

Upcoming School of Drama Productions:

The Three Birds

by Joanna Laurens
directed by Tamara Fisch
May 21– June 4, 2006

Searing language and an utterly modern sensibility reinvent Sophocles' lost tragedy in this startling adaptation of the story of Tereus and the struggle to control his violent yearning for his wife's sister. This story of love, obsession and the loneliness of the outsider was declared "a tale whose passion leaves scorch marks on the imagination" by the London Daily Standard.

**Tickets available at 206.543.4880 and
on-line at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama>**

In Conjunction with the School of Music:

Le Nozze di Figaro *(The Marriage of Figaro)*

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
directed by Claudia Zahn
May 17, 19, 21
Meany Theatre

Mozart's brilliant opera is a timeless look at love, betrayal and forgiveness.

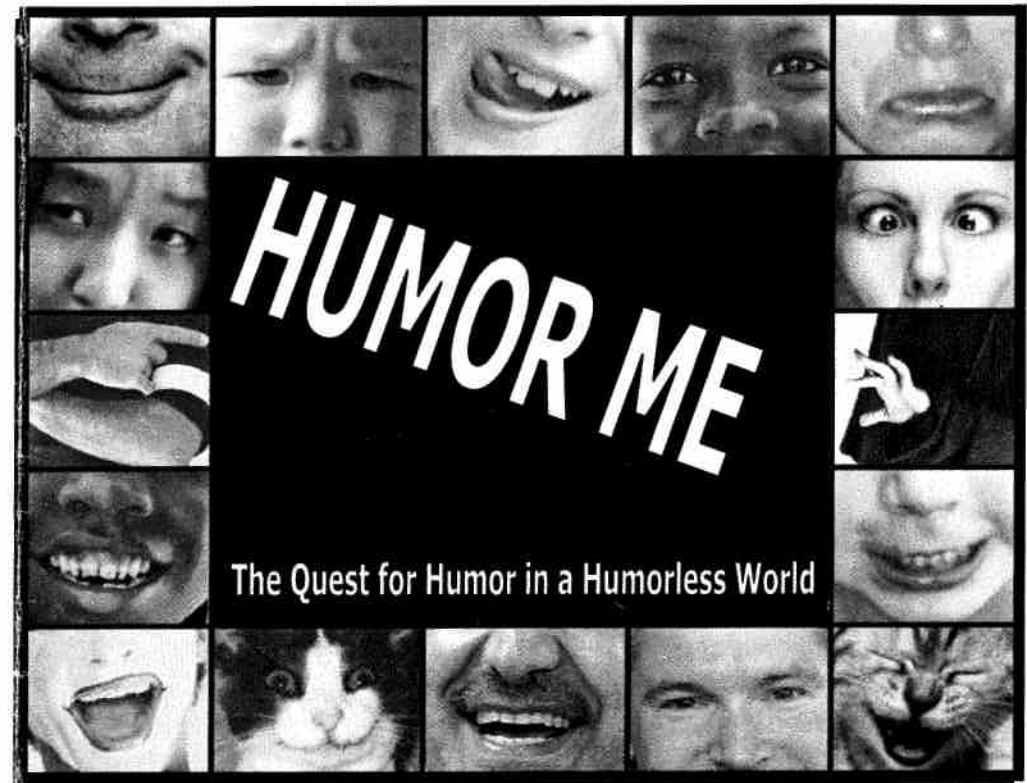
**Tickets available at 206.543.4880 and
on-line at <http://meany.org/tickets>**

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UW
SCHOOL OF
Drama

The Penthouse Theater
April 30th-May 14th 2006
66th Season
438th Production

Humor Me

Created by Judith Shahn with the Ensemble

Director	Judith Shahn
Set Design	Edward Ross/Andrea Bush
Costume Design	M. H. Chisholm
Lighting Design	Diane Baas
Sound Design	Ben Radin
Stage Manager	Lindsay Christianson

Technical Director	Jerry Collum
Assistant Director	Kristi Reiersgard
Master Sound Engineer	Ben Radin

Properties Master	Andrea Bush
Costume Design Assistant	Elizabeth Warren
Set Construction Crew	Students of Drama 413
Painting Crew	Students of Drama 413
Running Crew	Lonnie Angle, Dana Christianson, Beth Clough, Alice Craff, Jameson Grus, Yasmin Kasraie, Champagne Lewis, Emilija Nakas, Mike Oliver, Robyn O'Neil, Thanh Tang, Adara Toop, Jennifer Weivoda

The play will be performed without an intermission

Did You Know?

THE UW SCHOOL OF DRAMA ...

- alumni and/or faculty founded the following: *ACT Theatre, The Group Theatre, The Empty Space, The Bathhouse, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival?*
- graduate programs in acting, directing, and design are ranked 4th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report?*
- the undergraduate program has been similarly ranked by the *Princeton Review* as one of the top five programs in the country?
- was hailed in the *NY Times* (January 2003) as "... one of the nation's most often mentioned MFA acting programs by casting directors and theatrical agents."?
- annually auditions over 1000 people for the MFA Acting program and accepts only ten?
- is the only comprehensive undergraduate and graduate theatre training program in the region? Offerings include an undergraduate degree, MFA degrees in Acting, Design, and Directing, as well as a Ph.D. in Theatre History, Theory, and Criticism?

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THE PROFESSIONAL ACTOR TRAINING PROGRAM (PATP)

The PATP is a three-year conservatory program leading to a Master of Fine Arts degree, designed to prepare students for careers in the professional theatre. Ten actors are chosen every year from national auditions of more than 1,000 candidates. The rigorous training includes work in a range of types and styles of performance, including non-realistic, realistic, classical and contemporary plays. The program is intense and demanding, with actors working from 9-5, Monday-Friday, with an additional 25 hours per week spent in rehearsals. The overall aim of the program is to provide students with the practical skills necessary to fully reveal their artistic ideas. The PATP is consistently ranked among the very best graduate training programs in the nation.



Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*

The financial commitment our students undertake to complete their training is considerable. The School of Drama's Adopt-an-Actor program provides a major source of funding for their essential career entry activity in the Showcase Audition Tour, which introduces them to national casting agents. Donors become part of the PATP family, and are matched with individual actors. If you are interested in the Adopt-an-Actor program, please call the School of Drama at 206.543.5140.

To donate to the School of Drama, please make your check payable to UW Foundation/Drama, write PATP in the memo line and mail to: UW School of Drama, Box 353950, Seattle, WA 98195-3950. To give on-line, go to: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama/support/support.html>. Thank you.

Support the School of Drama!

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UW School of Drama, Box 353950, Seattle WA 98195-3950.

To give on-line, go to:

<http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama/support/support.html>

Thank you.

Cast

In alphabetical order

Barzin Akhavan *

Macah Coates *

David Folsom *

Lenne Klingaman *

Chris McKeon *

Katherine McLeod *

Christina Nicolaou *

Luke Stanhope *

Khatt Taylor *

Maythinee Washington *

* Members of the *Professional Actor Training Program (PATP)*.

Scenes

1. *The Crisis*

2. *Family Laughs-*

"Culture Clash"/"American Gothic"/
"funny relations"

3. *Cultural Humor-*

"Jewish jokes"/ "The Dozens"

4. *Regional Humor-*

"East Coast/West Coast"

5. *Comedians-*

"Dos Fallopia" Peggy Platt & Lisa Koch
"Inspirational Humorist" Al Foxx
"Grandma Clown" Jane Nichols

6. *Laughter from
Abroad-*

From: Greece, Peru, and Dominica

7. *Funny Business-*

The stand up/ the magician-paramedic/ the copy
writer

8. *Laughter Class-*

Certified Laugh Leader

9. *Kindergarten-*

"Knock Knock"

10. *The Resolution*

Time: The Present

Place: A Nation (very much like ours)

Director's Notes

The seed of the idea for this production came from an approach to learning dialects, which I've developed, where an actor interviews someone with an accent and that interview becomes a text. As Anna Deavere Smith has done in her landmark productions, we remain faithful to every detail (chuckle, umm, stumble) in the speaking. In this process, the actor is seeking transformation by starting with the end result and then filling in with the imagination, rather than the more common route, which does the opposite. Almost all the words in this play come from those we interviewed and miraculously the person emerges. We portray them with the utmost respect.

The idea to give these interviews the theme of humor came from Sarah Nash Gates. My husband, Jay, coined the title, *Humor Me*. As I began to ponder the daunting task of presenting humor as an evening of theatre, I began to look at my own relationship to laughter. We say that 'laughter is infectious', and I began to think: perhaps *lack of laughter* is also infectious. Thus began the framework of the play. This production has taught me to seek out the laughs in every day life.

In our world, fraught with daily disaster and the relentless threat of more, I'm certain that we all could use more laughter in our lives. The latest scientific research shows that laughter boosts the immune system, releases endorphins and merely the anticipation of laughter will increase the release of beta endorphins and human growth hormone (HGH).

I hope that, as you're reading this, you're anticipating a good laugh and that you'll be 'infected' (in a healthy way) by tonight's musings.

Judith Shahn- Writer, Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the people we interviewed, because without them, this play would not exist. They include:

Ken Boynton, Giselle Carcamo, Martin Dicker, Al Foxx, Mikano Fukaya, Steve Hamilton, Lisa Koch, Fred & Brenda Krusemark, Demetrios Lagos, Bruce Lee, Jane Nichols, The Pauls: Cathe, Bernie, Jessica, Maddy (& Lizzy), Tawnya Pettiford-Wates, Peggy Platt, Ursula Rychter, Kevin Wilhelmsen at Harborview Hospital and Lassie Webster's kindergarten class.

Special Thanks

ACT Theatre, Bob Boehler, Cornish College for the Arts,
Ruth Goldman, INTIMAN Theatre, Mark Jenkins,
Odai Johnson, Jon Jory, Eddie Levi Lee, Jay Lurie, Cathy Madden,
Art McDonell, Steve Pearson, Seattle Children's Theatre,
Seattle Repertory Theatre, Ella Shahn

School of Drama EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Sarah Nash Gates

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