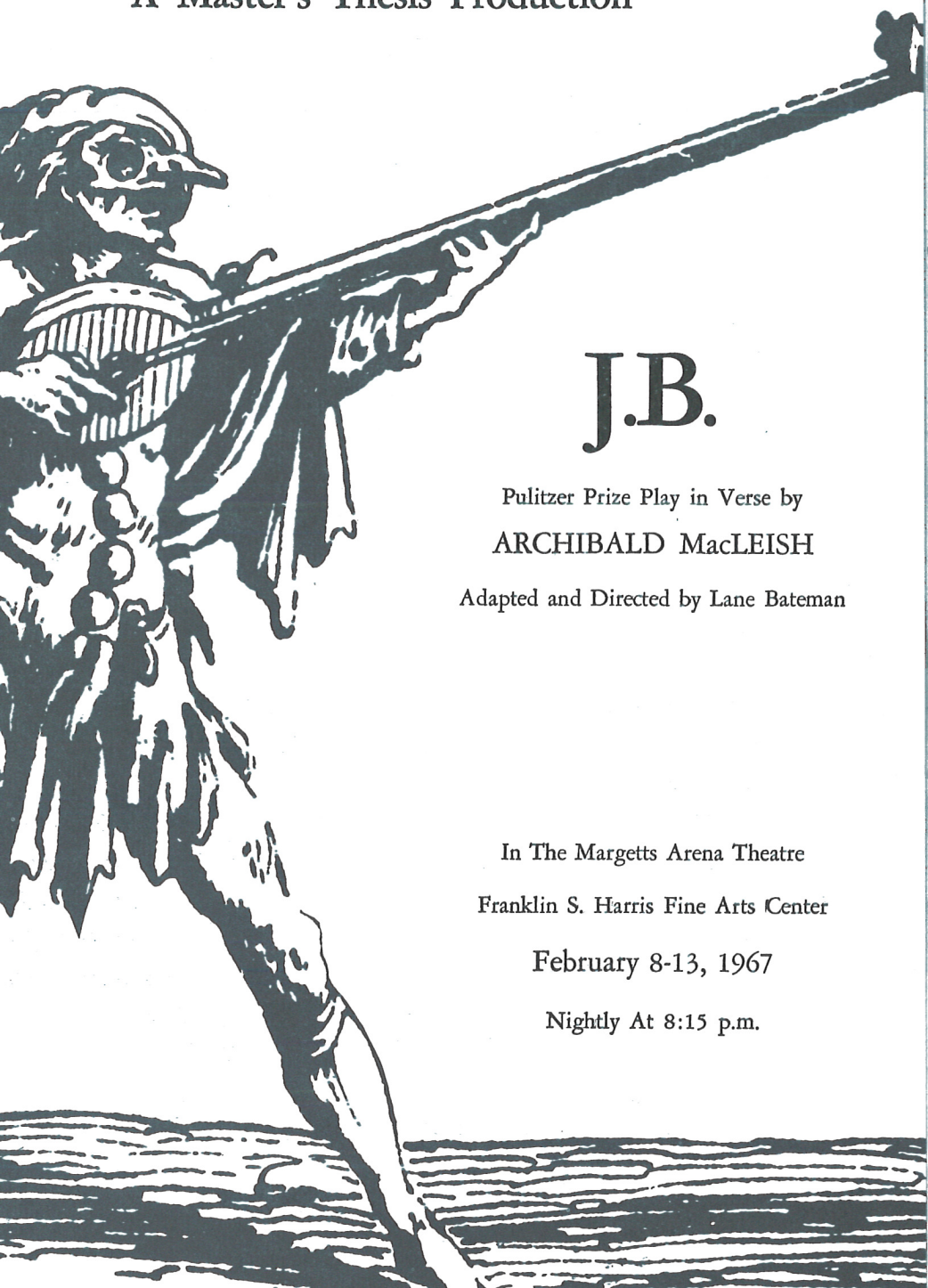


A Master's Thesis Production



# J.B.

Pulitzer Prize Play in Verse by  
ARCHIBALD MacLEISH

Adapted and Directed by Lane Bateman

In The Margetts Arena Theatre  
Franklin S. Harris Fine Arts Center

February 8-13, 1967

Nightly At 8:15 p.m.

# J. B.

by Archibald MacLeish

adapted by Lane Bateman

DIRECTOR ..... LANE BATEMAN

## The Cast in order of appearance

Nickles .....	Mark Nielson
Zuss .....	Ken Ennis
The Voice .....	Lynn McKinlay
JB .....	John Manning
Sarah .....	Pat Boyette
David .....	Rodger Sorensen
Mary .....	Kathleen Carlile
Jonathan .....	Mark Anderson
Ruth .....	Vicki Toland
Rebecca .....	Debra Pyne
First Messenger .....	Fred Booth
Second Messenger .....	Val Tucker
Mrs. Adams .....	Anne Milburn
Mrs. Murphy .....	Karie Cannon
The Boy .....	Jerry Johnson
Bildad .....	Norlan Jacobs
Zophar .....	Joseph Naylor
Eliphaz .....	Lewis Allen Tuttle

Scene: A theatre in which a world-traveling  
acting company daily presents the Medi-  
eval Morality Play JOB.

Time: Tonight.

Note: There will be no intermission.

There will be no curtain call.

(You are invited to meet the cast after the play. Just follow the arrows in  
the hallway.)

## J. B.

"The ends of the earth shall inquire after thy name, and fools shall have thee in derision, and hell shall rage against thee.

"If thou art called to pass through tribulation; if thou art in perils among false brethren; if thou art in perils among robbers; if thou art in perils by land or by sea; if thou art accused with all manner of false accusations; if thine enemies fall upon thee; if they tear thee from the society of thy father and mother and brethren and sisters; and if with a drawn sword thine enemies tear thee from the bosom of thy wife, and of thine offspring, and thine elder son, although but six years of age, shall cling to thy garments, and shall say, my father, my father, why can't you stay with us? O, my father, what are the men going to do with you? and if then he shall be thrust from thee by the sword, and thou be dragged to prison, and thine enemies prowl around thee like wolves for the blood of the lamb;

"And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness, and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good.

"The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than He?"

*Doctrine and Covenants, Section 122*

### The Technical Staff

Assistant to the Director .....	Pat Harston
Sound Control .....	Keith Stewart
Lighting Control .....	Rodger Sorensen Norlan Jacobs

## J. B.

This is the argument of the play:

Two unemployed actors—Mr. Zuss and Nickles—have been reduced to collecting tickets and repairing sets for an acting company which has traveled through the towns and cities of the earth, year after year, time out of mind, playing the Old Testament story of the sufferings of Job.

Dissatisfied, as actors often are, with the interpretation of the story, they make up their minds, late one evening when the show is over and the theatre empty, to play it themselves as they think it should be played. Mr. Zuss casts himself as God. Nickles is cast as Satan. And the two take on themselves the wager of the *Book of JOB*: Satan's wager that if God will strip Job of everything he has, Job, the perfect and the upright man, will curse God to His face.

And so they begin. But hardly has the action started when the old setting and the ancient tale prove to have a life and movement of their own. The Godmask and the Satanmask found in a battered wardrobe speak the lines of the Bible for themselves when an unseen prompter gives them their cues. And when the time arrives for Job to appear with his wife and children he is not called: he comes.

But it is not out of the Old Testament that Job appears to Mr. Zuss and Nickles but out of the American present—J.B. not Job. And the Messengers Nickles sends to him to report the terrible disasters which are to try his soul are present messengers—a pair of theatre-goers dressed first as soldiers, then as newspaper reporters, then as policemen, then as air-raid wardens. Also, the disasters they report, one after the other, are present disasters—disasters which have occurred. And the Comforters, when at last they come, are modern comforters.

As for the end of the play, it belongs neither to Nickles nor to Mr. Zuss, but, as in the *Book of Job* itself, to the courage of a woman and a man.

Adapted from a preface by  
Archibald MacLeish