

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

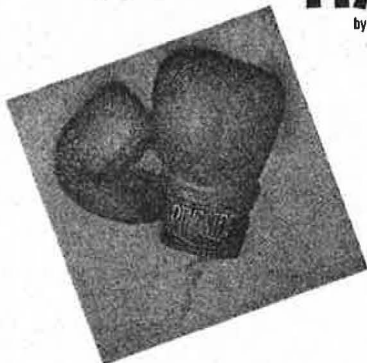
directed by Assunta Kent

Three One-Act Plays



Finger Food

by Nina Shengold



HAIKU

by Kate 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



UNIVERSITY OF
Southern Maine

**Call the Theatre Box Office at 780-5151 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.

Life in the Late 20th: Three Best Views

Finger Food by Nina Shengold

Haiku by Kate Snodgrass

Vito on the Beach by Samuel Schwartz

Director
Scenic Design
Costume Design
Lighting Design
Sound Design / Original Music Composition

Dr. Assunta Kent
Matt Meeds
Courtney Elliott
Jamie Grant
Neil James

Cast

Finger Food

Tim Lambert
Anna Gravel

Denny
Mona

Setting: Late 1990's. Mid-afternoon. One small, "bare-bones" photography studio in an old factory building full of such converted work spaces. A suburb outside New York City.

Haiku

Ariel Francoeur
Casey Pratt
Jennie Summers Shea

Louise (Lulu)
Billie (BeBe)
Nell

*Setting: Early spring, from late afternoon to dusk.
A small town in Western New England.*

Vito on the Beach

David Branch
Chris Gyngell

Vito
Chase

Setting: 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.

THE
2002-2003
SEASON!

THE public THEATRE

Lowiston/Auburn's Professional Theatre

★ **'ART'** by Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton **Oct 11 - 27**
When one man buys an all-white painting and shows it to his friends, everyone's true colors are hilariously revealed in this Tony Award winning comedy. *Contains adult language.*

★ **IDA: Woman who runs with the Moose!** By Susan Poulin **Nov 8 - 17**
From the creators of *Spousal Deafness*, it's Ida LeClair, sharing entertaining observations on life, marriage and her trip to "Pawtland" with the girls in this hilarious one-woman show.

★ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL & FESTIVE FIDDLING** **Dec 13, 14, 15**
Two great holiday shows for the price of one. The perfect holiday show for the whole family!

★ **PROOF** by David Auburn **Jan 24 - Feb 2**
The Maine Premiere of the Winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award! The daughter of a brilliant but insane mathematician wonders whether she will inherit her father's genius or his madness. *Contains adult language.*

★ **GUN-SHY** by Richard Dresser **Mar 14 - 23**
It's divorce on the rocks in this laugh-out-loud comedy about two ex's who can't stay out of each other's lives and the new mates they drag down with them. *Contains adult language.*

★ **AN INFINITE ACHE** by David Schulner **May 2 - 11**
It's 50 years of "what if", when a young couple's first date nears its end, and a fast forward "vision of their entire lives together begins."

Profesional theatre at an affordable price! (800) 639-9575 or 782-3200

Tues - Sat 8-9pm
Sun 2-5pm

Tickets
\$12.50 / \$15

Theatre Location: Lisbon & Maple St. Lowiston
For more information visit: www.thepublictheatre.org

Artistic Staff

Projection Photographers
Assistant Director

Assunta Kent, Piper Silverthorne
Destiny Long

Production Staff

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Technical Director
Carpenters

April Mulkern
Susannah Buckley-Green
Matt Meeds
Matthew Boutillier, Brian Birkinbine
and the Stagecraft Lab
Kris Hall

Costume Shop Supervisor
Stitchers

Elizabeth Adams, Corey Anderson, Chelsea Cook, Caitlin Elkins, Ariel
Francoeur, Chris Gyngell, Angela Lemire, Kelsy MacKilligan, Kendra Maria,
CJ Payne, Jillian Shapleigh,
Jeanine Vieira, Crys Worden, and the Costume Shop Lab

Master Electrician
Electricians

Ethan Hinton
Michaela Wirth, Jacob Walton
and Josh McVay

Properties Construction

Amy Von Vett, Chrystal Thorne,
Eli Bresnick, Braden Chapman,
Kristen Dearborn, Caroline Guilmartin

Production Crew

Deck Crew
Wardrobe
Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator
Slide Operator

Megan Baldwin
Karre Kern
Michaela Wirth
Breanna Coombs
B. Stewart Caswell

Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director
Arts Events Director
Administrative Assistant
Box Office Managers
House Manager
Graphic Design

Mary Snell
Emmanuelle Chaulet
Lillian Campbell
Andrea Lopez, Tara Smith
Eli Bresnick
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, 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 Gynell - 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 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 Rokujo Lady's Passion*, the co-created *Multi-Medi@tion*; and Beaumarchais' *The Marriage of Figaro*. Off-campus, she has danced with the Esduardo 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, he 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.



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Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ XXXV

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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:

Deering High School, Bates College Theatre Dept, James Priestley, Brian Currie, A.T. McHugh, Amanda Reeves, Casey Pratt, Stewart Caswell, Ruth in the USM Photography Lab, Lillian Campbell, Dennis McLaughlin and Ray Rezendus of Media Services, Rich Voglia of Caribou Visual Presentation, USM Art Department, Sue Goodrich, Jill Shapleigh, Joseida Lord, Michaela Wirth and Dorn McMahon.