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Die Fledermaus Program [1993]

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Johann Strauss' operetta

Die Fledermaus

presented by the
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE
Department of Theatre and
Department of Music

Director: Walter Stump
Musical Director: Bruce Fithian

English version by
Ruth and Thomas Martin

March 5-7 & 11-14, 1993
Russell Hall
University of Southern Maine
Gorham Campus
Director's Notes
Walter Stump

Maximilian Steiner, director of the Theater an der Wien in Vienna had bought the rights to a French play called Le Réveillon. After having studied it more closely, he found it to be unsuitable for the Viennese public and tried to discard it. Not being able to do so, he commissioned two writers, Richard Genée and Karl Haffner, to adapt the play. So Le Réveillon was transformed into Die Fledermaus (The Bat).

Johann Strauss, to whom the composition of the music was entrusted, was enthralled and secluded himself in his villa in Hietzing to work on it. After a few weeks, he emerged with the completed score.

Strangely enough, the first performance in Vienna, 1874 (April 5 to be exact), received a cool reception. The Berlin production which followed was, however, a rousing success; and a revival in Vienna during the following season, equally well received, established Die Fledermaus once and for all. The first performance in the United States was given in German at the Thalia Theatre in New York in 1879; and the first performance in English, at the Casino Theater in New York.

Die Fledermaus is Strauss's third operetta, the two preceding ones being Indigo (1871) and Karneval in Rom (1873), both produced at the Theater an der Wien.

There is something eternally youthful about this opera. Probably that is why there are at least three college productions of the opera of which I am aware being done in March. Don't look for a great message in this work. Just have fun -- Vienna style.

Music Director's Notes
Bruce Fithian

Die Fledermaus has proven to be one of the most popular operettas of all time. Johann Strauss, the master of the grand Viennese waltz, achieved a remarkable synthesis between ballroom dancing and opera. Brahms was rightfully envious of this tunesmith for writing such delightful melodies. His ability to intervene waltzes, polkas and Hungarian Csárdáses in long scenes of constantly changing tempos is truly remarkable.

I would like to thank the cast and entire production team for putting in such hard work realizing this effervescent operetta.
**Die Fledermaus**

*Near Vienna, 1850*

**Act I**

*Room in a summer villa of Eisenstein*

Gabriel Eisenstein, a well-to-do banker.
Rosalinda, his wife
Adele, their chambermaid.
Alfred, an Italian tenor.
Dr. Blind, Eisenstein's lawyer.
Dr. Falke, Eisenstein's friend.
Frank, a prison warden.

10 Minute Intermission

**Act II**

*Hall in Prince Orlofsky's palace*

Eisenstein, alias Marquis Renard.
Rosalinda, alias the Countess Hunyadi.
Adele, alias Tanya.
Frank, alias Chevalier Chagrin.
Dr. Falke.
Prince Orlofsky, a Russian prince.
Ivan, Orlofsky's major-domo.
Sally, Adele's sister, a ballet dancer.

10 Minute Intermission

**Act III**

*The jail*

All the above, plus
Frosch, a jailer.

**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

**Act I**

- Overture
- Introduction
- Turtle-dove who flew aloft
- Duet
  - Ah, my lady says
- Trio
  - When these lawyers don't deliver
- Duet
  - Come along to the ball
- Trio
  - To part is such sweet sorrow
- Finale of Act I
  - Drinking Song: Drink, my darling
  - Couplets: Good sir, are you accusing me
  - Trio: No, no, you set my doubts at rest

**Act II**

- Entr'acte and Chorus
  - What a joy to be here
- Couplets
  - From time to time I entertain
- Ensemble and Couplets
  - My friends, your kind attention!
- Duet
  - How engaging, how capricious
- Csárdás
  - Voice of my homeland
- Finale of Act II
  - Champagne's delicious bubbles

**Act III**

- Entr'acte
- Melodrama
- Couplets
  - Ever since I was a baby
- Trio
  - To judge his expression
- Finale of Act III
  - Oh, Eisenstein, you master-mind
Biographies

Bruce Fithian, music director. Fithian's operatic experience began at the London Opera Centre and continued in France where he sang with the Paris Opera, Opéra de Nord, Opéra de Nice, Théâtre de Chatelet, and Théâtre de la Ville and premiered an opera on Ionesco texts for the French National Television. In this country he has sung opera at the Boston Early Music Festival under Roger Norrington. Along with faculty member, Ellen Chickering, he is co-director of the Flute, Cosi Fan Tutte, The Marriage of Figaro, The Abduction from the Seraglio, as well as scenes from Carmen, La Traviata, Gilbert and Sullivan, Madame Butterfly, Man of La Mancha and The Fantastics. In addition to full productions of Dido and Aeneas, Trial by Jury, El Capitan and The Face on the Bar Room Floor (a Maine premiere), the workshop has collaborated with the Theatre Department in a full production of A Little Night Music.

Roger Williams, pianist, is a senior performance major at USM. He graduated from the Jamaica School of Music with a diploma in Music Education (honors), where he studied piano with Dr. Laura Kargul. He enrolled at USM to continue his studies with Dr. Kargul. He has twice been selected to participate in the annual Honors Recital, and was also a winner in the 1991 Concerto Competition. He is the accompanist for the University Chorale and on April 16 he will give his Senior Recital. This is his second production as pianist with the Theater Department, the first being A Little Night Music.

Jill Casey, stage manager, is a theater major at USM, concentrating on technical theater. This is the first mainstage show she has stage managed. She also stage managed the lab-theater production of Confusions last semester. She would like to thank Ken for all of his love, and also for the use of his watch.

Alper Almelek (Chorus) is an international student from Istanbul, Turkey, studying voice as a junior at USM. His previous experiences were the role of the Captain in "The Sound of Music" and the Magician in "The Consul" by Gian Carlo Menotti.

Eddie Baldridge (Dr. Falke) Ed has been in several musicals and straight plays. Most recent shows were Harvey, Jesus Christ Superstar, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. After this production, Ed will perform in The Visit here at USM.

Olivia Casey-Jewett (Rosalinda) As a member of the American Association of Television And Radio Artists, Olivia has worked extensively in TV, radio, film, and industrial film. In New York she won critical acclaim for her work in Yeats! Off-Off Broadway. In Boston, Olivia helped create the cast-script play Family and an adaptation of Tillie Olsen's Tell Me A Riddle, both of which won "One of Year's 10 Best" from The Boston Globe. She is now pursuing a degree in vocal performance at USM, studying with Ellen Chickering. For the third successive year she has been chosen to perform in the Honors Recital.

Cynthia Edgeton (Sally) a junior at Westbrook High School, Cynthia has participated in many choral and solo events around the state. This is her first operetta. For two years she has attended the All-State and Southern Maine Music Festivals. She has sung at two of the Immigrant Naturalization Ceremonies and competed in the Gould Award auditions. She also tours with the Pride's Corner Praisers, a church youth choir. At her high school she was a choral cast member in the performance of The Man Who Came to Dinner and has been a soloist with her high school jazz choir.

Craig Handley (Frank) is making his stage debut at USM. He is in his second year as a music major studying voice with Bruce Fithian.

David Jewett (Blind) David has appeared in theater productions in Georgia, North Carolina, New York and Maine. Roles include Bill Sikes in Oliver and Nick in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Other theater experience includes The Hostage, Endgame, Giaconda Smile, Six Characters in Search of an Author, Otherwise Engaged, and The Birthday Party. He is a published political cartoonist in southern Maine and is currently illustrating a children's book.

Mark LaPierre (Eisenstein) Mark is finally a senior Theatre major. His past USM performances were in the shows A Little Night Music, Grannia and Everything Sprite. His upcoming original show is "What's A Romantic To Do" in the Lab Theater in April. This past summer he was also chosen to work as an acting intern at Maine State Music Theatre.

Tony Payson (Ivan) Tony was once considered a major Deity of the Gallaxy Coffee Maximus. He now resides somewhere between Green Mountain Coffee and a Bachelors Degree in Theatre from USM.
**Teresa Rooff** *(Chorus)* Teresa is a Theatre Major in her second year at USM. Previously she has been seen as a chorus member in both *Li’l Abner* and *Carousel*, and as the Neighbor Woman in *Juno and The Paycock*. Her favorite role was Snout in the ACTF nominated production, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at USM this past fall. She hopes to go as far as she can in the acting profession.

**Peter Stickney** *(Alfred)* Peter has performed throughout the USA, Canada and Soviet Union. Operas include *Aida*, *Boris Godunov*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Filelio*, *The Magic Flute* as well as a number of oratorios. Peter has Bachelor and Masters degrees in music. He is the musical director and organist at Prides Corner Church, Westbrook, as well as organist at Holy Cross Church in South Portland. He teaches in the Portland public schools and is a private voice and piano instructor. At the end of this month he will sing in Hank Beebe's "Go Out Singing."

**Sarah Sheperd** *(Prince Orlofsky)* made her professional debut last summer as a soloist with the Portland Symphony Orchestra and has since sung with the Boston Academy of Music and Opera Norte, as an apprentice artist for their 1992 season, performing the roles of Hanzel in *Hanzel and Gretel* and Damigella in *L’incoronazione di Poppea*.

**Laura Stevens** *(Adele)* is a sophomore voice performance major at USM, studying under Ellen Chickering. Her performing credits are as Amellia in *Amellia Goes to the Ball* and as a feature soloist for the University Chorale. This is her debut in Russell Hall.

**Mari Troxel** *(Chorus)* appeared with Jurys, Singers and Harpists in Dublin, Ireland. Most recently she played Mrs. Goodheart in *A Christmas Carol, The Musical* at the Schoolhouse Arts Center in Sebago Lake. She has also appeared in *Tunes from Toons* during the summer. Mari moved to Maine with her husband Chuck in 1991 and returned to school in the fall of 1992. Thanks for all your support and nurturing, Chuck, during this show.

**Steve Williams** *(Frosch)* has appeared in *The Bald Soprano*, *Confusions*, and last year’s Premiere One-Acts. He is the author of three plays, including *Waiting on a Ghost*, and 1992 KC/ACTF nominee, *Everything Sprite*. He’ll be playing Joseph Garcin in *No Exit* here on the Russell Hall mainstage Feb. 24-27.