Spring 2007 Season

To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday
by Michael Brady
Johnson Theatre 11-15 April

Spring One-Act Festival*
Johnson Studio Theatre 16-19 April

Student Choreography Showcase*
Johnson Theatre 20-22 April

The Department of Theatre and Dance
is accredited by
The National Association of Schools of Theatre
and
The National Association of Schools of Dance
**Messiah on the Frigidaire**

*By John Culbertson*

**Production Staff**

- Director: Meagan Douglas
- Stage Manager: Heather Ireland
- Assistant Stage Manager: Alex Bifareti
- Scenic Designer: Matthew Taylor
- Costume Designer: Lindsey Richardson
- Lighting Designer: Christine Jacky
- Sound Designer: Taylor Thornburg
- Faculty Supervisor: Annie Laurie Wheat

**Cast**

- Dwayne Hightower: Steve Lancaster
- Lou Ann Hightower: Dannielle M. Reid
- Betsy Gridley: Jessica Francis
- Larry Williamson: Brian Jones
- Preacher Hodges: Ryan Roberts
- Woman: Amber Baragona
- Boy: Jackson Charles
- Stranger: Stephen Jones

Setting: The Hightower's trailer, Elroy, South Carolina

*There will be a fifteen minute intermission*

Patrons are advised that this play contains adult material

*In compliance with Winthrop University policy, we ask smokers to use the designated area across the driveway from the front of Johnson Hall.*

**Director’s Note**

What would you do if the image of Jesus suddenly appeared on your refrigerator tonight? Would you scream? Pray? Laugh? Call up the local news team? Would you see it as a sign from God or as a weird joke?

These are precisely the questions that are asked from the front porch of a trailer in Elroy, South Carolina – perhaps not the most glamorous of places for the King of Kings to show up. But nevertheless, there he is, or so it seems. And everyone has a different idea as to why. Mix southerners, religion, and commerce, and you have the makings for a hilarious play.

However, author John Culbertson has said, “I want people to see this play as more than a comedy. It really is a litany of things we do to one another in the name of religion.”

Indeed, through funny characters and a wacky plot, *Messiah on the Frigidaire* makes a comment on this very subject: on the difference between faith and chicanery, between honesty and hypocrisy. And while the play makes no pretense at explaining the ways of God to man or at telling people what to believe, it modestly – and humorously – invites us to ask ourselves just what the truth might be. Perhaps God is closer than we think. Perhaps everything that claims to be God, isn’t. And some things that look nothing like God, are.

**Acknowledgements:**

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