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Fall 10-1998

## A Taste of Killing On the Tip of the Tongue Program [1998]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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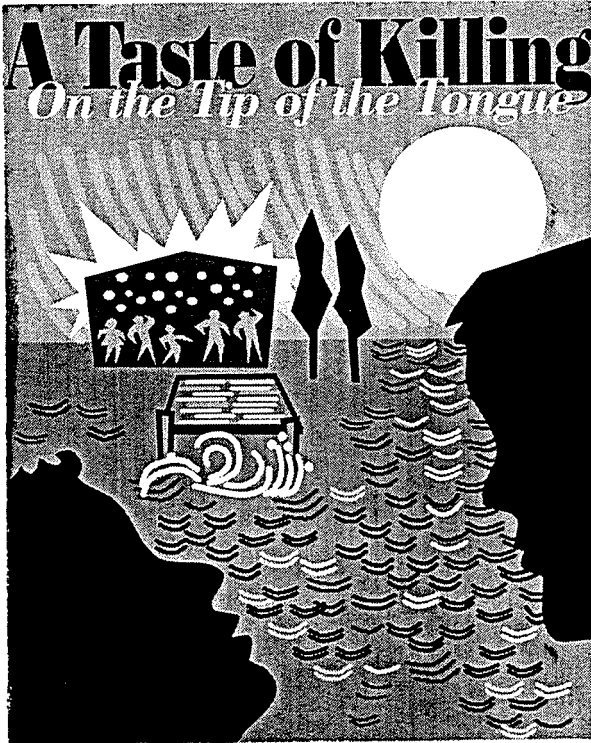
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 University of Southern Maine

*Department of Theatre presents*



AMERICAN PREMIERE:

# A Taste of Killing on the Tip of the Tongue

by Xavier Durringer

translated by Timothy Johns

revised and directed by Emmanuelle Chaulet

October 3-11, 1998

Main Stage, Russell Hall

USM Gorham campus

## Director's Notes

About 17 years ago, when I was a young actress in acting school in Paris, I met Xavier Durringer, also a young actor and playwright. He quickly appeared to have an acute sense of character and a great feel for dialogue. In Durringer's world people speak in a very abrupt way, as if in real life, but with enough of an edge to become poetic and theatrical.

We worked together on his first three shows at a time when nobody had heard of him and his plays were not yet published. We shared the first, and sometimes pitiful, ventures. Durringer quickly became a respected contemporary theater author in Europe. His plays have been translated into many languages and performed throughout the world.

He is said to give a voice to those who don't always have one-outcasts and misfits. One could say he is only a tape recorder, putting on paper what he hears in the streets, but he is more than that. He is a real theater author, who brings humor, poetry, and raw emotions out of the gutter and into the limelight. I believe we need more of this in our world today.

Emmanuelle Chaulet

## Dramaturgical Statement

When does adolescence end . . . and adulthood begin? The first day of school, getting married, or a serious job? *A Taste Of Killing On The Tip Of The Tongue* shows the problems and dangers of being caught in perpetual adolescence, forever in transitory mode. The characters in this play represent this type, forever bound to one another in a social wasteland.

To find the soul of these characters, we sought to tap into a common past, whether real or imagined, bringing them vividly to life. This meandering journey firmed up after the cast and crew spoke with an Ingraham volunteer about similarly troubled youth, and examined our turbulent world and society.

In the end, we realized we really aren't that far from Rou and his gang. No matter where we go in life, the passage from adolescence to adulthood is something we all need to contend with.

Daniel Bourque

*"...we found out that in each one of us there is a Brain, an Athlete, a Basketcase, a Princess, and a Criminal."*

*-From The Breakfast Club*

# A Taste of Killing on the Tip of the Tongue by Xavier Durringer

translated by Timothy Johns  
revised and directed by Emmanuelle Chaulet

Scenic Design  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Sound Design

Charles S. Kading  
Susan E. Picinich  
Thomas C. Vail  
Eli Bresnick

## Cast

(by order of appearance)

Dancers	Samantha Kinne, Monica McKenzie, Gerry Shannon
Rou	James Joseph Shay
Vic	Josh Chenard
Poupon	Frank Taliento
Rose	Leslie Janel Guerin
Lucie	Kimberly Morrill
Jean	David Moisan

**Saturday night on a beach, not far from a disco.**

*There will be no intermission.*

*This show contains adult language and cigarette smoke.*

*Please, no photos are allowed during the performance.*

*Also please turn off beepers and phones as a courtesy to the actors and other audience members.*

*A Taste of Killing on the Tip of the Tongue* was written and directed by Xavier Durringer in 1991, in Paris. In 1992 a staged reading of the American version was directed by Emmanuelle Chaulet at the renowned UBU Repertory Theatre of New York City. UBU Repertory Theatre was founded in 1982 by artistic director Françoise Kourilsky, in order to introduce Americans to contemporary plays from all over the French-speaking world in English translation.

This show is produced with special permission by Edition Théâtrales.

All plays by Xavier Durringer are published in France by Edition Théâtrales.

## Artistic Staff

Choreographer	Marcia J. Emerson
Assistants to the Director	Marcia J. Emerson, Wendy E. Getchell
Dramaturg	Daniel Bourque
Assistant Costume Design	Alexandra Munier
Assistant Sound Design	Jeff Gonzales

## Production Staff

Stage Manager	Marcia J. Emerson
Assistant Stage Manager	Jessie Robinson
Technical Director	Thomas C. Vail
Master Carpenter	Scott Essency
Carpenters	Kurt Ela, Amanda Poirier, Monique Downs, Stage Craft Lab Class
Costume Shop Supervisor	Jennifer Tingle
Stitchers	Brigitte Paulus, Aaron Lewis, Andy Ross
Properties Supervisor	Michael Toth
Properties Construction	Eli Bresnick, Brigitte Paulus, Liberty Freeman, Michael Henderson

## Production Crew

Deck Crew	Larry Ricker
Dressers	Richelle Marsh, Daniel Richardson
Light Board Operator	Andrew Menard
Sound Board Operator	Eli Bresnick

## Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director	Mary Snell
Arts Events Director	Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant	Lillian Campbell
Box Office Manager	Emily Binnion
House Manager	Luca Richards, Liberty Freeman
Lobby Display	Dan Bourque
Graphic Design	Leigh Raposo

## Art Exhibit

by photographers  
J. Yankura and Michele Dauphinais

## Artistic Staff Biographies:

### Xavier Durringer - Playwright

Xavier Durringer has written (and directed) 10 plays, 2 films, and 2 music videos. He is considered one of the best contemporary French playwrights, and is part of the "Contemporary New Wave in Theatre and Film." Durringer was born in 1963 in Paris, France. He is the artistic director of the *Companie La Lezarde* for which he writes and directs plays. His theatre company is sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture through several grants. It has been in residence in Limousin since 1994 and has a three year grant from the Direction Regionale D'Action Culturelle (Regional French Arts Commission).

Durringer's plays have been translated into English, American, Spanish, German, Polish, Italian, Greek, Hungarian, and Dutch. He has been invited to Hungary, Cuba, Louisiana, London and Germany to do workshops and present his productions. He has also toured extensively throughout France. Currently the Artist-in-Residence at the Centre Dramatique National de Limoges, Durringer has presented a new play for the prestigious Festival D'Avignon In, and for the Theatre National de La Colline in Paris. Durringer's films, *La Nage Indienne* (1993) and *I Will Go To Paradise For Here It Is Hell* (1997) were selected in several festivals including: Official Selection for First Film in Berlin, AFI Los Angeles, San Sebastian, Namur, London, Montreal, Court-Mayeur and Acapulco. He directed two music videos for the French rock stars Bernard Lavilliers and Johnny Hallyday. He wrote and directed *A Taste Of Killing On The Tip Of The Tongue* in 1991. In 1999, the English version will be presented at the Royal Court Theatre in London.

### Emmanuelle Chaulet - Director

Emmanuelle has been involved in theatre and film both in France and in the United States. She studied acting as a Fulbright scholar at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York and with Robert Cordier in Paris where she met Xavier Durringer. As a professional actress, her credits include lead roles in such movies as *Boyfriends and Girlfriends* by Eric Rohmer and *All the Vermeers in New York* by Jon Jost, an American Playhouse Production and best independent film of 1991. She also toured with several theatre productions including three by Xavier Durringer: *Bal Trap*, *A Rose Under the Skin*, and *A Little Cut*. Together they started his theatre company *La Lezarde* ten years ago. Her directing credits include: *The Marriage Proposal* and *The Brute*, and *Miss Julie* at Deertrees Theatre. At Oak Street Theatre in Portland, she directed *The Maids* and *Music Hall* with Vintage Repertory Company. She is the USM arts events director and the artistic director of the Deertrees Foundation.

### Charles S. Kading - Scenic Designer

Charles has taught design and stage craft at USM for 19 years. His professional credits include *Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, *Criminal Hearts*, and *Keely and Du* for Mad Horse Theatre; *Showboat*, *Chamberlain*, and *Cabaret* for Maine State Music Theatre; *Big River* and *Cabaret* for Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater; and *Noises Off* and *Blithe Spirit* at the Alabama Shakespeare

Festival. He also worked extensively at The Alley Theater in Houston where his credits include the US premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's *Henceforward*. In addition, Charles has designed scenery for the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Cabaret Repertory Theatre and Portland Stage. He is currently chair of the Theatre Department.

#### **Susan E. Picinich - Costume Design**

Susan joined the USM Department of Theatre faculty in 1987 and has since designed costumes for 46 University productions. She has an MFA degree from the University of Michigan and previously taught at SUNY Albany and Western Illinois University. She is a member of the ensemble at Mad Horse Theatre and most recently designed their production of *Hamlet*. Other credits include seven seasons at Maine State Music Theatre: this year's premiere of Maury Yeston's new musical *In the Beginning* as well as *Man of La Mancha* and *Show Boat*, and *Sweeney Todd* and *Tommy* in 1997. Susan costumed *Crazy For You* at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia last season. Upcoming projects are *Biloxi Blues* and *Fallen Angels* at the Public Theatre in Lewiston and *The Three Sisters* at Mad Horse Theatre.

#### **Thomas C. Vail - Lighting Design, Technical Director**

Tom was the technical director at USM for 4 years during the early 80's and designed sets for the Russell Square Players summer repertory theater. He has designed lights for Bill Chinook and Jonathan Edwards, and has worked professionally with the following local companies: Portland Stage Co. (master carpenter), The Children's Theatre of Maine (actor, set designer), Mad Horse Theatre Co. (tech director, set designer and actor), and the Stagehand's Union. He also co-created the Oak Street Theater (now Theatre) in Portland in 1992 and the Schoolhouse Arts Center in Sebago Lake. Other credits include his children: John, David, Christa, and Jared. Tom currently resides in Windham with his wife, Mari, and their above-mentioned children.

#### **Jennifer C. Tingle- Costume Shop Supervisor**

Jennifer is the new costume shop supervisor for the USM Department of Theatre. For the past two years she managed the costume shop for the Bowdoin College Department of Theatre and Dance. Jennifer has designed costumes for *12th Night* and *A Winter Cabaret* at the Theatre Project, *Desdemona* at Oak Street Theatre, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* at Portland Players, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Ourselves Alone* for Boston University Theatre. She has worked in costume shops at Arena Stage, The Long Wharf Theatre, The Huntington Theatre, The American Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Sonnenberg Studios and the Santa Fe Opera.

### **Artistic Staff Biographies (continued)**

#### **Eli Bresnick - Sound Design**

Eli is a theatre major hailing from Canaan, Maine. He has been involved in theatre for 11 years, winning over thirty first-place forensics awards. Eli has also been honored with best actor merits in both state and New England one-acts. He is currently cast as Detective Elliot Mitchell in *Dirt*.

#### **Marcia J. Emerson (MJ) - Choreographer, Stage Manager, and Assistant to the Director**

After an exciting summer including an Artist's Residency at the Children's Theatre of Maine and studying at the Bates Dance Festival in Lewiston, MJ is pleased to be back at USM and working with such a great cast and crew. Previous technical credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* at USM and an internship in Stage Operations and Management at the Maine State Music Theatre in Brunswick. Originally from Norway, Maine, MJ is a theatre major in her final year of study. Her work on this show is dedicated to the memory of her father, Edwin A. Emerson Jr.

#### **Wendy E. Getchell - Assistant to the Director**

Wendy is a senior theatre major from Portland. Last year she was seen in the role of Allie in the one act, *Family Values*, and directed *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*. Wendy also danced for the USM Dance Festival the past four years. She choreographed for *A Dream of Canaries*, *Rokujo Lady's Passion*, *As Is*, and a dance story called *Greed* with students at Cape Elizabeth High School. She received the Chris Meaner Dance Scholarship for her efforts.

#### **Daniel Bourque - Dramaturg**

Daniel is a sophomore at USM who has channeled his energy and love of the literary into this experience as a dramaturg. Recently, Dan has worked on a number of shows, including Iolanthe in Bath for *Merrymeeting* (lights), *Measure for Measure* at Oak Street (sound), and *Inherit the Wind* in Hallowell for Gaslight (lighting board). Previous USM credits include tech work on *The Danube*, *Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, and the *Original One-Acts*. He also appeared as Dennis in *As You Like It*.

## Special Thanks to:

Timothy Johns and UBU Repertory Theater.

Ingraham Support Services, Elena Schmidt, and Jemma Cannon, senior social worker for homeless people with mental illness who has helped the cast with character analysis and will conduct a post-show discussion to follow the opening performance. Ingraham brochures are available in the lobby.

Assunta Kent for Dramaturgical consultation. Mike Bourgoïn at Bonney Eagle High School, and Carla Schroeder.

Also, special thanks to all the supportive friends and family of the cast and crew, and Nanou Chaulet, babysitter extraordinaire .....

## Cast Biographies:

### James Joseph Shay - Rou

James, from Scarborough, is a sophomore philosophy/drama major at USM. He has worked in dance theater with Esuardo Mariscal with whom he performed at Dance USM '96. He played Reverend Hale in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* in high school, where he also worked as technical director for *Grease*, *The Mikado*, and *Les Miserables*. He intends to graduate with degrees in drama and philosophy and pursue educational children's theatre.

### Josh Chenard - Vic

Josh, from Saco, is a senior theatre major at USM where some of his roles include Bartholo in *The Marriage of Figaro*, the Tutor in *The Flies*, and Barney in *As Is*. He has performed locally as Barnette Lloyd in *Crimes of the Heart*, John Smith in *Run for Your Wife*, and Timothy James in *Tammy Jo and Billy Bob's Wedding*. Josh also teaches and directs the theatre program at the Breakwater School in Portland.

### Frank Taliento - Poupon

Frank has been involved in the theatre arts since high school and continues to explore the arts around the world. He is a member of the Portland-based improvisation group *Instant Comedy!* This is his first production at USM, and he has enjoyed the experience fully. Frank is a transfer student from the University of Mississippi and plans to complete his degree in theatre this year.

### Leslie Janel Guerin - Rose

Leslie, from Gorham, is a senior theatre major at USM. Last season she performed in *The Boys Next Door* as Jackie, in *As You Like It* as the lead tree, and in *Dance USM* in "Thriller," along with being a member of the USM Forensics team. Over the summer she performed as Melissa in *Grandma Sylvia's Funeral* in Ogunquit and choreographed *Annie Get Your Gun* at Lyric Theatre in South Portland.

### Kimberly Morrill - Lucie

Kimberly, originally from Lisbon, is a second semester sophomore at USM. She is excited to be onstage this year, as last year she worked behind-the-scenes on the *Original One Acts* and *The Danube*. She recently participated in the Michael Chekhov Institute, and intends to finish her theatre degree before she turns 21.

### David Moisan - Jean

David graduated from USM in 1995 with a B.A. in Theatre and is now pursuing interests in Hispanic Studies and English. He has performed at USM in many productions including: Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, *Oh Antigone*, *The Flying Doctor* and *The Forced Marriage*. He has also received an Irene Ryan nomination. He greatly enjoys acting and sees himself in the theatre, involved in one fashion or another for the remainder of his life. He hopes to one day teach Spanish, theatre and English literature.

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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 a response 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.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, in the spring of 1999.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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**Dirt**

by Thomas Spurr

directed by William Steele and Thomas Power

December 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 6 at 5: 00 pm