

April 3 - 19, 1997

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

Footlights Productions presents



The Sisters Rosenzweig

By Wendy Wasserstein

Directed by Wendy Wright

Set Design
Tod Barker

Women's Costume Design
Diane Branczeisz

Men's Costume Design
Ana Furioso

Lighting Design
Thom Johnson

Sound Design
Wendy Wright

Properties
Cassie Mann

Assistant Director
Stage Manager
Sanford Walke

Publicity
Wendy Wright

Program and Poster Design
Ronald P. Baumanis

Set Builder
Tod Barker

Set Construction Crew
**Bob Seeman
David Wright**

Hair
Diane Branczeisz

The Sisters Rosenzweig is produced by special arrangement and cooperation with **Dramatists Play Service**, 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Tess Goode.....	Jennifer Lee
Pfeni Rosensweig.....	Julia Ann Barden
Sara Goode.....	Nancy Wright
Geoffrey Duncan.....	Steve Elliott
Mervyn Kant.....	Troy D. Sill
Gorgeous Teitelbaum.....	Liz Elliott
Tom Valiunus.....	Danny E. Ferman
Nicholas Pym.....	Thom Johnson

The action takes place in late August 1991 in a sitting room in
Queen Anne's Gate, London

Act One

Scene One.....	Late morning Friday
Scene Two.....	Later that afternoon
Scene Three.....	Around 8:30 p.m.
Scene Four.....	After dinner; around 11:30 p.m.

Act Two

Scene One.....	Early Saturday Morning
Scene Two.....	Later that afternoon, around 4 p.m.
Scene Three.....	Early Sunday Morning

Special Thanks

Ron Baumanis

Nancy Wright

Mark Standriff and the Toledo Repertory Theatre

Molly and Bill Friedrichs

Lila and Bob Greene

Elise and Matt Stempkey

Anne Kolaczkowski Magee

Randy Houston & Globe Furniture Rentals

Ann Barden

Director's Note

From the moment I read *The Sisters Rosensweig* back in 1993, I knew it was something I wanted to direct. It touched me in some way. One of the things I think attracted me to the play was the characters ability to use humor to mask their pain. This is something I can relate to. Also, it is neither a serious nor a comedic play. When done right, it is hopefully both. The trick in playing it is to find the balance between the bright colors of humor and the serious issues of identity, self-loathing, and the possibility of intimacy and love when it seems no longer possible or, sadder yet, no longer necessary. It is not an angry play. It is one of possibilities. It is also a play about a specific and momentous time in history — the fall of the Soviet Union and all the implications which that held for the world at large. It was a time of possibilities. I hope you come to love Sara, Gorgeous and Pfeni as much as I love them. Sit back and prepare to meet the sisters Rosensweig.

Choral music by River Raisin and Pride of Toledo Sweet Adelines

Cast Biographies

Julia Ann Barden (Pfeni) is an Ann Arbor native, who left home to pursue acting as a theatre major at MSU. While there she participated in such productions as *Dutchman*, *You Can't Take it With You*, and *Laundry and Bourbon*. In addition she dedicated much time to her love of Shakespeare including acting in the Simply Shakespeare Touring Company. Most recently, Julia returned from an extended holiday/adventure in Australia and New Zealand. She is very excited to be in her first production with AACT and hopes there will be many more to come.

Liz Elliott (Gorgeous) has spent the past couple of decades providing comic relief and/or Jewish angst in productions at AACT, EMU, and the now-defunct (and come to think of it

somewhat defunct at the time) Black Sheep Repertory Theatre. Prior AACT roles include Sophie in *Waxing the Moon*, Mrs. Potts in *Picnic*, and the revered and reviled director of *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*. Liz is extremely fond of cheese.

Steve Elliott (Geoffrey) appeared in AACT's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and played Rosencrantz in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. He comes to us from Monroe where he was in such productions as *Arms and the Man*, *The Odd Couple*, *Camelot*, and 32 other various theatrical endeavors, and he is made entirely of cheese.

Danny Ferman (Tom) makes his AACT debut with this memorable performance. Away from the stage since his high school days at Community High, he has spent his time at Community Access TV.

Thom Johnson (Nick/Lighting Designer) is wearing two hats in this production. As an actor he most recently appeared as John Barrymore in AACT's *I Hate Hamlet* and you may also have seen him as Otto Frank in *Diary of Anne Frank* and Captain Keller in *The Miracle Worker*. As a lighting designer he most recently designed *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. He has also designed *My Favorite Year*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *M. Butterfly* among many others.

Jennifer Lee (Tess) is a sophomore theatre major at U of M. She has appeared in AACT's *The Secret Garden*, and most recently as the unforgettable Ursula in *Bye Bye Birdie*. At U of M productions she has appeared in *Pamela*, and most recently in MUSKET's *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Troy D. Sill (Mervyn) celebrates his eighth show with AACT, and his forty-second show in general. Ann Arbor audiences may remember him in productions such as *The Couch*, *My Favorite Year*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, *Shooting Simone*, and *The Caretaker*.

Nancy Wright (Sara) newly moved to Michigan, made her Ann Arbor debut in *The Couch* at the Performance Network last fall. She often acts and directs in Toledo, where, in January, she directed her original full-length play, *Abandoned Houses*. Nancy's comedies have been produced in Chicago, Cleveland, Tampa, and New York City. She lives with her husband and (too) many pets on a flower farm in Lenawee County.

Production Staff Biographies

Wendy Wright (Director) was originally supposed to direct the Sisters Rosensweig for AACT in the summer of 1995. The rights were unavailable at that time, so she directed William Inge's *Picnic* instead. She is happy to finally have the opportunity to stage a play which speaks to her heart. Wendy's other directing credits with AACT include *Blithe Spirit*, *Twelfth Night*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and *Les Liaisons Dangeruses* (among others). She would like to thank an exceptionally talented cast and crew for bringing the long held dream of this show into reality.

Sanford Walke (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) makes his first attempt at either Assistant Directing or Stage Managing, so you can blame any flaws in this otherwise flawless production on him. He last appeared in AACT's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and has also appeared in *Rehearsal for Murder*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *Pure as the Driven Snow*. Employed as a systems administrator for Isthmus Corporation, he enjoys competitive handgun shooting, reading, hunting, fishing and mountain biking. He would like to thank Wendy for this unnerving opportunity.

Ana Furioso (Men's Costumes) has been annointed "Goddess of the Outseam" during her first costuming endeavor with AACT. She currently works with Fantasy Attic Costumes of Ann Arbor.

Tod Barker (Set Design) is an on and off veteran of AACT. Tod is happy to design again for Wendy, their last collaboration being on *Les Liaisons Dangeruses* for which he also designed the set.

He is eagerly looking forward to his next assignment here — directing *Medea* which auditions April 13th and 14th. He hopes you all can participate in this unique interpretation of the classic Greek tragedy.

Diane Branczeisz (Women's Costumes/Hair/Make-up) is back at AACT after an extended absence thanks to the wiles of wonderful Wendy. Previous costuming credits with AACT include *Blithe Spirit*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *Annie*.

Cassie Mann (Properties) recently directed AACT's *Six Degrees of Separation*, and was last seen as eight different women in *Jeffrey*. She divides her time equally between directing and acting, when she is not caring for her daughters or assisting the editor of a medical journal. She is also a co-chairperson of AACT's production committee.

Are you aware of our new Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Membership program?

AACT wants to invite old friends to renew their memberships and to attract new friends to join us in providing quality theatre to an ever-expanding audience. Membership in AACT is for the mutual benefit of both the volunteer participant and the organization: opportunities for creative growth, accomplishment, and recognition shall be offered to a diverse community of people brought together by an appreciation of and a commitment to the advancement of theatre arts.

A 12-month membership includes:

- a subscription to the quarterly Spotlight newsletter and calendar of events
- Voting rights at the annual AACT membership meeting
- Invitations to AACT special events
- Discount on Playhouse rental for personal use
- 5 (five) half-priced tickets to AACT shows (see membership brochure)
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Pick up a copy of our new Membership brochure in the lobby tonight, or call **313-971-0605** during business hours to request membership information.



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre presents

City Of Angels

The musical

Book by Larry Gelbart

Music by Cy Coleman

Directed by Conrad Mason
and Ann VanDemark

May 7 - 10, 1997 at 8 p.m.



Sat. Mat. May 10th, 2 p.m.

Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre
Michigan League

Tickets 313-971-AACT

Hollywood, the late 1940's: Movies and money, glitter and glitz — all beckoning irresistibly to a susceptible novelist-would-be-screenwriter. What happens to him is the story of *City of Angels* — a musical comedy that simultaneously tells two laugh-filled stories: one his "real" misadventures; the other his "reel" adventures of a Raymond Chanler-esque private detective.

Winner of six 1990 Tony Awards, including
Best Musical—Best Music—Best Book & Lyrics



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Lost in Yonkers Sept 18-21 Directed by Joy Dennis

Baltimore Waltz Oct. 16-26 Directed by Amy Kullenberg

A Little Night Music Nov. 13-23 Directed by Glenn Bugala

Stuart Little Dec. 5-7 Junior Theatre Production

The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate

Townswomen's Guild Societies' Production of

A Christmas Carol Dec 11-21 Special Holiday Show

You Can't Take

It With You Jan. 22-Feb 1 Directed by Russ Valvo

Evening of Cabaret Feb 13-14 Special Benefit Production

Big River Mar. 5-15 Directed by Melissa Ryan

Heidi Mar. 27-29 Junior Theatre Production

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Superstar May 14-17 Directed by Ronald Baumanis

Dancing at

Lughnasa June 11-21 Directed by Joy Dennis

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