

ACT ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE PRESENTS . . .

# THE MISANTHROPE

The Timeless Comedy  
by Molière

Dec. 17-20, 1986-8:00 p.m.  
Saturday Matinee-2:00 p.m.

LYDIA MENDELSSOHN THEATRE

Directed by  
**HANS FRIEDRICH**

For Tickets  
Call 662-7282



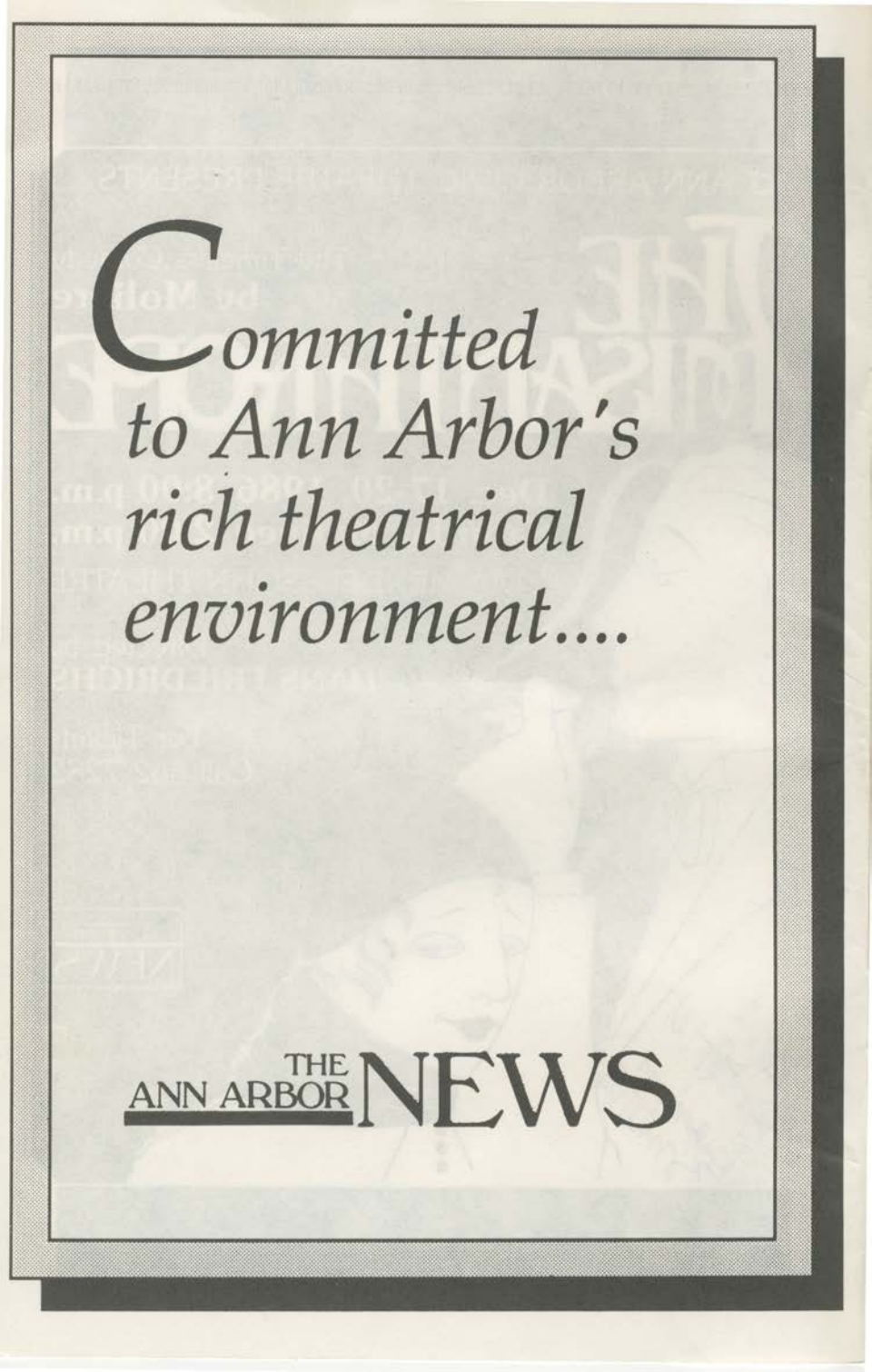
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THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

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# HEDDA GABLER

by Henrik Ibsen  Directed by Charles Sutherland

**February 25-28, 1987 – 8 p.m.**

**With a Saturday Matinee at 2 p.m.**

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre on Main Street Presents . . .



# LOOSE ENDS

**ACT**

by Michael Weller

Directed by Wendy Wright

**Jan. 22-24, 29-31, Feb. 5-7, 1987**

**All Performances at 8:00 p.m.**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our production of Moliere's classic play THE MISANTHROPE. We hope you will enjoy this story of a man who hates mankind—even though the spirit of this holiday season seems to be the antithesis of misanthropy. But no matter the time of year, it is always the season for comedy; although there has been some argument (lasting over 300 years) whether this actually is a comedy. One thing for sure, Ibsen's HEDDA GABLER, our February production, is a drama, and a classic at that. But that's for later; now, sit back, and have a few laughs. Happy holidays, and may none of your friends be misanthropes.

Thom Johnson  
President, AACT

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Moliere wrote THE MISANTHROPE in 1666 and it was first performed in the same year. During a period of great personal stress his wife left him (yet played opposite him in the original production). The controversy over TARTUFFE had not yet died down and overall he was becoming very disillusioned with his life at Court.

THE MISANTHROPE is to some extent autobiographical and yet retains Moliere's impeccable wit and ability to laugh at himself despite the grim reality of life.

In our production we hope to strip the play of preconceptions and attempt to give back to it a certain freshness and style long lost. We set our production during the apocalypse of fashion in Paris, the world of Belle Epoque—1914.

—Hans Friedrichs

## THE STORY

Alceste, a gentleman of Paris, announces to his friend Philinte that he is outraged by society with its slandering gossips, its fops and its artificial poets. Philinte tries to convince him that custom sometimes demands pretense but Alceste refuses to compromise his ideals of virtue. He declares himself so grieved by the false flattery, selfishness and deceit of society that he intends to withdraw from it altogether and live in seclusion. Alceste is particularly bitter about a lawsuit he has initiated against a man he despises. He asserts that if the court action goes against himself, he will be convinced of the wickedness and perversity of men.

Alceste is in love with Celimene, who is very much a part of the society he loathes, and who thoroughly enjoys baiting men with her affections and then pitting them against one another. Eliante, her cousin, is in love with Alceste and declares that she will marry him if he fails to win Celimene.

His determination to be honest in everything he says leads Alceste to a confrontation with another of Celimene's suitors, a poet, Oronte. Meanwhile, several other suitors are paying court to her and a prudish friend decides to help Alceste prove Celimene is faithless. Convinced he is being deceived, the angry Alceste proposes to Eliante; but she is skeptical of his motives and refuses. To make matters worse, Alceste learns that his lawsuit has gone against him. Finally, Celimene's duplicity seems to be proven beyond doubt by her own letters to two suitors.

# THE CAST

M. Thom Johnson, who will reform you as . . . . .	ALCESTE.
M. Howard Schott, who will charm you as . . . . .	PHILINTE.
M. John Amman, who will inspire you as . . . . .	ORONTE.
Mme. Kerry Graves Smith, who will sparkle as . . . . .	CELIMENE.
Mlle. Carolyn McKight, who will beguile you as . . . . .	ELIANTE.
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M. Paul VanDer Roest, who will amuse you as . . . . .	CLITANDRE.
M. Steven Willbright who will impress you as an . . . . .	OFFICER OF FRANCE.
and divert you by appearing as the . . . . .	MAJOR DOMO.
Mlle. Patti Attar, who will ignore you as the maid . . . . .	BASQUE.
M. William "SKIP" Baily, who will astound you as . . . . .	DUBOIS.

# THE STAFF

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## ABOUT THE CAST AND STAFF

**R. NEIL ALEXANDER** (Producer) most recently directed 'NIGHT MOTHER. He co-chairs the Marketing Committee and is a member of the Main Street Committee. His last experience as producer was for the AACT Ann Arbor Summer Festival production of HAY FEVER. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for AACT.

**JOHN AMMAN** (Oronte) moved to Ann Arbor a year and a half ago. He works at the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at U of M. This is his first Civic Theatre production. He hopes to be in many more.

**PATTI ATTAR** (Basque) has enjoyed working with the director and many of the cast members in previous productions. Her last performance on AACT's stage was as the Bingo Caller in THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH. In the future you can find Patti working in the development office at AACT and also, hopefully on stage.

**WILLIAM "SKIP" BAILEY** (DuBois) was most recently not seen as a commando-techie for the production of GYPSY. Mr. Bailey will next not be seen as the Assistant Director of AACT's Main Street production of Michael Weller's LOOSE ENDS. A refugee of the rock-n-roll wars of the seventies, Skip now helps deserving college students with their financial aid. Skip's highlight last season was hoofing his way through THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH.

**REID DOWNEY** (Set and Lighting Designer) joins the AACT for the first time. Reid has a wealth of experience in designing and constructing classical 'period' sets. Currently he is working on a project with Domino Farms.

**HANS FRIEDRICHS** (Director and Costume Designer) is a graduate of both the acting and advanced directing programs at the Ryerson Theatre School, Toronto, Canada. His directorial credits include MIRANDOLINA, OVERRULED, ASHES and SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER for the Ryerson Theatre Company. He directed the much acclaimed Toronto premiere of THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM this past spring while making his first film, THE KING OF YORKVILLE. In Ann Arbor, Hans has directed TEN LITTLE INDIANS for AACT and was a guest instructor at Pioneer High School, directing the fall production of THE GLASS MENAGERIE. As an actor his favorite roles have included Kilroy in CAMINO REAL, Kolenkhov in YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, Simon Bliss in last summer's HAY FEVER and, last but not least, Mercutio in ROMEO AND JULIET directed by Barry Morse.

**CARL GILDEA** (Set Builder) as a member of the Delaware Theatre Association, Carl stage managed and served as tech director building many of the sets for their summer season. He is a mechanical engineer for the NSK Corporation in Ann Arbor, and a graduate from Western Michigan University.

**CHRIS HALL** (Props Mistress) has previously worked as a costumer for Washtenaw Community College's productions of 1984 and HARVEY, and for the Saline Area Players' production of CACTUS FLOWER. With AACT she has appeared in THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH and was a member of the costume crew for GYPSY.

**THOM JOHNSON** (Alceste) has worked in many capacities for AACT: director, stage manager, lighting designer and actor. Some of the productions he has appeared in are CAMELOT (Merlin), ON GOLDEN POND (Charlie Martin), KEY EXCHANGE (Philip) and TEN LITTLE INDIANS (Cpt. Lombard). He is currently serving as President of the Board of Directors for AACT. His hobbies include softball, volleyball and an occasional cigar.



**CHRISTOPHER KOROW** (Assistant Director and Stage Manager) has been deeply involved with AACT for over two years. He's done everything from slinging paint in the scene shop to eating massive quantities of food on stage as Ray in Main Street's production of *LONE STAR*. This is his first shot as assistant directing a Main Stage production. In his other life Chris is a computer systems engineer for a small software firm in Ann Arbor.

**STEVEN F. LANE** (Acaste) is a senior—finally! at the University of Michigan and hopes to begin Medical School next fall. You may recognize him as the fly-eating maniac, Renfield, from AACT's production of *DRACULA*. By the way, Steve is not as conceited as the vain Acaste: he's too perfect.

**SHIRLEY MALLETTE** (Props) wandered into AACT three years ago, picked up a paint brush and has been doing something in some area of almost every production ever since. Most recently she served as co-producer of *GYPSY*. She is also the co-chair of the Education Committee.

**CAROLYN McKNIGHT** (Eliante) has appeared in several Ann Arbor productions: *LYSISTRATA*—and *HAPPY END* with the U of M Ensemble Theatre Company, *THE THWARTING OF BARON BOLLIGREW* with Young Peoples Theatre (she played the hero and killed dragons), and *TALKING WITH!!* with the Hill Street Players. She is a graduate student at U of M on the verge of receiving an MA in theatre.

**HOWARD SHOTT** (Philinte) is a graduate of Bennington College in Vermont, and is currently a student in the MFA program in creative writing at the University of Michigan. He has appeared in such shows as *LYSISTRATA*, *DOGG'S HAMLET*, *THE TRIDGET OF GREVA*, and *GOD*.

**KERRY GRAVES SMITH** (Celimene) is pleased to be in another straight play—though she very much enjoyed her roles as Reno in *ANYTHING GOES* and Roxie Hart in *CHICAGO* for AACT last year. She is an instructor of dance and drama for the Ann Arbor Recreation Department and an active member of the Goodtime players, whose original production of *THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS* will offer her the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play Mr. Toad.

**PAUL VANDER ROEST** (Clitandre) is a member of the Goodtime Players. He was last seen as a wimpy art lover in AACT's Main Street Production of *MUSEUM*, and the wimpy tailor in *CHICAGO* last May. His credits include the wimpy gardener in *THE SNOW QUEEN*, the wimpy traveller in *HENRY IV*, the wimpy hairdresser in *MAME* and Stanley in *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*.

**STEVEN WOOLBRIGHT** (Officer of France and Major Domo) in his first time acting with AACT, has previous acting experience in high school and in community theatre in Fenton, MI. Currently he is a student at the University of Michigan with a double major in economics and political science.

**WENDY WRIGHT** (Arsinoe), who has worked with AACT almost constantly since May is the current chairperson of the Main Street Committee. Most recently seen as Jessie in the Main Street production of *'NIGHT MOTHER*, her next project will be directing Michael Weller's *LOOSE ENDS* in January. These masochistic theatrical tendencies have kept her busy in theatre ever since Easter in Dicken School's second grade Pageant of Holidays back in 1968.

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