

# TRIFLES & 1905 WIFE

presented by d'moiselles

Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 5pm  
Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 3pm  
Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 7:30pm

Stage Left Studio  
6th Floor  
214 W. 30th St.  
(Between 7th & 8th Avenues)  
New York City, NY 10001  
One Block from Penn Station

**Director:** Nancy Greening

**Production Stage Manager:**  
Bethany Briggs

**Designers:**

Lighting Design by  
Gillian Koch

Costume Design by  
Catherine Siracusa

Video Projections by  
Robert Morton

Sound Design by Ann Warren

**Producer:** Ann Warren



d'moiselles present a community of new and experienced artists engaged to promote the creativity and vision of women working in theater.

We provide a culture where women can initiate projects, take risks, experiment, develop, collaborate, and produce with other theater professionals in an atmosphere of understanding and integrity.

d'moiselles strive to create theatrical events that use the power of theater tools — the vigorous use of text, heightened perspectives on reality, robust images, compelling sound, and resonant designs to tell stories.

d'moiselles explore work that is unusual, often overlooked, non-traditional, or not conventional, creating productions that impact and invigorate artists and audiences.

May 2012

Last autumn, while working on a **concrete timbre** project, Ann Warren and Nancy Greening formalized a sister organization and initiated **d'moiselles**. After many months of planning and organizing we are proud to say...

Welcome to *Trifles & 1905 Wife*, d'moiselles premiere project!

Nancy Greening has been thinking about presenting Susan Glaspell's *Trifles* for a long time. During her research, she found the very interesting article *1905 Wife* by an anonymous farm wife that was published by Hamilton Holt. To put these two turn of the century writings together, she wrote an introduction and turned the article into an interview. After long discussions, Nancy and Ann realized that the first project was underway!

The next step was to assemble a fantastic design and technical team. We are very lucky! Our team is talented and supportive. So, we thank Bethany Briggs who stepped up immediately to be the Production Stage Manager, Robert Morton from concrete timbre who joined to do the projections, Catherine Siracusa who worked diligently to create costumes to reflect the turn of the century, and Gillian Koch who created the light to make these shows shine.

Then to bring the characters to life, five exceptional actors created the cast. As Mrs. Hale, Sally Connors brings humanity and compassion. First as Susan Glaspell, then as Mrs. Peters and finally as the 1905 Wife, Melinda Graham shines as a turn-of-the-20th-century woman. As Sheriff Henry Peters, David A. Green disregards a woman's fascination with trifles but then as Hamilton Holt finds the dignity in a farm wife's life. As Mr. Hale, James Hamblin recounts the frightful day of learning about his neighbor's death and then as the 1905 Husband portrays a man wrestling with his wife's talent. Finally, as County Attorney Henderson, Seth Ruffer looks for clues and meaning in the life and death on a midwestern farm. Again, we want to express our gratitude for this exceptional cast sharing their talent.

**d'moiselles** intends to present several new projects in the future. Note the emphasis on projects. We want projects that women can work on together, but we don't exclude men. And, it's not about content - we don't limit the subject matter of our projects. We want compelling stories told in an interesting way. Sure we're interested in projects about women, but that is not the goal. The goal is to get more woman artists working!

Thank you for coming, we hope you enjoy the show.

Ann and Nancy



Introduction to the first play by Nancy Greening

Susan Glaspell.....Melinda Graham  
(with appearances by characters in Trifles)

# TRIFLES & 1905 WIFE

## Trifles by Susan Glaspell

Mrs. Hale .....Sally Connors  
Sheriff Henry Peters.....David A. Green  
Mrs. Peters .....Melinda Graham  
Mr. Hale (a neighboring farmer).....James Hamblin  
County Attorney George Henderson.....Seth Ruffer

## 1905 Wife by Anonymous (with words of Hamilton Holt written by Nancy Greening;)

Hamilton Holt\* .....David A. Green  
1905 Wife (Anonymous Author of autobiographical  
account entitled *One Farmer's Wife*).....Melinda Graham  
1905 Husband .....James Hamblin

\*American educator, editor, and a founder of NAACP; he is portrayed here in his role as publisher of *One Farmer's Wife* (1905). It was published again the following year in *The Life Stories of Undistinguished Americans as Told by Themselves*.

## Who's Who in Cast and Crew

SALLY CONNORS (MRS. HALE) has acted in over 30 off off Broadway productions. She recently worked on Biography Channel's *Celebrity Ghost Stories* and the independent movies, *The Wailing* and *The Instant Messenger*. Her one act *Walking Shadow* has been produced in California and New York.



MELINDA GRAHAM (SUSAN GLASPELL, MRS. PETERS, 1905 WIFE) recently graduated with an MFA in Acting from the prestigious Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University. She also studied improvisation in Chicago at The Second City, IO Chicago, and Annoyance Theaters. Favorite roles include Roberta in *Danny & the Deep Blue Sea*, Ata in *Criminal Hearts*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Alexandra in *On the Verge*. TV/Film credits include *Boardwalk Empire*, *Ugly Betty*, *The Break Up*, and *Support*. Melinda most recently performed the role of Karen Cohen in

*Criminal Mischief* and Joyce Ryan in *Weight* at both the Strawberry One Act Festival and Manhattan Repertory Theater's One Act Festival. She is grateful to be working with these fantastically talented artists, and for the love and support of her amazing friends and family.



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**DAVID A. GREEN** (MR. PETERS, HAMILTON HOLT) is pleased to be a part of this project and to be collaborating with Nancy Greening and Ann Warren again! David most recently appeared as Serge in The Company's production of *Art* in Hackensack. Prior to that, he appeared there as Niels Bohr in *Copenhagen*. Recent NY performances, with the Xoregos Performing Company, were as Creon in *Antigone* and Creon and the Messenger in *Medea*. David has worked with Nancy Greening prior to this production in several projects, including her play *Light Reading*, which was received to critical acclaim at the NY Fringe Festival. He has also collaborated with Ann Warren on various projects, including several productions with the avant-garde company, Theatre Et Al. Other favorite past roles have included T. S. Eliot in *Tom and Viv* and King Henry VIII in *A Man for All Seasons*.

**JAMES HAMBLIN** (MR. HALE, 1905 HUSBAND) is thrilled to be on stage with d'moiselles. James has been seen on the New York stage in *Thom Pain: Based on Nothing*. He has been working for the past few years doing Children's Theatre and Shakespeare throughout the South East. He would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support.



**SETH RUFFER** (MR. HENDERSON) is enjoying a very busy 2012 as both actor and screenwriter. He recently finished shooting a major role in Draftstar Entertainment's upcoming horror feature *Eternal Damn Nation*, and his role in the suspense film *Retribution* begins shooting later this Spring. Seth is working on a production deal for his screenplay *Three Houses*, a dramedy about race relations in the suburbs which won the coveted New York Times Script Shark contest. Seth's action thriller script *The Delivery* has recently been requested for consideration by a major Los Angeles-based production company. Seth lives in northern New Jersey with his wife, Soo, and Mojo, the world's largest labradoodle. He is grateful and delighted to be working with the talented cast and crew bringing you this production of *Trifles*.

**NANCY GREENING** (DIRECTOR) is a playwright and director whose plays have been performed on two sides of the Atlantic and include *Light Reading* (NY Fringe Festival), *Air Born* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival), and *The Book of Names* (Ensemble Studio Theatre's Octoberfest). She is a long-time student of the playwright Stuart Spencer, author of *The Playwright's Guidebook*, whose workshops inspire many of her plays. For concrete timbre, Nancy wrote and directed *The Bells* and served as dramaturg on *Dziewczyna*. Nancy is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America and is the proud aunt of Paige and Nora.



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**BETHANY BRIGGS** (PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER) is a member of the Stage Managers' Association and has played many roles behind the scenes of various productions in New York. From Stage Manager, to Light and Sound Board Technician, to Lighting and Sound Designer, she's worked on a number of shows throughout the city, some of her favorites are: *Emerge* with True Essence Productions, *More than a Statistic* with New ERA Productions, *Miss Julie* at chashama, *The People in My Hips* with Manhattan Repertory Theatre, *Christmas in the City* featuring the six-time Grammy Award winning Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, *Faith, Hope and Love* at The TRIAD with Zakiya Young, *G.I. Joe Jared* at 59E59 Theatres, and *Orson's Shadow* at Theatre Row. Check out more of her work at [www.bethanybriggs.com](http://www.bethanybriggs.com).

**GILLIAN KOCH** (LIGHTING DESIGN) is a lighting designer based out of the NY/NJ area. She is responsible for the design of the most recent production of *The Wiz* at Elwood Middle School, as well as such productions as *Suburbia*, *Exit, Corpse*, and *By the Sea* while attending Drexel University in Philadelphia. She has also assisted lighting designer Robb Anderson on Koresh Dance Company's productions of *Sense of Human* and *Somewhere in Between*. She is very pleased to be a part of *Trifles & 1905 Wife*, and thanks her family for all their support over the years.

**ROBERT MORTON** (VIDEO PROJECTIONS) is a videographer and photographer. A California native, he recently moved to New York after teaching elementary school for 33 years. A true Canon fan, Bob is usually seen carrying a camera and shoots photos at lightning speed. Bob coordinates the technical aspects of live performance projections, and works to provide contextual settings for concrete timbre performances. His photographs have been published in several books, publications, and internet sites. Bob graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and has an M.A. from University of San Francisco. Bob plays blues guitar and is a fan of Jimmy Thackery and Richard Thompson. For concrete timbre, he created the video montage *Kyrielle* for *East Meets West Again* at the 92nd St. Y, and *Lissajous* ◦ → ∞ → *Aurora* for *TRans:trANS* at Space on White, and photography, video, and projections for *Dziewczyna*.

**CATHERINE SIRACUSA** (COSTUME DESIGN) is an actor, director, and costume designer. She has worked extensively, in one or more of the above capacities, at such places as HB Playwrights Theatre, Abingdon Theatre Co., LaMaMa E.T.C., Midtown International Theatre Festival, and Workshop Theatre Co. She most recently costumed *Vivien Leigh: The Last Press Conference*, dir. Austin Pendleton (Mississippi Mud Prods.); *Dziewczyna*, *A Girl*, dir. Sally Burtenshaw (Concrete Timbre), *The Seed of Abraham, A Musical*, dir. Sally Burtenshaw (NY Fringe Festival), *Woman Before A Glass*, dir. Austin Pendleton (Dorothy Strelsin Theatre). Often collaborating with her husband Sidney Levitt, they costumed *Lost On The Natchez Trace*, dir. Kate Bushmann (Abingdon Theatre); *A Streetcar Named Desire*, dir. Brian Lady & Austin Pendleton, *Orson's Shadow*, dir. Lauren Reinhard, (Mississippi Mud Prods.); *Down The Road*, dir. Juan Reinoso (Arclight Films); *The Play's The Thing*, dir. Edward Morehouse, *Bury The Dead*, dir. Geoffrey Owens, *Hedda Gabler* and *Three Sisters*, dir. Amy Wright (HB Playwrights Theatre); *Lillian Uralia*, dir. Austin Pendleton (La MaMa E.T.C.).

**ANN WARREN** (SOUND DESIGN) – It's great to be working with the d'moiselles crew! Recent credits: Columbia, MD RepStage: *Two by J.M. Barrie*; *Intelligence*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *Two by Pinter*; NYC: The Chocolate Factory: *Two Husbands*, *R.U.R.*, *The (Low Life) Cherry Orchard*, *Fundamental*; Columbia University: *Caught in the Shadow of the Moon*; Theater for the New City: *My Juilliard*; Lion Theatre: *Wonder of the World*; Boomerang: *You'll Have Had Your Hole*, Stage Door Theater Company: *Bury the Dead*, *Vaudeville or Bust*; terraNOVA collective: *Feeder-A Love Story*, Gallery Players: *What the Butler Saw*, *Oliver!*; @HERE: *The Error of their Ways*, and concrete timbre *Dziewczyna*.



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## Director's Q&A

**When did *Trifles* take place?** It was based on an event in 1900 and it was written in 1916. I imagine Glaspell didn't have a particular year in mind but I think of it as happening about 1900.

**From what did you adapt *1905 Wife*?** A beautiful autobiographical essay by an anonymous farm wife published first in 1905 by Hamilton Holt. Every word spoken by our 1905 Wife is directly from that original essay written more than a century ago. Hamilton Holt's words are the only words I added. See the complete original essay at <http://archive.org/details/lifestoriesundis00holtrich>.

**So, you wrote an Introduction to *Trifles*. Where does the play *Trifles* begin?** Susan Glaspell's play *Trifles* begins right after Sheriff Peters in the Introduction says, "It should be warmer inside."

**Did Susan Glaspell say any of those things really?** Not as far as I know, except she is quoted as once saying (in front of an enthusiastic theater audience) "I'm so glad you liked my little play."

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## Director's Thanks

Thank you to all my dear friends, colleagues, and family – including our very talented cast, crew, and design professionals – for their support and for what I continue to learn from them. There are no words to describe the importance of Ann Warren's role in this production. She is the mover and the shaker and all the wonderful things that a producer, collaborator, sound designer, and friend can be. Also helping to shape this project by giving their insights during planning stages were Elaine Berman and Louise Torio. Louise gave me the idea of structuring *1905 Wife* as an interview. Both gave me wonderful ideas, which I accepted gratefully. Thanks to Catherine Allegra and Jenny Bass for my beginning. Thanks, All! Happy Spring!

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUSAN GLASPELL, WE RECOMMEND:

**Susan Glaspell: Her Life and Times** by Linda Ben-Zvi and

**The International Susan Glaspell Society** (<http://blogs.shu.edu/glaspellsociety>)

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## THANK YOU!

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This program has been designed by our friend the graphic designer Steve Veach ([www.sveach.com](http://www.sveach.com)).