Fall 12-1998

Dirt Program [1998]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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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. Larochelle
Jackie DeSaint at the The Radisson Eastland Hotel
Goodwill

Dirt

Thomas Spurr

Directed by
Thomas Power, William P. Steele

Scenic and Lighting Design
Thomas C. Vail

Costume Design
Susan E. Picinich

Sound Design
Amanda J. Poirier

Cast

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

James Shay
Eli Bresnicks
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        Luca Richards
Assistant to the Costume Designer 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
Andrea 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 Mahabharata.

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.

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
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.