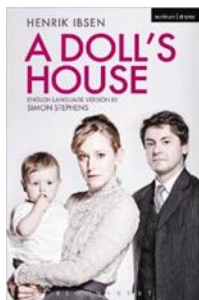


Theatre III & IV Honors Reading List – 2015-2016 School Year

Directions: Choose one of the plays from the list to read. You must be prepared to discuss and be assessed by ____.

Notes from your teacher: It is highly recommended that you keep track of passages that emphasize technical aspects of the play (costumes, setting, makeup, etc.) Considering that each of the plays is centered on a different historical period, it may be necessary to research the time period, culture, etc. in order to gain a better understanding of the text.



A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

A Doll's House richly displays the genius with which Henrik Ibsen pioneered modern, realistic prose drama. In the central character of Nora, Ibsen epitomized the human struggle against the humiliating constraints of social conformity. Nora's ultimate rejection of a smothering marriage and life in "a doll's house" shocked theatergoers of the late 1800s and opened new horizons for playwrights and their audiences. (Public domain)



Macbeth by William Shakespeare

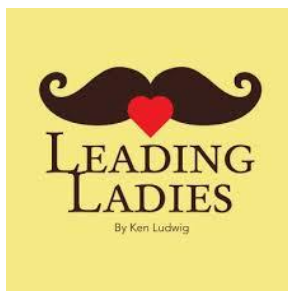
Shakespeare's classic tale of ambition and greed set in the Scottish Highlands. His bloodiest and shortest play.



The Good Doctor by Neil Simon*

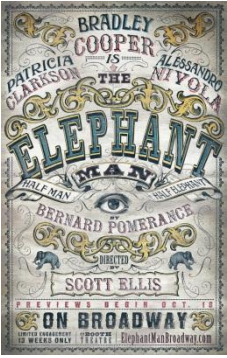
Based on the short stories of Anton Chekhov. In one sketch a harridan storms a bank and upbraids the manager for his gout and lack of money. In another sketch, a crafty seducer goes to work on a wedded woman, only to realize that the woman has been in command from the first overture. Let us not forget the classic tale of a man who offers to drown himself for three rubles. The stories are droll, the portraits affectionate, the humor infectious and the fun unending. (Samuel French)

"A great deal of warmth and humor in his retelling of these Chekhovian tales."-
Newhouse Newspapers



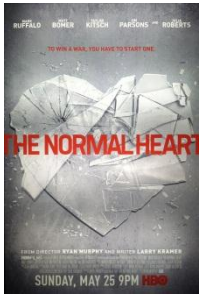
Leading Ladies by Ken Ludwig*

Two English Shakespearean actors, Jack and Leo, find themselves so down on their luck that they are performing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose Lodge circuit in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. When they hear that an old lady in York, PA is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long lost English nephews, they resolve to pass themselves off as her beloved relatives and get the cash. The trouble is, when they get to York, they find out that the relatives aren't nephews, but nieces! Romantic entanglements abound, especially when Leo falls head-over-petticoat in love with the old lady's vivacious niece, Meg, who's engaged to the local minister. Meg knows that there's a wide world out there, but it's not until she meets "Maxine and Stephanie" that she finally gets a taste of it. (Samuel French)



The Elephant Man by Bernard Pomerance **

Based on the life of John Merrick, who lived in London during the latter part of the nineteenth century. A horribly deformed young man, who has been a freak attraction in traveling side shows, is found abandoned and helpless and is admitted for observation to Whitechapel, a prestigious London hospital. Under the care of a famous young doctor, who educates him and introduces him to London society, Merrick changes from a sensational object of pity to the urbane and witty favorite of the aristocracy and literati. But his belief that he can become a man like any other is a dream never to be realized. (Samuel French)



The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer **

A searing drama about public and private indifference to the AIDS plague and one man's lonely fight to awaken the world to the crisis. Produced to acclaim in New York, London and Los Angeles, The Normal Heart follows Ned Weeks, a gay activist enraged at the indifference of public officials and the gay community. While trying to save the world from itself, he confronts the personal toll of AIDS when his lover dies of the disease.

"An angry, unrelenting and gripping piece of political theatre."-*New York Daily News*

** Contains mature language. No mature language is outside the integrity of the storyline.*

*** Contains implications of mature content including but not limited to mature language*