DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRODUCTION SEASON 2014-2015

Celebrating Transformation RAISING VOICES

Soon, Lehigh University will celebrate 150 years of higher education. At the heart of higher learning is the process of transformation—a hallmark of Lehigh's contribution to the world since the 19th Century. Education transforms our hearts and minds. It transforms the way we live in the world with each other and with the things we make.

Over the decades Lehigh has transformed repeatedly and will continue to do so. What will this and the coming generations demand of Lehigh? How will we help create the inevitable transformations needed to make Lehigh culturally and academically its very best?

In our 2014-2015 season of plays, we celebrate transformation with the theme of **Raising Voices**.

- We hear the voice of a shy girl with a precocious interest in science and the universe in The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds,
 - The voice of a generation of young people
 struggling with otherness and acceptance in Kind Ness,
 - The voice of the charm and quirkiness of rural America in *Minnesota*,
 - The voice of a Southern town and its people struggling with race hatred and violence in *every* tongue confess,
 - ◆ And we raise our collective voice to denounce those who fail to act—like those responsible in *Romeo and Juliet's* Verona...

THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS

by Paul Zindel

September 26, 27, 28, October 1, 2, 3, 4

Tillie, unlike her sister Ruth, is shy, young, and brilliant. Her passion for a high-school science project is rejected by a mother who says, "some people were born to speak and others just to listen." Can her dysfunctional family stifle Tillie's voice? Is she destined to become her mother, or will she, like the sometimes beautiful mutant flowers she cultivates, blossom and surprise?

KIND NESS

In this coming of age

comedy, six characters

by Ping Chong

Directed by Pam Pepper November 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15

AND

make their way from elementary school in the 1950s through college and beyond. *Kind Ness* ingeniously explores what it means to be an outsider, provokes and amuses while evoking themes of harmony and discord, likeness and dissimilarity and ultimately, racism and bias.

MINNESOTA

by George Sand

A charming evocation of rural farm life, with one actor, a musician and cut-out animals – taking place on a kitchen table. This delightful and quirky piece takes us on a journey through a particular sort of American dream: a place where farmers raise cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, and kids...lots of kids."

every tongue confess by marcus gardley Directed by Darius Omar Williams February 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28

every tongue confess is a historical narrative centered around a series of church burnings in the backwater town of Boligee, Alabama. Healer and sage Mother Sister and her son Shadrack are at the center of Gardley's non linear mythical story which weaves together three seemingly disparate tales. In this Greek inspired memory play with music, African American folk religion is ritualized.

ROMEO AND JULIET by William Shakespeare Directed by Augustine Ripa April 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18

When we do not **Raise our Voices** to reject hatred, what can be expected? When a toxic situation isn't exposed and expelled, what is the hope? For generations, many have seen Romeo and Juliet as unfortunate, "star-crossed lovers," but let's remember they are, in fact, children and represent two of the five young people who lose their lives senselessly in a world where the grown-ups have allowed intolerance to fester lethally. Let us think critically on the circumstances that allow this tragedy to unfold, then let us raise our voices against hatred in time to avoid heartbreak.