

PLAYBILL

The First Baptist Church of Austin
presents an amateur performance of

Trinity Street Players Present

Shadowlands

a drama by William Nicholson
the true story of C. S. Lewis and Joy Gresham



**"Why love if losing hurts so much?
I have no answers any more.
Only the life I have lived."**

Directed by David McCullars
Starring Jose Shenkner
& Linda Miller Raff

Shadowlands

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| Director & Set Design | David McCullars |
| Assistant Director | Cathy Jones |
| Lighting and Sound Coordinator | Jordan Dollar |
| Lighting Technician | Paul Webster Feinstein |
| Sound Technician | Roxie Keenan |

Cast

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| Jose Shenkner | C.S. (Jack) Lewis |
| Linda Miller Raff | Joy Gresham |
| Joe Grady Moore, III | Warnie Lewis |
| Alex Wruck | Douglas Gresham (alt. performances) |
| Ryan Ramsey | Douglas Gresham (alt. performances) |
| Ben Eynon | Christopher Riley |
| Ken Ramsey | Harry Harrington |
| John Baltisburger | Alan Gregg / Doctor / Registrar (alt. performances) |
| Jeremy Harper | Maurice Oakley / Priest / Waiter |
| Rana Haddad | French Woman / Registrar / Nurse (alt. performances) |
| Elizabeth Avant | Nurse (alt. performances) |

There will be a 15-20 minute intermission between Acts. Concessions are available for a donation. Restrooms are on the West side of the 3rd and 4th floors.

Shadowlands

Joy Davidman Gresham was born into an upper middle-class Jewish family in the Bronx in 1915, a child prodigy who read H. G. Wells's *The Outline of History* at age eight, had a photographic memory, scored off the chart on IQ tests, and entered college at age fourteen. She began her career as a poet and writer, her collection *Letters to a Comrade* winning several accolades including sharing the Russell Loines Memorial Prize with Robert Frost. Having begun life as a devout materialist and atheist, she became heavily involved in the ever-growing American Communist Party during the 1930's.

Joy's first marriage to fellow writer Bill Gresham ended in failure due in large part to Bill's alcoholism, infidelity, and abuse. It was during this time that Joy converted to Christianity, and, as she did with all things, made it the sole focus of her life, but she struggled to reconcile her own intellect with many of the well-established church doctrines she encountered. Discovering the apologetics of C.S. Lewis, she found a kindred spirit, and, at the suggestion of friend Chad Walsh, she began writing Lewis letters. Joy eventually moved (with her two sons David and Douglas) to England and married Lewis twice, once "before country" to secure British citizenship and then again "before God" after the two fell in love. After a long battle with bone cancer, Joy died at the age of 45.

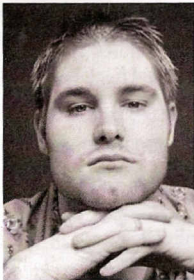
Clive Staples (Jack) Lewis was perhaps one of the greatest literary figures for the English language in the 20th century. Born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1898, Clive chose the nickname "Jack" after his dog Jacksie was killed by a car at age four. At age nine, tragedy hit again in a more profound way when his mother finally succumbed to cancer. In that same year, Jack's uncle and grandfather also died, leaving Jack's father Albert emotionally devastated, something he never overcame. Despite all of this, Jack and older brother Warnie had vivid imaginations and spent much of their time dreaming of lands of talking animals and magical creatures, precursors to the stories he would eventually write in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Attending several ineffective boarding schools, Jack finally found himself under the tutelage of master teacher W. T. Kirkpatrick (known as "The Great Knock") who was instrumental in forming Jack into the critical thinker he eventually became. It was also at this time that Jack gave up on his childhood religion and fully embraced atheism.

After a semester at Oxford, Jack enlisted as a British officer during World War I. Along with most of his generation, the horrors he saw there scarred him for life, in particular seeing his own sergeant sacrifice his life to save Jack's. After the war, Jack finished his education at Oxford and, true to a promise he made to his dear friend Paddy Moore (who died in the war), moved in with Paddy's mother and sister to care for them. Life with Janie Moore was anything but ideal, a needy tyrant who had serious psychological issues, but Jack suffered through it selflessly for 30 years, taking what little comfort he could in the serenity of their home "The Kilns," in his writing, and especially with his circle of friends and colleagues, the Inklings. This group, which included fellow literary giant J.R.R. Tolkien, met together in pubs and in Lewis's office for decades; both *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* and *The Hobbit* were first read aloud and heatedly debated around this table of men. It was also during this time that Jack changed his religious views, first becoming a theist and eventually accepting Christianity. Much of Jack's writing is geared at offering logical defenses of his faith, but Jack also wrote many various forms of literature including science fiction, children's fantasy, literary history, and poetry.

Jack's marriage to Joy was anything but popular and bordered on scandalous. Her superior intelligence, brash American manners, and feminist politics did not win her any friends among Jack's circle, though Warnie grew to love her dearly as a sister. Jack adored David and Douglas, paying for their educations and fighting passionately to keep the boys in his custody after Joy's death. However, losing Joy utterly destroyed Jack, and he never truly recovered. Three years after her death, he died from renal failure, incidentally on the very same day as President John F. Kennedy.



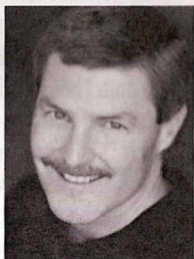
Elizabeth Avant is excited to be making her Trinity Street Players debut. She is a member of First Baptist Church, the Amani class, Cantamos, Sanctuary Choir and Handbells, and the Adult Education Committee. Her previous credits at FBC include the narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Godspell*, and of course her premiere role as the resurrected daughter in *Celebrate Life*. Elizabeth is currently in her first year as a very busy elementary music teacher in Austin.



John Baltisberger has grown and thrived in the acting world in Austin for the last fourteen years. With a Degree in Directing from Texas State University in San Marcos. John has a love of grim and grimey theatre, taking classical plays by Marlowe and Shakespeare and bringing them to harsh semi-light. Despite all of this, he enjoys a laugh, a smile and the occasional hip-snapping.



Jordan Dollar is a member of FBC Austin and in addition to working with Trinity Street Players, teaches a section of FBC's Symposium Sunday School Class. This is his fifth show with TSP although his acting experience spans nearly forty shows over the last twelve years. He is grateful to be part of such a great theater program, and to have the chance to get his hands dirty and try something new.



Benjamin Eynon had performed in dozens of church drama team skits over the last 20 years as well as having acted, sung, and written for an annual comedy show in Monterey, CA during the mid-2000's. By day, he is a semiconductor industry professional with educational backgrounds in both microelectronic engineering and industrial/organizational psychology. He lives in Round Rock, Texas with his wife, Lori, who is his best friend and the love of his life, and has two beautiful daughters: Lauren and Lacy. Benjamin's bowties were provided by Lori's parents, Carol and Herb Riddle, who live nearby in Austin and who now know why on earth they have been keeping them in a box in their closet all these years!



Paul Webster Feinstein continues his involvement with the TSP because, quite frankly, he has nothing better to do. This time he extends his talents, or what he deems as talents, or moreso, what he deems as employable talents, to the lighting of this show. That's right, as you enjoy this theatrical performance, Paul Webster will be sitting behind you. In the dark. Alone. And slightly afraid of the bat he saw at the last rehearsal. His previous experiences with the Trinity Street Players includes arresting Joe Grady Moore III in *You Can't Take It With You* and dying onstage in *The Fantasticks*. Paul Webster is a native Austinite and FBC member.



Rana Haddad (French Woman/Registrar/Nurse), Lebanese born, went to Syracuse University NY and earned her Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. She is fluent in Arabic, French, English, and conversational Spanish and Italian. She grew up thinking she had one brain until she started helping her daughter and then her son with auditions. That was the turning point: she discovered she had a right brain too! From that day on, she has been on a mission to negotiate a deal between her right brain and left brain to give them equal playing time. She has been in a few films such as *Infamous*, *The Devil Wears Prada* and *A Mighty Heart*, and on Showtime in *Hope's War* and *Sleeper Cell*. She recently finished doing some voice over work for UNICEF.



Jeremy Harper is a long time admirer of C.S. Lewis since childhood, he is excited to play a small part in the TSP rendition of *Shadowlands*. A new member of the Austin community, Jeremy spent his first several months serving the children's ministry of a local church as Producer, Director, Writer and Actor reaching hundreds of children every week for Christ through such productions as *Spy Command*, *Spirit Olympics*, *Justice Squad*, and *Lost*. Recently, Jeremy began to seriously pursue his acting career and landed both leading and supporting roles in several short films like *Yes Man*, *Family Grace*, *No Show*, *Vindication* as well as a music video called *Super Hero*. Jeremy owns a small business development company and is a loving husband and adoring father of three little girls. My love and thanks to Shawna, Shiloe, Shelby, and Sophia.



Cathy Jones has been promoting theatre at FBC for 13 years because she believes it can be such a powerful tool for examining life's great questions in fresh and compelling ways, and for having a great time! She is extremely grateful to this congregation and its wonderful staff for their unflagging enthusiasm and support. And she is especially proud of David McCullars' directorial debut in this moving piece. She has directed *Incident at Vichy*, *J.B.*, *Angels Over Austin*, *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *The Fantasticks*. We will reprise Arthur Miller's powerful *Incident at Vichy* this Lent, and she promises it will give you a new understanding of the season.