

# DOUBT A PARABLE

BY JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY



**NOVEMBER 19 & 20 AT 7:00 PM**



ANNAPOLIS AREA  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**KERR CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS**

# DOUBT

## A PARABLE

by John Patrick Shanley

*This play is dedicated to the many orders of  
Catholic nuns who have devoted their lives  
to serving others in hospitals, schools,  
and retirement homes.  
Though they have been much maligned and ridiculed,  
who among us has been so generous?*

John Patrick Shanley

*Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.*

Proverbs 3:7

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

Proverbs 18:21

### SETTING:

*St. Nicholas, a Catholic church  
and school in the Bronx, New York.  
1964.*

*Presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.*

*Originally produced by the  
Manhattan Theatre Club on November 23, 2004.*

*Originally produced on Broadway by Carole Shorenstein Hays,  
MTC Productions, Roger Berlind and Scott Rudin on March 31, 2005.*

## Directors' Notes

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What do you do when you're not sure?

Our production of John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Doubt: A Parable*, invites audiences to consider how we make choices when we can't have all the facts. We like to think that we can be certain and judge others, but when we believe we already have what we need to know—about a circumstance or a person—we're putting ourselves in the place of God. The argument of *Doubt* is that we live in a world where people are too quick to certainty.

The play is set in a Bronx Catholic school in the 1960s. The principal, Sister Aloysius, suspects that the progressive young priest, Father Flynn, has had an improper relationship with a student. Sister Aloysius is absolutely certain that Father Flynn is guilty. And nothing that Father Flynn can say will convince her otherwise. In the end, the audience is left without an answer, and the challenge is for us to remain uncertain, to be willing to acknowledge that we can't know the truth for sure because we are not all-knowing. Shanley warns us, "You may come out of my play uncertain. You may want to be sure. Look down on that feeling."

It might seem dangerous to teach high school students that uncertainty may be wise or that doubt can be a good thing, but we are blessed to be part of a school community that invites our students to seek truth. The good news is that there *is* truth, and we can be relentless in pursuit of it. Yet, right now we live in a fallen world. The Apostle Paul wrote, "for now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known." (I Corinthians 13:12). Truth exists; however, on our own we can only see partially. We want our students to be seekers of truth, to be faithful Christians who passionately search out that which is good, and beautiful, and right. We want them to love truth. But the desire for certainty is not a love of truth. In fact, it is a rejection of the finite nature of our humanity. To hold fast to certainty is to attempt to keep ourselves on the throne. To seek truth is to stay continually dependent on Christ, recognizing our inadequacy to know all things on our own. Doubt is not the same thing as unbelief; righteous doubt is an acknowledgment that we are not God and that we are dependent on Him.

Niki Ellis & Nick Cherone, *directors*

## Cast of Characters

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Father Brendan Flynn.....\*Chris Good  
Sister Aloysius Beauvier .....\*Brooke Bloomquist  
Sister James .....\*Kelly Young  
Mrs. Muller.....\*Ashanti Hobbs

## Production Leadership

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Directors.....\*Nick Cherone  
.....\*Niki Ellis  
Stage Manager.....\*Kelly Young  
Technical Director .....\*Kimi Wilson  
Sound Control ..... Chris Ridenour  
Lighting Control..... Jordan Colebrook  
Costume Director ..... Linda Ridge  
Costume Team  
..... Carole Baldwin  
..... Elizabeth Barden  
..... Meg Young  
Set Construction Leader ..... Keith Good  
Set Build Team  
..... Basil Ambahe  
..... Ed Ridge  
..... Chip Wilford  
..... Carlos Yibirin  
Publicity ..... Jennifer Good  
Publications & Graphic Design .....\*Nick Cherone  
Properties ..... Meg Young

*\*member of the International Thespian Honor Society*

## Faculty



**Nick Cherone** is the Performing Arts Department head and Kerr Center Coordinator, and he teaches Symphonic Band. Besides arranging antennae and meticulously labeling equipment as the technical director for *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Singin' in the Rain*. Mr. Cherone co-directed *Little Women* and *The Crucible* and played Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*. Previously, Mr. Cherone worked with Skylight Opera Theater, First Stage Milwaukee, Wheaton College Opera Theater, and the Aspen Opera Theater Center.



**Niki Ellis** is the English Department head and teaches Themes in American Literature, Foundations in Rhetoric and Writing, and Advanced Placement English 12. Besides subjecting students to in-class performances of *Romeo and Juliet* and recitations of Shakespeare's sonnets, Ms Ellis co-directed *Little Women* and *The Crucible* and played Poet Jo March in *Little Women*. Previously, Ms. Ellis directed *You Can't Take It With You*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Cono Christian School.

## Class of 2015



**Brooke Bloomquist (Sister Aloysius Beauvier)** made her Kerr stage debut as Elsa Schraeder in *The Sound of Music* and has since played Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*, Amber Von Tussle in *Hairspray*, and Marmee in *Little Women*. In addition to playing the Vocal Teacher in *Singin' in the Rain*, Brooke was the dance captain for that production. She has appeared as Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre and as Sidekick in Signature Theatre's *Ace*, for which she understudied the role of Emily. She served as the Drama Club's Junior Class Representative, having previously served as the Sophomore Class Representative, and is a member of the International Thespian Honor Society.



**Chris Good (Father Brendan Flynn)** made his Kerr stage debut as Laurie in *Little Women*, and has played Don Lockwood in *Singin' in the Rain* and Nursery Magic/Skin Horse in *The Velveteen Rabbit*. He played Ching Ho in a community theatre production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Chris has taken Dramatis at AACCS and is a member of the International Thespian Honor Society.

## Class of 2016



**Ashanti Hobbs (Mrs. Muller)** made her Kerr stage debut in the Drama class production of *A Christmas Carol* as Ebenezer Scrooge. She also appeared as various characters in the Dramatis production of *It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show*. At Kettering Middle School, Ashanti appeared in *Homage* and played Hope's Mother in *Hope's Emotions*. She has taken Drama and Dramatis at AACCS and is a member of the International Thespian Honor Society.



**Kelly Young (Sister James)** made her Kerr stage debut in the Ensemble of *Hairspray*. Since then, she played Mary Moffat and understudied Beth March in *Little Women* and was in the Dance Ensemble for *Singin' in the Rain*. Most recently, Kelly played the title role in *The Velveteen Rabbit*. She has appeared in *Harmonica* (Sally Colter/Censored Stone) at The Coterie and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Pedant/Tavern Owner) at Laurel Mills Playhouse. Kelly was on the set crew for *The Crucible* and served as the Stage Manager for this production of *Doubt: A Parable*. Kelly has taken Drama, Advanced Drama, and Dramatis at AACCS and is a member of the International Thespian Honor Society.

## Discussion Questions

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1. When have you experienced not being sure? What did you do with that uncertainty?
2. Why do we want certainty?
3. How might certainty separate us from other people, truth, and God?
4. Imagine yourself in the position of any one of the characters. How would you have responded?
5. Consider Father Flynn's story about the priest and the woman concerned with gossip. How is gossip like feathers?
6. How are stories—either as parables or as plays—an effective way to help people see truth?
7. When we suspect another of wrongdoing, how ought we to respond?

## Special Thanks

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Bill & Mary Ann Bloomquist

Keith & Jennifer Good

Frederick & EmmaLisa Hobbs

Kevin & Meg Young

Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*

Robert McCollum, *Upper School Principal*

Andrew Acevedo, *Upper School Theatre Teacher*

Diane Smith, *Upper School Theatre Teacher Emeritus*

The Upper School Faculty

The Cast and Crew of the Festival of One Act Plays

## Shout Outs

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### **BROOKE BLOOMQUIST**

We are so proud of you! Thanks for your great attitude and for being such a great daughter! You are beautiful inside and out! We praise God for you! It's Amazing how cold you can be!! You are a Great actress!!

Love,  
Mom and Dad

### **CHRIS GOOD**

Creative - Smart - Happy - Content -  
Goofy - Curious - CHRIS

We're proud of your hard work and dedication, and can't wait to see the show!

We love you!  
Mom, Dad, Kathleen, Keith, Connor

### **ASHANTI HOBBS**

To Ashanti - a young woman of God who is passionate about the things of God, including loving and caring for friends, family, and those in need.

Let your light continue to shine in this drama production and all you do.

We love you!,  
Your family

### **KELLY YOUNG**

To Our Shining Star...Reach High and Shine Bright! You are a beautiful individual....strong and confident...full of life and love. We are very proud of you!

Love,  
Mom and Dad

The Drama Club is a co-curricular organization that supports and promotes the theatre arts at Annapolis Area Christian School. Membership in the Drama Club is open to all AACs Upper School students. All Drama Club members are “apprentice” members of the International Thespian Honor Society, the only organization to honor high school students for outstanding work in theatre. Full Thespian Society induction is granted to students who demonstrate “meritorious work in theatre arts.” Thespians participate in a variety of productions, service opportunities, and state and national Thespian festivals.

## The Kerr Center for the Arts

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The Kerr Center for the Arts was established as the home for the performing arts programs at Annapolis Area Christian School’s Upper School campus. It is the area’s premiere performing arts center for student, local, and international performers and speakers. The Kerr Center was designed to host various performing arts events and conferences and to expose audiences to various art forms. The Center offers excellent acoustics, sleek aesthetics, a spacious stage area and performance balcony, seating for more than 650 audience members, two large rehearsal spaces, and numerous amenities for performing artists, orchestras, bands, dance studios, conferences, and theatre groups. The Kerr Center for the Arts also boasts a Visual Art Gallery, which displays original 2D, 3D, and digital artwork created by AACs’s talented student-artists.

The Kerr Center for the Arts was named in memory of Congressman and Mrs. Winfield Scott Kerr.

For rental inquiries, visit [aacsonline.org/rentals](http://aacsonline.org/rentals)

# COMING UP

AT THE KERR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Upper School Choral Program  
December 12th • 13th | 7:30 pm

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 18th | 7:00 pm

## HERO

Upper School Symphonic Band  
January 9th | 7:30 pm

## *INTO THE WOODS*

Upper School Drama Club  
March 6th • 7th • 13th • 14th | 7:00 pm

## CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Upper School Jazz Band & Percussion Ensemble  
March 20th | 7:30 pm

## *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, JR.*

Middle School Musical  
May 1st • 2nd | 7:00 pm