



Ballard High School Play Production class explores gender, marriage and murder in the virtual play *Trifles*

December 4, 2020

November 27, 2020 -- Get ready for some intrigue amidst December's darkness! A Ballard High School theatre class is staging a virtual reading of the one-act play *Trifles*, which can be viewed online starting on December 4.

The play was written in 1916 by Susan Glaspell—a former journalist—and it's based loosely on a murder Glaspell covered in Iowa.

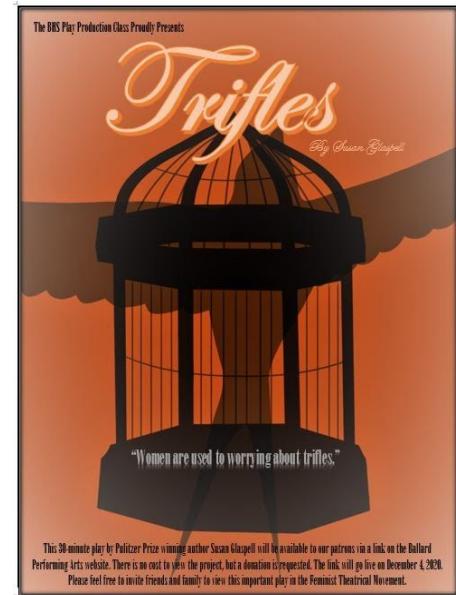
Written in 1916, this classic play opens at the scene of the disheveled farmhouse of John and Minnie Wright. The sheriff, the attorney, and a neighbor arrive at the house to investigate the death of John Wright, who was strangled in his sleep as his wife continued sleeping. As the sheriff looks for clues to the murder, the women there examine the "trifles" of Minnie's country kitchen. But as they look closer at Minnie's world they make a startling discovery.

Written during the first-wave feminist movement, the play contrasts how women behave publicly and privately, and how men and women interpret their actions differently.

The story is loosely based on the murder of John Hossack, which Glaspell reported on while working for the *Des Moines Daily News*. *Trifles* is frequently anthologized in American literature textbooks.

"I was surprised and pleased that my Play Production class was so intrigued by the play. It was written in the early 20th century and sadly the themes still ring true today," says Theatre Director Shawn M. Riley. "After we finished analyzing the script one of the students said, 'We should do this play.' The class agreed and this project was given life."

Trifles is 30-minutes long and completely student-driven. Students cast the show, designed the poster, selected costumes and music, and brought in members from Ballard's student film program to record their work.



Ballard Performing Arts ballardperformingarts.org

Earl Kelly Center for Performing Arts at Ballard High School 1418 NW 65th Street, Seattle WA
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Tickets

The ticket price is a suggested donation. A link to the show will be published at www.ballardperformingarts.org and people can donate on the website. For any questions please contact Shawn Riley at smiley@seattleschools.org.

Performance Details

The completed performance will be a recorded video on the Ballard Performing Arts YouTube channel. It will premiere Dec. 4 and can be viewed at your pleasure or sent to others to watch the show. There are no current plans to have the video removed anytime soon. ENJOY!

Cast and Crew

Vee Ashmun
Al Johnson
Hadley Mollman
Ella Papineau
X'iana Parker
Owen Russell
Sara Stenner
Maggie Stowell
Lydia Van Kley
Andrei Whyte
Elsa Wirth
Ben Nakamoto
Gus Zinsmeyer

Ballard Performing Arts

The award-winning Ballard High School Performing Arts (BPA) Program has gained regional, national, and international acclaim for its dynamic and inspired performances. The Music Department includes two concert bands, three concert choirs, two concert orchestras, percussion ensemble, two jazz bands, one jazz choir, multiple chamber ensembles and a marching band of nearly 200 musicians. The Theatre Department offers classes in Technical Theatre and Theatre I and II while the Ballard Playmakers produce two plays and one musical theatre production each year. More than 450 students—about one fourth of the school—participate in these music and theatre opportunities. Learn more: ballardperformingarts.org

Contact

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