



# 'Life of Galileo' is a success

## *BC Theatre captures 17th century astronomy*

By Carmen Boone  
Copy Editor

The Brevard College theatre program put on another great show last week and throughout the weekend. "Life of Galileo" was done incredibly well Thursday, Feb. 13 through Saturday Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2:30 p.m.

"Life of Galileo," originally written by Bertolt Brecht, was adapted by David Hare and directed here by visiting director Catherine Barricklow. It starred many talented BC students as well.

Anthony Zuniga played the leading role of Galileo. Sydney Windham played Andrea, Galileo's pupil, and an astronomer. Claudia Dahlman played four roles: Signora Sarti, Second Monk, Cardinal Bellarmin and Crier.

Playing Ludovico, Old Cardinal and Man was Kristian Michels. K'niqwe Eichelberger played five roles. He played The Chancellor, Chamberlain, The Cardinal Inquisitor, Vanni

and a frontier guard.

The role of Virginia, Galileo's daughter, was played by Sallie Marie Watson. Gabriel Bernhard played Sagredo, Mathematician and Barberini. Sarah Hajkowsky played five roles. She was Federzoni, Clavius the astronomer, First Clerk, Senator, an official and Peasant.

Lisa Arrona also played several roles as well. She was Cosimo, First Monk, Second Clerk, Senator and Monk. Emma Harris played four roles including Philosopher, The Little Monk, The Rector and Senator. Countless others were working as the production team behind the scenes to make the show as great as it was.

The play has two acts and is divided into 13 scenes. It takes place in Padua in 1609, in Galileo's classroom at a university. After that, the scenes take us to Venice, Florence, Rome, the countryside and the Italian Frontier. The years also span all the way to 1637.

At the beginning, in 1609, Galileo Galilei created his own telescope to study the sun,

moon, stars and planets. He discovered something that had not yet been seen before. What he saw challenged the preconceived ideas about the divine order of the universe and what was really at the center of it: Earth.

Galileo's books were written in the language of "common people" as opposed to more scholarly Latin. His work set off a "thirst for truth" and his notes and observations proved that the sun was in fact at the center of the universe, and the planets orbit it.

A number of great inventions were designed by Galileo such as irrigation water pumps, a proportional compass and the pendulum clock. He believed reason and truth could lead him to the answers of many of the biggest questions. "My trust is in men because they employ reason in their everyday lives," Galileo said. "I believe in reason."

Galileo always searched for new information and longed to answer questions others could not. His research and discoveries proved him to be one of the more influential scientists to give us bearing on how our relationships work in turn with the natural world and, on a larger scale, within the universe. "There is no virtue in ignorance," Galileo said. All the characters interweaved perfectly to tell the story of how what we know about the universe today was discovered, and the challenges that many faced to prove it.

The ideas Galileo presented certainly challenged ideas that many were not willing to change. "The play centers on Galileo Galilei, the revolutionary Italian mathematician and physicist whose discoveries approximately 400 years ago changed the world. Propelled by the irresistible drive of Galileo's curiosity, the story illuminates the power of inquiry, and the revolutionary nature of truth when it challenges power," director Barricklow said. "It exposes the mechanics of the religious and political power structure, which are the methods of suppressing dangerous ideas."



Photo by Thom Kennedy

Gabriel Bernhard (left) plays three roles, while Anthony Zuniga (right) is Galileo in BC Theatre's production of "Life of Galileo."