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BYE BYE
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six
degrees
OF SEPARATION

MY
FAVORITE YEAR

HAMLET
CITY OF ANGELS

I
HATE
HAMLET

TAMING
OF THE
SHREW

MA RAINEY'S
BLACK BOTTOM

The Sisters
Rosensweig

MEDEA

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE
THE 1996-1997 SEASON

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

2275 Platt Road

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

(313) 971-0605

Dear AACT Patrons,

Thank you for attending this production and for supporting the work of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. When we complete our 1996-97 season, we will have presented 86 performances and seated nearly 24,000 theatre lovers. In addition, we will have hosted over a dozen productions by local presenters at the Playhouse on Platt and provided rehearsal and workshop space for other performing arts groups. We're proud to be so involved in the arts community!

When I moved to Ann Arbor nine years ago as a Theatre graduate student, the area's cultural vitality impressed me most. That vitality has continued even in a time of national artistic uncertainty and difficulty. The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Performance Network, University Musical Society, Ann Arbor Symphony, Michigan Theater, The Ark and others are testament to the strength of the arts in Southeastern Michigan. As the new Managing Director, I am pleased to play a role in shaping the Civic Theatre's future and look forward to the coming years. But AACT and Ann Arbor could not offer the quality and caliber of events it does if it were not for you: our audiences, contributors, sponsors, advertisers and friends. It is your involvement and enthusiasm that keeps the arts alive. We are grateful to you.

Enjoy today's performance and join us in continuing the success of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. In the coming year, we will be building on our strengths and improving where we need to. As we grow, your contributions will be invaluable. Whether you may be working a few hours a week in our box office, constructing sets for our next show, making a financial gift, or bringing new friends to our next production, participation from so many of our members and supporters is what makes AACT unique.

Thanks again for joining us. If you have any comments or want to get involved, let me hear from you. Look for me in the lobby, or give me a call at (313) 971-0605.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Pekala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Jay Pekala
Managing Director

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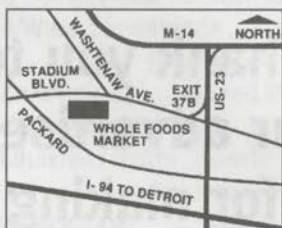
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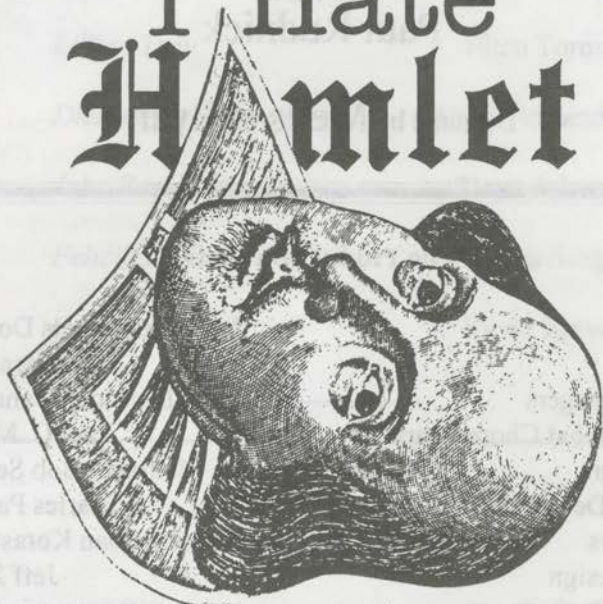
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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Presents
From the writer of "Jeffrey" and "Addams Family Values"

I Hate Hamlet



A Hilarious Comedy by Paul Rudnick

November 13-30, 1996

Wed.-Sat. at 8 PM & Sat. at 2 PM
at the Playhouse on Platt, 2275 Platt Rd.

- Q: What happens when a mediocre TV actor gets cast as Hamlet and calls on the flamboyant ghost of legend John Barrymore for instructions on playing the "melancholy Dane?"
- A: A satiric romp ensues that has been running for two years in Chicago and now makes its A² premiere. Don't miss the fun!

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre CenterStage Productions Presents

I Hate Hamlet

by

Paul Rudnick

Directed by Melissa Ryan

The Production Staff

Producer	Lois Kuznets Dowling
Director	Melissa Ryan
Stage Managers	Julie Dietrich, Joanne Lin
Stage Combat Choreography	Paul C. Molnar
Set Design	Joe Medrano, Bob Seeman
Lighting Design	Charles Packard
Costumers	Cheryl Berteel, Deb Korastinsky, Joan Korastinsky
Sound Design	Jeff Zupan
Makeup Design	Rosemarie Rothe
Properties	Tod Barker, David Wright
Set Dresser	Barbara Daniel
Publicity	Jay Pekala
Program	Joy Dennis
Set Builders	Joe Medrano, Bob Seeman, Barb Wells, Jim Barnes
Running Crew	David Wright, Joanne Lin, Josh Steichmann

We regret that some names may have been omitted
from the program due to printing deadlines.

**I HATE HAMLET is presented by permission of DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, Inc.
440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016**

The Cast

Andrew Rally

Paul C. Molnar

Lillian Troy

Ellen Toronto

Dierdre McDavey

Angel Fernandez

John Barrymore

Thom Johnson

Felicia Dantine

Diana Seager

Gary Peter Lefkowitz

Kevin Brewer

ACT I

The Place:

A Brownstone

Washington Square, NYC

The Time:

Recently

ACT II

Scene 1

Opening Night, Six Weeks Later

Scene 2

7 AM, the Next Morning

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

About The Cast ...

Kevin Brewer (*Gary Peter Lefkowitz*) - This is Kevin's second role for AACT. Last month he was seen as The Hustler in *Six Degrees of Separation*. Over the summer he appeared in *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Skspr, Abr.* with the Jackson Shakespeare Festival and is looking forward to directing *Hair* for the Michigan Theatre Players (Jackson) in the spring of 1997.

Angel Fernandez (*Dierdre McDavey*) - This is Angela's first show with AACT, but was seen by area audiences in *A Christmas Carol* at Henry Ford Community College. She has also appeared in *Carousel* and *Snow White* and enjoys children's theatre and theatre of the Absurd. In her spare time Angela like to create children's stories and her goal is to continue her studies in Psychology and Theatre.

Thom Johnson (*John Barrymore*) - Thom has been seen on the AACT stage in the past as Monsieur LeBeau in *As You Like It*, Captain Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, and in numerous roles that he refers to as "other stuff." He directed the award winning AACT production of *Noises Off* and stage-managed *Blithe Spirit* last season. Earlier this season he designed the lighting for *My Favorite Year*. "TJ" also serves on the AACT Production Committee and is the Lighting Department Chair.

Paul C. Molnar (*Andrew Rally*) - Paul is a recent BFA/Theatre graduate of the University of Michigan. While a student there, he appeared in *Three Sisters*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Twelfth Night* amongst others, and portrayed Heathcliff in last season's *Wuthering Heights*. Paul is a member of the Society of American Fight Directors and directed the fight choreography for this production of *I Hate Hamlet*. In his free time he enjoys old movies and Chinese food.

Diana Seager (*Felicia Dantine*) - Diana is appearing with AACT for the first time and was last seen as Clara in *The Burnt Woman of Harvard* at Soho Rep. Other credits include Ann Putnam in *Circle in The Square* Theatre's *The Crucible*, Janie in *Isn't It Romantic*, Hubbel in *Runaways*, and various film and TV work in NYC. Diana is thrilled to be back in Michigan with the "friendly people" and would like to

dedicate her performance to her delicious family and rock solid friends... you know who you are! Enjoy the show and remember - no snorting!

Ellen Toronto (Lillian Troy) - This is Ellen's fifth role in an AACT production. Having sung and danced as a chorus member in *Brigadoon*, *Sweet Charity*, and *Cinderella*, she is thrilled to be appearing as Lillian Troy in *I Hate Hamlet*. Ellen is a psychologist and lives in Ann Arbor with her husband Bob. They are the parents of four sons, all of whom are definitely "Virginia Smokehouse" (ham.)

About the Staff ...

Melissa E. Ryan (Director) - This is Melissa's first experience with AACT and she says that she is thrilled to be involved with the group. (And AACT is thrilled to have her, as well!) Currently employed as an Alternative Education teacher with Southgate Schools, Melissa has been active with Flint and Saginaw community theater groups and has most recently directed for several area youth theater organizations. They include *You Can't Take It With You* for Redford Union High School, *The Wizard of Oz* at Cranbrook Theatre School (where she is an instructor as well), and *Oliver* for Ann Arbor's Young People's Theatre. In her free time Melissa enjoys Red Wings hockey, reading, family and friends, and working with children of all ages and "as much theatre work as I can handle!" Melissa would like to thank her loving husband, Dan, for all of his support, encouragement and willingness to "humor" her crazy endeavors.

Lois Kuznets Dowling (Producer) - Six years ago, while a visiting professor of English at EMU, Lois appeared on the AACT stage in *Spoon River Anthology*. Shortly thereafter she returned to her work at San Diego State University. But upon her retirement in 1996 Lois and her husband moved back to Ann Arbor. Now she once again finds herself in "up to her chin" at AACT. A weekly volunteer in the AACT Box Office, Producer for *I Hate Hamlet*, and serving on a special Membership Committee for the organization, Lois is fast becoming a valuable part of the group. Among her many accomplishments Lois was given a Distinguished Research Award in Stockholm for her book When Toys Come Alive (Yale, 1994).

Tod Barker (Properties) - Tod's most recent AACT accomplishment was his role as Lt. Wright in last season's *The Secret Garden* but audiences will also remember his beautiful Set Design for *Dangerous Liaisons* and his Properties for *Fences*. In the time away from his employment as a Visual Merchandiser for Selo/Shevel and DeBoer Galleries, Tod does decorative painted finishes, renovation, and carpentry work. AACT is happy to have Tod directing *Medea* for the group in June.

Cheryl Berteel (Costumes) - Most recently, AACT audiences have enjoyed Cheryl's costume work for *My Favorite Year* and *Noises Off*. She currently serves on the Production Committee and the 1997/98 Season Selection Committee. Cheryl is employed by Sears and enjoys reading and travel.

Barbara Smart Daniel (Set Dresser) - Having served as Season Chair/Front of House the last eleven years, it's fun to have Barbara working once again on the technical end. In the past she has been Set Dresser for such AACT productions as *Music Man*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *On Golden Pond* for which she, and Bob Seeman, won a Best Set Award. When not working in the U of M Alumni Office, Barbara enjoys gardening, arts & crafts, and Nature.

Julie Dietrich (Asst. Director/Stage Manager) - AACT welcomes newcomer Julie who is a full-time Mom and part-time gardener and Artisan bread baker. She would like to thank her husband Sam for his patience and encouragement.

Deborah Korastinsky (Costumer) - Deb's credits for AACT could fill a program by themselves! Costumer for last season's *M. Butterfly*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Enchanted*, AACT audiences will be able to enjoy her artistry again this year in *I Hate Hamlet*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *Taming of The Shrew*. She also designed for Purple Rose Theatre's 1996 Spring Comedy Festival. With a degree in Costume Design and a Yale Internship to her credit, Deb wishes to thank her family for their love and tolerance of her "#1 bad habit."

Joan Korastinsky (Costumer) - Joan is AACT's resident "Jill of all Trades". So far this season she has painted, hammered, and glued on *Six Degrees of Separation*, done the millinery work on the Musketeer hats for *My Favorite Year*, served on the Production Committee and 1997/98 Season Selection Committee, and is working diligently with the Staffing Committee to see that the rest of the season's shows are fully staffed. Joan is self-employed as a Case Manager in the Health field and in her "spare" time she is a painter, seamstress, reader, and Grandma to three lively grandchildren.

Joanne Lin (Asst. Dir./Stage Manager/Light Board Operator) - This is Joanne's first show with AACT and we've got her doing three jobs! A Tax Asst. at McKinley Assoc., Inc., she may be looking forward to tax season just to relax!

Joseph C. Medrano (Set Design) - Starting his 37th season with AACT, Joe has designed 14 sets with Bob Seeman, three of which have won awards. He was recently seen in the St. Andrew's Players' *A Man For All Seasons* and is (at the age of 64) taking beginning tap dance lessons. A retired Math teacher and an active motorcyclist, Joe would like to send regards to his wife, Runelda, whom he considers "the wind under his wings."

Charles Packard (Lighting Design) - This is Charlie's first AACT production and we welcome his experience and knowledge. He is employed as the Auditorium Manager for Plymouth Salem High School, has been a Scenic Designer for Pritchard Theatrical Productions, and is a stage combat enthusiast.

Rosemarie Rothe (Makeup/Hair Design) - Rosemarie (better known as the "Makeup Wizard") enjoys making people look young, old, glamorous, gruesome and, for this show, out of this world. She is often asked how she got involved with AACT and her answer is "I showed up at the theater 15 years ago and said I want to get involved". We've involved her ever since!

Bob Seeman (Set Design) - A local theater legend, Bob continues to inspire AACT with his dedication to this group and their productions. He's been with us for the last 36 years and despite the moves to four new locations he keeps turning up at our door! Bob has been recognized both for his work with AACT and the many youth theater groups that he works with including YPT, Gabriel Richard High School, and Junior Theater. The Ann Arbor community thanked him properly in 1995 when he was awarded the Annie for "Lifetime Service to The Performing Arts."

David A. Wright (Properties) - David most recently did Props for *My Favorite Year* and played the part of Ben Weatherstaff to critical acclaim in *The Secret Garden* for AACT. He also appeared in *Love!Valour!Compassion!* for Our Time Productions and in *Remember Me* at the Performance Network. David is employed by Standard Federal Bank.

Jeff Zupan (Sound Design) - Jeff is a regular fixture at AACT as well as being active with The Saline Area Players and The Dexter Players, too. He serves as AACT Sound Department Chair, has acted in *Guys and Dolls*, *The Real Inspector Hound*, and *Spoon River Anthology*, has directed *Love Letters* and *Into The Woods*, and has stage-managed...well, frankly we've lost track of all the shows he's stage-managed for us. In his spare time, he wishes he had spare time!



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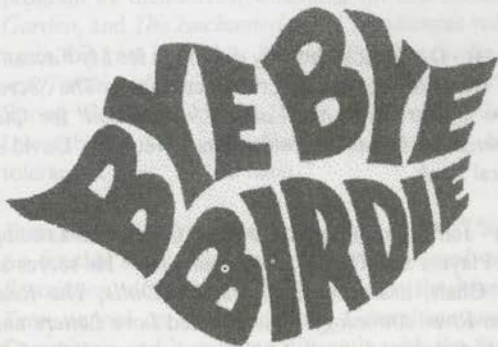
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William Shakespeare's

HAMLET

Directed by Johanna Woodcock
November 20 & 21, 7:00 PM
Call 971-0605 for information.

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre CenterStage Productions presents:



Book by
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Music by
Charles Strause
Lyrics by
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Directed and
Choreographed by
Ronald P. Baumanis

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There is no smoking allowed in the auditorium, foyer, restrooms or outer lobby.

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During events at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, the box office in the Michigan League is open Monday and Tuesday from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and Wednesday through Saturday from 12:00 pm to 8:15 pm.

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THE 1996-1997 SEASON

MY FAVORITE YEAR

BOOK BY JOSEPH DAUGHERTY • MUSIC BY STEPHEN FLANNERY
DIRECTED BY RONALD P. BAUMANIS

September 5-21 • FootLights Series • Civic PlayHouse

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

WRITTEN BY JOHN GUARE • DIRECTED BY CASSIE MANN

October 2-5 • CenterStage Series • Lydia Mendelssohn

I HATE HAMLET

WRITTEN BY PAUL RUDNICK • DIRECTED BY MELISSA RYAN

November 13-30 • CenterStage Series • Civic PlayHouse

BYE BYE BIRDIE

BOOK BY MICHAEL STEWART • MUSIC BY CHARLES STROUSE
LYRICS BY LEE ADAMS • DIRECTED BY RONALD P. BAUMANIS

January 8-11 • CenterStage Series • Lydia Mendelssohn

HAMLET

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE • DIRECTED BY JOANNA WOODCOCK

January 30-February 15 • FootLights Series • Civic PlayHouse

MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM

WRITTEN BY AUGUST WILSON • DIRECTED BY DANA BUCK

March 5-8 • CenterStage Series • Lydia Mendelssohn

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG

WRITTEN BY WENDY WASSERSTEIN • DIRECTED BY WENDY WRIGHT

April 3-19 • FootLights Series • Civic PlayHouse

CITY OF ANGELS

BOOK BY LARRY GELBART • MUSIC BY CY COLEMAN
DIRECTED BY CONRAD MASON AND ANN VANDEMARK

May 7-10 • CenterStage Series • Lydia Mendelssohn

MEDEA

WRITTEN BY EURIPEDES • DIRECTED BY TOD BARKER

June 5-21 • FootLights Series • Civic PlayHouse

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July 9-26 • A Joint Production • Civic PlayHouse

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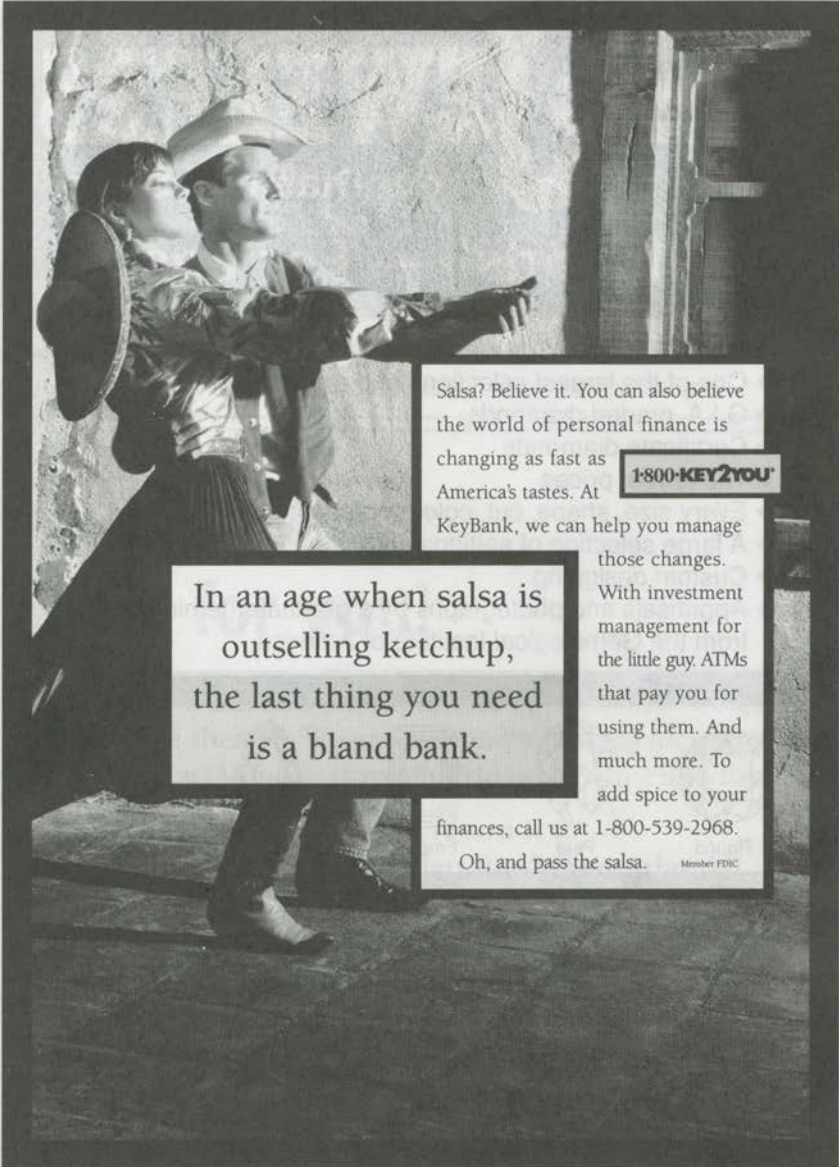
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