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### The Hoosier Schoolmaster

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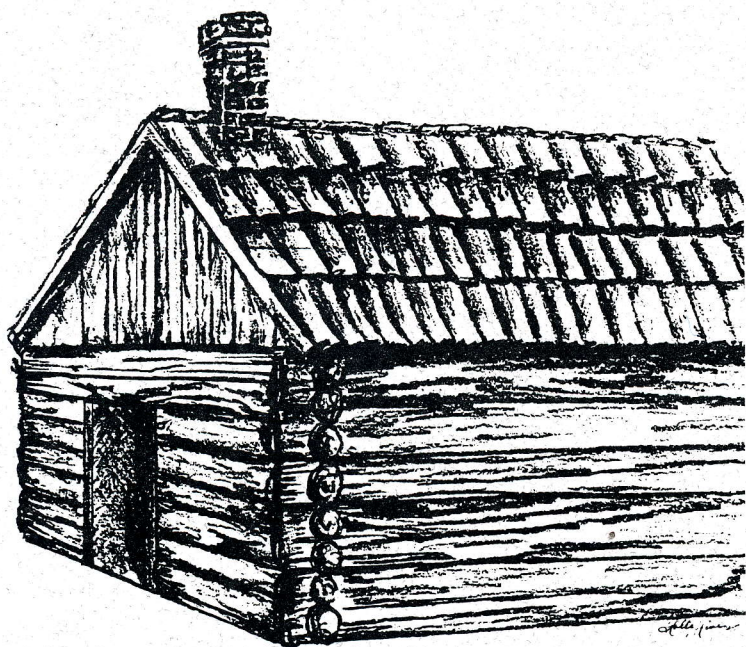
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*Taylor Theatre Presents*

# THE HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER

*dramatized by Pauline Phelps  
from a novel by  
Edward Eggleston*

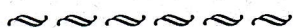


February 16, 17, & 22-24, 1996  
Mitchell Theatre  
Taylor University

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. . . . . Jenny Pritchard  
Ralph Hartsook. . . . . \*Jerry Flewelling  
Bud Means. . . . . Brian Hall  
Dr. Small. . . . . Ben Goshow  
Miranda Means. . . . . Alice Rouse  
Hank Banta. . . . . Matt Harrell  
Shocky 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 disordered 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 Hartsook, 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*

### 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	<i>Not in any dictionary!</i>
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 \* Jerry Flewelling  
Matt Storz Brian Hall  
Matt Stalcup 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 Pletcher \*Amy Brailey  
Melanie Stuchell \*Luke Breneman  
Johanna Thalacker \*Colette Camp  
Zach Welsheimer Kiersa Nahler  
Heather Yoder Aaron Nichols

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

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

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

SHE \_\_\_\_\_ 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



