

"The desire to tell the truth is only one condition for being an intellectual. The other is courage -- readiness to carry on rational inquiry to wherever it may lead."

~ Economist Paul Baran

No Small Parts

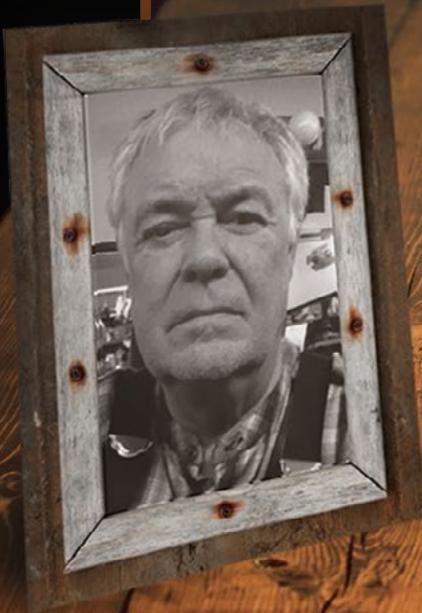
As I hope you all know by now, in **Arthur Miller's** *The Crucible*, **Steve Hofvendahl** and I share the role of the legendary Giles Corey, who bravely sacrificed his life by refusing to say under pressing by heavy rocks that he was a warlock, so his sons could inherit his 600 acres of farmland. But few of you know that Miller was fascinated by the Salem witch trials when he was in university and researched the actual transcripts of the proceedings for a term paper.

He was so appalled at the addled ideology of the judges and administrators that he created this brilliant funny farce, intended to ridicule the misguided pieties of the ecclesiastics in the face of hysterical accusations from a gaggle of vindictive and sexually repressed young women.

Well, recently I learned that Corey – the most overtly comic character in Miller's ribald masterpiece – is actually a distant ancestor of one of our greatest physical comedians – who ironically also gained eternal fame through his silence. Yes, Giles Corey (original spelling)

who famously "died by the stone," is a direct antecedent of our most celebrated "stone-faced" humorist – the immortal '**Buster**' Keaton.

You can't make up stuff like this! But I did anyway...



Planet
Crucible

"What is reality?" ~ [The Firesign Theatre](#)

ANTAEUS – COME SEE US

All kidding aside, the reviews for our production of *The Crucible* have been outstanding, even for us. So here are some excerpts to whet your appetite, and we encourage you to come see the show now, before it sells out. We're in a small space that fills up rapidly when we have a hit, not to mention a mega-hit like this. And I've included my personal performance schedule at the end of this Orbit, should you elect to experience my interpretation of the role.

F. Kathleen Foley of the *LA Times* kicked off the flood of excellent notices when she wrote, "Shakespearean in dimension and craft, *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller's 1953 play about the Salem witch trials, is inarguably a masterwork. More arguably, it's over-produced. How, then, does a director bring new immediacy to this beloved yet familiar work — Miller's sly denunciation of the McCarthy hearings, cloaked in period garb?"



PLAYED OUT

Get your tickets for The Antaeus Company's 'Crucible' before it sells out.

Photo: Karianne Flaathen

"Leave it to the creative team at Antaeus. The company's subtly revisionist production of the play, co-directed by **Armin Shimerman** and **Geoffrey Wade**, reinvigorates the language and brings a novel dimension to Miller's well-worn text. The production is double-cast and multiethnic, but for Antaeus that's nothing new... But the boldest innovation is having the performers face dead front for the bulk of the action rather than directly addressing one another.

"It's a risky, even outlandish tack that could have blunted the drama's emotional connections. Yet considering the play's polemical nature, it's brilliant. After all, what is *The*

Crucible but a sermon, a clarion warning against demagoguery in all its forms? If you feel you know *The Crucible* too well, pay it another visit. You may be surprised to find that in the right hands the play still commands our fascination – and our unease."

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING **BOLD, DARK RED TYPE** OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

"Violence isn't always evil.
What's evil is the infatuation with violence."
~ **Jim Morrison**

AND FURTHERMORE

"The new production by The Antaeus Company galvanizes the play with ferocious energy and a wealth of acting talent that instantly makes it one of the best shows of the year," writes **Terry Morgan** in Arts & Entertainment for **Laist.com**. "The characters plead their cases with growing

passion until, in one amazing scene where the girls on trial begin to scream that they're being attacked by witchcraft, and the courtroom erupts into complete pandemonium, the whole stage is aflame with the holy fury of theatre firing on all cylinders. This production is a righteous blast, my friends. Don't miss it."

"I commend the entire Antaeus Company for their marvelous production," says **Shari Barrett** at **BroadwayWorld.com**. "I encourage you to put aside everything you think you know about *The Crucible* and see this production."

"And note should be made too of the much-needed comic relief provided by the quirky duo of **Hofvendahl** and **Proctor** as eternal plaintiff Giles," concludes **Steven Stanley** of **StageSceneLA.com**.

"Learning how to be still, to really be still and let life happen; that stillness becomes a radiance." ~ **Morgan Freeman**

YOU CAN'T WIN

Jack was going to marry to Jill, so his father sat him down for a little fireside chat. "Jack, let me tell you something. On my wedding night in our honeymoon suite, I took off my pants and handed them to your mother and said, 'Here, try these on.' So, she did and said, 'These are too big, I can't wear them.' So I replied: 'Exactly. I wear the pants in this family and always will.' Ever since that night we have never had any problems."

■ **CONTINUED**

Jack thought that might be a good thing to try, so on his honeymoon he took off his pants and said to Jill, "Here try these on." She did and said, "These are too large; they don't fit me." So Jack said: "Exactly. I wear the pants in this family and I always will, and I don't want you to ever forget that."

Then Jill removed *her* pants, handed them to Jack and said: "Here, try on mine." He tried and said, "This is silly. I can't get into your pants."

"Exactly," she said. "And if you don't change your attitude, you never will."

"Why is Bra singular and Panties plural?"
~ Just asking

BIBEMUS!

"Alcohol is a principal cause of automobile accidents, workplace accidents, domestic accidents, domestic abuse, incest, rape, egregious assault and murder," begins **Craig N. Simmons** on his blog site **Simmbiosis**. "Cops drink it. Soldiers drink it. Jocks and their sycophants drink it. Our political leaders drink it. Our religious leaders drink it. Our economists drink it and we, the people, drink it."

"Consider our world: the physical USA is a shambles, regions made wastelands, seething toxins, our infrastructure collapsing – like the body of a wino; our economy is a complete disaster, unemployment and escalating and irreducible debt plague us – just like the finances of a drunk; our authorities are angry and violent, prone to crazed outbursts and remarkable cruelty for even the tiniest perceived slight or challenge – like the besotted asshole in the bar; our nation at war with the world, trying to impress everyone with how tough and cool we are as we stumble all over ourselves swinging wildly at everyone who even looks at us funny – like a teenaged boozehound on a snort."

"Our citizens, afflicted with diminishing memory and personal resources, find themselves lost and confounded by a world spinning out of control around them. We live for the moment waiting for our next drink to wash our horrid daze away: the lush life."

And guess what? A **national survey just revealed** that Wisconsin, of all places, ranks third in the nation in both number of bars and bars per capita, with an average of one bar for every 240 residents in one county alone!

No wonder the price of beer is going up even as we wash it down!

To me, Drink Responsibly means Don't Spill It.
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

"The best argument against democracy is
a five-minute conversation with the average voter."
~ Sir Winston Churchill

WHO NOSE?

Scott Napper, associate professor of biochemistry at the University of Saskatchewan, says that when children pick their nose and eat it, it's really "snot" a bad thing. Nature pushes us to do different things to our advantage, and since mucus traps germs to prevent them from entering our body, snarfing beezee burgers trains our immune system by exposing it to imprisoned pathogens.

The professor also wants to conduct a study where a traceable molecule is planted in a subject's snotlocker, allowing half the participants to pick their noses and eat it while the other half abstains.

"I think the challenge would be getting volunteers to participate in this experiment," he says, snorting milk through his own nose.



"Of the world's 7 billion people, 6 billion have mobile phones while only 4.5 billion have toilets."
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

BIG BABIES

When the teacher asked, "Why are you late?" his student answered, "Class started before I got here." He then said, "John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?" to which he answered, "You told me to do it without using tables." And when Glen was asked, "How do you spell 'crocodile?'" he answered: "K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L." "That's wrong," said the teacher, and Glen said, "Maybe it's wrong, but you asked me how I spell it." He then asked Donald about the chemical formula for water, and Donald responded, "H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O." The puzzled teacher said, "What are you talking about?" So Donald replied, "Yesterday, you said it's H-to-O."

He took a big breath and continued,

■ CONTINUED

"Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I' and Millie says, "I is," so the teacher retorts, "No, Millie, you must always say, I am." And Millie says, "All right. I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."

He shifted his questioning to history and said, "George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?" Louis answered, "Because George still had the axe in his hand?" Then, he asked Clyde, "Your composition on My Dog is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?" And Clyde says, "No, sir, it's the same dog."

And finally, trying to regain control, he asks Harold, "What do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?" And Harold says – "A teacher."

"If women are so bloody perfect at multitasking, how come they can't have a headache and sex at the same time?"
~ **Billy Connolly**

MAKE A DATE WITH ME

Here is a rundown of my appearances. You can make reservations and purchase tickets at www.Antaeus.org, or discounts through Goldstar and the LA Theatre Alliance:

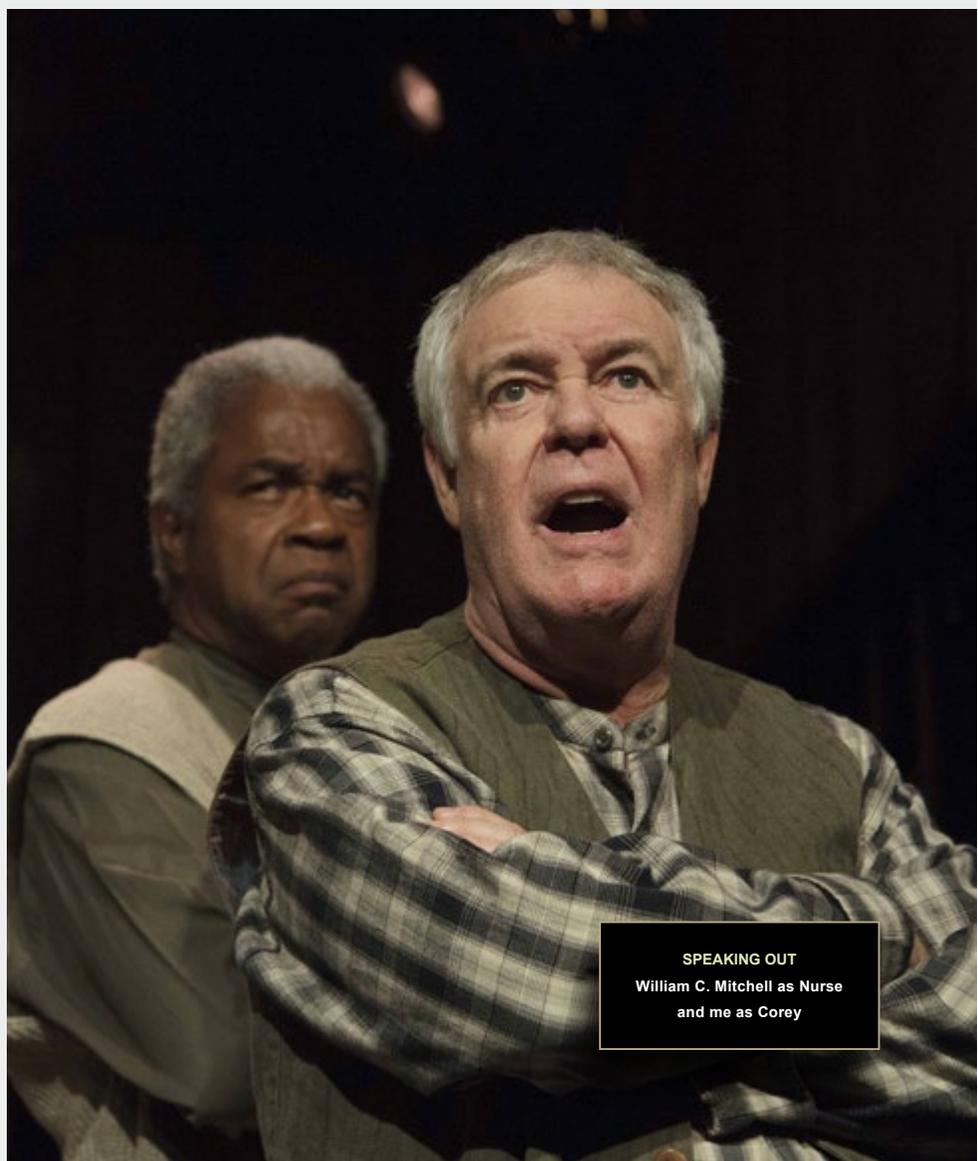
Fri 5/31 @ 8:00, Sat 6/1 @ 2:00, Sun 6/2 @ 2:00, Thu 6/6 @ 8:00, Sat 6/8 @ 8:00, Thu 6/13 @ 8:00, Sat 6/15 @ 2:00, Sun 6/16 @ 2:00 – (we are away this weekend for the **Kansas City HearNow Audio Festival**) -- Fri 6/28 @ 8:00, Sat 6/29 @ 2:00, Sun 6/30 @ 2:00, Fri 7/5 @ 8:00, Sat 7/6 @ 2:00 and @ 8:00, Sun 7/8 @ 2:00.

A possible extension may occur though July 21, adding Wednesday and Sunday evening shows, but come see us now to be sure...

"The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons are suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends - if they're okay, then it's you." ~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

PRETZELS AND NUTS

A Russian and Ole, a Swedish wrestler, were set to square off for the Olympic Gold Medal. Before the final match, the coach came to Ole and said, "Now, don't forget all the



SPEAKING OUT
William C. Mitchell as Nurse
and me as Corey

research we've done on this Russian. He's never lost a match because of this 'pretzel' hold he has, so whatever you do, do not let him get you in that hold! If he does, you're finished."

As the match started, Ole and the Russian circled each other several times, looking for an opening. All of a sudden, the Russian lunged forward, grabbing Ole and wrapping him up in the dreaded pretzel hold. A sigh of disappointment arose from the crowd and the coach buried his face in his hands, for he knew all was lost. He couldn't watch the inevitable happen.

Suddenly, there was a scream, then a cheer from the crowd and the coach raised his eyes just in time to watch the Russian go flying up in the air. His back hit the mat with a thud and Ole collapsed on top of him making the pin and winning the match. The crowd went crazy. The coach was astounded. When he finally got his wrestler alone, he asked, "How did you ever get out of that hold? No one has ever done it before!"

Ole answered, "Vell, I vas ready to give up ven he got me

■ **CONTINUED**

in dat hold, but at da last moment, I opened my eyes and saw dis pair of testicles right in front of my face...I had nuttin' to lose so wid my last ounce of strength I stretched out my neck and bit dose babies just as hard as I could." The impressed trainer exclaimed, "And that's what finished him off!"

"Vel not really. You'd be amazed how strong you get ven you bite your own nuts!"

"Please send me a free autographed photo. I will be very wait."
~ Russian fan

PLANETCLICK

FAR & NEARS

FISHY
BIRDIES
WATCH
GOODDEEDS
MARIACHI WHALE
HAPPY FEET
SCREEN SNATCH
SNATCH
VIDIC
AUSSOME
BIG BABIES
BONZO

CLICK THE WORD TO
GO TO THE SITE

"In every country these two parties exist; and in every one where they are free to think, speak, and write they will declare themselves." We are still a young country and have much to learn from our elders...

"If there's something wrong, those who have the ability to take action have the responsibility to take action."
~ Thomas Jefferson

TOM NAILS IT

Thomas Jefferson wrote:

"Men by their constitutions are naturally divided into two parties: 1 – Those who fear and distrust the people and wish to draw all powers from them into the hands of the higher classes;

2 – Those who identify themselves with the people, have confidence in them, cherish and consider them as the most honest and safe, although not the most wise depository of the public interests.



CASTING

Attention: "Guinness World Records is looking for someone with a BIG mouth for a new world record! Please include a note telling us what the largest item you have ever fit in your mouth is."

(I'd file this under the heading: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell")

"If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?"
~ Just Asking

PLANETEERS

Welcome to Victor Kopcewich, Magic Mike Berger, Nick Oliva, Michael Fish, Keith Hebble, Alan Sharpe, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Frank Dwyer, Lance Rucker, and farewell to the Doors' keyboardist, Ray Manzarek, actor Steve Forrest, with whom I appear in *Amazon Women on the Moon*, and the great Ray Harryhausen, master of stop-motion, whose own motion stopped on May 7. And good luck to actor/director Patrick Wenk-Wolff and the cast of the Shakespearean parody *King Phycus*, who cast me as a psychiatrist in their

Kickstarter video, which you can see [here](#).

"Remember, this is forever."
~ Ray Manzarek, on producing records



"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good." ~ Ann Landers

BEARWHIZ BEER <http://www.eagletshirts.com> **FUNNY TIMES:** <http://www.funnytimes.com>

FST: <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>

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