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Fall 12-1995

Miss Nowhere Diner Program [1995]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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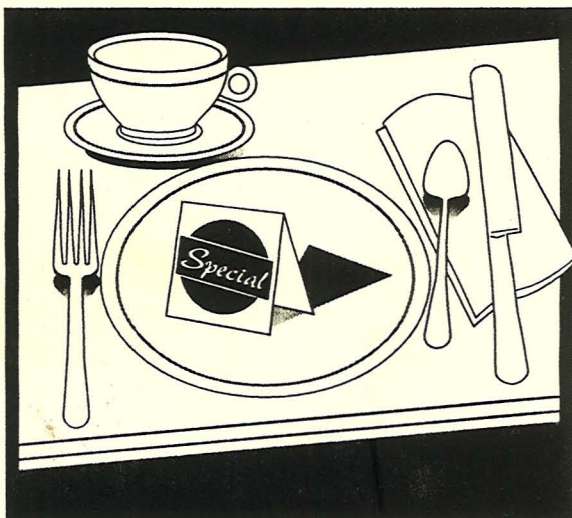
USM Department of Theatre presents

Student-Written Premiere:

Miss Nowhere Diner

by Kathleen Potts

directed by Thomas Power and William Steele



**Oak Street Theatre
92 Oak Street, Portland
7:30 p.m. December 6-8**

A humorous look at the power of faith and the lure of deceit. Each year the department produces an original work written by a theater major. This year Miss Nowhere Diner has been chosen for a three-day run in downtown Portland.

 **University of Southern Maine**

Miss Nowhere Diner
by Kathleen F. Potts
Directed by William Steele and Tomas Power

Directors' Notes

Working on this production has been an exciting and rewarding experience for both of us. *Miss Nowhere Diner* both tells a story and makes a point but more importantly it launches a young playwright's career. Teaching and directing student work has provided us with incredible satisfaction. Although in this case we believe that **process** is more important than **product**, we think that you will agree that both have been well served in this premiere of the *Miss Nowhere Diner*.
TP & WS

Please Note:

For the peace of mind of our audience we want you to know that a pistol is used in the production but it has been rendered totally harmless.

The setting for *Miss Nowhere Diner* is somewhere in central Maine.

The time is the present.

The general chronology of the action is as follows:

Act I

An early summer day

One week later

A few days later

A few weeks later

Act II

A month later

A few days later

Another month has passed

There will be a 15 minute intermission. The performance runs approximately 1 hour 30 minutes

This show uses non-toxic chemical smoke

Cast

Dakota
Kaitlyn
Earl
Beth
Dealer
Preacher

Jason Michael Bannister
Alice Starr McFarland
Jeff Shaw
Liberty Freeman
Luca Richards
Stephanie Hughes

Design and Technical staff

Directors
Scenic Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Lighting Designer
Original music composition
Technical Director
Costume Shop Supervisors
Master Electrician
Set Construction
Scenic Artists
Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator
Properties Supervisor
Properties Collection

Dressers
Deck Crew
Promotions/ Publicity
Box Office/ Promotions
Theater Office
Graphic Design

William Steele and Thomas Power
Brian D. Cote
Jodi Nichols
Jamie Grant
Jeff Cumming
Wendy E. Getchell
Josh Chenard
Susan Palmer
Georgie Nichols
Tom Vail
Sue Picinich and Christenia Alden-Kinne
Jamie Grant
Stagecraft Lab, Jon Bird, Dan Flanders
Brian Cote And Alison Guinn
Sarah Darling and Susan Palmer
Jeff Cumming
Brian D. Cote
Danielle Estes, Luca Richards, Brian Cote,
Eric Worthley
Tim Richards and Brian Pascoe
Josh Chenard, Piper Major, Brian Pascoe
Mary Snell
Emmanuelle Chaulet and Staff
Marjorie Novel
Leigh Raposo

Design and Technical Staff

Thomas A. Power, Director

Thomas A. Power, Associate Professor of Theatre, teaches acting and directing at the University of Southern Maine and has been writing and producing for many years. A playwright and lyricist as well as the former Artistic Director of the nationally recognized Children's Theatre of Maine, Power has written many plays performed by that professional company. More recently he collaborated with Kurt Vonnegut Jr. in a rewrite of one of Mr. Vonnegut's plays. Winner of the 1990 Moss Hart Award for his play script, *Grannia*, Power also publishes regular reviews in Maine's largest newspaper and co-hosts a regional television program called *Power & Steele on Theatre*. Professor Power is a member of the Dramatist Guild.

William Steele, Director

William Steele of Falmouth, Maine has been teaching Acting, Directing, Journalistic Drama Criticism, and Public Speaking at the University of Southern Maine since 1967. He is the author of four books on theatre and film and has been a contributing drama critic and columnist for The Portland Newspapers (*Maine Sunday Telegram* and *Portland Press Herald*) since 1973. In addition he is co host and producer of "Power & Steele on Theater," a Maine Public Broadcasting and Portland Public Cable television program. Steele also is a professional actor with national and regional film and television credits.

Kathleen Potts, Playwright

Kathleen Potts has been involved in the theatre since the age of four, when she sang Little Red Leaves at her brother's cub Scout Awards Ceremony. Since that time she has worked professionally in every aspect of the theatre, from actor to scenic carpenter. As an actress she longed for good women's roles, so she decided to take matters (and a pen) into her own hands. USM has provided her with a creative and supportive environment in which to continue learning the craft of playwriting. She is incredibly excited to be having her play *Miss Nowhere Diner* produced.

Brian D. Cote, Set Designer

Brian has been involved in many shows at USM in various capacities. Last semester he played Gideon Bloodgood in *The Poor of Portland*, costume designed *Sweet River*, assistant directed/stage managed *La Ronde*, and supervised wardrobe for *Purple Breasts*. Other design credits include; assistant costume designer for *The Marriage of Figaro*, set designer for SPA's (Student Performing Artists) production *Three Shot Minimum* (a production of three one act plays). He looks forward to future projects in all aspects of theater. Although Brian is a senior he plans to attend USM for an additional year to finish his degree and take classes he hasn't yet had the chance to take. Special thanks to Tom Vail and Chuck Kading for help and guidance.

Jody Nichols, Costume Designer

Is a senior theatre/education at USM. Her previous work at USM includes *Figaro* (assistant director), *Poor of Portland* (assistant costume designer) and *The Rokujo Lady's Passion* (Stage Manager). Her other theatre experience includes directing *Goin' Buggy* and teaching acting classes at the Iona Grammar School in New Rochelle, NY, and costume designer for *The Wind in the Willows* with the Portland Players. Thank you to my Babcie for all her support.

Jamie Grant, Lighting Design

Jamie Grant is in his fourth year here at USM. Previous lighting design credits include the ACTF nominated *Purple Breasts*, also *La Ronde*, Esduardo Mariscal's *Nightmare on Hell Street*, and the SPA (Student Performing Artists) *One-acts*. Jamie just finished designing sound for *As Is* and is currently the master electrician at Mad Horse Theater.

Wendy E. Getchell, Stage Manager

Wendy, of Portland is a theater major at USM with a concentration in directing and choreography. Choreography credits include: The 1995 and 1996 USM Dance Festivals, and *A Dream of Canaries*. A recipient of the Chris Meaner Scholarship (dance), Wendy danced with Randy James of Dance Works at this summer's Portland Dance Festival. She will be assistant coordinator for the '97 USM Dance Festival with Emily Ojala and also choreographing a piece for the show. Special thanks to William Steele and Thomas Power, Susan Picinich, Tom Vail, Chuck Kading, Josh Chenard, Kristi Bears, the cast and crew of *Miss Nowhere Diner*, Oak Street Theatre, and Kathleen Potts.

Joshua Chenard, Assistant Stage Manager

Joshua is a second year theater major at USM. Previous acting credits include Ensemble in *As Is*, Bartholo in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Barnette in *Crimes of the Heart*; Previous technical credits include stage manager for *Rachel and Her Children*.

Jeff Cumming, Sound Designer

Jeff of Wiscasset is an undeclared freshman at USM, previous theater involvement include his High School Drama Club. Jeff also performed in the State One-Act Competition as well as the New England One-Act Competition. In the 1994 State One-Act Festival he received a special award for musical performance.

Thomas C. Vail - Technical Director

Tom has been in Maine all his life. He was the technical director of USM for four years during the early 80's. He has worked with most of the theatres in Southern Maine, including Schoolhouse Arts Center, Biddeford City Theatre, Portland Players, Portland Stage Company and most recently he was the T.D. at Mad Horse Theatre last season where he

also designed their summer show *Oh Coward*. He is very happy to be back at USM. Special Thanks To: his wife, Mari, and their children John, David, Christa and Jared.

Cast

Jason Michael Bannister, Dakota

This is Jason's second role at USM, The first Being in *As Is* other acting credits include Rolf in *The Sound of Music*, Yitzuk in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Pleribo in *The Illusion*, Joe in *Come Back to the Five & Dime*, Jimmy Dean, Mr. Morse in *The Nutcracker*, and Whitney in the Lewiston Bicentennial Musical: *A New Home* (which recently won the Moss Hart Award). Jason is a recipient of the Noel Coward Award, Centerstage Ensemble Superior Dedication to Theater award, Community Little Theater Scholarship for college bound thespians, two time winner of the Maine Drama Council's all-star cast award, and founder and executive director of Maine Student Theater. Jason is a sophomore theater major at USM. He would like to dedicate his performances to Gisele.

Alice Starr McFarland, Kaitlyn

Alice Starr McFarland is a junior at USM. She has performed such roles as the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*, David's Mother in *Purple Breasts*, Aleena in *The Doctor and Moses* and most recently Teruhi in *The Rokujo Ladies Passion*. She has also choreographed and danced in the USM Dance Festival For 94 and 95 and choreographed for *A Dream of Canaries* and *The Rokujo Ladies Passion*. Thank you to the awe-inspiring women of my family Shannon O'Connor, Ann Garvin, and Peggy McFarland for teaching me about womanhood, love, and strength. And special thanks to Bill and Tom.

Jeff Shaw, Earl

Jeff is a senior theater major and already has a BA in English and masters' degree credits in Education. Previous roles at USM include *And a Nightingale Sang...* in 1991, he has both acted and directed since then, including a one-act play he wrote, *Faustus' Last Supper*. Jeff's dreams of becoming a Solid Gold Dancer were shattered last year when he realized the show had been canceled during the Reagan era.

Liberty Freeman, Beth

This is Liberty's first USM production. A theatre major and art minor, Liberty has recently transferred from the University of Maine at Farmington where she has been in a series of plays, including Goldini's *The Fan*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Bus Stop*, and *Act of the Imagination*. She received UMF's Red Carpet Award for best actress for three of the productions, as well as being an Irene Ryan nominee for last season's production of *Independence*. Liberty has also directed an assortment of one act plays and has been involved behind the scenes both at UMF and for two of this year's USM productions. She would like to say hi to her cats who await the godlike can opener at home.

Luca Richards, Dealer

Luca is a sophomore theater major at USM. Prior roles include Paul Fairweather in *The Poor of Portland*, Pedrillo the Messenger in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and most recently the Brother in *As Is*. Luca has received the alternate Irene Ryan nomination for both *As Is* and *The Poor of Portland*. Special thanks to Marjorie Novel for her outstanding dedication and sparkling humor, best of luck, we're all going to miss you!!

Stephanie Hughes, Preacher

Stephanie, of Scarborough is a junior theater major at USM. To accompany her professional and community theater credits, her past USM roles include: Senora Demas in *A Dream of Canaries*, Alva Withers in an original one-act, *Sometimes we just listen to Each Other Breathe*, and Mrs. Puffy in *The Poor of Portland*. Stephanie can next be seen in the spring as Papagena in USM's fairy-tale opera, *The Magic Flute*. She thanks all who cheer her on.

* * *

Special Thank Yous from Ms. Kathleen F. Potts

Kathleen Potts would like to extend thanks to Tom Power and Bill Steele for their insightful and inclusive directing. Mucho Gracias to the cast and crew of *Miss Nowhere Diner* for working so hard and beautifully bringing this to life. Thank you also to Dr. Stump, for his playwriting expertise, and her classmate, Brian Burke, Mel, and Wendy, for sharing their works and helping to shape *Miss Nowhere Diner*. Other thanks to Ed Boutin, Jane Jipson and Shawn Robinson (who asked for a sequel) at work. The *Rumors* cast, for making theatre fun again. Suze Allen and Susan Poulin for setting the example. Sarah Franklin, Rose Marasco, Michael Rafkin, and Monica Wood for being creative mentors. Tim at Videoport, for help in research. Michael Hollenkamp for friendship and sharing his knowledge of any and every topic. Georgie Nichols, for sharing her song *Tracy Get Your Hat* and being my best friend. Cathy Erikson for helping me to look deeply into life and art. Special thanks to Mom, Dad, Gram, and my sister Julia. And especially to Getty, for sharing my soul.

More Thank Yous

Formal Wear provided by Strictly Formal, School House Arts Center, Mad Horse Theatre, Holiday Inn By The Bay, Mr. Bagel (Congress st.), Aramark, Jonathan Leveen and staff at WAVX, Kristi Bears, Ron McClay, Heather Harrison.



The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival XXIX

Presented and produced by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Supported in part by The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund, The U.S. Department of Education, Ryder System

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 adjudication 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 non-competitive KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, in the spring of 1997.

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 with 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.