UAB
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
Howard L. Reynolds, Chair

presents

THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL

by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

A SOUTHSIDE REPERTORY THEATRE PRODUCTION

Directed by BOBBY FUNK

OCTOBER 17 - 21, 1995
8:00pm

UAB BELL THEATRE
700 13th Street South
UAB DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE presents
A SOUTHSIDE REPERTORY THEATRE PRODUCTION

THE NIGHT THOREAU SPENT IN JAIL
by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

Opening Night - October 17, 1995

Directed by BOBBY FUNK

Costume Design by KIMBERLY SCHNORMEIER

Lighting Design by LANG REYNOLDS

Scenic Design by KEL LAEGER

Stage Management by DENNIS DEAN and JUNE GARZA

This production is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

This production is funded in part by the UAB Cultural Activities Committee

THERE WILL BE ONE TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

CAST

Ralph Waldo Emerson .................................................. JOHN WRIGHT, JR.
Lydia Emerson ............................................................. KATHRYN M. ANDREWS
Mother ................................................................. VIRGINIA MAE SCHMITT
Henry David Thoreau ................................................. SAM L. LANDMAN
John Thoreau ............................................................ STEVEN VARNES
Bailey ..................................................................... VAN DUBOSE
Deacon Ball .............................................................. STERLING BREWER
Ellen Sewell ............................................................. CYNTHIA BRENNER
Sam Staples ............................................................... PHILL ROBINSON
Edward Emerson ....................................................... JASON EVANS
Farmer/Minister ......................................................... DAVID ROBERTS
Woman .................................................................. ANNE R. CARMICHAEL
Henry Williams ......................................................... ANTHONY IRONS
Voice/Soldier ........................................................... MICHKA GRANT
Soldier ..................................................................... JEFF SANFORD

PRODUCTION STAFF

Vocal Coach .............................................................. KARMA IBSEN
Technical Director .................................................... RUSS FRIEDRIKIS
Assistant Stage Manager ............................................ JEFF SANFORD
Costume Shop Supervisor .......................................... JANE KLEMENS
Master Carpenter ...................................................... CHRIS LONG
Master Electrician ...................................................... JOHN HILLIN
Properties Manager .................................................... KIM HACKBARTH
Lightboard Operator .................................................... MARK LONG
Soundboard Operator ................................................ ALICIA VAUGHAN
Sound Technician ...................................................... J. HEIT LUNCEFORD
Special Effects Operator .......................................... MIKE ROLINS
Projectionist ............................................................. CHRIS HULBERT
Production Construction Crew ................................ ANDY CHAPLE,
JOHN DOUGLAS, THEATRE 201 CLASS

Properties Construction .............................................. THEATRE 221 CLASS
Production Assistant ................................................ SYLVIA HAGAN
Costume Construction ............................................... JEFF SANFORD,
KATIE HOWARD, JENNIFER HOWELL

Wardrobe Assistant ................................................... SARAH CORRERO
Box Office Manager ................................................... KATHLEEN CROWDER
House Manager ........................................................ DANA DICHIARA
Slide Photographer ........................................................ CYNTHIA LYBRAND
Promotion Directors .................................................. MARY McCORD-SHORT, MELANIE PARKER
Administrative Associates ............................................ BILLIE SHELDON,
LEE BLUE, DENNIS DEAN

Student Assistants ..................................................... SHERMETRA DELENE,
LISA WOOLEY, CHRIS HARDIN
CHRONOLOGY

1817: Born on July 12th in Concord, Massachusetts.

1837: Henry Thoreau graduates from Harvard at twenty, comes home to Concord, and looks for a career. At Ralph Waldo Emerson's suggestion probably, also begins a Journal.

1838: Gives his first lecture before the Concord Lyceum, thus initiating a practice that was to have an important effect on his writing. Becomes an intimate of Emerson.

1839: With his brother John, embarks on a "fluvial excursion" along the Concord and Merrimack, and gathers material for the Week. Falls in love with Ellen Sewell.


1841: As handyman and friend, takes up residence with the Emersons. Is attracted to Lydian Emerson.

1842: Publishes in the Dial, which carries nine of his best poems and his essay "Natural History of Massachusetts." His beloved brother John Thoreau dies.

1843: Leaves Emerson's home to act as tutor to Emerson's nephew at Staten Island and to try his luck with the New York literary market. Publishes a few more essays and poems.

1844: Goes to live in a hut beside Walden Pond. Commences his period of greatest literary productivity.

1845: On July 23rd or 24th arrested by Sam Staples for not paying his poll tax and spends the night in jail. This will lead to Thoreau's writing of his most powerful and influential essay, "Civil Disobedience."

1846: Travels to Maine; gathers some of the material later to go into The Maine Woods.

1847: Ends Walden experiment, resumes residence at the Emerson home.

1848: Sartain's Union Magazine prints "Ktaadn and the Maine Woods."

1849: Thoreau's first book, the Week, and most influential essay, "Civil Disobedience," published.

1851: Thoreau aligns himself with the abolitionists.

1853: Busy as surveyor in Concord; sees publication of opening portions of A Yankee in Canada; visits Maine woods for the second time.

1854: Walden, or, Life in the Woods published.

1855: First episodes of Cape Cod appear in Putnam's Monthly Magazine; the rest are withdrawn when the editor tries to censor Thoreau.

1856: Thoreau surveys and lectures; stays briefly at Horace Greeley's farm. Is introduced to Walt Whitman in New York.

1857: Fight over slavery intensifies; Thoreau meets John Brown and is deeply impressed by him.

1860: More essays, including two on Brown, are printed; Thoreau goes on last camping excursion: climbs Monadnock in company with Ellery Channing. At end of year becomes ill.

1861: In search of good health, travels to Minnesota. Works up final group of essays for The Atlantic Monthly, including "Walking" and "Life without Principle."

1862: Dies of tuberculosis in spring.

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured, or far away."

- Henry David Thoreau
hundred years ago Henry David Thoreau was looked upon as a minor disciple of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Fifty years ago he was thought of as an "also-ran" who was rapidly and deservedly being forgotten. Yet today he is widely rated as one of the giants in the American pantheon and his fame is on an upward rather than a downward curve. It is universally agreed that he speaks more to our day than to his own.

Nature lovers find solace and beauty in his works. Critics of our times find in him one of the great satirists of our foibles and follies. Conservationists look upon him as the pioneer in their battle to save our natural resources. Litterateurs hail him as one of the great modern prose stylists. Reformers have seized upon his theory of civil disobedience as their most effective weapon. Advocates of the simple life see in his philosophy the solution of some of the most pressing problems of our day.

Leaders in many fields have hailed his influence. Robert Frost has said: "In Thoreau's declaration of independence from the modern pace is where I find most justification for my own propensities"; Mahatma Gandhi: "There is no doubt that Thoreau's ideas greatly influenced my movement in India"; Henry Miller: "There are barely a half-dozen names in the history of America which have meaning for me. Thoreau's is one of them"; Frank Lloyd Wright: "The history of American Architecture would be incomplete without Thoreau's wise observations on the subject"; Justice William O. Douglas of the United States Supreme Court: "Thoreau lived when men were appraising trees in terms of board feet, not in terms of watershed protection and birds and music. His protests against that narrow outlook were among the first heard on this continent"; Sinclair Lewis: "Walden [is] one of the three or four unquestionable classics of American literature"; and President John F. Kennedy has paid tribute to "Thoreau's pervasive and universal influence on social thinking and political action."

- WALTER HARDING

"Transcendentalism is plain living and high thinking."

- OLIVER WENDDELL HOLMES