Fall 2006

Equus Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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Department of Theatre presents

EQUUS

Written by
Peter Shaffer

October 6 - 15, 2006

Main Stage, Russell Hall
USM Gorham Campus
Director's Note

Peter Shaffer is arguably one of the greatest living playwrights. His play *Equus* has won several awards in England and in the United States, including a Tony Award for Best Play. Critic Walter Kerr called the play “remarkable; it is powerfully close to reanimating the spirit of mystery that makes the stage a place of breathless discovery.”

I have long been fascinated by this play and once had a chance to talk about it with Shaffer. The playwright graduated from Cambridge University reading History. He was well aware of the writings of anthropologist James Frazer and Joseph Campbell and was fascinated with the ancient gods and their influence on humanity. He felt modern society had dismissed the gods of old as irrelevant. His principle character Dysart says:

DYSART: There’s a sea...where Gods used to go to battle
ALAN: What Gods?
DYSART: The old ones. Before they died.
ALAN: Gods don’t die.
DYSART: Yes, they do.

Similar to Nietzsche’s concept of the Apollonian and Dionysian aspects of our personalities or Jung’s theory of the Racial Unconscious, Shaffer believed a part of us still yearned to understand the primal urges common to us all. In *Equus* the question is posed: Do we ignore the free flowing passionate soul lurking deep within our psyche or do we give ourselves up to the intellectual sterility of modern life? Dysart is faced with the dilemma of “curing” a passionate god-worshiping Alan Strang and making him a normal member of society, or allowing the boy to remain in contact with the gods of old. The more Dysart probes into Alan’s psyche, the more he realizes his own need to understand his own passion. He does chase the spirits from Strang only to find himself possessed by them. He does not like what he sees. Modern man, he decides, is waging a war against the gods of old by trying to exorcise them from our thinking and educational cannon. If we do this, as *Equus* seems to suggest, we do it at our own peril.

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**Equus**

by Peter Shaffer

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<th>Cast in order of appearance:</th>
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<td>Alan Strang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
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<td>Hester Salomon</td>
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<td>Dora Strang</td>
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<td>Harry Dalton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Mason</td>
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<td>1st Horse</td>
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<td>2nd Horse/Horsemen</td>
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<td>3rd Horse</td>
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<td>Horse Costume Design</td>
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<td>Kate Law</td>
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**Setting**

The time is the present, the place is a small rural town.

There will be a fifteen minute intermission.

**Warning:** This show is for mature audiences only. This production contains nudity and mature subject matter. Strobe lights and tobacco-free cigarettes will also be used in this production.

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 Special Thanks to:**

Richard and Cris Mitchell for the tack used,
Zippy the Horse, Accent Dry Cleaners, Mark Law,
Marie Prescott, Melissa O'Brien & Polly Carmichael
Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French Inc.
Artistic Staff

Assistant Scenic Design  Michele Lee
Assistant Costume Design  Hillary Sproul
Assistant Lighting Design  Nick Cyr
Assistant Sound Design  Colin Whitely

Production Staff

Production Stage Manager  Kristin P. Kurz
Stage Manager  Bob Wilcox
Assistant Stage Managers  Liza Bonnell, Jess Cicero, Mathew T. Meeds, Charles S. Kading
Technical Director  Stage Craft Practicum  Kris Hall
Charge Artist  Mary Bastoni, Rachel Benner, Joe Bearer, Jessica Bernier, Emily Carter, Meredith Davis, Cate Goetschius, Kate Law, Daniel Lawrence, Sammy Mills, Amber Rogals, Johnathan Rogers, Desiray Roy, Lorraine Rudolph, Hillary Sproul, Gwen Tatro, Ann Wittman
Master Electrician  Nick Cyr
Electricians  Calien Lewis
Properties Supervisor  Alex Kopack, Brady Kuech, Monica Morrison, Ryan Nash
Properties Construction

Production Crew

Deck Crew  Brian Haris
Wardrobe  Alison Berry, Janelle Losciuto, Michal-Lynne Merriol
Light Board Operator  Courtney True
Sound Board Operator  Holly Nash
Video Operator  Steph Smith

Administrative Staff

Executive Director, Public Affairs  Bob Caswell
Arts Events Director  Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant  Lil Campbell
Administrative Interim Assistant  Shirley Turgeon
Graphic Design  Leigh Raposo, Jake MacGillivary
Box Office Managers  Ashleigh St. Pierre, Heather Green
House Manager  Maia Turlo
Program  Linnea Bradshaw
Proof Reader  Jack Fossett

Artistic Staff Biographies

Dr. Walter Stump - Director
Walter Stump has directed over 120 productions on educational, community and professional levels. He has directed shows in several states, countries and major cities including New York, London and Paris. He has been honored by USM with the Distinguished Scholar in the Performing Arts Award and by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. His USM production of the original musical Gynt was performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. KC/ACTF also awarded him its Gold Medal for Excellence. He was the former Chair of the New England Region of that organization and later became The Chair of Chairs on a national level. Dr. Stump was named a member of the KC/ACTF adjudication team. He has been honored by the National Forensics Association for his contributions to Intercollegiate Forensics. Dr. Stump has been a member of the faculty of the International Readers Theatre Institute for several years and in 2005 was appointed Director of the organization. He is a prize winning playwright. His plays have been produced at the University and Community level with productions in Maine, Louisiana, California and Nevada. His play, Cactus Charlie's Saloon, was performed by professional actors at the prestigious Neighborhood Playhouse in New York City in a sponsored stage reading. Walter Stump has written two books on theatre history and several articles. An active theatre historian, he is considered an expert in English theatrical censorship and has written articles on ancient Greek theatre. He has traveled extensively in Greece and has submitted requests for excavations at the ancient theatre of Argos.

Raphael DiLuzio - Media Designer/Guest Artist
Born in 1960 on the coast of California and beginning formal studies of art at the age of nine, Raphael earned a BFA in painting from CSU Long Beach and an MFA from Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania. Diluzio began working with digital technology for creative expression in the 90's, later developing digital time-based projected painting. He is currently a Professor of New Media at the University of Maine at Orono.

Brian Hapcic - Scenic / Lighting Designer
Brian is a Professor of Lighting and Sound Design at The University of Southern Maine. He holds a BA in English from Ohio University, and a MFA in Design and Technology from The University of Montana. Recent production credits include work with Maine State Music Theatre and The Montana Repertory Theatre.

Jodi Ozimek - Costume Designer
Jodi is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine. Select USM credits include: Blood Brothers, Arms and the Man, The Magic Flute, Six Characters in Search of an Author, The
Laramie Project, Shakuntala, and Company. Other select credits include Lobby Hero (Portland Stage Company), South Pacific (Maine State Music Theatre), Gypsy (Texas Star Theatre), Enchanted April (The Good Theatre) and The Ugly Duckling (Add Verb Productions). Jodi served as assistant costume designer for American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin on Cymbeline, The Taming of the Shrew, The Cherry Orchard and Hamlet. She received her B.A. in theatre from Michigan State University and her M.F.A. in costume design from Purdue University.

Erik Moody - Sound Designer
Erik is a senior hailing from Saco. He sound designed November/December in the Fall of '04, How I Learned to Drive in the Fall of '05, and A Night of David Ives in the Spring of '06 here at USM.

Kris Hall - Costume Shop Director
Kris is returning for her fifth season in the costume shop after a summer in residence at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. This spring, a costume she designed was featured at the Maine College of Art graduation ceremony (won by MECA president Bill Dill). This fall, she has designed costumes for the season opening production of The Nerd at the Public Theatre in Lewiston, and has a sculpture in the show The Inspired Hand III at USM Lewiston-Auburn College Atrium Gallery. Kris received her BA from USM, and an MFA in Studio Art from Maine College of Art.

Matt Meeds - Technical Director
Matthew Meeds joined the Department in September of 2000. Matthew came to us from the local theatre community where he has worked at the Mad Horse Theatre, the Public Theatre, and the Theatre at Monmouth, as well as "away" theaters such as George Street Playhouse in NJ, Syracuse Stage, and Pennsylvania Center Stage. Most recently he designed the set for the production of The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-In-the-Moon Marigolds.

Kristin P. Kurz - Production Stage Manager
Kristin Kurz is a senior theatre major, concentrating in stage management. Her credits include: The Second Annual Chester Horn Short Play Festival (Medicine Show Theatre NY, NY), Blood Brothers (USM Main Stage), KCAC TF Irene Ryan Competition, How I Learned To Drive (USM St. Lawrence), All My Sons (Schoolhouse), November/December (USM St. Lawrence), USM's Ten Minute Play Festival 2004-2006, Once On This Island (USM Black Box), and South Pacific (Spring Lake Theatre, NJ). She is the Production Manager for USM's season, while also stage managing The Servant of Two Masters and Urinetown, in the spring.

Cast Biographies

Calien Lewis - Properties Supervisor
Calien grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. Writing credits include: The Rape of the Locked, a script adapted from other sources; scripts produced at USM, Scat Song, a ten-minute play presented by SPA and Goin' to Graceland. She served as dramaturg for USM's The Magic Flute, and Arms and the Man, assistant director for Blood Brothers, and lecturer for PORTopera's Carmen and Don Giovanni.

Mary Bastoni - Dora Strang
Mary is a junior music performance major from Fryeburg, Maine and studies voice with Ellen Chickering. Recent theatrical experiences include: "Shirley Valentine" in Shirley Valentine at M&D Productions Summer 2006, "Queen of the Night" in the Magic Flute at USM, Spring 2005, "Maggie" in Dancing at Lughnesa, Resort Players at The Eastern Slope Playhouse 2004, "Cigarette Girl/Town person" in Carmen, PortOpera summer 2005, and directing the Summer Musical Theatre Workshops at the Schoolhouse Arts Center and Denmark Arts Center. Mary is interested in composition and is a member of the composers ensemble and a yoga instructor.

Kate Caouette - Nurse
Kate is a senior in the USM theatre department. Her previous credits include the role of a chorus woman in Euripides' Medea at the University of Maine at Farmington and "Raina Petkoff" in last fall's USM production of George Bernard Shaw's Arms and the Man, for which she received a 2006 KCAC TF Irene Ryan nomination. She is delighted to be working with such a talented cast and crew and would like to thank her family and friends for all of their continued support.

Ian Carlsen - Alan Strang
Ian is a junior theater major. Past shows at USM include the title role in Lysistrata, Six Characters in Search of an Author "Ian Carlsen", and The Shape of Things "Adam". Shows elsewhere include: The Cripple of Inishman "Cripple Billy", The Playboy of the Western World "Shawn Keogh", Titus Andronicus "Demetrius", Our Town "George Gibbs" and Twelfth Night "Malvolio".
John Coons - Martin Dysart
John, of Corinna, Maine, is a senior music education/classical performance major at USM. His past roles include “George Antrobus” in Skin of our Teeth and “Monostatos” in USM’s production of Mozart’s The Magic Flute. This summer, he was named as one of the Maine Emerging Artists with the Portland Opera and played the role of “Calandrino” in their production of L’Oca del Cairo.

Daniel Goldstein - Harry Dalton
Daniel, of Nashua, NH, is a senior theatre major focusing on directing. He assistant directed the spring’s Student Written One-Acts, assistant stage managed How I Learned to Drive and The Magic Flute and last performed at USM in Six Characters in Search of an Author. He hopes to soon direct again minus the “assistant” part.

Lindsey Higgins - Horse
Lindsey is a graduating theatre major focusing primarily on directing. Past credits include direction of A Midsummer Night’s Dream and the student written End of the World, Missouri. She acted in such shows as Macbeth and Camino Real. Thank you to all involved.

Jesse Leighton - Horse
This is Jesse’s first Main Stage performance, and he’s thrilled to be here. Theatre patrons might have also seen him recently as “Paul” in Paul and His Mom for Acorn Productions, and the nefarious “Chiron” in Titus Andronicus for Two Lights Theatre Ensemble.

Ryan Nash - Horse
Ryan is a freshman at The University of Southern Maine. Equus will be his first performance here. He has performed in other shows such as Our Town, Les Miserables, The Madwoman of Challiot, and many more. He can also be seen in the late October performance of Titanic and Dance USM! in December.

Mia Perron - Hester Salomon
Mia is a senior(ish) theatre major from Windham, Maine. She takes pride in participating in all aspects of theatre, including writing the Main Stage One-Act, Layers of Love; stage managing SPA’s A Night of David Ives; costume designing for Dance USM! as well as acting as “Lil’ Bit” in How I Learned to Drive, “Myhrinna” in Lysistrata (Irene Ryan Nomination) and “Kim” in Purple Breasts (2nd Cast Two Lights). Mia would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

Ayoun Rose - Jill Mason
Autumn is currently a junior theatre major at USM. Past USM roles include “Step daughter” in main stage production of Six Characters in Search of an Author and “Helena” in SPA’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. She would like to thank the cast and crew who created such an amazing experience.

Jessica Savory - Horse/Trooper

Gary A Thayer - Horse
Gary is a 4th year theatre major. Last year he transferred from the University of Maine at Farmington where he performed in shows such as The Fantasicks, House of Blue Leaves, and The Man Who Came to Dinner. This is his first on stage performance here at USM.

Brianna Thiviege - Nugget
Brianna is a theatre major at USM. This is her Sophomore year.

Jeffrey Toombs - Frank Strang
Jeffrey is a sophomore theatre major from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. This is his third appearance on the USM Main Stage following his performances as “Mr. Lyons” in Blood Brothers this past spring and “Major Petkoff” in Arms and the Man last fall. Jeffrey also enjoys working for the USM Department of Theatre as a carpenter and electrician.

Casey Turner - Horse
Casey got her start in theatre seven years ago at the Oddfellow Theatre in her home town of Buckfield, Maine. Casey apprenticed with theater owner and local performer, Michael Miclon, for four years. From there she’s worked at the Celebration Barn Theater as Head Technician and at the Theater at Monmouth as the House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator. Casey is ecstatic to be back on stage in her sophomore year at USM.

Production Staff

Nick Cyr - Assistant Lighting Design
Nick is a Junior theatre major at the University of Southern Maine. He was recently seen on stage in SPA’s 2006 production of A Night with David Ives, in which he received the KCACTF Irene Ryan nomination. Last spring he was one of the co-lighting designers for Dance USM!, and is very excited for this opportunity to design again. He would like
to thank his family and friends for their continued support.

Kate Law - Horse Head Designer/Construction
Kate is a senior Theater major graduating in the spring. This is her second main stage design, and is glad to be working with the department once again. Her prior design credits include, *How I Learned to Drive*, *A Night with David Ives*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Shape of Things*, and several *Dance USM!* productions. She would like to thank her Mom and Dad for all their love and support.

Hillary Sproul - Assistant Costume Design
Hillary is a junior media studies major, with a minor in theatre. This is her first production as a costume design assistant at USM. She has worked in the costume shop for the past two years, constructing costumes for productions such as *Dance USM!* and *Arms and the Man*. Hillary is looking forward to designing for the upcoming *Dance USM!* production in December.

Michele Lee - Assistant Scenic Design
Michele is a junior theatre major at USM and this is her first time as assistant scenic designer. Michele has primarily focused on acting throughout her career and has appeared in numerous professional productions, most recently as “Rosalind” in *As You Like It*, “Susan” in *Purple Breasts*, and in an off-off Broadway festival this past summer. She has also appeared onstage at USM in *Lysistrata* and *The Good, The Bad The Wilde*, as well as assistant directing *Blood Brothers*. Michele would like to thank Brian for his wonderful guidance and opportunity to design.

Colin Whitely - Assistant Sound Design
Colin is a sophomore theatre major at USM. This is his first time working with sound design and he hopes to continue working in sound design as well as acting for the rest of his college career.

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USM Theatre
2006-2007 Season

October 6-15 For mature audiences
Equus
by Peter Shaffer; Walter Stump, director

November 10-19
The Servant of Two Masters
by Carlos Goldoni; Wil Kilroy, director

December 14-17 Annual Concert
Dance USM!
Maria Tzianabos, artistic director

February 15-18
One act plays by student playwrights
Human at Heart by Stacy Ann Strang
Heavenly Match by Jack Fossett
Assunta Kent, director

March 16-25 Reservations required
URINETOWN: The Musical
book/lyrics by Greg Kotis
music/lyrics by Mark Hollman
Edward Reichert, director

April 20-29 For mature audiences
The Mandrake
by Niccolo Machiavelli
William Steele, director
Saint Lawrence Arts and Community Center, 76 Congress Street, Portland

Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus
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Season pass $35
6 shows

USM School of Music Fall 2006
50th Anniversary Concerts and Special Events

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unless otherwise noted

Complete Brandenburg Concertos
• Friday, September 29, 7:00 p.m.
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Sponsored by Down East Magazine
• Sunday October 1, 2 p.m.,
Abromson C.E. Center, Portland campus
Sponsored by Maxine L. Wright

USM Concert Band at Homecoming
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Sponsored by Aranmark

Laura Kargul in Concert
• Friday, October 13, 8 p.m.
Sponsored by Gorham Savings Bank
• Sunday, October 15, 3 p.m.
Sponsored by Gateway Mastering Studio
• Friday, October 20, 8 p.m.
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Titanic: The Musical
• Friday-Sunday, October 27-29
Sponsored by Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution

Quartet for the End of Time
• Friday, November 3, 8 p.m
Sponsored by Dahlia and Arthur Handman

USM Youth Ensembles
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Merrill Auditorium, Portland
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• Saturday, November 4, 8 p.m.
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• Friday, December 1, 6-10 p.m.
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Reservations: 780-5003
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