
Programs 1998-1999 Season

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Spring 4-1999

Sinners, Saints, & Fools Program [1999]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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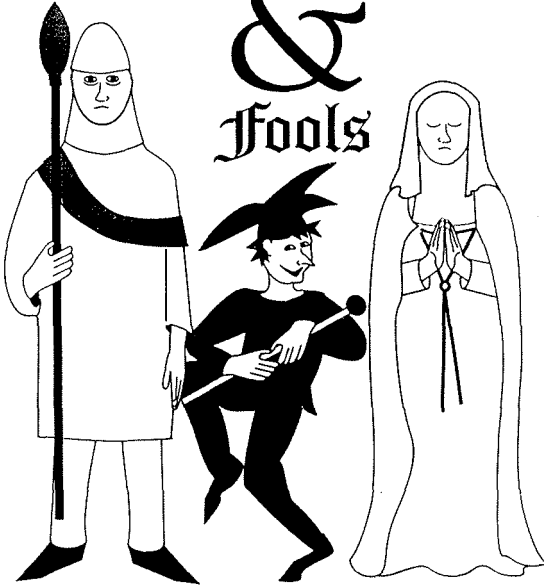
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 University of Southern Maine

Department of Theatre presents

**Sinners,
Saints,
&
Fools**



Sinners, Saints, & Fools

Adapted and Directed by Assunta Kent

Set Design by Charles S. Kading

Costume Design by Alexandra Munier

Lighting Design by Thomas C. Vail

Sound Design by Assunta Kent

April 16, 17, 21-24 at 7:30 p.m.

April 18, 25 at 5:00 p.m.

Main Stage, Russell Hall
USM Gorham Campus

Sinners, Saints, & Fools

Adapted and Directed by Assunta Kent
Set Design by Charles S. Kading
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ACT I

Processional

Full Cast

Music: Feast of Fools, "Orientus Partibus" (Out of the East)

When I See Winter Return

(Troubadour Song, Colin Musset, 13th c.)

Lute, Rick Benecchi, *Recorder,* Assunta Kent,

Singers, Season Ellery, Troy Faucher,

MJ Emerson, Courtney Elliott, Dan Bourque (*Fool*)

Si Djeha Staves off Hunger

(Algerian folktale)

Rich Man, Matt Carey, *Si Djeha,* Wendy Getchell

In the Beginning

Choreographer, Esduardo Mariscal

Adam, Andrew Menard, *Eve,* Brigitte Blose,

Angel, MJ Emerson, *Satan,* Brian Birkinbine,

Demons, Cathy Dumont, Wendy Getchell,

Kellys MacKilligan, Richelle Marsh, Caleb Wilson

Rabi'a Quenches the Hellmouth

(Legend of 10th c. Sufi)

Rabi'a, MJ Emerson, *Fool,* Dan Bourque

Dulcitus

(Latin verse drama by Hroswitha, 10th c. Saxon canoness)

Emperor Diocletian, Matt Cary, *Agape* (love), Kellys MacKilligan,

Chionia (purity), Richelle Marsh, *Irena* (peace), Season Ellery,

Soldiers, Brian Birkinbine, Dan Bourque,

Gov Dulcitus, Andrew Menard, *Dulcitus' Wife,* Courtney Elliott,

Imperial Guards, Troy Faucher, Brigitte Blose,

Gen. Sissinius, Caleb Wilson, *Angel,* MJ Emerson

Wife of Bath

(freely adapted from Chaucer, 14th c.)

Wife, MJ Emerson

It Fell on a Summer's Day

(Thomas Campion, Tudor)

Bessie, Richelle Marsh, *Jamie,* Caleb Wilson,

Minstrel, Rick Benecchi,

Singers: Brian Birkinbine, Cathy Dumont,

MJ Emerson, Andrew Menard

Aucassin and Nicolette

(freely adapted from a Provençale ballade, 13th c.)

Troubadour, Rick Benecchi, *Narrator,* Kellys MacKilligan,

Aucassin, Troy Faucher, *Count Garin,* Matt Cary,

Countess Garin, Courtney Elliott, *Nicolette,* Season Ellery,

Warder, MJ Emerson, *The Watch,* Brigitte Blose, Cathy Dumont,

Wendy Getchell, *Shepherds,* Brian Birkinbine, Dan Bourque,

Recorders, Assunta Kent

Original Music based on historical fragments-Rick Benecchi.

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Jolly Red Nose

(drinking song, Thomas Ravenscroft, 16th c.)

Singers, Rick Benecchi, Brian Birkinbine, Season Ellery,

Courtney Elliott, Troy Faucher, Andrew Menard

Bishop's Cloak

(adapted from Arab folktale, *Quadi's Coat*)

Bishop, Andrew Menard, *Thief,* Dan Bourque

Robin Hood and Friar Tuck

(adapted from *A Mery Geste of Robyn Hoode*, 16th c.)

Fight Choreography, JD McKee, *Morris Dance Choreography and*

Staging, Brigitte Blose, *Robin Hood,* Brian Birkinbine,

Yeomen, Brigitte Blose, Wendy Getchell, Kellys MacKilligan

Friar Tuck, Matt Cary, *Friars,* MJ Emerson, Andrew Menard,

Caleb Wilson, *Minstrels,* Rick Benecchi, Assunta Kent

Music: The Nutting Girl (a Cotswold morris dance)

Dhuja and the Figs

(Persian Folktale)

Dhuja, Dan Bourque

Little Red Fish and the Slippers of Gold

(Adapted Persian Folktale)

Choreography, Jeanne Handy of Baraka ! Middle Eastern Ensemble
Fisherman, Caleb Wilson, *Nezmah, his daughter*, Cathy Dumont,
Stepmother, Courtney Elliott, *Clumsy Stepsister*, Dan Bourque,
Red Fish Godmother, Wendy Getchell, *Queen*, MJ Emerson,

Princess, Jeanne Handy,

Village girls/belly dancers, Kelsy MacKilligan, Richelle Marsh,
Brigitte Blose, *Puppeteer*, Rick Benecchi, *Prince*, Andrew Menard
Music, Musique Arabo-Andalouse

Ibn Ezra's Bad Luck

(Sephardic Jewish Tale, Spain, set early 12th c.)

Maimonides, historic philosopher, Matt Cary, *Abraham Ibn Ezra, poet, rabbi*,
Dan Bourque

Music: El Canto Espiritual Judeoespañol

Revival

(Classic Jewish Tale, set in medieval Jerusalem and Spain)

Narrator, Courtney Elliott, *Mother*, MJ Emerson, *Father*, Brian
Birkinbine, *Solomon*, Caleb Wilson, *Spanish Court Lady*, Kelsy
MacKilligan, *Maria-Sarah*, Richelle Marsh, *Soloist*, Season Ellery,
Wedding Guests, Andrew Menard, Matt Cary, Rick Benecchi.

Music: Songs of the Sephardim

Recessional

Full cast

There will be a fifteen minute intermission.

Non Toxic chemical smoke and frankincense will be used in this performance.

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.*

Director's Note

Welcome to our lusty May Day celebration! All of us have learned much about medieval entertainments -songs, stories, mock battles, dances, and skits-and how they were staged with scenic mansions and pageant wagons. In returning to the "total theatre" of the Middle Ages, we re-invigorate "talking head" Western drama by including the oft-neglected theatrical arts of juggling, story-telling, acrobatics, balladeering, live music, puppetry, and stage combat. We hope to share with you the fun and new knowledge we have enjoyed preparing this show. We also hope to faithfully represent some of the specificities, commonalities, and mutual influences of the three great religious cultures of medieval Europe and the Middle East- Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Tonight on our stage you will see sinners, saints, and fools of all three faiths engage in devilish antics, experience great miracles, and fool and be fooled by each other.

Artistic Staff

Assistant Director

Tess Davis

Costume Design Consultant

Susan E. Picinich

Prop Design, Hell Mouth

Christopher M. Foss

Choreographers

Alison Ann Guinn

In The Beginning

Esduardo Mariscal

Belly dance in *Little Red Fish*

Jeanne Handy

Dance in *Robin and Tuck*

Brigitte Blose

Sound Effects

Andrew Ross, Amanda

Stage Combat

Poirier, Richard Doherty

Dance Captain

JD McKee

Original Music Composition/Lutenist

Brigitte Blose

Rick Benecchi

Production Staff

Stage Manager

Jenny Michaud

Assistant Stage Manager -Rehearsal

Michael Henderson

Assistant Stage Managers -Production

Matt Gilbert,

Technical Director

Monica McKenzie

Master Carpenter

Thomas C. Vail

Carpenters

Monique Downs

Amanda Poirier,

Christopher M. Foss, Stage Craft Lab

Costume Shop Supervisor

Jennifer C. Tingle

Drapers

Brigitte Blose, Elizabeth

Chambers, Matthew Curtis, Melissa Eltgroth, MJ Emerson, Scott Essency,

Alison Ann Guinn, Stephanie Hughes, Amanda McKenney, Jenny Michaud,

Brian Pascoe, Lori Jean Sheldon,

Stitchers

Courtney Elliot, Juliet

Gillespie, Aaron Lewis, Jep Lombard, Kelsy MacKilligan, Piper Major, Kendra

Maria, Amanda Poirier, Caleb Wilson

Master Electrician
Electricians
Properties Supervisor
Properties Construction

Jason Bannister
Lighting Design Class
Alison Ann Guinn
Alison Ann Guinn

Production Crew

Deck Crew Tom Devictoria, Christopher
Gregson, Richard Lewis
Wardrobe Lynn Bettencourt, Kyle
English, Jason Leveille, Catherine Rasco
Light Board Operator Amanda McKenney
Sound Board Operator Steven Johnson

Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director Mary Snell
Arts Events Director Emmanuelle Chaulet
Administrative Assistant Lillian Campbell
Box Office Manager Candice Cushman
House Manager Kendra Maria
Graphic Design Leigh Raposo

Special Thanks

Special Thanks to Richard Doherty for photos, sound, and sustenance, to Josie Conte, Professor Kathleen Ashley, Alex Taylor and the Honors Program, Sheila Beardslee Bosworth, Douglas Freundlich, and the Early Music listserve, Mohammed Ibourk, Jelilat Oyetunji, Maria Caruso Benecchi, Diane Wilburn, Rabbi Carolyn Braun, Professor Bruce Fithian, Maine State Music Theatre.

Cast Biographies

Brian Birkinbine

This is Brian's first performance at USM, though he was involved in both *Misalliance* and *Dance USM!* as a sound board and light board operator. He also ran sound for *Festive Shorts*, a collection of student-directed short plays in the Lab Theatre. Brian's focus here at USM is to strut his stuff as a Technical Director, Playwright or Director. Maybe even all three!

Brigitte M. Blöse

Brigitte is a senior theatre major, but her line in this show is her first on the USM mainstage. She was recently involved with *Dance USM!* as co-assistant director, choreographer, and dancer. Previously she has worked behind the scenes as stage manager for *As You Like It*, props head for *Marigolds*, and stitcher, props crew or carpenter for the last ten USM productions. Besides being a theatre student, Brigitte heads Sticky Tape Theatre Company and teaches and choreographs for Summer Festival of the Arts in S.W. Harbor. Brigitte would like to thank Dr. Kent for allowing her to be an interloper in this show, and Barry Wilson for his help with the Morris Dance.

Daniel Bourque

Dan, a sophomore theatre major from Readfield, Maine makes his return to the USM stage after spending most of the last year working in production and for SPA. Dan recently directed several shows, from *All in the Timing*, by David Ives. This summer, he will be appearing in the Schoolhouse Arts Production of *Grannia*. Having been a juggler for many years, Dan would like to thank Kurt Peterson for his coaching and assistance.

Matthew Cary

Matt is a sophomore theatre major hailing from Hampden and is thrilled to be making his mainstage debut. He most recently appeared as Bruce in *Among the Oats* as part of *Festive Shorts*. He also worked with SPA last spring where he appeared as Martin in *Cruel and Unusual Punishment*. His previous theatre experiences include roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Footlight Frenzy*, *As You Like It*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *But She Won't Lie Down*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Matt would like to thank Dr. Kent and his family and friends for their continuous support.

Cathy Dumont

Cathy is a sports medicine major with a theatre minor. She lives off campus in Biddeford, Maine. Last year she attended the University of New Hampshire where she studied nutrition, and was an active member of the Gospel Choir. But it was here at USM that her passion for theatre grew. Besides high school, her last performance was in *Gypsy* at Sanford's Pine Tree Players, in which she played a toreador and a singing cow. She plans to continue her studies in theatre and film after college in California. She is excited to be in the show.

Season A. Ellery

Season Ellery, a psychology major and theatre minor, is very excited to be doing her first mainstage show here. She was last seen in *Festive Shorts* as the Waitress. Season was also an assistant stage manager last year for *As You Like It*. Other theatre experience includes roles in *Gypsy*, *Cabaret*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *Flowers for Algernon*. She would like to thank Assunta Kent for all of her help and Jenny Michaud - "I'm so glad that you are the stage manager again! You rock!" Most of all, she would like to thank Michael for all of his encouragement.

Courtney Elliott

Courtney is a theatre major from Newport, Vermont. She is pleased to be performing in her first mainstage production here at USM. She played Kafka in *Words, Words, Words* as a part of *Festive Shorts* and was an assistant stage manager for *Misalliance*. Other theatre experience includes roles in *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Aria Da Capo* and *Oliver*. Courtney was also the drama counselor for the past two years at Coutis-Moriarty 4-H Camp in Derby, Vermont.

Marcia J. Emerson (MJ)

A senior theatre major, MJ is pleased to be making her first appearance on the USM mainstage - in a part with lines. Previous on-stage credits include three USM dance concerts and the Duke's Wrestler in *As You Like It*. This semester has seen MJ in, and co-assistant director, for *Dance USM!*, for which she choreographed *Etta James Suite*, and assistant costume designer for *West Side Story*. MJ would like to thank Anne Gottlieb and Linda Freeman for helping her find her voice, and Assunta Kent for the opportunity to use it.

Wendy E. Getchell is a senior Theatre major with a concentration in Directing. She has studied and danced with Esduardo Mariscal, Randy James, Emily Ojala, Harold Philbrook, and Jolyn Arisman. She has choreographed for *Dance USM!* in the past four years, and directed *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds* here at USM in the March of 1998.

Troy Faucher

Troy is a freshman theatre major from Augusta, Maine. Actively involved with theatre since early high school, he has performed in several musicals and dramatic productions. Most recently Troy played Indio in *West Side Story*. He is most proud of performing at Carnegie Hall in a Mozart Coronation Mass and achieving the Gold Music Award. He is excited to perform in this production under the direction of Dr. Kent. Troy would like to dedicate this performance, as always, to his family and friends.

Jeanne M. Handy

"The essence of belly dance is the spirit celebrating the body." Of Lebanese heritage, Jeanne Handy grew up with belly dance. She began formal training and performing when she moved to Portland and met her beloved teacher, Josie Conte. Josie is Artistic Director of Baraka! Middle Eastern Ensemble, a group of dancers and musicians celebrating the ancient art of belly dance. Jeanne has been performing in Baraka! and as a solo artist for four and a half years throughout New England in such venues as New Year's Portland, Maine Festival, and New Year's Bethel. Last year, audience members at the National Melkite Convention in Boston called her performance "breathtaking" and "authentically Arabic."

Kelsy MacKilligan is a freshman, from Kennebunk, Maine majoring in theatre. She acted with student productions of *Illuminati*, and *Festive Shorts*. She was a dancer and choreographer in *Dance USM!*.

Richelle Marsh

Richelle is a freshman theatre major from Franklin, Maine. Previous theatre experience includes *Bus Stop*, *Savage/Love*, *Tartuffe*, *Alls Well that Ends Wrong*, *The Tempest*, *Just Desserts*, and *The Ransom of Emily Jane*. This is Richelle's debut at USM.

Andrew Menard

Andrew Menard of Standish, Maine, is a sophomore theatre major. His previous USM acting credit is Detective Joshua Caleb in the premiere performance of the original student play *Dirt*, by Thomas Spurr.

Caleb Wilson

Caleb Wilson returns to acting after his USM directoral debut. *Among the Oats*. Previous roles at USM include the villainous Mr. Klemper in *The Boys Next Door* and Oliver in *As You Like It*. He has been involved in theatre for many years, amassing an extensive program collection. He would like to thank Steve Buscemi.

Artistic Staff Biographies

Assunta Kent - Director

Dr. Assunta Kent teaches dramatic literature and cultural history in Theatre, Women's Studies, and Honors at USM. This play stages the comic side of her Honors Seminar in Medieval Cultures. Dr. Kent is the author of Maria Irene Fornes and Her Critics, and directed Fornes' *The Danube* last spring. She has previously adapted and directed *The Rokujo Lady's Passion*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *A Dream of Canaries* for USM. In Portland, she appeared as the Mermaid in Esduardo Mariscal's *The Secret Waltz of the Flies*, and in a former life, she was a recorder and crumhorn player with the Crystal Consort. Assunta would like to thank the guest artists and all the actors, designers, and technicians who have brought to life the panoply of songs and stories, passions and pleasures of our medieval ancestors-be they sinners, saints, or fools!

Charles S. Kading - Scenic Design

Charles has taught design and stagecraft at USM for 19 years. His professional credits include *Good Night Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, *Criminal Hearts*, and *Keely and Du* for Mad Horse Theatre; *Showboat*, *Chamberlain*, and *Cabaret* for Maine State Music Theatre; *Big River* and *Cabaret* for Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater; and *Noises Off* and *Blithe Spirit* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He also worked extensively at The Alley Theater in Houston where his credits include the US premiere of Alan Ayckbourne's *Henceforward*. In addition, Charles has designed scenery for the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Cabaret Repertory Theatre and Portland Stage. He is currently chair of the Theatre Department.

Alexandra Munier - Costume Design

Alexandra is a junior Art major. She was last seen designing for *Illuminati* with the Student Performing Artists. She is very grateful to have the opportunity to design a main stage production as a student and would like to give special thanks to Sue, Jennifer, Laurie, MJ, and Kim for always pushing her along even when things were looking their most impossible.

Thomas C. Vail - Lighting Design, Technical Director

Tom was the Technical Director at USM for 4 years during the early 80's and designed sets for the Russell Square Players summer repertory theater. He has designed lights for Bill Chinook and Jonathan Edwards, and has worked professionally with the following local companies: Portland Stage Co. (master carpenter), The Children's Theatre of Maine (actor, set designer), Mad Horse Theatre Co. (tech director, set designer and actor), and the local 114 Stagehand's Union. He also co-created the Oak Street Theater (now Theatre) in Portland in 1992 and the Sebago Lake Schoolhouse Arts Center. Other credits include his children: John, David, Christa, and Jared. Tom currently resides in Windham with his wife, Mari, and their children.

Jennifer C. Tingle- Costume Shop Manager

Jennifer is the new costume shop supervisor for the USM Department of Theatre. For the past two years she managed the costume shop for the Bowdoin College Department of Theatre and Dance. Jennifer has designed costumes for *Twelfth Night* and *A Winter Cabaret* at the Theatre Project, *Desdemona* at Oak Street Theatre, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* at Portland Players, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Ourselves Alone* for Boston University Theatre. She has worked in costume shops at Arena Stage, The Long Wharf Theatre, The Huntington Theatre, The American Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare & Co., the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Sonnenberg Studios and the Santa Fe Opera.

Esduardo Mariscal - Choreographer

Esduardo Mariscal, an award-winning choreographer, dancer, and teacher from Hermosilla, Sonora, Mexico, is an artist-in-residence at USM and director of the Esduardo Mariscal Dance Theatre, which produces a type of theatrical modern dance dubbed "comico-surreal." His Portland company is made up of trained and untrained dancers, actors, athletes and ordinary people. Esduardo has danced or choreographed for Bates Dance Festival, Festival Jose Limon, Nancy Margolis Gallery and Dia Center for the Arts (NYC), and the Atlanta Arts Festival as well as many other festivals. Most recently, he was choreographer-in-residence with Corpo Vivo dance company in Natal, Brazil. His next Portland show, *Before the End* will be playing at Oak Street Theatre, May 4, 5 and 6 at 8 p.m.

Richard Benecchi - Composer, Lutenist

Richard is currently a music major at the University of Southern Maine, studying the renaissance lute with Olav Chris Henriksen, voice with Ellen Chickering, and conducting with Lawrence Golan. He is a member of the choir at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Vox Cordalis, Quartetto Antiquitas, the Al Dente Duo, and Al Dente's Inferno. He has performed with numerous ensembles including Saint Luke's Cathedral Singers, the Italian folk ensemble Risonanza, and USM's Lute Trio and Collegium Musicum. He sang in the chorus in the Portland Opera Repertory Theater's productions of *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini, and *La Traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi. He has also recently completed his first major composition, a

chamber opera entitled *The Courting of Mamma and Papà*. Richard is listed in the Maine Arts Commission's Maine Artist Roster and Resource Guide. Richard and his wife Maria, a soprano and violinist, run their own music business, R&M Classical Music.

Tess H. Davis - Assistant Director

Tess is a junior from Weld, Maine, minoring in theatre, education and creative writing. She has been away from USM theatre for many years. She returns with renewed and redirected vigor to learn the art of directing, as she plans to run the theatre department in the lucky High School that chooses to hire her. Tess fails miserably at trying to pass herself off as a sinner; for she is truly a saint! She would like to thank Dr. Kent for providing this opportunity.

Alison Ann Guinn - Properties Supervisor

Alison Ann Guinn is a senior theatre major from Portland. In past years she has been properties supervisor for *As You Like It*, *The Danube*, *Illuminati*, and *Road to Nirvana* at Mad Horse Theatre. She was most recently assistant set designer for *West Side Story*. Alison was the recipient of the Grannia Scholarship in 1998. She is looking forward to an apprenticeship in scenic painting at Maine State Music Theatre this summer.

Christopher M. Foss - Props

Chris is a junior theatre major. His past credits at USM include: assistant scenic design for *West Side Story*, scenic designer for SPA's production of *Illuminati* last fall and more recently *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*. He has worked locally with the Mad Horse Theatre Company as well as with Hopkins Center Productions in his hometown of Hanover, New Hampshire. Chris will be the properties apprentice this summer at Brunswick's Maine State Music Theatre.

Jenny Michaud - Stage Manager

Jenny is a senior theatre major from Oakland, ME. Her previous work at USM includes stage manager for *The Danube* and assistant stage manager for *As You Like It*. She has also appeared on stage as Lolita in *Deviant Aphrodites*, Ann Putnam in *The Crucible*, and Mary in *Tennessee*. Jenny was a recipient of the Millard Memorial Scholarship.

KC/ACTF

THE KENNEDY CENTER
AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL XXXI
Presented and Produced by the John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts. Supported in part by
The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund
The U.S. Department of Education
The National Committee for the Performing Arts

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). 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 KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF 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 KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, in the spring of 1999.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

PORTLAND OPERA REPERTORY THEATRE

Bruce Hangen, *Artistic and General director*

L A P U C C I N I
B O H E M E

July 22, 24, 26, 1999
Merrill Auditorium, Portland, Maine

Information: PORT, PO Box 7733, Portland, ME 04112 • (207) 879-0392