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The Eighth Order

Nancy Kiefer

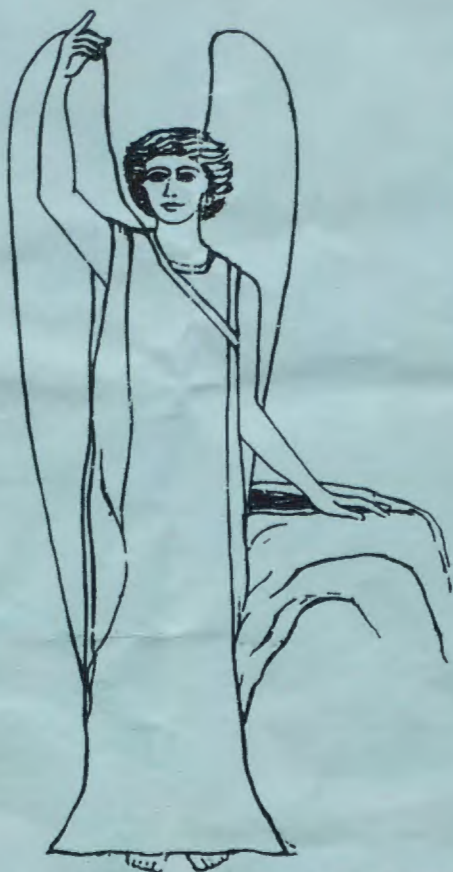
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*The
Eighth Order*
by Nancy Kiefer



THE EIGHTH ORDER

by Nancy Kiefer

Director - Karen Gygli
Set and Lighting Design - Jim Beck
Ass't. Dir./Stage Mgr.- Mary Katherine Thomas
Publicity - Traci Egan
Cover Design - Mary O'Malley
Costumes/Make-up - Pat Mazzarino
Photography - Rod Taylor
Light Board Operator - Jim Parker
Sound Board Operator - Scott Hagar
Technical Director - Dave Kaleal

Charlotte Steele.....Victoria Karnafel Glivar
Cliff Foley.....Thom Bowers
Philip Steele.....Tim Keo
Pauline Steele.....Lisa J. Eckley
Margaret Gardner.....Meg McGarry
Clara Hamlin.....Nancy Shimonek

Production Dates

June 21, 28 and 29

The Eighth Order is the third play in a trilogy by Nancy Kiefer; Dryope and Iole and Head of a Blue-Eyed Man are the other two plays. All are set in Depression-era rural Ohio. The Depression setting is significant in that each play is concerned with the mysteries of even the most apparently mundane lives; a world is suggested beyond the tangible and material. During the 1930's, survival at a very basic material level was threatened on a very large scale. When survival is the only value, there is an emotional cost that can be devastating. In Kiefer's plays, the characters are starving for a sense of significance outside of the everyday world with which they must grapple, for an emotional release, for something to believe in. The dramatic tension emerges from the way these characters respond to the mysterious and intangible.

In Dryope and Iole, a woman comes home to die, back to a sister who hates her for stealing the man that sister loved. A pair of old poplar trees near the house becomes a metaphor for a force which compels the family to heal and grow back together. In Head of a Blue-Eyed Man, a decomposing human head found in a garbage dump sets in motion a struggle between the need for the material (in this case, ransom money) and the fear of sinister, inhuman forces that the head suggests. In The Eighth Order, the mystery of existence takes on the visible shape of an angel which appears to Philip. Charlotte, his mother, is a down-to-earth survivalist, who is frightened by Philip's visions and seeks to deny them. She is deserted by those who follow the vision, yet without her struggles to survive, the events of the play might not have taken place. Why the angel chooses this town, this time, this boy, remains a mystery at the end which defines little but suggests much. Staging this play has been a privilege for all of us--we hope you enjoy it!

Nancy Kiefer (playwright) has written many plays, including TALKING MINKS which was produced off-off Broadway in 1986 and off-Broadway in 1987, LOANS, TED THE HEAD AND CONAN VISIT THE SINGLES BAR, and GWEN AND GWEN. THE EIGHTH ORDER is the third part of a trilogy about the Great Depression. The first two plays in the trilogy, DRYOPE AND IOLE and HEAD OF A BLUE-EYED MAN, were produced in Chagrin Falls and Madison, Ohio last summer. Kiefer teaches playwriting at John Carroll.

Karen Gygli (director) has just completed her first year on the faculty at John Carroll University. She directed HOLIDAY at JCU this past November. Other directing credits include NO EXIT, A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN, THE RIMERS OF ELDRITCH, BUS STOP, THE HASTY HEART and LIFE IN THE DARK, an original musical. She has also worked at Bowling Green State University, Maryville College in Knoxville, Tennessee and the Huron Playhouse, Huron, Ohio.

Mary Katherine Thomas (asst. director and stage manager) is a Senior majoring in English and Communications. This is her fourth production at JCU. She most recently appeared in THE CRUCIBLE as Mary Warren. She also appeared in THE MATCHMAKER and FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.

The play takes place in Central Ohio
during the early 1930's.
It is late summer.

ACT I

Scene I: Friday afternoon

Scene II: late that same night

ACT II

Scene I: Saturday morning

INTERMISSION

Scene II: later that same night

ACT III

Scene I: Sunday morning

Scene II: a week later

Scene III: two days later

Meg McGarry (Margaret) has been part of Euclid Lyric Guild and Euclid Little Theatre for the past 25 years, singing, dancing, and acting in IRENE, FLOWER DRUM SONG, DESTRY, BRIGADOON, MAME, and SHE LOVES ME. She loves to perform locally with her talented tenor husband, Jack McGarry.

Lisa J. Eckley (Pauline) has wandered around theatre since high school. She has appeared as Agnes in THE SHADOW BOX, Marion in LETTERS TO LUCERNE, and sang in SOUTH PACIFIC. Most recently Lisa played Felicity in Tom Stoppard's THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND at John Carroll. Her love for theatre is shared with her love for opera, particularly Puccini.

Tim Keo (Philip) recently appeared at John Carroll in THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND. Other credits include Monseur Loyal in TARTUFFE and the pursued soldier in DOVER Playhouse's MACBETH.

Nancy Shimonek (Clara) holds a BFA in Acting and Directing from Kent State University. She has performed with the Porthouse Theatre Company at Blosson Music Center, The Ohio Performing Arts Company, Based in Youngstown, and spent the last two summers in the acting company of the Sterling Renaissance Festival in central New York. Favorite roles include Helena in ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, Audrey in AS YOU LIKE IT, and Mary Titfer ("Audition") in TALKING WITH... Nancy currently works for Eastern Onion Entertainment as Talent Coordinator.

Jim Beck (set and lighting design) comes to John Carroll from the University of Missouri. Some of his design works include HOLIDAY, CRIMES OF THE HEART, and LIVE OAK, an original script for which he earned special commendation from the American College Theatre Festival. Most recently, Jim designed and directed John Carroll's production of THE CRUCIBLE and will be designing and directing BABY, a musical comedy, in the fall.

Victoria Karnafel Glivar (Charlotte) has acted in New York, including off-Broadway as Allison in LOOK BACK IN ANGER at the 78th Street Playhouse. She recently appeared as Gwen II in Nancy Kiefer's GWEN AND GWEN, Jesse in 'NIGHT, MOTHER, and Hanna in NIGHT OF THE IGUANA. Her film credits include the sad-looking girl in THE DEER HUNTER. Victoria is a graduate of the University of Akron in theatre arts and dance and teaches acting to adults at the Bedford Community Center. She is married and lives in Cleveland.

Thom Bowers (Cliff) has nine years of theatre experience as an actor, director, and set designer. He recently appeared in Notre Dame College's SISTERS IN PARADISE. Other recent shows include John the Baptist/Judas in GODSPELL and Earl in Nancy Kiefer's HEAD OF A BLUE-EYED MAN. Thom also designed the world premiere production of Kiefer's GWEN AND GWEN at the Mapleleaf Theatre in Madison, Ohio.

PROGRAM NOTE:

According to Catholic theology, there exist nine choirs or orders of angels. They are:

1. Seraphim
2. Cherubim
3. Thrones
4. Dominations
5. Virtues
6. Powers
7. Principalities
8. Archangels
9. Angels

The Eighth Order, or Archangels, are sent to earth by God as messengers. St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael are the three Archangels mentioned in Holy Scripture.

Special Thanks to:

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Mary Gygli