Spring 4-1995

A Dream of Canaries Program [1995]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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A Dream of CANARIES

by Diana Saënz
directed by Assunta Kent

set design by Charles Kading
costume design by Christenia Kinne
lighting design by Fred Fauver

7:30 p.m.
April 21, 22, 26–29
5:00 p.m.
April 23 & 30, 1995

in a new performance space:
The Police and Safety Building
(former Steego Building, behind USM Library)
USM Portland Campus $7/$6/$4
For reservations call 780-5483

For access inquiries call Marjorie at 780-5480
Director's Note: The nightmare evoked in "Canaries" is a wake-up call to all of us—to beware of supporting the repression of "others" without investigating the circumstances under which "they" are accused of "subversion." As the Argentine "Dirty War" demonstrates, efforts to root out ways of thinking target not only so-called subversives and their collaborators, but also any who do not enthusiastically support the regime as well as innocent bystanders and functionaries that have outlived their usefulness. This play is a call for tolerance, for coalition building, and for breaking silence about repression on our lives.

In striking contrast to the distrust and fragmentation rampant in the world of the play, I have found it a pleasure to work with my first team of USM student and faculty collaborators, who remained creative and genial in the face of infinitely expanding responsibilities.

Artistic Staff

Costume Designer
Christenia Kinne

Lighting Designer
Fred Fauver

Set Designer
Charles S. Kading

Hand Props and Furniture
Matt Ryder

Sound Design
Amy LaRosa

Dramaturgy/Display Design
Rene Renner

Prologue Choreography
Alice McFarland

Show Choreography
Wendy Getchell

Prologue Adaptation
Assunta Kent

Technical Staff

Assistant Director/Stage Manager
Guy Durichek

Technical Director
Fred Fauver

Set and house construction
Stagecraft Lab students

Master Electrician
Jamie Grant

Light Rigging
Lighting Practicum Lab students

Stage Hand
Mary Evans

Light Board Operator
Nicole Bolduc

Stage Craft Lab students
Eric Worthley

Sound Board Operator
Chris Hall

Costume Shop Supervisor
Loretta Vallee, Costume I Lab students

Stitchers
Diana Chase, Jennifer Stewart

Dressers
Mary Snell

Promotions/Publicity
Emmanuelle Chaulet

Box Office Manager
Rene Renner

Lobby Display
Marjorie Novel

Theatre Department Admin. Asst.
Ryan Corlis

Sound Technician

Sound Technician
A DREAM OF CANARIES

by Diana Sáenz
directed by Assunta Kent

PROLOGUE - Streets of Buenos Aires, Argentina, circa 1980

ACT I - The same; various locations

15 Minute Intermission

ACT II - The same

PROLOGUE -- DRAMATIS PERSONAE in order of appearance:

Sam Goldstein
Patience Goodwin
Jennifer Boislard
Brian Cote
Keith Rowe
Patrick Davis

Haroldo Pedro Conti: an award-winning dissident poet and journalist.
Nita Durme: a nineteen-year-old call-girl.
Paola Bunelos: thirty-one, a scientist, client of Nita's and also Nita's friend. Daughter of the former head of the Special Service.
Colonel Ignacio Sensezoz: early forties, a military man in the Special Service, friend of Sra. Francesca Demas

Patricia Davis

Señora Demas: forty, daughter of a General, in love with Jesús, a powerful and dangerous woman, closely linked with state matters.
Lalo Finolina: early twenties, soldier in the Special Service, friend of Sra. Francesca Demas

Stephanie Hughes

St. Alfredo Astiz: head of Special Services guard unit.

David Moisan

Chris Sias

Jesus Utimo: twenty-two years old, ex-gigolo to Sra. Demas, soldier.

Jayson Jolin

Sgt. Alfredo Astiz: head of Special Services guard unit.

Amy LaRosa

Chapa: call girl, involved in underground resistance activities, Nita's friend.

Danielle Estes

Desaparecidos: citizens kidnapped, tortured, and often killed by the ruling military junta.

Wendy Getchell, Jenn Boislard,
Sam Goldstein, Keith Rowe, Amy LaRosa

PROLOGUE -- DRAMATIS PERSONAE in order of "disappearance"

Brian Cote
Stephanie Hughes
Jayson Jolin
Keith Rowe

Spokesman for the ruling military junta and their policies.
Representative of the ruling-class aristocracy's support for the junta.
Navy Lt. Alfredo Astiz: specialized in high-level abductions and the infiltration of groups who questioned the military junta's policies.
Pvt. Gerardo José Camparo: an involuntary conscript in the 1st Maintenance guard unit. He worked as a guard and only lasted four months in the military.

Patrick Davis

Pvt. Luis Pablo Steimberg: a conscript buddy of Camparo, similar history.

Sam Goldstein

Haroldo Pedro Conti: journalist, also worked as a teacher, in theatre, cinema, and literature, winner of many literary prizes, including an award from Life magazine in 1960.

Amy LaRosa

Norma Susana Burgos: widow of a Montonero guerrilla leader.

Danielle Estes

Dagmar Ingrid Hagelin: a kind-hearted teenager of Swedish descent, accidentally disappeared because mistaken for guerrilla friend of Norma Burgos', Maria Antonia Berger.

Tessa Hartley

Maria Claudia Falcone: 15-year-old secondary school student.

Wendy Getchell

Liliana Pereyra: 21, a former law student and member of the non-violent Young Peronist Movement. Pregnant when abducted.

Ryan Corliss

Fr. Orlando Virgilio Yorio: a priest working in the slums, who survived abduction and torture and testified against his captors.

Tessa, Wendy, Danielle, Amy

Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo who silently protested the lack of information about their kidnapped children and grandchildren.

About the Playwright

Diana Sáenz, a native of California, is a poet and playwright. She has lived in France and England and is now settling down in Cambridge, Mass.
Thanks To:

Central Maine Power, USM Police and Safety, Robert Leeman and Department of Facilities Management, Mad Horse Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre, Gorham Station Restaurant, Jessica Hotham, Wendy Hotham, Linda Marsh, Eastside Mario’s, Paul Burrill, Bug Bytes, USM Safe Ride and Transportation System, Luca Richards, the Cote Collection, Patricia Stitson and the Free Press.

Special thanks to Catered Café of Windham

Design Team and Crew Biographies

Jennifer Boislard is giving her last performance as a theater student. Many thanks to all who have made the last four years the most incredible in my life; you know who you are. This performance is dedicated to my mother, father, and brother. Peace. Patience Goodwin, a freshman theater major, has learned an important lesson from this show. Life isn’t always a fairy tale.

Brian D. Cote’s most recent theatrical accomplishments include set design for SPA’s One-Acts, and Teiresias in Oh! Antigone. He is excited to portray such an unctuous character, yet is disgusted by the role some people play in reality, a lesson to us all -- lest we forget.

David Moisan is a theater major at USM. He would like to dedicate his performance to the best brother a man could ever ask for.

Chris Sias found that Dream of Canaries has not only been a challenging experience but an educational one as well. Every day I learned something new, whether it was about acting or the world. I hope everyone enjoys this show. Don’t be a canary...

Jayson P. Jolin is a junior who is interested in a career as an actor. He wishes to thank his family for their support. Amy LaRosa has been in many shows at USM, both as a performer and as a sound designer. Much gratitude and admiration for all those who fight the battle against oppression.

Stephanie Hughes recently transferred to USM’s Theatre department from Boston. She was last seen in the main-stage production of Pippin. “I enjoyed working with such a wonderful group of people”. This is Ryan Corliss’ third year in the Theatre department and his fifth performance. His last project was his directing debut of Purgatory last semester.

Sam Goldstein was last seen on stage in the Student Performing Artist’s One-Act show. He thanks his mom and Alice for their support. Keith Rowe would like to dedicate this performance to one of his best friends, Jessica, who just moved to Seattle. "She got lucky enough to go through my trials and tribulations with me here in Maine. The hardest to learn was the least complicated".
bios continued -

Tessa Hartley has had a great time working with the cast and crew on Canaries. She hopes the show opens the audiences' eyes as much as it has her own. Danielle Estes - "From a product of incest in Oh! Antigone to a body part in Pippin to a dead person in Canaries. What is next? Wendy E. Getchell - "Truth and Happiness here and ever after."

This is Alice Starr McFarland’s second time choreographing at USM and she wants to thank all the lovely dancers who made it happen. Happy Birthday Mom! Patrick Davis is making his second acting appearance. Thespian assailants are forcing him to perform with no preparation. If he fills in for the role in a satisfactory manner, he may be permitted to live out his natural life.

Rene Renner is a graduating senior whose design credits include Miss Julie, Loot, Shirley Valentine, and the 1995 Dance Festival. She was Asst. TD for Oh, Antigone and Pippin as well as stage manager at USM and Production Manager at The Theater Project in Brunswick. Guy Durichek is a junior theater major who recently directed Tell for the SPA one-acts "Three Shot Minimum." He is grateful to Assunta for allowing him to add creativity to this process, and for opening his eyes to the atrocities hidden by all governments.

KC/ACTF XXVII

The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

XXVII

Presented and produced by
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Supported in part by
The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund
The U.S. Department of Education
Ryder System

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for adjudication by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.