arts & ideas

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

MAN CAVE: VOLUMES I & II

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 • 7:30PM KEITH WHITE THEATRE

MAN CAVE: A ONE-MAN SCI-FI CLIMATE CHANGE TRAGICOMEDY, VOLUMES I & II

Six years ago, Tim Mooney brought *Man Cave; a One-Man Sci-Fi Climate Change Tragicomedy* to Lewis University. *Man Cave* featured "the last man on Earth, broadcasting to whatever Klingons, Vulcans or Tralfamadorians might still be listening."

Man Cave was only one of SEVEN one-man shows, Mooney has brought to Lewis over the years; past events have included *Moliere than Thou* (2008) *Lot o' Shakespeare* (2012), *Shakespeare's Histories* (2015), *Breakneck Hamlet* (2016) and *Breakneck Twelfth Nigh*t in 2025.

Now, Tim has returned to the theme of the original *Man Cave*, with a SEQUEL. That second play now combines with *Volume I* to present a two-part "one-two punch" in a single evening! Those who caught the original *Man Cave* may remember that play ending on a "cliffhanger," with lots of people wondering just what happens next! While we, as a nation, briefly toyed with incentivizing green energy, the events of the last couple of years (and particularly the last presidential election) gave new life to the idea.

Both of these plays bring science to life in a fascinating and powerful dramatic fashion, endorsed by Environmental Science and Global Education faculties from California to Illinois to Florida, all celebrating the way these works make science accessible, engaging and even "terrifying."

The first *Man Cave* explored how the world got into the climate conundrum, and how very quickly the environmental balance tipped us over into a cataclysm that we all somehow struggled to NOT see coming! Following a brief intermission, this second *Man Cave* widens the lens a little further. Mooney notes, "It's still very much a tragicomedy, but this time the comedy takes on a very different tone, with a plot development I'm pretty sure nobody who saw *Volume I* is likely to see coming!"

"That first *Man Cave* depicted the end of civilization as we've known it, but *Volume II* stretches to grasp the epic size and vastness of (what must seem to us as) the 'nothingness' to follow. It's about as close as we can get to grasping the 'infinity' that preceded us as a species and the infinity that will follow after we're gone. My other favorite playwright (other than Shakespeare), Molière, once wrote, 'We die but once… but for such a very long time!'"

Tim took a year away from his *Breakneck Shakespeare* project to deal with a more immediate crisis. "While I think that an appreciation of Shakespeare lifts the overall spirit of humanity, I realized that such an understanding will do nobody any good if there are no humans left to understand that 'human condition.'"

Upcoming Arts&Ideas Events

TIMOTHY ARCHBOLD: MUSIC FOR CELLO & PIANO PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Monday, November 16, 2026 - 7:30 pm *Convocation Hall*

Come join us for an unforgettable evening of classical music as renowned cellist, Timothy Archbold, takes the stage at Lewis University. This extraordinary artist will perform a captivating program featuring beloved classical works alongside newer compositions.

WADSWORTH FAMILY ART GALLERY

My Town, My Country by Bill Bartelt
Gallery Talk

OCTOBER 1-23, 2026
OCTOBER 22 - 7PM

Bill Bartelt grew up in Joliet, the son of a farm dealer, in the days when it was still both a "cow town" and a "railroad town." The fascination for both has never left him. During a Chicago career in show business, Bill painted the rails, bridges, and watertanks that he first loved as a kid. Travels around the countryside kept him close to his rural roots, and the hills, forests and rivers have kept him sustained and inspired.

PHILIP LYNCH THEATRE

October 2-4 & October 8-11

The Gods of Comedy is a fast-paced comedy by Ken Ludwig about two young classics professors, Daphne and Ralph, who make a career-changing discovery: a supposedly authentic, unknown manuscript of the ancient Greek playwright Euripides. When the manuscript goes missing, Daphne desperately calls on the gods of ancient Greece for help-and to her shock, the Greek god Dionysus and the Muse Thalia actually appear. Instead of quietly solving the problem, the two immortal visitors create chaos across a prestigious university campus. As Dionysus and Thalia try to navigate the modern world, they become involved in misunderstandings, romantic complications, academic rivalries, and outrageous schemes. Their larger-than-life personalities clash with the serious, status-conscious culture of the university, leading to mistaken identities, physical comedy, and increasingly absurd situations. The play is a screwball farce that combines: Greek mythology, modern college life, romantic comedy, satire of academia and social status, physical comedy and witty dialogue. At its heart, The Gods of Comedy asks whether knowledge, fame, and success are really as important as love, joy, and human connection-all while keeping the audience laughing.

Tickets required. Tickets available at www.lewisu.edu/plt

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rome: The Eternal City	Tuesday, September 22 – 2pm *AS 157A*
College of Business Dean's Lecture Series: The Future Takes Flight: AI, Drones, & Urban Air Mobility	Wednesday, September 23 – Noon *SB 171*
Making a Scene: The Roles of Brinkmanship in the Rise of Political Outsiders Such as Donald Trump	Wednesday, September 23 – 2pm *AS 158A*
Film Screening & Discussion: Is God Is	Wednesday, September 23 – 4:30pm *DL 250 Damian Auditorium*
New Mexico: Land of Enchantment and Innovation	Thursday, September 24 – 2pm *AS 150A*
Practicing Reparative Justice: Truth, Accountability, and Healing in Catholic Education	Wednesday, September 30 – 4:30pm *University Dining Room*
New Mexico: A Historical and Geographical Crossroads	Tuesday, October 6 – 2pm *AS 158A*
From Prison to the Olympics: A Talk with Tony Hoffman	Wednesday, October 7 – 5pm *University Dining Room*

We acknowledge the Land on which we stand and occupy today as the original home of many past Indigenous peoples—most recently the Illini, Potawatomi, Ojibwa, Odawa, Sauk, Fox, and Miami and acknowledge Indigenous understanding of and reverence for the land and its resources, and the respect Indigenous people have shown towards all life upon it. We acknowledge the history of racism and displacement of these peoples from their homelands, the disrespect for traditional cultures, and the extreme hardship Native and Non-Native Americans have endured on the road to recovering their cultures spiritually, physically, and economically. As an institution of higher learning, it is our duty to remind future generations the debt we owe to the original stewards of this continent.

Arts&Ideas Lewis programming is made possible by generous support from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, Arts Midwest, and the Illinois Humanities.

Visit **luartsandideas.org** *for details to these & all of the great Arts&Ideas events.*