

Skeletons in the Closet

An Inside Look at *Buried Child*

By Brennan Blomgren

The spring CSP theater season begins March 20th through the 22nd with Sam Shepard's Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Buried Child*.

Directed by senior theater major Tim Sailer, *Buried Child* is about a dysfunctional family in Illinois haunted by strange and twisted events from their past. Secrets shroud the once prosperous farming family, but things can only stay secret for so long.

Buried Child is an exploration of the family and a look at the decline of the American Dream. Thematically, the show is about open and honest communication. It is a dark show that will keep the audience guessing till the very end.

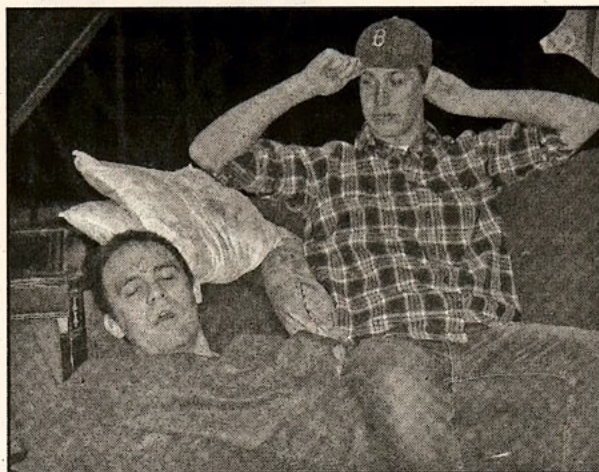


Issacson and Longabaugh

Sailer first became interested in the show in high school. "My director had always wanted to do it. He told me that it was like Stephen King meets *The Waltons*."

Sailer was intrigued. After reading the play, he was captivated. "The ability for a show to make you laugh and feel queasy at the same time is interesting to me, because as dark as the show is it has some pretty funny moments."

Buried Child is certainly a unique show for the theatre department to tackle by mixing many different theatrical ideas. The lines between real and surreal are often blurred.



Pehl and Longabaugh

The character Vince, played by freshman AJ Longabaugh, is especially shrouded in mystery. "There are a lot of questions raised about this character," Sailer said. "One day in rehearsal we decided that Vince is fighting for his existence in the same way as Marty McFly from *Back to the Future*. I told him to play a scene as though his right foot was being erased."

The character of Dodge is also theatrically unique. Physically and psychologically ailing, Dodge, played by senior Josh Pehl, never travels far from his couch center stage. Patriarch of the family, the secrets weigh heavily on Dodge's shoulders. "The important thing about the show to me is family secrets," Pehl

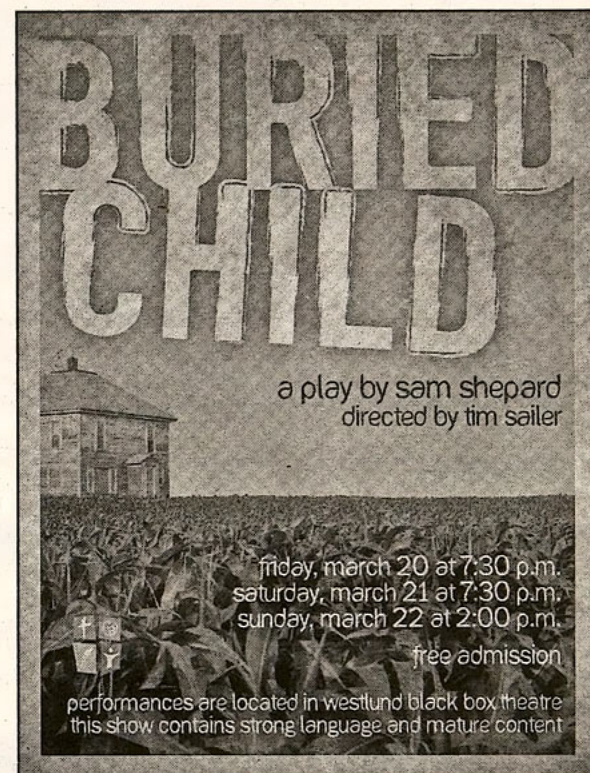


The Ensemble

Photos by Rachel Kuhnle

said, "and Dodge is all about keeping those secrets. He's got so many skeletons in the closet and secrets festering."

I will refrain from telling you any more so as not to give away the ending of the show. I'll just conclude by saying that this will be a show filled with unexpected twists and turns, and it will certainly keep you thinking.



Buried Child poster designed by Andy Wyss

Other cast members include Zach VanVleet, Leah Issacson, Rachel Kuhnle, Alex Heetland, and Tyler Schwichtenberg. Joanna Gimbel designed the costumes, Colby Reinking designed the light and sound effects, and Katie Johnson did the set design. Amanda Snyder headed up set construction. Student workers were also involved.

Buried Child will be performed March 20th and 21st at 7:30pm with a Sunday matinee at 2:00pm on March 22nd. The show is in the Westlund black box theatre and admission is free.

Christus Chorus to Perform Area Concerts

By Josh Hinck

The Christus Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Mennicke, will be performing at two local churches in the Twin Cities as part of the choir's spring tour. Each concert is free and open to the public.

Friday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m., Christus will perform at Jehovah Lutheran Church in Saint Paul. This will be a joint concert with four high school choirs, Concordia Academy-Bloomington, Concordia Academy-Roseville, Saint Paul Central, and Pine River-Backus.

Saturday, March 28th at 7:30 p.m., the choir will perform at Peace Lutheran Church in Robbins-

dale. The concert will be around 90 minutes and will feature a variety of music on the theme "God So Loved the World." The concert is performed in three parts. The first section, "God," includes songs of entrance and praise into God's presence.

The "So Loved" section of the concert focuses on Holy Week. Christus will perform the notable "The Seven Words of Christ on the Cross" by 17th Century Composer, Heinrich Schuetz. The work features a small orchestra and vocal soloists.



The final section, "The World," focuses on the application of God's love in today's world.

"The music ranges from Renaissance to modern, from classical to contemporary, and from sorrowful to joyous," said Mennicke.

The Christus Chorus will embark on their spring Midwest bus tour April 3rd through April 13th. The tour will take them as far south as Kansas City, Missouri, and as far east as Chicago, Illinois.