3-26-1993

Could Angels Be Blessed

Nancy Kiefer

Follow this and additional works at: http://collected.jcu.edu/plays

Recommended Citation
http://collected.jcu.edu/plays/20

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Communication & Theatre Arts at Carroll Collected. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theatre Productions by an authorized administrator of Carroll Collected. For more information, please contact connell@jcu.edu.
COULD ANGELS BE BLESSED

by Nancy Kiefer

MY DEAREST FRIEND

I have not been able to stop thinking about you since the last time we spoke. You are always in my thoughts, no matter what I am doing. I miss you so much, and I know that nothing but time will heal this wound. I hope you are well and that you understand how much you are missed.

A JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
PRESENTATION

KULAS AUDITORIUM • MAR. 26-27 APR. 2-3 • 8 P.M.

KEEPS, THIS WILL ALWAYS
THE ONLY OF OUR LOVE.
JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

Department of Communications

presents

Nancy Kiefer's

COULD ANGELS BE BLESSED

directed by

James F. Beck

March 25, 26, April 2, 3, 1993
Kulas Auditorium
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Could Angels Be Blessed marks the second of Nancy Kiefer’s plays I’ve had the pleasure of working on, the first being The Eighth Order which premiered in the Marinello Little Theatre in 1991, directed by Dr. Karen Gygli. From the first time I read this script I knew I wanted to produce it. She has created a warm wonderful story while making broad and insightful social observations. Nancy has a keen ability to create vivid poetic imagery while at the same time catching you up in the story and the issues behind it. I find with all of her plays the characters become very endearing and, before you know it, you’re caught in their social struggles.

In writing Could Angels Be Blessed I feel Nancy has created some extremely unique characters. These personae represent the attitudes, beliefs and values of not only the 1940’s, but also those inherent in today’s society.

In many ways I feel this is a very contemporary play. It contains contemporary social issues such as the role of women in society, family values, tolerance, understanding and homosexuality. Many will read or see this play and call it a “gay” play. While I believe this is the central focus of the play, labeling it “only a gay play” unfortunately ignores the greater body of the work which paints a picture of how several very different people co-exist in a tight community. Metaphorically, I believe this neighborhood, set on the west side of Cleveland in 1945, its inhabitants and its visitors, are representative of our shrinking global community. As technology increases, the size of our world gets smaller and smaller. We are constantly being exposed to nations, people, values, customs and lifestyles that are vastly different from our own. There is a great need. If we are to avoid the mistakes history has shown us, to communicate and understand, to accept without judgement, all the various people with whom we shall come into contact, whatever our differences and to allow them “just to be who (they are).” In a world that is quickly becoming a community, we can benefit greatly from relying on the biblical tome, “Judge not, lest ye be judged.” This is a play about co-existence and acceptance of differences and, of course, love.

Finally, I must take this opportunity to thank Nancy Kiefer for allowing us to stage Could Angels Be Blessed. In doing so, she was forced to withdraw it from its position as finalist in several national playwriting competitions. It has been a pleasure working with her as a director, designer and faculty colleague.

I hope you will enjoy the show.

James F. Beck
Director
CAST
(in order of appearance)

Lucy Clifford ........................................... Jennifer V. Wagner*
Lottie Dugan ........................................... Sarah Morton
Caroline Clifford .................................... Dianne Milstein
Polly Raleigh ......................................... Lisa Cocchiarale
Marlene Raleigh ...................................... Carrie Lichman
Domenic Cozza ....................................... Andrew Zucca*

SETTING

The adjoining backyards of the Raleigh, Clifford, and Dugan houses on the west side of Cleveland in the summer of 1945.

Act I
Scene I- Shortly before dawn.
Scene II- Later that same day.

Act II
Scene I- The next morning.
Scene II- Later that same day.
Scene III- The next day shortly before dawn.

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

COULD ANGELS BE BLESSED is the third part of a trilogy of plays about World War II. Prior to its world premiere production, the play was a finalist in several national playwriting competitions, including the Shiras Institute/Panowski Competition at Northern Michigan University and the Dayton Playhouse. It was first produced in November of 1992 in New York City by the American Theatre of Actors at the Beckmann Theatre.
WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Lisa Cocchiarale (Polly Raleigh) is happy to be back on the JCU stage. She was seen most recently in Harvey Fierstein's's On Tidy Endings, and as Pauline Steele in the 1991 premiere of Nancy Kiefer's The Eighth Order. In those hours between rehearsal and sleep, Lisa can be seen as a graduate student in JCU's English Department. She lives in University Heights with her husband, Michael.

Carrie Lichtman (Marlene Raleigh), a sophomore, is proud to call Could Angels Be Blessed her first play at John Carroll. A Communications major, she has been actively involved in the arts since high school. In her spare time, Carrie sings in a semi-professional band and is a Varsity cheerleader for John Carroll. Carrie hopes to pursue a career in the entertainment field after graduation.

Dianne Millstein (Caroline Clifford) has appeared in several local television commercials. Their success encouraged her return to the stage. Though she is forty, she feels her age adds a positive dimension to her current pursuit of a degree in Communications.

Sarah Morton (Lottie Dugan) is a graduate student in the English Department. During her undergraduate days at Johns Hopkins, she produced, directed, wrote, and acted for the theatre. Her favorite roles include Rosalind in As You Like It, Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Clelia in The Nerd, and Ruth in The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds.

Jennifer Wagner (Lucy Clifford) is performing in her fifth play on the John Carroll Stage. Previous performances include The Crucible as Elizabeth, Baby, The Diviners as Jennie Mae, and Ten Little Indians as Vera Claythorne. She is currently a double major in English and Classical Languages. She hopes to pursue studies in theatre in the future.

Andrew Zucca (Domenic Cozza) is performing in his fifth show at John Carroll University. He is graduating this May with a degree in Communications. Previous performance include Philip Lombard in Ten Little Indians, Ferris Layman in The Diviners, and his favorite role of John Proctor in The Crucible.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Director........................................... James F. Beck*  
Assistant Director......................... Patrick J. Scullin*  
Stage Manager.................................. James E. Parker*  
Assistant Stage Manager.................. Melissa Tilk  
Scenic and Lighting Designer.......... James F. Beck*  
Costume Designer.............................. Mark Kobak  
Assistant Costume Designer............. Nalma Hadden  
Hairstylist.................................. Tony Marotta  
Sound Design.................................. Fred Dolan  
Light Board Operator...................... Tim Miller  
Sound Board Operator.................... Joseph Guay*  
Running Crew............................ Fred Bolden, Megan Marrle,  
.............................................. Karen Cullen  
Construction Crew.......................... Stephen J. Fink*,  
.............................................. Neil Ryan,  
.............................................. Dave Kaleal*, Andrew Zucca*,  
.............................................. Doug Bruce, Patrick Scullin,  
.............................................. and class members of CO 275  
Dressers..................................... Bethany Wiles, Neil Ryan,  
........................................ Rebecca Biddiscombe, Katie Brown,  
.............................................. and Susan Schmitz  
Publicity.................................. Mark Walsh  
Prop Mistress................................. Melissa Tilk  
Prop Crew.............................. Chris Dashner, Mike Brunswick  
........................................ Scott Rukavina, Michele Dawson  
Master Electrician......................... James E. Parker*  
Light Crew............................... James E. Parker*, Tim Miller  
.............................................. Jim Sislo, Julianne Pezzi,  
.............................................. and class members of CO 275  
Box Office................................. Robert Bucha, Karen Gygli*  
Program................................ Kate Fillatraut*,  
.............................................. and Melissa Tilk  
Graphic.................................. John Yasenosky
WHO’S WHO IN THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Nancy Kiefer (Playwright) has written many plays, including Gwen and Gwen, Dryope and Iole, Head of a Blue-Eyed Man, The Eighth Order (which was world premiered at JCU in 1991), The Night and The Morning, Radiant Boys, Loans, Urban Myths, and Talking Minks. Her plays have been produced in many theatres in her native Ohio as well as in Boston and New York City, off-off and off-Broadway.

James F. Beck (Director/Scene and Lighting Designer) received his B.A. from Hiram College and his Master of Fine Arts in Production Design and Technology from Ohio University. He pursued a PhD in Theatre History at the University of Missouri where, upon completion of his coursework, he joined the Faculty as Designer/Technical Director. Jim currently serves as both Faculty Member and Technical Director at John Carroll University. Since coming to JCU three years ago, Jim has directed and designed The Crucible and Baby, and designed the sets for Ten Little Indians, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Eighth Order, The Diviners, The Nerd and Holiday. He also designed three plays in a joint venture with the Misery Loves Company at JCU.

Patrick J. Scullin (Assistant Director) is a senior Communications major. Patrick spent most of his life in the suburbs of Detroit until he came to Cleveland for college. Pat has worked in all aspects of the theatre including his most recent endeavor last Fall, directing Harvey Fierstein’s On Tidy Endings in the Marinello Little Theatre. Pat was also seen on the JCU stage as Peter Quince in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Patrick is also active in the Carroll News.

James E. Parker (Stage Manager) has designed lighting for Camille, On Tidy Endings, Ten Little Indians, and Grandma Duck is Dead. He directed The Diviners last Spring. In addition, he has been stage manager for numerous shows at John Carroll.
Melissa A. Tilk (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman Communications and Business double major from Atlanta, GA. She got her start in theatre working wardrobe for Ten Little Indians this past Fall. Then, she was the costume designer for Grandma Duck is Dead. Melissa is also Campus Life for the Carroll News.

Mark Kobak (Costume Designer) graduated from Baldwin-Wallace with a B.A. in theatre where he concentrated in set and costume design. Since then Mark has designed sets at Greater Miami Opera, Florida, and Clague Playhouse. He has also designed costumes for Misery Love Company and B-W. Mark does wardrobe for Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Cleveland Opera, and Playhouse Square.

Naima-Leone Hadden (Assistant Costume Designer) is a 1988 Baldwin-Wallace graduate where she was a costume shop foreman and a designer. She has since worked for Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Playhouse Square, Cleveland Opera, and has designed for many community theatres.

*ALPHA PSI OMEGA*

Alpha Psi Omega (ΑΨΩ) is the national theatre honorary fraternity. Members of Alpha Psi Omega are committed to the production of quality collegiate theatre throughout the United States of America. The Mu Theta cast of Alpha Psi Omega is chartered at John Carroll University, and its members serve the local communities in their production of theatre. Induction eligibility into the fraternity is determined by participation in theatre. If you have any questions about Alpha Psi Omega, call 397-4428.

**PLEASE NOTE**

We ask that patrons refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking in Kulas Auditorium. Taking flash pictures during the production is distracting and potentially dangerous to the actors, as it may disorient them—please wait until after the performance.
SPECIAL THANKS

Dallas and Eleanor Culp
Dave Kaleal
Antiques in the Bank
Mark Walsh
Kathy Dolan
Dr. Jacqueline Schmidt
Dr. Marianne Salcetti and the Carroll News
Dr. Alan Stephenson
The Beck Center
Cleveland Playhouse
Mr. and Mrs. John Coppers
Dr. Karen Gygli
Louis Pitschmann
Gunner Kiefer

Thank You...
We appreciate your continued support of the John Carroll University theatre program.