
Programs 2010-2011 Season

Theatre Programs 2010-2020

Spring 2-2011

Airswimming Program [2011]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

Department of Theatre presents



AIRSWIMING

Written by Charlotte Jones

February 3-6, 2011

Russell Hall
USM Gorham Campus

Director's Note

Dora, a cigar-smoking lesbian, and Persephone, an unwed mother, are perceived as social threats and are not only outcast, but committed to an asylum for their "transgressions." They walk through the doors of St. Dymphna's Hospital for the Criminally Insane in the 1920s and don't leave for fifty years. These facts do not suggest a comedy. But *Airswimming* is a funny play. It is comic and tragic in equal measure. It is a celebration of loving friendship and a frightening reminder of a relatively unknown part of women's history. The cast, members of the production team, and I spent several weeks learning about Dora and Persephone's world and unpacking dozens of references made in the play. We have come to have great affection for both cross-dressing women with distinguished military careers and Doris Day films. We tried to imagine the shock Dora and Persephone would have experienced when they stepped out of St. Dymphna's into a world of unrecognizable technology, social norms, fashion, music... And although we have been in rehearsals for *Airswimming* since November, we are still making discoveries about the characters and play—a testament to Jones' erudite playwriting and her attention to detail. Jones deftly takes us back and forth between St. Dymphna's and the apartment Dora and Persephone share in the 1970s and in so doing, she provides the audience with a rare opportunity to follow two women through time and witness the evolution of a transcendent love.

I have been honored to work with such talented and imaginative actors and designers and am pleased to welcome you into their world this evening. Thank you for joining us on our journey.

-Meghan Brodie

Airswimming

By Charlotte Jones

Director	Meghan Brodie
Scenic Design	Perry Fertig
Costume Design	Desiray Roy
Lighting Design	Florence Cooley
Sound Design	Shannon Zura
Choreography	Janette Hough-Fertig
Dramaturgy	Simon Skold

Cast

Dora/Dorph	Sarah Dube
Persephone/Porph	Meredith Lamothe

Settings

St. Dymphna's Hospital for the Criminally Insane,
1924-1972

An Apartment, 1972 and the years following.

Airswimming contains mature content.

*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.*

*This show runs under two hours without an
intermission.*

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Jacob Cote
Assistant Stage Managers	Elizabeth Forkus & Alice Hofgren
Technical Director	Perry Fertig
Carpenters	Brian Andrews, Dan Bernardini, Cat Ballou, Tom Campbell, August DeLisle, Sarah Dube, Scott Leland, Jonathan Marro, Angelica Pendleton, Emily Waller and Stagecraft Practicum
Costume Director	Paula Ninestein
Stitchers	Laura Collard, Michael Frier, Gerry Pound, and Costume Practicum
Lighting Director	Shannon Zura
Electricians	Jacob Cote, Matthew Defiore, Ashley Pettengill, Taylor Rousseau and Lighting Practicum
Props Master	Meghan Brodie
Properties Construction	Matthew Defiore & Thomas Campbell

**Haircuts were generously donated by
Shawn Durost, stylist and owner of Salon Paragon.**

Production Crew

Deck Crew	Wil Vile, August DeLisle
Wardrobe	Sebastian Ascanio, Shawnee Johnson
Light Board Operator	Krista Lucht
Sound Board Operator	Megan Towle

Administrative Staff

Theatre Promotions Director	Joyce Brown
Arts Events Director	Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant	Lil Campbell
Box Office Manager	Karissa Nelsen
House Manager	Ellen White
Graphic Design	Leigh Raposo
Photography	Troy Bennett, Jacob Cote

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Keith Crook

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Anastasia Antonacos, solo piano

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Two Sides Sounding & South Oxford Six

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from Both Coasts"**

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). 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 KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2011.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

THANK YOU!

The USM Department of Theatre wishes to thank the following for their support of *Airswimming*:

Pat Schwebler

Michael Schwebler

Shawn Durost & Salon Paragon

USM Department of Women & Gender Studies

Christine Hall

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by Mary Chase

directed by William Steele

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Artistic Staff

Meghan Brodie (director) is a lecturer in the Department of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine. She most recently directed *Performances from the Out & Allied Project* for Add Verb Productions; *Sappho or Suicide*, a piece she adapted from the work of Marguerite Yourcenar; and a series of one-act plays by Carolyn Gage at the St. Lawrence Arts Center. Meghan teaches theatre history, dramatic literature, play analysis, and acting. Meghan holds a Ph.D. in Theatre from Cornell University.

Janette Hough-Fertig (Choreography) is the Artistic Director of Apparatus Dance Theater-a new Aerial Physical Theater company based in Portland. She teaches circling trapeze and trapeze workout classes at Acorn Productions and kids aerial dance/circus at Breakwater School. She has enjoyed performing as Sappho in Meghan Brodie's *Sappho or Suicide*, and at Pig Iron Theatre, Theatre Circ, Sebastienne Mundheim, and the Philadelphia Fringe Festival.

Perry Fertig (Technical Director and Scenic Design)

Airswimming is Perry's second design at USM. He recently served as Technical Director for PORTopera's *Hansel and Gretel*. Before moving back to Maine, Perry was working in Philadelphia for Ursinus College, the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, and the Philadelphia Theatre Company. He still occasionally works as a Flying Director for Foy Inventerprises.

Desiray Roy (Costume Design) is a 5th year theatre major from Little Deer Isle, Maine. Past Costume Design credits at USM include: *The Bear* and *The Proposal*, *Fool for Love*, *The Distance From Here* (Student Performing Artists), and *Death and The Maiden* (Student Performing Artists). Currently she is designing *Clutter* written/directed by USM student Megan Jackson, performing February 15-17th in the USM Lab Theatre (Black Box)

Florence Cooley (Lighting Design) is a fourth year theatre major from Yarmouth, Maine. Past USM lighting design credits include *Dance USM!* 2008 and 2009, *Confessions*, *Jack and Jill*, and *The Baltimore Waltz*. She has also designed lights for Stages' production of *Dracula* and Arts in Motion's productions of *Rent* and *Seussical the Musical*. In addition, Florence has been the assistant lighting designer for USM's *Tea and Sympathy* and a production of *Brilliant Traces* at the Stonington Opera House. She is thrilled to be able to design on the main stage and to work with such a talented group of individuals.

Shannon Zura (Sound Design) recently designed the sound for Portland Stage Company's *The 39 Steps*, the lights for Portland Stage Company's *The Gin Game*, the set for InterAct Theatre Company's *Black Pearl Sings*, the lights and sound for Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble's production of *Leading Ladies*, and the lights for Opera House Arts' *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Shannon holds an MFA in Lighting Design from Temple University and is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at USM.

Jacob Cote (Stage Manager) is a junior theatre major with a concentration in Performance from Bangor, Maine. This is his first major behind-the-scene experience and must say it has been an honor and a privilege. Past favorite roles include Max in *Lend Me a Tenor* (USM), The Captain in Durang's *Titanic* (SPA) Dr. Scott in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Portland Players), He would like to thank his amazing cast (Sarah and Meredith) and Dr. Brodie for being supportive, patient, and simply amazing to work with.

Cast

Sarah Dube (Dora/Dorph) is a senior from Eagle Lake, Maine, in her last semester at USM. Her most recent past performances include *Bug*, Add Verb's *Out and Allied*, *Inook* and *The Sun*, and *The Proposal*. Her most recent tech work includes Assistant Stage Managing the operas *Gianni Schicci* and *Suor Angelica*. *Airswimming* is her last production at USM and it has been such a wonderful experience. Thank you to all involved in this production and all who have helped her along her journey at USM.

Meredith Lamothe (Persephone/Porph) is a senior theater major graduating in May. She is thrilled to be making her farewell performance in *Airswimming*. Memorable roles include Emma in *Betrayal* (USM), Lilly in *Tea and Sympathy* (USM) and Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (The Good Theater). This summer she was honored to be named Best Actress in the Portland, Maine 48 hour film project. Thank you to Mom, Dad, Andre' and Nan for helping through lots of college, Meghan for this opportunity, Sarah for being a wonderful second half, and the rest of the production team.

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