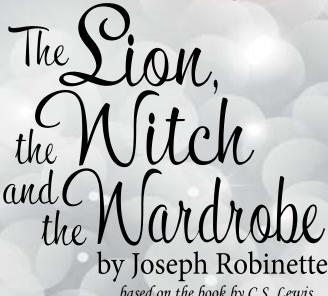




present...



based on the book by C.S. Lewis & directed by Caroline King













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& directed by Caroline King

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"It is not the treasures," said he to himself, "that have awakened in me such unutterable longings. Far from me is all avarice; but I long to behold the blue flower. It is constantly in my mind, and I can think and compose of nothing else. I have never been in such a mood. It seems as if I had hitherto been dreaming, or slumbering into another world; for in the world, in which hitherto I have lived, who would trouble himself about a flower?" - Novalis

Envisioning what this production might be, I was introduced to the image of "The Blue Flower" by one of my favorite bands. I began researching this intriguing image and found that C.S. Lewis himself was the inspiration. At age six, Lewis encountered what he calls "joy" when he was first overcome by the unreachable. "The first beauty I ever knew...It made me aware of nature...As long as I live, my imagination of Paradise will retain something of my brother's toy garden." This is the garden's imaginative representation, Paradise's intended joy.

As he grew and was placed in what he called the "Concentration Camp" of his life, his boarding school at Ulster, Lewis spoke of a moment when he was reminded of that image of Paradise as he gazed longingly out a window and at the Castlereagh Hills; faraway and seemingly unattainable. Lewis identifies himself from that moment on as the "votary of the Blue flower," a votary being a person bound by a vow or promise and the "blue flower" coined by Novalis, an awakened longing and reaching for this unknown joy he had discovered. The moment arrests us during an encounter with beauty, with the divine or transcendent, that we are missing something, even while we can't quite identify what that something is. We are glad to perceive it, but we desire more. It's that which lies just beyond our grasp.

For Lewis, this unattainability is not a source of sorrow. It is a message of hope. As dissatisfying as this compulsory and insatiable yearning can be, there is something sumptuous about its mystery. It compels us to seek and never stop seeking and to pay homage to the beautiful and the sublime. The evocative image of the blue flower draws us to something intangible beyond this life and yet, somehow, more concrete than our current understanding of reality.

Our Narnia exists in the space between Heaven and Earth. The thin, beautiful space between what we know to be true and what we HOPE will be true! We leaned into this mysterious and dreamlike place where Narnia lives. Our characters are fantastical but also living, breathing "versions" of everyone you know. We hope you will see yourself in the story and be inspired to chase the "blue flower" of beauty, hope, and love in your life.

## CAST

Susan	Anna Kate Stanley
Edmund	Auguste King
Peter	Remington Stavros
Lucy	Lily Segars
White Stag	Maggie Wood
Unicorn	Julia Heaton
Centaur	Darian Burkhalter
Mrs. Beaver	Jessica Cross
Mr. Beaver	Gabe Potter
Fenris Ulf	Tyler T. Glover
Tumnus	Rollin Prince
Gorgon	
Black Panther	Lottie Mills
White Witch	Rachel Winfrey Norman
Dwarf	Amelia Duarte
<i>Elf</i> 1	Olivia Newman
<i>Elf</i> 2	. Avalyn (Avie) Heatherly Shope
Father Christmas	Kevin Collins
Aslan	Will Dorsey
Owl 1	Camille McClenagan
Owl 2	Maisie McClenagan
Tiger	McClain Kathryn Geswein
White Tiger	Salem Church
Leopard	Abigail Lynn Patrick
Dark Fawn	Rollin Prince
Dark Spectre	Tyler T. Glover
Bat 1	Olivia Newman
Bat 2	
Grey Ghoul	
Над	

# The Production Team

Director	Caroline King
Stage Manager	. Robbin Paige Sharp
Assistant Stage Manager	Alexis Pedersen
Scene Designer	Steve Krempasky
Lighting Designer	Caroline Bradley
Costume Designer	Terri Lloyd
Props Mistress	Terri Lloyd
Costume & Props Assistant Designer Naomi Katherine Gwynn	
Makeup Designer Nao	mi Katherine Gwynn
Sound Designer	Matthew Lloyd
Makeup Assistants Vex Seifert	and Rachel Norman
Light Board Operator	Ashley Sanford
Sound Board Operator	Alexis Pedersen

# Special Thanks

Oak Ridge High School Erin Presbyterian Church Fifth Avenue Baptist Church Erin Housam Umicevic West High School Jack & Marjorie Lloyd Jack Hopkins Julie Burris Vex Siefert Iris King

# The Artists



Hankins Balest (Gray Ghoul) is thrilled to be making his debut with The WordPlayers in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. He was most recently seen in Tinkerbell at Knoxville Children's Theatre. Hank has enjoyed being a part of numerous productions at the Episcopal School

of Knoxville, where he is a fifth grader. He would like to thank Caroline King for giving him the opportunity to be in the show and his mom for giving him the inspiration to be an actor.



**Darian Burkhalter** (Centaur) is a senior at Knoxville Catholic High School. This is her debut production with The WordPlayers. Darian's journey in the spotlight has seen her shine as Bulda in *Frozen*, *Jr.* and Hunk in *The Wizard of Oz*. She is grateful for the warm embrace of The WordPlayers'

community. She extends heartfelt thanks to the talented cast and crew for their unwavering support and kindness. As a passionate performer, Darian is excited to contribute her energy and dedication to this production, eager to create lasting memories on stage.



**Salem Church** (White Tiger) is elated to be a part of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This is her first professional production, and she has loved every minute of it. Salem lives in Knoxville with her parents and two younger brothers. She is in the fifth grade, and her favorite things include music, art, and her cats, Poppy and Minnie.



**Kevin Collins** (Father Christmas) is a performer, writer, and researcher deeply rooted in east Tennessee. He has performed locally with Tennessee Stage Company (most recently--John of Gaunt/Gardener/Bishop in *Richard II*), Foothills Players, Moving Theater, Tiger Lily Theater, Kings

Players, and 70/30 Creatives. He is a multi-instrumentalist with the Emancipators folk band and does activist mega puppetry with the Catalystica Players as creative director.



Jessica Cross (Mrs. Beaver) is excited to be reprising the role of Mrs. Beaver. Some of her favorite WordPlayers' productions and characters include Lucille in Junie B. Jones: Jingle Bells, Batman Smells, Caroline (Ma) Ingalls in A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas, Grace Bradley in The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Caitlin in Over the River

and Through the Woods, Mrs. Kirk in Little Women, the White Witch/Queen Jadis in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and The Magician's Nephew, and the cast of John, His Story. She would like to thank Darrin and Hayley for allowing her the time to be in this production. As always, this is for Cole who is always in her heart!



**Will Dorsey** (Aslan) is a proud native of Flint, MI, a husband, and a father of two boys. He attended Central Michigan University (96-98) and is a Knoxville College Alum (98-02) where he is the all-time leading scorer and 4-year captain of the basketball team. Will has worked as a State of Tennessee employee for 14 years. He is a certified

personal trainer and amateur bodybuilder who operates his own business. Will has a deep passion for the arts and began his local stage acting career in 2010. In 2011, he appeared in Carpet Bag Theater production's Speed Killed My Cousin, and years later their Anniversary series Swopera and Red Summer. Will also appeared in River & Rail's production SWEAT. He is represented by Talent Trek Agency and has appeared in TV commercials, music videos, and voice overs. Will's television credits include Fatal Attraction, Homicide Hunter, Snapped, and more. He played the Honorable Judge Williams in an Off-Broadway stage play, Justice on Trial, by Greater Faith Entertainment. Will is the Drama Director at Overcoming Believers Church where he has written and directed over 30 drama skits. In 2014, he wrote and directed his own full stage play, The Guiding Light, and from there went on to write and direct the first and second Annual Blessings on Bell St. full stage play productions. He recently acted in and directed the full stage play, Worth It, by Vet-to-Vet Foundation. Will acted in Clarence Brown Theatre's recent production of Trouble in Mind and directed The WordPlayers' production of Althea and Angela.



**Amelia Duarte** (Dwarf) is excited to return to The WordPlayers for another awesome show. Previous credits of Amelia's include The WordPlayers' production of *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas* (Mary Ingalls) and two roles in Roane County Children's Theatre's Summer Acting Intensive, as well as appearing in several small productions

with Missoula Children's Theatre in California. Amelia is homeschooled and lives in Kingston with her parents, little brother, and three pets. She is in the ninth grade, and enjoys playing music, writing, and reading.



**McClain Kathryn Geswein** (Tiger) is ecstatic to be a part of *The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe*. She has previously acted in *The Wizard of Oz* (Munchkin and Flying Monkey) with the Catholic High School Irish Arts Department. She is in the 4th grade at Sacred Heart School of Knoxville and

enjoys singing and dancing (hip-hop and acrobatics) in her spare time. She loves being with her family and traveling. McClain aspires to one day have a starring role in *Hocus Pocus* if it were to become a Broadway play. She feels honored to be a part of this production and would like to thank everyone who is helping her learn and grow into a better actress.



**Tyler T. Glover** (Fenris Ulf/Dark Spectre) is a local actor here in Knoxville and is excited to return to The Wordplayers in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. His previous theatre credits include *Murder on the Orient Express, The Taming of the Shrew, Hair the Musical, A Christmas Carol, Twelfth Night,* and *Hello Dolly*. Tyler is currently

a junior undergraduate student at the University of Tennessee Knoxville and plans to pursue a master's degree in acting.



Naomi Katherine Gwynn (Hag/Makeup Artist) is thrilled to return to the design team for yet another production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and equally ecstatic to return to the stage! With a love of beauty and a passion for the arts, she's been involved in theatre her entire life

and loves sculpting and creating in her spare time as well as in her professional career of six years as a licensed hair stylist.



Julia Heaton (Unicorn) is excited to be doing her first production with The WordPlayers with this fun show! She has a passion for theatre and is thrilled to share this wonderful message during the most wonderful time of year. She has acted previously with Christian Academy of Knoxville (CAK), Oak Ridge Playhouse, Lighthouse Youth

Theatre, Broadway Center for the Arts, Primary Players, and the Palace Players. Hope you enjoy the show. For Narnia!



**Auguste King** (Edmund) is a sophomore at West High School (WHS). He is excited to be a part of this year's production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This is Auguste's first production with The WordPlayers. He has also enjoyed working with the Knoxville Children's Theatre, Tennessee Stage Company, and Company West

at WHS. Auguste would like to thank his family for always being supportive of his creative endeavors.



**Camille McClenagan** (Owl 1) is excited to join the cast of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Camille had a primary role in her recent school play of *Danny and the Shacks* (Babs). She fell in love with theatre in her first school performance, *Free Gift* (Esther Van Smythe). Camille is in 4th grade at Concord Christian School and lives in

Knoxville with her mom, dad, twin sister Maisie, and younger sister Lela. Camille loves acting and thinks the show is going to be very fun.



**Maisie McClenagan** (Owl 2) is very excited to be a part of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Maisie was in school performances of *Danny and the Shacks* (Ensemble) and *Free Gift* (Harriet Van Smythe). She is thankful for the opportunity to learn alongside this talented cast. Maisie is in 4th

grade at Concord Christian School and lives in Knoxville with her mom, dad, twin sister Camille, and little sister Lela. She loves acting and hopes that you enjoy the show!



**Lottie Mills** (Black Panther) is very happy to be in Narnia with The WordPlayers. Lottie lives in Knoxville with her family and is a 6th grader at River's Edge Christian Academy. She loves singing, Taylor Swift, Vols football, and being with her family. Her favorite musical is *Into the Woods*. Lottie also enjoyed playing an Orphan in Creative Theatre's *Annie*. She hopes to

continue expanding her theatre arts experiences in the Knoxville area and is grateful for this opportunity.



**Olivia Newman** (Elf 1/Bat 1) is so excited to be returning to the stage after her latest appearance as Gracie Shinn in *The Music Man* with the Bearden High School Musical Theatre Class. Last year, Olivia appeared in *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas* as Carrie Ingalls with The WordPlayers. Olivia also had the opportunity to

work with Knoxville Children's Theatre as part of the tech crew and absolutely loved it. Olivia is in the 5th grade and attends Farragut Intermediate School. She enjoys drawing, spending time with her family, and just relaxing. She is thrilled and honored to be working with this cast, director, and crew.



**Rachel Winfrey Norman** (White Witch) is blessed to have been a part of The WordPlayers' company for over a decade and is honored to reprise Queen Jadis this year. She has had the privilege of directing some of The WordPlayers' Touring performances including *Sleepers, Wake!, On a Hill Far Away*, and *The Refugee King*. You may

recognize her from past roles including May in *The Last Train* to Nibroc Trilogy, Shelby in Steel Magnolias, and Sister James in Doubt to name a few. She currently teaches Drama at Berean Christian School. Special thank you to Ethan, Bode, and River; I see lion hearts in each of you.



**Abigail Lynn Patrick** (Leopard) is excited to be a part of The WordPlayers' production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. She made her theatre debut in The Irish Arts (Knoxville Catholic High School) rendition of *The Wizard of Oz*, where she was cast as a flying monkey and a Munchkin. Other theatre credits include the feisty bear,

Baloo, in the summer camp production of *Jungle Book* (Irish Art's Production). Abigail enjoys reading, spending time with friends, and loving up on the family dog, Brixx.



**Gabe Potter** (Mr. Beaver) has worked with The WordPlayers in a variety of past shows including *Leaving Iowa* (Dad), *Walking Across Egypt* (Finner Swanson), and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Bob Bradley). He is grateful to now reprise his role as Mr. Beaver. Outside of Narnia, you'll likely find

Gabe ministering with the Farragut Church of Christ, traveling with his wife, strumming on his guitar, or playing Dungeons & Dragons.



**Rollin Prince** (Tumnus/Dark Fawn) is excited to be a part of another WordPlayers Christmas show! He was last seen in *Clue: On Stage* and *God of Carnage* at Oak Ridge Playhouse as well as the previous two productions of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Rollin works for Knox County Schools at Bearden High School and coaches the

improv teams at Bearden and Oak Ridge High School. He will soon be featured in the Knoxville comedy debut of Pretend Friends Improv troupe. Rollin would like to thank Caroline, Robbin, and the cast & crew of this wonderful production. It's "perfect for the imagination!"



**Lily Segars** (Lucy) is thrilled to be making her debut with The WordPlayers. She has been seen on stage in 17 productions at Knoxville Children's Theatre. Lily is a Sophomore at West High School. She would like to dedicate this to the memory of Zack Allen, her first director.



**Mallory Hayes Schauberger** (Gorgon) is ecstatic about joining this magical show of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* for her first WordPlayers' production. Previous shows she has been a part of include Aladdin, Jr. as Ensemble/Lead Dancer (Lighthouse Youth Theater), *Anastasia* as the Swan Dancer (The Palace Players), and *Into the Woods* 

as Little Red Riding Hood (The Palace Players). She would like to thank the directors for being so welcoming and allowing her this opportunity to use her gifts to best glorify God. Mallory is 14 and in the 8th grade. She is homeschooled along with her three sisters. When she is not on the stage, she loves to dance, play the piano, hang out with friends, and play with her cats (Buddy and Max). She hopes this show will help you enter the world of Narnia for yourselves. Enjoy the show!



Avalyn (Avie) Heatherly Shope (Elf 2/Bat 2) is thrilled to return to the stage after last appearing as Carrie Ingalls in *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas* in 2022 with the WordPlayers. Avie lives in Farragut with her parents Michael and Megan, as well as her younger siblings, Zeb and Eden Shope. She is a 4th grade student at

Concord Christian School where she enjoys being a cheerleader and plans to join the golf team next spring. Avie loves being on stage and is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with this amazing crew again.



**Anna Kate Stanley** (Susan) is a freshman at the University of Tennessee studying public relations. She is infinitely grateful to be making her debut with The WordPlayers, but she is far from new to the stage. Most recently seen in Company West's *Around the World in 80 Days* as a very unhinged version of Passepartout. Anna Kate has been

in over 17 performances across Knoxville. She would like to thank her parents who knew it was not quite over yet and owes everything to them, always. To every person who she told not to come but has shown up tonight, it means a lot. Finally, Anna Kate dedicates this performance, however small, to herself 12 years ago. To the girl who would spend countless hours playing Narnia in the backyard. Girls grow quicker than dreams, but here you are still. It's all for you.



**Remington Stavros** (Peter) is thrilled to be back for his sixth show with The WordPlayers! With over a decade of theater experience, he has been in over 30 productions. Some of his favorites have been *Magician's Nephew* (Uncle Andrew), *Pilgrim's Progress* (Worldly Wise), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), *Into the Woods* Workshop

(Milky White and Cinderella's Prince), and Aladdin, Jr. (Jafar). Introduced to theatre through a WordPlayers' audition at age six, he has grown a love for storytelling. He has written multiple plays, one produced by the Palace Players, and recently directed his first musical with them as well. Lots of thanks to Caroline King, Ethan Norman, his family, and God for all they have done to help him grow.



**Maggie Wood** (White Stag) is excited to be participating in her first professional production! She has participated in various church plays and appeared as The Producer in *'Twas the Opening Night Before Christmas*. She also appeared as Ruth Disney in the movie *As Dreamers Do*. Maggie is a high school homeschool student who

lives in Knoxville. She loves her youth group and volunteering at Thrive. Her hobbies include singing, playing piano, reading, and acting. She is thankful to work with such a fantastic cast, director, and crew.

### **PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS**

**Caroline Bradley** (Lighting Designer) has an Associate of Science (AS) degree in Theatre Production from Pellissippi State Community College (PSCC) and soon to be a University of Tennessee (Knoxville) graduate. Upon receiving her AS, she had the privilege of being the Lighting Designer for several PSCC shows – *Black Comedy, Blood at the Root,* and *Our Tempest*. Caroline loves the outdoors, enjoys going to the gym, and spending time with her pet kitty Apollo. Amongst designing lights for numerous concerts, plays, and dance recitals at the Pellissippi Clayton Performing Arts Center, Caroline is honored to be designing her first WordPlayers show. She dedicates all she does to her supportive family.

**Caroline King** (Director) is beyond thrilled to be working with such a talented group of artists telling such an incredible story. Caroline has been working, playing, directing, teaching, dancing, and singing within the Knoxville Community for over 22 years, and she can't wait for 22 more! Some her of favorite roles include Katherina (*The Taming of the Shrew*), Lady Olivia (*Twelfth Night*), Mercutio (*Romeo and Juliet*), Velma Kelly (*Chicago*), Jess (*The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged*), Gillian (*Bell, Book, and Candle*), Actress A (*Cut*), Annie Oakley (*Annie Get Your Gun*), and Miss Adelaide (*Guys and Dolls*). Caroline would like to thank her wonderful family, her terrific husband, her awesome kids, and The WordPlayers cast, crew, and company for their enthusiastic support of this production. **Stephen F. Krempasky** (Set Designer) is the Executive Director of SHOP FARRAGUT, promoting retailers, restaurants and service providers in the Town of Farragut. Additionally, he is President of MASSKUS Productions, a special events consulting agency. They will be presenting the Folk-Harmony group, WINDBORNE at the OPEN CHORD Stage in Bearden on January 27, 2024. During his career, Steve has over 350 theatrical and corporate stage credits and recently designed *The Music Man* for Bearden High School. He is looking forward to working on *The Addams Family* at Hardin Valley Academy this season. Steve is a "Fellow" of the American Association of Community Theatre with over 40 years of industry service.

**Matthew Lloyd** (Sound Design) has been doing theatre for over 30 years in many aspects of performance and design, including over 50 productions with The WordPlayers. He is currently the Managing Technical Director of the Oak Ridge Performing Arts Center (AKA, the high school auditorium). His next big project will be directing the musical *Anastasia* for the ORHS Masquers Theatre Club, and he would love to see you all there, March 1-3!

**Terri Lloyd** (Costumer Designer/Props Mistress) started working with The WordPlayers in 1999 when she played the Shepard in *Nativity on the Square*. Since then Terri has continued to act, direct, design costumes and props, served on the board and as the Graphic Designer for many of the shows over the years. Most recently, Terri played the Bag Lady in last year's production of *Nativity on the Square*. Terri is a teacher at Oak Ridge High School and sponsor of Masquers Theatre Club. Her favorite roles are being Matthew Lloyd's wife and the mother to her four favorites, Naomi, Cam, Fai & Jack. She loves getting to work with her daughter, Naomi on projects. Thanks to the cast for being so easy to work with and to Caroline for letting me a part of this production.

Alexis Pedersen (ASM) is thrilled to be working on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,* her second show with The WordPlayers. She was recently the light board operator for *Silent Sky.* Alexis went to Manatee School for the Arts and worked on lighting, sound, and stage production for *The Wiz* and *Into the Woods.* She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has enjoyed working with this talented group of actors and production team.

Robbin Paige Sharp (Stage Manager) has had the privilege of stage managing several shows for The WordPlayers. She most recently was the stage manager for Silent Sky. Robbin is happy to return to work on The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe with a very talented cast and production team. Robbin has a BS (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) and MA (Virginia Tech) in Education, a K-12 Theatre Arts Degree (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), and an MFA in Theatre Performance (Regent University). She has also performed in numerous shows in the greater Knoxville area and the Eastern United States. Robbin was last seen in Clue: On Stage (Mrs. Peacock) at Oak Ridge Playhouse this past Spring. She is thrilled to be working alongside her "Finner" from one of her favorite shows to date, *Walking Across Egypt* (Alora Swanson) with The WordPlayers. Robbin resides in Maryville with her three fur-babies Tilly, Josie, and Mattie. Enjoy the show and Merry Christmas!

Darian Scott Burkhalter: We are very proud of you. Love Mom, Dad, McKenzie, Olex. and Zach



### **Board of Directors**

Robert A. Bright Jenny Bushkell Tom Cervone Shawn Carson Leann Dickson Angie Johnson Cheryl Masur Ethan Norman June Ponzio Tomi Robb Ron Turner Chandler Vinson Terry Weber James Williams

### STAFF

Ethan Norman – Artistic Director Terry Weber – Managing Director Terri Lloyd - Graphic Designer Xandria Stavros - Social Media Joe Jaynes – Webmaster



### We are thankful for the support of our 2023-2024 Season Contributing Players!

(Gifts given between August 1, 2023 and Oct. 1, 2023)

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#### **OTHER SUPPORT**

ACA ARP Grant – Arts & Culture Alliance American Renewal Plan Central Baptist Bearden Dept. of the Treasury East Tennessee Foundation Kiwanis Club of Northside Knoxville Knox County National Endowment for the Arts Tennessee Arts Commission

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The WordPlayers is impacting the greater Knoxville community for the Kingdom of Christ! Your support is needed and greatly appreciated! The WordPlayers is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Please send your tax deductible gifts to P.O. Box 50451, Knoxville, TN 37950-0451.



# Upcoming in the 2023-2024 Season

#### **History Tour**

Jackie Robinson Steals Home by Peter Manos Available Feb. 5 - March 5, 2024

#### Spring Mainstage Show King Lear

April 5, 6, 12, 13 @ 7.30 PM, April 7 & 14 @ 2:30 PM at Pellissippi State Community College, 10915 Hardin Valley Rd., Knoxville

#### Summer Musical Fiddler on the Roof

July 12, 13 & 14 @ The Clarence Brown Theatre

For more information regarding our season, please visit our website: www.wordplayers.org To receive periodic updates, please join our email newsletter list and mailing list. Also, follow us on Facebook (The WordPlayers), Twitter (@wordplayers) and Instagram (wordplayers)