Desire Under the Elms Program

University of Maine Portland-Gorham Theatre Department

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The Theatre Department of U.M.P.G. presents the University Players production of
Desire Under the Elms
by
Eugene O'Neill

Directed by: Thomas A. Power
Technical director and designer;
    Tom Deschenyes
Stage Manager; Lynne Wetherell

Cast, in order of appearance:
Eben ................... Tony Shalhoub
Peter ................... Wayne Clark
Simeon .................. Tom Labbe
Abbie .................... Angela Byrnes
Cabot ................... Reggie Groff
Townspeople ... Carol Spear, Debra Feeney,
    Mary Johnston, Michael Tooher,
    Jack Sullivan

ACT I

Date: 1870
Location: The New England farm of Ephraim Cabot.
    scene I - Spring, late afternoon.
    scene II - Evening the same day.
    scene III - Just before dawn the next day.
    scene IV - Dawn the same day.

ACT II: Location is the same.
    scene I - Two months later, summer afternoon.
    scene II - That night.
    scene III - A few minutes later in the parlor.
    scene IV - Dawn the next day.

ACT III: Location is the same.
    scene I - Late spring the following year.
    scene II - Same day, half hour later.
    scene III - Dawn the next day.
    scene IV - Same day, half hour later.

Stage Crew Chief
    Barry Phillips
Stage Crew
    Michael Tooher Wayne Clark
    Sylvia Davis Lynn Siefert
    Marilyn Johnson Jaynie Schiff
Lighting Crew
    Tom Deschenyes Jaynie Schiff
Properties
    Marilyn Johnson
Artwork, poster and program
    Lynn Siefert
Costumes
    Kathleen Feato
Make-up
    Susan Frost Lynn Siefert
Music
    Stephen I Romanoff
Publicity
    William P. Steele
Ticket Sales
    Linda Bailey
    Marianne Kemna Dian Ewing
Special thanks to:
Profile Theatre
Portland Stove Foundry
Portland Players
Lyric Theatre
Benoits
Bertha Alexander School of Ballet

The dancers in scene I, Act III are provided through the cooperation of the Cameron School of Ballet. The Cameron School was begun in the spring of 1968 by Miss Kristin Cameron. Miss Cameron, born in Wayles, received her training at the Wessex School in the ballet method of the Royal Academy of Dancing and is a Licentiate of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing.

Eugene O’Neill was born in 1888 on Broadway in New York City, the son of the popular actor James O’Neill. His early education was obtained at several private schools in New England, with a single year of college at Princeton. During a period of almost 70 years, O’Neill wrote over 25 major plays. The Concensus today is that Desire Under the Elms is the most effective of O’Neill's plays. It has been described as both a domestic tragedy and a sex tragedy and is distinctly American in tone and atmosphere. It is an extremely challenging drama for college students and University audiences.