

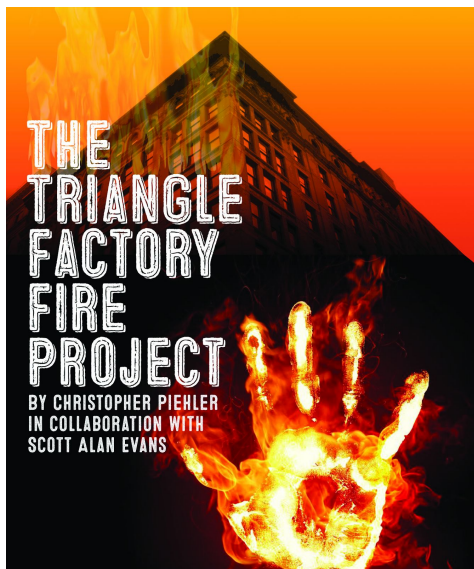
**The Wolfpack Theatre Company announces the first play of the 2017-18 season...**

# **The Triangle Factory Fire Project**

**Director:** Greg Adkins

**Tech Director:** Sara Menssen

**Audition Dates:** **Monday, August 14th 4-6pm and Tuesday, August 15 9am-11am.**



**[Christopher Piehler in collaboration with Scott Alan Evans](#)**

5m, 4w (doubling/flexible casting options)

From Dramatists Play Services:

**THE STORY:** Saturday, March 25, 1911. 4:45 P.M. In the Triangle Waist Factory off downtown Manhattan's Washington Square—where 500 immigrant workers from Poland, Russia and Italy toil fourteen-hour days making lady's dresses—a cigarette is tossed into a bin of fabric scraps. Despite desperate efforts, flames sweep through the eighth, ninth and tenth floors. Panic-stricken workers run in all directions. On the ninth floor, some make it to the fire escape, only to have it collapse beneath their weight. Others run to the exit door but find it locked—many, including the soon-to-be-married Margaret Schwartz, die with their hands on the doorknob. Dozens leap from the windows to their deaths, shocking the crowd of onlookers gathered below. And some through bravery or sheer luck make it out alive. In the space of twenty-eight minutes, the fire is under control, but 146 people, mainly young immigrant girls, have died. THE TRIANGLE FACTORY FIRE PROJECT uses eyewitness accounts, court transcripts and other

archival material to create a dramatic moment-by-moment account of this historic fire and the social upheaval that followed. It culminates in the manslaughter trial of the owners, Isaac Harris and Max Blanck, whose shocking acquittal inspires new outrage across New York and the entire country, the repercussions of which shaped social, political and economic policies for decades to come. By using real words spoken by real people, from Ukrainian seamstresses to millionaire Fifth Avenue socialites, THE TRIANGLE FACTORY FIRE PROJECT paints a heartbreakingly clear picture of a disastrous day in American history and explores the human toll such a tragedy takes on us all.

"Electrically directed by Scott Alan Evans, and dynamically acted by the whole company, it is one of the theatre events of the season. Everyone involved does a brilliant job in this searing play, which reminds us why theatre exists." —NY Post. "A good play is a wonderful distraction. A great play tugs at your emotional core. A truly great play does all that and also affects its audience by triggering memories and influencing one's view of events. THE TRIANGLE FACTORY FIRE is one of the plays that falls into the last category." —OffOffOnline. "The creative pieces of this puzzle—cast, director, writer and designers—come together beautifully in a collaborative blaze of sadness, energy and poignancy. One can only hope that 100 years from now we might have the same perspective on our own New York tragedy." —Broadway.com.

For this assignment, I have reworked what will be an early assignment in my Theatre Arts class next month. Decisions to move nearly every design decision to the class fits well with the concept taken from Thomas Armstrong's "Awakening Genius In The Classroom." This will be the first production of the upcoming season. I have never directed this play, I have never seen this play performed and I am excited to use the genius of my students to help design all elements of the production. Rather than sharing specific details of my directorial vision, I plan on using the creativity and insight of the students in the Theatre Arts class.

Students in this class are upperclassmen, and may earn an Art or an English elective. Some members of the class are also members of the Wolfpack Theatre Company as actors and technicians, but the majority of students are not involved in extra-curricular theatre at Glacier High School.

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# “THE TRIANGLE FIRE FACTORY PROJECT (TTFFP)”

## *Design Portfolio Project*

Fall 2017

Materials:

- One binder for each group for compiling sketches, photos, research, statements, etc.

Project:

YOU are the designers and builders for ALL SCHOOL production of *The Triangle Fire Factory Project.* Working in your groups, you will create a portfolio that contains design concepts for all aspects of the production: set, costumes, makeup, lights, sound, and publicity. Portfolios will be presented at a TBD **DATE**, and construction will begin once a design concept has been chosen and agreed upon.

Where to begin? Mr. Adkins will come into class, and share his *director's vision*. This is to give you an idea of what he's looking for. Your designs in your portfolios should account for this vision, while still going further, and exploring, both with the text, and beyond.

**The Portfolio must include:**

- A **cover page**, with title, playwright, group members, and class period.
- Each group member's **script analysis chart**, from the initial read-through of TTFFP in class.
- **Set Design Section:** your group must present an original set design. This section of your portfolio must include:
  - A **design statement** explaining *why* you chose the design you did, and highlighting a few key aspects of this design (*at least* two paragraphs).
  - **Photos** that represent ideas you want to incorporate into your design, photos that inspired your design. These can be specific to a certain element, or they can convey the flavor or mood of an aspect of your design.
  - A **floor plan (scale drawing)** of the layout of the set, drawn to scale from a bird's-eye view, complete with audience configuration
  - An **artistic rendering** of the set from the audience's perspective, drawn in color.
  - A **scale MODEL** of your set design. This is a three-dimensional aspect, with foam board. (So not part of the portfolio binder, but an integral part of the project.)
- **Costume/Makeup Design Section:** Your group will create and present original costume and makeup designs for *all* nine actors in the ensemble (including all the characters each actor will portray) This section must include:
  - A **design statement** explaining *why* you chose the designs you did, and highlighting a few key aspects of each character's design (*at least*

one paragraph per character, with an introduction to the costume/makeup design as a cohesive whole).

- **Photos** of inspiration, that represent some element of your design, both costume and makeup, for each character represented.
- A **rendering** of each character's costume—must be DRAWN, with **explanations** of key elements of the costume
- A **makeup rendering** of each non-human character that requires specialized makeup.
- **Light Design Section:** Your group will create a lighting scheme that fits TTFFP, to present in your portfolio. This section will include:
  - A **design statement** explaining *why* you chose the design you did, and highlighting a few key aspects of this design. This should be longer than other statements, since you won't necessarily be able to visually represent some concepts you have for lighting.
  - **Five Specific 'Looks:'** Create *at least* five specific lighting designs, that fit with specific moments of the play. With each of these looks, you must:
    - Explain what you envision, and which moment the light effect is for, complete with specific colors wanted.
    - Photos that represent the mood, feel, or special effect you want to obtain through your lighting design
    - Provide suggestions for how we can create each of these looks within our space, with the lighting instruments we own.
- **Sound Design Section:** Your group will select and create a sound design for this show. This includes:
  - A **design statement** explaining *why* you chose the design you did, and highlighting a few key aspects of this design (*at least* two paragraphs).
  - A list of all the **sound effects** required for this play
  - A list of all the **music** you would add to this play, with explanations for *why* you think each specific song would fit. (If you don't have specific songs, you must suggest musical genres, or 'moods' for the play, and explain why you think those fit.)
  - A list of **preshow and post show music** you would play, with an justification for why those songs fit. If you don't think this show should *have* pre/post show music, you must write a persuasive reasoning *why*.
  - A cd (or flash-drive, or computer file shared to Mr. Adkins) of **samples** of specific sound effects, and music you want used.
- **Publicity Section:** Your group will create logo, GTV, and lobby display concepts to represent TTFFP. This section will include:
  - **Logo design:** Have a drawn (or computer-created) logo design, which includes color, title, playwright, and all pertinent production information. This logo would be on posters, programs, and shirts, etc. With the logo design, you need a **design statement** explaining *why*

you chose the logo design you did, and how it represents the show as you envision it.

- **GTV commercial concepts:** Write up at least two different ideas for GTV commercials—include a script, if applicable. Storyboards are also encouraged, if specific looks or blocking are suggested. Explain why you think each of these commercials would represent the show.
- **Lobby Display Idea:** Include a sketch of what the lobby display should look like for LWW. Include also a list of what should be outside, and an explanation for why you have conceptualized the display as you have.
- And finally, an **overarching design concept statement** briefly explaining how all your design elements fit together, and how lights work with set, and with costumes/makeup; how the sound design adds to everything; and how the publicity represents the show as you envision it. It should all be a cohesive whole—an overarching vision, or idea, should guide your entire design, and this is where you get to sum up for us what it is.

### **Grading:**

Points will be awarded based off the following categories:

- Overall Project: completion, neatness/organization, creativity, the ‘vision’
- Script Analysis
- Set Design
- Costumes/Makeup Design
- Lighting Design
- Sound Design
- Publicity
- Teamwork/Participation: Were you on-task? Did everyone contribute?
- Presentation: Do you concisely and completely share your vision with us? Does everyone contribute?

## **“THE TRIANGLE FIRE FACTORY PROJECT (TTFFP)”**

### ***Design Portfolio Project***

*Fall 2017*

Deadlines:

- October 4<sup>th</sup>—Set Design Section DUE
- Entire Project Due: dates TBD

Materials:

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Project:

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