A promotional poster for the play 'Of Mice and Men'. The background features two men standing in a field, silhouetted against a large, bright sun in a cloudy sky. The scene is framed by a white double-line border with decorative corner elements.

THE PARKER THEATRE PRESENTS

Of Mice and Men

MARCH 30 - APRIL 27

Thank you for supporting the Parker Theatre!

OF MICE AND MEN
John Steinbeck

DIRECTED BY

Joanne Parker

STAGE MANAGER

Adam Hellewell

SET & LIGHTING DESIGN

James B. Parker

COSTUME DESIGN

Paige Burton

SOUND DESIGN

Spencer J. Hohl

PROPERTIES BY

James B. Parker and
Spencer Hohl

HAIR & MAKEUP

Shannara Jones

Sound & Light Operator

Gabriella Carlen

THANK YOU TO YOU AND OUR SPONSORS!

“Big thanks to our annual sponsors and individual donors! Your support keeps our theatre thriving and brings joy to our community. We couldn't do it without you!”

- Parker Theatre

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DIRECTORS NOTES

As we embark on this journey together through John Steinbeck's timeless classic, "Of Mice and Men," I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and humility. It is truly an honor to be at the helm of a production that not only carries with it the weight of history but also the profound richness of American theatre.

First and foremost, I must express my deepest appreciation to the remarkable cast assembled for this production. They are not only the most talented and gifted actors I've had the pleasure of working with, but they also possess hearts that seem to expand beyond the boundaries of the Solma Valley itself. Their dedication, passion, and commitment have brought these characters to life in ways that I could only have dreamed of.

We are not only confronted with the brilliance of Steinbeck's narrative but also the evocative music of Aaron Copland. The synergy between Copland's melodies and Steinbeck's words, coupled with the raw talent of our actors, is truly humbling. It is a testament to the power of collaboration and the transformative nature of storytelling.

I am profoundly grateful to be associated with this esteemed theatre and to have the opportunity to contribute to this production. "Of Mice and Men" is more than just a play; it is a poignant reminder of the importance of compassion, tolerance, and kindness in a world that often feels devoid of such virtues.

As you witness this story unfold before you, I urge you to not only immerse yourself in the narrative but also to reflect on its relevance in our lives today. In a world that sometimes seems fractured and divided, "Of Mice and Men" serves as a tender reminder of our shared humanity and the importance of reaching out to one another with empathy and understanding.

May this experience in live theatre leave an indelible mark on your heart, reminding you of the power of storytelling to evoke emotion, provoke thought, and ultimately, inspire change. Thank you for joining us on this journey, and I hope you will carry the spirit of "Of Mice and Men" with you long after the final curtain falls.

-Joanne Parker

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

SCENE 1: BRUSH BY THE RIVER

George and Lennie arrive at a peaceful clearing by the Salinas River, discussing their dream of owning a piece of land. Lennie's fondness for soft things, particularly rabbits, is introduced.

SCENE 2: THE BUNKHOUSE

George and Lennie arrive at a ranch where they meet The Boss and other workers including Candy, Slim, Curley, and Carlson. George warns Lennie to stay quiet to avoid trouble with Curley, the boss's son. The workers discuss their dreams and loneliness.

SCENE 3: THE BUNKHOUSE (CONTINUED)

The workers continue conversing, revealing their desires for companionship and their struggles with loneliness. George, Lennie, and Candy share their dream of owning a farm. Curley becomes suspicious of Lennie and starts confrontations.

SCENE 4: CROOKS ROOM

Crooks invites Lennie into his room, discussing his loneliness and bitterness due to racism. Lennie shares his dream of owning a farm, which Crooks initially doubts. Curley's wife interrupts, causing tension and reminding Crooks of his societal position.

SCENE 5: THE BARN

Lennie accidentally kills a puppy while petting it too roughly, foreshadowing tragedy. Curley's wife finds Lennie in the barn and confides in him about her dreams and frustrations. A struggle ensues, resulting in Lennie accidentally killing her.

SCENE 6: THE CLEARING BY THE RIVER

George finds Lennie hiding in the brush by the river and realizes he must protect him from the vengeful ranch hands. They discuss their dream one last time before George, in an act of mercy, shoots Lennie to spare him from a painful death and to preserve their dream.

CAST



BRINTON M. WILKINS - LENNIE SMALL

Brinton regularly performs at the Parker Theatre. Past roles include Aslan in "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," Polonius in "Hamlet," Bottom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Kiwi in "The Hasty Heart," Mortimer in "Arsenic and Old Lace," Horace in "The School for Wives," and Nick in "Over the River and Through the Woods." He directed the Parker Theatre's recent productions of "Hamlet," "Romeo and Juliet," "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," and "The Jungle Book." He grew up performing at various Utah theaters, and definitely caught the acting bug from his parents, Richard and Melany Wilkins, who taught him that although theater is fun for the actor, at its best it can be so much more than that. When he was about 14 years old, he read his first Steinbeck novel (which just happened to be "Of Mice and Men") having no idea what it was about. He picked it up because it was short and he finished it in one sitting. The last pages shook him like no other book ever had and launched him into Steinbeck's other works. A teacher once asked him what three historical figures he would like to meet, and Steinbeck appeared on his shortlist. Brinton is honored and humbled to help bring this story to the Parker Theatre's audience. He dedicates his performance to his mother, Melany: "She is the embodiment of patience, love unfeigned, sacrifice, consecration, Christlike humanity, and remembering that everyone has her own measuring stick. She's a mensch, and the world is lucky to have her; if you don't know her, you should. Thanks, mom."



LUCAS CHARON - GEORGE MILTON

Lucas is thrilled to return to what he calls "Utah's most authentic theatre." Some of his favorite roles include Fred/Dickens in "A Christmas Carol" (Hale, Sandy), Lord Farquaad in "Shrek, The Musical" (Murray City), Willard in "Footloose" (West Valley City), Bob Cratchit in A Christmas Carol (Parker Theatre). A Special Education Teacher by day, Lucas has always wanted in "Of Mice and Men" since high school and is grateful for the chance to be a part of something as beautiful as this work. "Thanks to Joanne, who taught me to dig deeper. And to Lindsey and Chip, who make every day a gift."



DAN FREDERICKSON - SLIM

Dan has been performing at local theaters in Utah for more than 20 years and is pleased to make his first appearance at the Parker Theatre. Some of his favorite roles include Frolo in The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Father in Ragtime, Adam Pontipee in Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Gaston in Beauty and the Beast, Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls, Father in Children of Eden, Neville Craven in the Secret Garden, Kerchak in Tarzan, and Chauvelin in the Scarlet Pimpernel.



BROOK ROBERTSON - CANDY

I am delighted and grateful to be on stage again after an extended hiatus. Being given the opportunity to work and play with a collection of actors, directors, and technicians who possess the delicious talents of this group is beyond any dream I might wish for! 35 years ago I appeared in my first Salt Lake City show with 'City Rep'... the same company that is now 'The Parker Theatre'. It's like being home again! Past productions include "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" at Jackson Hole Playhouse/City Rep, "Guys & Dolls" at Pink Garter Jackson Hole,

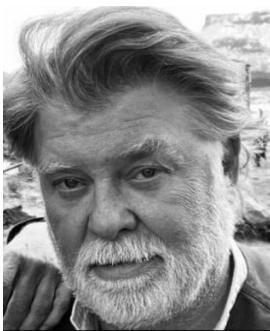
WY, "Murder at The Vicarage" with City Rep, "Brigadoon", "Pirates of Penzance", "The Scarlet Pimpernel", and "Joseph" with HCT, "West Side Story" at Utah Musical Theater WSU, "How to Succeed in Business" at Playmill W Yellowstone, "Kiss Me Kate" at The Grand Theater, "Naked Boys Singing" at Bailiwick Chicago, and "Time Stands Still" with Pinnacle Acting Company. Love and thanks to Day, "A helluva nice fella".



MATTHEW DELAFUENTE - CURLY

Matthew DelaFuente is honored to plough some new terrain with his first production with the Parker Theater as the play's main antagonist. He previously played Clive in "See How They Run", George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life", Nick in "Over the River and through the Woods", Max in "Dial M for Murder", and Charles Dickens in "A Christmas Carol: a one man show". Having read "Of Mice and Men" in high school, the story left a deep impression on him. He hopes the relevance, historicity, and

emotional depth of this play will bring the audience to new, fruitful terrains of their own. Enjoy.



DUANE STEPHENS - THE BOSS

Duane is back where he belongs after a long, long...did he mention... Long Time away from his first love... The stage. It all started way back when he first performed locally with the Parker's at Promised Valley Play House and City Rep. During his many years performing he has also been seen on stage at Salt Lake Acting Company, Pioneer Theatre Company and Provo Theatre Company. A stint with the National Touring Company of Big River, 8 seasons with the Utah Musical

Theater at Weber State as well as dinner theatre at The Fireside Theatre near Madison, Wisconsin. Not confined to the stage Duane has also been seen many times in reoccurring roles for the hit television shows... Touched By An Angel and Promised Land on CBS As well as over 40 film and Television projects. You can catch him regularly on various streaming sites as well as the Disney Channel and The Hallmark Channel. This summer he can be seen on the big screen in the upcoming Kevin Costner epic western Horizon, An American Saga. To top all of that... Duane is also five years sober and one heck of a lounge singer if he does say so himself. Which he does. Often.



ASHLEY SLATER - CURLY'S WIFE

Originally from upstate New York, Ashley is thrilled to be a part of this great American story at the Parker Theatre. She has degrees in vocal performance from The Crane School of Music and Perugia Conservatory, and made her Italian operatic debut as Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Ashley has performed numerous roles and recitals in Europe, and was featured as a recording artist for the Italian record label, Tactus Records. Favorite roles include Adina (*The Elixir of Love*) and Eurydice

(*Orpheus in the Underworld*), and recently in *Sandy Utah*, *Annabella/Margaret/Pamela* in *The 39 Steps*.



BEN LOWELL - CARLSON

Ben is an actor. (Is he?) Ben is a composer. (You mean a com-"poser"). Ben has a wife and three daughters (surprising?) who love him very much (I'll bet they do). What some people don't know about Ben is he can be a real jerk (I believe it). Some of Ben's favorite roles include *Phantom*, *Ebenezer Scrooge*, *Captain Von Trap*, and *Tevea* (wait... seriously)? He looks forward to playing them someday



LUKE ELZEY - WHIT

Luke is thrilled to be apart of this wonderful production of "*Of Mice and Men*". This is Luke's fist time on the Parker Theatre stage but he has been loving it since he joined. Luke is currently a BFA student in the Actor Training Program at the University of Utah. Some past credits include: *Enjolras* in *Les Miserables*, *Phoebus* in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Sweeney Todd* in *Sweeney Todd* (in concert), *Demetrius* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Luke would Like to thank his family for all of their guidance and support. Luke hopes that you enjoy the show!



KIIRT BANKS - CROOKS

Kiirt Banks was born and raised in Dallas, TX. As a child he loved listening to his mothers Motown Records with dreams of becoming a recording artist and actor. After moving to Salt Lake City, he started to get serious about his career. Performing in numerous concerts and theatre shows such as *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Ragtime* and *In The Heights* to name a few. Kiirt has been able to make a positive impact through his career.



APOLLO/ DOG TRAINER BRYSON DUMAS

Apollo is very happy to make his debut at Parker Theatre! His favorite thing about being in the show has been the constant belly rubs and ear scratches. In his spare time he can be found sleeping, begging for food, and protecting the back yard from squirrels. Enjoy the show!

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR



JOANNE PARKER

Joanne M. Parker is the founding Artistic Director of the Utah Children's Theatre, now Parker Theatre founded 1985. Over the past 40 years, she has written over 100 plays and directed over 200. An original member of The Children's Dance Theatre under the direction of Virginia Tanner. Received a scholarship to Idyllwild School of Music and the Arts. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Utah in 1970. She is also a composer and author of lyrics for several children's award-winning songs and plays including the Governor's Limelight Award

specifically for "her encouragement of young people participating in the performing arts and the opportunities given them to develop their talent." Also co-writer star shows, Hansen Planetarium, playwright and director for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints productions. Recipient of two Best of State Awards for Playwriting and Best Children's Theatre. She is the mother of 5, grandmother of 23 and great grandmother of 4.

STAGE MANAGER



ADAM HELLEWELL

Previous: Hopebox: Christmas Carol (2023); Centerpoint: Dear Ruth (2023); Weber State: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (KCACTF Honorable Mention Award) (Fall 2022); The Impracticality of Modern Day Mastadons (KCACTF Runner Up) (Fall 2021); Innovations (Spring 2021) - Wyeth; Illuminations - Eggs Benedict & Mutant Space Tigers (Fall 2020- Spring 2021 over Zoom); Previous: The Refugees at ArtNY in Manhattan (collab between Weber State and Adjusted Realists) - production assistant/assistant stage manager/house manager (Summer 2022). Adam just graduated from Weber State with a B.A. in Theatre Education. Previous design: Props designer - Nonsense (Spring 2023) (KCACTF Mention for Excellence in Puppetry)

SET & LIGHTING DESIGN



JAMES B. PARKER

In addition to playing countless roles as an actor, James has been designing lights and building sets since for what feels like...most of his life. Starting way back in the City Rep days at the old Utah Theatre, through the Utah Children's Theatre years, and now the Parker Theatre. In addition to sets and lighting, James has designed and remodeled the historic Avalon Theatre along with the Soda Fountain Shop and Studio. James is the Executive Director of the Parker Theatre.

COSTUME DESIGN



PAIGE BURTON

Paige is excited to join the Parker team once again! This is her tenth production at Parker Theatre, some favorites including "Hamlet" and "The Mystery of Edwin Drood". She's thrilled to be part of this beautiful show, and hopes the hours of pounding costumes into mud with a rock will be well worth it!

SOUND AND LIGHTS OPERATOR



GABRIELLA CARLEN

Gabriella Carlen is a junior at Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts. She is on the technical theater conservatory in her school and has run sound for popular musicals like “Mean Girls” and plays like “Imaginary Invalid”



Next on the Main Stage

The Importance of Being Earnest Oscar Wilde

"The Importance of Being Earnest" is a satirical comedy by Oscar Wilde, revolving around two young men, Jack and Algernon, who lead double lives under the name "Ernest" to escape social constraints.

Filled with witty dialogue and mistaken identities, the play humorously critiques Victorian societal norms, particularly regarding marriage and hypocrisy. Ultimately, Wilde exposes the absurdity of pretense and highlights the importance of sincerity in relationships amidst a backdrop of comedic misunderstandings and revelations.

OSCAR WILDE'S

The Importance Of Being

Earnest



MAY 18 - JUNE 22


PARKER
THEATRE