

Taylor University

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Ongoing Events

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3-5-1975

### The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail

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#### Recommended Citation

"The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" (1975). *Taylor Theatre Playbills*. 204.  
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Jerome Lawrence  
and  
Robert E. Lee's

The  
Night  
Thoreau  
Spent  
in  
Jail



March 5, 6, 7, and 8

Little Theatre



American playwrights JEROME LAWRENCE and ROBERT E. LEE have collaborated on numerous works. Their biggest hits have been INHERIT THE WIND (1955) and AUNTIE MAME (1956). INHERIT THE WIND, a fictionalized dramatization of the John T. Scopes "monkey" trial of 1925, features the debate between the thinly disguised William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow and also presents a newspaperman whose character is based on the writer H. L. Mencken. In 1966 Lawrence and Lee collaborated with composer Jerry Herman to convert AUNTIE MAME into the popular musical MAME. Another fictionalized historical dramatization by Lawrence and Lee is THE GANG'S ALL HERE (1959), a portrayal of President Harding as a mediocre man duped by crooked politicians. Their musicals include LOOK MA, I'M DANCING (1948), SHANGRI-LA (1956) based on James Hilton's novel LOST HORIZON (1933), and DEAR WORLD (1969) based on Giraudoux's THE MAD WOMAN OF CHAILLOT. THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL was written for production all around the country under the distinguished American Playwrights Theatre Program and was well received because of the immediacy to contemporary audiences of Henry David Thoreau's concerns.

### THE NOW THOREAU

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

The man imprisoned in our play belongs more to the 1970's than to the age in which he lived.

For more than a century, Henry David Thoreau was dismissed as a gifted weirdo. Only a rebel like Emerson's handyman would dare to question the benefits of technology! Why, it is obvious to any educated mind that technological advancement and progress are synonymous. To create a better world, all we have to do is make things bigger, faster, stronger or cheaper.

But materialism is *not* that way.

THOREAU KNEW THAT.

He smelled the smog before we saw it. It smarted his soul before it smarted our eyes. He spoke out; but in those television-less days men were slow to listen. He sang out in nonviolent defiance, but how few men since could carry the tune: Gandhi, Count Tolstoi, Martin Luther King.

It was the material-mindedness of his government which drove the mystic Thoreau to the shores of Walden. His outrage is closely akin to the anger of many young people today. Young Thoreau was disgusted by the lies and confusion which clouded the bloody conflict with a smaller nation, Mexico.

Time is awash in this jail cell. We are not trapped in happenings past, but are concerned about THE NOW THOREAU--the explosive spirit who addressed himself to the perils of our time with more power and clarity than most angry young men writing *how* about NOW.

Thoreau is a fascinating paradox:

A man who was-and *is*.

A self-effacing giant.

A wit who rarely laughed.

A man who loved so deeply and completely that he seemed, sometimes, not to have loved at all.

## THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL

Directed by Linda Kukuk

Set, lighting and costume design by Kathy Oosting

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured, or far away." --Henry David Thoreau

### THE CAST

Waldo .....	Greg Johnson
Lydian .....	Beth Rosenberger*
Mother .....	Pam Bechtel*
Henry .....	Stu Turnbull*
John .....	Neil Williams
Bailey .....	Wayne Grumbling*
Deacon Ball .....	Monty Swetnam*
Ellen .....	Beth Chesney*
Sam Staples .....	Bob Parish*
Edward .....	Shawn Swan
Farmer .....	Jon Utley
Woman .....	Judy Elliot*
Williams .....	Chris Hull
Townpeople .....	Sue Glerum
	Doug Scharfenberg

The action of the play takes place in and around Concord, Massachusetts in the mid-1840's.

**There will be a ten minute intermission between acts.**

### Musician

Harold Garnes ..... Flautist

### Musical Selections Heard this Evening

Nelly Bly .....	Stephen Foster (1826-1864)
Oft in the Stilly Night .....	Folk Song
Some Folks Do .....	Stephen Foster (1826-1864)
Medley .....	Stephen Foster (1826-1864)
Steal Away .....	Stephen Foster (1826-1864)
Rondo - Allegro .....	Mozart (1756-1791)

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Our Next Production: ALICE IN WONDERLAND  
April 30, May 1, 2, and 3

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Presented by the Speech and Drama Department  
and Trojan Players

\*Denotes Trojan Player Members

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance.



## PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director ..... Kathy Oosting\*  
Assistant to the Director..... Sue Elsner\*  
Assistant Technical Director..... Marilyn Jones\*

Painting..... Marilyn Jones\*  
Joe King  
Gail Moore\*

Lights ..... Retha Martin\*  
Gail Moore\*  
Bob Parish\*

Sound ..... MARILYN JONES\*

Properties ..... JAY CUNNINGHAM\*  
Jan Lameika

Make-up ..... Emily Forbes  
Nancy Jackson\*  
Denise Norman\*  
Jill Sonius\*  
Mary Stone\*

Costumes ..... Carolyn Duckwall\*  
Mrs. L. A. Jenkinson  
Marilyn Jones\*  
Linda Kukuk\*  
Retha Martin\*  
Barb Stipanuk

House ..... MARILYN JONES\*  
Sylvia Cameron\*  
Olaf Haug\*  
Trisha Hershey\*  
Jill Sonius\*  
Mary Stone\*  
Beth Waldrop

\*Denotes Trojan Players Members

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We wish to express our appreciation to those persons and groups who contributed to this production: Professor James Oosting, Michael Feinstein, Kathie Keene, Jane Bogantz, Department of Music, Maintenance Department, The Print Shop and The Prophet Foods Company.

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Punch will be on sale in the lower theatre lobby during the intermission. This project is sponsored by TROJAN PLAYERS.

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Wednesday through Friday evenings, during intermission, we invite you to view the exhibit of Senior Art Major, Randy Landon in the Chronicle-Tribune Art Gallery.