
Programs 2001-2002 Season

Theatre Programs 2000-2010

Spring 4-2002

Multi-medi@tion Program [2002]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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THE USM DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENTS

MULTIMEDI@TION

SELF AND (GROUP) IDENTITY

I KNOW

I SEE

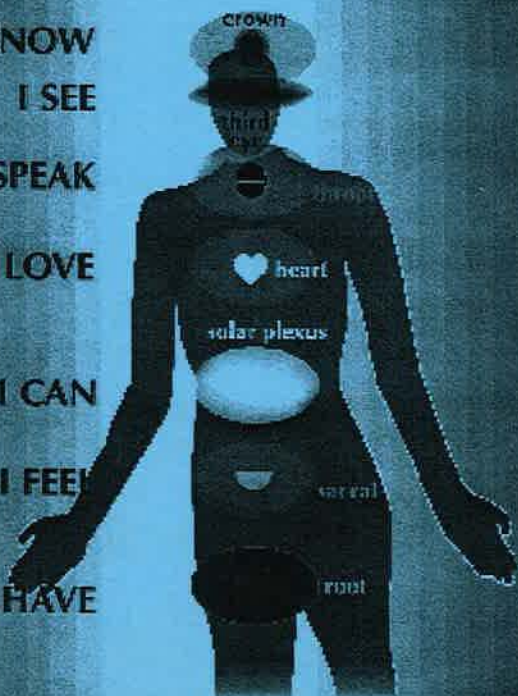
I SPEAK

I LOVE

I CAN

I FEEL

I HAVE



original student work
directed by Assunta Kent

Main Stage, Russell Hall

University of Southern Maine, Gorham campus

Friday, April 26 through Saturday, May 4

April 26, 27, 30, May 1-4 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday matinee: April 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Opening performance will be followed by a reception

\$10 general public, \$7 seniors, \$5 students and USM faculty/staff

Call the Theatre Box Office at 780-5151 for reservations.

For special services, assistance, or accommodations, contact Emmanuelle Chaulet at 780-5145 or TTY 780-5045.

UNIVERSITY OF
Southern Maine

Cast
(in order of appearance)

Antonina Zykova	Child, Root chakra, seagull, ensemble
Angela Lemire	Lover, Sacral chakra, catfish, ensemble
Ruth Leddy	Spouse, Solar Plexus chakra, ensemble
Andrew Ross	Parent, Heart chakra, soloist, ensemble
Kelly Allen	Best Friend/Co-worker, Throat chakra, duck, ensemble
Kimberly Morrill	Teacher, Third Eye chakra, panther, political/military leader, ensemble
Jerome Wills	Spiritual Guide, Crown chakra, ape, hackey boy, Daedalus, ensemble
Piper Silverthorne	Consoler, integrated chakras, fieldmouse, Muse, ensemble
C J Payne	Consoler, integrated chakras, undergrad who finds wallet, ensemble
Neil James	Robbie the Robot, "Vigil" monologist
Chelsea Cook	Rabble Rouser, "little professor" boy with Robot, Icarus, ensemble
Jennie Summers Shea	cat, Full Spectrum of Self at midlife
Eriq Estrellado Manson	hackey boy, Wolfman, best friend, ensemble
Braden Chapman	Peacock/bartender
Ariel Francoeur	Ram/unicorn, angel, bossman
Michelle Leeman	Coed who loses wallet, Author of Self-made Book

Director's Note:

Welcome to our many-faceted exploration of Self and Identity! We hope that you will find some thought-provoking, smile-producing, and perhaps even life-preserving moments in our theatrical reflections on some of Life's important stages.

We have organized many of our scenes and characters by referring to the Vedic system of *chakras* or energy centers along the spine. Each chakra has associated roles, healthy and unhealthy physical and emotional states, colors, sounds, etc. (Please consult the lobby displays for more information.) Although many of our characters and scenes are associated primarily with one chakra, all chakras are active in each human being. In our Prologue, we begin by showing individuals in a state of mourning for an Other whose existence helped to define the individual's role in life. In the body of the show, we review many of the life stages and relationships (both positive and negative) that may weaken or unbalance individuals' integrated power of Self, as represented by the chakras. In "The Send-off," we point to the power and joy of an integrated, energetic body/mind.

You may choose to view the show through our overall thematic lens, pick and choose among the pieces that most speak to you, or simply observe each piece individually. We hope you enjoy the variety of styles and perspectives presented by the many, many co-creators of *Multi-medi@tion*!

Multi-medi@tion: Self and (Group) Identity

* Devised by

Dr. Kent's Fall 2001 Theatre 399 Class:
Kelly Allen, Adam Ames, Eli Bresnick,
Braden Chapman, Nathan Dunn,
Ariel Francoeur, Ethan Hinton, Neil James,
Tim Lambert, Michelle Leeman, Angela Lemire,
Amanda McKenny, Josh McVay, Kimberly Morrill,
Chris Parker, Andrew Ross, Jennie Shea,
Caleb Wilson, Antonina Zykova

Director	Dr. Assunta Kent
Scenic Design	Kelly Allen
Costume Design	Jillian Caton, Courtney Elliot, Kelsy MacKilligan, Tara Smith
Lighting Design	Joshua McVay
Original Music Composition	Neil James, Andrew Ross
Sound Design	Andrew Ross, Neil James
Animation (crankies)	Nathan Dunn
Masking Coach	Julie Goell

Setting

A Funeral, then various settings in human life from birth to midlife.

There will be no intermission.

Warning: This show includes simulated violence and some strong language.

* "Devising" is a process of using theatre exercises, New Games, yoga and other movement improvisation, musical composition, and performance art techniques to collaboratively create a new work. We began our process with no text. The result is a group-created and group-performed set of pieces on the themes of Self, Group, and Identity and on the idea that human beings are Animal, Spiritual, Social and Individual.

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.

Special Thanks to

Accent Dry Cleaners, Deering High School audio visual department and Headlight Audio Visual, Emmanuelle Chaulet, Nancy Risley and the Polarity Realization Institute, Holistic Pathways, Minott Flowers, The Green Grocer Sue Goodrich of Gorham campus Media Services, Brian Currie, Adam Ames, Dr Kent especially wants to thank Kris Hall, Matt Meads, Jonna Whittemore, and all designers and technicians for their dedication to co-creation at the end of a long, busy, and extraordinarily creative season!

Program

PART I: Prelude -- Our Current State of Dependency on Others

Funeral of the Self

Chakra-coded "significant others" mourn the loss of a newly departed Self and are temporarily consoled at the funeral. But their loss is too recent and they cannot find peace within themselves. How have we grown to be dependent on others for self-definition?

PART II: From Birth to Midlife: How We Are Shaped by Life Stages

The Birth of the Masks

New creatures awake for the first time to a new world, to themselves, and to others.

Naked (part one) (Excerpts from a poem by Ethan Hinton)

Performer: Michelle Leeman

Poetic commentary on the human condition.

The Evolution of Life (a "crankie" or rolling comic strip)

Devised by Nathan Dunn

Another view of the beginnings of life.

Robbie the Robot Devised by Neil James and Adam Ames

A search for friendship, acceptance, and a recognition of differences.

Naked (part two) Performer: Christopher Payne

Dance of the Predators

A more primal response to survival and difference.

Education Devised by Andrew Ross. Performer: Kelly Allen

Regimentation and fear mar a young Self.

Education of Citizens Devised by Kimberley Morrill

The "protection" of Tribe goes awry.

Vigil Devised and performed by Neil James

Devotion to Tribe and Nation overwhelm compassion, insight, and spirituality.

Naked (part three) Performer: Angela Lemire

Icarus Devised by Jerome Wills

Resurrecting myths to live by.

Leaving the Nest Performers: Andrew Ross, Antonina Zykova,

Eriq Manson

Moral Development Devised by Nathan Dunn

Is honesty its own reward?

Evolution of Love (crankie)

Choices and chances in love and romance.

Abandonment/Solace Devised by Angela Lemire

Young adult confusion with sex and love.

Bar and Grill

Looking for love in all the wrong places?

A Story about Self Written and illustrated by Michelle Leeman

Naked (part four)

Performer: Jerome Wills

Work Life

The stresses of making a living.

Business Management Devised by Joshua McVay

Promise Lyrics by Andrew Ross. Music by Andrew Ross and Adam Ames.

PART III: The Send-off -- Finding Our Selves

Midlife: Integration of Self Devised, with monologue, by Jennie Shea

Artistic Staff

Assistant Director
Fight Choreographer
Dramaturg
Prop (Icarus) Designs
Energy Awareness Counselor

Ariel Francoeur
Matt Cary
Destiny Long
Jerome Wills
Emmanuelle Chaulet

Production Staff

Stage Manager
Deck Manager
Technical Director
Carpenters
Costume Shop Supervisor
Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor
Stitchers

Jonna D. Whittemore
Lindsey Thompson
Matthew Meeds
Stagecraft Lab
Kris Hall

Kellys MacKilligan
Elizabeth Adams, Elizabeth Chambers, Chelsea Cook,
Shannon Campbell, Sandi Fletcher, Sunny Hitt,
Julianna Lagin-Nasse, Kellys MacKilligan, Christopher Payne,
Erin Whitworth, Jonna Whittemore and Costume Lab

Master Electricians
Electricians
Properties Supervisor
Properties Construction

Michaela Wirth, Jacob Walton
Lighting Practicum Class
Ariel Francoeur

Crystal Thorne, CJ Payne, Piper Silverthorne,
Kimberly Morrill, Angela Lemire, Kellys MacKilligan
Piper Silverthorne

Chakra Slide Photography

Production Crew

Painters
Deck Crew
Wardrobe
Light Board Operator
Overhead Projection Operator
Sound Board Operator

Michael Toth, Anna Gravel, Andrea Lopez, Caroline Guilmartin
Norm Dyer, Andrea Lopez
Shannon Campbell, Eriq Manson, Daniel Burbank
Jillian Shapleigh
Nathan Dunn, Andrea Lopez
Destiny Long

Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director
Arts Events Director
Administrative Assistant
Box Office Manager
House Manager
Lobby Display
Graphic Design

Mary Snell
Emmanuelle Chaulet
Lillian Campbell
Tara Smith
Anna Gravel
Destiny Long
Leigh Raposo

THE
2001-2002
SEASON!

THE PUBLIC THEATRE

Lewiston/Auburn's Professional Theatre

- ★ **BLITHE SPIRIT** by Noel Coward Oct 12 - 21 A ghostly comedy to pick up your spirits.
- ★ **SPOUSAL DEAFNESS and other bones of contention** Nov 2 - 11
The title says it all! From the creators of *IDA: WOMAN WHO RUNS WITH THE MOOSE*.
- ★ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** by Charles Dickens, adapted by Christopher Schario
& **HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** Dec 14, 15, 16
The perfect holiday show for the whole family!
- ★ **DINNER WITH FRIENDS** by Donald Margolies Jan 25 - Feb 3
The Maine Premiere of the Winner of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize! Satisfying food for thought for anyone who is, was, or thinking about getting married. Contains mature themes and language.
- ★ **FUDDY MEERS** by David Lindsay-Abaire Mar 15 - 24
The Maine premiere of this outrageously funny Off-Broadway hit! An amnesia victim goes on a wacky, wild and ultimately touching ride down memory lane. Contains adult language.
- ★ **THE PAVILION** by Craig Wright May 3 - 12
A 20th High School reunion is the backdrop for this charming, insightful and poignantly romantic new play about the desire to turn back time. A 2000 Pulitzer Prize nominee!

For tickets, gift certificates and group rates: (800) 639-9575 or 782-3200

Thurs - Sat @ 8pm
Sun @ 2pm

Tickets
\$12.50 / \$15

Theatre Location: The Ritz Theatre, Lisbon & Maple St., Lewiston
For more information visit: www.thepublictheatre.org

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DIRECTOR

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performances and classes,
please visit our websites:

www.usm.maine.edu/theater
www.usm.maine.edu/music

or call:
780-5151 Theatre Box Office
780-5555 Music Box Office

Cast Biographies

Kelly Allen - Set Designer/Performer

Kelly is a fourth year theatre major with a concentration in tech and design who resides in Yarmouth. This is her Main Stage debut as a performer, but she has worked on various USM productions in several areas. She most recently stage managed *Africa/Portland*. Kelly is very excited to be given the opportunity to perform in this very different medium and also to design this collaborative show.

Braden Chapman - Performer

Braden is thrilled to portray this role he created with his devising friends. He just finished a run of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* as the title character. He has appeared in *The Wrestling Season*, *42nd Street* and many other productions. He wants to thank everyone intimately involved with his ventures (edgy and not). Best of love to The Mommies, Sarah and Taylor, and Steffan.

Chelsea Cook - Performer

Chelsea is a freshman theatre major from Palmer, MA. She has performed, written and sung in various productions since she was able to speak. Her latest (and proudest) achievement to date was assistant stage managing this year's production of *The Good Woman of Setzuan*. Thanks and love to Mom, Marg and Molly: you make things happen.

Ariel Francoeur - Assistant Director/Performer

Ariel is a sophomore theatre major from Orwell, VT. This season she appeared in *The Good Woman of Setzuan* and the *Student Written One Acts*. She received an Irene Ryan nomination for her role as Timmy in *Factors of the Mythological Persuasion*. Ariel is directing *The Bridesmaid* for the ten-minute play festival. Thanks to the devising class for their infinite creativity.

Neil James - Performer

Neil is a junior theatre major at USM. He sometimes plays music and sometimes is on stage with music in mind. He dedicates this performance to the memory of Timothy Anderson.

Ruth Leddy - Performer

Ruth was born in Louisiana and introduced to Maine in a cluster of bananas; she is in her second year at USM and has enjoyed her stay here. Ruth is making her Main Stage debut in *Multi-medi@tion*. She hopes that you will understand and enjoy this presentation and would like to thank Piper for her infallible chauffeuring and perpetually pleasant manner.

Angela R. Lemire - Performer

Angela, a senior theatre major, comes from Livermore Falls. She has previously been seen at USM in *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, *Dance USM!*, *Phaedra* and *Frankenstein*. She was also in *Pinocchio: I Never Lied* for Two Lights Theatre Ensemble.

Eriq Estrellado Manson - Performer

Eriq, a junior theatre major, enjoys shooting pool, juggling and creating public awareness of the stigma against those with mental health issues. He also enjoys traveling to the Philippines where he and his parents own a home. Eriq's dream is to do a psychodramatic documentary motion picture on his own life. This is Eriq's debut on the Main Stage.

Kimberly Morrill - Performer

Kimberly, a senior theatre major from Lisbon, spent last year studying theatre at Hunter College in NYC. She is graduating from USM this May and would like to thank Assunta and the rest of her devising class for such an enriching experience. Kim has also appeared in *The Imaginary Invalid* and *A Taste of Killing on the Tip of the Tongue* here at USM.

CJ Payne - Performer

Though more involved in technical theatre, CJ is glad to be on the stage again. This is his first Main Stage production at USM. He played Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Show* last year with MTPlayers. CJ has also enjoyed working on costumes for USM productions. Thank you for coming.

Andrew Ross - Sound Designer/Performer

Andrew is a senior theatre major and musician. If anyone is interested in listening to a portion of the music from the show, go to www.apexzion.com and follow the links to free music.

Jennie Summers Shea - Performer

Jennie is a returning student at USM, completing her undergraduate degree in theatre. Long ago, before so many roles redirected her life, she was a musical theatre professional. Now with six grown children happily living their own lives, Jennie is returning to her first love, theatre. She is happy to be a part of this gentle company of players.

Piper Silverthorne - Performer

Piper is a theatre major from Deming NM. At USM, Piper has worked on *The Good Woman of Setzuan* as the light board operator as well as on props and costume construction. Her concentration is costume design; she designed for *Seven Minutes in Heaven* last semester. Outside of the University she is designing collaboratively with a New Mexican puppeteer for a full scale marionette production of *A Midsummer Nights Dream*.

Jerome Wills - Performer

Jerome is a senior English and Theatre major at USM. He is vice president of Two Lights Theatre Ensemble for which he will set design and produce the U.S. premiere of Xavier Durringer's play *La Promise* at St Lawrence Arts Center this fall. In this show he designed *Icarus* in which he explores his interest in retelling myth. He challenges people to reinterpret old stories and myths to find universal truths that apply to our modern lives, in which a sense of spirituality is often forgotten.

Antonina Zyкова - Performer

Antonina is an international relations major from Odessa, Ukraine. She intends to continue her theatre experience in Russian drama. Her favorite role would be Nina in Chekhov's *The Seagull*. Antonina finds theatre to be the highest of all arts and a spiritual source of inspiration. She wishes to thank Assunta for letting the improvisation dominate the stage. She would also like to thank Emmanuelle Chaulet and James Shay.



Two Lights Theatre Ensemble

A company devoted to present performances mixing all art forms and integrating a holistic approach to acting.

**"Energy and the Actor"
Workshops**

**&
Private Energy
Clearing Sessions**

La Promise, by Xavier Durringer

September 5-15, 2002

Saint Lawrence Arts Center, Portland

Special performance and public discussion on

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Artistic Staff Biographies

Assunta Kent earned her doctorate in Northwestern University's Interdisciplinary Program in Theatre and Drama where she continued her study and practice of performance art. She currently teaches dramatic literature and cultural history, oral interpretation, play analysis and, most recently, the new "Devising Theatre" class that created the rough draft of *Multi-medi@tion*. At USM, Assunta has directed *A Dream of Canaries*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Rokujo Lady's Passion*, *The Danube*, and *Sinners, Saints and Fools*. Off-campus, she has danced with the Esduardo Mariscal Dance Theatre, dramaturged *Alice in Bed*, and guest-lectured at Barnard College on women's roles in Japanese Noh Drama. She is Book Review editor for the *New England Theatre Journal*, and the author of *Maria Irene Fornes and Her Critics*.

Last spring, Dr. Kent took her sabbatical to observe the British style of Devising at our sister school, King Alfred's College in Winchester, UK. Back in the US, she has thoroughly enjoyed the nine-month process of devising and producing *Multi-medi@tion* with such a wildly creative, wonderfully skilled, and thoughtful group of students and staff!

Kris Hall - Costume Shop Supervisor, Student Designers Coordinator

Kris has been the Costume Shop Supervisor for two years. During that time, she has coordinated teams of student designers for *The Student Written One Acts* (Fall '01), *Dance USM!* (Spring 00, 01) and last year's student written play *Unwritten Song* (Fall '00). She also designed costumes for USM's production of *Baltimore Waltz* (Fall '00). Her previous design credits include work at Mad Horse Theatre and L.A. Public Theatre. She has also worked at Maine State Music Theatre and George Street Playhouse in New Jersey.

Kelsy MacKilligan - Costume Shop Supervisor and Designer for the Consoler as Muse. Kelsy is a theatre major with a concentration in acting. Kelsy has immensely enjoyed her responsibility as costume shop supervisor and would like to thank Kris for providing her with many opportunities to design and to help out in the costume shop.

Tara Smith - Costume designer for the Dance of the Predators and Lesbian Bar Scene. Tara is a junior theatre major from Millinocket, Maine. She has been involved in various Main Stage and Black Box productions. This is her second time costuming a Main Stage show. She is grateful for the opportunity and special thanks to all who are involved with this production.

Jillian Caton - Costume Designer for all chakra pieces and consolders. Jillian is a senior theater major from Warren, RI. This will be her second time Costume Designing. The last show she designed for the characters Tooth Fairy and Monster under the Bed in the student written show *Factors of a Mythological Persuasion*. Her main concentration is Stage Management, with which she just finished *Into the Woods*. Jillian will be interning in stage management this summer at Maine State Music Theater in Brunswick. She would like to thank Kris Hall for all her help and support.

Courtney Elliott - Costume designer for the Angel and Devil and the Parenting scene. Courtney is a Senior Theatre major from Newport, Vermont. She spent her Junior year studying theatre in England. Previous costume designs include *True West* and *Seven Minutes in Heaven*. She also appeared in *The Good Woman of Setzuan* and *Into The Woods*.

Joshua McVay - Lighting Designer

Joshua is a junior theatre major at USM. Recently he was the technical director as well as playing the role of Austin in *True West*. Past lighting designs include *Born Rocker*, *One for the Road*, and *Africa/Portland*. Last year his designs included *Pinocchio: I Never Lied* for Two Lights Theatre Ensemble, and *The Importance of Being Wilde* at USM.

Nathan Dunn - Animation

Nathan, a senior art major, has appeared on the USM stage in *The Rokujo Lady's Passion*, *Among the Oats*, and *Rocky Horror Show*. Nathan follows his passion for art and cartooning. He is very glad to have found a way to give back to the theatre community for all of the good times and to do so in a way that involves his illustrating talents.

Matthew 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 Centre Stage.

Jonna D. Whittemore - Stage Manager

Jonna is a senior theatre major with a concentration in tech and design. She has very much enjoyed her stage management experience on this production. Previously at USM, Jonna has worked in many areas, from light board operation, to props and costume construction. Jonna has also designed costumes for *Dance USM!* and *Factors of the Mythological Persuasion*. She spent last summer working in the props department at Maine State Music Theatre.



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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). 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 KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2002.

Last year more than 1,200 productions and 198,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.