

2-2006

## **One-Acts: Layers of Love & Love and (Just) Romance Program**

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MAINE

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre 2005-2006 Season

## **One Acts**

Two HOT new Valentine's plays at USM!

### *Layers of Love*

*a post-modern romantic comedy*

*by Mia Perron*

*(popular columnist for The Windham Independent!)*

*and*

### **Love and (Just) Romance**

*a twisted tale of forbidden desire*

*by Tim Sheridan*

**For mature audiences only!**

**directed by Assunta Kent**

**7:30 p.m., February 16, 17, and 18**

**5 p.m. Matinee: Sunday, February 19, 2006**

**Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus**

## Synopses:

What's the difference between love and lust?

These hot new romances - one winsome, the other macabre- whirl us through funny, surprising, and sensuous scenes to help us find our own answers to this eternal question.

In *Layers of Love* a time-warped romantic comedy by Mia Perron (popular columnist for *The Windham Independent*), we enter the off-kilter world of Audrey (Meghan Benton), a bright, witty college grad looking for love in a town very like Portland. She seeks love and answers from the frank and funny "boy next door," Nathan (Jack Fossett), from a hot-shot young developer, Lucas (Colin Whitely) and his over-shadowed, salt-of-the-earth construction foreman, Martin (Shawn Reardon).

Audrey's hapless attempts are energized by witty dialogue and real-life farcical scenes, including hysterically-conflicted sex education lectures by her lusty, sexually-repressed mother (Cate Goetschius). Upbeat and off-beat, *Layers of Love* moves back and forth through Audrey's life to uncover a sequence of events that we recognize as the post-modern courtship dance.

After intermission we return to a seductive thriller for mature audiences only. *Love and (Just) Romance* by Tim Sheridan (the "Woody Allen" of Windham) draws us down a twisted path of desire and forbidden love. The conventional love between Marcus and Carla, a small city newspaper editor and his bohemian wife (local poet Nate Amadon and Jaime Willard), is "tested severely" by the intrigue of a mysterious temptress and her fascination with the survivor of a tragic car accident (Kristen Peters and Johnny Speckman). The twists and turns of this startling plot leave audience members as shocked and off-balance as the characters until the cathartic final scene.

*Layers of Love* by Mia Perron and *Love and (Just) Romance* by Timothy Sheridan are entered in the Michael Kanin Playwriting Awards Program. *Love and (Just) Romance* & *Layers of Love* are being considered for the John Cauble Short Play Award and the David Mark Cohen Playwriting Award. *Layers of Love* is also being considered for the Mark Twain Comedy Playwriting Award.

## Student written One Act Plays

### Layers of Love

by Mia Perron

and

### Love and (Just) Romance

by Timothy Sheridan

Director  
Scenic Design  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design  
Sound Design

Dr. Assunta Kent  
Jesse Pilgrim  
Meredith Davis  
Corey Anderson  
Nate Speckman

## Cast

### Layers of Love

Meghan Benton	Audrey
Jack Fossett	Nathan
Cate Goetschius	Mom
Shawn Reardon	Martin
Colin Whitely	Lucas

## Setting

2006 and the past 20 years, as remembered by Audrey.

### Love and (Just) Romance

Nate Amadon	Marcus Duquesne
Kristen Peters	Lillian St. Thomas
Johnny Speckman	Warren Ruggles
Jaime Willard	Carla Duquesne
Jessica Savory	Understudy for Lillian

## Setting

The suburban home of Dr. Henry Richard, during the present or recent past.

*There will be a fifteen minute intermission.*

**Warning: Gunfire; Love and (Just) Romance is for mature audiences only!**

*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.*



## Message from the Playwrights

### Mia Perron - *Layers of Love*

Writing this play was an incredible experience, both in its conception and as it became a living, breathing piece of theatre. I was blessed with talented student actors and designers, as well as an amazing director who found depth and meaning in my words. As this play approaches its première, I find myself excited, scared, nervous, but mostly overwhelmingly proud of what we, as students, can create.

Mia Perron, of Windham, ME, is a junior theatre major at USM. Previously seen on stage as Li'l Bit in *How I Learned to Drive* and Myrhinna in *Lysistrata* (Irene Ryan Nomination), she is thrilled to be working backstage this semester as the Stage Manager for *A Night of David Ives*. Mia previously earned a playwriting award at the Maine One-Act Festival in 2003. She would like to thank her family, friends, and the cast for their patience, understanding, and support.

### Timothy Sheridan - *Love and (Just) Romance*

Seeing this work of mine being brought to life is one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. The creativity of the actors and crew is phenomenal. The fact that it is my work inspiring them, especially fills me with pride.

The script itself had numerous influences. As I was writing it, the thing I was most aware of were the old Hollywood thrillers of the 1930's and 40's. This play was my attempt to make a seemingly normal world, and then reveal the sinister underside of it, just like Alfred Hitchcock did. In retrospect, I also see the presence of Tod Browning and David Lynch. Lillian St. Thomas was based on characters played by Theda Bara and Bette Davis. Being deliberately ironic, I named her after D. W. Griffith's virtuous heroine, Lillian Gish. Warren was inspired by the great villains portrayed by Boris Karloff and Eric von Stroheim.

Timothy Sheridan, who lives in Windham, is an actor/writer. He has appeared in productions of *Camino Real*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Good, the Bad and the Wilde*. Written works include *The Movie Star*, *Preparations*, and the yet-to-be-produced, *Preston's Birthday Party* and *The Impossible Mailbox*.

## Production Staff

Assistant Directors	Seren Huus, Dan Goldstein
Assistant Scenic Designer	Michaela Wirth
Stage Manager	Bob Wilcox
Assistant Stage Managers	Alica Ouellette, Jessica Dummich
Technical Director	Matthew T. Meeds
Carpenters	Stagecraft Practicum
Costume Director	Kris Hall
Stitchers	Joelle Clingerman, Jason Cook, Catherine Goetschius, Travis Grant, Lindsey Higgins, Slaney Jordan, Kate Law, Daniel Lawrence, Michelle Leeman, Jenalee Marsters, Alexis Pappas, Chatfar Rodney, Sarah Saindon, Piper Silverthorne, Ashleigh St. Pierre, Brooke Woodard, Donald Zaluski and the Costuming Lab
Master Electrician	Nick Cyr
Deck Electrician	Heather Crocker
Electricians	Lighting Practicum
Properties Supervisor	Crys Worden
Properties Construction	Sarah Baglione, Jessica Savory

## Production Crew

Deck Crew	Michol Lynne Merrill, Joshua Pyle-Carter, Julie Footer
Wardrobe	Kate Caouette, Megan Harrington, Jenalee Marsters
Light Board Operator	Travis Curran
Sound Board Operator	Steph Smith
Video Operator	Jeff Griecci
Props Crew	Casey Turner, Sarah Baglione
Follow Spot	David C. Clark, Ben Wake

## Administrative Staff

Arts Promotion Director	Dennis Kouba
Arts Events Director	Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant	Lil Campbell
Box office Managers	Heather Green
House Manager	Dan Goldstein
Graphic Design	Ursula DiMauro

## Special Thanks

Kameren Aikins for Hershey's bear, David Aikins for Marcus' laptop computer, Dr. Walter Stump for guiding our young playwrights, Accent Dry Cleaners, Erik Moody, Maine State Music Theatre.



## Director's Biography

### Dr. Assunta Kent

After producing last year's *Dance USM!*, Assunta returns to directing with the SOAP's (Student-written One Act Plays). In the past 12 years, she has directed both contemporary and classical plays including *A Dream of Canaries*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Rokujo Lady's Passion*, *The Danube*, *Sinners Saints and Fools*, *Multi-medi@tion*, *Life in the Late 20th*, and *Shakuntala and the Ring of Recognition*.

Widely read in contemporary drama, Assunta found these witty and good humored plays to be better than many of the plays published in short play anthologies out of New York. This production has made good use of her specialty in post-1960s drama and her growing experience as a Life Empowerment and Relationship Coach.

It has been such a great pleasure working with this all student creative team to stage their fresh perspectives on relationships, that Assunta has already signed up to do it again for the 2006-07 season. Many thanks to my brilliant playwrights, Mia Perron and Tim Sheridan; my great stage manager, Robert Wilcox and all the talented and hardworking actors, designers, technicians and their faculty advisers. Happy Valentine's

## Artistic Staff Biographies

### Jesse Pilgrim - Scenic Director

Jesse is a junior theatre major, focusing in scenic design. Since his Freshman year, he has designed or been involved in the scenic design of *The Shape of Things*, *Once On This Island*, *Midsummer*, and *Arms and the Man*. He will make his USM acting debut this spring in *A Night with David Ives*. He would like to thank the USM Theatre Department for the opportunities they have given him and his family and friends for their support.

### Meredith Kendrick Davis - Costume Design

Meredith is a prospective art student here at USM and plans to concentrate in design. She has had years of experience in theatre as an actress, as well as some experience in set designing and construction. This is the first time she has designed costumes for a production. She plans to broaden her horizons in the costume and fashion world this summer while studying fashion at Parson's School of Design in New York City. She is thrilled to be working on her first show here at USM, and proud to be a part of the student design team.

### Corey Anderson - Lighting Design

Corey is a senior theatre major, minoring in Philosophy. You may have seen his acting work previously in *Camino Real* (with USM), *Macbeth* (with SPA), or *El Cid* (with Two Lights Theatre Ensemble). Previous design work includes costuming Two Light's *Titus* this past summer and sound design for *Arms and the Man* and *The Laramie Project* here at USM.

### Nathan Speckman, - Sound Design

Nate, from Cape Elizabeth, is in his second year here at USM. He is very excited to be sound designing this mainstage production. Last fall he designed the sound for *Under Milkwood*. Nate would like to thank Moody and Crys for their help and support, Dana Erickson and Jack Fossett for providing some original music, and last but not least...you.

### Seren Huus - Assistant Director for Layers of Love

Seren is a fourth year theatre student. She has done some directing in the past but nothing as spectacular as assistant directing a main stage show. Seren's focus until now has been acting: as Titania in SPA's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* last spring, and later this spring as Ruth in SPA's *A Night With David Ives*.

### Dan Goldstein - Assistant Director for Love and (Just) Romance

Dan is a junior theatre major from Nashua, NH who is focusing on directing. Last fall, he performed in *Six Characters In Search of an Author* and he has Assistant Stage-managed for *The Magic Flute* and *How I Learned to Drive*. He is extremely pleased and proud to be working on this show as assistant director.

### Kris Hall - Costume Shop Director

Kris is happy to be part of a fourth season as Costume Shop Director. She has recently designed costumes for the Lewiston Public Theater and Maine State Music Theatre. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Studio Art at Maine College of Art, and her graduate work can be seen February 21st - 24th at MassArt in Boston. Also, Kris's costume designs can be seen in the film *Mr. Barrington*, now available at your local video store.

### Matt Meeds - Technical Director

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 Center Stage. Most recently, he designed the set for last year's production of *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-In-the-Moon Marigolds*, and for last fall's, *The Good, The Bad and the Wilde*.

**Bob Wilcox - Stage Manager**

Bobby is a recent graduate of Thornton Academy. Over the summer, he was on the stage crew at the Arundel Barn Playhouse. He was also the Assistant Stage Manager for USM's presentation of *How I Learned to Drive*. He recently placed second in the American College Theatre festival Tech Olympics.

**Jessica Dummich - Assistant Stage Manager**

Jess is a freshman theatre major from Winthrop, Maine. Earlier this year she was seen in the SPA production of *Under Milkwood*, and on the deck crew of *Arms and the Man*. She is really excited about venturing down the path of learning how to stage manage a show. She would like to thank everyone involved in the production for their hard work

**Cast Biographies**

**Meghan Benton - Audrey**

Meghan is a junior theatre major from Buxton, Maine. This is her second main stage production. She was in *The Good the Bad and the Wilde* this past fall. She was recently a semifinalist in the Irene Ryan scholarship competition at KCACTF. She would like to thank her family and friends for all their support.

**Colin Whitely - Lucas**

Colin has been involved with theatre for about twelve years; this is his first year as a USM theatre major. Favorite roles include Tony in *West Side Story*, Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, and Lenny in *Rumors*. Colin would like to thank all the people who have supported him and continue to support him throughout his years of theatre.

**Johnny Speckman - Warren**

Johnny is making his mainstage debut at USM. He is a sophomore theatre major from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. He acted in last year's Ten Minute Play festival, but this is his first main stage role. He is very excited.

**Nathan Amadon - Marcus**

Nate has performed locally with the USM Theatre Department, SPA, AIRE, Acorn Productions & Two Lights. His roles include Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*, Banquo in *Macbeth* and Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He recently directed *Under Milkwood* for SPA. He would like to thank his friends, family and, of course, Kate

**Kristen Peters - Lillian**

Kristen is very excited to be making her debut on the USM stage. She transferred to USM last semester from Adelphi University in New York and has felt very welcomed by the USM theatre department. She has enjoyed fulfilling Tim's twisted tale (even though he spent most of the time giggling during rehearsals) and is happy to scare all of her friends when they come see the show. "Thanks to cast & crew, Assunta, my family, and my lovely roomie, Beckey"

**Catherine Goetschius, - Mom**

Cate, originally from Essex, Vermont, is a 3rd year student at USM, majoring in both vocal performance and theater. She has recently been seen in *Beauty and the Beast* at the Boothbay Playhouse, USM's *The Magic Flute*, the Portland Players' *Hansel and Gretel* and in SPA's *Once on This Island*. She enjoys doing costume, wardrobe and make-up work for the theater as well, including designing hair and make-up for USM's production of *Arms and the Man* and SPA's *Under Milkwood* as well as working on *Beauty and the Beast* in at the Boothbay Playhouse and SPA's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She will be presenting her make-up designs for *Arms and the Man* at KCACTF National in Washington D.C. later this spring.

**Jack Fossett - Nathan**

Jack is a junior at USM majoring in Media Studies and minoring in creative writing. This is his third USM show, previously appearing as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Captain Bluntschi in *Arms and the Man*. Over the summer he also works with Maxi-Ford Productions, where he has appeared as Tony Kirby in *You Can't Take it With You*.



**Jaime Willard - Carla**

Jaime, of Greenville, Maine, is a junior transfer student majoring in Communication. Her favorite roles include The Wicked Witch of the West and Miss Hannigan in *Annie*. She is very excited to be performing on the main stage here at USM.

**Jessica Savory - Lillian's Understudy**

Jessica Savory, from Methuen, Massachusetts, is a sophomore theater major. She was on the deck crew for *Six Characters in Search of an Author* and *The Magic Flute*, as well as playing the Female Slave in last year's production of *Lysistrata*. She was also the lead, Deidre, in a student-written ten-minute play, *Fantasies Come True*, during the SPA Ten-Minute Festival last spring. Last spring, she played various roles in the Portland Players' production of *Annie*. Most recently, she was the assistant stage manager for *The Good, The Bad, & The Wilde* and head of prop design and construction for *Arms and the Man*. She will be stage managing *Dance USM!* in April.

**USM Playwriting Course**

Each year students in our playwriting course, taught by Professor Walter Stump, offer their final course efforts to be read and selected for possible productions the following semester. The body of potential scripts comes entirely from that class and usually numbers between 10 and 15 student playwrights. Professor Stump guides students through this effort, and then the directors select the best play, giving it a production with faculty direction, scenic and costume designs and budget support. This is a unique opportunity for an untried and unproduced playwright to have a full scale production of his or her work.

An educational process for our students, this program primarily focuses on teaching students to work with new and untested material while providing the playwright with the opportunity to see what does and does not work.

Some of our former playwrights have gone on to have their work published and to move into exciting graduate programs in the field. The USM Theatre Department's commitment is to produce the plays coming from Professor Stump's class with enthusiasm and professionalism.

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**XXXIX**

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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 selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, playwrights, designers, stage managers 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 2007. Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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