

Appalachian State University's Office of Arts and Cultural Programs
presents

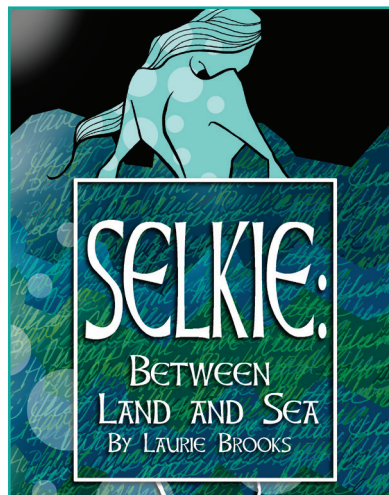
APPlause!

K-12 Performing Arts Series

September 30, 2016

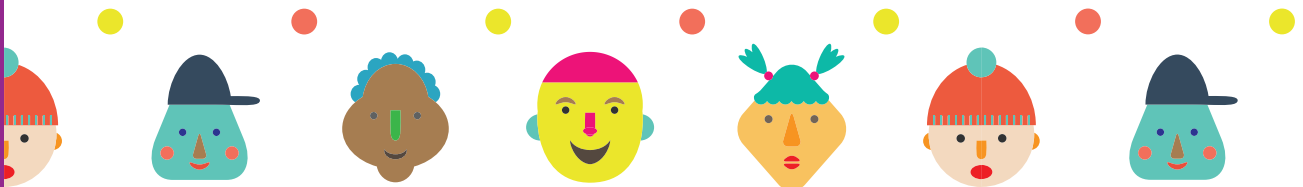
Appalachian State University's Department of Theatre & Dance
Presents

"Selkie: Between Land and Sea"
at the Valborg Theatre



As an integral part of the Performing Arts Series, APPlause! matinées offer a variety of performances at venues across the Appalachian State University campus that feature university-based artists as well as local, regional and world-renowned professional artists. These affordable performances offer access to a wide variety of art disciplines for K-12 students. The series also offers the opportunity for students from the Reich College of Education to view a field trip in action without having to leave campus. Among the 2016-2017 series performers, you will find those who will also be featured in the Performing Arts Series along with professional artists chosen specifically for our student audience as well as performances by campus groups.

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Before the performance...

Familiarize your students with what it means to be a great audience member by introducing these theatre etiquette basics:

- Arrive early enough to find your seats and settle in before the show begins (20-30 minutes).
- Remember to turn your electronic devices OFF so they do not disturb the performers or other audience members.
- Remember to sit appropriately and to stay quiet so that the audience members around you can enjoy the show too.



Valborg Theatre, 480 Howard Street

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS EVENT IS SCHEDULED TO LAST APPROX 75 MINUTES

10:00am – 11:15am

- Audience members arriving by car should plan to park in the Rivers Street Parking Deck. There is a small charge for parking. **Buses should plan to park along the Edwin Duncan side of Rivers Street** – Please indicate to the Parking and Traffic Officer when you plan to move your bus (i.e. right after the show, or after lunch) so that they can help keep everyone safe. **Please, do not plan to use the traffic circle.**
- This performance is at the VALBORG THEATRE 480 HOWARD STREET



Selkie: Between Land and Sea

by Laurie Brooks

Filled with lyrical language, music and mysticism, this coming-of-age story will fascinate theatregoers of all ages. A young girl struggles to find a sense of belonging and identity as the secrets of her family are revealed. This exciting version takes us beyond the land and into the tides where protagonist Elin Jean finds that “there is more beneath the sea than you or I can imagine.” This play was the basis of Laurie Brooks’ young adult novel Selkie Girl. Performed by Appalachian State University’s Department of Theatre and Dance Students.

About Appalachian State University’s Department of Theatre & Dance

Theatre and Dance embraces the university’s mission to provide:

- *a well-rounded education & the opportunity to pursue a special field of inquiry
- *to promote the intellectual, cultural and personal development of its students
- *to serve as a center of cultural and professional activity within its state and region

Additionally, the mission of Theatre and Dance is to provide a liberal arts curriculum for the BA degrees in Dance Studies and Theatre Arts including concentrations in Performance, Design/Technology, Theatre Education and General Theatre. The department offers a Dance Studies-Honors program, minors in theatre or dance and courses to meet General Education requirements in various perspectives, the fine arts, and wellness literacy. The department also values the opportunity to offer coursework for integrated learning through the arts to the overall student population.

Vital to the support of this mission is a dynamic co-curricular production program that provides exemplary theatre and dance experiences to students, the university community and the region. Coursework and the production program emphasize skills that prepare students for professional careers in the arts but are highly transferable to other pursuits.

The departmental philosophy is to support the university’s liberal arts environment through a balanced and integrated emphasis on teaching, creative activity, scholarship, and service.



Selkie: Between Land and Sea

Synopsis

On the wild rocky coast of the islands north of Scotland, it is told round the peat fires that the selkies transform into beautiful lasses on Midsummer's Eve and dance on the beach, celebrating the dual nature of the seal people—land and sea. This timeless myth chronicles the story of 16-year-old Elin Jean, who knows she is different from “the others.” Elin Jean is drawn to the forbidden churn of the North Sea, where the islanders' deepest fears are rooted. To make matters worse, her webbed hands are only part of the secretive nature of her family's solitary existence. As she stands on the threshold of womanhood, Elin Jean discovers a hidden pelt that unlocks a mystery foretold by the selkies and is set on a path to find “the knowin'” she desperately seeks. With the help of Tam, a traveler lad, her beloved grandfather and some unexpected allies from beneath the tides, Elin Jean engages in a dangerous mission to save the selkies and alters the relationship between land and sea forever. Filled with lyrical language, music and mysticism, this coming-of-age story will fascinate theatregoers of all ages: an entry into a world filled with drama and adventure as a family reveals its secrets and a daughter is set free to find where she belongs.

Questions for Students

Think about a time that you felt different from “the crowd.” How did you handle it? Were you embarrassed? Proud? Why, or why not?

This play is based on the legend of the Selkie from Scotland and Ireland myths of beings that are human on land and seals in the sea. What do you think began myths such as these? Are there other myths that are similar from our part of the world? What are they?

What kind of courage does it take to accept yourself for who you truly are? Do you have an example of a time when you were challenged to do the right thing? What was the cost of doing the right thing? Was it worth it? Why or why not?



About Author & Playwright

Laurie Brooks

Laurie Brooks is an award-winning playwright and young adult fiction author.

She has received grants from New York Foundation for the Arts, Children's Foundation of America and Irish Arts Council (with Graffiti Theatre, Cork, Ireland).

Brooks' Lies and Deceptions Quartet of plays for young adults includes *The Wrestling Season*, commissioned by the Coterie Theatre, featured at the Kennedy Center's One Theatre World, printed in *American Theatre* (November 2000) and winner of "Best of" awards in Kansas City, Seattle and Dallas. Additional award-winning plays include *Deadly Weapons*, *The Tangled Web*, *Selkie: Between Land and Sea*, *Devon's Hurt*, *The Match Girl's Gift: A Christmas Story*, *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*, *Franklin's Apprentice*, *Triangle*, *The Lost Ones*, *Atypical Boy*, *ALL of US* and *Everyday Heroes*, commissioned and premiered by the Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration and Salt Lake City for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

She served as assistant professor and playwright in residence at New York University for 10 years, where she also served as literary manager for the historic Provincetown Playhouse, and was playwright-in-residence for the Houston Young Professionals Endeavor Institute at the Alley Theatre in Houston. She has been guest lecturer at University of Missouri-Kansas City and University of Texas at Austin and playwright-in-residence at Arizona State University. Her article "Put a Little Boal in Your Theatre: A New Model for Talkbacks" appeared in *American Theatre*, and she was a featured artist at the 2007 TCG National Conference at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. Alfred A. Knopf published Brooks' book for young adults, *Selkie Girl*, in 2008.



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K-12 Performing Arts Series

The performances are part of the APPlause! Series, presented by Appalachian State University's Office of Arts and Cultural Programs. Featuring local, regional and world-renowned professional artists, the mission of the program is to share university arts resources with the public, private and home school network across our region. Study guide materials connect every performance to the classroom curriculum. With the help of the university's College Access Partnership, school groups can enjoy lunch in an on-campus dining facility, take a campus tour, or observe a demonstration by an Appalachian State professor.

The APPlause! Series receives generous support
from the Clabough Foundation



For more information, contact:

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