

# C.S. LEWIS MEETS FREUD

# FREUD'S LAST SESSION

By Mark St. Germain



AUGUST 14-16, 28-30, 2014  
CULP THEATRE

fall production

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Suggested by *The Question of God*

by Dr. Armand M. Nicholi, Jr.

Originally produced at Barrington Stage Company,  
Pittsfield, Mass.

Julianne Boyd, artistic director; Richard M. Parison  
Jr., producing director

Off-Broadway Production produced by Carolyn Rossi  
Copeland, Robert Stillman and Jack Thomas

## **STATEMENT OF MISSION**

The Abilene Christian University Department  
of Theatre is committed to providing quality  
training and opportunity for the disciplined  
theatre artist in a nurturing environment that  
models Christian values.



VS.

# Cast

(in order of appearance)

Sigmund Freud .....	Adam Hester
C.S. Lewis .....	Jacob Alexander

081414-0317

***Freud's Last Session will be performed without an intermission.***

**TIME:** September 3, 1939

**PLACE:** Freud's study, 20 Maresfield Gardens, Hampstead, northwest London

# Production Staff

Director / Set Designer .....	Gary Varner
Costume Designer .....	Sandy Freeman
Technical Director .....	Andrew Wheeler
Stage Manager / Scene Shop Foreman .....	Joshua Lowe
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Andrew Gilliland
Sound Design .....	Beth Lake
Box Office .....	Kaitlin Sacco
House Manager / Patron Services .....	Donna Hester
Program Design .....	Mark Houston
Program / Publicity .....	Adam Hester
Theatre Administrative Coordinator .....	Linda Kemp

# Acknowledgments

*Freud's Last Session* is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) – providing ushers for tonight's performance.

Larry Wheeler, Hardin Simmons University Theatre



**Jacob Alexander** (C.S. Lewis) has performed in numerous productions at the ACU Theatre, most recently as Macduff in *Macbeth* and William Shakespeare in *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*. A senior acting major at ACU, he has also appeared as Lt. Col. Littlefield in *Defiance*, Clown 2 in *The 39 Steps*, Julian Marsh in *42nd Street*, Jeff Bowen in *[title of show]*, Reverend Shaw in *Footloose*, Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Javert in *Les Miserables*, and Jean Francois Millet in *Is He Dead?*. Other favorite roles include Michael in *Two Rooms* (Laboratory Production), Curly in *Oklahoma!* (Civic Amarillo) and the Duke's Bodyguard in *Rigoletto* (Amarillo Opera). Jacob would like to thank God for never going easy on him and teaching him to adapt and overcome.



**Adam Hester** (Sigmund Freud) last performed at the ACU Theatre as Selsdon Mowbray in *Noises Off!* He has also played the title role in *Julius Caesar* for the Abilene Shakespeare Festival, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival, Dromio in *A Comedy of Errors* at the South Houston Shakespeare Festival, Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Houston Shakespeare Festival and Victor Velasco in *Barefoot in the Park*,

**Gary Varner** (Director) is a professor of theatre at ACU where he is responsible for all aspects of technical theatre. Gary was on the production team of the original production of *Freud's Last Session* that premiered at Barrington Stage prior to its Off-Broadway run. His design credits include *Parade*, *Smokey Joe's Café* and *Ragtime* at the Paramount Theatre and *Metamorphoses*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Hunt*, *Jekyll and Hyde* and *Rabbit Hole* represent a few he has designed for ACU. Gary won the Design Excellence Award at American College Theatre Festival for his design of *The Hunt*.



He also directs and teaches improvisation and children's theatre at ACU. Gary was one of the founding members of the Pollard Theatre in Guthrie, Okla. He has worked as Production Manager for the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival and Creede Repertory Theatre in Creede, Colo.

Michael in *The Fourposter*, Scapino in *Scapino* all at the ACU Theatre.

He is the artistic director for the Abilene Shakespeare Festival and has directed professionally at the New York Musical Theatre Festival (*Mother Divine*), for Atlanta's Legacy Theatre and the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival. At ACU, he serves as professor and chair of theatre. He is married to Donna Hester.

# Up Next: 2014-15 ACU Theatre Season

## SUMMIT PRODUCTION

### *Leaving Ruin*

Performed and Written by Jeff Berryman

**September 21, 2014**

Fulks Theatre, 8:30 p.m. | **Free Admission**

## HOMECOMING MUSICAL

### *Big Fish* A NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL

Book by John Austin, Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

Based on the novel by Daniel Wallace and the Columbia Motion Picture written by John August

Directed by Dawne Meeks

**October 10-11, 2014, at 8 p.m.**

**October 12, 2014, at 2 p.m.**

Abilene Civic Center | **Suitable for all ages**

## CORNERSTONE PRODUCTION



By Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Kari Hatfield

**November 17-22, 2014**

Fulks Theatre, 7:30 p.m. | ♦ Talkback every performance

**Recommended for ages 13 and older**

## SEASON TICKETS

It's not too late to order season tickets. There are six shows left in the season and the High Five Package is available for \$70 (a \$12 savings over the regular price). Call 325-674-ARTS or come by the Box Office 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Individual tickets may be purchased through the box office or online at [acu.edu/theatre](http://acu.edu/theatre).

## WINTER MUSICAL

# The Marvelous Wonderettes

Written and created by Roger Bean  
Directed by Dawne Meeks

**February 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 2015**

Fulks Theatre, 7:30 p.m. | ♦ Talkback on February 13

**Suitable for all ages**

## STUDIO PREMIERE

# V is for Violin

By Brittany Taylor

**February 26-27, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.**

**February 28, 2015, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

Culp Theatre | ♦ Talkback every performance

**Suitable for ages 13 and older**

## SPRING ROMANTIC MUSICAL



Book and Lyrics by Bruce Joel Rubin,  
Music and Lyrics by Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard

Based on the film produced by Paramount Pictures  
and Bruce Joel Rubin

Directed by Adam Hester

**April 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 2015**

Fulks Theatre, 7:30 p.m. | ♦ Talkback on April 17

**Suitable for ages 10 and older**

# NOTES

## *From the Playwright*

In his book *The Question of God*, Dr. Armand M. Nicholi Jr., writes, "Did Freud and Lewis ever meet? The possibility is tantalizing. After Freud immigrated to England ... [a] young Oxford professor visited Freud during this time but has not been identified. Might it have been Lewis?"

His speculation sparked this play.

In 1939, the year in which the play is set, Dr. Sigmund Freud is at the end of a long and brilliant career, and professor C.S. Lewis has begun to build his own.

Born in 1856 in Freiberg, Moravia, Freud received his first doctorate degree in medicine in 1881. Five years later, he married Martha Bernays and established his own private practice. The writings he became famous for began with *Studies on Hysteria* written with Joseph Breuer, published in 1893, the year Freud's daughter Anna was born.

The early 1900s brought the publication of *The Interpretation of Dreams*, *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*, *Three Essays on Sexuality*, and the beginning of his relationship with Carl Jung which deteriorated with their disagreements about the nature of the unconscious. Their friendship ended in 1913 when Freud's *Totem and Taboo* was published. Later books included *The Ego and the Id*, *Civilization and Its Discontents* and *Moses and Monotheism*. Internationally known in his lifetime, Freud's career caused much controversy, but his importance as founding figure of psychoanalysis is undeniable and lasting.

Clive Staples Lewis was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1898. At the time of this play, professor Lewis had yet to write the masterpieces he is most remembered for, including *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *The Screwtape Letters*; or his influential writings on Christianity including *Mere Christianity*, *Surprised by Joy* and *The Four Loves*. These books have sold millions of copies and continue to be read and beloved.

Lewis' conversion from atheism to theism took place when he was 33 years old.

On Sept. 3, 1939, the date of their meeting in *Freud's Last Session*, Freud was 83 years old and Lewis was 41. Though Lewis was half Freud's age, the clash between these two men is timeless.