ella
minnow
dea

a new musical

November 20–23, 2008
Arthur Miller Theatre
Department of Musical Theatre
UM School of Music, Theatre & Dance
The University of Michigan, School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Department of Musical Theatre

presents

**ella minnow pea**
*a new musical*

Book and lyrics by **Scott Burkell**  
Music by **Paul Loesel**  
Based on the novel by **Mark Dunn**  
Original orchestrations by **Paul Loesel** and **Andy Jones**

**Director**  
Scott Burkell

**Music Director**  
Catherine Walker Adams

**Scenic Design**  
Rob Murphy

**Costume Design**  
Christianne Myers

**Lighting Design**  
Craig Kidwell

**Choreographers**  
Kelcy Griffin, Alle-Faye Monka

**Stage Manager**  
A. J. Dobbs

**Setting:**

Nollop, a small island nation off the coast of South Carolina, present day

There will be one intermission.

_Ella Minnow Pea_ is produced by special arrangement with the authors.

Latecomers will be seated at a suitable break or scene change. As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode. Cellular phones and electronic watch alarms should be turned off so that will not interrupt the performance. Photography, audio recording, and videotaping of any kind are not permitted due to copyright restrictions. Flash photography endangers performers by causing momentary blindness.

The School of Music, Theatre & Dance acknowledges the generosity of McKinley Associates, Inc. whose support has helped make this production possible.
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ella Minnow Pea ................................................................. Anne Markt
Gwenette Minnow Pea, her mother, a school teacher ...................... Stephanie Maloney
Amos Minnow Pea, her father, maker of dollhouses ....................... Ian Mazurek

Agnes Prather, the Minnow Pea’s next door neighbor ....................... Beth Kuhn
Eugenia Prather, her seven year-old daughter .............................. Sabra Satz-Kojis

Georgeanne Towgate, a busybody ........................................... Emily Glick
Timmy Towgate, her seven year-old son ..................................... Christopher Jon Torrella

Manheim Louise, a grocer .................................................... Will Burton
Marigold Louise, his aunt, a tavern keeper ................................... Alle-Faye Monka
Cubetta Louise, his sister, a veterinarian ..................................... Britney Coleman

Zach Pierre Creevy, a longshoreman ......................................... Mike Kelton
Mittie Creevy, a baker ........................................................... Keclay Griffin
Willy Creevy, a student .......................................................... Etai Benshlomo

Houston LaGreer, High Council Member .................................. Holly Grossman
Rederick Lyttle, High Council Member ..................................... Leonard Navarro
Harton Mangrove, High Council Member ................................... John Rapson

Tassie Percy, a laundress ........................................................ Haley Hannah
Teddy Percy, a paper boy ....................................................... Etai Benshlomo

Payton Ebert, an antique store owner ....................................... Eric Maier
Cecil Ramsey, Payton’s partner, a newspaper printer ..................... Jonathan Parkey
Astrid Ebert, Payton’s sister, a hairdresser ................................... Maddy Trumble

Shubert Greenley, a mason ..................................................... Max Spitulnik
Ruth Greenley, a piano teacher ................................................. Lizzie Klemperer

Creighton O’Looley, the lighthouse operator ............................... Andrew Laudel
Nevin Nollop ........................................................................... Jonathan Parkey
Nathaniel Warren, a student at the Univ. of Georgia ..................... Derek Carley
Thug-Uglies ............................... Will Burton, Kelcy Griffin, Mike Kelton, Andrew Laudel

ORCHESTRA

Conductor ........ Catherine Walker Adams
Piano ............... Cynthia Kortman Westphal
Keyboard ............... Greg Jarrett
Violin ................. Trina Stoneham

Cello ........................................... Eric Moore
Percussion ......................... Andy Jones
Asst. to the Music Director .... Colin Hartman
SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue: On Stage

Not So Long Ago......................................................................................... Company

Scene One: The Town Square of Nollop

Nollopian National Anthem ........................................................................ Nollopians
Happy Nollop Day..................................................................................... Nollopians
Ella's Plea .................................................................................................. Ella

Scene Two: The Minnow Pea Home

Scene Three: The Town Square of Nollop

Scene Four: The Towgate Front Yard

Goodbye to Z......................................................................................... Georgeanne, High Council, Ella, Nollopians

Scene Five: The Town Square of Nollop

Right/Wrong............................................................................................ High Council, Thugs, Ella, Willy, Nollopians

Scene Six: The Minnow Pea Home/The Choir Loft

Hymn 326 ............................................................................................. Ladies’ Choir, Ella, Nate, High Council
It's the Choice ............................................................................................ Ella, Ladies’ Choir

Scene Seven: The Towgate Home

For Their Own Good ............................................................................ Georgeanne, Timmy

Scene Eight: The Minnow Pea Home

In My Mind ............................................................................................. Nate, Ella

Scene Nine: Various Nollopian Locations

Another Day in Nollop........................................................................... Company

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Scene One: The Town Square of Nollop

Things Can Always Be Worse ................................................................. Gwenette, Agnes, Thugs, Georgeanne

Scene Two: The Inner Chambers of the High Island Council

Scene Three: The Minnow Pea Home

Such a Little House .................................................................................... Amos

Scene Four: The Nollopian Woods

In My Mind (Reprise) ............................................................................... Nate, Ella

Scene Five: The Minnow Pea Home

Enterprise 32..... High Council, Ella, Nate, Eugenia, Gwenette, Agnes, Nollopians

Scene Six: Pier Seven

Pencil to Paper .......................................................................................... Company

Scene Seven: The Minnow Pea Home

Pencil to Paper (Reprise One) ................................................................... Eugenia, Ella

Scene Eight: Pier Seven

You'll See ................................................................................................. Nate, Ella

Scene Nine: The Minnow Pea Home

Pencil to Paper (Reprise Two) ................................................................. Georgeanne, Eugenia, Ella
Scenes and Musical Numbers

Scene Ten: The Inner Chambers of the High Island Council
Scene Eleven: The Towgate Home
   For Their Own Good (Reprise) ......................................................... Georgeanne, Timmy
Scene Twelve: The Minnow Pea Home
   LMNOP ......................................................................................... Ella, High Council, Nate, Gwenette, Amos
Epilogue: On Stage
   Not So Long Ago (Reprise) .............................................................. Company
   Happy Nollop Day (Reprise) ............................................................ Company

From the Creators

When we originally read Mark Dunn’s book, Ella Minnow Pea, we knew that the characters were meant to sing. The deceptively simple tale had all the elements one sees in a good musical: compelling characters, a strong, linear narrative and the heightened dramatic situations that lend themselves so well to song. Like all good parables Ella speaks to us on many levels. What happens when our ability to make individual choice is compromised? What do we do when rules we don’t agree with are exacted upon us? What are the repercussions when those with power misuse that endowment and mistake their opinion with absolute truth?

How appropriate that this production should happen during an election year when these very questions reverberate with such relevance in our own lives. And how blessed we have been to have this premier production take place with the protective care and abounding talent that distinguishes this University’s musical theatre department. The opportunity to work with the most supportive and dedicated artists, including the designers, crew and the astounding students themselves, has made this stop in Ann Arbor a most productive one indeed. Growing up in Michigan ourselves, the “thumb” to be exact, has only contributed to the warm homecoming sense that has surrounded us since our Wolverine connection began.

So, enjoy Ella Minnow Pea, ideally our girl will inspire, amuse, and entertain as she takes her baby steps across the Arthur Miller stage. Oh, and in case you were wondering, no we didn’t cheat and use illegal letters when writing the script and score (this entire program note was written without using the randomly chosen letter “F”... Give it a try! It’s fun...oops, enjoyable...)

— Scott & Paul
**About the Authors**

**Scott Burkell** (Book and Lyrics/Director) and **Paul Loesel**’s (Music/Orchestrations) songs have been performed at Carnegie Hall (Michael Feinstein: Now and Then Series), Lincoln Center (American Songbook Series), Joe’s Pub, Symphony Space, the Kennedy Center, and the Chicago Humanities Festival. Their songs have been premiered by Kristin Chenoweth (Carnegie Hall), Marin Mazzie, Jason Danieley, Rebecca Luker, Susan Egan, and Liz Callaway. Recordings of their work have appeared on Lisa Richard’s album Virgin Tracks, as well as Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley’s Opposite You. Their musical, Six of One, received a Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Grant, an ASCAP workshop, a CAP21 workshop, and a production in the 2007 Philly Fringe Festival. They wrote and performed their two cabaret shows, Love Songs and Other Crap (MAC Award nominated) and Hairless and Ripped at Don’t Tell Mama and The Firebird in New York City. Ella Minnow Pea is their second musical.

**Andy Jones** (Orchestrations/Percussionist) has composed scores for Execution of Justice, About Face Theatre; A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Chicago Shakespeare Theater; and Blade to the Heat, Apple Tree Theatre (Jeff Award for Original Music). He was assistant music director for Pacific Overtures, Chicago Shakespeare Theater/Donmar Warehouse; arranged The Flower Thieves, The Midnight Circus; and orchestrated God and Country, Victory Gardens Theater. Andy originated the percussion scores for 90 North, The Kennedy Center (ASCAP award); Triumph of Love, Yale Repertory Theatre; Wings, Goodman Theatre/Joseph Papp Public Theatre; and WICKED, Gershwin Theatre, Broadway.

**About the Cast**

**Etai Benshломo** (Willy Creevy/Teddy Percy) senior, Coral Springs, FL  
**Will Burton** (Manheim Louise/Thug-Ugly) sophomore, Marietta, GA  
**Derek Carley** (Nathaniel Warren) senior, Woodinville, WA  
**Britney Coleman** (Cubetta Louise) sophomore, Ann Arbor, MI  
**Emily Glick** (Georgeanne Tougate) senior, Chapel Hill, NC  
**Kelcy Griffin** (Mittie Creevy/Thug-Ugly) senior, Chicago, IL  
**Holly Grossman** (Houston LaGreer) sophomore, Weston, FL  
**Haley Hannah** (Tassie Percy) junior, Leawood, KS  
**Mike Kelton** (Zach Pierre Creevy/Thug-Ugly) senior, Westchester, NY  
**Lizzie Kleperer** (Ruth Greenley) senior, Syracuse, NY  
**Beth Kuhn** (Agnes Prather) senior, Deerfield, IL  
**Andrew Laudel** (Creighton O’Looley/Thug-Ugly) senior, BFA Musical Theatre/BA English, St. Louis, MO  
**Eric Maier** (Payton Ebert) sophomore, Okemos, MI
ABOUT THE CAST

**Stephanie Maloney** *(Gwenette Minnow Pea)* junior, Pittsburgh, PA  
**Anne Markt** *(Ella Minnow Pea)* junior, Mayfield Heights, OH  
**Ian Mazeck** *(Amos Minnow Pea)* junior, Nashua, NH  
**Alle-Faye Monka** *(Marigold Louise)* junior, Morristown, NJ  
**Leonard Navarro** *(Rederick Lyttle)* junior, San Antonio, TX  
**Jonathan Parkey** *(Nevin Nollop/Cecil Ramsey)* senior, Jonesboro, AR  
**John Rapson** *(Harton Mangrove)* senior, Washington, MI  
**Sabra Satz-Kojis** *(Eugenia Prather)* seventh grade, Slauson Middle School, Ann Arbor, MI  
**Max Spitulnik** *(Shubert Greenley)* senior, Rockville, MD  
**Christopher Jon Torrella** *(Timmy Towgate)* fifth grade, Carpenter Elementary School, Pittsfield Twp, MI  
**Maddy Trumble** *(Astrid Ebert)* sophomore, Berkeley, CA

The performers in this production are guests and undergraduate students pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre unless otherwise notated. The designers are faculty and students in the Department of Theatre & Drama. Scenery, costumes, properties, sound, and lighting were realized by the students and staff of University Productions, the producing unit of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Catherine Walker Adams** *(Music Director)* is an Asst. Professor in the Dept. of Musical Theatre. **UM:** *Big River*. **Regional Theatre:** The Barn Theatre, Augusta, MI; Derby Dinner Playhouse, Louisville, KY; The Red Barn Theatre, Saugatuck, MI; Island Center Productions, St. Croix USVI; Caribbean Community Theatre, St. Croix; Country Dinner Playhouse, Columbus, OH; Three-D Productions, Kalamazoo, MI; Kalamazoo College; Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. **Other:** Bachelor Degree in Music Education from Capital Univ., Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Western Michigan Univ.

**Scott Burkell** *(Director)* See About the Authors.

**A.J. Dobbs** *(Stage Manager)* is a senior design and production student. **UM:** Stage manager: *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*; ASM: *La Bohème, Playing for Time, Seussical*. **Regional Theatre:** Cranbrook Theatre School; National Playwright’s Conference and the Cabaret and Performance Conference, Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center.

**Craig Kidwell** *(Lighting Designer)* is a senior, BFA, design and production student concentrating in lighting design. **UM:** *Caucasian Chalk Circle, Exit the King*; Basement Arts: *Red Light Winter* and others; MUSKET: Co-designer *Parade*. Worked with directors Mbala Nkanga, Malcolm Tulip, Alex Bisker and Laura Przybysz. **Regional Theatre:** Numerous shows at Hillsdale Community Theater including *Oliver!*.
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**CHRISTIANNE MYERS (Costume Designer)** is an Asst. Professor in the Dept. of Theatre & Drama. **UM**: including *Rent, As You Like It, She Stoops to Conquer, The Cradle Will Rock, The Coronation of Poppea, Tartuffe, Don Giovanni*. **Off-Broadway**: *Running Man, Oedipus, American Dreams: Lost & Found; Theatreworks/USA; The Public Theatre & Ma-Yi Ens.; Irondale Ens.; Lincoln Center Institute. New York**: The Juilliard School. **Regional Theatre**: Purple Rose Theatre; Indiana Rep; Vermont Stage Co.; Clarence Brown Theatre; Syracuse Stage; Caldwell Theatre; Pine Mountain Music Festival. **Other**: BFA, Pace Univ.; MFA, New York Univ.


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

From Scott and Paul — Special thanks to Mark Dunn, Brent Wagner, Cynthia Kortman Westphal, Catherine Walker Adams, Amanda Mengden, Cherry Westerman, Nicholas Roman Lewis, Andy Jones, our families, and the many people who have lended their creative talents to Ella’s various readings and demo recordings.

Additional thanks to Irv Tabaka. Andy Jones uses *Bosphorus* cymbals, *Mike Balter* mallets and instruments from *Black Swamp Percussion* and *PTECH* (percussion technologies).

**KC/ACTF** This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater productions. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.
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Master Carpenter (Power) ......................... Michael Braico
Carpenter (Power) .................................... Brandon Carruth
Technical Director (Walgreen) ..................... Richard W. Lindsay, Jr.
Carpenter (Walgreen) ................................. Robert Michael
Charge Scenic Artist ................................... Tonyi Auletta
Charge Scenic Artist for Ella Minnow Pea..... Beth Sandmaier
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Asst. Properties Master ............................. Patrick Drone
Properties Artisan ..................................... Michelle Bisbee
Master Electrician ................................. Mark Allen Berg
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Assoc. Costume Shop Manager ................... George Bacon
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Lea M. Morello, T J Williamson
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PRODUCTION CREW
First Asst. Stage Manager ......................... Michelle Elias
Asst. Stage Managers ............................. Elizabeth Lynch, Jose Sepulveda
Asst. to the Director .............................. Daniel Berryman
Scenery .................. Edward Hanlon, Carolyn Lusch, Heather Maricle,
Kelley Maricle, Adam McCarthy, Laura Reed, Bethany Rickwald,
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Paint .................. John Copley, Niki Hogan-Leifer, Laura Strowe,
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Props .................. Michelle Bryan, Kathleen Eberts,
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Lighting .............. Alyce Basak, Alexander Brees, Michelle Bryan,
Joon-Young Chung, Geoffrey Gilbert, Joshua Hoag,
Lauren Hood, Kimberly Hunter, Aaron Johnson,
Craig Kidwell, Justin Lang, Elizabeth Lynch, Adam McCarthy,
Michael Michelon, Amanda Rutishauser, Stephanie Shechter,
Liam Welch, Zhe Zhou, students of Theatre 250

RUNNING CREW
Scenery .................. Stephanie Hawkins, Danny Romeo
Props ........ Amalea Chininis, Carolyn Reich, Carlye Tamarin
Light Board Operator .................. Mary Blake
Electrics .................. Collin McLaughlin, Laura Reed, Abby Zeitvogel
Sound .................. R. J. Brown
Wardrobe .................. Casey Low, Grace Morgan,
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Child Wrangler ............... Ali Gordon

* Practicum student  ‡ Crew Head
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Beauty and the Beast: Garrett Miller, Brynn O’Malley, Ellen Hoffman
Bells Are Ringing (2001 Revival): Josh Rhodes
La Bohème: Adam Hunter, Gilles Chiasson
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Cats: Job Christenson, Ben Whiteley (conductor)
Candide: D’Vorah Bailey (1997 revival), Daniel Reichard (New York City Opera)
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A Chorus Line (2006 Revival): David Baum, Tommy Berkland
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Grease (1995 Revival): Hunter Foster
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Little Shop of Horrors: Hunter Foster (Tony nomination)
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Mamma, Mia!: Chris Peluso, Barrett Foa, Darryl Semira, Joi Price
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