



AUSTIN COLLABORATIVE THEATRE
IN COORDINATION WITH MCCALLUM FINE ARTS ACADEMY

PRESENTS

Ordinary People

Directed by
Rod Caspers

By Nancy Gilsenan
adapted from the novel
by Judith Guest

AUGUST 14 - 17

**AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE THEATER
405 W 22ND STREET**

AUSTINCOLLABORATIVE.ORG

Director Notes on Ordinary People by Judith Guest

Passages to contemplate:

- This house. Too big for three people. Straining, he can barely hear the early-morning sounds of his father and mother organizing things, synchronizing schedules at the other end of the hall. It doesn't matter. He doesn't need to hear, and they would certainly not be talking about anything important. They would not be talking, for instance, about him. They are people of good taste. They do not discuss a problem in the presence of the problem. And, besides, there is no problem. There is just Phase Two. Recovery. A moving forward.
- And what about tomorrow then? And all the tomorrows to come? Why can't we talk about it? Why can't we ever talk about it?
- Music is his only escape. It makes the weight of his crimes bearable. The melody harmony rhythm a visible structure as it winds through his mind. He can concentrate completely in here as they practice obscure French carols for the Christmas concert, and Faughnan, pushing all the time, ignoring all protests – "Tenors! Too heavy on the 'Everlasting!' And save the 's' for 'sting,' will you? Don't be cute. Sopranos! Screeching again, what am I gonna' do with you girls? Everybody! Watch, for pete's sake, watch!" So, he watches. He never takes his eyes off Faughnan the whole hour as the music fills out the corners of his mind.
- Choir is the one time of day when he lets down his guard; there is peace in the strict concentration that Faughnan demands of all of them, in the sweet dissonance of voices in the chorus. He has sung in here since he was a freshman. Every minute of every hour that is spent there, they work, and there is only one way to prove yourself. You sing, and sing, and sing. All else is unimportant.
- Listen, what happened this morning was that you let yourself feel some pain. Feeling is not selective, I keep telling you that. You can't feel pain, you aren't gonna' feel anything else, either. And the world is full of pain. Also joy. Evil. Goodness. Horror and love. You name it, it's there. Sealing yourself off is just going through the motions, get it?

Revisiting Judith Guest's acclaimed novel, *Ordinary People*, through Nancy Gilseman's effective adaptation has been a rich journey for all of us involved. First published in 1976, the story's themes and messages seem more important than ever. Judith Guest poses many important questions to her young protagonist, Conrad – and asks him/us to find the answers. One answer that I know is crystal clear – the present is not the time for government officials to be cutting crisis hotline funding for troubled teens or withholding funds from schools that provide for life-saving arts programs. For all of us working on this production, the clarion call has been re-awakened -- to become fierce advocates for accessible and inclusive top-quality mental health care. It is my sincere hope that viewing the production awakens a similar call in you.

Ordinary People takes place in a Evanston Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, from the autumn of 1981 to the spring of 1982.

The play will run in two acts with a one 15 min intermission

Ordinary People

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Conrad Jarret.....Joseph Blackwood
“Buck” Jarrett.....Gideon Adair
Cal Jarrett.....Tim Blackwood
Beth Jarrett.....Rebecca Robinson
Stillman.....Eli Meshbane-Duke
Joe Lazenby.....Lincoln Faber
Coach Salan.....Max Green
Jennine Pratt.....Maggie Brown
Dr Berger.....Mark Pickell
Karen Aldrich.....Samantha Panzer

Production Team

Director.....Rod Caspers
Stage Design/Build.....Holly Crowley
Patrick Crowley
Costume Design.....Cassidy Barber
Lighting Design.....Kate Hazzard
Sound Design.....David Olivares
Stage Manager.....Zwi Meza

Crew

Asst Stage Manager.....Isabella Robinson
Asst Costume Design.....Dede Reagins
Asst Lighting Design.....Katie Wiseman
Asst Sound Design.....Cole Wade
Asst Stage Design.....Isabelle Robinson
Fight Choreographer.....Mike Ooi
Paul XXXXX

Scan QR code for full program

Cast Bios



Gideon Adair (Buck Jarrett) - Gideon is so excited to be a part of Ordinary People! Educational: Tuck Everlasting and Freaky Friday(McCallum Fine Arts Academy Theatre). ZACH Theatre: Mean Girls. He would like to thank his whole family for supporting him so generously.



Tim Blackwood (Cal Jarrett) - Tim is excited to be doing this play for the second time. Some of Tim's recent performances include Grand Hotel and King of Hearts with the Alchemy Theatre; Jane Eyre, Enemy of the People, and O'Henry Stories with Austin Shakespeare. Tim is very excited to be performing with his son in this production.



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Maggie Brown (Jennine Pratt) - Maggie Brown is a senior at McCallum Fine Arts Academy, double majoring in Performance Theatre and Collaborative Piano. Recent shows: ZACH Theater: Out of My Dreams, Cicada, Inherit the Wind, Tuck Everlasting. Maggie would like to thank her friends and family for their support.



Lincoln Faber (Joe Lazenby)- Lincoln Faber is a rising senior in the McCallum Fine Arts program for performance theatre. He has been a part of numerous shows at Mactheatre over the last 3 years. Most recently he performed as Bertram Cates in Inherit the wind. He is so excited to get to work with Austin Collaborative Theatre and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Cast Bios



Max Green (Coach Salan) - (he/him) is excited to be working on this production of Ordinary People. Max is an Austin native. You may have seen him in things like: Grand Hotel (Sandor-Witt/Zinnowitz), Falsettos (Mendel), Inside/Outside (Boy), Lobby Hero (Jeff), Matilda: The Musical (Mr. Wormwood), Twelfth Night (Sir Andrew), & The Foreigner (Charlie). Max would like to thank Tim Blackwood for inviting him to be a part of this project. Additionally, a big thank you goes out to family and friends for their endless love and support. @meexverde



Samantha Panzer (Karen Aldrich) - Samantha attends McCallum High School. She is highly involved within the theatre program. She recently starred in the schools UIL competition piece “Cicada” as the role of Lily, winning multiple awards including Best Performer. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her theatrical dreams and hopes you enjoy the show.



Mark Pickell (Dr Berger) - Mark is an Austin-based, multi-disciplinary theatre artist with over 20 years of experience producing and developing dynamic works in the Austin theatre community. He served as the founder and artistic director of Capital T Theatre until 2021. He has earned multiple nominations and awards as a Director, Actor, Scenic Designer, and Lighting Designer, including a 1997 Austin Critics' Table Award for his performance in La Bête. At just 17, Mark had the honor of being directed by Rod Caspers in The Caucasian Chalk Circle—and now, 32 years later, he is delighted to collaborate with Rod once again.



Rebecca Robinson (Beth Jarrett) - Rebecca is a member of the Hyde Park Theatre Company and has appeared in numerous productions, most recently Caught, Wakey Wakey, The Realistic Joneses, Middletown, Marion Bridge and Circle Mirror Transformation. She has also appeared in Capital T productions of It Is Magic, Small Mouth Sounds, Detroit and A Lie of the Mind, which garnered her the B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding Featured Actress. She performed in two different productions of The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?, (Different Stages and Capital T) and received the B. Iden Payne Best Actress Award.

Production Team



Rod Caspers (Director) - Rod Caspers served as Executive Director of Creative Services for the University of Texas System, where he and colleagues received five Lone Star Emmy Awards for creating/producing the PBS series, State of Tomorrow. Directing credits include Merrily We Roll Along, The Secret Garden, Big River, Honk!, Ah, Wilderness! and The Bat (a new adaption of Die Fledermaus). Stage managing credits include The Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes (seven seasons) and Jim Henson's Musical World at Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops, the Muppets and the casts of Avenue Q and Sesame Street. He has co-produced/directed the Texas Cultural Trust's Texas Medal of Arts Celebration since 2019. Rod staged the original production of Conspirare's Considering Matthew Shepard as well as subsequent productions across the country, including Trinity Wall Street, NYC; The Mann Center, Philadelphia; Texas Performing Arts, Austin and, most recently, The Oregon Bach Festival. For additional information, visit rodcaspers.com.



Cassidy Barber (Costume Design) - Cassidy is a recent graduate of St. Edwards University with a BA in costume design. Recent projects include wardrobe crew for Waitress at ZACH Theatre and Moulin Rouge, and Hamilton at Bass Concert Hall. Additionally, she was the Costume designer for Elf the musical, and Tick...Tick...Boom at Texarts.



Rebecca Robinson (Beth Jarrett) - Rebecca is a member of the Hyde Park Theatre Company and has appeared in numerous productions, most recently Caught, Wakey Wakey, The Realistic Joneses, Middletown, Marion Bridge and Circle Mirror Transformation. She has also appeared in Capital T productions of It Is Magic, Small Mouth Sounds, Detroit and A Lie of the Mind, which garnered her the B. Iden Payne award for Outstanding Featured Actress. She performed in two different productions of The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?, (Different Stages and Capital T) and received the B. Iden Payne Best Actress Award.

Special Thanks

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Allen Capasgordo (Allen's Capital Fitness)
Philip Owen
Susan Branch Towne
Lisa Fischer
McCallum Fine Arts Academy
McCallum Royal Court Players
McCallum Royal Theatre Society

Austin Collaborative Theatre

is a brand new theatre company dedicated to creating meaningful theatre experiences to enhance the community and work in collaboration with local Austin artists and theatres. We also firmly believe that artists should be paid for their work. If you enjoy this performance and would like us to continue producing experiences like this, please consider donating. More info can be found at the links below.

austincollaborative.org

