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## Dead Man Walking

Tim Robins

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# **Dead Man Walking**

**A Play by Tim Robbins**

**Based on the book by Sr. Helen Prejean.**

**Directed by Dr. Karen Gygli**



**Marinello Little Theatre**

**March 18, 19, & 20 at 8PM**

**Presented by the John Carroll University Department of Communications, by special arrangement with Tim Robbins and the Dead Man Walking School Theater Project.**

As a courtesy to the performers and  
those around you:

**PLEASE**, REFRAIN FROM USING  
CELL PHONES, WATCH ALARMS,  
PAGERS, AND FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY.



Please note the Emergency Exits marked in  
Marinello Little Theatre. Should an emergency occur, please **WALK**,  
in an orderly fashion to the exit nearest you.



# **Dead Man Walking**

**A Staged Reading of a Script by Tim Robbins**

**Based on the book by Sr. Helen Prejean**

## **Director's Notes:**

John Carroll University is participating in the Dead Man Walking School Theatre Project. Participants include Marquette University, Notre Dame University and many other Catholic and Jesuit schools across the nation. Actor Tim Robbins, who originally directed the film, has written this draft, which is a live theatre adaptation of his screenplay, at the urging of Sr. Helen Prejean in order to broaden the audience and raise opposition to the death penalty. All royalties and script fees are going to Sr. Prejean's Moratorium Project, and other organizations that seek to end capital punishment. All participating schools are asked to produce either a full production or a staged reading of this draft of Dead Man Walking, to forgo any ticket profits, and to give Mr. Robbins feedback on how to improve this draft. John Carroll University has already had speakers and has scheduled a course around the death penalty, which were other requirements for participation.



**Dawn Pierce\*** ..... Lucille Poncelet, Sr. Prejean's  
mother, Nurse, Woman #1, Voice  
Reading Bible Quote  
**Abby Fox**.....Stage Directions.

**\*Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association**

**There will be one 10-minute intermission between Acts I and II.**

**Special Thanks: Keith Nagy, Sr. Mary Ann Flannery, Martin Friedman, Mike Minnaugh, the College of Arts and Sciences, The Office of Applied Ethics, the Departments of Communications, Political Science, Religious Studies, Sociology and Philosophy, the Cardinal Suenens Center, Tracee Patterson, and all the members of the Dead Man Walking School Theater Project committee at John Carroll University including Nick Baumgartner, Paul Lauritzen, Doris Donnelly, Dianna Taylor, and Richard Clark.**

# Dead Man Walking

Karen Gygl..... Director  
Abby Fox..... Assistant Director  
Natalie Wilson.....Stage Manager/Lighting  
Design and Operator  
Eric Simna.....Sound Operator  
Lindsay M. Smith.....Publicity Manager  
Justin Blanche.....Publicity Assistant  
Gwen Morgan.....Box Office

## Cast:

Tracee Patterson \* ..... Helen Prejean  
Mike Schneeberger..... Matt Poncelet  
Ed Hassing..... Clyde Percy, Gilardi, Man #1,  
Warden Hartman, Reporter  
#2  
Justin Blanche..... Herbie, Trapp the Guard, Slade  
(shock jock), Hilton (D.A.),  
Mirabeua, Walter, Man #2, Mitch  
Poncelet  
Siegmond Fuchs..... Farley, Man #3, Governor  
Fredericks, Jim Poncelet  
Elizabeth Wood..... Marybeth Percy, Woman #3,  
Colleen  
Allen Branstein..... Montoya, Repoter #1, Radio  
Announcer, Troy Poncelet, Earl  
Dealcroix, Sgt. Boliveau  
Molly Webster..... Hope, Emily, Woman #2, Reporter  
#3, Sr. Marie Augusta Neal



**Siegmund Fuchs** - Siegmund used to be a "theater person." After ten years of acting, singing, and dancing, he was relegated to the role of "theater observer." Although he continued to write and produce plays, he enthusiastically became an academic, earned a degree in rhetoric, and wrote articles that no one cared to read. Having since received his law degree, he currently works for the United States Federal Government, for which he received a cool badge.

**Elizabeth R. Wood** - Elizabeth is pleased to be returning to the John Carroll stage after graduating from JCU in 1999. While at John Carroll, she performed in 'Night Mother, Merrily We Roll Along, Blithe Spirit, and Twelfth Night, among others, and now works regularly with Cleveland Public Theater, Lakeland Theater, and the Beck Center. Beth recently left her position as JCU's technical director to join Great Lakes Theater Festival's company as an actor-teacher. She hopes to pursue her MFA in acting at some point in the near future.

**Allen Branstein** - Allen Branstein is very happy to be working with Karen Gygli at John Carroll. Most recently he has worked with Charenton, Red Hen and the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival. He also throws a mattress away in "American Splendor". And he would like to thank Paula because he can.

**Molly Webster** - Molly Webster is proud to finish off her last semester as a JCU student in yet another Gygli production. She started off working with Karen when she was cast as Donna—the sideways ponytail, scrunchy sock, hot pink 80s bartender—in *Defying Gravity* (Spring 2002). Two years later (Spring 2004) she was back again in the electrifying production of *A Piece of My Heart*. Between these two main-stage shows, Molly has had lead-roles and spot appearances in various student directed one-acts, most notably *The Golden Fleece* (directed by Ed Hassing). Molly is thrilled that the finishing note to her theatre career at JCU will be her first-ever staged reading. To Karen, Keith, Martin, and the hilarious casts and crews she has had the pleasure of laughing with: "It's been quite the run."

**Dawn Pierce** - Dawn Pierce\* is a graduate student at JCU going for a masters degree and was thrilled to bump into Karen Gygli between classes one day. She is in the three performing unions and has had the good fortune to work off Broadway, in Repertory theatre, and in local theatres on the east coast. Her acting training was with Lee Strasberg, Stella Adler, Kim Stanley, and Shelly Winters. Dawn lives near the shore of Lake Erie with a 27-toed Maine coon cat named "Mojo." She acts, paints, and writes for food.

# Dead Man Walking

## Meet The Cast:

**Karen Gygil** - Karen Gygil is an Associate Professor of Theater in the Department of Communications at John Carroll University. Some of her most recent shows at John Carroll include *The Foreigner*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Defying Gravity* and *Twilight Los Angeles: 1992*. Karen also is on the board of Red Hen Productions, Cleveland's feminist theater, and has directed *Eight Impressions of a Lunatic*, *The Clue in the Old Birdbath*, and *Body Outlaws* for Red Hen. She is looking forward this fall to directing *Forbidden* by Pat Rowe. She has also been the faculty moderator for 4 student-directed annual benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* at JCU. She teaches Introduction to Theater, Acting, Directing, African-American Theater History and Asian Theater courses at JCU.

**Abby Fox** - Abbey Fox is the assistant director for this production. She is a freshman and is majoring in Communications and Political Science. Her past theatre credits at JCU are *The Vagina Monologues* and *The Foreigner*. She has been in many community theatre productions near her hometown of Bellevue, Ohio.

**Michael Schneeberger** - Michael Schneeberger is currently pursuing his master's degree in education at good ole' JCU. This is his fifth year at the prestigious university, and for some reason, he's having a difficult time leaving. He is no stranger to the JCU stage; his past roles include Jim Fitch in *The Terrible Jim Fitch*, Hero in the musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Carlino in *Wait Until Dark*, and in a week you can see him as Selsdon, the elderly burglar, in the comedy *Noises Off*.

**Tracee Patterson** - Tracee Patterson\* has appeared in numerous productions in the Cleveland area, including *Nickel and Dimed* (Great Lakes Theatre Festival/CPT); *Bright Room Called Day* (Cleveland Public Theatre); *Seussical*, *Seagull*, *The Fix*, and *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Beck Center); *Yentl*, *Man of La Mancha* (Halle Theatre); *Sound of Music*, *Nine* (Cain Park). She was most recently heard as the voice of Mitch's wife in *Tuesdays with Morrie* at the Cleveland Play House, and will appear as "Toinette" in *The Imaginary Invalid* at the Beck Center in May and as "Woman 2" in *Songs for a New World* at Cain Park this summer. Tracee has served as the Secretary in the Political Science Department at John Carroll University until just recently, when she became Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations.

**Ed Hassing** - Ed is pleased to be a part of tonight's staged reading. He thanks Dr. Gygil and the rest of the cast and crew for making this such a remarkable experience.

**Justin Blanche** - Justin Blanche is very excited to be making his final theatre appearance in this wonderful production of *Dead Man Walking*. Justin has acted in JCU productions of *Judgment Call*, *Sociability*, *Out the Window*, and played the title role in *The Miser*. He is a junior and author of six one-act plays including last fall's one-act *Murder on Sesame Street... or Fowl Play* and the I.T.S. award winning *Cirque Du Play* which garnered him a 'Best Playwright' in Ohio award. Justin is thrilled to be a part of this production with such a talented cast and hopes to raise awareness of the death penalty process. He dedicates this performance to his father Joseph (1949-2005).

John Carroll Department of Communications Presents:

## **Noises Off**

**By: Michael Frayn**

**Directed by: Dr. Martin Friedman**

**Kulas Auditorium**

**April 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8PM and April 24 at 2PM.**