THE ARSONISTS

A MORAL PLAY WITHOUT A MORAL

BY MAX FRISCH
TRANSLATED BY ALISTAIR BEATON

NOVEMBER 1-5

SPONSORED BY CGA
The mission of the Theatre & Dance Division is to provide a strong undergraduate education in the theory and practice of theatre and dance, to support the University's general education curriculum, and to enhance the cultural life of the campus community. The division's goal is to develop students' working knowledge and application of historical and contemporary theories and practices in performance, design and technology, and dramatic and critical literature. We strive to develop artists who are imaginative critical thinkers and effective communicators producing art that celebrates humanity and challenges complacency.

Division of Theatre & Dance
Faculty and Staff
Andrew Blasenak, Introduction to Theatre, Theatre Appreciation, Theatre History
C. Anthony Cole, Dance
Ethan H. Krupp*, Director of Theatre, Design, Stagecraft, Theatre Appreciation, Stage Management
David A. Miller, Acting, Directing, Scriptwriting
Samantha Norton, Voice and Movement, Acting
Julie Petry, Voice and Movement, Dance (Sabbatical Fall 2017)
Sarah Forsythe*, Costume Shop Coordinator
Nick Troisi, Scene Shop Coordinator

Bruce Candlish*, Emeritus Faculty

* Denotes Alpha Psi Omega membership
Bloomsburg University Players presents

The Arsonists
by Max Frisch
Translated by Alistair Beaton

Directed by
David A. Miller

Scenic Design
Jennifer Varbalow

Lighting Design
Cecilia Durbin

Properties Design
Emily James

Costume Design
Karen Anselm

Sound Design
David A. Miller & Ethan H. Krupp

Stage Manager
Chelsea Soto

Technical Director
Ethan H. Krupp

Costume Director
Karen Anselm

Sponsored by CGA
CAST

Gottlieb Biedermann ........... Noah Eisengrein
Babette .......................... Toni Carosella*
Anna ................................ Kendall Baird*
Schmitz ............................. Jonathan Schultz
Eisenring ............................. Carly Carman
Policeman. ........................... Taylor Brigade
Mrs. Knechtling .................... Somer Walsh
Doctor of Philosophy ................ Kyle Bower
Firemen’s Leader. ........ Sorcha Madalee Smith
Chorus of Firemen .......... Brandon Ferguson,
................. Rachel Gloss, Madeline Okuniewski,
........................................ Christopher Thorne*

* Denotes Alpha Psi Omega membership
SETTINGS

A living room.

An attic.

The play will be performed without an intermission
Who are playwright Max Frisch and translator Alistair Beaton?

Max Rudolf Frisch was born May 15th, 1911 and died April 4th, 1991. Frisch was a playwright, novelist and architect. Home for Frisch was Zurich, Switzerland. He lived through both World Wars which deeply influenced his work.

*The Arsonists* started as a short story, titled Burlesque, written in 1949, in part inspired by the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948. Although the play started as a short story, Frisch’s first language was theatre. “As soon as I start to tell a story or describe a landscape, I can’t keep to this ritual language,” Frisch said. Burlesque grew into a radio play, *Horspiel*, in 1953. In 1957 he modified the material into a full-length script, this time naming it *Biedermann und die Brandstifter* (*Biedermann and the Fire Starters*). The first English language production was in 1961. In 2007, Alistair Beaton translated the play, now titled, *The Arsonists*, for the Royal Court Theatre.

Alistair Beaton is known as “one of Britain’s top political satirist” and is fluent in German, Russian, and French. He was asked by the Royal Court Theatre to come up with a fresh translation. Beaton agreed that it still influenced modern audiences and said, “The play itself is an extended metaphor about the weakness of personal ethics in the face of evil.” Beaton describes the main message of the play when he writes, “We can’t be decent people at home while ignoring the evils of the world. It just doesn’t work.”

“When you translate a play, you enter into a very intense and complex relationship with the playwright. Sometimes you feel as if you have invited them into your home.” Beaton said. “I would often find Max Frisch fussing around in the kitchen, tidying everything up and explaining in calm and reasoned toned (as he folded away the tea towels) why we have a moral duty to oppose evil. I agreed with almost everything he said, and I liked how he said it, but he did occasionally irritate me.”

*Kira Loux, Dramaturg*
YOUR COOPERATION IN OBSERVING THE FOLLOWING RULES OF THE HOUSE IS APPRECIATED:

The photography, video, and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices.

The men’s restroom is located at the back of house, near the elevator.
The women’s restroom is directly below it, off the lobby.

You are welcome to bring concessions purchased in the lobby into the theatre, but please clean up at the end of the performance and deposit recycling and trash in appropriate containers.

SPECIAL THANKS!

Dr. Bashar Hanna
Dr. Jim Krause
Dr. James Brown
Rona Anderson
Dr. Stephen Clickard
Linda Fisher
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Nancy Chiado & the Haas Center for the Performing Arts Box Office Staff
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Dawn Ritter

CGA Executive Board and Student Senate
The Bloomsburg University Duplicating Office
The Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble
Michael Yerges, A’nie Kirchner, & Earl Martz
Production Staff

Dramaturg ................................................................. Kira Loux

Associate Costume Designer ...................... Kristin McCullough*

Associate Lighting Designer ....................... A’nie Kirchner*

Assistant Stage Managers ......................... Alex Caspersen,
........................................................................... Isabelle Humes, Kira Loux

Assistant to the Scenic Designer ............... Bailey Guinn

Assistant to the Technical Director .......... Madison Scheuch

Master Electrician ................................................. Production, Inc.
........................................................................... (Zak Knoll* & Dave Yezefski)

Costume Shop Coordinator ..................... Sarah K. Forsythe*

Scene Shop Coordinator .............................. Nick Troisi

Properties Director ............................................. Emily James

Student Production Manager .................. Alex Caspersen,
........................................................................... Kate Mochnacz*

Light Board Operator ............................... Brian Katzmaier*

Sound Board Operator ................................. Kamryn Felty

Wardrobe & Make Up Crew ....................... Natasha Dobbs,
......................................................................... Alicia Chamberlin, Samantha Haines,
......................................................................... Heather Rummings, Paige Thomas-Luv

Properties Crew ............................................. Samantha Haines,
........................................................................... Michael Lamberti, Jonathan Lewis

* Denotes Alpha Psi Omega membership.
Production Staff continued

Stage Management Mentors .......................... Ethan H. Krupp*, ................................................................. A’nie Kirchner*

Box Office Supervisor ................................. Renee Fawess*

Box Office Assistant .................................. Emel Rasim

House Manager ........................................ Taylor Rouillard*

Head Ushers .................. Kimberlin Chilenski, Jordyn Howard

Marketing .................. Toni Carosella*, Madeline Okuniewski, ................................................................. Emel Rasim, Nicola Scicchitano

Costume Shop Work Study Students ............ Kendall Baird*, ................................................................. Natasha Dobbs, Emili LaBoy, Kristin McCullough*

Scene Shop Work Study Students ................. Carly Carman, ................................................................. Jonathan Lewis, Rachel Lewis, Kate Mochnacz*

Costume Construction ........ Visakha Bun, Alex Caspersen, ................................................................. DreLand Goar, Stephon Fields, Capria Fish, ................................................................. Samantha Haines, Damien Jackson, Emily James, ................................................................. Brian Katzmaier*, Jonathan Lewis, Taylor Roulliard*, ................................................................. Taylor Weible, Danielle Wilk

Electrics Crew ....................... Joshua Behanna, Visakha Bun, ................................................................. James Lee, Brandon Leiphart ................................................................. Nicola Scicchitano, Danielle Wilk

Poster & Postcard Design ..... Cara Giannone and Nikki Slivka

Lobby Concessions ................................. Alpha Psi Omega

Program Layout ..................... Toni Carosella*, ................................................................. Ethan H. Krupp*, Kate Mochnacz*
MEET THE CAST AND CREW

Karen Anselm (Costume Designer, Costume Director) is a Professor of Theatre, Costume Designer and Costume Director at Bloomsburg University, Past Vice Commissioner of Makeup, Hair and Wigs for the Costume and Technologies Commission of United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT) and Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) National Chair of Design, Technologies, & Management. MFA graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, costume designs include: Rodelinda for the Pittsburgh Opera, Macbeth and anon(ymous) at BU, You Can’t Take It With You at Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, The Three Sisters at La MaMa, NYC, Summer in Sanctuary at the Abingdon in NYC, Wolf Sonata Bacchae at Dell Arte in Blue Lake, CA., and costumes and scenery for The Bark and the Tree, which was performed for the United Solo Festival on Theatre Row in NYC. Hecate Tribe, a performance piece developed with students using costumes from Macbeth was juried and accepted for performance at the Tribes Exhibit at the Prague Quadrennial 2015. This summer, as the scenographer for Sailing With Goddesses, an adaptation of The Odyssey, she traveled with the company to perform in Hydra, Greece, and also became a certified yoga instructor in Mexico.

Kendall Baird (Anna) is currently a senior at Bloomsburg University, majoring in Theatre Arts with an Integrated Emphasis. She has performed in 18 different musical and nonmusical productions. Since she has begun her enrollment here, she has been in several BU Players’ productions, four of which she has been nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. Kendall also had the honor of performing in Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom, which was an invited production at the 2016 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. In addition to these activities, Kendall is on the executive board for BU Players (Vice President) and Alpha Psi Omega (President).
Kyle Bower (Doctor of Philosophy) is a sophomore at Bloomsburg University from Harrisburg studying Mass Communications with a track in Journalism. A passion for music led him toward musical theatre his senior year of high school, and he is excited to perform in his first college production. He thanks his family and friends for supporting him.

Carly Carman (Eisenring) is a senior at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She is a Theatre Arts major with a Performance Emphasis. In the past, Carly has starred in multiple BU Players productions such as Harvey (Veta Louise Simmons), The Rocky Horror Show (Usherette/Phantom), and The Laramie Project (Multiple roles). She works as a Teacher's Assistant for two sections of Theatre Appreciation, and is a self-proclaimed pasta enthusiast.

Toni Carosella (Babette) is a senior Theatre Arts major with a Performance Emphasis and the current President of the BU Players. Recently, she has been on stage with the BU Players in Lily (staged reading), State of Grimm v. Gretel (Riley), and Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom (Walkthrough).

Alex Caspersen (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore Spanish, Anthropology, and Theatre major with a Design/Technology Emphasis. Previous productions include Central Columbia High School’s Anything Goes (Spotlight), Hello! Dolly (Sound Crew, Townsperson), Into the Woods (Sound Crew), and Crazy for You (Sound Technician), in addition to Bloomsburg University’s Rocky Horror Show (Crew) and Harvey (Wardrobe Crew), and Camp Caldwell’s The Wizard of Oz (Spotlight). Alex is very thankful for the opportunities presented at Bloomsburg University to become a theatre professional.

Cecilia Durbin (Lighting Design) Designs Include: Sideways Stories from Wayside School, The Seagull, A Very Special Christmas Special (Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble); Sense & Sensibility, Love Alone (Playmakers Rep); South Pacific (Triad Stage); Disgraced (Portland Stage Co & Hangar Theatre); The
Taming of the Shrew (Chautauqua Theatre); Murder Ballad, Sex with Strangers (Detroit Public Theatre); All Shook Up, On Golden Pond (New London Barn Playhouse); Hyena (La MaMa, Edinburgh Fringe, United Solo [Best Lighting]); In the Blood (Theatre Horizon [Barrymore nomination]); Amy Surratt's First & Last (Show) (La Mama Club); Stranger from Paradise (Opera Omaha); The Life Model (On the Boards); Circle Mirror Transformation (Univ. of Rochester); Numb (Goat in the Road Productions, JACK); We Are Proud to Present a Presentation…(InterAct Theatre), A Soldier’s Tale (The Bushwick Starr/The Puppet Kitchen).

MFA from NYU; member USA 829. www.durbinlighting.com

Noah Eisengrein (Biedermann) is a freshman Studio Art major with a concentration in Photography. Previous roles at Bucks County Technical High School include: Ensemble (Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?), Corey Palmer Jr. (Back to the 80s), Benny Southstreet (Guys & Dolls), and Shrek (Shrek the Musical).

Brandon Ferguson (Firemen Chorus) is a freshman at Bloomsburg University and he is a Theatre Arts major with a Performance Emphasis and is going to have a minor in Business Management and Administration. He was seen in several shows at Central York High School and several acting/singing showcases in York. He has played roles at his High School and around York such as Mal Beineke in The Addams Family, Steve in Almost Maine, Even in REACH: the Preview, The Pilot in The Little Mermaid and Ernie in Sister Act. Brandon is a member of the International Thespian Society and has had improv training in New York City.

Rachel Gloss (Firemen Chorus) is a Mass Communications major with a Performance minor at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. Rachel has been on the stage since 5th grade and has been in over 20 productions since then. Some of her favorite roles she has had the honor to play are Marian in The Music Man with BaronStage, and Mayzie in Seussical (twice) with Istage and BaronStage. She is grateful to everyone who has made her theatre dreams possible.
**Bailey Guinn** (Assistant to Scenic Designer) is a senior at Bloomsburg University as a Theatre Arts Design and Technology major. Bailey has been involved in Bloomsburg productions from *The Laramie Project* (Assistant Stage Manager) to *Harvey* (Stage Manager) and is excited to gain experience in the world of scenic design.

**Isabelle Humes** (Assistant Stage Manager) She has previously stage managed professionally on *Accomplice*, and *Mrs. Coney* at Steel River Playhouse. She also stage managed Montgomery County Community College's performance of *Rabbit Hole* as well as costume designed *Black Comedy*.

**Emily James** (Properties Designer) is a junior at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. She is a Theatre Major with a focus in Design and Technology. She has worked as the Props Designer for the Bloomsburg University Players past productions of *The Laramie Project, The Rocky Horror Show,* and *Harvey*. She has also completed an internship with the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble as the assistant to the Properties Designer for the world premiere of *Gunpowder Joe* by Anthony Clarvoe. She is ecstatic to be working on the Bloomsburg University Players’ design team again as the Properties Designer for *The Arsonists*. Enjoy the show!

**A'nie Kirchner** (Associate Lighting Designer, Stage Management Mentor) is happy to be working with the BU Players again! Originally from Arlington TX, she is the Company Stage Manager for the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble. She wishes to thank her Bloomsburg family for their love and support.

**Ethan H. Krupp** (Technical Director, Co-Sound Designer) serves as the Director of Theatre and Technical Director for the Bloomsburg University Theatre & Dance Division, as well as a lighting, scenery, properties, and sound designer. He has served as technical director for over 25 BU Players productions. Previous designs for BU Players include *12 Angry Jurors* (scenery), *anon(ymous)* (lighting), and *New Plays In Bloom* (sound). He has also designed for BUP/BTE
co-productions such as *Flood Stories, Too* and *Hamlet* (scenery). He teaches Theatre Appreciation, Scene Design, Lighting Design and Theory, and Theatre Production/Stagecraft. He holds an MFA in Theatre Design and Technology from University of Montana.

**Kira Loux** (Assistant Stage Manager/Dramaturg) is on her third year at Bloomsburg University as a double major in Theatre Arts and History. She was the dramaturg on the BU Players spring production of *Harvey*, by Mary Chase and was honored to do it again for *The Arsonists*, by Max Frisch. She is also on the assistant stage directing team for *The Arsonists*. Kira enjoyed many on stage appearances in high school and is excited for her upcoming role in *Riders to the Sea*, by John Millington Synge as part of the directing projects.

**Kristin McCullough** (Associate Costume Designer) is a senior Theatre Arts major with a Design emphasis at Bloomsburg University and is the Associate Costume and Make-up Designer for this show. At the 11th Annual Personal Adornment Day on April 16, 2015 she received Honorable Mention in Makeup for doing a half robot and organic stylized makeup. She serves as the treasurer of Alpha Psi Omega, a theatre honors fraternity. She was a member of Center for Visual and Preforming Arts (CVPA) as a freshman in their CVPA Living and Learning Community, and was also involved in the Women’s Choir. Previous acting roles include: Student in *13 the Musical* at Lower Moreland High School. She also was a Wardrobe and Costume Construction crew member for *Macbeth* and *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, Makeup Designer for *The Nosemaker's Apprentice: Chronicles of a Medieval Plastic Surgeon*, Deck Crew member for *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Harvey*. She also served as Assistant Master Electrician for Harvey. Her hobbies also include skiing, drawing, and gaming.

**David A. Miller** (Director, Co-Sound Design) is a professional director, playwright and educator. David joined the faculty at Bloomsburg University in the fall of 2012 and teaches all levels of acting, directing and playwriting. David directs mainstage productions for the BU Players and mentors student-
directed projects. Professionally, David is a resident director for Amphibian Stage Productions in Fort Worth, TX. His Amphibian productions include *Wittenberg* by David Davalos (Outstanding Direction and Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble, Dallas Fort Worth Critics Forum) and *Gutenberg! The Musical!* (Best Production of the Year, Reader's Choice, Fort Worth Weekly). NYC Directing includes NYMF, Prospect Theater Company, Vital Theater Company, WTE Theatre, Samuel French OOB, Piper Theatre, The New Acting Company. David is the former founding Artistic Director of The Artful Conspirators, a Drama League Directing Alumni, and a graduate of Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University (MFA, Directing).

**Madeline Okuniewski** (Firemen Chorus) is a senior Theatre Arts Major with a Performance Emphasis and a minor in Dance. Credits include *Harvey* (Betty Chumley), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Phantom 6) and *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Leslie/Barbara) with the BU Players, *Me and My Girl* (Major Domo) with Barley Sheaf Players, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Ethel Peas) and *Titanic: The Musical* (Darlene Watkins) with Downingtown West Music Theatre. Graduating in December, this will be her final main stage production with the BU Players.

**Jonathan Schultz** (Schmitz) is a senior Theatre Arts major at Bloomsburg University with an emphasis in performance. He has done both acting and crew work for the BU Players. After being nominated back to back for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship for his roles as Eddie and Dr. Scott and Dr. William Chumely in the BU Players productions of *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Harvey*, Jon Schultz is burning to portray his new found wrestling alternate ego Joe Schmitz. This play comes at a poignant moment in our lives and attention is as appreciated as it is a necessity to survival. All the people who support him is the reason Jon is able to bring joy and entertainment to all; he thanks you all for your devoted encouragement.

**Sorcha Madalee Smith** (Firemen’s Leader) is a senior at Bloomsburg University, majoring in Theatre Arts with a
Performance emphasis. Sorcha has previously been apart of *The Rocky Horror Show* (Usherette/Phantom), *The Laramie Project* (Romaine/Tiffany), *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (Kaitlyn/Chelsea), and more. Sorcha is very excited to be involved with *The Arsonists*.

**Chelsea Soto** (Stage Manager) is a sophomore at Bloomsburg University. She is a Technical Theatre Major with an interest in lighting design. She was light board operator for the BU Players for past productions such as *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Harvey*, and a few of the Student Directing Project plays. Chelsea has also helped backstage with BTE for their closing show of *The BFG* and helped BTE “strike” or clear the stage after a few of their shows. Chelsea is hoping to branch out into many of the different areas of the theatre arts during her time in Bloomsburg University.

**Christopher Thorne** (Firemen Chorus) is a junior Theatre Arts (Integrated Emphasis) and Creative Writing dual major at Bloomsburg University. Chris has played the roles of E.J. Lofgren in Mary Chase’s *Harvey*, Hansel in Kate Mochnacz’s adaptation of *State of Grimm v Grethel*, and Shane in Kellie Powell’s *Collaboration*. He has also played Cooper Worths in *Living Within: Stage Script*, by Bailey Guinn. He also spent his high school career in the Renaissance Faire club where he learned how to do improv and how to script and perform staged combat.

**Jennifer Varbalow** (Scenery Designer) has been designing and teaching for the past 20 years. She is very excited to be back at Bloomsburg after having designed *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, and *Harvey*. Credits include designs for Bryant Park, Drilling Company/Shakespeare in the Parking Lot, Resonance Ensemble, The Artful Conspirators, The Workshop Theater, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Theatre Garden, City Lights Youth Theater, Pulse Ensemble Theatre, DR2 Theatre, Queens Theatre in the Park, and many other Off and Off-off Broadway companies. Jennifer is also a Teaching Artist with Roundabout Theatre Company, The Metropolitan Opera Guild, and other arts organizations. She has an MFA from Brandeis and a BFA from Rutgers University.
Somer Walsh (Mrs. Knechtling) is a senior at Bloomsburg University majoring in Secondary Education with a concentration in English and a minor in Theatre Arts. She is a member of the BU players and a campus run book club. Previous roles include Ensemble (Pippin), Shepherd (A Shepherd’s Play), Ensemble (Beauty and the Beast), Bumpkin/Ensemble (The Love of Three Oranges), Chastity (Anything Goes), Charlotte Wolfe (Up the Down Staircase), Debra Fox (Back to the 80s), Fur is Back (A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer). Somer has also directed and stage-managed shows at a performing arts summer camp. This is her first BU Player’s performance.

**Alpha Psi Omega (ΑΨΩ)**

A national Theatre Honor Society for participants in collegiate theatre. The Alpha Cast was founded at Fairmont State College (now Fairmont State University) on August 12, 1925 by Prof. Paul F. Opp. As the Alpha Omicron cast, Bloomsburg University is home to the 39th oldest of the 1,074 casts nationwide. The 96th pledge class at Bloomsburg University was inducted during the Spring 2017 semester.

Students are selected for membership based on their activities in theatre at BU and their leadership in the BU Players and Theatre & Dance Division.

**Center for the Visual and Performing Arts**

The Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, as well as Art & Art History, English, and Mass Communications contribute to Bloomsburg University's Center for the Visual and Performing Arts. The CVPA was formed to provide a vital link between the university and Bloomsburg Community, primarily through its downtown performance locations.

www.bloomu.edu/cvpa
The Michael Collins Theatre Scholarship has been established to assist theatre students in their educational pursuits.

Contributions may be made to the Bloomsburg University Foundation. Please designate donations to the “Michael Collins Endowed Theatre Scholarship.”

For further information, and for additional options, please contact:

Ethan Krupp
Director of Theatre
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Bloomsburg University Players Executive Board 2017-18

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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
What’s Next at BTE?

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Adapted from Charles Dickens
Nov. 24 - Dec. 27, 2017
www.bte.org