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Spring 3-1993

## Die Fledermaus Program [1993]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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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





## Cast

Rosalinda	Olivia Casey-Jewett
Gabriel Eisenstein	Mark LaPierre
Adele	Laura Stevens
Alfred	Peter Stickney
Prince Orlofsky	Sarah Sheperd
Frank	Craig Handley
Dr. Falke	Eddie Baldridge
Blind	David Jewett
Frosch	Steve Williams
Sally	Cindy Edgeton
Ivan	Tony Payson
Chorus	Alper Almek, Teresa Rooff
	Mari Troxel, Fred Fauver

## Production Staff

Director	Walter Stump
Music Director	Bruce Fithian
Pianist	Roger Williams
Choreography	Will Kilroy, Lew-Ann Leen
Stage Manager	Jill Casey
Scenic Designer	Charles Kading
Costume Designer	Susan E. Picinich
Lighting Designer, Technical Director	Fred Fauver
Assistant Stage Manager	Johnson Hamilton
Costume Shop Supervisor	Christina A. Kinne
Master Electricians	John P. Gagnon, Amber Person
Sound Operator	Jenn Boislard
Light Board Operators	Stan Paul, Jenn Lammert
Follow Spot	Hope Picard
Running Crew	Laurel Piccone, Mary Evans, Jody Nichols
Wardrobe	Frank Menair, Amanda Byron, Rene Renner
Poster Design	Camille Buch
Box Office/Theater Publicity Manager	Kim H. Fletcher
Music Department Concert Manager	Mary Snell
Costume Construction	Jill Casey, Samantha Kinne
	Katherine Levya-Rodman, Trish O'Connell,
	Carrie Smith, Loretta Valle, Class of Costuming I
Set Construction	USM Theatre Stagecraft I & II Lab Students

Special thanks to: the Maine State Music Theatre  
(Russell Hall is handicapped accessible)

## 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 Hunyani.  
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

Alfred and Adele

Duet

Ah, my lady says

Rosalinda and Adele

Trio

When these lawyers don't deliver

Rosalinda, Eisenstein and Blind

Duet

Come along to the ball

Falke and Eisenstein

Trio

To part is such sweet sorrow

Rosalinda, Adele and Eisenstein

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

Rosalinda, Alfred and Frank

### Act II

Entr'acte and Chorus

What a joy to be here

Chorus

Couplets

From time to time I entertain

Prince Orlofsky

Ensemble and Couplets

My friends, your kind attention!

Adele, Orlofsky, Eisenstein,  
Falke, Chorus

Duet

How engaging, how capricious

Rosalinda and Eisenstein

Csárdás

Voice of my homeland

Rosalinda

Finale of Act II

Champagne's delicious bubbles

Principals and Chorus

### Act III

Entr'acte

Melodrama

Frank

Couplets

Ever since I was a baby

Adele, Sally and Frank

Trio

To judge his expression

Rosalinda, Alfred and Eisenstein

Finale of Act III

Oh, Eisenstein, you master-mind

Full Company



## 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 USM Opera Workshop. Over the past seven years they have mounted scenes from a wide repertoire spanning music theatre to opera. Past productions have included scenes from Mozart's classics *The Magic Flute*, *Così 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 Kenn 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 Baldrige** (*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 Galaxy Coffee Maximus. He now resides somewhere between Green Mountain Coffee and a Bachelors Degree in Theatre from USM.



**Teresa Roof** (*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 *Aïda*, *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.