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Fall 10-2010

## Lend Me A Tenor Program [2010]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MAINE

*Department of Theatre presents*



## ***Lend Me A Tenor***

by Ken Ludwig  
Directed by Wil Kilroy

**October 8-17, 2010**  
**Main Stage, Russell Hall**  
**USM Gorham Campus**

*Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc*

## Director's Note

This production is a chance to return to a simpler time and place - the 1930's of Ohio. Despite the sometimes overwhelming lack of contemporary technology at that time, there are plenty of comical conflicts in this play which we hope will entertain and amuse you. Perhaps you may even chuckle when you recognize a few character traits of your own. Enjoy!

Wil Kilroy

## USM Theatre Students and Faculty Shine

USM Theatre students have distinguished themselves with theatre companies throughout New England, such as Portland Stage Company, Maine State Music Theatre, The Public Theatre, The Children's Theatre of Maine, Good Theater, Mad Horse Theatre, The Company of Girls, and the Two Lights Theatre Ensemble. Many of our alumni go on to perform in L.A., N.Y.C., off and on Broadway.

Emmy Award-winning actor Tony Shalhoub (Monk) and award-winning playwright and screenwriter Lynn Sieffert are USM theatre graduates. Tony Shalhoub recently played the role of Producer Saunders on the Broadway production of *Lend Me a Tenor*.

Our professional faculty directors and designers work at some of the best regional theaters in the country such as those mentioned above, as well as The Walnut Street Theatre, The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Alley Theatre in Houston, North Shore Music Theatre, and The Seattle Repertory Theatre.

USM students and faculty have worked in several films and TV series including *Empire Falls*, *Hotel Universe*, Stephen King's *Pet Sematary* and *Graveyard Shift*, *Mermaids*, *All the Vermeers in New York*, *Sundowning*, *All About Steve*, and *All My Children*.

**Visit us online:**

**<http://www.usm.maine.edu/theatre>**

## *Lend Me A Tenor*

**By Ken Ludwig**

Director  
Scenic Design  
Costume Design  
Lighting and Sound Design

Wil Kilroy  
Charles S. Kading  
Renee Garcia  
Shannon Zura

## Cast

Saunders  
Max  
Tito Merelli  
The Bellhop  
Maria  
Maggie  
Diana  
Julia

Tyler Johnston  
Jake Cote  
Matthew Defiore  
Kyle Skillin  
Kelly Mosher  
Rylee Doiron  
Abra Mueller  
Kaitlin McGinley

## Understudies

Saunders  
Max  
Tito Merelli  
The Bellhop  
Maria  
Maggie  
Diana  
Julia

Dalton Kimball  
Taylor Rousseau  
Caleb Lacy  
Brandon Arthur Johnson  
Alice Hofgrin  
Elizabeth Forkus  
Ashley Pettengill  
Megan E. Jackson

## Setting

A Hotel Suite in Cleveland, Ohio, 1934

Act I, Scene 1: Early afternoon

Scene 2: Four hours later

Act II, Scene 1: That night, around 11pm

Scene 2: Fifteen minutes later

*There will be a fifteen minute intermission.*

*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.*

## Artistic Staff

Assistant Scenic Design  
Assistant Costume Design  
Assistant Lighting Design

Florence Cooley  
Kyle Skillin  
Neal Morton

## Production Staff

Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Managers  
Technical Director  
Carpenters

Cat Ballou  
August Delisle, Hillary Perry  
Perry Fertig

Brian Andrews, Dan Bernardini, Cat Ballou, Tom Campbell, August  
Delisle, Sarah Dube, Madelyn James, Scott Leland, Jon Marro, Matt Morey, Rodney Nason,  
Angelica Pendleton, Emily Waller and the students of Stagecraft Practicum

Costume Shop Director  
Stitchers

Kris Hall  
Lara Collard, Michael Frier, Travis Grant, Krista Lucht,  
Desiray Roy, Kat Smith, Shelby Caron, Catherine Darragh  
and Costume Practicum

Electricians

Danny Gay, Ashley Pettengill, Matt Defiore,  
Jake Cote and Lighting Practicum

Properties Supervisor  
Properties Construction

Hunter Jandreau  
Thomas Ian Campbell

## Production Crew

Deck Crew  
Wardrobe

Joseph Sibley, Danny Beade  
Melissa Bills, Carolyn Glaude, Brittany Harrison- Billiat,  
Greer Vashon

Light Board Operator  
Sound Board Operator

Matthew Becker  
Lake Bellavance

## Administrative Staff

Theatre Promotions Director  
Arts Events Director  
Administrative Assistant  
Box Office Manager  
House Manager  
Graphic Design  
Photography  
Program

Joyce Brown  
Emmanuelle Chaulet  
Lil Campbell  
Karissa Nelsen  
Brandon Johnson  
Leigh Raposo  
Troy R. Bennett  
Levi Petrin

## Special Thanks

Abra Mueller, voice coach; Ellen Chickering, Maine State Music Theatre,  
Margaret Thomas, all Faculty and Staff who have made donations to the costume shop,  
and Accent Dry Cleaner

## Cast Biographies

### Jacob Cote (Max)

Jake is a junior theatre major here at USM, and is proud to be part of his third main stage show. Past credits include "The Captain" in Durang's *Titanic*, "Dr. Scott" in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, "Luka" in *The Bear*, "Bill Sykes" in *Oliver!*, "Tim" in *The Distance From Here*, as well as the Co-Chair of the Student Performing Artists. Thanks as always to friends and family for their support.

### Matthew Defiore (Tito Merelli)

Matthew is a junior theatre major at The University of Southern Maine. His previous roles at USM include "Jack" in *Jack and Jill*, "Smirnov" in *The Bear*, and "Max" in *The Pajama Game*. He is having a blast getting to perform the role of Tito every night and hopes you enjoy the show!

### Rylee Doiron (Maggie)

Rylee is a senior musical theatre major. Some of her most recent performances include "Mimi" in *Rent* at Maine State Music Theater, "The White Witch" in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* when she studied abroad at the University of Winchester in England, "Shari" in *The Distance From Here* at USM. She is absolutely thrilled to be a part of this comedic production and she hopes very much you enjoy the show. Grazie mille to Wil and everybody involved.

### Tyler Johnston (Saunders)

Tyler is enrolled in the Department of Theatre at USM where he is practicing the acting techniques of Michael Chekhov. He also studied sculpture at the Maine College of Art, where he started the sketch comedy group Artklub! He is the director of the Portland Maine Film Festival and also works as an independent movie producer.

### Kaitlin McGinley (Julia)

Kaitlin is a senior theatre major from Lyman, ME. Past USM roles include "Novice" in *Suor Angelica*. USM crew credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *Inook and the Sun*, and Fall musical coordinator for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Other credits include "Miss Martindale" in *Death and Taxes* and "Gorgibus" in *Two Precious Maidens Ridiculed*. Enjoy the show!

### Kelly Mosher (Maria Merelli)

Kelly is a junior musical theatre major from Cape Cod, MA. Past roles include "Olive" in *Spelling Bee* and "Roxie" in *Chicago*. She is excited to be back on the main stage after playing Mabel in "*The Pajama Game*" here last spring. In November she will be playing Kate in "*The Wild Party*" over in Corthell Hall. Much love to Mom, Dad and Chapin.

### Abra Mueller (Diana)

Abra is a senior music education major from Portland, ME. This is her third University production and first main stage show. Her other USM credits include *Once On This Island* as "Mama Eurelie" and "Lidia" in Christopher Durang's *Titanic*. Abra has received the Robert A. Stuart Award for Best Performance at the NHETG State Drama Festival as well as an Irene Ryan nomination for "Mama Eurelie."

When she is not on stage, Abra is a professional choral musician, specializing in Renaissance polyphony and Gregorian chant.

#### **Kyle Skillin** (Bellhop)

Kyle is a senior theatre major. Though his focus is in hair and makeup design, you may remember him in the ensemble of *Pajama Game* and *Inook and the Sun*. He spent the summer working on wardrobe crew at Maine State Music Theatre and had a wonderful time. He loves his family and theater. He hopes you enjoy the show. Cheers!

### **Artistic Staff Biographies**

#### **Wil Kilroy** (Director)

Wil is part of the acting/directing faculty and Department of Theatre Chair here at USM. As a co-founder of the National Michael Chekhov Association, Wil teaches workshops around the country, including a recent intensive at the University of Texas, Arlington, with previous teaching in London and Greece. Wil has been honored by the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival for his direction of the productions *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Everything Sprite*, (also chosen for performance in NYC), and *Purple Breasts* - also presented in Washington, D.C. for the National Breast Cancer Coalition. Locally Wil recently directed *The Rocky Horror Show* for Portland Players, and will direct *Annie Get Your Gun* for the Lyric Theatre, opening in November. As an actor with the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, Wil has worked on premiere plays, and has performed in numerous other productions including the Maine Playwrights Festival, the American Irish Repertory's *The Poor of Portland*, the musical *Pulp Alley* for New York's West Bank Theatre, "Philip" in the Hollywood premiere of *Hotel Universe*, the daytime serials *All My Children* and *As the World Turns*, an alien on *Babylon 5*, and annually as an alumni guest artist playing Dr. Coppelius in *Coppelia* for the State Ballet of RI. Wil has also popped up on recent commercials as a doctor, a generous husband and a 'colorful' bank customer. In the summer, Wil is the Director of the USM Theatre Academy, a week-long acting intensive for ages 13-18. Wil has been a recipient of a Kennedy Center scholarship, two Kennedy Center Bronze Medallions, the Moss Hart Award, MEA's Human and Civil Rights Award, and USM's Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award. Wil has been Chair of the Kennedy Center's regional festival, the New England Theatre Conference and coordinator for the Educational Theatre Association Maine conference. Wil studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art and the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York, and holds theatre degrees from the University of Rhode Island and the University of Illinois, with recent training at the Arizona Laboratory for Movement Research.

#### **Charles S. Kading** (Scenic Design)

Charles has taught design and stagecraft at USM for 30 years. His professional credits include *Titanic*, *Hans Christian Andersen*, *Ragtime*, and *Aida* for Maine State Music Theatre; *Big River*, *My Fair Lady*, *42nd Street*, *Cabaret*, and *Annie* for Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater; *Noises Off!* and *Blithe Spirit* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He worked extensively at The Alley Theater in Houston where his credits include the US premiere of Alan Ayckbourne's *Henceforward*. He has also designed scenery for the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Cabaret

Repertory Theatre and Portland Stage.

#### **Renee Garcia** (Costume Design)

Renee Garcia recently designed costumes for *Romeo and Juliet* at the Riverside Theatre Shakespeare Festival, *Green Whales* at the Unicorn Theatre, and *In Spite of Thunder: The Macbeth Project* at the Coterie Theatre. Additional design credits include *Nadya* at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and both *What the Bellhop Saw* and *Working* at Florida School of the Arts. She has also worked as the Production Designer for the independent film *Burning Man*. Renee is the Lecturer in Costume Design at the University of Southern Maine. She holds an MFA in Costume Design and Technology from University of Missouri-Kansas City.

#### **Shannon Zura** (Lighting Design)

Shannon Zura most recently designed sound for Philadelphia Shakespeare Company's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Taming of the Shrew*, and the lights for the world premiere of *House, Divided* at InterAct Theatre Company, Portland Stage Company's *Longfellow: A Life in Words*, and Delaware Theatre Company's *Retreat from Moscow* and *The Syringa Tree*. She has previously designed the lights and sound for InterAct Theatre Company's productions of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *American Sublime*. In March 2005, Shannon was featured in Stage Directions Magazine's salute to outstanding women in theatre. Shannon holds an MFA in Lighting Design from Temple University and is currently teaching lighting and sound design at the University of Southern Maine.

#### **Perry Fertig** (USM Technical Director)

This past summer, Perry served as Technical Director for PORTopera's *Hansel and Gretel*. Before joining the Theatre Department last year, he worked in Philadelphia for Ursinus College, the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival, and the Philadelphia Theatre Company. He still occasionally works as a Flying Director for Foy Inventiones.

#### **Kris Hall** (Costume Director)

Kris is in her 10th season at USM. This summer she designed costumes for PORTopera's production of *Hansel and Gretel* at Merrill Auditorium. Other previous designs include *Bach at Leipzig* at Portland Stage, *Pump Boys and Dinettes* at Maine State Music Theatre; *Doubt* and *Almost Maine* at the Public Theatre in Lewiston; *Inook and the Sun* (an Inuit folktale told with masks, puppets and aerial dance) and the opera *Suor Angelica* at USM. Kris received her BA in Political Science from USM and her MFA in Studio Art from MECA. She also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2006 on a full scholarship.

#### **Cat Ballou** (Stage Manager)

Cat Ballou is a senior theatre major at USM. She has managed past productions at USM, such as Durang's *Titanic* and Robert Anderson's *Tea and Sympathy*. She's having a fantastic time working with such a talented cast, and looks forward to seeing the show come to life!



# The Kennedy Center

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## The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ XLIII

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education; Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Kennedy Center Corporate Fund; and the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

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, directors, dramaturgs, 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 2011.

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.