

The Diviners

by Jim Leonard, Jr.

(A Play in Two Acts and Elegies)

SYNOPSIS

Winner of the American College Theatre Festival, *The Diviners*, is the story of a mentally challenged boy and his friendship with a disenchanting preacher. In the fictional town of Zion, Indiana during the Great Depression, a widowed farmer is raising his teenage son Buddy, whose brain was damaged during a near drowning. Because of this experience, the boy is terrified of water, yet he has also developed a certain brand of giftedness. When C.C. Showers, a former preacher, comes to the farm seeking employment and food, a special (and ultimately tragic) bond develops between the two.

SETTING

Early 1930s – Depression Era

The play takes place in the homes, fields, and public gathering places of the mythical southern Indiana town of Zion, population forty. A small and rural community with a few houses and farms along the river.

CASTING

BUDDY LAYMAN – a mentally challenged boy

*** Both male and female students will be considered for this role. ***

JENNIE MAE LAYMAN – his sister

FERRIS LAYMAN – their father, a mechanic

C.C. SHOWERS – a backsliding preacher

NORMA HENSHAW – owner of the Hoosier Dry-Goods, a true believer

DARLENE HENSHAW – her niece

GOLDIE SHORT – owner of the Dine-Away-Cafe

BASIL BENNETT – a farmer, the local doctor of sorts

LUELLA BENNETT – his wife, a doubter

MELVIN WILDER – a farmhand

DEWEY MAPLES – a young farmhand