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The Hoosier Schoolmaster

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Taylor Theatre Presents

THE HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER

dramatized by Pauline Phelps
from a novel by
Edward Eggleston

February 16, 17, & 22-24, 1996
Mitchell Theatre
Taylor University
I may as well confess, what it would be affectation to conceal, that I am more than pleased with the generous reception accorded to this story as a serial in the columns of *Hearth and Home*. It has been in my mind since I was a Hoosier boy to do something toward describing life in the back-country districts of the Western States. I had some anxiety lest Western readers should take offense at my selecting what must always seem an exceptional phase of life to those who have grown up in the more refined regions of the West. But nowhere has the Schoolmaster been received more kindly than in his own country and among his own people. Some of those who have spoken kindly of the Schoolmaster and his friends, have suggested that the story is an autobiography. But it is not, save in the sense in which every work of art is an autobiography, in that it is the result of the experience and observation of the writer. Some of the incidents have been drawn from life; none of them, I believe, from my own. I should like to be considered a member of the Church of the Best Licks, however.

—Edward Eggleston

Preface, *The Hoosier Schoolmaster*

When Edward Eggleston looked back on his career as a fiction writer he hesitated to speculate about the lasting literary value of his work, but he was confident that even if it should fail to win a permanent place as great literature it would retain its value as social history. That judgment proved to be remarkably farsighted; for while neither his eight novels nor his many short stories have attained the status of classics, they have endured as good yarns and as richly revealing portraits of midwestern folklife in the mid- and late-nineteenth century.

In *The Hoosier Schoolmaster* this was most apparent in the careful attention to dialect. The remarkably accurate reproduction of the language of rural Indiana did much to earn the novel a place in literary history, establishing it as both an early example of regionalism and a forerunner of the realism that would soon come to characterize the best of American fiction.

The primitive setting of southern Indiana offered Eggleston the opportunity to portray the life of the rural schoolteacher in sharp, dramatic terms. Here the contrast between the civilizing aims of the school and the ignorance and immorality of the frontier community was stark, and Eggleston played on this contrast to accentuate the trials and triumphs of the schoolmaster and to give them a broader social meaning. The story itself was a familiar one to nineteenth-century Americans, who had already made the conflict between young teachers and school bullies a part of the folklore, but in Eggleston's hands
THE HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER

Directed and Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard

CAST
(as they speak)

Mrs. Means. ............... *Katharine Wagner
Hannah Thomson. ........... *Jerry Flewwelling
Ralph Hartsook. ............ Brian Hall
Bud Means. .................. Ben Goshow
Miranda Means. ............. Alice Rouse
Hank Banta. .................. Matt Harrell
Shooky Thomson. ............ Nate Jenkins
Betsey Short. ............... Laura Force
Squire Hawkins. ............. Matt Ohime
Martha Hawkins. ............ Angela Hoke
Ellen Schneider. ............ Sally Brestin
Hetty Andrews. .............. Sarah Cooper
Jenny Pearson. .............. Jenna Latham
Bob Messenger. ............. Todd Friesen
Townspeople. ............... Jodie Allen, Holly Hines, Jeff Johnson, Wendy Loney, Danielle Myers, Eric Wallace

Flat Creek District, Hoopole County, Indiana
December 1850

Act I Scene I: A room in Mrs. Means' house.
Scene II: The same, one week later.

Act II: An afternoon in March.

Act III Scene I: The same, the next morning.
Scene II: The same, that evening.

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission

During intermission we invite you to visit our concession stand located on the East end of the upper lobby. Please do not bring refreshments into the theatre.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to Jerry Stair and Roger Phillips for their help with this show.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION
The Imaginary Invalid
April 26, 27, May 2-4, 1996
it came also to stand for America's struggle to tame the explosive forces of an expanding and disorderd society.

The events and characters of *The Hoosier Schoolmaster* are greatly overdrawn, but the challenges facing many rural teachers of the day—both men and women—were not different in kind from those portrayed by Eggleston. Like Ralph Hartsok, most nineteenth-century teachers began their careers in small, one-room schools, living on meager salaries and boarding with whatever families they could find to take them in. If they did not always encounter antagonists as threatening as Bud, as wily as Dr. Small, or as ignorant as Mrs. Means, they still had to deal with some hostile students, skeptical parents, and suspicious communities.

Eggleston has been much criticized for peopling *The Hoosier Schoolmaster* with caricatures and for giving it a stock, melodramatic plot. Nevertheless, the novel remains an engaging account of the initiation of a young teacher and a revealing portrayal of rural life in the Midwest of the nineteenth century. It continues to delight readers in search of a good story and, as Eggleston predicted, to provide a rich resource for the student of social history.

--B. Edward McClellan, Indiana University

Introduction, *The Hoosier Schoolmaster*

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**Rural Language, circa 1850**

- **Pillion**
  - a cushion attached behind a saddle, especially as a seat for a woman

- **Tenterhooks**
  - hooks or bent nails which hold cloth stretched on a tenter of framework

- **Tunket**
  - "hell"

- **Hub-mired**
  - immersed in swampy ground up to the center of the vehicle's wheel

- **Digging in the elements**
  - working outdoors; gardening

- **Bound out**
  - a legal obligation to work for another person

- **Poorhouse**
  - an institution in which paupers are maintained at public expense

- **"Purty" gal**
  - a derisive expression insinuating overstepping one's position

- **Goose ile**
  - the melted fat of the goose used in domestic medicine as an ointment

- **Grit**
  - courage; indomitable spirit

- **Waterfall**
  - a manner of arranging women's hair in long, loose waves

- **Crayon**
  - chalk

- **Sticker**
  - the characteristic of being persistent or diligent

- **Hoss**
  - to make a person the target of a boisterous joke.
Spelling School
a competition won by the individual spelling the greatest number of words correctly.

Hide wouldn't hold shucks
as worn ticking would no longer hold a corn shuck filling

Ciphered into fractions
to use numerals arithmetically

Dandelion greens
leaves from the dandelion plant usually cooked like spinach

Corn likker
liquor made from at least 80% corn

Gawp
a fool or simpleton

Sprinke clothes for ironing
dampening clothes so that the wrinkles would iron out.

Blackstun
Sir William Blackstone, an English jurist and writer on law

Consarn it
an expression of bewilderment or dismay

Dummit
an expression of frustration

Tony
high-toned; stylish

Boarded out
to take one's meals and lodging at a fixed price in another person's home

Dolt
a dull, stupid person

Green back
U.S. legal tender, usually printed in green on the back

Cistern
a reservoir or tank for storing or holding water or other fluid

Good lick
to overcome as in a fight; defeat

Spitting Image
from "spit and image," exact likeness

Beauing
to escort a girl or woman, as to a social gathering

Hell bent for'lection
fiendishly, doggedly or recklessly determined to win

Injeanny
Indiana

Give the mitten
to dismiss or be dismissed as a lover or suitor

Theodolite
a precision instrument for establishing horizontal and vertical angles

Amogenesis
Not in any dictionary!

Assofoetida
a condiment formerly used in medicine as an antispasmodic

Daguerreotype
an obsolete photographic process invented in 1839.

Parallelopiped
a prism with six faces

Phthisic
a wasting disease of the lungs

Taylor University Theatre is a co-curricular educational program supporting the liberal arts mission of the university by providing a broad range of theatre experiences that span most theatrical periods, genres, and styles. Plays that probe the human condition and reveal human action with integrity, authenticity, and a sense of "Grace," provide us the opportunity to understand better what is true about ourselves and others. While individual plays may not necessarily reflect the ethos of the Taylor community, we believe that this theatrical pursuit of truth resides at the heart of a Christian liberal arts education.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.................. Dr. Oliver Hubbard
Assistant Directors............... Christy Drummond
                                Jill Petersen

Set Crew............................ *JASON FRANCIS
                                Bryan Parris
                                Matt Storz
                                Matt Stalcup
                                *Jerry Flewelling
                                Brian Hall
                                Matt Ohime

Light Crew........................... ADAM NEVINS
                                Rob Olson
                                Cory Rodeheaver

Sound Crew........................... MEGAN MARVEL
                                Nicole Fennig
                                Amy Schaap
                                Amy Smallwood
                                Matt Storz

Makeup Crew.......................... AMINDA WELCH
                                Jennifer Fletcher
                                Melanie Stuchell
                                Johanna Thalacker
                                Zach Welsheimer
                                Heather Yoder
                                *Amy Brailey
                                *Luke Breneman
                                *Colette Camp
                                Kiersa Nahler
                                Aaron Nichols

Properties............................ *PETER MARSHALL
                                *Rachel Kellogg
                                Josh Peters
                                Johanna Thalacker
                                Zach Welsheimer

Costumes............................. ALICE ROUSE
                                *MARISA MURPHREE

House................................. JOSH STONE
                                Kimberly Goodwin
                                Carissa Guinnee
                                Rachel Hermanson
                                Sandie Hess
                                Jill McNary
                                Sharon Michaelson
                                Shannon Moyer
                                Rob Olson
                                Steve Olson
                                Kristen Anderson
                                Deanna Barton
                                Rich Bell
                                Brent Bradish
                                Sarah Cleveland
                                Andrew Dickey
                                Nate Dominguez
                                Shawn Flanery
                                Laura Fortner
                                Greg Frost

Program Cover Design............... Holly Hines

*Alpha Psi Omega Members

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance
AMERICAN REGIONAL ENGLISH

The following questionnaire lists variations in the vocabularies of Americans of different geographical origins, age groups, etc., and relate to the semantics used in The Hoosier Schoolmaster. If you wish to, take time to mark your answers and compare them with another participant.

OVERLAPPING HORIZONTAL BOARDS ON OUTSIDE OF HOUSE: (A) siding; (B) clapboards; (C) weatherboarding; (D) weather boards

HEAVY IRON UTENSIL FOR FRYING: (A) frying pan; (B) skillet; (C) spider; (D) fry pan; (E) creeper

TRANSPORTING FIREWOOD, ETC.: (A) hauling; (B) carrying; (C) carting; (D) drawing; (E) toting

GRASS COVERED AREA SURROUNDING HOUSE: (A) yard; (B) lawn; (C) grass

A SHORT DISTANCE: (A) (just) a ways; (B) a little piece; (C) a piece; (D) a little way(s)

THE CAKE: (A) iced; (B) frosted

MILDLY DEROGATORY TERM FOR SMALL TOWN: (A) hick town; (B) burg; (C) wide place in the road; (D) bush town

EDIBLE TOPS OF TURNIPS, BEETS, ETC.: (A) greens; (B) salad; (C) sallet

GREEN LEAFY COVER OF EAR OF CORN: (A) cap; (B) husk; (C) shuck

OF SOMETHING SPILLED ON FLOOR, ETC.: (A) mess; (B) gaum

ANIMAL WITH STRONG ODOR: (A) polecat; (B) skunk

STREAM SMALLER THAN RIVER IN SIZE: (A) creek; (B) branch; (C) stream

SICK (A) at his stomach; (B) in his stomach; (C) to his stomach; (D) on his stomach; (E) of his stomach

WHERE GUESTS ARE ENTERTAINED: (A) best room; (B) front room; (C) living room; (D) parlor; (E) sitting room

A TIME OF DAY: (A) quarter before eleven; (B) quarter of eleven; (C) quarter to eleven; (D) quarter till; (E) 10:45

WORTHLESS DOG: (A) cur; (B) mutt; (C) Heinz; (E) fice; (F) fiste; (G) scrub

STICK OF COLORED WAX FOR WRITING AND DRAWING: (A) crayon; (B) crin; (C) crayola; (D) cren; (E) coloring crin; (F) coloring cren

FAMILY WORD FOR FATHER: (A) dad; (B) daddy; (C) father; (D) pa; (E) papa; (F) pappy; (G) paw; (H) pop

FAMILY WORD FOR MOTHER: (A) ma; (B) mama; (C) maw; (D) mom; (E) mommer; (F) mud; (G) mommy; (H) mother

A RUSTIC: (A) country jake; (B) yahoo; (C) farmer; (D) hick; (E) hayseed; (F) yokel; (G) hillbilly; (H) clodhopper; (I) backwoodsman; (J) hilljack

HE GOT AWFULLY ________: (A) mad; (B) l.o.'d; (C) riled; (D) p.o.'d; (E) owly; (F) het up; (H) roiled

TO ABSENT ONESELF FROM SCHOOL: (A) play hooky; (B) hop school; (C) skip school; (D) bag school; (E) lay out; (F) lie out; (G) bolt