two agreed and Schönová adapted *The Fireflies* into a play with music. The Terezín version of *The Fireflies* does not include all the scenes or characters in the book, and there are some scenes and characters the two women added specifically for their production. The play involved around 30 children and included well known Czech and Slovak folk songs. The children learned all the music during their rehearsals, which were fun and creative.

(continued)

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

(continued)

Due to transports that took place during the rehearsal period, some children in the show were transported out before ever having the chance to perform for an audience. The play came to an end after 32 performances, when the set was destroyed after a large influx of prisoners in need of shelter moved into the theatre space.

In 1945, however, the Nazis wanted a children's show to present to a visiting delegation of the Red Cross. The Nazi officials had impressed the Red Cross in 1944 when they visited the ghetto, so they hoped to repeat their success in 1945. By this time, nearly all the children and adults involved in the 1943 production of *The Fireflies* had been transported to extermination camps and killed. Director Vlasta Schönová was still in Terezín, however, and after some deliberation on the ethics of remounting the production for propaganda purposes, she put together a new production team and cast of children. The 1945 version had more financial support from the Nazis, so the sets and costumes were quite nice and the children performed on a large stage in a Sokol (community center) just outside the ghetto. *The Fireflies* ran for 13 performances in March and April of 1945. The camp was liberated shortly thereafter.

The text to *The Fireflies* was lost after the war, but in 2010 Dr. Lauren McConnell began researching the show with the goal of reconstructing it. Through archival evidence such as synopses, ticket stubs, posters, set renderings, diary accounts and oral history documentation, plus recent interviews with survivors who were either in *The Fireflies* or witnessed it, McConnell adapted the play with music you will see today. It includes the same scenes, characters and many of the songs that were in the original production.

Research for this play was made possible in part by funds granted to Dr. Lauren B. McConnell through a Charles H. Revson Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; a Holocaust Studies Scholarship 2012 from the United Nations Academic Impact Programme and the State of Israel; and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at Central Michigan University. The content of the adaptation, however, is solely the responsibility of Dr. McConnell.

The CHSBS Dr. Harold Abel Endowed Lecture Series in the Study of Dictatorship, Democracy and Genocide is proud to sponsor "An Evening of Poetry and Stories with Vera Meisels" in the Townsend Kiva Theatre, Moore Hall, Sunday April 7th at 7:00 PM

Reading of *The Fireflies* - November 2012
Park Library



The Playwright, Lauren McConnell



José-Luis Maúrtua, Music Composer and Arranger



The "flower chorus" creates a snowstorm



Matt Kurzyniec and Alex Nye (standing) as Broucek and Beruska

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* Deceased

** Updated as of September 2012

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Please join us! For additional information, please contact:

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The Kennedy Center

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The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ 45,
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**Additional support is provided by
the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation, The
Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein, and
the National Committee for the Performing Arts.**

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

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Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

University Theatre - Spring 2013

University Theatre Dance Company Concert

Bush Theatre, April 18 - 21

Creative Direction by Heather Trommer-Beardslee

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Summer Theatre - June 26 to 30

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

by Ernest Julia; music and lyrics by David Caldwell - Directed by Steve Berglund

Anybody for Murder

by Brian Clemens and Dennis Spooner - Directed by Keeley Stanley-Bohn

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

*by Noah Smith; based on the novella by Robert Louis Stevenson -
Directed by Tim Connors*

School of Music

Tuesday, April 9 @ 8:00 p.m. - Staples Family Concert Hall
Faculty Artists Alexandra Mascolo-David, piano & Sarah Stone, mezzo soprano.

Thursday, April 18 @ 8:00 p.m. - Staples Family Concert Hall
CMU Orchestra featuring Concerto Competition Winners

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