



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **SOLDIERS, STUDENTS AND ACTORS COLLABORATE AS THE CARNEGIE AND CCM DRAMA PRESENT CHILLING WAR DRAMA "BURY THE DEAD"**

COVINGTON, KY- It was 1936 when future American literary icon Irwin Shaw published a poignant supernatural drama concerning six soldiers who make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Nearly 75 years later, his tale is perhaps more relevant than ever.

The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center (The Carnegie) and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Drama (CCM Drama) unearth Irwin Shaw's chilling drama **BURY THE DEAD April 8 through 24, 2010** in the Otto M. Budig Theatre at The Carnegie. An open talkback between audience, actors, and military experts follows each performance. BURY THE DEAD is directed by Michael R. Burnham and features a cast of top collegiate talent and local professionals. Tickets are \$14-18 and are available through The Carnegie Box Office or online at [www.thecarnegie.com](http://www.thecarnegie.com).

### **BURY THE DEAD- "What is this world, that you cling to it?"**

Amid the grim tableau of a gruesome battle, six slain soldiers arise from their graves and refuse to be buried, inciting international intrigue and bringing the engine of war to a grinding halt. When the soldiers declare their unwillingness to relent, women from their past lives are summoned to convince them to return to the earth, unfolding stirring stories of humanity and dignity.

### **Actors Learn from War Veterans, Military Experts**

Historically interpreted as an anti-war piece, BURY THE DEAD is not being produced as such by The Carnegie and CCM Drama, which are re-shaping the work as an opportunity for an open, balanced dialogue about service to country and the human experience of war.

To this end, local veterans, active-duty soldiers, military professionals, historians, and mental health professionals will be taking part in the development process of the piece. These experts will work directly with actors in the production, sharing their unique stories and offering insights to infuse the piece with the reality of their experiences. These individuals will also serve as panelists for audience talkbacks, which will follow each performance and provide an open forum for discussion on the challenging topics addressed in the piece. **Director Michael R. Burnham** considers BURY THE DEAD to be an excellent vehicle for dialogue on some of the most challenging issues we struggle with today.

"What I like about this play is that it lets us look to the past, not just so we're not condemned to

repeat it, but also to look for solutions to today's problems that we might have forgotten or mislaid along our way from then to now," explained Burnham. "Then, too, this piece lets us ask ourselves big questions we've been known to occasionally overlook, like 'what's worth fighting for?' and 'what's the best way to fight for it?'"

Audiences will also have an opportunity to experience BURY THE DEAD before it ever reaches the stage. Beginning the week of February 22, 2010, actors will provide online journal entries documenting their work on the piece and with guest military experts. The site will also feature a variety of actual correspondence from combatants of every American war, and will be available for audience responses once the show has opened. Links to this journal and more information will be available on The Carnegie's website at [www.thecarnegie.com](http://www.thecarnegie.com).

### Co-Producing a Classic

The Carnegie's first partnership with CCM's celebrated drama department affords both organizations a unique opportunity to intermingle the country's most promising young theatrical talent with gifted local professional artists. Veteran actors largely portray the "brass" in the script, while students take on the achingly age-appropriate roles of soldiers, clergy, loved ones, and civilians. This opportunity for collegiate actors to work in a professional environment with mature actors will be developmentally useful, according to **CCM Drama Chair Richard E. Hess**.

"The collaboration between The Carnegie and CCM Drama creates a perfect step for our young actors, allowing them to work in a professional setting in an extended run with other professionals from the community," said Hess. "When the missions of two great arts organizations can combine to make something even greater, it is exactly the perfect storm we should embrace."

### Role Call- The Cast of BURY THE DEAD

Otto M. Budig Theatre staple **Jim Stump** tackles one of the three commanding generals in BURY THE DEAD, having appeared in recent Carnegie productions including OLIVER! (Mr. Bumble) and JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (Herod). Stump is flanked by accomplished stage and screen actor **Reggie Willis**, as well as Indiana-based artist **Brandon Wentz**, who makes his Greater Cincinnati stage debut with BURY THE DEAD. Celebrated local actors **Ken Early** and **Derek Snow** bring a plethora of recent credits at Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati (ETC), New Stage Collective, and Know Theatre of Cincinnati to their roles as a gruff sergeant and ethically compromised captain, respectively. Rounding out the adult cast is lauded Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, ETC, and Performance Gallery artist **Regina Pugh\***, who plays the role of grieving mother Elizabeth Dean. Pugh will also assist director Michael R. Burnham in the development of a spoken word chorus for the piece, tapping her experience in the development of "fricative," the 2008 Cincinnati Fringe Festival hit.

Many of the production's outstanding student actors have already been recognized for accomplishments in their young careers. Sophomore **Hope Shangle** takes on the role of forlorn widower Martha Webster, having recently won an Acclaim Award for Outstanding Performance in CCM's YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. Shangle's junior classmate, **Mikayla Stanley** (Joan Burke), is the current artistic director of the fledgling group Cincinnati Outdoor Classics. Fellow junior and Cincinnati native **Michael Carr** plays the taciturn Private Schelling, having earned an Acclaim Award as part of the ensemble for CCM's recent production of ON THE VERGE. Other local student actors include **Ben Cramer** (The Reporter) and **Kevin Macku** (Private Levy).

A complete cast list is attached at the end of this release.

\*Regina Pugh appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

### **ASL Interpretation and Closed Captioning**

Throughout the 2009-10 season, The Carnegie is proud to offer fully accessible performances for the deaf and hard of hearing, featuring closed captioning and American Sign Language interpreters. BURY THE DEAD performances including this accessibility are as follows:

- Thursday, April 15, 2010
- Thursday, April 22, 2010

Interpretation is made possible by a collaboration between The Carnegie and the Sign Language Interpreting and Deaf Studies program at the University of Cincinnati. Captioning has been offered for major theatrical performances at The Carnegie since 2006 thanks to the support of volunteers.

Interpretation and captioning will be offered free of charge to patrons who request these services with their tickets.

### **Ticketing**

Performances:

- Thursday, April 8, 7:30pm
- Friday, April 9, 7:30pm
- Saturday, April 10, 7:30pm
- Thursday, April 15, 7:30pm\*
- Friday, April 16, 7:30pm
- Saturday, April 17, 7:30pm
- Thursday, April 22, 7:30pm\*
- Friday, April 23, 7:30pm
- Saturday, April 24, 7:30pm

\*Denotes ASL-interpreted and closed-captioned performance

Pricing:

\$18 Adults

\$16 Carnegie and Enjoy The Arts Members

\$14 Students and groups of 10 or more

An additional \$1 facility fee applies to all tickets.

Tickets may be purchased through The Carnegie Box Office at 859.957.1940, open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5:00pm, or online at [www.thecarnegie.com](http://www.thecarnegie.com).

### **About The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center**

The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center is a multidisciplinary arts venue for all ages

providing events, educational programs, and art exhibitions to the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati community. The Carnegie facility reflects its threefold nature: within its 17,000 square foot facility are The Carnegie Galleries, crowned by a landmark Beaux Arts dome; the magnificent, newly renovated Otto M. Budig Theatre; and the newer Eva G. Farris Education center. The Carnegie is the largest arts venue in Northern Kentucky.

The Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center receives ongoing operating support from the Fine Arts Fund, the Kentucky Arts Council, and Kenton County Fiscal Courts.

### **About The College-Conservatory of Music**

For more than 135 years, the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) in Cincinnati has been training young artists. The Department of Drama joined the Conservatory in 1983, and for the past two decades has been training actors who are now working from New York to Los Angeles and abroad, in theatre, television, and film. Each year, 18-20 young actors are chosen from around the country to study in the conservatory-style undergraduate training program, which grants the BFA in Dramatic Performance. These talented young men and women move to Cincinnati to begin their training and their careers, and for four years study together as an integrated ensemble in this exciting program.

Founded in 1867 and recognized as one of the leading conservatories for the performing arts and electronic media, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music offers the benefit of a professional training conservatory within the setting of a comprehensive public university. The school's roster of eminent faculty regularly receives distinguished honors, and its alumni go on to notable success in the performing and media arts. In the most recent rankings available by U.S. News and World Report, CCM was honored as the sixth top university program in the country for pursuing a graduate degree in music. Within the specialty areas of voice and conducting, CCM's programs placed third and fifth, respectively. CCM is also the largest single source of performing arts events in the state of Ohio, presenting nearly 1,000 events annually.

### **For More Information**

Contact Joshua Steele, Theatre Manager, at 859.957.1933 or [jsteele@thecarnegie.com](mailto:jsteele@thecarnegie.com).

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**BURY THE DEAD- Complete Cast List**

SERGEANT	Ken Early
GENERALS	Brandon Wentz
	Reggie Willis
	Jim Stump
SERGEANT	Ken Early
CAPTAIN	Derek Snow
ELIZABETH DEAN	Regina Pugh*
FIRST SOLDIER	Kristopher Dean**
SECOND SOLDIER	Jared Wilson**
THIRD SOLDIER	Mack Harden**
FOURTH SOLDIER	Cameron Davis**
PRIESTS	Kelly Rossberg**
PRIVATE DRISCOLL	Kevin Malarkey**
PRIVATE MORGAN	Claron Hayden**
PRIVATE LEVY	Kevin Macku**
PRIVATE WEBSTER	John Ware**
PRIVATE SCHELLING	Michael Carr**
PRIVATE DEAN	Brian Emond**
JOAN BURKE	Mikayla Stanley**
BESS SCHELLING	Bennett Bradley**
MARTHA WEBSTER	Hope Shangle**
JULIA BLAKE	Catherine Prevett**
KATHERINE DRISCOLL	Jordan Schramka**
THE EDITOR	Zlatomir Moldovski**
THE REPORTER	Ben Cramer**
ENSEMBLE	(To Be Announced)**

\*Regina Pugh appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

\*\*Denotes CCM Drama student

**Michael R. Burnham, Director**

Michael Burnham just finished a two week project on contemporary world slavery with people from seven countries in it, using five languages. This summer he also spent time in Indiana directing a new version of THE PIED PIPER, which was composed by Randy Woolf, who's the guy who composed the ballet version of *Where The Wild Things Are*. Before coming to CCM, Burnham was Literary Manager at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, a theater critic for *Cincinnati Magazine*, and a theater and film critic for WGUC-FM. He was also a Fellow of the National Critics Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. As a director and occasional actor and playwright, he is a champion of small experimental theatre companies. Burnham performs as a storyteller throughout the eastern part of the country, and has narrated symphony concerts for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Salt Lake Symphony Opera, and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, among others. His adaptation of Stravinsky's *l'Histoire du Soldat* (which he directed while playing the Devil) premiered at the Salt Lake Symphony Opera. Burnham is a recipient of a League of Cincinnati Theatres Sustained Achievement Award and has been inducted into the Cincinnati Entertainment Awards Hall of Fame. At CCM Drama, he directs and teaches courses in script analysis, directing, dramaturgy, and a class called The Artist in Society. Burnham has been teaching at CCM since 1984.

**BURY THE DEAD- Production Team**

Director	Michael R. Burnham
Chorus Master	Regina Pugh
Scenic Designer	Mark Halpin
Lighting Designer	Alejandro Fajardo
Costumer	Jim Stump
Stage Manager	Elena Russo
Technical Director	Richard J. Sillen, Jr.
Production Manager	Bleu Pellman
Producer	Joshua Steele