1991

Passport to Non-Stop Entertainment: 1991-1992 Season Brochure

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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Russell Square Players

The Russell Square Players was formed in 1970 with the merger of the University of Maine at Portland and Gorham State Teacher's College. The former groups were called the Art Theater and the Treehouse Players. The combination has proven to be extremely productive during its 21 years of existence.

Eight productions have been honored by The American College Festival as the best productions in New England. One production, judged among the six best college productions in the United States, was invited to perform at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Graduates from the Russell Square Players are on university faculties throughout the U.S., including Alaska, Stanford, and Harvard. Many former USM theater students have performed leads on Broadway and worked with some of the most prestigious regional theaters in America. One graduate regularly performs in the West End in London, another is a highly successful playwright, and still another is the former head of new programming at HBO.

Russell Square has a long record of excellence and is striving to continue this tradition and maintain its position as one of the most honored producing units in New England.

Box Office
Box Office Manager       Jessica Antone
Box Office Staff          Laurie Craine, Amy La Rosa, Lisa Roberts
House Manager             Jason Brown
Faculty Advisor           Susan Clark
1991-1992 Season

True West
Directed by Mary Ellen O’Hara
Senior Project
October 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
Matinees October 12, 13, 19, 20

Student Performing Artists
One Act Plays
Oct. 25, 26, 27

Medea
Directed by Professor Clark
November 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17
Matinees November 10 & 17

A Night of Illusion and Fantasy
with Junior Rocha, Brazilian Mime
November 22, 23, 24
Matinee November 24

Original One Act Plays
Directed by Professors Stump and Kilroy
December 5, 6, 7, 8

Juno and the Paycock
Directed by Professor Power
February 7, 8, 9 12, 13, 14
Matinees February 8 & 9

Student Performing Artists
TBA
March 6, 7 & 8

Modern Dance Concert
Directed by Nancy Salmon
March 20, 21 & 22

King Alfred’s College on Tour
Week of March 23-27

TBA-Contemporary Play
Directed by Professor Kilroy
April 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26
Matinees April 19 & 26

Season subscriptions are available. Call the Box Office at 780-5483 for more information.
Break a Leg!
Best Wishes for a Great Season

GORHAM STATION
STEAK • SEAFOOD • COCKTAILS
29 Elm Street, Gorham, Maine
839-3354
(and make sure to enjoy dinner at Gorham Station either before or after the show)

About the Faculty

Susan F. Clark
Susan is in her second year in the Theatre Department at USM.
Previously she taught at Emerson College in Boston and was chair of the Theater Department at Middlesex School in Concord, Mass. Susan received her M.A. from Emerson and her Ph.D. from Tufts University in theater history and dramatic criticism. Her particular interests include French Neoclassicism, feminist theory and dramatic criticism, American theater, and British playwrights.

Fred Fauver
Fred Fauver is the lighting designer and technical director in the Theatre Department. He holds a B.A. in biology and an M.F.A. in design for theater from Syracuse University. He also works with Portland Stage Company and Ram Island Dance Company.

Charles S. Kading
Chuck has taught design and stagecraft at USM for 12 years. His professional credits include Tent Meeting for Mad Horse Theater, Love is Spoken Here for Maine State Music Theater, Big River for Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater, and Noises Off at The Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

He has worked extensively at The Alley Theater in Houston. His credits there include the USA premiere of Alan Ayckbourne's Henceforward. In addition, Chuck has designed scenery for the Seattle Repertory Theater, Intiman Theater, Cabaret Repertory Theater, and The Portland Stage Company.
Will Kilroy

Will joins USM from Santa Monica College in California where he taught acting and stage movement. While in Los Angeles, Will was a member of the Michael Chekhov Drama Group and served as their vocal coach. Active in summer theater for the past 15 years, Will has spent the last 3 seasons as artistic director of the Strawflower Theater in Winslow. His acting roles range from Laertes in Hamlet for Illinois Repertory to Snout in the New York Theater Ensemble's punk rock version of A Midsummer's Night Dream and include television commercials as well as the daytime serials All My Children and As the World Turns. Will's training includes study at The American Academy of Dramatic Art and The National Shakespeare Conservatory. He holds an M.F.A. degree in theater from The University of Illinois.

Christenia Alden Kinne

Chris has worked with the USM Theatre Department for the past 12 years both as an instructor and as supervisor of the Costume Shop. She enjoys teaching public speaking and acting with all ages. A graduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, Chris did graduate work at The University of California and Davis and Trinity University through the Dallas Theater Center focusing in both acting and costume design.

Susan E. Picinich

A native New Yorker, Susan received her M.F.A. degree in costume design from the University of Michigan in 1985. For two years she taught at Western Illinois University, and since 1987 she has been an assistant professor of theatre at the University of Southern Maine. Among her recent design projects have been A View from the Bridge at the Mad Horse Theater Company and And a Nightingale Sang at USM. Her costume construction skills can be observed in quite a few productions at the Portland Stage Company, the feature film Signs of Life and in the past at the Williamstown Theater Festival.

Thomas A. Power

Tom has been producing, directing, and writing for the theater for over 20 years. Past manager and artistic director of The Children's Theater of Maine during the 70s, Power co-authored the Maine Bicentennial production, The Burning of Falmouth, as well as numerous other plays for children. In 1980 he collaborated with Kurt Vonnegut Jr. in a re-write of Happy Birthday Wanda June resulting in a revised publication of that script. Recently, in collaboration with composer Larry "Flash" Allen, Power authored the musical drama, Grannia, winning ACTF honors as well as the Moss Hart award. In addition to playwriting, Power publishes regular dramatic reviews in the Journal Tribune as well as co-producing a half-hour television show, "Power and Steele on Theatre," a critique of regional theater productions seen on Public Cable and WCBB, Channel 10.

Minor Rootes

Minor has been teaching at the University in the Theatre Department for an extended period of time. During that time he has been technical director, scenic director, artistic director and is currently one of the staff members in charge of acting. This year Professor Rootes is on sabbatical doing research in Leadville, Colorado.

Nancy Salmon

Nancy has been dancing forever and intends to continue indefinitely (although the form may change). Nancy holds an M.F.A. in dance from the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU and has been teaching at the University for 10 years. She choreographs regularly for professional and community theater and this summer created a dance for Making Tracks, a professional company in Old Town, Maine. Nancy directs The Student Dance Performance for the Theatre Department.
This spring the dance concert will be student and faculty original material. It is likely to include dances about social issues and relationships, as well as dances highlighting design and technical agility.

William Steele
William Steele, associate professor of theater, directs plays and teaches acting, directing, public speaking, and journalistic drama criticism for the Theater Department. In addition, he is a regular contributing drama critic for the Portland Press Herald, co-host and producer of the Portland Public Cable and WCBB television program "Power and Steele on Theatre," a professional actor with national credits in film, television, commercials and industrials, and an author. His book Stay Home and Star: A Step-by-Step Guide to Starting Your Regional Acting Career will be published by Heinemann Educational Books in November 1991.

Walter Stump
Walter Stump, chair of the Theatre Department, holds a Ph.D. from Indiana University and has attended San Diego State, San Jose State, and UCLA. He has written three books, two of which will be published in 1992. Stump has directed 134 productions including the ASCP award-winning musical Gynt and Who Am I This Time at the Judith Anderson Theater in New York. He received the Distinguished Scholar in the Performing Arts Award and two distinguished faculty awards from USM. He received The Kennedy Center Medallion in 1989 for Meritorious Achievement in Educational Theater and was inducted into NETC's College of Fellows in 1990.