

12-1983

A History of the American Film Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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**THE RUSSELL SQUARE PLAYERS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE
PRESENT**



(A MUSICAL ROMP THROUGH THE MOVIES)

BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG

DECEMBER 5-6 & 10-13 at 8 P.M.

MATINEE DECEMBER 7 at 2 P.M.

RUSSELL HALL, GORHAM CAMPUS

RESERVATIONS 780-5483

University
of Southern
Maine 

The Russell Square Players present Christopher Durang's

A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FILM

Staged by:
Minor Rootes

Lighting by:
Richard David Holen

Costumes by:
Chris Kinne

Cast:

Loretta	Sherri McManus
Jimmy	Robert McGurn
Bette	Kristen Hornlien
Hank	Peter G. Thurell
Eve	Andrea Booker
Viola, Piano Man, Sam, Ito, Etc.	Robert Edwards
Policeman, Abdhul, Etc.	Steve Huss
Bar Girl, Grandma Joad, Second Blessed Mother, Etc.	Jill Madore
Newspaper Boy, Body Guard, Mickey, Etc.	Joey Murray
First Blessed Mother, Allison, Prison Matron, Etc.	Portia Napier
Reporter, Pa Joad, Director, Victor, Etc.	Greg O'Neill
The Mother, Clara, Etc.	Eileen Rosenberg
Minstrel Singer, Killer, Reporter, Etc.	Edwin Strout
God, Judge, Edward, Harkness, Etc.	William Temple
Ticket Taker, Michael, Uncle Sam, Etc.	R. Stockbridge Truslow
Orphanage Lady, Ma O'Reilly, Ma Joad, Statue of Liberty	Elizabeth Whitman

Musical Numbers

Act One

Pre Show	
The Silent Years	Piano
Minstrel Song	Minstrel
Shanty Town Romance	Jimmy, Loretta
They Can't Prohibit Love	Bette
O Come, All Ye Faithful	Prison Warden, Santa Claus, Carolers
We're in a Salad	Hank, Loretta, Eve, Salad Girls, Chef, Salad Boys
Euphemism	Loretta
Ostende Nobis, Tosca	Hank, Bette. Opera Peasants
Off-to-War	Eve, Company

Act Two

Pin-Up	Eve, Loretta, Bette, Clara
Apple Blossom Victory	Bette, Eve, Andrew Sisters
Search for Wisdom	Jimmy, Loretta, Company
Isn't it Fun in the Movies?	Company

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

Director's Note

In my childhood, every Saturday afternoon I squandered my weekly allowance of one dime so that I might watch the next chapter of Buck Rogers or the Lone Ranger, or whatever, in the running serials that made up the program at the local movie house. It was a ritual.

For two and a half hours we would sit, squirm, shout and munch candy as we watched, in the following order: a serial, newsreel, cartoon, previews, and two feature films. It was a wonderful experience, a time that helped us forget the poverty of the Depression and understand that World War II was only a struggle between good and evil. Love was eternal then, and the family was the foundation for the greatness of this country. This innocence permeated the adult sector when our mothers and fathers crowded into the movies at night after the popcorn and candy wrappers had been cleared away from the matinee mayhem I so fondly remember.

The thirties and forties were a wonderful, beautiful, naive period in our history. Oh, to return to it again! In many ways I never grew out of my movie childhood,

and I find that I am not unique in this. The eyes widen and voices turn to enthusiastic patter whenever people who grew up during the time speak of the burning of Atlanta in *Gone with the Wind*, of the feeling of nostalgia surrounding Sam's singing "As Time Goes By" in *Casablanca*, and of Gene Kelly dancing through the downpour across a flooded Hollywood street in *Singin' in the Rain*. The images are as vivid in my mind now as they were when they first flashed upon the screen in the heyday of Hollywood's glory.

But the cameras have turned now. The world has changed. The glamor has faded. But maybe, for a moment, you can reach back, and smile and cry as you watch this rite of passage through Christopher Durang's *A History of the American Film*.

I hope that for our younger patrons, the uninitiated, this play will bring forth an emotional response equal to mine.

— Minor Rootes

Production Staff and Crews

Stage Manager.....Heather Perkins
Technical Director.....Thomas C. Vail
Box Office Manager.....Mark A. Dube
House Manager.....Kristen Hornlien
Box Office Assistant.....Pam Traynor
Box Office Crew.....Sheila Curtis, Shane Gilbert, Cheryl Kotarski,
Nici Lamoreaux, Julie-Ann Marshall, Jennifer Manzi,
Eileen Rosenberg
Costumer.....Mark A. Dube
Dressers.....Shane Gilbert, Alex Stromski
Sound Designer.....Robin Miller
Properties Master.....Tori Morgan
Properties Crew.....Kathryn Larlee
Stage Crew Head.....Ed Davis
Stage Crew.....Mark Very, Steven Butler
Make-Up.....Mike Hatch
Lighting Board Operator.....Daemeon Pratt
Assistant Light Board Operator.....Jim Anderson, Ann Marie Scott,
Sean Casement

About the Playwright

Christopher Durang has had plays on and off-Broadway including *A History of the American Film*, *The Nature and Purpose of the Universe*, and *Das Lusitania Songspiel*, which he performed and co-authored with Sigourney Weaver. A graduate of the Yale School of Drama, his other plays include *Beyond Therapy*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You*, *The Actor's Nightmare* and *Titanic*, among others.

Special thanks to the *University Free Press* for their cooperation in promoting this and other Russell Square Players productions.

The taking of photographs in this theatre is strictly prohibited. Smoking is permitted in the outside lobby only.

Note: Strobe light effect will be used in this performance.

Next on the Bill

Tartuffe

by Moliere

February 27-March 7
