

'A Few Good Men' to hit the Kelsey Theatre stage

The well-known play is the latest to be put on by the theatre company at Mercer County Community College.

By R. Kurt Osenlund
Pennington Post

Known by many from the 1992 film adaptation, which netted an Oscar nod for Best Picture and immortalized Jack Nicholson's famous line, "You can't handle the truth," the courthouse drama "A Few Good Men" began as a Broadway play, first produced by David Brown in 1989. Written by Aaron Sorkin (who's currently enjoying heaps of praise for his crackling script for the film "The Social Network"), "A Few Good Men" famously focuses on military lawyers who, in the midst of a murder case, uncover high levels of conspiracy within the U.S. Marine Corps. On Friday, Jan. 21, the play will hit the stage of the Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College (MCCC).

"The play is very much focused on the psychological, so much so that there's not a lot of scenery," says Kitty Getlik, Kelsey's longtime artistic director. "There's a strong focus on the characters."

Leading those characters is Lt. Daniel Kaffee, an inexperienced Navy lawyer who must defend two Marines who are on trial for the murder of a fellow officer. Forced to confront issues of honor and

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dignity as the conspiracy within the case comes to light, Kaffee was played, in the film, by Tom Cruise; in Kelsey's version, he'll be played by Mark Violi of Hamilton.

Other cast members include East Windsor's Joe Zedeny as Lt. J. G. Weinberg, Faith Dowgin of Spotswood as Lt. Commander Galloway, Fred Walker of Trenton as Col. Jessep, Camden's Brett Molosky as Major Markinson, Derek Capre of East Windsor as Capt. Ross, Williamstown's Chris Scharnagle as Lt. Kendrick and Robert Fisher of Chesterfield as Lance Cpl. Dawson.

"I know people are going to measure the play up to the movie," Getlik says, "but the play is different because



you feel more of a connection to the characters. You're literally closer to them, and there are no distractions – you really get into each character's head. Plus, the Kelsey is an intimate space. The energy from the actors will be felt by the audience.”

Directing “A Few Good Men” is Alycia Bauch-Cantor, who hails from Ewing. John and Diana Maurer, also of Ewing, are credited as costume designers. The sound design is by Dan Maurer of Robbinsville, and the lighting is by Getlik herself.

“There's a lot of tension in the play, just like the movie,” Getlik says. “If we've done everything right, the audience will feel that tension.”

“A Few Good Men” will run through Jan. 28. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students and children. The Kelsey Theatre is located at MCCC's West Windsor campus at 1200 Old Trenton Road.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, contact the Kelsey box office at 609-570-3333, or visit www.kelseytheatre.net.

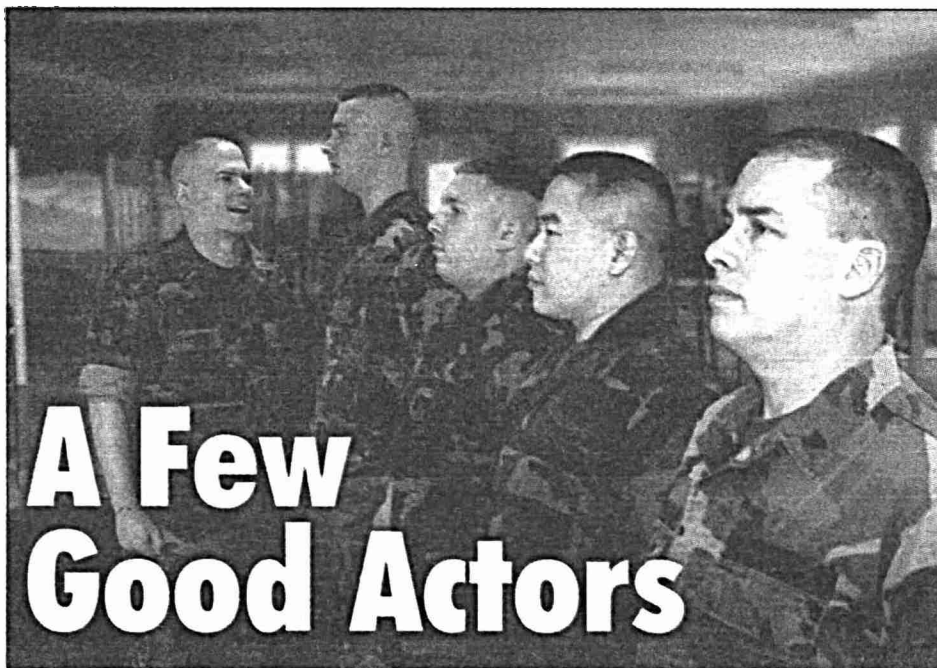


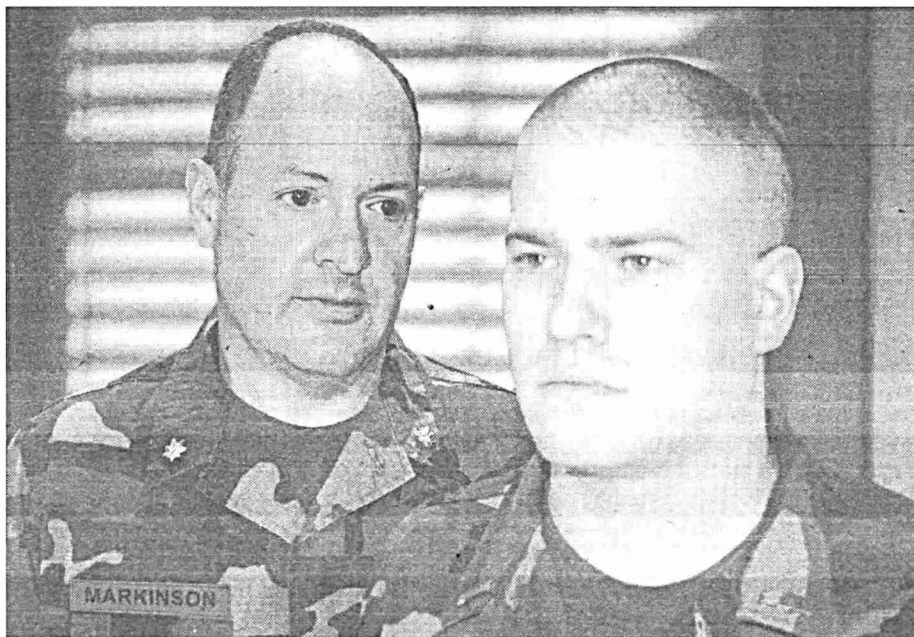
Photo courtesy of Wendy Humphrey

Pictured, from left, are Chris Scharnagle, Robert Fisher, Ricklin Harmening, Eric Tow and Joshua Waldorf. “A Few Good Men” comes to MCCC's Kelsey Theatre Jan. 21 through 30.



Photos courtesy of Wendy Humphrey

Joe Zedeny as Lt. JG Weinberg, Mark Viola a Lt. JG Kaffee, and Faith Dowgin as Lt. Cmdr. Galloway.



Brett Molotsky, left, as Major Markinson and Chris Scharnagle as Lt. Kenrick.