Arcadia
By Tom Stoppard

Luther College Theatre 2013
May 1st at 7:30pm
May 2nd at 7:30pm
May 3rd at 7:30pm
May 4th at 1:30 & 7:30pm

Jewel Theatre, Center for the Arts
Free with Luther ID
$10 to General Public
Luther College Box Office 387-1357
The Cast

1809-1812
Thomaisina Coverly, age 13 (later 16).................................Anna Murray '14
Septimus Hodge, her tutor.............................................Nelson Schreen '14
Jellaby, a butler.......................................................Maxwell Lafontant '13
Ezra Chater, a poet.....................................................Tyler Hagy '13
Richard Noakes, a landscape architect.............................Lucas Chase '15
Lady Croom, mother of Thomaisina and Augustus..............Elisabeth Athas '15
Captain Brice, Royal Navy, her brother............................Josh Harper '16
Augustus Coverly, age 15............................................John Werner '15

The Present
Hannah Jarvis, researcher and author of "Caro"....................Holly Fusco '14
Bernard Nightingale, a Byron scholar...............................Bryce Muenchow '15
Chloe Coverly, age 18................................................Maggie Sulentic '16
Valentine Coverly, age 25..............................................Tim Komatsu '15
Gus Coverly, age 15....................................................John Werner '15

Production Team
Director........................................................................Kristen Underwood
Stage Manager............................................................Alex Klyn '14
Prop Master.................................................................Miriam Harries '15
Set Design.....................................................................Tom Berger
Lighting Design.........................................................Jeff Dintaman & Chelsey O'Connor '15
Costume Design........................................................Lisa Lantz
Costume Shop Supervisor............................................Robin Hengesteg
Publicity & Poster Design.............................................Ashley Wright '13
Sound Design & Piano Accompaniment.........................Maxwell Lafontant '13
Original Composition................................................Maxwell Lafontant '13 and Matthew Engelson '13

About the Playwright
Born in Czechoslovakia in 1937, Stoppard and his family fled the country in 1939, and eventually made their way to Bristol, England. He left school at age 17 to become a journalist and, eventually, an award-winning playwright. Tom Stoppard's other plays include "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," "Travesties," "The Real Thing," "Hapgood," and many screenplays, including "Brazil," "Shakespeare in Love," and the 2012 release, "Anna Karenina."
Running Crew
Light board - Josh Dale '13
Props - Miriam Harries '15, Michael Ehreeke '15
Dresser - Hayley Ryan '15
Hair & Make-Up - Becca Chapin '15
Sound board - Dakota Lancour '15

Costume Construction
Gabrielle Boisseau, Stephanie Branchaud, Maria Brown, Rebecca Chapin,
Phoebe Jan-McMahon, Clara Miller, Brian Nnaoji, Jessica O’Brien, Hayley
Ryan, Abby Wacholz, Holly Williams

Set Construction
Charline Abraham, Kristen Anderson, Shelby Babcock, Aaron Busch, Jessica
Dobson, Hannah Fisher, Holly Fusco, Sam Gathje, Taylor Graydon, Miriam
Harries, Ethan Heller, Tim Komatsu, Max Lafontant, Dakota Lancour, Isaac
Dontje Lindell, Bryce Muenchow, Jessica O’Brien, Christie Owens, Jake
Putnam, Rachel Skinner

Special Thanks
A liberal arts college is the ideal environment for preparing a play like
"Arcadia," and we are grateful for the invaluable contributions of our
colleagues across campus: Eric Baack and Jeff Wilkerson for answering endless
questions about population biology, Newtonian physics, entropy, and the
difference between randomness and chaos; Amy Weldon for a colorful
discussion of the life and times of Lord Byron and the Romantic poets; David
Faldet for a beautiful and enlightening presentation about the history of the
English garden, Anne Bulliung for the Latin lesson; Rachel Vagts for archival
advice; Mark Faldet for producing everything from a teapot warmer to a dead
rabbit upon request; Oneota Valley Family Eye Care for the loan of Bernard's
glasses; Alison Mizerski-Hanks for Jellaby’s wig; and Commonweal Theatre.

This production is costumed, in part, with the assistance of American Players Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. New York City.
About the Play

Set in Sidley Park, a sprawling English country house, "Arcadia" moves in alternating scenes between 1809 and the present, following the pursuits of a fascinating collection of characters, connected across time by their curiosity about one another.

In 1809, Thomasina Coverly, the daughter of the house, is a precocious teenager with ideas about mathematics well ahead of her time. She studies with her tutor Septimus Hodge, a friend of Lord Byron who is an unseen guest in the house. Thomasina's mother, Lady Croom, is kept busy managing the unwanted overhaul of the Sidley Park gardens. Though she has at her command the attention of her landscape architect, her brother, and the minor poet Ezra Chater, it is attention of another kind which preoccupies her as much as her garden.

In the present, a writer and an academic converge on the house, which is inhabited by the modern-day Coverlys. Hannah Jarvis, the writer, is investigating a hermit who once lived on the grounds; Bernard Nightingale, a Byron scholar, (in cognito at first, upon discovering Hannah is the writer whose book he panned) is investigating a mysterious chapter in the life of Lord Byron. As their investigations unfold, helped by Val Coverly, a graduate student in population biology, the truth about what happened in Thomasina's lifetime is gradually revealed.

Tom Stoppard is said to have been inspired to write the play after reading the best-selling "Chaos" by James Gleick. The play swirls with references to Newtonian physics, mathematics, and the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics (did a 13 year-old country girl discover it first?). But throughout the play, math and physics are juxtaposed with poetry and passion, order with disorder, logic with intuition, until we realize that these contradictions can exist in the same time and place. Order is found amid the chaos, and all that is lost will eventually turn up again. Even, perhaps, the heat from Mr. Noakes' engine.

Tom Berger, Lisa Lantz, Jeff Dintaman and their crews have given us a beautiful world to inhabit. Rehearsing this play has been a joyful collaboration and a sheer delight. Have we got it all figured out? Who can say. As Hannah Jarvis remarks, "It's wanting to know that makes us matter."

Department of Visual & Performing Arts

Jeff Dintaman Jane Hawley Lea Lovelace Ben Moore
Tom Berger David Kamm George Lowe Alice Palmer
Kate Elliott Lisa Lantz Kate Martinson Kristen Underwood,
Amanda Hamp Bob Larson Richard Merritt Guest Artist