

**2023-2024
Theatre Season
A Year of the Supernatural**

**Blinn College Division of Arts,
Kinesiology & Agriculture-
Brenham Campus**

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER

Written by Greg Oliver Bodine
Based on the Short Story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Directed by Brad Nies

Technical Direction by

Kevin Patrick

Costumes, Makeup and Hair Design by

Jennifer Patrick



THE YELLOW WALLPAPER

By Greg Oliver Bodine
Based on the Short Story by
Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Produced by special arrangement with
Next Stage Press, Inc.

RESOURCE GUIDE

This resource guide serves as an educational starting point to understanding and enjoying Greg Oliver Bodine's adaptation of *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Please note that the interpretations of the theatrical work may differ from the original source content.

SYNOPSIS

This spooky story is about an imaginative young woman who finds herself sequestered on a remote estate that her husband has rented for the summer. As she is recovering from “temporary nervousness,” she is forbidden to entertain guests. Without anyone to talk to, she becomes obsessed with the wallpaper in her bedroom as the effect of her stifled creativity begins to take a toll on her sanity.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

April 18 & 19

7:00 PM

April 20 & 21

2:00 PM

PREVIEW PERFORMANCES

April 18

10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

April 19

10:00 AM

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

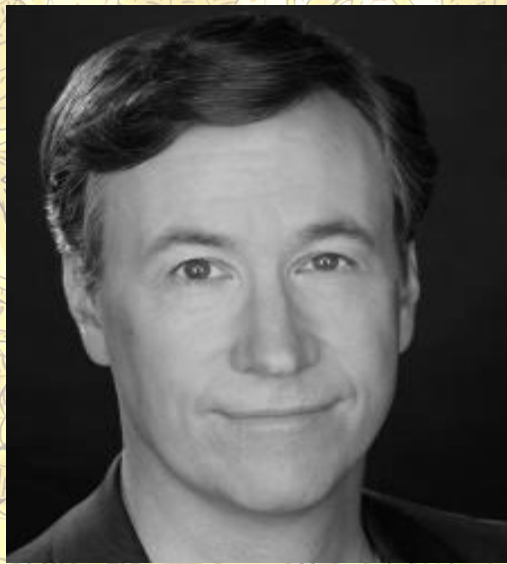
April 20

4:30 PM

DR. W. W. O'DONNELL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER'S

MRW STUDIO THEATER

BLINN COLLEGE-BRENHAM



GREG OLIVER BODINE

A Washington, DC-based actor, playwright, and audiobook narrator, Greg Oliver Bodine has over 25 years of experience in theatre, film, and television. As a playwright, Bodine's works have been published by Playscripts, Inc and Next Stage Press. In addition, his plays have been produced at theaters, colleges, and festivals throughout the United States, New Zealand, The United Kingdom, and Canada. In 2012, his one-man adaptation of stories by Edgar Allan Poe, entitled Poe, Times Two, won him three New York Innovative Theatre Award nominations. Bodine was also voted as "Best of the 2016 Capital Fringe Festival" by DC Theatre Scene. His 10-minute adaptation of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, entitled Monster's Lament, was recently produced as part of The Secret Theatre's 2020 Act One: One Act Play Festival in Long Island City. An NYSCA Grant Award-winner, as well as a member of The Dramatist's Guild, Bodine has penned adaptations of such classics as The Hound by H.P. Lovecraft, The Tell-Tale Heart by Edgar Allan Poe, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, To Build A Fire by Jack London, and Christmas Thieves: A Small Town Radio Play, which is a one-act adaptation of "The Thieves Who Couldn't Help Sneezing," by Thomas Hardy.



CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN

*Charlotte Perkins Gilman was an American humanist, novelist, writer, lecturer, and advocate for social reform. In addition, she was a feminist and served as a role model for future generations of feminists due to her unorthodox lifestyle. Gilman was born on July 3, 1860, in Hartford, Connecticut. During her infancy, her father abandoned his family, and the remainder of Gilman's childhood was spent in poverty. She married the artist Charles Walter Stetson, and they had one child. After the birth of her daughter, Gilman suffered a serious bout of post-partum depression. As this was an age in which women were seen as "hysterical" beings, her claims of being seriously ill were dismissed. After her divorce, Gilman and her daughter moved to California, There, Gilman became active in organizing social reform movements. During that time, she wrote fifteen essays, poems, a novella, and a short story, *The Yellow Wallpaper*. Her career was launched when she gained public attention with her volume of poetry, *In This Our World*, in 1893. She married a second time to Houghton Gilman, a Wall Street attorney, and was diagnosed with breast cancer years later in 1932. As an advocate of euthanasia for the terminally ill, Gilman died by suicide on August 17, 1935.*

A STUDY OF THE YELLOW WALLPAPER

The Meaning Behind the Wallpaper

In Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story, the wallpaper has an illogical pattern that upsets the narrator. The pattern on the wall paper represents the social constraints placed on the narrator as a Victorian wife and patient of postpartum depression.

The Main Theme of The Yellow Wallpaper

The main theme of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story focuses on the mental, emotional, and physical harm that could be caused by the limited role women played in Victorian society, as well as the role women played within their own families.

The Significance of the Story's Ending

The ending of "The Yellow Wallpaper" signifies the harm that could result from society's expectation of women remaining subordinate to men by obeying their commands.

Feminism in The Yellow Wallpaper

Gilman uses her story to illustrate the harm that may result when women are required to subordinate themselves in marriage and stifle their own desires for thoughtful stimulation.

MORE STORIES LIKE THE YELLOW WALLPAPER

*If you like Charlotte Perkins Gilman's **The Yellow Wallpaper**, try these creepy tales on for size!*

****The Awakening by Kate Chopin***

Condemned on its publication in 1899, this story of a woman trapped in her marriage was revived as a pro-feminist classic in the 1970s.

****The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath***

A groundbreaking semi-autobiographical novel offering an intimate and honest glimpse into mental illness. This book helped to cement Sylvia Plath's place as an enduring feminist icon.

****Rosemary's Baby by Ira Levin***

Made into a film in 1968, this story deals with themes related to paranoia, women's liberation, Christianity, and the occult.

****The Turn of the Screw by Henry James***

A young and inexperienced governess is employed to look after two children at a country estate. As the story continues, however, she suspects that these young charges may not be as innocent as they seem.

****We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson***

Known as the crowning achievement of Shirley Jackson's career, this novel is about an isolated, and possibly murderous, family that must struggle with an unexpected visitor that interrupts their unusual way of life.

SOURCES

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