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Please Note

- Food and drink must not be brought into the theatre
- The use of cameras or recording devices is strictly prohibited
- Smoking is not permitted in the Noel Fine Arts Center
- In the case of an emergency, ushers will assist audience members at each exit

Theatre & Dance Department productions are partially funded by the Student Government Association

The UWSP Department of Theatre & Dance is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the National Association of Schools of Dance.

2009-2010 Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff

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Associate Lecturer, Theatre

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Cutter/Draper, Theatre

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Assistant Professor of Theatre

Ruth Daniels
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Costume Shop Manager
Associate Instruction Specialist

Michael Estanich
Assistant Professor of Dance

Jeannie Hill
Assistant Professor of Dance

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BFA Musical Theatre Coordinator

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Susan Sherwin
Associate Professor of Theatre

Stephen Trovillion Smith
Associate Professor of Theatre
BFA Acting Program Coordinator

Jeffrey Stephens
Assistant Professor of Theatre
BA/BS Drama Program Coordinator

John Strassburg
Dance Program Accompanist

Director's Notes

In 1925, a Kentucky Caver named Floyd Collins fearlessly journeyed through a shockingly small hole in the ground with hopes of finding the next Mammoth Cave. 150 feet under the ground, he discovered a uniquely beautiful cave which he was certain would bring him fame and fortune by becoming a major tourist attraction in the region. Unfortunately, while maneuvering through a small passage way a small rock weighing only 26 pounds landed on his foot trapping him. He remained underground in a “small coffin of stone” where his dreams of discovering a tourist attraction ironically came to be as he became the subject of one of the nation’s first media sensations. Tens of thousands of people descended on this poverty stricken area due to the reporting of diminutive William “Skeets” Miller who was able to reach him by squeezing through a narrow passageway. His reporting ultimately earned Skeets a Pulitzer Prize.

This captivating and historically true event is hardly what one would expect to be the subject matter of a musical. Fortunately Richard Rodger’s grandson Adam Guettel had a vision to musically bring this amazing story to life. This musical theatre piece is as controversial as the event itself. John Simon of New York Magazine proclaimed that FLOYD COLLINS was “the most daring musical of our day”. Blending toe-tapping blue grass with the musical complexity of Stravinsky, its off-broadway run in 1996 at Playwrights Horizons won the Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical and the Obie Award for its original score.

The show is rarely produced; however, it has become a “theatre-cult” favorite. I was introduced to the show when I was cast in the first regional theatre production at Actors Theatre of Louisville. It was a gorgeous production and I was drawn into this heart wrenching story but I felt that there was something missing. I wanted to bring a more magical quality. I felt that the show would play more poignantly if the weight of Eugene O’Neil was combined with the dream like quality incorporated in many Federico Fellini films. The show is ultimately about humanity, the importance of family and the acceptance of one’s own fate. Through non-traditional movement, lighting, set, costumes, sound, props and orchestration, we have attempted to bring a more mystical quality to the story telling. Realistic, yet representational the designers have worked diligently on this piece and I would like to thank each and every person for their commitment and artistry. I am honored to have worked with these collaborators as they are ALL equally integral to the mounting of this “Americana” painting. I would also like to give special thanks to music director Roger Nelson for his work on an extraordinarily difficult score and to Jennifer Wilson for her leadership with stage management.

The actors have thrown their huge hearts into this project and it should be noted that while most students would choose to relax in the sun over spring break, our students chose to travel to Kentucky to visit the site where this event transpired. The road trip led by assistant director Ben Kern gave the students great insight to the region, dialect and southern sensibility. It gave me great pride as an educator to know that they were inspired to do so.

Please enjoy getting a look “down thar” at FLOYD COLLINS!

Best, Tim Howard

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Department of Theatre & Dance

Presents

Floyd Collins

Book by TINA LANDAU
Music and Lyrics by ADAM GUETTEL
Additional Lyrics by TINA LANDAU

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City,
Produced **FLOYD COLLINS** Off-Broadway in 1996
FLOYD COLLINS was commissioned by The American Music Theater Festival,
Philadelphia, which produced its world premier in 1994

FLOYD COLLINS is presented through special arrangement with R & H
Theatricals: www.mhtheatricals.com



Director/Choreographer
Tim Howard*

Music Director
Roger L. Nelson*

Stage Manager
Jennifer Wilson

Costume Designer
Susan Sherwin*

Sound Designer/Engineer
Mercer Aplin

Lighting Designer
Michael Trudeau

Properties Designer
Hilary Landowski

Scenic Designer
Stephen Sherwin*

*Denotes Faculty/Staff

Floyd Collins

Cast

Floyd Collins.....Justun Hart
Bee Doyle.....Jon Churchwell
Ed Bishop.....Matthew Cooke
Jewell Estes.....Michael Gastaldi
Lee Collins.....Jacob Horstmeier
Miss Jane.....Erica Figurin
Nellie Collins.....Kelsey Schmitz
Homer Collins.....Evan Garry
Skeets Miller.....Adam Ceschin
H.T. Carmichael.....Peter Hergarten
Cliff Roney/Reporter.....Zakary Morton
Dr. Hazlett/Reporter.....Alexander Van Handel
Frederick Jordan.....Zachary Spooner
Reporter.....James Hansen

Ensemble:

Courtney Groves
Stephanie Hansen
Alexander Mace
Zachary Spooner
Travis Waas
Meagan Wells



The Orchestra

Conductor/Keyboard.....	Roger L. Nelson*
Guitar.....	Luke Ringelstetter
Violin.....	Erin Ribble
Viola.....	Allison Millsaps
Cello.....	Kyle Martin
Bass.....	Ethan Klassen
Percussion.....	Alex Meronek

Musical Numbers

Act I

<i>The Ballad of Floyd Collins</i>	Jewell, Nellie, Miss Jane, Homer, Miller
<i>The Call</i>	Floyd
<i>Time to Go</i>	Floyd
<i>'Tween A Rock an' A Hard Place</i>	Bishop, Jewell, Doyle
<i>Lucky</i>	Nellie, Miss Jane
<i>Daybreak</i>	Homer, Floyd
<i>I Landed On Him</i>	Miller
<i>An' She'd Have Blue Eyes</i>	Floyd
<i>Heart An' Hand</i>	Miss Jane, Lee Collins
<i>The Riddle Song</i>	Homer, Floyd

Act II

<i>Is That Remarkable?</i>	Reporters, locals, Collins family, Miller
<i>The Carnival</i>	All
<i>Through the Mountain</i>	Nellie
<i>Git Comfortable</i>	Homer
<i>Family Scene</i>	Nellie, Homer, Lee, Miss Jane
<i>The Ballad of Floyd Collins (Act II Reprise)</i>	Jewell, Bishop, Homer and male ensemble
<i>The Dream</i>	Nellie, Floyd, Homer and ensemble
<i>How Glory Goes</i>	Floyd

Acknowledgements

The music director wishes to thank the faculty of the Music Department and especially Professors Mathew Buchman and David Story for their kind assistance.

Production Staff

Assistant Director.....Ben Kern
Assistant Choreographer.....Jessica Ballweg
Assistant Costume Designer.....Lizzy Joanis
Assistant Stage Manager.....Bri Collins
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Ryan Hussey
Scenic Charge.....Jaz Emmons
Scenic Artist.....Leanna Vannarom
Properties Technicians.....Katie Crabb, Leanna Vannarom
Kate Vander Velden
Deck Run Crew.....Tom Bebeau, Emily Lawrence, Michelle Nieuwenhuis
Kara Schmelz, Meggan Utech, Drew Willers
Costume Run Crew.....Nathan Fitzwater-Butchart, Jourdyn Glaman
Abigail Hencheck, Zachary Woods
Costume Shop Manager.....Wendy Dolan*
Cutter/Draper.....Barbara Cirno*
Scene Shop Manager.....Christopher Pheiffer*
Costume Shop Assistants.....Ella Floyd, Cece Hill, Maria Hintze
Dan Olson, Kelsey Schmitz, Libby Stadstad, Sara Tan
Meggan Utech, Shannon Ward
Vorland Scholarship Interns: Scott Frost and Amber Wuttke
Scene Shop Assistants.....Mercer Aplin, Andrew Broomell
Kyle Coyer, Nathan Fitzwater-Butchart, Nick Reising
Michael Trudeau, Christopher Walls
Vorland Scholarship Interns: Cliff Hannon and Jennifer Wilson
Scene & Costume Shop.....Theatre & Dance Practicum Students
Academic Department Associate.....Ruth Daniels*
Theatre & Dance Office Student Assistants.....Alison Dwyer, David LaRose
Elizabeth McMonagle, Jesse Schmitz-Boyd
Box Office Supervisor.....Chris Seefeldt*
House Managers.....Katy Beth Austin, Andrea Boehlke, Ginny Glaser
Shaun Krueger, Emily McCarthy
Public Relations Assistants.....Theatre & Dance Practicum Students

* Denotes Faculty/Staff

Meet the Company

Aplin, Mercer (*Sound Designer/Engineer*) Junior, BFA Design Technology Major from Madison, WI. Recipient of the UWSP Theatre & Dance Scholarship in Design Technology and Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Regional Award for Design Excellence in Sound Design.

Austin, Katy Beth (*House Manager*) Senior, BFA Design Technology Major from Portage, WI. Recipient of the James Vorland Technical Theatre Scholarship.

Ballweg, Jessica (*Assistant Choreographer*) Senior, BA Dance Major from Lodi, WI. Recipient of the Kathryn Bukolt Dance Award.

Boehlke, Andrea (*House Manager*) Junior, BFA Acting Major from Random Lake, WI.

Ceschin, Adam (*Skeets Miller*) Senior, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Kenosha, WI. Recipient of the Sentry Scholarship.

Churchwell, Jonathan (*Bee Doyle*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major from Milton, WI. Recipient of the Sentry Academic Leadership Scholarship.

Collins, Bri (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Junior, BFA Design Technology and Psychology Minor from Blue Mounds, WI.

Cooke, Matthew (*Ed Bishop*) Sophomore, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Germantown, WI. Recipient of the First Nighters Scholarship.

Crabb, Katie (*Properties Technician*) Senior, BA theatre and English Education Major from Eagle, WI.

Emmons, Jaz (*Scenic Charge*) Senior, BFA Design Technology Major from Sheboygan, WI.

Figurin, Erica (*Miss Jane*) Sophomore, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Rockford, IL.

Garry, Evan (*Homer Collins*) Sophomore, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Lodi, WI.

Gastaldi, Michael (*Jewel Estes*) Senior, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Kenosha, WI.

Glaser, Ginny (*House Manager*) Freshman, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Fargo, ND. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre.

Meet the Company (continued)

Groves, Courtney (*Ensemble*) Freshman, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Coon Rapids, MN.

Hansen, James (*Reporter*) Junior, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Waunakee, WI.

Hansen, Stephanie (*Ensemble*) Sophomore, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Hartford, WI. Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Award in Musical Theatre.

Hargarten, Peter (*H.T. Carmichael*) Freshman, BFA Acting Major from Appleton, WI.

Hart, Justun (*Floyd Collins*) Sophomore, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Oshkosh, WI.

Horstmeier, Jacob J. (*Lee Collins*) Sophomore, BFA Acting Major and Dance Minor from Random Lake, WI.

Joanis, Lizzy (*Assistant Costume Designer*) Junior, BA Drama Major from Oshkosh, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Scholarship in Drama.

Kern, Ben (*Assistant Director*) Junior, BFA Design Technology Major from Kaukauna, WI. Recipient of the Isabelle Prize in Student Directing and the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts Award in Design Technology.

Klassen, Ethan (*Bass*) Junior, BA Music Major from Manitowoc, WI.

Krueger, Shaun (*House Manager*) Junior, BA Arts Management Major from Keil, WI.

Landowski, Hilary (*Properties Designer*) Senior, BFA Design Technology Major from Plover, WI. Recipient of the Crosby Scholarship in Technical Theatre - 2007 and 2009.

Mace, Alexander (*Ensemble*) Senior, BFA Acting Major from Shawano, WI.

Martin, Kyle (*Cello*) Freshman, BFA Musical Theatre Major from Hartford, WI.

McCarthy, Emily (*House Manager*) Senior, BFA Acting Major from Madison, WI.

Meet the Company (continued)

Meronek, Alex (*Percussion*) Junior, BM Music Education and Jazz Studies
Major from Stevens Point, WI.

Millsaps, Allison (*Viola*) Freshman, BM Music Education, Instrumental
Major from Kenosha, WI.

Morton, Zakary (*Cliff Roney/Reporter*) Sophomore, BFA Musical Theatre
Major from Cedar Rapids, IA. Recipient of the Theatre Arts
Scholarship in Musical Theatre.

Ribble, Erin (*Violin*) Senior, BM Music, applied Strings and Jazz Studies
Major from Stevens Point, WI.

Ringelstetter, Luke (*Guitar*) Senior, BM Jazz Studies Major from
Prairie du Sac, WI.

Schmitz, Kelsey (*Nellie Collins*) Sophomore, BFA Musical Theatre Major
from Green Bay, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship
for Musical Theatre.

Spooner, Zachary (*Ensemble/Frederick Jordan*) Junior, BA Drama Major
from Conrath, WI. Recipient of the Theatre Arts Scholarship in
Drama.

Trudeau, Michael (*Lighting Designer*) Junior, BFA Design Technology
Major from West Bend, WI.

Van Handel, Alexander (*Dr. Hazlett/Hawker/Reporter*) Junior, BFA
Musical Theatre Major from Hartford, WI. Recipient of the
Theatre Arts Scholarship in Musical Theatre.

Vander Velden, Kate (*Properties Technician*) Freshman, BFA Acting Major
from Belgium, WI.

Vannarom, Leanna (*Scenic Artist/Properties Technician*) Freshman, BFA
Design Technology Major from Sussex, WI.

Waas, Travis (*Ensemble*) Freshman, BFA Musical Theatre Major from
Mayville, WI.

Wells, Meagan (*Ensemble*) Junior, BFA Musical Theatre Major from
Middleton, WI. Recipient of the Anne Gilfrey Schierl Fine Arts
Scholarship in Musical Theatre.

Wilson, Jennifer (*Stage Manager*) Senior, BFA Design Technology and
Spanish Major from Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Recipient of the
Isabelle Stelmohoske London Scholarship and the Vorland
Intern Scholarship.

Spring break by definition for some college students is a time for drunken debauchery. It was with some initial sadness and a twinge of regret that I discussed with many of my friends my plans for spring break. Some were going to Wisconsin Dells, Greece, or some other places with a pool and all you can drink wristbands. I on the other hand was leading a group of actors and designers to Kentucky to do primary research in caves on a completely alcohol-free national park. Ultimately, I am content in knowing that we had the better spring break experience.

We were able to go to the exact place where the show is set and live where all the characters waited to find out Floyd's fate. We stayed at the Mammoth Cave Hotel in Mammoth Cave National Park. After a 12 hour drive in the rain and driving the winding paths of the park in the dark we all arrived safe, exhausted, and convinced that the environment and given circumstances of our trip were the perfect setup for a teen slasher movie.

On our first day, we took a lantern guided tour of Mammoth Cave. There is a quiet beauty in a cave; literally it is devoid of sound or really any change down under but with the stillness comes an inner and external peace. After our three and a half hour cave tour up and down hills steeper than any of our grandparents had to endure, we ate authentic Kentucky Fried Chicken and salt-cured ham with sweet tea at the hotel restaurant. There is nothing that can compare to cooking down south.

On day two it was time to explore Sand Cave and find the remaining monuments of the lives of the Collins family. The mud in Kentucky and around the Sand Cave area sticks to everything. And while the temperature was a pleasant upper 50's, the ground was ice cold when you stuck your hands into the dirt. At one point, the actors did one of the scenes from the show and after we all sat in silence and just existed with one another, nature, and those who have since passed on that waited and helped to decide Floyd's fate. After the silence it was time to move on and continue our journey with a visit to Bee Doyle's farm, the Collin's family house, and their Baptist Church.

In many ways, a group of actors poking around Mammoth Cave National Park is nothing new. We were able to talk to many locals who offered what they knew about the legend of Floyd Collins and in return we are sending them a copy of our program as proof that history is being told time and time again across the nation. To Joe Duvall; Becky; and tour guide Bob, this is a shout out to you and thanks for your warm Kentucky hospitality and well of knowledge.

There are some experiences in life that you will remember and talk about forever. For me, Kentucky and this production had been a special and important step in my training. Ultimately, I am happy to say that unlike some of my friends I can remember my spring break experience and will for years to come.

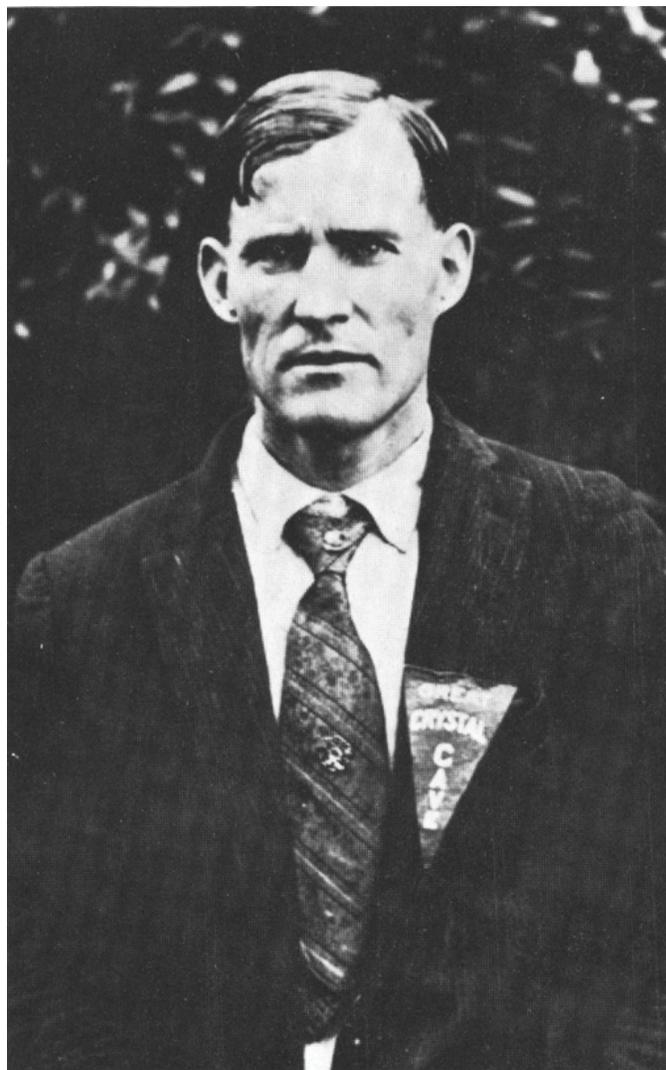
Ben Kern
Assistant Director



Cast members inspecting hole where Floyd Collins entered Sand Cave



Sand Cave - Summer of 1925



Floyd Collins
1925

BACKSTAGE

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