10-2002

Life in the Late 20th Century Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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UNIVERSITY OF
Southern Maine  Department of Theatre
presents

Life in the Late 20th 3 Best Views
Three One-Act Plays

directed by Assunta Kent

Finger Food
by Nina Shengold

HAIKU
by Kale Snodgrass

Vito on the Beach
by Samuel Schwartz

Main Stage, Russell Hall • USM Gorham campus
Friday, October 4 - Sunday, October 13, 2002
Evenings: 7:30 October 4, 5, 9-12 • Sunday Matinee: 5:00 October 6 and 13
$10 general public, $7 seniors, $5 students and USM faculty/staff

Call the Theatre Box Office at 760-5151 for reservations,
special services, assistance, or accommodations.
TTY 780-5646 • www.usm.maine.edu/theater
**Synopses:**

In our rousing curtain-raiser *Finger Food*, Denny, a professional food photographer is fuming because his hand model is late again. And when his "talent" finally arrives, it's an understudy?!

In *Haiku*, an autistic poet, Louise, and her mother, Nell, anxiously await the arrival of the "normal" daughter, Billie. Before enlisting Billie's help in maintaining their household, Nell and Louise must carefully unveil their secret. Old feelings of unrequited love, sibling rivalry, and misunderstanding complicate their connections. Will they hear each other?

*Vito on the Beach*: A delicate painter and a retired prize fighter meet for a commissioned sitting on Virginia Beach. Revelations unfold thick and fast in this funny, poignant, and ultimately, romantic one-act.

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**Life in the Late 20th:**

*Three Best Views*

*Finger Food* by Nina Shengold  
*Haiku* by Kate Snodgrass  
*Vito on the Beach* by Samuel Schwartz

**Cast**

*Finger Food*  
Denny
Mona

*Haiku*  
Louise (Lulu)
Billie (BeBe)
Nell

*Vito on the Beach*  
Vito
Chase

**Setting:**

- *Vito on the Beach*: Early 1990's, late summer, from afternoon until sunset. Virginia Beach.

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission. These performances contain strong adult language, especially "Vito on the Beach."

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.

"Haiku" is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
Artistic Staff

Projection Photographers: Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne, Destiny Long
Assistant Director: Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne, Destiny Long
Stage Manager: Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne, Destiny Long
Assistant Stage Manager: Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne, Destiny Long
Technical Director: Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne, Destiny Long
Carpenters: Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne, Destiny Long
Costume Shop Supervisor: Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne, Destiny Long
Stitchers: Elizabeth Adams, Corey Anderson, Chelsea Cook, Caitlin Elkins, Ariel Francoeur, Chris Gyngell, Angela Lemire, Kelsey MacKilligan, Kendra Maria, CJ Payne, Jillian Shapleigh, Jeanine Vieira, Cris Worden, and the Stagecraft Lab
Costume Shop Supervisor: Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne, Destiny Long
Stitchers: Elizabeth Adams, Corey Anderson, Chelsea Cook, Caitlin Elkins, Ariel Francoeur, Chris Gyngell, Angela Lemire, Kelsey MacKilligan, Kendra Maria, CJ Payne, Jillian Shapleigh, Jeanine Vieira, Cris Worden, and the Stagecraft Lab
Production Staff

Production Crew

Deck Crew: Megan Baldwin
Wardrobe: Karre Kern
Light Board Operator: Michaela Wirth
Sound Board Operator: Breanna Coombs
Slide Operator: B. Stewart Caswell

Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director: Mary Snell
Arts Events Director: Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant: Lillian Campbell
Box Office Managers: Andrea Lopez, Tara Smith
House Manager: Eli Bresnick
Graphic Design: Patrick Corey

Cast Biographies

Tim Lambert - Denny, Finger Food
Tim is a senior communications major living in Portland. As a videographer and actor, Tim has worked in TV and on several independent films. At USM, Tim was a deviser for Multi-Medi@tion, a "god" in The Good Woman of Setzuan, a stagehand for Africa/Portland, and a drummer for MTPlayers Rocky Horror Show. Tim is also appearing as "Gaston" in Picasso at the Lapin Agile.

Anna Gravel - Mona, Finger Food
Anna, from Houlton, is a junior theatre major with an acting concentration. She has been seen as "Jack's Mother" in Into the Woods, and "Kate" in Dancing at Lughnasa. Watch for her in upcoming USM productions: Tennessee Williams' Camino Real and Cabaret. She would like to thank the Lord, her family, and her friends for all their support. Enjoy the show!

Ariel Francoeur - Louise, Haiku
Ariel is a junior theatre major hailing from Orwell, VT. Most recently, she has appeared in Multi-Medi@tion, Factors of the Mythological Persuasion, and The Good Woman of Setzuan. She received an Irene Ryan nomination and the 2002 SPA Award for Best Comedic Female for her role in Factors. Outside of school, she is a member of the Two Lights Theatre Ensemble. Thank you to Taylor for your unending support and beauty.

Casey Pratt - Billie, Haiku
Casey Pratt is a sophomore theatre major from Greene, ME. She has been around the stage all her life performing in such shows as FootLoose (Vi Moore) and MTPlayers' summer production of Once Upon A Mattress (Queen Aggravain). She has also danced for 15 years with Mary Jane's School of Dance. Casey is very excited to be working with this cast and would like to thank everyone for their support.

Jennie Summers Shea - Nell, Haiku
Jennie, originally from New York City, enjoyed an early career as a professional dancer. Later, she mothered six fabulous individuals, and now she is returning to USM to complete her bachelors degree. She plans to move on to an MFA in directing. When she is not at USM, she can be found at Deering High School coaching Drama. She wishes to thank all involved in Life in the Late 20th for their patience and support.
David Branch - Vito on the Beach
Originally from Saranac Lake, NY, David is a returning theatre major living in Portland. Recent shows include Twelve Angry Men for Madhorse Theatre, and for USM We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!, the Student-Written One-Acts, and Dancing at Lughnasa for which he received an Irene Ryan Nomination. When he realized that he wouldn't be the point guard for the Celtics, he asked himself, 'What else do I love to do?' To be able to say, 'I'm an actor', when people ask him what he does to eat, would be 'the cat's meow!'

Chris Gyngell - Chase, Vito on the Beach
Chris, a sophomore theatre major from Willington, CT, is making his mainstage debut. Most recently, he finished work as a director and playwright, as well as actor, in the Student Performing Artists' Ten-Minute Play Festival. He enjoys writing and hopes to direct someday. Thank you to everyone for their support.

Artistic Staff Biographies

Dr. Assunta Kent - Director
Long before earning her doctorate in Northwestern University's Interdisciplinary Program in Theatre and Drama, Assunta completed a B.S. in Therapeutic Recreation where she developed and carried out programs for children and adults with disabilities similar to Lulu's autism. Dr. Kent currently teaches theatre history and dramatic literature, play analysis, performance art, and acting for non-majors, where short plays such as these are used for class exercises. Vito on the Beach is one of the most popular plays test-driven by acting students over the past five years. We hope you enjoy it as well! At USM, Dr. Kent has directed the contemporary dramas A Dream of Canaries and The Danube; original adaptations Sinners, Saints, and Fools and The Rokujō Lady's Passion, the co-created Multi-Medi@tion; and Beaumarchais' The Marriage of Figaro. Off-campus, she has danced with the Eduardo Mariscal Dance Theatre, dramaturged Alice in Bed at Oak Street, and guest-lectured at Barnard College in New York and King Alfred's College in Winchester, UK. She is the outgoing Book Review Editor for the New England Theatre Journal, and the author of Maria Irene Fornes and Her Critics. She wants to thank the calm professional cast and crew for creating "Three Best Views" of Life in the Late 20th Century. Special thanks for support beyond the call of duty to rehearsal team: Susannah, Destiny, Breanna and April!

Matthew Meeds - Scenic Designer
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.

Courtney Elliott - Costume Design
is a senior theatre major from Newport, VT. She previously costume designed for the SPA production of True West. She also designed costumes for Multi-Medi@tion and Seven Minutes in Heaven. Her acting experience includes roles in The Good Woman of Setzuan and Into the Woods. She will next appear in Camino Real in November.

Jamie Grant - Lighting Design
Jamie is a graduate of the USM Theatre Dept. From there, she received an M.F.A. in Design from New York University. He has designed for choreographers Tere O'Connor, Kevin Wynn, Diane Coburn Bruning, Chris Elam and Director Micheal Sexton in New York. This summer he worked with the Portland Ballet and Arundel Barn Playhouse. He also designed the Theatre Department's One-Acts last year which was partially interrupted by the birth of his first child, Maureen Isabella.

Destiny Long - Assistant Director
Destiny is a junior theatre major from Farmington. As an active member of SPA and MTPlayers, she has provided design and technical support. Her work on USM's Mainstage includes sound board operator for Multi-Medi@tion and performance in Dance USM! 1999. She was last seen onstage in The Vagina Monologues at Merrill Auditorium this summer. She would like to thank Assunta for this opportunity and April for all of her support.

Kris Hall - Costume Shop Supervisor
Kris is looking forward to her third year at USM. In June she had the opportunity to costume a local independent film called "Mr. Barrington," produced by Honey Tree Films. In the past, she has costumed at Mad Horse Theatre Co., L.A. Public Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre and the George St. Playhouse in New Jersey.

April Mulkern - Stage Manager
April Mulkern, a Biddeford native, is a junior matriculated in media studies and theatre at USM. Previous work includes Stage Manager for Hedwig and the Angry Inch at the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, ASM for the Student Written One-Acts last year and the role of the "Angry Vagina" in the USM production of The Vagina Monologues. Her greatest gratitude goes to Dr. Kent for this opportunity.
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 certain students are selected to participate in KCACTF 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 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 2003.

Last year more than 1100 productions and 20,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Special Thanks to: