


Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

*The Night Thoreau Spent  
In Jail*

Mendelssohn Theatre  
February 11-14, 1976

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## Artistic Director SUSAN MORRIS

Susan Morris is both an actress and director of considerable accomplishment, and a familiar face to Ann Arbor theatre goers. She was most recently seen as Martha Brewster in our October production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Susie has also appeared for AACT in *Arms and the Man* and *Misalliance* as well as several studio productions, but she is probably best known for her work with the U-M Opera and for the Gilbert & Sullivan Society for which she appeared in a dozen roles during the sixties.

As a director, Susie has worked for both G & S and Civic Theatre. For G & S she has directed five productions in the last four years, including *Yeomen of the Guard* last spring. For AACT she has directed two studio productions, *The Diary of Adam and Eve* in 1973 and *Thurber Carnival* this past summer.

Susie was elected last May to a three year term on our Board of Directors and is serving this season as our production coordinator. She works as an administrative assistant for the Department of Romance Languages at U-M.

## About the Play . . .


The man imprisoned in our play belongs more to the 1970's than to the age in which he lived . . . Time is awash in this jail cell. We are not trapped in happenings past, but we are concerned about THE NOW THOREAU — the explosive spirit who addressed himself to the perils of our time with more power and clarity than most angry young men writing *now* about NOW.

Thoreau is a fascinating paradox: a man who was - and *is*. A self-effacing giant. A man who rarely laughed. A man who loved so deeply and completely that he seemed, sometimes, not to have loved at all.

**schlanderer**

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\*there is this one  
grouch, however



## THE STAFF

**Charles Sutherland** (Producer), a familiar face to Ann Arbor audiences, has appeared in many shows for AACT, including *White Liars*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Lion In Winter*, *Ernest In Love*, *Tartuffe* and *Fiorello*. He has worked with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society and has appeared in most of the operas over the last ten years. Charlie is a member of our Board of Directors and teaches third grade in Detroit.

**Debbie Buchholz** (Assistant Director) joined Civic Theatre last summer and worked on technical crews for our Summer Season '75 productions of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Thurber Carnival*. She also has experience in set construction and on lighting and prop crews for Musket and Community High School productions. Debbie is a student at Community High School.

**Timothy W. Locker** (Set and Lighting Designer) has designed the sets for the last five Gilbert & Sullivan productions, for the U-M School of Music's *Tales of Hoffman*, and for the AACT Summer Season '74 shows. Tim is a free lance designer of sets, lights and props for television commercials, as well as live theatre, and is now working on the reconstruction of the theatre at the Ypsilanti Community Education Center.

**Mildred D. Lintner** (Costume Designer) has designed the costumes for AACT's productions of *Most Happy Fella*, *As You Like It* and *Ernest In Love*. She has designed and built the costumes for over 70 plays at Bowling Green State University where she teaches costume design. Milly is currently directing *Life With Father* at Bowling Green and commuting to Ann Arbor when needed.

**Mindy Oddy** (Stage Manager) has been the stage manager for four Civic Theatre shows: *Company*, *Most Happy Fella*, *Thieves' Carnival* and *Ernest In Love*. Two years ago she produced AACT's *Annie Get Your Gun*; she will serve as co-producer for our production of *Oklahoma* next May. Mindy teaches fifth grade in Hamburg.

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## THE CAST

**Charles Stallman** (Ralph Waldo Emerson) is an old hand at Civic Theatre having appeared in numerous shows, including *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Hogan's Goat* and *Annie Get Your Gun* among others. Charlie is a past member of AACT's Board of Directors and is currently a research assistant at the Survey Research Center.

**Meg Gilbert** (Lydian Emerson), an active member of AACT for the last four years, has appeared in *Hogan's Goat* and several studio productions. She has also designed and built the costumes for several of our productions, including *Ten Little Indians* and, most recently, *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

**Roberta Yule Owen** (Mrs. Thoreau) has appeared for AACT as Lady Bracknell in *Ernest In Love* and in two studio productions. She has also appeared in several shows for the U-M Players and the Gilbert & Sullivan Society. Roberta is currently working on an M.A. in theatre at the U-M.

**William J. Cross** (Henry Thourau) has appeared in numerous shows for AACT, including *Hogan's Goat*, *Barefoot In the Park*, *Ten Little Indians* and, most recently, as Mortimer in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Bill has an M.A. in theatre from the U-M and works as an audio engineer at the School of Music.

**John Wojda** (John Thoreau) is appearing for the first time for AACT. His only other appearance in Ann Arbor was in the role of Oliver in the PTP production of *As You Like It*. John is a freshman at the U-M.

**Edgar Lesher** (Bailey) has been an active member of AACT for several years, working mostly on set construction. He made his stage debut this season (as one of the bodies) in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Ed is a professor of Aerospace Engineering at the U-M.

**Fred Reilly** (Deacon Ball), a member of AACT since 1965, is appearing tonight in his 11th major production. He has played everything from Sir Thomas More in *Man for All Seasons* to a corpse in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Fred is a former member of our Board of Directors.

**Gretchen L. Fox** (Ellen Sewell) appeared for the Boulder (Colorado) Civic Theatre before coming to Ann Arbor. She is "first and foremost" a dancer and choreographer and has performed with the Pittsburgh Youth Ballet Company and in the 1975 Jazz Festival in Mobile, Alabama.

**Danny Russo** (Edward Emerson) has appeared in *Summer Tree* at EMU and in the Ann Arbor YM/YWCA production of *Charlie Brown*. Danny is a fifth grade student at Northside school.

**Jim Grondin** (Sam Staples), a newcomer to Civic Theatre, is making his Ann Arbor debut tonight. A writer and a recent graduate of the U-M, Jim won a Major Fiction Award in the 1975 Hopwood Creative Writing Awards.



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**Preston Lovell Terry** (Williams) is a graduate student in the U-M School of Music and is the opera business and production manager. Jim was most recently seen as Achilles in the Comic Opera Guild production of *La Belle Helene*.

**Kathryn App** (Woman) is appearing in her first major role for AACT. She has worked on technical crews for *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Promises, Promises*. Kathryn is the personnel director of the University Cellar Bookstore.

**Wes Vivian** (Farmer) is making his acting debut tonight. Wes is a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the U-M.

**Bill Rave** (Man In Crowd) was a long time member of the Freeport (Texas) Arena Theatre and the Midland (Michigan) Little Theatre before coming to Ann Arbor. This is his first appearance in Ann Arbor. Bill is retired from the Dow Chemical Company and now pursues the theatre, travel and golf.

**Michael L. Geiger** (Townsperson), a newcomer to Civic Theatre, is making his stage debut tonight. Mike is a student at the U-M, majoring in theatre.

**Sylvia Llewellyn** (Townsperson) is appearing for the first time for AACT. She has been active on various production crews during the Summer Season '75 and for *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Promises, Promises*. Sylvia is also working as the chairman of properties for *Thoreau*.

**Annick Morris** (Townsperson) is a student in English at Washtenaw Community College, having just arrived from France four months ago. Annick helped sew the costumes for *Promises, Promises* and is making her stage debut tonight.

**Roberta Otten** (Townsperson), a newcomer to Civic Theatre, has appeared in dance and mime performances at Northern Illinois University. She is a dance and gymnastics instructor at the Ann Arbor YM/YWCA and is making her acting debut tonight.

**Glen Allen Pruett** (Townsperson) has performed in and directed numerous shows in Texas, mostly at Lon Morris College in Jacksonville. He has appeared in Ann Arbor as Hal in the U-M production of *Loot*. Glen works at Bicycle Jim's.

**Peggy Russo** (Townsperson) is returning to the stage after a long absence and is making her Ann Arbor debut. She was last seen in *The Rivals* for San Diego City College in 1962. Peggy is a graduate student at the U-M.

## CAST

(in the order of appearance)

Ralph Waldo Emerson	CHARLES STALLMAN
Lydian Emerson	MEG GILBERT
Mrs. Thoreau	ROBERTA YULE OWEN
Henry Thoreau	WILLIAM J. CROSS
John Thoreau	JOHN WOJDA
Bailey	EDGAR LESHER
Deacon Ball	FRED REILLY
Ellen Sewell	GRETCHEN L. FOX
Edward Emerson	DANNY RUSSO
Sam Staples	JIM GRONDIN
Williams	PRESTON LOVELL TERRY
Woman	KATHRYN APP
Farmer	WES VIVIAN
Man in Crowd	BILL RAVE
Townspeople	MICHAEL L. GEIGER, SYLVIA LLEWELLYN, ROBERTA OTTEN, GLEN ALLEN PRUETT, PEGGY RUSSO ANNICK MORRIS, PAT RECTOR

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions,  
perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let  
him step to the music which he hears, however measured,  
or far away."

— Henry David Thoreau

*Scene: Concord, Mass.*

*Time: Mid-1800's*

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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*presents*

# *The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail*

A Play In Two Acts By  
**Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee**

DIRECTED BY  
**SUSAN MORRIS**

SET AND LIGHTING DESIGNER

**TIMOTHY W. LOCKER**

COSTUME DESIGNER

**MILDRED D. LINTNER**

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**DEBBIE BUCHHOLZ**

Stage Manager  
**MINDY ODDY**

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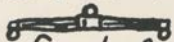
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 Sue Baer, Anna Borgstadt, Rose Marie O'Connor,  
 Irene Gillies, Georgia Jarman

## BUSINESS STAFF

Susan Morris \* Production Coordinator  
 Dave Gilbert \* Promotion  
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