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Spring 2-2005

## Lysistrata Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MAINE

*Department of Theatre presents*



by Aristophanes

directed by Ariel Francoeur

Friday, February 11-Sunday, February 20, 2005

**Russell Hall  
Main Stage  
USM Gorham Campus**

## Director's Note

It is a great challenge to direct a play that is over two thousand years old. Theatrical conventions of style, language, acting, and costuming were very different when *Lysistrata* was written. The world in which the playwright lived is largely a mystery to us, and civilization has evolved so rapidly that it is almost impossible to comprehend life without modern advances. However, this play is performed again and again because the story is universal and timeless. It is a response to war and sex, to death and life. True to the Old Comedy style, these themes manifest in humorous and risqué situations, and poignant messages are disguised beneath the laughter. It is because of this unique combination of style and content that *Lysistrata* has survived through the rise and fall of empires, and thrived during oppressive regimes.

After sifting through endless translations and adaptations, I chose this version because it is ambiguous. The writing excludes ancient references to people, places, and politics that no longer have any meaning for the common audience member, lines that would have separated us from the action rather than included. I approached the entire production as a student of theatre and history. As I read through Aristophanes' repertoire and studied what little is known of him, I was amazed at how distinctive his voice has remained. Although the words I read were not in his native tongue, I always had a sense of his peculiar personality. For this reason, as you will see, I have emphasized his role in the story. Due to my study of ancient Greek society and theatrical tradition I have chosen to present this play in the manner in which I perceive it was performed in 411 BCE, with a modern twist.

*Lysistrata* was written twenty-one years into the Peloponnesian War, which involved nearly all the city-states of what we now call Greece. The result of this war was the permanent decline of the Greek Empire. This must have been a frightening, desperate time for all those not making a fortune at the expense of the sufferers. Placed in this context, we have to wonder what Aristophanes was really trying to say, and to whom. Could it be so simple to put an end to killing forever? Or is war a force of human nature that we can only pretend to control...

-A. Francoeur

# Lysistrata

by Aristophanes

adapted by Edward Einhorn

## Artistic Staff

Director	Ariel Francoeur
Scenic Design	Charles S. Kading
Costume Design	Jodi Ozimek
Assistant Costume Design	Christy Morrison
Lighting Design	Brian Hapcic
Choreographer	Brigitte Paulus
Dramaturg	Karen Ball
Musical Composer	Angus McFarland
Advisors to the Director	William Steele and Assunta Kent

## Cast

Lysistrata	I. Carlsen
Calonice	Jill Koufman-Bradbury
Myrrhina	Mia Perron
Lampito/Woman #3	Michelle Sawyer
Theban Woman/ Police Woman/ Woman#1/ Peace	Michele Lee
Female Slave	Jessica Savory
Male Chorus	Anthony Teixeira
Male Slave	Travis Curran
Female Chorus	Josieda Lord
Magistrate	Jae Rodriguez
Police Man/ Woman#2/Spartan Herald	John Sargent
Cinesias	Nick Cyr

*Warning: Please be aware that there is adult language and mature subject matter involved in tonight's production.*

*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.*

## Production Staff

Stage Manager	Jillian Shapleigh
Assistant Stage Managers	Liza Bonnell Brendan Tenan
Technical Director	Matt Meeds
Carpenters	Stage Craft Lab
Costume Shop Supervisor	Kris Hall
Stitchers	Sara Ameigh, Katelyn Adams, Lindsey Higgins, Kristin Kurz, Kate Law, Daniel Lawrence, Michele Lee, Megan Marino, Johanna Nilsson, Alicia Ouellete, Alexis Pappas, Chatfar Rodney, Jill Shapleigh, Costume Lab
Electricians	Lighting Practicum Class
Properties Supervisor	Annette Bourque
Properties Construction	Jillian Shapleigh, Neil James
Phallus Design	Kris Hall
Phallus/Mask Fabrication Team	Renee Levasseur, Jennifer Miner
Phallus Metalwork	Michaela Wirth

## Production Crew

Deck Crew	Maia Turlo, Mark Blais, Allison Bowler
Wardrobe	Katelyn Adams, Patrick Kilbourn, Rachel Bruce, Amy Demas
Light Board Operator	Brian Walsh
Musicians	Thomas Metz, Alex Petropoulos

## Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director	Mary Snell
Arts Events Director	Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant	Lil Campbell
Box Office Staffs	Ashleigh St. Pierre, Heather Green
House Manager	Jason Cook, Dan Goldstein, Anthony Teixeira Micah Maurio

## Composer's Note

The most important moment in the compositional process usually takes place before a single note is written; it is the moment of decision as to how to approach the work. With *Lysistrata* I was presented with an interesting challenge in this regard. The play's setting in ancient Athens demanded that the music be in some way "Greek," although there are many different conceptions of Greece. There is some scholarship on what ancient Greek music sounded like, but this idiom would in no way resonate with modern audiences in the same way as it did for the ancients. On the other hand a more vernacular or even a more strictly classical approach would harm the exotic flavor of the play. Thus I decided to borrow a page, inspired in part by Aubrey Beardsley's illustrations for *Lysistrata*, from the 19th century conception of "the Greece of our dreams." Writing a score for an imaginary Greece, I attempted to present music that would make sense to a modern audience, while capturing the strangeness, the lyricism, the gravity and the playfulness of the dream that is ancient Greece. I hope that I have succeeded, and that you enjoy this interpretation of *Lysistrata*.

-Angus Francisco McFarland

## Artistic Staff Biographies

### Ariel Francoeur, Director

Ariel is a senior theatre major and history minor from the tiny town of Orwell, Vermont. Throughout her college career she has had many opportunities to explore both acting and directing. Favorite performance roles include "Louise" in *Haiku*, Malcolm in *Macbeth*, and the title role in *Pinocchio*. She is currently a member of the sketch comedy group The Escapists, and of the Two Lights Theatre Ensemble. She has been nominated three times as an Irene Ryan acting scholarship candidate, and her junior year received the Bronwyn Millard Scholarship for excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences. That year she also directed her first Lab Theater production, the expressionist play *Machinal*. Next she directed a staged reading of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and this past summer was the assistant director for *Into the Woods* with the L/A Arts summer theatre program. Special thanks to this wonderful cast for fully trusting a fellow student to lead them, and to the understanding staff at PortTix. This production is dedicated to her grandfather, Noble Francoeur.

### Charles S. Kading - Scenic Designer

Charles has taught design and stage craft at USM for 25 years. His professional credits include *Titanic*, *Hans Christian Andersen*, *Ragtime*, and *Scarlet Pimpernel* for Maine State Music Theatre; *Big River*, *My Fair Lady*, *She Loves Me*, *Cabaret*, and *Annie* for Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater; *Noises Off!* and *Blithe Spirit* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He worked extensively at The Alley Theater in Houston where his credits include the US premiere of Alan Ayckbourne's *Henceforward*. Charles has also designed scenery for the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Cabaret Repertory Theatre and Portland Stage. He is currently chair of the Theatre Department.



**Jodi Ozimek, Costume Designer**

Jodi Ozimek is delighted to return to USM for her second academic year as costume designer and lecturer. Select USM credits include: *Six Characters In Search of an Author*, *The Laramie Project*, *Company*, and *Shakuntala*. Over the summer Jodi returned to American Players Theatre in Wisconsin to assist in costume design *Cymbeline*. She received her BA in theatre from Michigan State University and her MFA in costume and design from Purdue University. Jodi would like to thank her husband for his endless love and support.

**Brian Hapcic, Lighting Designer**

Brian Hapcic joins the faculty at USM this year, relocating from a position at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a BA in English from Ohio University, and an MFA in Design and Technology from the University of Montana. His specialties are lighting and sound.

**Angus Francisco McFarland, Musical Composer**

Angus is a senior student composer living and working in Portland, Maine. He has had many of his works performed on diverse instruments, and has performed as a guitarist in several theatrical productions. In 2003 he won the Nordica Trio Student Composers' Competition with a trio for piano, violin, and clarinet entitled *Aetas Doloris*. *Lysistrata* is his first composition for a theatrical production.

**Matt 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. Most recently he designed the set for last year's production of *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-In-the-Moon Marigolds*.

**Kris Hall, Costume Director**

This is Kris Hall's fifth season as the Costume Director. This year she also enrolled as a Masters degree candidate in Studio Art at Maine College of Art. Last summer she designed *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at Maine State Music Theatre.

**Jillian Shapleigh, Stage Manager**

Jillian is a senior theatre major from Bridgewater, MA. Her most recent accomplishment is designing costumes for SPA's production of *Once On This Island*. Other shows she has worked on include *Dance USM!*, *Company*, *Multimediation*, and *Cabaret*.

**Cast Biographies****I. Carlsen, Lysistrata**

I. is a theatre major here at USM originally from Waterboro, Maine. Past Shows include: *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *The Bald Soprano*, *The Shape of Things*, *End of the World*, *Missouri*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Our Town*, *Twelfth Night*, and *A Curious Savage*.

**Jill Koufman Bradbury, Calonic**

Jill is new to Gorham and USM. She is returning to live theatre after fifteen years. Jill actively participated as a Portland Cable Access Producer, actress, and camera-woman on the N2 show. From teaching over the past ten years, she has consistently used drama and video as therapeutic and educational tools.

**Mia Perron, Myrrhina**

Mia is excited for this opportunity to work on the USM Main Stage. This is her second Main Stage performance, following *Shakuntala* last fall. Mia is a sophomore theatre major. Favorite roles include "Vi" in *Footloose* and "Ruth" in *The Silver Lining*. Mia also received a playwriting award for her co-written piece *The Adventures of Pirate Bob* at the Maine One Act Festival in 2003.

**Michelle Sawyer, Lampito/Woman #3**

Michelle is currently a freshman musical theatre major here at USM. She graduated from Windham High School. She has appeared in shows such as *West Side Story*, *Grease*, *Footloose*, *42nd Street*, and *Children of Eden*. Michelle is currently studying voice under Ed Reichert and Judith James. This is her second production with USM.

**Michele Lee, Theban Woman/ Police Woman/ Woman#1/ Peace**

Michele is from Bridgton, Maine and she is a freshman theatre major. Although this is Michele's first play at USM, she has been in many professional shows around Maine - such as *Les Acadiens* and *A Thousand Cranes* at The Children's Theatre of Maine. Michele has also had previous training through Acorn School of the Performing Arts, her agency Talent Management Associates, and The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City.

**Jessica Savory, Female Slave**

Jessica, originally from Methuen, Massachusetts, is a second semester theatre major here at USM. Most recently she was on the deck crew for *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. She had the female comedic lead in her high school's senior class play, *Stardust*. This is her first Main Stage role at USM.

**Anthony J. Teixeira, Male Chorus**

Anthony, from Sandwich, Massachusetts, is in his final semester as a musical theatre major. His previous USM productions include *Company*, *Children of Eden*, *Songs for a New World*, and *A View From the Bridge*. He would like to thank Ariel and the cast and crew for this unique experience.

**Travis Curran, Male Slave**

Travis is a freshman theatre major debuting in *Lysistrata*. His past experience includes some of his high school's productions and doing some playwriting/directing at the theatre program at Camp Wigwam Summer Camp.

**Josieda M. Lord, Female Chorus**

Josieda is a junior theatre major originally from Hope, Maine. This is her sixth USM production and her second show under the direction of Ms. Francoeur.

**Jae Rodriguez, Magistrate**

Jae is a junior theatre major who is originally from San Antonio, Texas. He originally got his break when he portrayed "Seymour" in *Little Shop of Horrors*. In his first production at USM he portrayed three characters in the production of *Shakuntala*. His technical credits are in the *Dance USM!* production and *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.

**John Sargent, Police Man/ Woman#2/Spartan Herald**

John is from York, Maine, but originally from Turkmenistahn. He migrated here at the age of the thirteen with the dream of someday becoming an actor. *Lysistrata* is his first play of his life.

**Nick Cyr, Cinesias**

Nick is a freshman theatre major from Bangor, Maine. This is his first USM production on the Main Stage, but he has worked on many productions with the Penobscot Theatre Company. Some of his productions include *The Nerd*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Servant of Two Masters*. Nick last performed as Javert in Bangor High School's production of *Les Miserables*.

**Special Thanks to:**

RJ McComish, Jennifer McLeod, Michael Toth, Tom Power,  
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and Accent Dry Cleaners



**The Kennedy Center American College Theater  
Festival™  
XXXVII**

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The John F. Kennedy  
Center for the Performing Arts  
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The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund  
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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, 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 2005. 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.

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*Friday, Feb. 11-Sunday, Feb. 20, 2005*

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By Aristophanes  
directed by Ariel Francoeur '05

*Friday, March 11-Saturday, March 19, 2005*

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# USM School of Music 2004-2005 Faculty Concert Series

Fridays, 8 p.m., Corthell Concert Hall  
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October 1 and 2

## **Three Divas in Concert: A 10th Anniversary Concert**

Judith James, Deborah Hall, Marie  
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## **The Many Colors of the Voice**

Margaret Yauger and Matcom Smith with  
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April 8

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