WPCC DRAMA 120

presents

THE INNOCENTS

THE CAST

Flora	Sara Daniel
Mrs. Grose	Cheryl Oxford
Miss Giddens	Linda Old-Payne
Miles	Todd McKinney
Peter Quint	James Dale
Miss Jessel	Ann Crump

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The play is set in the drawing room at Bly, a country home in England, 1880.

ACT ONE

Scene 1: An early autumn afternoon.
Scene 2: Three hours later.
Scene 3: The following morning.
Scene 4: Twilight, the same day.
Scene 5: The following morning.

ACT TWO

Scene 1: Evening, the same day.
Scene 2: The next morning. Sunday.
Scene 3: The same day, twilight.

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During the fifteen-minute intermission, the Drama Club will be serving refreshments in the lobby. Proceeds go to Drama 120 and to the Phi Theta Kappa scholarship fund.

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The Innocents, by William Archibald, is based on Henry James' novel, The Turn of the Screw. The play is being produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., New York, NY.

THE PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Cheryl Oxford
Lighting	Tonya Walker
	Bob Payne
	Linda Old-Payne
Sound	Pam Walker
	Buddy Noles
Costumes	Pam Daniel
Set design and construction	David Daniel
	Johnny Causby
	Paul Wardzinski
Photography	Tonya Walker
Program	Louise White
Poster	Kaye Smith
House Manager	Louise White
Interpreter (Wednesday performance)	Barry Elkin

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Our Special Thanks

Pam Daniel
Dr. Susan Cole and the
ASU Playmakers . . . . . for the costumes

Mr. & Mrs. David Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Triebert
Dr. & Mrs. Scott Cutting
Mr. & Mrs. William Harbison
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Daniel
Mrs. Jack Winchester
Mr. & Mrs. James Oxford
Georgia Carpets
Whitehall Galleries, Ltd. . . . . for the set pieces

and especially,
Mr. & Mrs. David Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce McKinney . . . . . for the children

In the wings . . . .

Drama 120 welcomes Greg Carswell, guest director of the next production scheduled for early 1985. Greg is familiar to area theatre-goers for his work with From This Day Forward, which he directed this season, and for his role in They Won't Hang a Woman, with Cheryl Oxford.

Greg will be directing Foxfire, a new play about an indomitable mountain woman whose tranquil life is threatened by real estate developers, who would turn her mountain home into a resort, and by her concerns for her son, who has been stranded with two small children by a runaway wife.

Foxfire strikes "the rarely heard chord of all-embracing humanity. The play quivers with laughter and stabs the heart. Foxfire has already been called the 'hillbilly Our Town.'" Time

"a gentle and loving as well as staunchly affirmative tribute to the country folk whose sturdiness and character it celebrates." Christian Science Monitor

Foxfire "will move you in a way you haven't been moved in a long time." Wall Street Journal

WHAT HORRORS COULD BEFALL AN

INNOCENT CHILD?

Find out when

WPCC DRAMA 120

presents

THE INNOCENTS

OPENING

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

WED. OCTOBER 31

ALSO PLAYING

Thurs.- Sat. Nov.1-3

All Shows: 7:30 pm

WPCC Auditorium

TICKETS $2.00

"Prepare for a Scare!!"

WHAT HORRORS COULD BEFALL AN INNOCENT CHILD?

Western Piedmont Community College's DRAMA 120 cordially invites you to attend our opening production of the 1984-1985 theatre season. Students, staff, and community volunteers have been busily rehearsing for a Halloween opening of the stage classic, THE INNOCENTS. A drama of suspense and the supernatural, THE INNOCENTS is an adaptation of Henry James's powerful novel, The Turn of the Screw. Few stories in literature embody as much unspeakable horror as James's masterful depiction of this fateful struggle between good and evil.

A young governess arrives at Bly, an English country estate, to take charge of two orphaned children, twelve-year-old Miles and eight-year-old Flora. Soon, however, the children's governess begins to be troubled by a sense of dreadful and unspeakable suspicions. She is led to believe that the children are possessed by the evil spirits of the previous governess and valet, who are now dead and whose ghosts she thinks she has seen. For what purpose these two apparitions wish to influence the seemingly innocent children, their frightened governess can only guess.

DRAMA 120's production of THE INNOCENTS will open on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31, and will run through Saturday, November 3, in Moore Auditorium on Western Piedmont's campus. Show time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $2.00. For more information, please contact the College at 437-8688.

Tale builds classic suspense in WPCC's 'The Innocents'

Drama Review

"What horrors could befall an innocent child?"

This is the bold headline from the Western Piedmont Community College Drama 120 advertisement for the first production of the 1984-85 season, "The Innocents." It is the 1952 stage adaptation of novelist Henry James' "The Turn of the Screw."

On one level, it is the story of two children, the governess and ghosts in an ancient British estate, but basically it is the story of the effects of a past evil influence on the innocence of the children.

"The Innocents" contains all the elements of a classic suspense story, the arrival of a young governess, two orphan children, a huge, mostly vacant mansion and a housekeeper who knows more of the past than she is willing to reveal. A perfect setting for entertainment on the bewitching night of Halloween.

The governess, Miss Giddens, soon learns of the evil influence on the children, 12-year-old Miles and 8-year-old Flora by the former valet and governess, both now deceased. What follows is a frightening and suspenseful struggle of a good against evil.

"The Innocents" is a bold venture for Drama 120 as it continues to produce a variety of artistic endeavors. The cast is small, with four characters and two ghosts. The director is Cheryl Oxford who also plays the part of the housekeeper, Mrs. Grose. Again, Miss Oxford's versatility is amazing.

Miss Giddens, the governess, is played by Linda Old-Payne, who is no stranger to Drama 120. She gives a commanding performance as she becomes increasingly distraught as the events unfold around her.

The children are played by 10-year-old Sara Daniel and 13-year-old Todd McKinney. The children both deliver their lines naturally and are beautifully innocent, appearing even younger than they are.

Miss Daniel is perfect as the lonely and bewildered Flora. Her tiny voice is so sweet when she repeatedly sings the ballad of a forlorn maiden.

McKinney's portrayal of the wrongly influenced Miles is stunning for a young actor. The audience is taken in by his innocence and only gradually accepts the governess' fears which lead up to the electrifying scene on the staircase where Miles reveals the extent of the evil influence upon him to Miss Giddens. McKinney and Miss Old-Payne's performances in this scene are dynamite as she recoils in horror at his sinister and implied knowledge of immoral sexuality and evil.

James Dale presents a terrifying ghost of the dead valet and Louise White stood in for Ann Crump as the ghost of the former governess at the dress rehearsal Tuesday night.

Several people have asked me to let them know if this play is appropriate for their children. If your children are at the age where they like to be frightened by things they know are not real (in this case by ghosts at the garden door), by all means go.

In the words of little Flora, "What fun" it is to play hide and seek even though you know the other person will scare at you when you least expect it.

If, on the other hand, your children may be really frightened by something or someone lurking in the dark just waiting to snatch them, it would be better to leave them at home.

As an adult, it is terrifying to contemplate such dreadful power wicked people can have on children. In "The Innocents," this corruption is mostly implied, a technique that is more suspenseful because it leaves the terror in the minds of the on-lookers.

To find out if good vanquishes evil, attend the production of "The Innocents." Tonight's performance will be interpreted for the hearing impaired by Barry Elkin.

— Mary Lou Sossoman

"The Innocents" continues through Saturday with nightly performances at 7:30 in WPCC's Moore Auditorium. Tickets are $2.

WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE