

4-2010

## Inook and the Sun Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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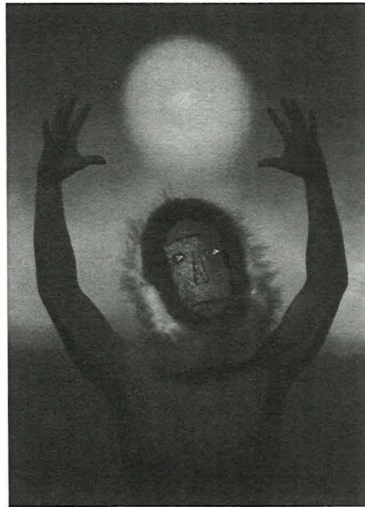


UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MAINE

*Department of Theatre presents*

# *Inook and the Sun*

By Henry Beissel



Directed by Assunta Kent

**April 23-May 2, 2010**  
**Main Stage, Russell Hall**  
**USM Gorham Campus**

*Presented through special arrangement with the Playwrights Guild of Canada*

## Director's Note

Our playwright, Canadian Henry Beissel, explains that *Inook and the Sun* is a fantasy of his own invention that honors Inuit life and spirituality and “explores on an archetypal level the fundamental human experience of life and death, and the need to understand and accept our place in nature in order to survive.” Act I, like many an epic tale, focuses on the cycle of human life – older, wiser, and more tradition-bound Elders teach, but then must make way for, the younger, more impetuous and as-yet-untried new generation. We witness the push and pull of Tradition (Father, Mother, Spirit of the Moon) offset by the Wind’s call to Change and (possible) joy, and the Dream’s predictions of high adventure and dire challenges that lie beyond the village. Inook (“Humanity”) must find its own way – tested by the extreme environment of the Arctic and misled by humans’ naive and dangerous misapprehension that “the world was made for them alone.”

In ACT II, our production openly addresses our contemporary crisis – the need for humans to “accept our place in nature.” Notice that in Inook’s encounters with sea creatures and deities, he does not slay nor is he slain by any of those he encounters. With the Arctic regions at the leading edge of climate global change, floating continents of toxic plastic in both great oceans, and our fisheries depleted, we need to re-learn the aboriginal way of honoring the natural world.

We hope that amidst your enjoyment of Inook’s adventures and the glorious return of the Sun after a long northern winter, you also join him in allowing the lessons and insights embedded in this show to reach your heart and to influence your behavior.

Special thanks to my rehearsal assistants, Sebastian and Josh, then Kaitlin and Matt, and to Jim and Kris for almost daily consultations.

Dr. Assunta Kent, Associate Professor  
Theatre and Women's Studies

## Notes on the Music

I grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Native singing and dancing were very much a part of my life. Though we lived in the city, powwows were a common occurrence. Though Methodist, every Sunday saw us attending a Native church, where all the hymns were in original languages – Creek, Cherokee, Osage and Pawnee – alternating every week. We went out of our way to be fair.

In considering the music, I’ve looked at the needs of the drama first, then any kind of “Native” sound. The music is not meant to sound specifically “Inuit” – I’m not Inuit, I’m Cherokee and I’ve used the vocabulary with which I’m most familiar. I’ve listened to quite a lot of Inuit music, thanks to the National Archives and the Smithsonian, and have been amazed at how familiar the sound is.

The process was to first record myself speaking the entire script, isolating the song texts and trying to “spot” places where music should be used, complimenting the energy level implied by the line of the story. The actual composition came in the form of “vocables” – wordless chants that flowed from my sense of “what sounds worked best.” I also danced as I sang, as there is enormous implied stage movement. There is no Native tradition of “Art Song” or “music for music’s sake” – all music has to DO something and this score is no different.

Then I quickly began blending in the texts (before I got too attached to just the sound), gradually working them like clay to make the joins smooth and seeing how they fit in the context of the drama. A lot of the texts had to be elided – repeated and smoothed over long lines, almost like Gregorian Chant. The textual rhythm moves like a jingle dancer, in, over, and around the pulse.

As we got into the actual production, I’ve been very fortunate to have time to collaborate with the actors in revising the songs to match the stage action. This has been a lot of fun and I have to name the cast as co-composers on this project. Their feedback and willingness to ask for more is very refreshing. The music has to work in the context of all the other parts of the drama – stagecraft, costume, lighting, choreography, stage direction – but I think all of us, working as a tribe, will show how many can come to tell the story of one – which is the story of us all.

Jim Alberty

# *Inook and the Sun*

By Henry Beissel

Director	Assunta Kent
Scenic Design	Perry Fertig
Costume Design:	
Spirits, Villagers, Family	Kris Hall
Animals	Travis Grant
Sea Monster and Sedna	Hannah Brown
Inuit Masks	Monica Morrison
Shadow Puppet Design	August Delisle
Hair and Makeup Design	Kyle Skillin
Lighting Design	Shannon Zura
Sound Design	Danny Gay
Props Design	Calien Lewis
Composer	Jim Alberty

## Cast (in order of appearance)

Percussionist	Daniel Bernardini
Raven	Sarah Dube
Inook	Sage Landry
Father	Kyle Joyce
Igaluk, Spirit of the Moon	Ryan Nash
Mother	Kat Smith
Inuit Villagers	Kyle Skillin ( <i>inukshuk/stone figure</i> ), Taylor Rousseau ( <i>ice figure</i> );
	<i>Dancers:</i> Clarissa Bergeron-Lawrence, Laura Collard, Hunter Jandreau, Megan Jackson
	<i>Singers:</i> Katelyn Smith, Ashley Rood
Caribou Spirit	Michael Lynch
Anoke, Spirit of the Wind	Simon Skold
Spirit of the Dream	Megan Jackson
Polar Bear	Michael Lynch ( <i>center</i> ), Kyle Skillin ( <i>right paw</i> ), Taylor Rousseau ( <i>left paw</i> )
Sled Dogs	Hunter Jandreau, Katelyn Smith, Laura Collard
Musk Oxen	Hunter Jandreau ( <i>bull</i> ), <i>Herd:</i> Katelyn Smith, Megan Jackson, Kat Smith
Arctic Fox	Clarissa Bergeron-Lawrence
Seals	Katelyn Smith, Ashley Rood, Laura Collard
Sedna, Goddess of the Sea	Desiray Roy
Sea Monster	<i>Voice:</i> Garrett Kieran
	<i>Driver:</i> Kyle Joyce
	<i>Tentacles:</i> Taylor Rousseau, Sarah Dube, Kat Smith, Megan Jackson, Kyle Skillin, Hunter Jandreau

Sharks  
Spirit of the Ice  
Malina, Spirit of the Sun

Michael Lynch, Sarah Dube  
Taylor Rousseau  
Julianne Pictou

## Setting Act/Scene Breakdown

Act I:	Seemingly endless Arctic Winter night
Prologue:	Mythic Time
Episodes 1-2:	Outside the igloos of an Inuit village
Episodes 3-5:	The next “day;” Out on the frozen tundra, away from the village
Episode 6:	Three “days” later; a desolate plain near the edge of the sea
Act II:	Mythic time—could be days or months. Under the Sea; and later in the Hall of the Iceberg
Episode 7:	Under the Sea ruled by Sedna, Goddess of the Sea
Episode 8:	In the Cave of the Sea Monster
Episode 9:	At the Gateway to the Iceberg, guarded by ferocious Shark
Episode 10:	Great Hall of the Iceberg
Epilogue:	Mythic time; the return of Arctic Spring

*Please turn off your cell phones and any other noisemaking devices during the performance as a courtesy to the actors and audience members. The videotaping or other audio recording of this production, and the use of flash photography is strictly prohibited.*

*There is a strobe light used in this production.*

## Synopsis

The trickster Raven sets our story. She observes, that even more intensely than in Maine, 'Winter has settled in and will not make way for Spring.' The Inuit are cold and starving; birds and beasts, even the fish and sharks, 'all have fled the howling dark' of the seemingly endless arctic night.

To save himself and his people, Inook (filled with the hubris of young men) defies tradition to hunt the Sun. At first, his Father and the Spirit of the Moon, who advocate following Tradition and Fate (ayorama), insist that the villagers call upon the Spirit of the Caribou in a ritual dance. But when the Caribou Spirit explains that the animals have followed the Sun, Inook grows impatient and attacks. Cursed to hunt without the blessings of the Spirit, Inook and his Father set forth on a futile hunt for food.

But soon, as the spirits of the Wind and of the Dream (symbolizing Change) foretell, Inook will have to leave family and village behind and face many challenges – both physical and spiritual – alone. His mythic search will take him across the frozen tundra 'over the edge of the world,' under the sea, even unto the shark-protected Hall of the Iceberg. In his wondrous and perilous journey toward Malina (beautiful Spirit of the Sun), Inook is helped and hindered by the beneficent, malevolent, and joking spirits of Igaluk (the Moon), Anoke (the Wind) and a host of fantastical creatures.

Will Inook's gamble against tradition save his people from starvation? Will he become man enough to set the seasons right? Cheer him on as he survives cold and starvation, battles monstrous beasts of land and sea, and strives against fear and doubt to solve the riddles of life's paradoxes.

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Assistant Director  
Assistant Makeup Designer  
Aerial Coach  
Singing Coach  
Dramaturg

Joshua Adams  
Caitlin O' Reilly  
Janette Hough-Fertig  
Jim Alberty  
Abigail Worthing

## Production Staff

Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Managers  
Technical Director  
Carpenters  
Costume Director  
Craft Heads

Animals  
Sea Monster and Sedna  
Masks  
Shadow Puppets

Craftspeople  
Shadow Puppeteers  
Stitchers

Master Electrician  
Assistant Master Electrician  
Electricians  
Sound Engineer  
Properties

Sebastian Ascanio  
Matt Defiore, Kaitlin McGinley  
Perry Fertig  
Stagecraft Practicum, Dan Bernardini, Bobby Wilcox,  
Emily Waller, Sarah Dube, Selby Landmann, Rodney Nelson, Brietta Hopkins  
Kris Hall  
Brady Kuech  
Hunter Jandreau, Kyle Joyce  
Ashley Rood, Heather Scamman  
Cat Balou, Laura Collard,  
August Delisle, Sarah Dube, Danny Gay,  
Carlton Parsons, Kelsey Taylor, Andy Velsbart  
Krista Lucht, Heather Scamman  
August Delisle, Laura Collard  
Aubrey Anderson, Laura Collard, Hillary Doran,  
Matthew Defiore, Kyle Dennis, Michael Frier,  
Megan Jackson, Michael Lynch, Roger Marcotte,  
Hannah Perry, Hillary Perry, Desiray Roy, Heather Scamman,  
Kyle Skillin, Krista Lucht and Costume Practicum  
Shannon Zura  
Florence Cooley  
Lighting Practicum  
Danny Gay  
Calien Lewis

## Production Crew

Light Board Operator  
Sound Board Operator  
Flyman  
Deck Crew  
Spot Light Operators  
Hair and Makeup  
Wardrobe

Danny Gay  
Michael Frier  
Bobby Wilcox  
John Lepper, Zachary Richardson  
Ryan McClure, Neal Morton  
Kyle Skillin, Caitlin O'Reilly, Kat Foster  
Florence Cooley, Jeremiah Haley, Hannah Perry

### Administrative Staff

Theatre Promotions Director/Photography  
Arts Events Director  
Administrative Assistant  
House Manager  
Box Office Manager  
Graphic Design  
Program

Troy R. Bennett  
Emmanuelle Chaulet  
Lil Campbell  
Emily Holden  
Krista Lucht  
Jake MacGillivray  
Franklin Kendrick

### SPECIAL THANKS

Accent Dry Cleaners

and

Eldon Jandreau of Hunter's Point Guide Service and Jandreau Custom Taxidermy, Portland Color, Rocco Tripaldi, Kameran, Erik and David Aikins, Mark Connelly and Family, Perry Fertig and Troy Bennett for seawrack and other props, Connie Hall for costume shopping, Christenia Alden-Kinne for instruments and consulting on Native issues, JP Gagnon, The Theatre project, High Output, Joshua Adams, Jeff Watts, Eddie Riddle, Daniel Bernardini, Ashley Iwans, Maria Tzianabos, Angela Cook at ITMS and Linda Sturdivant and Biddeford City Theatre and the supportive families of the cast and crew. Sam Skold, Kione Morgan, Molly Conway, Kelly Mosher and Heather Scamman for helping us run lines.

Thanks also to the employers and co-workers at our "day jobs" for being so flexible in scheduling us around rehearsals – in particular, RD Hannah Bendroth and Nicol Rosen, Neal Morton, Aimee Chaput, and Sherilyn Whitney for covering RA duties and all the Dickey-Wood staff, Fletcher Keene, Punky's and the Gorham Hannaford Deli Department.

### USM Theatre Students and Faculty Shine

USM Theatre students have distinguished themselves with theatre companies throughout New England, such as Portland Stage Company, Maine State Music Theatre, The Public Theatre, The Children's Theatre of Maine, Good Theater, Mad Horse Theatre, The Company of Girls, and the Two Lights Theatre Ensemble. Many of our alumni go on to perform in L.A., N.Y.C., off and on Broadway.

Emmy Award-winning actor Tony Shalhoub (Monk) and award-winning playwright and screenwriter Lynn Sieffert are USM theatre graduates.

Our professional faculty directors and designers work at some of the best regional theaters in the country such as those mentioned above, as well as The Walnut Street Theatre, The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Alley Theatre in Houston, North Shore Music Theatre, and The Seattle Repertory Theatre.

USM students and faculty have worked in several films and TV series including *Empire Falls*, *Hotel Universe*, Stephen King's *Pet Sematary* and *Graveyard Shift*, *Mermaids*, *All the Vermeers in New York*, *Sundowning*, *All About Steve*, and *All My Children*.

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**University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre**



## Cast and Artistic Staff Biographies

### Jim Alberty - Composer, Singing Coach

Jim belongs to the Birdclan of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Born at the Claremore Indian Hospital, he has been writing music for one group or another since age 11. Educated at Tulsa Junior College, the University of Tulsa, Louisiana Tech and Penn State, he has lived in Maine since the Fall of 1983. He is a published composer of liturgical music. Other works include musicals for children, area Shakespeare plays, bands and many schools. He worked as a public school music teacher from 1983 to 2008. Currently, he works for Apple Computer as a GYO Creative and serves on the Board of the Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine.

### Sebastian Ascanio – Stage Manager

Sebastian (South Portland) is a junior theatre major with a focus in Stage Management. USM stage managing credits include *The Bald Soprano*, in our black box theatre, *Fool for Love* (ASM), *The Bear*, *The Proposal & Inook And The Sun*. This past summer he was privileged to attend the Readers Theatre Institute in Toronto with Dr. Walter Stump. Sebastian is excited to be working as an Apprentice in Stage Operations at Maine State Music Theatre this summer. Sebastian is proud to be stage managing this fantastic production and wishes to thank the theatre department for all their love and support.

### Clarissa Bergeron-Lawrence – Arctic Fox

Clarissa (Fairfield) is currently a sophomore, and this is her first production here at USM. Her most recent role was in *How I Learned to Drive* at the Waterville Opera House's Aqua City Actor's Theatre. Her favorite role was as "Annie Pazinski" in *Over the Tavern*. She is very excited to be cast in this show. It has been a fun and challenging experience for her and she is glad to have the opportunity to create her character with such talented fellow actors.

### Daniel Bernardini – Musician

Dan (Albion) is a first year student. *Inook* marks his stage premiere. Daniel is currently an undeclared major and works in the scene shop. He also plays in the Dunlap Highland Band of Old Orchard Beach. Daniel would like to thank Dr. Kent, and Perry Fertig for making his experience in the theatre a great one!

### Hannah Brown – Designer for Sedna and Sea Monster

Hannah is a 2007 graduate of Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School. After completing the Foundation program at Parsons the New School for Design in NYC, she returned to Maine to study costuming at USM. Past costuming credits include SPA's *The Baltimore Waltz*, and three of the four short Carolyn Gage plays featured in *Greetings from Lesbos*, *ME* at the St. Lawrence Performing Arts Center. Thanks to Assunta, Kris, Perry, darling Mark and to all

who find beauty and uses for garbage.

### Laura Collard – Seal, Villager, Dog, Puppeteer

Laura (Freeport) is a sophomore Geography Major/Theater Minor. Her previous work at USM includes costume construction and wardrobe for the productions of *The Bear & The Proposal*, *Sylvia*, *Suor Angelica & Gianni Schicchi* and an appearance in *Dance USM! 2009*. Appearances elsewhere include *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *The Real Problem* with the Freeport Community Players and *Perseus the Gorgon Slayer* with Figures of Speech Theater.

### August DeLisle – Shadow Puppet Designer, Puppeteer

August (Damariscotta), a junior at technical theatre major, is excited to work on *Inook and the Sun*. Designing and constructing the shadow puppets for the show has been challenging and fun. August has helped construct many of the sets for USM's main-stage productions; most recently, *The Pajama Game*, *Tea and Sympathy*, and *Suor Angelica*. August also works with Heart Wood Regional Theater Company.

### Sarah Dube – Raven, Tentacle

Sarah (Eagle Lake) is a fourth year theatre major. Her past USM productions include "Natalya Stepenovna" in *The Proposal* and "Sarah" in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*. Outside USM, she has held roles including "Mother" in *Blood Wedding*, "Velma Sparrow" in *Birdbath*, "Darlene" in *The Diviners* and various others. She has also done various technical theater work including Assistant Stage Manager for two operas, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica*, wardrobe crew for *Moonchildren*, designed costume and make-up and assistant directed for her former high school, and she works in the scene shop at USM. This show has been an adventure for her and she hopes you enjoy the ancient story that is about to unfold before your very eyes.

### Perry Fertig – Set Designer, Technical Director

Before joining the Department of Theatre last year, Perry was working in Philadelphia for Ursinus College, the Philadelphia Live Arts and Fringe Festivals, and the Philadelphia Theatre Company. He still occasionally works as a Flying Director for Foy Inventerprises.

### Janette Fertig-Hough – Aerial Coach

Janette presently teaches aerial dance and theater at USM, Acorn Productions in Westbrook, and Terpsicore Dance in South Portland. She has performed physical theatre with Pig Iron Theatre, puppetry and dance with Sebastienne Mundheim, children's theatre with Theatre Circ, among others. Her performance career started in 1995 as a company member of TRAPEZIUS Aerial Dance. Keep an eye out for her new company-Apparatus Dance Theatre.

**Travis M. Grant – Designer for MuskoX, Raven, Shark, Seal**

Travis (Waldoboro) is a fifth year theatre major. Previous design credits include: *The 25th Annual . . . Spelling Bee* and *Titanic* (USM, Music) and *Moonchildren, Last Easter, Dance USM!* (USM Theatre). Selected credits outside USM include: *Leading Ladies, The Full Monty, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Godspell, The Tempest*; and *No, No Nanette!* This year his design work may also be seen in *Enchanted April* (Oxford Hills Music & Performing Arts) and *Hair* at Biddeford City Theater. Travis won the Region I Barbizon Design Award for Excellence in Costuming for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF).

**Kris Hall – Costume Designer & Costume Shop Director**

Kris is very happy to be leading this talented team of student designers and craftspeople for this unusual show. Previous design credits include *Suor Angelica* at USM, *Third* and *Julius Caesar* at Portland Stage, *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at Maine State Music Theatre; *Doubt* and *Almost Maine* at the Public Theatre in Lewiston. Upcoming designs include *Bach at Leipzig* at Portland Stage, and *Hansel and Gretel* with PORTopera at Merrill Auditorium. Her work as a multimedia artist is featured in Add Verb Production's new play *Major Medical Breakthrough* which has been viewed by audiences of medical professionals across the country. Kris received her BA in Political Science from USM and her MFA in Studio Art from MECA. She also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2006 on a full scholarship.

**Megan E. Jackson – Dream, Villager, MuskoX herd, Tentacle**

Megan (Leominster, MA) is a transfer student in her sophomore/junior year at USM. Recent shows in the area include her role as "Miss Shields" in *A Christmas Story* at Schoolhouse Arts Center and "Woman #1" in the Maine premiere of *My First Time*. She is very excited to make her mainstage debut with such an awesome cast and crew!

**Hunter Jandreau – Musk Ox Bull, Villager, Tentacle, Dog; Craftsperson**

Hunter (Portage Lake), currently a freshmen theatre major at USM, hails from Aroostook County. Past roles in Summer Theatre: "Orgon" in *Tartuffe*. Memorable High School roles include "Roy Hubley" in *Plaza Suite*, "Cogsworth" in *Beauty and The Beast*, and "Mr. Mushnik" in *Little Shop of Horrors*. His most recent role was "David Harris" in *Tea & Sympathy* at USM. He received an All Festival Cast Award for his role as "Phillip Glass" in *Shorts* by David Ives. Thanks to everyone who was a part of *Inook* from the beginning; it's been a blast!

**Dr. Assunta Kent – Director**

Continuing her theatrical explorations of diverse cultures, Assunta is excited to present the results of a year-long collaboration with Composer Jim Alberty, Costumer Kris Hall and our dedicated corps of student designers, craftspeople and performers. Over the past 16 years, she has directed both contemporary and classical plays at USM including Beaumarchais' *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Power: A Living Newspaper*, *A Dream of Canaries*, *The Rokujo Lady's Passion*, *The Danube*, *Sinners Saints and Fools*, *Multi-Medi@tion*, *Life in the Late 20th*, and the Indian Sanskrit classic, *Shakuntala and the Ring of Recognition*. She has been honored as an outstanding teacher and earned two Maine Humanities Grants for dramaturgy. Dr. Kent is the author of *Maria Irene Fornes and Her Critics* and a set of prefaces for *At Play: An Anthology of Maine Drama*. She continues her research on Asian Noh and Sanskrit theatres and recently published an article in the UNIMA International Puppetry Journal on the use of shadow puppets in USM's *Shakuntala*.

**Sage Robert Landry– Inook**

Sage (Nobleboro) is a freshman at USM and is humbled to be part of such an incredible piece of theatre. Sage recently appeared in USM's production of *Tea and Sympathy* as "Al," under the direction of Bill Steele. Sage would like to thank the cast and Assunta for incredible direction and the Theatre Department for housing such amazing performances.

**Calien Lewis – Props Supervisor**

Calien (Cape Elizabeth) is a senior theatre major. Her playwriting credits include: *The Rape of the Locked*, a script adapted from other sources; scripts produced at USM, *Scat Song*, a ten-minute play presented by SPA and *Goin' to Graceland*. She was dramaturge for USM's productions of *The Magic Flute*, *Arms and the Man* and *City of Angels*; assistant director for *Blood Brothers* and *URINETOWN*; prop supervisor for *Equus*, *Servant of Two Masters* and *The Pajama Game*; and set designer for *Fool for Love*. She has also served three seasons as lecturer for PORTopera and props supervisor for *The Barber of Seville* and *Roméo et Juliette*. In her final USM production, she would like to say "thank you" to faculty and student colleagues for a terrific run at USM!

**Ryan Nash – Spirit of the Moon**

Ryan (Kennebunk) is a fourth-year theatre major with a focus in acting. Previous credits include: "Adam" in *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* (Round Table Theater), "Ensemble" in *Chicago* (Legacy Theater), "Tom/Phyllis/Leslie" in *Sylvia* (USM). He is "fired up" to play as cunning and cold a character as the Moon!



**Julianne Pictou – Spirit of the Sun**

Julianne (Fitchburg, MA) is a nursing major. Her previous dance credits include FHS Dance Team (2006-2007) and USM HipHop team (2008-2010). She has been dancing in powwows since she was 3 years old, and continues to present as a fancy shawl dancer. I want to thank everyone involved in the play for helping me by giving me tips, and encouraging me to do my best!

**Ashley Rood – Seal, Villager**

Ashley (Bowdoinham) is a freshman theatre major and is happy to be in her first main stage performance. She has been in several community shows, her favorite of which was *Working* at Mt. Ararat High School. She hopes to stay involved with the Midcoast community for a long time to come.

**Taylor Rousseau – Spirit of the Ice, Villager, Polar Bear Arm, Tentacle**

Taylor (Auburn), a sophomore theatre major, hopes to become a professional actor someday. Past credits include "Greaser #4" in *Grease* and "Bickle" in *Footloose* at Community Little Theatre in Auburn, "Mr. Baker" in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* here at USM, and "Arvide Abernathy" in *Guys and Dolls* at Edward Little High School. Taylor hopes you all have a good show.

**Desiray Roy – Sedna**

Desiray (Little Deer Isle) is a 4th year theatre major, focusing in Acting & Costume Design. Past USM roles include: "The Bag Lady" in *Sylvia*, "Miss Preen" in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and "Mrs. Martin" in a student black box production of *The Bald Soprano*. She is very excited to be a part of such a unique show and has enjoyed working in a world of characters and culture that are totally out of her element. She would like to thank Dr. Kent for giving her another chance to express her love for acting (on a new and interesting level).

**Kyle Skillin – Hair and Makeup Design, Villager, Polar bear arm, Tentacle**

Kyle (Standish) is a junior theatre major focusing in hair and makeup design. You may remember his work on *Dance USM!*, *25th... Spelling Bee* this fall, or his performance in *Pajama Game* this spring. He is very excited to have an opportunity to be working on this show in both a design and performance capacity.

**Simon Winslow Skold – Spirit of the Wind**

Simon (Freeport) is a third year transfer student, first year theatre major originally from the Bronx. He has since left his home at Fordham University to join the community at USM. Dancing is not a trained skill of his, just a passion he practices in his own room. He hopes to do theatre with high schoolers for the rest of his life.

**Kat Smith – Mother, Muskox herd, Tentacle**

Kat (Rockland) is a senior theatre major. This is her first appearance on the main stage at the USM. Previous credits at USM include stage manager for *The Man who Came to Dinner*, *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*, and *Dance USM!* She also has a deep love for music, and has been playing the piano for 14 years now.

**Kate Smith – Seal, Villager, Dog, Muskox herd**

Kate (Sanford) is a science major. This is her first production at USM and she is very happy to be a part of such a great vision!

**Shannon Zura – Lighting Design**

Shannon most recently designed sound for Philadelphia Shakespeare Company's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Taming of the Shrew*, and the lights for the world premiere of *House, Divided* at InterAct Theatre Company, Portland Stage Company's *Longfellow: A Life in Words*, and Delaware Theatre Company's *Retreat from Moscow* and *The Syringa Tree*. She has previously designed the lights and sound for InterAct Theatre Company's productions of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *American Sublime*.

In March 2005, Shannon was featured in *Stage Directions* magazine's salute to outstanding women in theatre. Shannon holds an MFA in Lighting Design from Temple University and is currently teaching lighting and sound design at USM.

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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 2011.

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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