

While directing two shows at the same time is an exciting challenge, putting two shows into conversation with one another is a unique opportunity. Although *Trifles* and *Woman's Honor* contain similar motifs, they engage them from different perspectives. *Pieces of Glaspell* presents these perspectives on murder, suspicion, secrets, and female oppression, side-by-side.

As a director, I have distinct views of each play. I see the oppression in *Trifles* as a needle at the bottom of a full sewing basket. Although sharp in their intellect and perception, the women remain overlooked and weighed down by the gender expectations of the time.

In contrast, I see the confining gender roles in *Woman's Honor* as a corset. Women wore corsets in the early 1900s because it was expected of them and viewed as attractive, regardless of the breathtaking restriction they felt. Although corsets were falling out of fashion in the late 1910s, the time in which these plays take place, the women are still constrained by the societal expectations surrounding them.

The women in the plays you are about to see have no right to vote. They are not allowed to serve on juries. If they want to divorce their husbands, they cannot do so without shame and significant loss of financial and societal status. They are expected to perform "woman's work" for their jobs (if they have them) and especially in their homes.

While we live in a very different world today than we did a hundred years ago, the oppression these women faced then speaks to the expectations each of us lives under today. We often do not realize there is more room outside of the basket, more air without the corset.

-Amanda Grissom
Director