

9-2012

8 Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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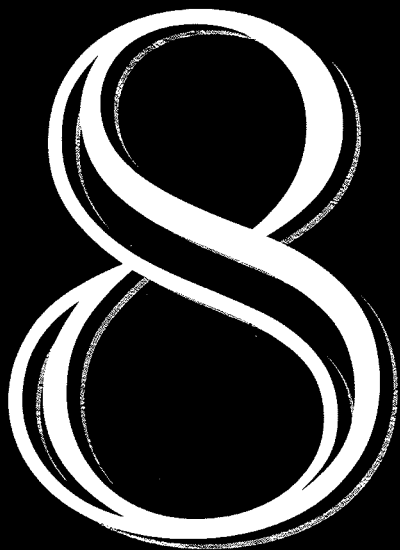
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Department of Theatre

An unconstitutional proposition.
An unprecedented decision.
An unforgettable evening.

American Foundation for Equal Rights & Broadway Impact's




a new play by

DUSTIN LANCE BLACK

chronicling the federal trial

for marriage equality

 American Foundation *for* Equal Rights

BROADWAY *IMPACT!*

Directed by Wil Kilroy
Friday, September 28, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Main Stage
Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is quite telling that the opposition to marriage equality blocked the court proceedings that are now able to be witnessed via this theatrical documentary. As you watch this information unfold, you'll discover why televising the proceedings would only have bolstered the case for marriage equality - a situation that we will now face at the polls in November. It's hard for me to understand how those considered 'Christian' fight so hard against allowing equal rights for all when one of the biblical commandments is "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Although in Maine no church will be required to perform gay marriages, the Catholic church, (with their own internal challenges), continues to speak out against what should be a basic right for all couples who love each other. The opposition to marriage equality fights to preserve the 'sanctity of marriage' and yet statistically in our country the number of marriages ending in divorce is almost 50%. As one comedian put it, "Let the gays get married. Then they can be as miserable as the rest of us." I hope that tonight's reading will illuminate some of the issues around this topic and allow us to realize that we are all much more similar than we are different - seeking to unite with another in love and companionship, which goes beyond gender.

-Professor Wil Kilroy, Acting/Directing

THANK YOU!

Ian Grady, Ali Vander Zanden, Molly Griffard, David Swander Jacobs, Mainers United for Marriage, League of Young Maine Voters.

USM School of Music

Fall 2012 Highlights

Performances are at Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham campus unless otherwise noted

Scott Harris and Friends: 8 Celli + Soprano
Friday, September 28 at 8 p.m.
Sponsor: Music Advisory Board

USM Concert Band
Old-Fashioned Outdoor Band Concert
Saturday, September 29 at 1 p.m.
On the Green outside of Corthell Hall
Sponsor: ARAMARK

Laura Kargul: Great Romantic Sonatas
Friday, October 19 at 8 p.m.
Sponsor: Dr. Dahlia and Arthur L. Handman

Christopher Oberholtzer: Stuff We Dig!
Friday, October 26 at 8 p.m.

Musical Theatre: Assassins
Friday-Sunday, November 2-4
Sponsor: Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution

USM Youth Ensembles:
Fall Instrumental Concert
Thursday, November 15, at 7 p.m.
Merrill Auditorium, Portland
Sponsor: Macy's

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Hear What's Happening Now

SETTING THE SCENE

On election day 2008, Proposition 8 re-wrote the California state constitution to ban marriage for gay and lesbian citizens. In response, two couples, Sandy Stier & Kristin Perry and Jeff Zarrillo & Paul Katami, filed suit against Proposition 8 in Federal Court. Representing them were Ted Olson and David Boies, most famous for representing the opposing sides in *Bush v. Gore*.

Olson and Boies argued in favor of broadcasting the trial live, and Republican-appointed Chief Judge Vaughn Walker agreed. But the opponents of marriage equality filed an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, which blocked plans to broadcast the proceedings. Thus, the nation has been denied access to the live testimony of Sandy & Kristin and Jeff & Paul ... until today.

What followed were twelve days of testimony in January of 2010, drawing crowds that spilled into overflow rooms, as well as many millions more who followed every moment online.

These are the words, the witnesses, the testimony and the trial that the proponents of Proposition 8 fought so hard to keep from public view.

The play begins on June 16, 2010, at the closing arguments of *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*.

EPILOGUE

On August 4, 2010, the Federal Court ruled that Proposition 8 was unconstitutional and could not stand.

Weighing the overwhelming evidence presented by AFER's (AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS) legal team and expert witnesses against the weak testimony of anti-marriage activists, the court was left with one choice. Based on the evidence, based on the sworn testimony and based on the law, the court ruled in our favor.

But our work is not done. The proponents of Proposition 8 continue their efforts to uphold state-sponsored discrimination. They appealed the District Court's decision. They tried to have the ruling overturned based on nothing but homophobia and bigotry.

They continue their fight, so we continue ours.

As the case progresses through the legal system, we look forward to pursuing full federal equality all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, where we will win. And at every step of the way, standing behind us are millions of supporters: patriots like you who realize that any denial of freedom—on any grounds—undermines the principles upon which this country was founded.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS and
BROADWAY IMPACT's



WRITTEN BY
Dustin Lance Black

Theodore B. (Ted) Olson.....David Bliss
David BoiesKurt Perry
Charles CooperCaroline Smart
Chief Judge Vaughn R. WalkerMartin Bodenheimer
Sandy SteirJulia Brown
Kris PerryMary Kate Ganza
Jeff ZarrilloJoseph Sibley
Paul KatamiSage R. Landry
Elliott PerryZachariah Stearn
Spencer PerryCallie Cox
David Blankenhorn/Announcer 1/Man 3Tyler Gaylord
Evan WolfsonErica Green
Maggie GallagherCrystal M. Farrington
ClerkErica Green
Broadcast JournalistBrittney Cacace
Dr. Nancy Cott/Woman Ad 1 & 3Kimberly Stacy
Dr. Ilan MeyerEmma Beaton
Ryan KendallRyan Biggs
Dr. Gregory HerekSofia Bratt-Graham
Dr. Gary SeguraClare McKelway
Dr. William Tam/Woman Ad 2Kelly Scrima
Girl/Gavin NewsomeDaly Grogan

Director.....Wil Kilroy
Stage Manager/Lighting OperatorAngelica Pendleton

Saturday, September 29th, 7:30 p.m.

USM Lab Theatre

A Finished Heart, a one-man performance of story, poetry and music performed by the author, with a recorded version of the musical score. Discussion follows. As we prepare to cast our ballots to decide whether same-sex couples will be allowed to marry in Maine, the themes of love and commitment are the key focal points of the Mainers United for Marriage campaign. When his husband of sixteen years became ill, author and composer Elliott Cherry cared for him at home. He also recorded their conversations in his diary. After Chris Chenard died in 2007, Elliott wrote poetry, prose, and music to express his experience of care and loss, and combined these with his journal entries to create *A Finished Heart*. Free admission, no reservations needed. This will be downstairs in Russell Hall in the lab theatre. Donations will be accepted at the door for Mainers United for Marriage. afinishedheart.com

Wil Kilroy is currently a Professor of Theatre here at USM in the area of performance and is also Vice President of the National Michael Chekhov Association, which he co-founded with the late Mala Powers, executrix of Chekhov's estate and award winner Lisa Dalton. Wil teaches workshops for actors and teachers around the country with recent visits to Loyola Marymount in CA and Bowling Green in Ohio. Wil is also the director of the long running USM Summer Theatre Academy for 13-18 year olds. As an actor, Wil has appeared in a variety of roles ranging from Snowy Eagle in *Tammy and Billy-Bob's Wedding*, which he co-created and directed, to *Poor of Portland* with the local American Irish Repertory Theatre. Past TV/Film appearances include *Release HD*, a detective in *The Brotherhood of Poland, NH*, *Empire Falls*, an alien on *Babylon 5*, and various soaps such as *All My Children*. Credits as a director range from *Nunsense* to *Cabaret*, and he was assistant to Broadway director Glenn Casale on a Los Angeles production of *Into the Woods*. Wil's productions of *The Laramie Project*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Everything Sprite*, and *Purple Breasts* were chosen for competition in the Kennedy Center's New England festivals, with *Sprite* also chosen for performance at New York's Village Gate and *Purple Breasts* chosen to perform in Washington, D.C. for a National Breast Cancer Conference, and a production at Fitchburg State College. Wil has been the recipient of a Kennedy Center Bronze Medallions and a faculty scholarship to study with Uta Hagen, the Moss Hart Award, the Maine Education Association's Human and Civil Rights Award, and USM's Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award. Wil's screenplay, "Nana's Slippers", was a finalist in two film festival competitions. He has studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art, the Michael Chekhov Studio, and the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York, and holds theatre degrees from the University of Rhode Island and the University of Illinois.

What You Can Do

Support the case overturning Prop. 8 by making a tax-deductible donation. AFER is on the path to achieve equality for every American, but we cannot get there without your support. Visit Afer.org/donate to support the federal case for marriage equality.

SHARE THE STORY

A YouTube recording of the exclusive Los Angeles premiere of "8" featuring George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Martin Sheen and an all-star cast is available at afer.org/live. We encourage you to share the story of "8" by forwarding a link to the reading to as many of your family and friends as possible.

STAGE THE PLAY

Broadway Impact and AFER are currently licensing and coordinating staged readings of "8" like the one you are seeing tonight on campuses and in university, community and regional theaters around the world. If you are interested in staging or sponsoring a reading of "8" to spur dialogue and understanding around marriage equality, please visit www.8theplay.com for more information.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

As the sole sponsor of the federal court challenge of California's Proposition 8, the AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR EQUAL RIGHTS is leading the fight for marriage equality and equality under the law. AFER has assembled a legal team led by Theodore Olson and David Boies to demonstrate that Prop. 8, by denying millions of people equal protection under the law, violates the U.S. Constitution. AFER has a single goal: full federal freedom to marry for every single American in this country.

www.AFER.org



BROADWAY IMPACT

Formed in late 2008, in direct response to the passage of Proposition 8 in California, BROADWAY IMPACT is the first and only grassroots organization of theater artists and fans mobilized in support of marriage equality.

www.BroadwayImpact.com





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Use your flex pass to see any of these shows!

American Foundation For Equal Rights and Broadway Impact's "8"

Staged Reading directed by Wil Kilroy
Friday, September 28, 7:30 pm, Free

A new play by Dustin Lance Black chronicling the federal trial for marriage equality

You Can't Take It With You

By George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

Directed by Wil Kilroy

October 12-21, 2012

A comedy of chaotic proportions

The Glass Menagerie

By Tennessee Williams

Directed by Thomas Power

November 16-December 2, 2012

A poetic masterpiece

The Zoo Story & The American Dream

By Edward Albee

Directed by William Steele

February 1-10, 2013

The Studio Theatre at Portland Stage

Savage satire, horrifying and hilarious

A quadrennial joint production with The USM School of Music:

Die Fledermaus

Operetta by Johann Strauss

Directed by Assunta Kent

Musical Direction by Ellen Chickering

Conducted by Robert Lehmann

March 8-16, 2013

Champagne and desire can be a scandalous combination!

Orlando

By Virginia Woolf

Adapted by Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Meghan Brodie

April 19-28, 2013

A gender-bending romp across six centuries.



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Main Stage, Russell Hall, USM Gorham Campus

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