4-2004

The Hobbit, April 16-17, 2004

Theatre Arts Discipline

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/theatre_programs

Part of the Theatre and Performance Studies Commons
J.R.R. TOLKIEN’S
THE
HOBBIT

ADAPTED BY MARKLAND TAYLOR

APRIL 16 & 17, 2004
FRIDAY AT 7 P.M.   SATURDAY AT 1 P.M. & 7 P.M.

SPECIAL STUDENT MATINEES APRIL 15 - 23

PROSCENIUM THEATRE
HUMANITIES-FINE ARTS BUILDING, UMM
CAST

Bilbo Baggins ......................................................... Asha Agar
Thorin .............................................................. Tim Hellendrung
Gandalf / Smaug ..................................................... Paul Schwarz
Ensemble #1 .......................................................... Philip Burgraff
Ensemble #2 .......................................................... Margaret Dobie
Ensemble #3 .......................................................... Johanna Farmer
Ensemble #4 .......................................................... Alyssa Herzog
Understudies ......................................................... Jennifer Farrell, Megan Losure

PLACE: From Bilbo’s hole in The Hill, through the Misty Mountains, the Wilderland and Mirkwood, to Laketown and the Lonely Mountain--and back again.

THE HOBBIT will be performed without an intermission.

SPECIAL THANKS

Ms. Aurentz, Peter Bremer, Costume Design Class, Jayne Hacker, Shaheen Haji, Hosannah Lutheran Church, Lake Region Arts Council, Jess Larson, Shelly Lund, Jenny Nellis, Cindy Poppe, Judy Riley, UMM Media Services, UMM Meiningens, Sodexho Food Service, Sonia’s Hair Clinic, Roger Wareham, Willie’s Super Valu, Winona State University Department of Theatre and Dance

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS THEATRE DISCIPLINE

Jenny Nellis, Division Chair
Tap R. Payne, Professor of Theatre and Discipline Coordinator Ray Schultz, Assistant Professor of Theatre Siobhan Bremer, Assistant Professor of Theatre

THE HOBBIT is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Director .................................................................................................................. Siobhan Bremer
Assistant Director/Stage Manager ................................................................. Kristy Goebel
Assistant Stage Managers .......... Megan Losure, Andrea Pletsch
Scenic and Lighting Designer ................................................................. Tap R. Payne
Costume Designer ................................................................. Kaitlynn Maurer
Sound Designer ................................................................. Alex Clark
Movement Assistant ................................................................. Jennifer Farrell
Prop Masters ................................................................. Lydea Aurentz, Tyler Schuch
Graphic Designer ................................................................. Emily Mathews
Smaug Animation ................................................................. Jarrid Jergenson
Web Master ................................................................. Liliana Payne
Dramaturg/Study Guide Assistant ................................................... Teresa Sayles
Costume Shop Supervisor ................................................................. Siobhan Bremer
Costume Shop Floor Person ................................................................. Liz Spohr
Scene Shop Supervisor ................................................................. Tap R. Payne
Scene Shop Floor Person ................................................................. Mark Halvorson
Scene Painter ................................................................. Liliana Payne
Light Board Operator ................................................................. Sara VanBenschoten
Sound Board Operator ................................................................. Lisa Burton
Run Crew ................................................................. Lydea Aurentz, Laurel Cuthright, Nick Morgan, Ann Tally
House Managers ................................................................. Nathan Long, Tiffany Roufs
Publicity/Box Office Supervisor ................................................................. Ray Schultz
Publicity/Box Office Assistants ................................................................. Alexandra Kondrick, Julie Larkin, Tiffany Roufs, Ellen Stuckey
Costume Shop Work Study Staff ................................................................. Margaret Dobie, Laura Haas, Victoria Pyan, Colleen Sue Ryan, Ann Tally, Melinda Voigt
Scene Shop Work Study Staff ................................................................. Alexandra Bertolas, Sara Herman, Serrah Langin, Misty McAnally, Ryan Rysavy, Ryan Walkoviak
Set Construction ................................................................ Stagecraft Class
Study Guide ................................................................. Creative Dramatics with Children Class
First of all, let me say that it is no small thing (pun intended) to bring any work, let alone *The Hobbit*, to life on the stage. Tolkien’s work, especially because it utilizes fantasy, presents some unique challenges not found in more traditional or strictly dramatic offerings. How do you bring a fiery dragon to life or present an entire imaginary world without resorting to the mundane or the unbelievably absurd? Luckily, as the director, I was blessed with the almost magical assistance of talented designers, builders, computer programmers, stage managers, and a hard working cast that gleefully threw themselves into the process of re-creating Middle Earth.

Tolkien’s first probings into his now famous fictional world happened as early as 1917 but the real catalyst happened serendipitously in the early 1930’s as he was grading papers at Oxford University where he was a renowned instructor and scholar. By chance, one of the multitude of essays he was grading was blank and his mind filled the emptiness with the words *in a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit*. To satisfy his own curiosity he began to write a story from that starting point featuring a reluctant Bilbo the Hobbit, a troop of dwarves, and Gandalf the Wizard, and read it to his children as a bedtime story. The book, entitled *The Hobbit or There and Back Again*, went on to favorable critical reviews and general popularity.

Eventually, of course, the more familiar and in-depth *Lord of the Rings* volumes followed. Professor Tolkien once wrote, “I am in fact a hobbit in all but size,” drawing on his own love of gardening and eating among others. My hope is that you will come away from his first journey into the land of trolls and elves feeling like a hobbit as well, better for the journey, despite the dangers endured, if even just a little bit.