

Spring 1991

Anton Chekhov: Three Vaudevilles Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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Anton Chekhov

Three Vaudevilles

On the Harmfulness
of Tobacco

The Anniversary

The Marriage Proposal

Russell Hall Theatre
USM Gorham Campus
April 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29 at 8 p.m.
April 30 at 5 p.m.

Reservations: 780-5483
\$3 students; \$6 general admission;
\$5 faculty, staff, senior citizens

 University of Southern Maine

THREE VAUDEVILLES

BY
ANTON CHEKHOV

CAST

"ON THE HARMFULNESS OF TOBACCO"

Performed By Ed Moore

"THE ANNIVERSARY"

SHIPOOCHIN..... Tony Payson
HIRIN Rich Gifford
TATIANA..... Paula Libby
MERCHOOTKINA..... Sue Rowe
MEMBERS OF THE DEPUTATION..... Tim Stevens
Jason Brown
Jody Nichols
Toby Dilorenzo

"A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL"

CHOObUKOV Ed Moore
NATALYIA Rebecca Szatkowski
LOMOV Tim Stevens

DIRECTOR Yvonne Shafer
SCENE DESIGN Charles Kading
LIGHTING DESIGN Fred Fauver
COSTUME DESIGN Susan E. Picinich

Stage Manager Britt Morris
Asst. Scene Designer Kate Larlee
Asst. Lighting Design Amy Thomas
Asst. Technical Director Ed Davis
Wardrobe Supervisor Michelle Parent
Dressers Suzanne Remington, Stephanie Bell

Costumer, Christenia Kinne, assisted by Kris Hall, Nick Patterson, Michelle Parent, Pris Verrier, and the students of the Costuming 1 and Theatre Workshop classes.

Technical Director, Fred Fauver assisted by Ed Davis

Sound designer, Erich Kruger; Sound operator, Cindi Whittaker

Light operator, Brenda Talbot

Properties by Meagan Hoff, J. Michael Werner, Heather Butler, Denise Dimitri and Kat Larracey

Box -office staff. Managers, Meagan Hoff and Heather Kelpin, assisted by Shane Smith, Jason Brown, Christine Hunt, Kerry Campbell, Heather Butler and Tony Payson.

Publicity, Matt Spaulding.

The company's special thanks go to Sue Butler for her invaluable help with stage properties.

These short early comedies, (Chekhov himself described them as "vaudevilles"), though light-hearted and indeed often farcical, nevertheless give evidence of Anton Chekhov's perception of our precarious grip on our destinies, a perception which led him to explore the troubled, darkly comic world of his mature work. Adapted here by Yvonne Shafer, they reveal a quizzically amused sympathy for the life of the Russian moujik and the petit bourgeois, expressed in deftly controlled episodes that range in mood from the melancholy to the wildly funny. They afford a valuable and rare opportunity to witness the work of one of the world's most accomplished playwrights during his apprentice years.

ABOUT THE COMPANY:

Director Yvonne Shafer, currently Associate Professor of Drama at USM and about to take up an appointment at the University of Colorado where she will be working with graduate students, has a wealth of experience in the theatre. As well as a formidable record of theatre and literary scholarship, her credits include over twenty years of acting and directing both in America and abroad. She has directed works by, among others, Pirandello, Shaw, O'Neill, Ionesco, Moliere, Pinter and Albee, and recently presented *The Twelve Pound Look* and *The Happy Journey*, in Nanjing, China. She has performed major roles in both the classical and modern repertoire, and has adapted works of the European theatre for modern presentation.

APPEARING IN THE VAUDEVILLES ARE:

Ed Moore, in the one-man *On the Harmfulness of Tobacco* and as Choobukov in *A Marriage Proposal*. Ed is a frequent performer at the Russell Square theatre, and has been seen in *A Comedy of Errors*, *Tartuffe* and *Wild Oats*. Most recently he played Parris in *The Crucible*.

Rebecca Szatkowski, playing Natalyia in *A Marriage Proposal*, completed a B.A. Theatre Program at USM and has worked at the Russell Summer Theatre and as Technical Director at the Mad Horse Theatre. She is a keen photographer whose work can soon be seen in the Portland Review of the Arts, and she hopes to attend graduate school for Cinematography and Directing.

Also in *A Marriage Proposal*, playing the tormented Lomov, is Tim Stevens. Tim is a freshman Theatre major. He recently appeared as Francis Nurse in *The Crucible* and he operated the lights in *The Last Of the Red Hot Lovers*.

In *The Anniversary*: Paula Libby plays Tatiana. Paula received her first experience of the theatre in Indiana where she was a frequent performer in High School plays. She appeared in USM's production of *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* and was recently in the Portland Players' presentation of *Life With Father*. Paula is a major in Communications and is on the Dean's list.

Sue Rowe plays Merchootkina. Sue was last seen on stage at Russell Hall in *A Comedy of Errors*. One of her favorite roles was Gussie the cat in the award winning *Gynt*. Musician and singer with such groups as "Maggie" and "London", Sue is currently a senior at USM majoring in Theatre.

Richard Gifford plays Hirin. Rich is a philosophy major in his sophomore year who acquired his early experience of theatre at Cape Cod where he worked with the Community College company in a wide range of plays both as an actor and in a number of technical roles. Tony Payson is Shipoochin. Anthony Artemio Payson is currently a freshman Theatre major at USM. He is from Brewer, Maine, where he appeared in many of his High School productions. In 1987 he was placed second in the entire state of Maine for Dramatic Interpretation. He played Cheever in last summer's presentation at Russell Hall of *The Crucible*.

Russell Hall Theatre has for many years now been an important centre for local theatre. Recent productions include: *The Wager*, *Tartuffe*, *Little Malcolm and his Struggle Against the Eunuchs*, *History of the American Film*, *Gynt*, which won the American Theatre Festival national competition, and *The Crucible*. Each summer, a season of plays has for many years attracted a wide audience. Now the Theatre Department is pleased to announce an important innovation: the creation of an intimate performance space, "The Lab Theater".

In this newly created space the Theatre Department offers its students an opportunity to experiment and to develop their skills. The Lab, or "black-box" theatre space will have many uses. It will serve as the ideal area for directing class projects and for housing informal, perhaps unconventional and, it is to be hoped, innovative performances. It presents students with a challenge to which the Department is certain they will respond vigorously and excitingly. There will be other uses too; the space is an admirable one to practice and develop a range of theatre skills and it will also serve as a venue for the presentation of awards, for poetry reading and for a wide range of studio-cum-workshop activities. Already its possibilities have been tested and demonstrated in a student comedy revue, *It's Not Mine, It's My Boyfriend's*.

Next Shows

An evening of one-act plays. **VOICES** by Richard Lortz and **NO EXIT** by Jean Paul Sartre. The plays will be presented in the Lab Theatre, Russell Hall, USM, Gorham, at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6. There will be no admission charge.

THE GREAT AMERICAN MAIL ORDER CATALOG SHOW. This is the show that a group of USM theatre students are taking to Winchester, England, They are giving previews as follows:

The Lab Theatre, USM, Gorham - May 3 and 4 at 8:00 p. m.

Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland - May 5 and 6 at 8:00 p. m.

Admission - \$3.00 students; \$6.00 general admission; \$5.00 faculty, staff, senior citizens.

For Reservations, call the Box-Office...780-5483

The Lesson

by Eugene Ionesco

an absurdist - dramatic - comedy

1 performance only

in the

Lab Theatre

Tuesday, April 25 at 8:00 p. m.

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

University of Southern Maine



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