

---

[Programs 1998-1999 Season](#)[Theatre Programs 1990-2000](#)

---

Fall 12-1998

## Dirt Program [1998]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/theatre-programs-1998-1999>

 Part of the [Theatre History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre, "Dirt Program [1998]" (1998). *Programs 1998-1999 Season*. 4.

<https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/theatre-programs-1998-1999/4>

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by the Theatre Programs 1990-2000 at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Programs 1998-1999 Season by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu](mailto:jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu).

 University of Southern Maine

Department of Theatre  
*presents*



# Dirt

*by*  
**Thomas Spurr**

Dec. 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 7:30 PM  
Dec. 6, 5:00 PM

**Oak Street Theatre**  
Portland, Maine

## Program Notes

Nurturing new playwrights has become the focus of our directing effort each Fall. Tom Spurr offers a hard hitting and disturbing look at life in a Munjoy Hill section of Portland in his first full-length play, *Dirt*. Abusive language and sexual situations may be offensive to members of the audience who are unprepared for these things. Mr. Spurr has used these writing tactics to capture the desperate lives of his characters.

Even in the darkest and least sophisticated corners of our human existence there are opportunities to rise above the pack - to make choices that are unselfish even if painful. The gift of life can rise from the *Dirt*.

Thomas Power  
William Steele

*special thanks to:*

Roxanne A. Laroche

Jackie DeSaint at the The Radisson Eastland Hotel  
Goodwill

## Dirt

Thomas Spurr

Directed by  
Scenic and Lighting Design  
Costume Design  
Sound Design

Thomas Power, William P. Steele  
Thomas C. Vail  
Susan E. Picinich  
Amanda J. Poirier

## Cast

Timmy LeDoux  
Elliot Mitchell  
Joshua Caleb  
Liz O'Shea  
Patty LeDoux  
Bobby Brown

James Shay  
Eli Bresnick  
Andrew Menard  
Emily Zack  
Alexandra Munier  
Frank Taliento

## Setting

East End Apartment, Munjoy Hill, Summer 1997

## Act and Scene Breakdown

### Act 1

Scene 1	Interrogation
Scene 2	Flashback
Scene 3	Interrogation
Scene 4	Flashback
Scene 5	Interrogation
Scene 6	Flashback
Scene 7	Interrogation
Scene 8	Flashback

### Act 2

Scene 1	Flashback
Scene 2	Interrogation
Scene 3	Flashback
Scene 4	Interrogation

There will be a fifteen minute intermission.

*This show contains adult language, adult situations, and cigarette smoke.*

*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.*

This play is entered in the Michael Kanin Playwriting Awards Program and is being considered for the Lorraine Hansberry Award and the National Student Playwriting Award.

## Artistic Staff

Assistant Costume Design  
Assistant to the Costume Designer

Luca Richards  
Kimberly Morrill

## Production Staff

Stage Manager	Kurt Ela
Assistant Stage Managers	Elizabeth Chambers, Samantha Kinne
Technical Director	Thomas C. Vail
Set Construction	Monique Downs, Scott Essency, Amanda Poirer, Stagecraft Lab, Production Management Class
Costume Shop Supervisor	Jennifer Tingle
Draper	Lori Sheldon
Stitchers	Heather Collins, Tessa Kingsley, Aaron Lewis, Jep Lombard, Leeanne Stella, Tina West,
Master Electrician	Jason Bannister
Electricians	Christopher Thiele
Properties Mistress	Leslie Guerin, Janelle Hamel
Properties	Tavia Brasier, Josh Chenard Andy Ross, Christopher Thiele

## Production Crew

Wardrobe Supervisor	Leslie Guerin
Dresser	Matthew Largey
Light Board Operator	Amanda McKenny
Sound Board Operator	Matt Cary
Deck Hand	Rita Rice

## Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director	Mary Snell
Arts Events Director	Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant	Lillian Campbell
Box Office Manager	Emily Binnion
Graphic Design	Leigh Raposo

## Cast Biographies

### James Shay - Timmy LeDoux

James is a sophomore Philosophy/Theatre major from Scarborough. You may have last seen him on stage playing the part of Rou in *A Taste of Killing on the Tip of the Tongue*, for which he received the runner up nomination for the Irene Ryan scholarship.

### Eli Bresnick - Elliot Mitchell

Elias is a non traditional theatre student here at USM. He is currently in his fifth semester in the department. Previous roles at the university include Henry Sandor in *The Danube* and sound design for *A Taste of Killing on the Tip of the Tongue*. Elias has been involved in theatre for nearly ten years. In that time he has served in many roles on and off the stage. These have included performances in *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Candide*, *Canterbury Tales*, *The Crucible*, and *The Mahabbarata*.

### Andrew Menard - Joshua Caleb

Andrew, a Maine native, is enjoying his first semester here at USM after having transferred from Goddard College in Vermont. He is a sophomore striving to graduate with a theatre major. He has performed in shows such as *West Side Story*, *Pippin*, *Grease*, *The Outsiders*, *Antigone*, and *Go Out Singing*. Two of his favorite roles have been John Adams in *1776*, and Aslan in *Narnia*, and he is excited about adding the role of Joshua to the list of theatrical credentials.

### Emily Zack - Liz O'Shea

Emily is a sophomore/junior French/English major at USM. After transferring from the Experimental Theatre Wing at Tisch in New York City, where she performed a self written piece, *Snow*, she entered the USM theatre department. In 1997 she received an Irene Ryan nomination for her portrayal of Rosalind in *As You Like It*.

### Alexandra Munier - Patty LeDoux

Alexandra is a junior Art major. She was last seen at USM as Ruth in *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds*. She hopes to be a costume designer and will be designing for *Sinners*, *Saints*, and *Fools* for USM in the Spring.

### Frank Taliento - Bobby Brown

Frank is a senior USM theatre student. He received an Irene Ryan nomination for his portrayal of Poupon in *A Taste of Killing on the Tip of the Tongue*. He can be seen every Wednesday at Comedy Connection as a member of Portland's own improv group, Instant Comedy.

## Artistic Staff Biographies

### Associate Professor Thomas Power - Director

Teacher, actor, director, and playwright, Tom focuses on working with new playwrights here at USM. He is also a member of the Dramatist Guild.

### Associate Professor William P. Steele - Director

Teacher, actor, director, and author, Bill annually co-directs the student written original play with Professor Power.

### Thomas C. Vail - Scenic Design, Lighting Design, Technical Dir.

Tom was the Technical Director at USM for 4 years during the early 80's and designed sets for the Russell Square Players summer repertory theater. He has designed lights for Bill Chinook and Jonathan Edwards, and has worked professionally with the following local companies: Portland Stage Co. (master carpenter), The Children's Theatre of Maine (actor, set designer), Mad Horse Theatre Co. (tech director, set designer and actor), and the Stagehand's Union. He also co-created the Oak Street Theater (now Theatre) in Portland in 1992 and the Sebago Lake Schoolhouse Arts Center. Other credits include his children: John, David, Christa, and Jared. Tom currently resides in Windham with his wife, Mari, and their above-mentioned children.

### Associate Professor Susan E. Picinich - Costume Design

Susan joined the USM Department of Theatre faculty in 1987 and has since designed costumes for 47 University productions. She has an MFA degree from the University of Michigan and previously taught at SUNY Albany and Western Illinois University. She is a member of the ensemble at Mad Horse Theatre and most recently designed their production of *Hamlet*. Other credits include seven seasons at Maine State Music Theatre: this year's premiere of Maury Yeston's new musical *In the Beginning* as well as *Man of La Mancha* and *Show Boat*, and *Sweeney Todd* and *Tommy* in 1997. Susan costumed *Crazy For You* at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia last season. Upcoming projects are *Biloxi Blues* and *Fallen Angels* at the Public Theatre in Lewiston and *The Three Sisters* at Mad Horse Theatre.

### Amanda J. Poirier - Sound Design

Amanda is a sophomore theatre major from Foxborough, Mass. Recent shows have included *The Danube* and *Misalliance* at USM. She has just finished working on the show *Tommy* at the Chocolate Church in Bath.

### Jennifer C. Tingle- Costume Shop Supervisor

Jennifer is the new costume shop supervisor for the USM Department of Theatre. For the past two years she managed the costume shop for the Bowdoin College Department of Theatre and Dance. Jennifer has designed costumes for *12th Night* and *A Winter Cabaret* at the Theatre Project, *Desdemona* at Oak Street Theatre,

*Alice Through the Looking Glass* at Portland Players, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Ourselves Alone* for Boston University Theatre. She has worked in costume shops at Arena Stage, The Long Wharf Theatre, The Huntington Theatre, The American Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Sonnenberg Studios and the Santa Fe Opera.

### Kurt Ela - Stage Manager

Kurt is a junior theatre major here at USM and is very excited to be doing his first stage managing job. You might have seen him last when he directed "Illuminati" earlier this fall, or as Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* at Brunswick's Theatre Project. He was last seen here at USM doing *The Danube*, playing the part of Paul. He would like to thank Bill and Tom for the experience.

### Elizabeth A. Chambers - Assistant Stage Manager

Liz is a second-year theatre major here at USM. She was the ASM for last fall's production of *The Boys Next Door*. Other USM productions include *As You Like It*, *Family Values*, and the upcoming *West Side Story*.

### Samantha Kinne - Assistant Stage Manager

Sam is a second-year theatre major. This is her third time stage managing. Her last time performing was in *Hair* this summer with The Originals. Thanks to Bill and Tom for the experience.

## Experience Live Theatre at USM Dance USM! Annual Dance Concert

Directed by Lew-Anne Leen

Main Stage, Russell Hall USM Gorham

February 4, 5, 6 at 7:30 pm

### West Side Story

Directed by Wil Kilroy

Musical Director: Beth Barefoot Jones

Choreographer: Nancy Salmon

Main Stage, Russell Hall USM Gorham

March 12, 13, 17-20 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, March 14 at 5:00 pm

### Sinners, Saints, & Fools

Directed by Assunta Kent

Main Stage, Russell Hall USM Gorham

April 16, 17, 21-24 at 7:30 pm

Sundays, April 18, 25 at 5:00 pm



**THE KENNEDY CENTER**  
**AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL XXXI**  
Presented and Produced by  
**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**  
Supported in Part by  
**The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund**  
**The US Department of Education**  
**The National Committee for the Performing Arts**

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, D.C. in the spring of 1999.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 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.