

EVERYTHING

EVERYWHERE

EVERYONE

Issues of Our Time

2023-2024 Season

**Deeply personal stories of those
directly affected by
social injustices
and the actions they take
to affect positive change
in our society**

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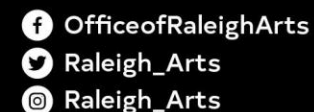
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www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org
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919-264-7089

From the

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



For over a decade, The Justice Theater Project has been concentrating an entire season on a single social justice theme. This served us well for many years, allowing us to make a deep dive into a single issue. As we evolve and take a long look at our world in 2023-24, there are simply too many pressing concerns to wait until subsequent seasons for us to bring them to the forefront. Therefore, going forward, The Justice Theater Project will be who we have always been – a social justice theater company – and will choose plays that address the most critical issues of our time, RIGHT NOW.

This season, we will tackle a myriad of social justice issues – prejudice, persecution, inequity, violence, stereotyping, the list goes on and on. Our varied season contains some of the most famous titles of modern theater as well as some newer scripts destined to become staples of the American stage. And rest assured, with our supporting events, including expert speakers, workshops, roundtables, seminars, and artist interviews, our dives will remain as deep as ever.

Jerry

From the

BOARD

Grantors

The Justice Theater Project is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, as well as the N.C Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Justice Theater Project is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.

Additional support provided by the AJ Fletcher Foundation, Umstead Park United Church of Christ, The Catholic Community of Saint Francis of Assisi, The LOVID Fund, The Woodard Group, Solidarity Capital, and Triangle Wealth Management.

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Welcome to the exciting 20th anniversary season of The Justice Theater Project! Things have changed dramatically in our community during the past 20 years. One thing that stays the same is our work in staying true to our mission – to produce compelling theater experiences that create community dialogue and gives voice to social concerns.



SEAN GARGAN

Throughout economic downturns followed by a year of exponential growth, exciting worldwide advances in sensibilities and compassionate understanding, and a global pandemic, YOUR support of our work and your participation in our discussions, fundraisers, kids' camps, and more have fostered a unique theater community dedicated to social justice awareness and ways to take action.

Our work continues. As we grow and evolve, it's apparent that numerous social justice issues keep bubbling up at the same time - all equally important, and all deserving of discussion and action. Our spectacular slate of shows for our 20th anniversary year touch on multiple topics of social concern that will challenge you, delight you, and inspire you.

Thank you for your support, and I'll see you at the theater.

Sean

the justice theater
project

Learn more about our theater schedule, sponsorships,
subscriptions and summer camps at:

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JTP 2023/24 SEASON

TWELVE ANGRY JURORS

Based on the Emmy Award-Winning television movie by
Reginald Rose

Adapted for the stage by Sherman L. Sergel

Directed by Jerry Sipp

October 13-29, 2023 Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

A disadvantaged teenager is accused of murdering his father and faces the death penalty. On the surface, it seems like an open and shut case. 11 jurors vote to convict. One wants to talk. Heated discussions boil over as these 12 diverse people dig deeper into the evidence, examining the facts from different perspectives. A modern classic that has gained even deeper insight with multicultural, gender-fluid casting.

Black Nativity *in concert*

By Dr. Asabi (Stephanie Howard), Music Director Rev. Ray Watkins

December 9 & 10, 2023 North Carolina Museum of Art

Celebrate and share the 2023 holiday season at our 13th annual production full of inspirational, fun-filled performances through uplifting, inspirational gospel music, expressive West African and contemporary dance, vibrant costuming, and dynamic performers as we continue to entertain audiences through powerful messages of joy and hope. A special family experience for all ages. We are proud to continue to offer this must-see holiday event in partnership with the NC Museum of Art, making it accessible to thousands of holiday revelers in their beautiful amphitheater.

SKELETON CREW

By Dominique Morisseau

Directed by Dr. Nadia Bodie

February 9-25, 2024 Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

As the Great Recession of 2008 hits, a Detroit automotive stamping plant is in danger of being shut down. A tight knit family of workers forms the remaining skeleton crew, and their lives hang in the balance. Faye, Dez, Shanita and Reggie must reckon with their personal loyalties, their instincts for survival and their ultimate hopes for humanity in a play that explores a dozen social justice issues at once. Their decency and care for not only their earnings but also for each other builds as job insecurity looms. Illuminating the truths of living in an era where the system is stacked in favor of corporate interests. *WINNER: Tony Award for Best Actress (Phylicia Rashad).*
Nominated: Tony Award Best Play.

26 PEBBLES

By Eric Ulloa

Directed by Brian Yandle

April 12-28, 2024 Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

December 14, 2012. 26 innocent lives were taken at Sandy Hook Elementary. A reporter visits the town for a few days and then stays for 3 months. He asked five interview questions of each person:

What things do you love about Newtown? Traditions? Locations?

What was your day like on December 14? Take me from waking up in the morning to your head on the pillow at night.

Does this shooting shake your faith? Can (any form of) God exist when tragedies like this happen?

What are your thoughts about Adam Lanza, the shooter? Do you blame him?

What is the one word you'd want Newtown to be remembered for?

In their own words, people spoke about the importance of community, healing, resilience, perseverance, hope and outpourings of love from around the world.

Like pebbles thrown in a pond, these 26 deaths created ripples that still reverberate today.

blank_____

by Nassim Soleimanpour

May 2024 Locations throughout the Triangle

No director. No rehearsal. One performer who has never read the script. A script filled with blanks. One weekend of one-of-a-kind theater held in multiple and diverse locations throughout the Triangle. Iranian playwright Soleimanpour has revolutionized what theatre can be, borne out of a time when his government would not let him leave his home country.

CABARET

Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb,

Book by Joe Masteroff

Directed by Nancy Rich, Music Direction by Katherine Anderson

June 7-23, 2024 Umstead Park United Church of Christ, Raleigh

In a Berlin nightclub, as the 1920s drew to a close, a garish Master of Ceremonies welcomes the audience and assures them they will forget all their troubles at the Cabaret. Employing the Emcee's bawdy songs as wry commentary, this musical classic explores the dark, heady, and tumultuous life of Sally Bowles and Berlin's natives and expatriates as Germany slowly yields to the emerging Third Reich. *CABARET* boldly tackles racial profiling, inclusiveness, politics, survival, sorrow, and fear in times of culturally and politically reactionary forces and episodes of significant social change. *CABARET* is among the American theatre's most enduring musicals.

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Photos by Chris Janaro (l-r) El Pueblo, CAM, NC Museum of History, Town of Zebulon, African American Cultural Festival, Justice Theater Project, IBMA, Hum Sub, WCPSS Pieces of Gold



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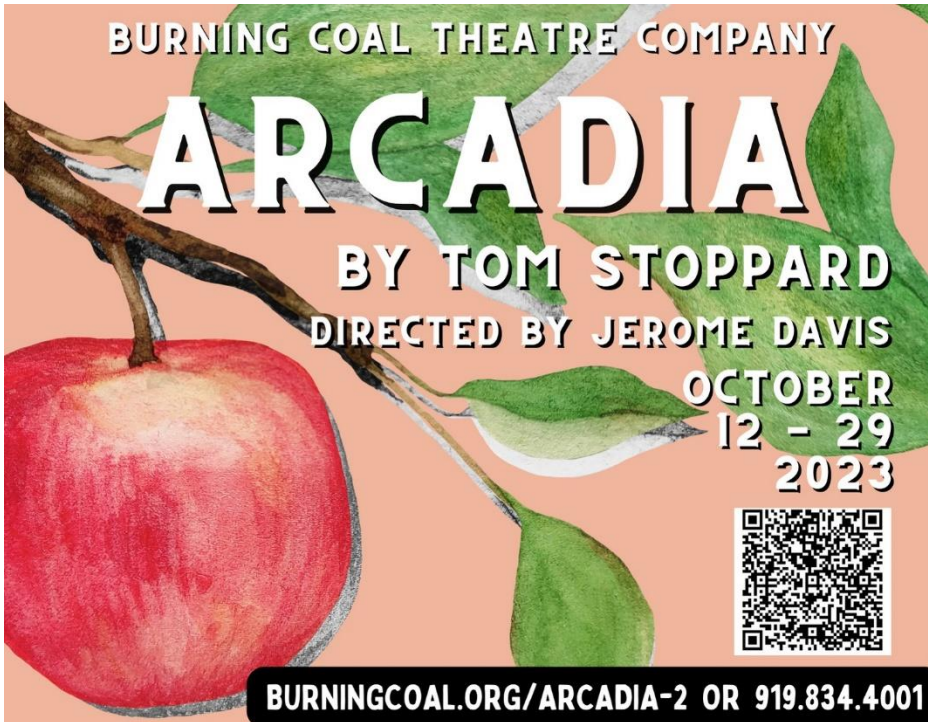



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presents

12 Angry Jurors

Based on the Emmy Award-Winning
television movie by Reginald Rose

Adapted for the stage by
Sherman L. Sergel

Directed by Jerry Sipp

October 13-29, 2023

12 ANGRY JURORS

Is presented through special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing.

Special Thanks

Olivia Allen, Debbie DeRosa, Joey Desena, Ann Platsky,
Sondra Iverson, Doug Long, Joye Goff, Nancy Rich, Adam
Twiss, Juliana Valente, Theatre In The Park, Umstead Park
United Church of Christ, Saint David's School Theater
Department, Wake County Health and Human Services



Join us for

Black Nativity

in Concert

Tickets on sale!

December 9 and 10, 2023

Joseph M. Bryan, Jr. Theater in the Museum Park, NC Museum of Art, Raleigh

The Justice Theater Project presents

12 Angry Jurors

Based on the Emmy Award-Winning television movie by Reginald Rose

Adapted for the stage by Sherman L. Sergel

Directed by Jerry Sipp

Production Stage Manager
Yamila Monge

Master Carpenter
Jeffrey Nugent

Sound Design
Juan Isler

Lighting Design
Cory Arnold

Costume Design
Beth Gargan

Artist Emotional Support Counseling
Kelly Caniglia

Board Operations
Yamila Monge

Lighting Assistant
Joshua Aldridge

Running Crew
Alex Lewis

Set build

Daniel Cryer-Muthedath Ryder, Jeffrey Nugent, Jerry Sipp

12 ANGRY JURORS will be performed without
an intermission

Videotaping or other video or audio recording
prohibited

www.TheJusticeTheaterProject.org

The Cast

Juror #1 Celeste Hinnant

Juror #2 Cielo Gomez

Juror #3 Jim O'Brien

Juror #4 Tamara Kissane

Juror #5 Chanwoo Kim

Juror #6 Eloise Jordan

Juror #7 J. Ra'Chel Fowler

Juror #8 Laurel Ullman

Juror #9 Gerald Rubin

Juror #10 Patrick Ferrara

Juror #11 Louise Farmer

Juror #12 Dani Coan

Guard Alex Lewis

FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Matter of Perspective

Winnie the Pooh and Piglet are tracking a woozle in the snow. As the single track grows into more and more tracks, they are convinced they will soon catch their woozle. But Christopher Robin, sitting atop the hill, reveals the truth: Pooh and Piglet are unknowingly walking in a circle around the hill, and the tracks are the ones they have made themselves in the snow.

The old saying is, "Never ASSume. You only make an ASSUME out of U and ME." Without all the facts, it is easy to jump to conclusions. When we only look at an issue through a single lens, we often miss what is in our figurative peripheral vision. It's only when things are examined from multiple angles that we begin to comprehend where the truth may lie.

Reginald Rose's classic TWELVE ANGRY MEN, adapted for the stage into TWELVE ANGRY JURORS by Christopher Sergel, locks us in a room with twelve very different people with twelve different life experiences. Each believes they are "right." The circumstances of their hasty decisions could mean life or death for the defendant. As they dig deeper and examine the evidence from all sides, only then do they begin to discover how their own biases, prejudices, and assumptions may have led them astray.

In Harper Lee's masterpiece, TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, Atticus Finch tells his daughter Scout, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from (their) point of view...until you climb into (their) skin and walk around in it." Our wonderful cast, diverse in culture, gender, age, and background, is the living embodiment of Atticus' advice. It is wise to consider as many viewpoints as possible when seeking the truth.

It is all a matter of perspective.



Olivia Allen (Justice Theater Arts Administrator/Wardrobe Supervisor) graduated with a BFA in Directing from Emory & Henry College in 2019. Some of her favorite stage management credits include *Every Brilliant Thing* (JTP), *Enemy of the People*, *Best of Enemies*, *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Honest Pint), *Cabaret* (E&H), and *The Lion King Jr.* (The Dreamland Stage Company). Her favorite directing projects include assistant directing JTP's production of *Urinetown*, *RENT: School Edition* at Seattle Children's Theatre (assistant director), *No Exit*, and Rodgers and Hammerstein's *State Fair* (E&H). Olivia is excited to be a part of such a treasured classic.



Cory Arnold (Lighting Designer) has a B.A. in Music Business from Millikin University. Recent Lighting Design credits include *Urinetown*, *Annie*, *The Best of Enemies*, *The Dead Man*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Black Nativity in Concert*, *Enemy of the People*, *Man of La Mancha* (The Justice Theater Project), *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Noises Off*, *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, *Forbidden Broadway* (Theatre in the Park), *My Wonderful Birthday Suit* (Raleigh Little Theatre) *SOFAR Sounds* Raleigh/Durham. Cory often uses his skills as a Lighting Designer and Electrician at DPAC, Martin Marietta Center, PNC Arena, Theater in the Park, and other regional venues. He is excited to work with The Justice Theater Project again and thanks those who continue to support him in his pursuit of the arts.



Dani Coan (Juror #12) is so excited to be in her first production with The Justice Theater Project. Dani has been acting in the RTP area for the last five years, starting at NC State and working with several community theaters. Some of her notable roles include Emily Webb in *Our Town*, Daphne in *Present Laughter*, and Miranda in *The Tempest*. Outside of being a performer, Dani also writes her own works, including *Mosaic*, a one-woman show produced at TheatreFest in 2022, and her newest show, *Ex-Boyfriends*, produced at Burning Coal in June 2024. Dani would like to thank this amazing cast for their hard work and collaboration. She would also like to thank her partner, Phil, family, and friends for their ongoing love and support.



Louise Farmer (Juror #11) is honored to play Juror #11 in this powerful story about human nature and the importance of fairness in our criminal justice system. She is very familiar with people coming from all over the world who value democracy since she taught adult English as a Second Language for many years. She is grateful to Jerry for his fine leadership and to Yamila for her diligent work. All glory to God for his goodness and grace.



Patrick Ferrara (Juror #10) is proud to be making his Wake County Theatrical debut. He has appeared in almost every Theatrical venue in Forsyth and Guilford County and a ton of Indie Features throughout North Carolina. He was last seen as Richard Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross* in Greensboro. His NYC credits include *Off, Off-Off B'way*, and Indie Feature films shown at the NY Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival. He trained in the Lee Strasberg Method. He is retired but is an Acting Coach/Moderator for Talent Managers For Actors in Los Angeles (TMFA, 110,000 members).



J. Ra'Chel Fowler (Juror #7) is an experienced Consent-Forward performance artist interested in roles that highlight the complexities of femininity. She is an Alumni of NCCU's theater department and holds additional advanced degrees in Criminal Justice & Forensic Psychology, respectively. Some of her favorite roles to date have been Florence (*Poof!*), Ann Atwater (*Best of Enemies*), Fannie Lou Hamer (*All the Way*), Shelly (*Dot*), Actor 6/Black Women (*We Are Proud to Present*), Cynthia (*Sweat*), and Jasmine (*Fairview*). J. Ra'Chel is excited to be back on The Justice Theater Project's stage in a production where her two worlds collide: Theater & the Criminal Legal System! Her greatest joys are her three children: Kourtnee' Ra'Chel, Josiah Dymarja' & Jeremiah DeKarai. J. Ra'Chel believes "the difference between living and existing is "PASSION." Her mantra in life is D2BD – Dare 2B Different ~ "If you're lucky enough to be different, don't ever change."



Beth Gargan (Costume Designer) is an avid theatergoer and quilter and is relatively new to costuming for theater. This past summer, she was the costumer for *Annie Jr.* with 120 lively campers at The Justice Theater Project's summer theater camp. In addition to *12 Angry Jurors*, Beth is the costumer for Burning Coal Theatre's current production of *Arcadia*. She's looking forward to where this new gig takes her! Thanks to Jerry Sipp and Melissa Zeph for their support and to Sean for his encouragement!



Cielo Gomez (Juror #2) is a film and stage actor from North Carolina. She received her training in theater performance at Appalachian State University, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with honors. Since embarking into the real world, Cielo has had the pleasure of working with Vault Theatre during their first season in their one-person show, *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*. She has also had the privilege of working with Burning Coal Theatre Company in their staged readings for new works such as *Thursday* and *Welcome to the RAA*. In the indie film world, Cielo has been paving her way on the East Coast with horror works such as *Withered*, *Worth the Weight*, and *Wax* with Buried Hatchet Productions. This is Cielo's first time working with The Justice Theater Project, and she couldn't be happier to be back on the stage with such a big cast full of wonderfully talented individuals.



Celeste Hinnant (Juror #1) is thrilled to return to the stage where it all started. Since making her theatrical debut in Justice Theater Project's *The Color Purple* in 2015, she has performed in over 30 plays with numerous theater companies both on a local and national level. A native of Garner, NC, and a local government retiree, Celeste has also directed plays, published a book of personal poems, created a teen poetry writing curriculum, and facilitated and hosted a teen spoken word workshop. She is grateful for the love and support she receives from her daughter, Nikki, and her family. Psalm 91:1



Juan Isler (Sound Designer) a native of Kinston, NC, grew up singing and earned a music-business degree at Winston-Salem State University in 1993. He worked as a deejay before coming to Raleigh, where he got a job as technical director at what is now Spectrum News in 2004. He has worked on more than 50 plays in venues across the Triangle on both sides of the stage, as actor, technician and director. He is the resident sound designer at Justice Theater Project. He is the board chair at Beltline To Broadway. He is the host of the show "TORN," where he is one of the public faces of the online hub Beltline To Broadway (beltlinetobroadway.org, formerly RDU On Stage). All of this, while working as an Event Manager at NC State University..



Eloise Jordan (Juror #6) retired from IBM after 35 years of service and decided it was now time to do the things she has always wanted to do! Eloise took stand-up comedy classes at Goodnight's Comedy Club and is now venturing out locally with comedy. She is taking voice lessons to revive her "career" as a jazz singer. Several years ago, Eloise met our director, Jerry Sipp, when she attended his "Rememorize" workshop at the National Black Theater Festival, thinking it could help with her comedy routines. Eloise loves local theater and has been a season subscriber with The Justice Theater Project for many years. She finally decided to take Jerry's suggestion and audition for a play! This show is her first production in quite some time.



Chanwoo Kim (Juror #5) is excited to be a part of the *12 Angry Jurors*! This powerful story, echoing his personal experiences of discrimination that he faced as an immigrant, marks his debut in the world of professional acting. Through this production, Chanwoo hopes to bring authenticity to the themes of unity and discrimination, making a lasting impression on audiences.





Tamara Kissane (Juror #4) is a playwright, parent, podcaster, and theater-maker based in Pittsboro, NC. She was the 2020 Piedmont Laureate and received Outstanding Contribution to the Arts from Chatham Life & Style. Her plays and monologues have been presented throughout the Triangle and Triad of NC. Through her production studio, Artist Soapbox, Tamara has produced, written, and directed a variety of audio dramas and live events. As an actor, Tamara has performed with Artist Soapbox, Manbites Dog Theater, Durham Academy, Transactors Improv, Summer Sisters, Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern, Archipelago, and Both Hands Theater Company. This is her first production with The Justice Theater Project.



Alex Lewis (Running Crew/Guard) is from Panama City, Panama. He is grateful to be back in another Justice Theater Project production. He is represented by KU Talent and has worked in multiple productions in the Triangle. Most recently, he worked backstage as a dresser for the *Prom* at Theatre Raleigh, was the stage manager for *My Wonderful Birthday Suit* at RLT, and was a running crew member for *Best of Enemies* at The Justice Theater Project. Last seen on stage, he played Jocke for the TIP production of *Let the Right One*. Special thanks to Jerry Sipp, Melissa Zeph, Debbie DeRosa, the cast, crew, and his tribe Dannibeth Farnum, Stephen Furs, and Jordan Farell for all the love & YOU for supporting local theater and the arts. Check his Zumba Classes and more - <https://linktr.ee/introjourney>



Yamila Monge (Stage Manager) has worked as a Stage Manager in the Raleigh area for several years. Some of their favorite shows include *Of Good Stock*, *Dracula*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Father* (Theatre in the Park), *Urinetown*, & *Man of La Mancha* (Justice Theatre Project). Yamila recently made her directorial debut with The Justice Theater Project for *Best of Enemies*. When Yamila is not calling cues, you can find her spinning tunes in downtown Raleigh, as she is also a local DJ known as Yamillionaire! Yamila would like to give a special thanks to their friends & community for their never-ending support!



Jim O'Brien (Juror #3) is excited to join this amazing cast in telling this important story. He was in a production of *Twelve Angry Men* at Judson Theater seven years ago. He has also appeared in many of The Justice Theater Project's productions, including *Inherit the Wind*, *Caroline or Change*, *Oliver*, and *Ragtime*.



Gerald Rubin (Juror #9) has a late start in life with acting. He has an improv background and has been active in the Triangle. Gerald has been in various readings in the area. Also, he has been in *Playslams* with the Cary Players. He has been in productions of *On The Banks Of The Eno*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *Present Laughter*, and a play called *Purple Flower*. This show is Gerald's first production with The Justice Theater Project.



Jeffrey Nugent (Set Designer/Construction) has been active with Triangle theater groups for more than 20 years as an actor, designer, props wrangler, builder, ninja, etc. He is excited to collaborate with the amazing cast, crew, and production team in telling this wonderful story. Thanks to them for sharing their gifts and to YOU for supporting our passion. Enjoy the show!



Jerry Sipp (Director) serves as Artistic Director for The Justice Theater Project. Before becoming our A.D., Jerry was seen on our stage as Fagin in *OLIVER!*, Mitch Album in *Tuesdays with Morrie* and LBJ in *All The Way*. Other favorite historical figures he has portrayed include John Wilkes Booth in *The Actor and The Assassin*, Shakespeare in *Equivocation*, and Robert Louis Stevenson in his original one-man show, *Shadows*. He has acted in over 100 plays spanning 38 U.S. states and Scotland. He has directed well over 100 shows and is an award-winning playwright, having seen 10 of his original scripts produced. Jerry also served as Producing Artistic Director for Temple Theatre, The Playhouse Theatre, and Granville Little Theatre and co-founded Trio Productions, a professional touring company.



Laurel Ullman (Juror #8) is delighted to be appearing with The Justice Theater Project for the first time. Triangle credits include *Silent Sky* and *Galileo* (Burning Coal); *Waters Rise* and *Crumble: Lay Me Down* Justin Timberlake (Women's Theatre Festival); *Baskerville* (RLT); *The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls* (ManBites Dog); *Small & Tired* and *Contractions* (Common Wealth Endeavours); *Cloud 9, 5 Lesbians* *Eating A Quiche* (Tiny Engine); among others. Laurel received her BA in Theatre from UNC-Greensboro.

AUDITIONS for our February and April Main Stage Productions!



26 PEBBLES

November 5 & 6



SKELETON CREW

November 11 & 12