

LINDENWOOD

Department of Theatre Presents



Scotland
Road

Jeffrey Hatcher

Directed by: Jason Cannon

November 15-17

7:30 p.m.

Hannon Hall 101 Downstage

Directors Notes

There is something inherently off-putting about drawing from tragedies to create entertainment. Even the most high-minded movies, television shows, or plays must entertain while creating their art. And what about the many first-person-shooter video games set during WWII? My brother explicitly refuses to play such games, saying they make light of and even dishonor the men and women who actually went through it: they didn't have "health packs" or "unlimited ammo" and didn't play against computer-generated AI opponents whose level of difficulty could be altered with the flick of a thumbstick. DO we dishonor those truly affected by war or tragedy by putting ourselves through a re-creation, giving ourselves a visceral thrill? As we CHOOSE to experience their terror, do we truly challenge ourselves to think about those who had NO choice in the matter?

Approaching a play about the Titanic, the danger obviously is to be distracted by all the romantic myths and lose sight of the facts. The investigations show that this tragic sinking could have been avoided if just one of many, many small or not-so-small quirks of timing had fallen a different way. In fact, such is the overwhelming necessity of each and every small detail having happened JUST SO that the Titanic does indeed take on the resonance of a Greek tragedy, awash in the inescapability of Fate and hubris. And the catharsis inherent in such a story is what keeps the Titanic so firmly entrenched in the public and popular consciousness, even 95 years later.

Jeffrey Hatcher's play both criticizes and buys in to the romance, legends, myths, and pop culture resonance of the Titanic. The title refers to a name that third class/steerage class passengers gave to a passageway that ran the entire length of the Titanic, which they borrowed from an actual location in Liverpool which in the 1800s housed one of England's largest migrant populations. Why Mr. Hatcher chose this title will come apparent as you view the play, but I will leave you with this to ponder: many historians talk about the "sacrifice" made by those 1502 people who died in the Atlantic that cold, clear night. And indeed, much good came out of the tragedy: new laws were passed concerning the capacity and accessibility of lifeboats, nations increased cooperation to rigorously patrol sea lanes and send warnings to each other, engineers were galvanized to build even safer ocean vessels. But was the "sacrifice" worth it? Doesn't a sacrifice involve choice? If any of those 1502 people were given the choice: becoming part of history (legend?) and increasing safety for future passengers, or simply not getting on the boat...what would they have chosen? Do we romanticize their experiences for their sakes...or for ours?

Cast

In order of appearance

John.....Keith Parker
Halbrech.....Jamie Fritz
Woman.....Maggie Murphy
Frances Kittle.....Tanya Burns

Setting:

Time: mid April, early 1990's

Place: A white room, near the coast

Production Staff

Director.....Jason Cannon
Production Stage Manager.....Nick Kelly
Stage Manager.....Josefine Borrmann
Set Designer.....Nick Kelly
Lighting Designer.....Nick Kelly
Sound Designer.....Nick Kelly
Costume Assistant.....Kari Lorenz
Props.....Nick Kelly
Shop Foreman.....Nick Kelly
Lightboard Operator.....Josefine Borrmann
Sound/Projection.....Lizzy Nolen
Marketing Team.....Tara Queen
Kimi Wibbenmeyer
Graphic Designer.....Tara Queen
Box Office Manager.....Wes Rankin

Stage hands

Kelly Buris, Aydan Gadzhieva

Fall 2007 Season

Jelkyl Theatre

A Christmas Carol

Based on the Tale by Charles Dickens

November 30

December 1, 6-8

7:30 p.m.

Please come see us for our Spring 2008 season!