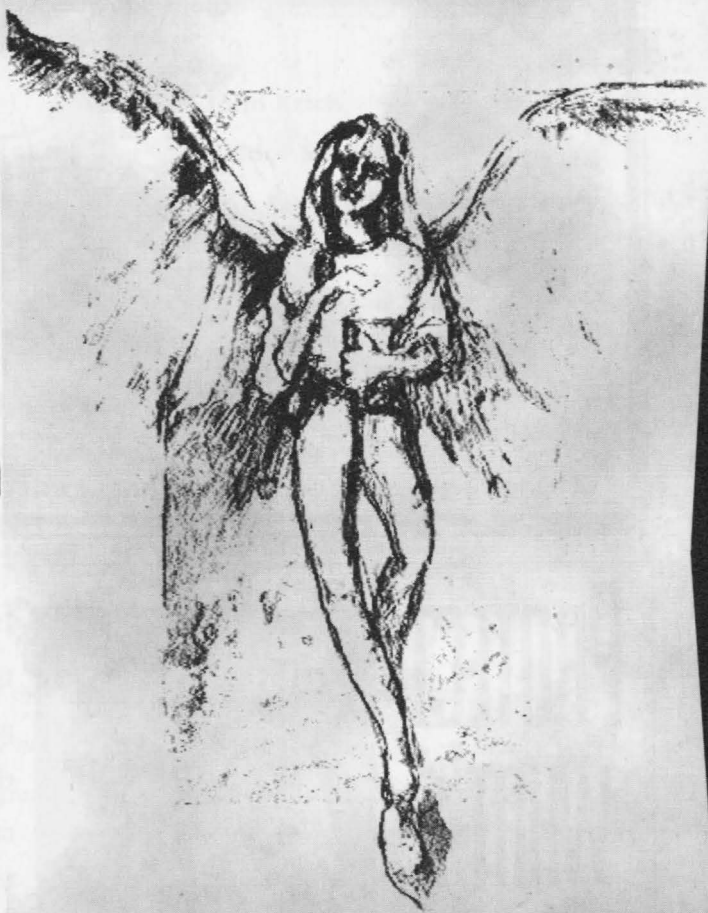


Eleemosyary

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by
Lee Blessing

November 13-29, 1997

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by Lee Blessing

Director	John Krich
Assistant to the Director	Heldor Schäfer
Set Designers	Erin Macklem, Allan Stichbury
Assistant to the Set Designers	Nicola Schicchi
Costume Designer	Debra Hanson
Assistant to the Costume Designer	Erin Macklem
Lighting Designer	Cameron Stewart
Sound Designer	Matt Hussack
Original Music Composer	Robert Holliston
Stage Manager	Jennifer Swan

The Cast

Dorothea <i>A woman of some means</i>	Jana Dempsey
Artie <i>Her daughter</i>	Sara Topham
Echo <i>Her granddaughter</i>	Michelle Monteith

The Time

1985, and before

There will be one 15 minute intermission

Eleemosynary was originally commissioned and produced by
Park Square Theatre of St. Paul, Minnesota
Initial professional production by Philadelphia Festival Theatre for New Plays
Eleemosynary is produced by permission of Dramatists Play Service, Inc.,
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Confessions of a SESQUIPEDALIANIST

by John Krich, Director of *Eleemosynary*

I confess! I'm very fond of words. Long words in particular. That's not, however, the only reason I have chosen to direct *Eleemosynary*. It's not simply a play about curious words. It's about the love that binds us all - the love that runs like a thread through our lives, from grandparents to parents to children and their children, and how fragile it often is and how our spirits can soar magnificently into realms of beauty and imagination given the chance. The play is filled with wonderful words, and like *Echo*, I am enchanted and fascinated by them. I think you might find many of the words equally fascinating. So I provide the following abbreviated dictionary of interesting words from the play. I have also included a few of my favourite words not in the play. See if you know them. I am indebted to my Assistant, Heldor Schäfer, for researching and providing most of the definitions. Have fun!

AGATHAOKAKOLOGICAL - ?

ARATAXY -

ASTROLOGASTER - ?

AUTOCHTHONOUS - aboriginal

BIJOUTERIE - jewelry

CATHEXIS - emotional and psychi energy

CHARIVARI - headache

CLAMJAMFRY - odds and ends

DACTYLONOMY - ?

DERENDIPITOUS - ?

DEODAND - goods forfeited to the crown for having caused death to a human

DETRITUS - loose rock

DONZEL - unknighthed gentleman

DYSPHEMISM - substitution of an unpleasant expression for a more neutral one

ELEEMOSYNARY -charitable

ESURIENT -hungry, greedy

EUPHRASY - a plant known as eyebright

FLOCCINAUCINIHILOPILIFICATION - ?

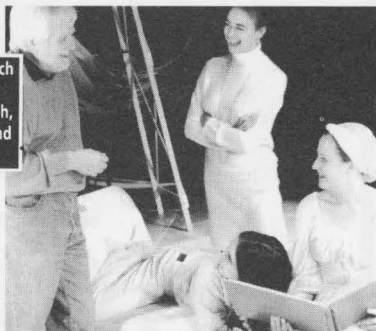
FOGDOG - a bright light sometimes seen in a fog bank

FAVONIAN - mild or favorable

GLUNCH - to glower

GOOGOL? (for math majors only)

Director John Krich
with actors,
Michelle Monteith,
Jana Dempsey and
Sara Topham



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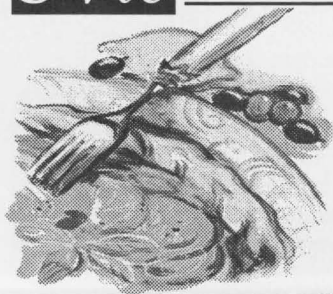


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GRAUPEL - snow pellets
HEBETUDE - state of being dull, lethargy
HORRIPILATION - ?
LIMICOLOUS -dwelling in mud
LOGODAEDALY -clever use of words
MARMOREAL - like marble
METAMORPHOSIS - change of form
NUGATORY - trifling
NUTATION - nodding off
NYCTITROPIC - changing position at nighttime (leaves)
OPPUGN - critically call in question
OVOVIVIPARIOUSNESS - producing eggs hatched inside the body so that young are born alive but without placental attachment
PALINODE - a poem in which the poet takes back something he said in a previous poem
PANGYMNASTIKONAEROSTATIONIST - ? (read The Great Farini One of Canada's most memorable and unusual characters)
PARONYMOUS - words containing the same root, i.e. wise - wisdom
PERIPTERY - air surrounding a moving body
PHTHISIS - a wasting away
PLEIN-AIR - impressionist painting style
PRINK - deck oneself out
QUIDDITY - essential nature
RATAPLAN -sound of a beating drum
REVENANT - someone who returns as a spirit after death
SORTILEGE - sorcery, magic
SPARROW-FART - ?
SYLLEPSIS - use of a word to perform two syntactic functions
UGSOME - loathsome
UNGULATE - having hooves
WITHERSHINS - counterclockwise
XENODOCHIAL - ?
YCLEPT - ?
ZENANA - part of a house where females are secluded
ZEUGMA - use of a word to govern other words appropriate to each but in a different way. i.e. to wage war and peace
ZONLUE - a small zone or belt

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Lee Blessing - *Playwright*

Lee Blessing was born in 1949. His stage plays include: *Oldtimers Game*, *Eleemosynary*, *Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music*, *Independence*, *War of the Roses*, *Two Rooms*, *Patient A*, *Lake Street Extension*, *Fortinbras*, *Down the Road*, *A Walk in the Woods*. Besides having been nominated for the Tony and Oliver Awards and the Pulitzer Prize, Blessing's plays have garnered numerous other theatre awards.

Some other productions of *Eleemosynary* this season:

Albany Civic Theatre (June '98); Welsh College of Music & Drama (August '97); King's College, Pennsylvania (October '97); SUNY College at Fredonia, NY (October '97); Vanderbilt University Theatre (November '97)

The word *eleemosynary* means 'relating to, or supported by, charity.'

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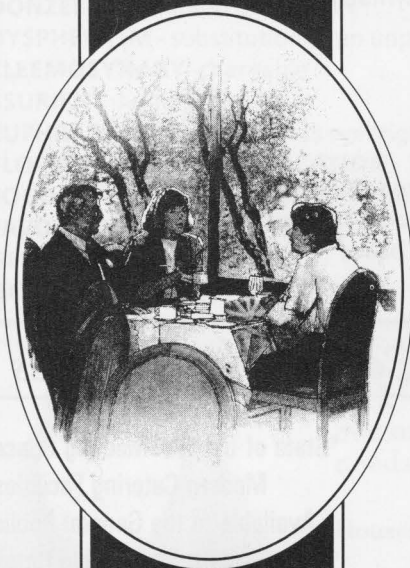
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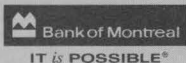
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The mandate of the Phoenix Theatre is to choose plays which over any four year period, expose our students to a wide range of genres while providing challenges for our acting and design students.

To survive the selection process for a Phoenix season, plays must meet all kinds of criteria that other theatre companies need never consider. We must provide plays for study by students in theatre history, acting, design, technical theatre and academic studies. There must also be suitable roles for student actors and suitable opportunities for our student designers and production personnel.

But, at the same time, we must consider our audience, for without an audience, theatre cannot exist.

Because we must serve the needs of our students, there occasionally may be a play that some audience members may not appreciate. Although we regret this, please understand that as a theatre department, we are committed to fulfilling our mandate.

It is difficult to please everyone all of the time. For every patron who complained about our recent production *Escape From Happiness*, we had others who complimented us on presenting such a challenging piece of theatre. Please be patient if occasionally we present a show you do not care for. We are currently devoting a lot of time to preparing a season of shows for next year which will both accomplish our mandate, yet continue to provide our audience with the quality theatre they appreciate.

Theatre is a public art, and we need your support. Please continue to give it by attending our productions.

Giles Hogle, Chair

Department of Theatre

.....

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Barry Yzereef

A lot has happened to Barry Yzereef since UVic audiences last saw him as Sir Peter Teazle in *The School for Scandal*. He is now Dr. Barry Yzereef and is a full time professor in the Drama Department at the University of Calgary. He teaches dramatic literature, theatre history and directing, as well as maintaining a busy professional career.

Barry's more recent directing credits include, Bulwer-Lytton's *Money*, Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, Offenbach's *Monsieur Chouflueri*, and Sir Arthur Sullivan's *Cox and Box*, as well as Paul Quarrington's *The Invention of Poetry*, which he also acted in.

Currently, Barry is directing his own adaptation of Emanuel Chabrier's opera *An Unfinished Education*, and later will direct Jean Paul Sartre's *No Exit*. In March, he will be directing his own adaptation/translation of Arthur Schnitzler's *La Ronde*.

Not content with just directing, Barry's research activities involve him in investigating the dramatic career of Edward Bulwer-Lytton and publishing, for the first time, some of the author's classical translations.

Barry would like to take this opportunity to extend a special thanks to the faculty and staff of the Phoenix. It was a wonderful eight years in Victoria. Tally Ho!



**Barry Yzereef as "Belvawney"
in W.S. Gilbert's *Engaged*.**

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The theatre faculty, staff and students would like to thank the following for their support of the Phoenix Theatre's 1997/98 Season.

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Phoenix Phacts

The past few months have been a most productive and busy time for many members and former students of the Department of Theatre. **Allan Stichbury** attended the USITT /CITT Design Communication Workshop and designed the set and costumes for A.R. Gurney's *The Cocktail Hour* for Theatre Calgary. **Juliana Saxton** co-chaired the 3rd annual IDEIRI Conference held in the Phoenix Building with **Carole Miller**. Juliana's most recent book *Teaching Drama*, is, as we speak, being translated into Chinese. **Giles Hogya**, designed the lighting for the New York premiere of Tom Stoppard's *Rough Crossing* for the off-Broadway, Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre. **Harvey M. Miller** gave a directing workshop on Play Interpretation and Analysis at the University of Northumbria in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in the U.K. He also directed a production of *The Sisters Rosenzweig* by Wendy Wasserstein as part of the University of Wyoming's 44th Summer Theatre in Laramie. **Jan Wood** is a lead actor, **Mary Kerr**, costume designer for the locally filmed *Smudge*, to be aired nationally, November 29th on Baton Broadcasting's Channel 9 at 8:30pm. **Linda Hardy** participated in the "Interdisciplinarity in Hispanic and Italian Studies 13th Annual Colloquium" where she gave a paper on "The Legacy of the Commedia dell'Arte". Linda also traveled to The University of Chulalongkorn in Bangkok, Thailand where she directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Thai. The script was translated for her by **Nopamat Veohong** who has since followed Linda to UVic's Department of Theatre to teach Thai Theatre. Linda and Nopamat are currently working on a project with the fourth year acting class and the Thai Theatre class to perform a workshop production of a Thai script entitled *Fantastic!* This is scheduled to be performed at the end of November or early December. **Debra Hanson** is scheduled to design the set and costumes for Stratford's production of *Man of La Mancha*. She recently designed set and costumes for *Misery* and *There Goes The Bride* for Manitoba Theatre Centre, as well as Benjamin Britten's Opera, *Prodigal Son* for the National Arts Centre and costume design for the feature film, *Men of Means*. Former Phoenix student **Roark Critchlow** is now a "hot item" according to The Soap Digest, as the character, Dr. Mike Horton in daytime television's *Days Of Our Lives*. Roark's just -released film *Making It Home*, which was shot in Victoria (and featuring among others **John Krich**) is also available on video and available to purchase by calling 1-888-497-9678. **Peter Outerbridge** continues to amaze us. He has a continuing role in the new television series *Michael Hayes*. This can be seen Tuesday nights on CHEK TV. And formerly of CHEK, news reporter, **Robin Adair** has moved over to talk radio's am900 where he is featured in the 9am - 11am slot. Tune in every Wednesday morning to hear Phoenix grad, **Mark Dusseault**, also the Belfry Theatre's publicist, talk about the Arts in Victoria. **Kennedy Goodkey** has the title role of **Mark-Leiren Young's** new play *City Boy in a Cowboy Town*, which is booked to play at the Adelaide Festival in Australia this February. **Gabe Newman** is carving out a very nice directing career in Newfoundland. He recently directed *Catch 22* and David Mamet's *Oleanna* to great critical acclaim. As far as the Phoenix is concerned, the next production, *Hamlet* (February 12 - 28) has been cast and will begin rehearsals shortly. Director, **Giles Hogya** is working with a very strong cast. And, *Maupassant! Maupassant!* (March 18 - 28) will feature the fourth year acting class. Director **Kaz Piesowocki** has been working on the concept, script and music since September. And, finally the Phoenix has just welcomed a new little one, on October 27th, Joss Tyler, 9lb 11 oz, son of **Dorothy Rogers** and **Steve Vrooman**.

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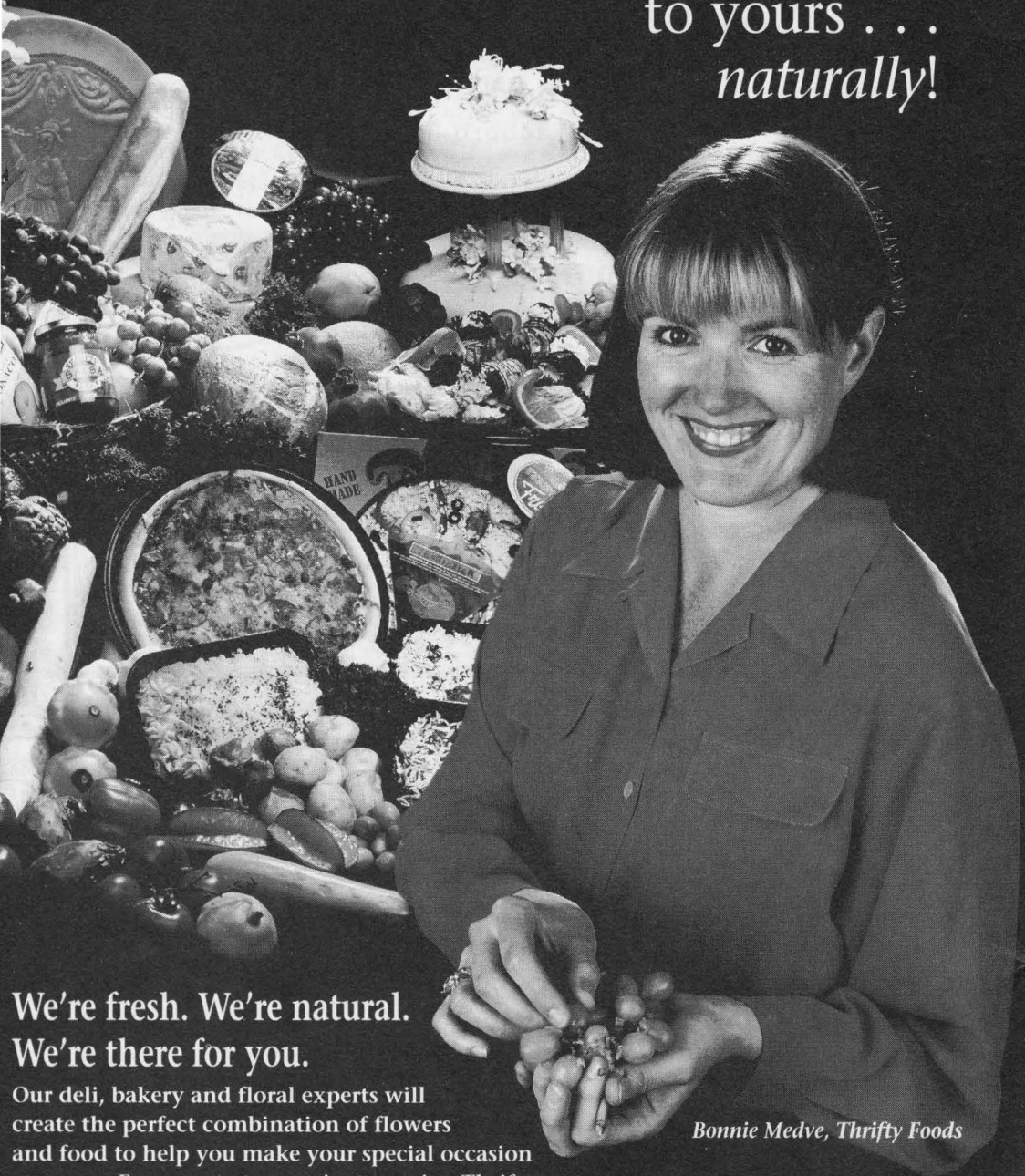
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