

COMMUNITY

THE ARTS

Ghostly mystery tale shrouds Shuler stage performance

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Legend suggests that Evelyn Shuler so enjoyed the Shuler Theater's productions that her ghost still lingers, occupying seat D1 at every performance. If true, she should be particularly comfortable on Saturday night as the Kaleidoscope Players present their take on Henry James's classic ghost story, "The Turn of the Screw."

Set at an English country estate, James's 1898 novella has been adapted many times, even by James himself, along with Joyce Carol Oates, several movies, a Benjamin Britten opera, TV productions by the BBC and others, and at least two theatrical scripts.

Indiana director Tom Evans saw a production of the first theater version when he was a boy in the 1950s. "It was not entirely satisfactory," he says in his office at the Shuler, where he's directing three of this year's four annual summer repertory productions. "Two years ago I reluctantly took on the new two-actor script for a production at Brown County Playhouse in Indiana. I didn't think we'd be able to hold the audience. To my surprise, they sat rapt. The

play engages in some ways that baffle me," he says.

"I think people just love a good mystery. As a boy, I listened to the old radio show called 'I Love a Mystery.' People sat riveted to their radios every week to hear a mystery unfold."

The new "Turn of the Screw" script was written by Jeffrey Hatcher, whose many successful plays, screenplays and teleplays have included several episodes of "Colombo." Nora Leahy stars in the Shuler production as a newly hired governess who finds herself mired in an eerie ghost story.

These are not ghosts like Casper or even like Mrs. Shuler. James was fascinated by ghost stories but hated the stereotypical. Instead, his ghosts tended to be sinister extensions of normal life.

"The play is a dark mystery," Evans says. "Imagine a jigsaw puzzle with key pieces missing, so you have a picture that you can't understand. Over time, small pieces are found, and the picture begins to reveal itself. The play unravels a shroud that is covering the mystery. The play unravels the truth."

As he did at the Shuler last month in "The Cotton Patch Gospel," versatile Chicago actor Ian McCabe inhabits multiple roles



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

Chicago actors Ian McCabe and Nora Leahy comprise the entire cast of the Shuler Theater's "The Turn of the Screw," opening its run on Saturday night. McCabe plays several roles that revolve around Leahy's governess in Henry James's ghostly mystery. Director Tom Evans, left, works meticulously on his set design for "The Turn of the Screw." Evans left his Indiana home to direct three of the Shuler's four summer repertory shows.



without ever changing costume. Although the program credits him simply as "Man," this man channels a 10-year-old boy, a handsome 35-year-old nobleman and Mrs. Grose, a dowdy middle-aged Irish housekeeper. The script also calls for McCabe to produce multiple sound effects.

Following the comedies "The Cotton Patch Gospel" and "The Importance of Being Earnest," the Shuler's production of "The Turn of the Screw" marks a 180-degree turn, into the realm of Edgar Allan Poe and Henry James, the macabre world of eerie mysteries and frightening bumps in the night.

Tradition suggests that seat D1 be left

vacant for Mrs. Shuler, and legend suggests that she'll be smiling.

"The Turn of the Screw" opens at Raton's Shuler Theater on Saturday night, July 12, at 7:30 p.m., followed by a matinee performance on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The production continues next week with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, July 17-19, at 7:30 p.m., and then closes with a Sunday 2:30 p.m. matinee on July 20.

General admission tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$5 for children. Tickets and information are available at the Shuler Theater, 131 N. 2nd St. The theater's phone number is 575-445-4746.



SENIOR LIVING

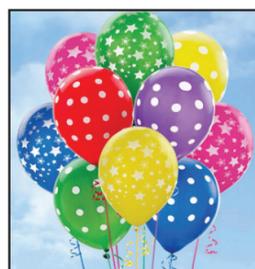
Summertime fun at the Legacy in Trinidad

Special to The Chronicle-News

No matter what your age a carnival always means fun. The Legacy at Trinidad Assisted Living facility hosted a Summer Carnival with Nursery Rhythm Center on Saturday, June 28.

Mary Jo Baudino, owner of Nursery Rhythm Center, organized the event, which entertained young and old alike. Included in the event were games, prizes and food. Tickets were given for each game played and turned in for an assortment of prizes.

Our thanks to the many volunteers who made this event a success. Everyone in attendance left asking, "When is the next carnival?"



Clockwise from left, Marianna Bhur enjoys a little carnival fun at the Duck Pond. Jaslynn Baudino has a great time playing PLINKO, while Sarah Ringo, left, with the assistance of her daughter Lucille Mattie, try their hand at Go-Fish. The four ladies in the front, Helen Marshall, Veronica Mosher, Lucille Hadad and Irene Akers, left to right, enjoy the nice weather and the fun-filled carnival.

Photos courtesy of The Legacy

AUCTION

Saturday • July 12th • 9:30 am
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table Saw Lots of Carpentry Tools Pump Jack - Like New Lots of Misc. Tools Fluorescent Light Fixture Tap & Die Set Lots of Bolts, Screws, ect. Log Chains Electric Cement Mixer Drafting Table (2) New Larson Screen Doors - 36" (2) Portable Generators (2) Steel Benches Acetylene Set 21' Camper - Great Shape Skill Saws High Pressure Washer Water Purifier Electric Grinder Service Station Compressor House Moving Rollers & Jacks Several Rolls of Stucco Wire Metal Shelving Lots of Garden Tools Picnic Table Mulcher Complete Central Air System - 220 volt Hydraulic Jacks Craftsman Riding Lawn Mower Dining Room Table Bedroom Set Piano 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End Tables Sofa Set Several Filing Cabinets Several Electric Drills Insulation Lots of House Building Material Wood Cabinet Electric Heaters Window Shades by Andersen Several Folding Chairs Curb Concrete Forms - 100' Frame Stakes (2) gas stoves(ranges) - Excellent Shape (4) refrigerators - All working condition Electric Stove (2) Bug Zappers New Canopy - Still in Box Water Softener BBQ Grill Speed Boat w/1750 Mercury Engine with Trailer 1981 21' Camper Trailer with G/N Hitch by NU-WA Antiques & Collectibles Wood Butcher Block Safes - No Combination Antique Tools Big Wheel Grinder Dresser w/Marble Top End Table Trunks Glass Bottle Full of Pennies - Sell at Noon 10 Indian Head Pennies - Sell at Noon 5 Morgan Silver Dollars - Sell at Noon
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Many More Misc. Items Too Numerous To Mention!

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