

LOIS LOWRY'S

THE GIVER

ADAPTED BY ERIC COBLE



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CAST

<i>The Giver</i>	Lawrence Mason
<i>Jonas</i>	Aaron Williams
<i>Asher</i>	Noah Hudson
<i>Lily</i>	Anna Catherine Marker
<i>Fiona/Rosemary</i>	Brooke Elam
<i>Mother/Chief Elder</i>	Abbie Beatty
<i>Father</i>	Eric Wilkerson

PLACE:

In and around the community.

TIME:

Soon.

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC
PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

Originally commissioned by Oregon Children's
Theatre in March 2006

ARTISTIC STAFF

<i>Director</i>	Alexis Loren Robinson
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Jessika Holmes
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Ashlee Cheyenne Oliver
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Chloe Barnes
<i>Dramaturg</i>	Rebecca Weaver
<i>Scenic Designer</i>	Elizabeth Neese
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jennifer Luck
<i>Costume Shop Supervisor</i>	Freddy Clements
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Meg McCrina
<i>Hair and Makeup</i>	Halima Kamara
<i>Sound Designer</i>	Shelby Washburn
<i>Technical Director</i>	Nick Hoenshell
<i>Assistant Technical Director</i>	Brandon Clark
<i>Projection Designer</i>	Ansley Gayton
<i>Graphic Design Assistant</i>	Meghan Lee
<i>Producer, Department Head</i>	Randy Blades

PRODUCTION STAFF

<i>Run Crew</i>	Bethany Hunt, Shauna Steward
<i>Wardrobe</i>	Kelby King
<i>Light Board Operator</i>	Sam Eddy
<i>Sound Board Operator</i>	Ansley Gayton
<i>Props Assistant</i>	Cheyenne Oliver
<i>Paint Crew</i>	Marquesha Thomas, Kathryn Barone
<i>Costume and Scene Shop</i>	Allison Angel, Brynnen Bargerhuff, Kathryn Barone, Rebecca Blancher, Dominique Cheney, Brandon Clark, Gregory Heathcock, Sundra Liddell, Benjamin Marazzi, Anna Catherine Marker, Lawrence Mason, Cheyenne Oliver, Shauna Steward, Carlie Shaw, Shelby Washburn, Eric Wilkerson, Jonathan Williams
<i>Box Office Manager</i>	Linda Adams
<i>Box Office Staff</i>	Halima Kamara, Courtney King, Meghan Lee

CAST AND ARTISTIC STAFF



Abbie Beatty



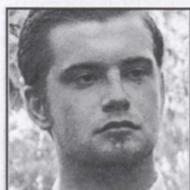
Brooke Elam



Noah Hudson



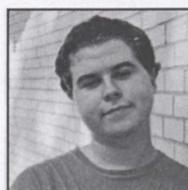
Anna Catherine
Marker



Lawrence Mason



Elizabeth Neese



Ashlee
Cheyenne Oliver



Alexis Loren
Robinson



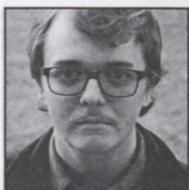
Shelby Washburn



Rebecca Weaver



Eric Wilkerson



Aaron Williams

CAST

Abbie Beatty (Mother/Chief Elder) is thrilled to return to the stage in her second main stage production! She was previously seen in *Guys and Dolls* as Apple Annie. Abbie began acting in the eighth grade and has enjoyed being involved in high school and community theatre productions ever since. She is a freshman at JSU and has spent her first year as a JSU cheerleader and a sister of Alpha Xi Delta. Abbie is excited to continue her involvement in theatre at JSU and can't wait for you to see the show!

Brooke Elam (Fiona/Rosemary) is a junior here at Jacksonville State University, studying drama with a concentration in performance. She is thrilled to be in *The Giver* with such an incredible cast and crew. You may have seen Brooke as "Miranda" in *The Tempest*! She would like to thank her cast and crew for being so awesome during this process. She would also like to thank her family and friends for always being so supportive.

Noah Hudson (Asher) is a sophomore majoring in Nursing here at Jacksonville State University. He is excited to be in his first theatre production at JSU! He was a part of the International Thespian Society and drama club in high school. He has a deep love and appreciation for theatre and has been involved in multiple shows in high school and community theater, most recently stage managing CPAC's production of *Heathers*. Noah is grateful for his friends and family's constant support and wants to thank the cast for being so welcoming and fun to work with.

Anna Catherine Marker (Lily) is a freshman at JSU and has done three performances with the JSU Drama Department. Previous performance credits include Mrs. Trotsky in *The Variations on the Death of Trotsky*, Kite Ballerina/Company Dancer in *Mary Poppins*, and Bobby Soxer in JSU's production of *Guys and Dolls*. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her and her love for theatre for so many years. She is also very grateful for the opportunities and friendships formed in the Drama Department.

Lawrence Mason (The Giver) is a Dallas, Texas native. He is excited to finish his second year at JSU by being *The Giver* in this performance of *The Giver*. His prior appearances on the JSU stage have been as Jerry in *Zoo Story* as a part of the One Acts festival, Anthonio in *The Tempest*, the Tin Man in *Dorothy Meets Alice*, and most recently as Peter Stockmann in *An Enemy of the People*. Other noteworthy appearances have been as Don Attio in Jacksonville Opera Theatre's *The Phantom of the Opera*. Lawrence is a Drama Performance major.

Eric Wilkerson (Father) is a Junior at Jacksonville State University and is majoring in Drama with a focus in Performance and a minor in Communications. He was most recently in JSU's production of *Guys and Dolls*, *An Enemy of the People*, and two One Acts in JSU's Student Showcase. Originally from Nacogdoches, TX, Eric is glad he has found his home in the JSU Drama Department.

Aaron Williams (Jonas) is incredibly thrilled to be performing for JSU's Drama Department for the last time as Jonas! You may recognize him from quite a few things in the past few years, but his favorite roles include Mr. Reed in *These Shining Lives*, Prince Ferdinand in *The Tempest*, Thomas Jefferson in *Shackles of Liberty*, and Thomas Stockmann in *An Enemy of the People*. He's had a wonderful time in this department, and is so thankful for the opportunities he has been given from his friends at this school.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Elizabeth Neese (Scenic Designer) is excited to make her designer debut here at JSU after many years of performing. She is a junior studying Production, and has fallen in love with designing costumes and sets for class projects. Some of her favorite credits from performing have been Granny in *Into the Woods*, Aysha in *Children of Eden*, Grand Duchess Olga Katrina in *You Can't Take It with You*, and Dancer/Ensemble in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. When not at the theatre, she is working with TV Services filming sporting events or practicing her vocal skills in roleplaying games such as *Dungeons and Dragons*. She would like to thank her family and her boyfriend for all their support throughout her artistic journey.

Ashlee Cheyenne Oliver (Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be back in his home of Stage Managing. He is currently obtaining a BA in Drama: Production with a concentration in Stage/Production Management. Credits for Theatrics in performance elements include: Pentheus from *The Bacchae*, Judson in *Dorothy Meets Alice*, and The Drunk in *Guys and Dolls*. Credits for theatrics in Technical elements include: Stage Manager for *These Shining Lives*, *The Tempest*, *Shackles of Liberty*, and *An Enemy Of The People*. He is a private contractor who has technical experience in over 115 shows ranging from concerts to musicals. He recently traveled to North Dakota Shakespeare to work as an ASM on their production of *Romeo and Juliet* and will be traveling back this summer as the Stage Manager for their production of *Twelfth Night*.

Alexis Loren Robinson (Director) is a senior theatre performance major from Cedartown, Georgia. She has been seen on JSU's stage as Hermia in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, Pearl Payne in *These Shining Lives*, the Boatswain in *The Tempest*, and in several other productions. A few of her other previous roles include Janet Weiss in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Serena in *Legally Blonde the Musical*, and Mash in *Stupid Fucking Bird*. This is her main stage directing debut, but she has previously worked as a director here at JSU on smaller shows, directing both *27 Wagons Full of Cotton* and *The Zoo Story*. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and design team for making this dream come true.

Shelby Washburn (Sound Designer) This is Shelby's second year here at JSU. Majoring in Production Drama with a minor in History. Shelby has designed sound for a variety of JSU's shows.

Rebecca Weaver (Dramaturg) is an English and Drama double major (Junior) at Jacksonville State University. This is her fifth production as dramaturg. She just recently dramaturged JSU's *Lillian Paula Carson* and *Guys and Dolls*. She wants to thank the cast and production team for working so hard on this production. She would also like to thank the director, Alexis Robinson, for inviting her to participate in such an important and phenomenal show.

MEET OUR FACULTY



Randy Blades



Freddy Clements



Dr. Michael
Boynton



Carrie Colton



Nick Hoenshell



Dr. Ellen Peck



Jeffrey Nichols



Jennifer Luck

Randy Blades (Department Head) has built costumes for theatres around the country including the Atlanta Opera, the Alliance Theatre, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. His designs have appeared at Penn State, Auburn University-Montgomery, Maples Repertory Theatre. His recent costume design of *The Normal Giant* appeared at the St. Louis Fringe festival, The Fort Lauderdale Fringe Festival, and The Hollins Playwright's Lab. Costume Designs at JSU include *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Into the Woods*, and *Antigone*. Randy has an MFA from Penn State in Costume Design, and a BA from Jacksonville State in Drama. Before coming to JSU, he was a faculty member at the University of Central Florida.

Freddy Clements (Professor of Drama - Costume Designer) is a Distinguished Professor of Drama/Faculty Costume Designer at Jacksonville State University. He holds a BA from Emory & Henry College and an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has designed costumes for various theaters including Wayside Theatre in Middletown VA, CPCC in Charlotte NC, The Barter Theatre in Abington Va and Theatre In The Square in Marietta, GA. On the University level, he has taught courses including costume design, costume construction, stage make-up, and advanced stage make-up. He is an experienced cutter/drafter and has extensive research and experience in early twentieth century corsetry. He has also been constructing authentic hand tailored Scottish kilts since 1991 and led master classes for the USITT Southeast Regional, The Southeastern Theatre Conference, and Dragon*con.

Michael Boynton (Assistant Professor - Acting/Movement) holds an MFA from Wayne State University in Acting; an MFA from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts in Musical Theatre Writing; and a PhD from the University of Maryland, College Park in Theatre and Performance Studies. He has worked professionally as an actor with national companies like the Hilberry Repertory Theatre in Detroit and the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company in Baltimore. His dramatic writing has been produced nationally and internationally and even appeared on Broadway in shows like the musical *Hairspray*. In Alabama, Michael has worked primarily as a director in recent years—past JSU directing credits include *An Enemy of the People*, *The Tempest*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Seagull*. Michael was also the 2017-2018 recipient of the ATHE/Kennedy Center Prize for Innovative Teaching.

Carrie Colton (Assistant Professor - Acting/Speech/Voice) is an actor, director, and composer hailing from Salt Lake City, Utah, where she was born and raised. Carrie holds a BFA in Classical Acting from Southern Utah University, where she studied with the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. Following her undergraduate studies Carrie performed in two international tours: *My Fair Lady* (Eliza) and *Annie* (Miss Hannigan), before discovering her love for directing. Some of her favorite directorial credits include *Hairspray* with the Fusion Academy of Hong Kong, *A Christmas Carol* with the Australian York Technical College, and *Hamlet* with the Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival. Carrie has also spent the last three summers directing and music directing at RMTK in Boulder, CO. Her productions there included *Jungle Book*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Charlotte's Web*. She holds an MFA in directing from Florida State University where she directed *Rikki Tikki Tavi*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Some Girl(s)*, and in 2015, she was voted by the student body to speak at commencement. A world traveler, Carrie has studied at the Moscow Art Theatre, Regents College in London, and recently received her 200 hour certification at Guru Mahi's Ashrum in Dharmasala, India.

Nick Hoenshell (Assistant Professor - Technical Director) holds an MFA in Directing from Baylor University in Waco, TX. Prior to joining JSU, he worked as a scenic artist and carpenter for the Tony award winning Alley Theatre in Houston TX. He also worked as assistant scenic charge for the Colorado Shakespeare festival.

Dr. Ellen Peck* (Associate Professor - History/Theory/Stage Management) teaches theatre history, dramatic literature, stage management, and musical theatre history. She is currently working on a biography of lyricist-librettist Rida Johnson Young for Oxford University Press. She has presented at several national theatre conferences, published articles in *Studies in Musical Theatre*, and was a Fulbright scholar in Romania in 2016-17. Ellen has worked as a freelance Stage Manager around the United States, including Michigan Opera Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, Spoleto Festival USA, and Utah Opera. She has been a member of Actors Equity Association (AEA) since 2000. Ellen received her BA in Theatre from Oakland University, and MA and PhD in Theatre from the University of Illinois.

*Dr. Ellen Peck is an active member of Actors Equity Association

Jeffrey Nichols (Artist in Residence - Film Technology) has worked in the professional film and television industry for over 30 years. As founder of Firstake Productions, his client list includes Paramount Pictures, Universal/MCA, Sony pictures, Warner Brothers and CBS Promotions. He currently teaches the Film and Entertainment Technology courses in the Drama Department while maintaining his professional experience in Los Angeles. Jeffrey has successfully helped JSU students obtain professional film and broadcast television employment in Hollywood, CA, Atlanta, GA, and Louisiana.

Jennifer Luck (Assistant Professor - Lighting/Scenic Designer) is an Alabama native and has worked as a designer across the United States. Her credits range from assisting the LD for Creflo Dollar's Los Angeles Revival while in graduate school to developing new works with Title:Point, an experimental theatre company started in New York City. A graduate of the Scenography program at the University of Kansas, Jennifer has dabbled in all aspects of theatrical design. Her favorite past projects include: Scenic, Costume, and Lighting Designer for *Seussical the Musical* by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty at Maryville College, Lighting Designer for *The Woman in Black* by Stephen Malatratt at Birmingham Festival Theatre, Scenic and Lighting Designer for *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare at the University of Kansas, and Lighting Designer for the premiere production of *Burning* by Harrison Rivers at Manhattan Theatre Source in New York, NY.

A NOTE FROM THE DRAMATURG

Based off one of the most popular young adult books, *The Giver* shows a dystopian world in which everyone seems content. There are rules that everyone must follow, emotions that must be hidden, and a specific career for each person. Everyone has their place and their time assigned to them, with no choice of their own. To deviate from their position is to be released from the community into the Elsewhere. Why are the people in this community, in this world, okay with giving away their right to decide? Why do they seem to be content with having a strict code to follow?

Conformity, no matter the time period, is a concept that is always relevant. But why do we always find ourselves conforming? At the core of our humanity, we do not want to be rejected by the majority. Or we may not be informed enough to make the decision with which we agree, so we blindly accept the opinion of the majority. Experiments throughout the past century have been done to test the limits of conformity. How far will one go to follow the rules or conform to a societal standard? Stanley Milgram, Solomon Asch, and Philip Zimbardo were just a few of many psychologists who experimented with conformity. Their results were astonishing and led to many discoveries that we now study today.

Knowing about conformity has not prevented us from still conforming. Humanity's need to be accepted seems to be far stronger than our need to be individuals. However, if we don't have individuality, how would we know beauty, art, kindness, love, or most importantly, empathy for others? Director Alexis Robinson and the cast invite the audience to sit back and enter a world in which we might soon find ourselves. The only thing that keeps us from this dystopian world is our individual right to choose our own destiny and to choose to be different. What will you decide?

JSU ANGELS AND SEASON SUBSCRIBERS

Much of the work we do in the Drama Department and the scholarships we offer our students are made possible through the contributions and support of our Theatre Angels. Thank you to everyone who supports us through your purchase of tickets and tax-deductible donations. For information on how you can support the JSU Drama Department, please contact Linda Adams at ladams@jsu.edu or fill out one of our comment cards and indicate that you would like us to contact you. Thank you for another great year of strong support!

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The Kennedy Center

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 49th, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; Beatrice and Anthony Welters and the AnBryce Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

UP NEXT AT JSU DRAMA

Lillian Paula Carson by John Barrow

April 24-25 — Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center

In April, JSU Drama presents a workshop production of the winner of the annual Southern Playwrights Competition, *Lillian Paula Carson* by John Barrow.

Country Co-Ed by Michael John Boynton and the Flying Blind Theatre Ensemble

May 3 at 8pm — Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center

The most outrageous "player on campus," Harry Horner, may have met his match in the brilliant Women's Studies student, Dani Dickinson, in this raunchy, over-the-top sex comedy. In this radical adaptation of Wycherley's play *The Country Wife*, getting laid is the name of the game. When Horner and Dani make a bet to see who can get the most action over homecoming weekend, they and their crazy group of friends take college parties to a whole new level of raunchy. This witty, farcical sex comedy combines elements from the restoration classic and contemporary cinematic comedies such as *Animal House* and *Bridesmaids*.

The *Country Co-ed* is an entirely new, original devised play by the Flying Blind Theatre Ensemble (FBTE), a theatre troupe founded by current JSU students and faculty as part of the Spring 2018 Special Topics in Performance course. FBTE will be taking *The Country Co-ed* to the Capital Fringe Festival in Washington D.C. this July! So come support JSU, the Drama Department, FBTE, and the future production in our nation's capital! Admission is only \$5 at the door! Proceeds will assist in travel and expenses for the Capital Fringe Festival performance.

18 and over only! Rated R! Highly offensive language and crude sex-capades!

Stay tuned for more from the JSU Drama Department!