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Marinello One Acts: Calm Down Mother, and The Actor's Nightmare

Megan Terry

Christopher Durang

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THE JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

Presents

Marinello One Acts

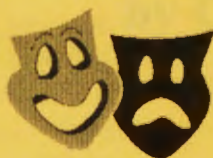
Calm Down Mother

by Megan Terry

Directed by Elizabeth Wood



and

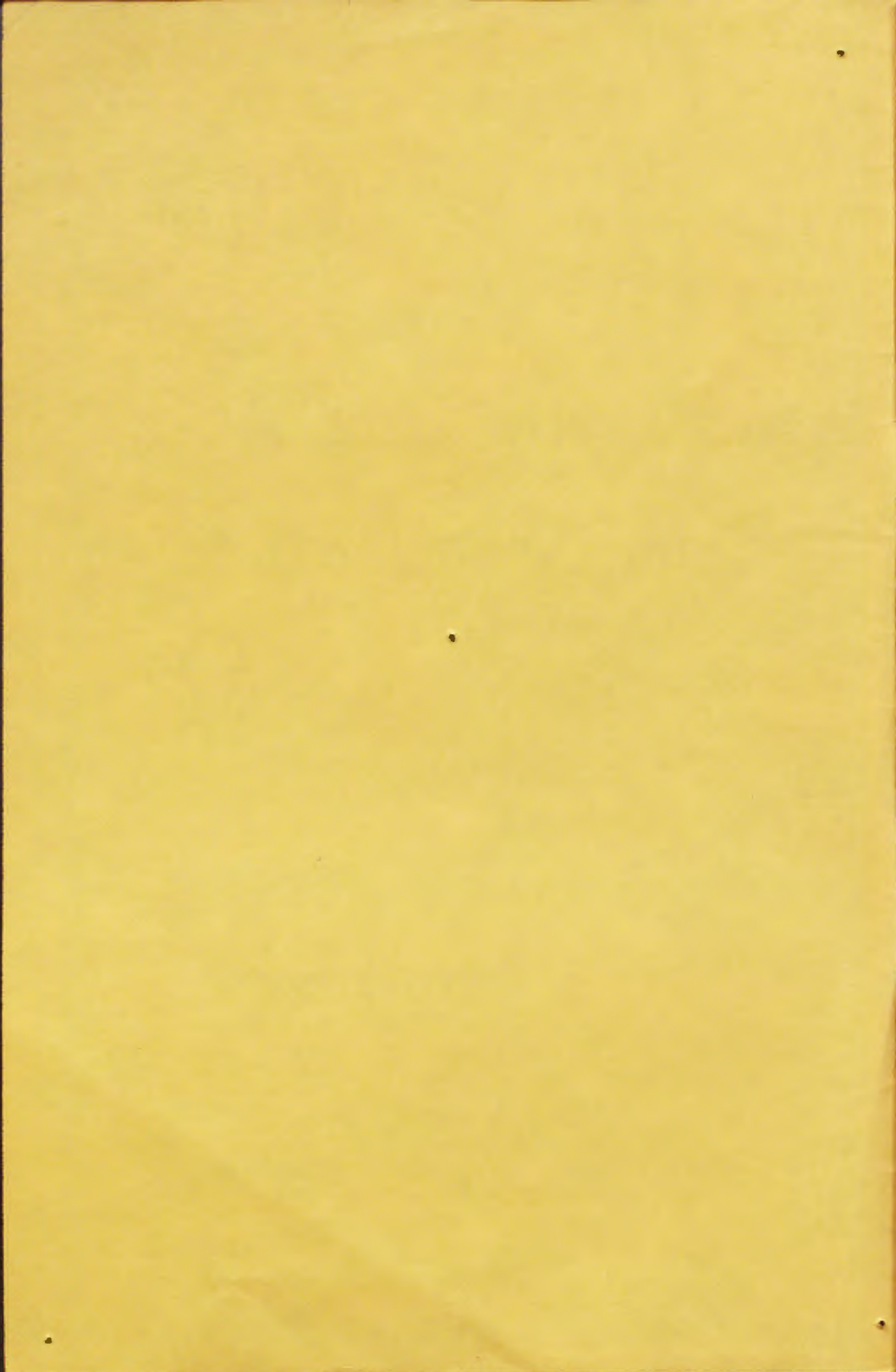


The Actor's Nightmare

by Christopher Durang

Directed by Leah Kramer

Calm Down Mother presented with the permission of Samuel French, Inc. *The Actor's Nightmare*
presented with the permission of Dramatists Play Service, Inc.



JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
Department of Communications

Proudly Presents

Calm Down Mother

by Megan Terry

Directed by Elizabeth Wood

The Actor's Nightmare

by Christopher Durang

Directed by Leah Kramer

Marinello Little Theatre
February 13-14 and 20-21 at 8 pm
February 22 at 2 pm

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The Actor's Nightmare presented with the permission of Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Calm Down Mother is a collection of unrelated scenes and transitions centered around the theme of women denying the roles that their bodies categorically place them in. These are stories about breaking away from the social norms and females being uncontrollably defined by their bodies. Terry suggests that perhaps there is more to a woman's life than her breasts and womb may suggest.

Elizabeth Wood
Director

I want to redress the balance! If a Martian came here to visit our culture, it would think it was visiting a homosexual society. Men run everything.

Megan Terry

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: *CALM DOWN MOTHER*

Calm Down Mother, subtitled *A Transformation for Three Women*, by Megan Terry, was first performed by the Open Theatre in March of 1965 at the Sheridan Playhouse in New York City. Megan Terry has the reputation of being the founder of the New American Theatre and the "Mother of American Feminist Drama." Terry also co-founded the Women's Theatre Council in 1972, and its successor, the New York Theatre Strategy. These few citations, along with over 60 plays to her credit, set the scene for Terry's feminist movement on the stage, for *Calm Down Mother* is only one of Terry's many dramas centered around the feminist movement in the 1960s.

Feminism has always existed in one form or another. However, throughout history its forms have been numerous and varied. Today, feminism seems to be too often seen as a "bad" word; one reserved for women who take an extremely radical approach to feminism. While radical feminist groups do exist, the vast majority of the American female population does not practice radical feminism. Feminism means a vast amount of things to different people, yet all meanings have one common quality: the need for equal rights between the two sexes. Inequality between the sexes can be seen throughout history. Aristotle himself said, "the role of the freeman over a slave is one kind of rule; that of the male over the female is another." Inequality is still present in today's society, for the lack of affordable childcare and unequal pay for equal work are facts that women are forced to live with every day.

CAST:

CALM DOWN MOTHER

Woman 1.....Christine Castro*
Woman 2.....Molly Meehan
Woman 3.....Lisa Viscusi

Synopsis of Scenes:

- I: A convenience store in New York City
- II: An apartment somewhere in the Midwest
- III: A southern mental institution
- IV: A run-down apartment in New Jersey
- V: A tenement style apartment in New York City

THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE

George Spelvin.....Patrick Scanlan
Meg.....Breianne Knight
Sarah Siddons.....Jeannine Allee
Ellen Terry.....Cari Kotcher
Henry Irving.....Brian Sinchak
Executioner.....Patrick Lafferty

DIRECTOR'S NOTE: *THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE*

It's opening night...you are the leading actor in the latest Broadway show...and you have no recollection of a single line of the play...what exactly do you do at curtain time?! This is the desperate situation facing George in *The Actor's Nightmare*, and one which would qualify as any actor's worst nightmare. This horrifying dilemma is merely the beginning of Christopher Durang's play which parodies drama, show business and many well-known playwrights, such as Samuel Beckett and Noel Coward. The first production of *The Actor's Nightmare* was presented alongside Durang's best-known work *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You* at Playwrights Horizons in 1981. Both plays share a common theme in their satiric portrayal of the Catholic church, exemplified in George's remark that he "doesn't know any Catholic **adults**." Regarded as one of the leading comic dramatists in Contemporary American Theatre, Durang is famous for such comic attacks, as well as for his style of black humor, parody and slapstick. Durang received his B.A. at Harvard and earned his M.F.A. in playwriting at Yale in 1974, where almost all of his dramas were originally produced. This particular comedy employs the play-within-a-play technique and follows George as he jumps from play to play in what is truly *The Actor's Nightmare*...

Leah Kramer
Director

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director-- <i>Calm Down Mother</i>	Elizabeth Wood*
Director-- <i>The Actor's Nightmare</i>	Leah Kramer
Stage Manager-- <i>Calm Down Mother</i>	Susan Filon
Stage Manager-- <i>The Actor's Nightmare</i>	Matthew Polito
Set Designer.....	Tyler Dorsey
Costume Designer.....	Jill Gates
Lighting Designer.....	Michael Molloy*
Sound Operator.....	Aaron Berger
Light Board Operator.....	Christina Vela
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Eileen Conner*
Running Crew.....	Amy Abdelnour
House Manager/Box Office.....	Amy Mc Farland Ryan O'Connor
Set Crew.....	CO 275, Tyler Dorsey
Program.....	Eileen Conner*
Graphic Design/Publicity.....	Meg Martin, Dan Babic

*Alpha Psi Omega

Alpha Psi Omega is the national theater honorary fraternity. Members of Alpha Psi Omega are committed to the production of quality collegiate theater throughout the United States. Induction eligibility into the fraternity is determined by participation in theater.

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

Please Note

Please refrain from eating, drinking or smoking in the Marinello Little Theatre. 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.

ABOUT THE CAST: *CALM DOWN MOTHER*

Christine Castro (Woman 1), a senior communications major, was last seen on the JCU stage as "Olivia" in *Twelfth Night*. She also appeared in *Prelude to a Kiss* and *The Runner Stumbles*, and has done minor set construction and publicity work. She misses the Dobama Theatre, where she appeared two years ago in the first installment of *The Realistic World*. Christine thanks her family and friends for their continued support, and especially her mom and dad for letting her pursue a dream.

Molly Meehan (Woman 2) is a senior communications major from Chicago, IL. She has appeared on the John Carroll Stage in *Twelfth Night*, *Head of a Blue-Eyed Man*, and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Molly hopes to go on to get her MFA in acting after graduation. She would like to dedicate this performance to Sean and all her housemates.

Lisa Viscusi (Woman 3) is a senior at John Carroll and is happy to get the chance to be in a Marinello production before she graduates in May. Lisa is an English major and hails from Pittsburgh, PA. She has had previous stage experience in high school, but this is her first chance to be back on the stage in college. She is excited to work with Molly, Christine and Beth on this play and is glad to be able to perform in John Carroll's production of *Calm Down Mother*.

ABOUT THE CAST: *THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE*

Jeannine M. Allee (Sarah Siddons) is a pre-med sophomore appearing in her first role at John Carroll. She has played characters ranging from a scatter-brained Russian peasant to a sophisticated matchmaker, to a nightclub evangelist, to a diva-turned-lush. But as far as she's concerned you can't get enough theatre. She won't be satisfied until she can say, "Why yes, I *am* a doctor, *and* I've played one on TV." She thanks everyone for supporting this production with their attendance, especially her family and friends.

Breianne Knight (Meg) is a freshman, uh, but that is a politically incorrect term...first year student. She is a Gemini, likes to dunk her oreos in milk, and once built a birdhouse out of popsicle sticks. The birdhouse fell apart, scarring her for life and eventually causing her to endure an endless existence of writing and acting, whereupon she accepted a role in *The Actor's Nightmare* just to fill the empty void within her soul.

Cari Kotcher (Ellen Terry) is a senior communications major who plans to go to New York and be a rockette after she graduates in May. She has been acting since she was ten. This is her third play at John Carroll, her first two being *The Good Woman of Setzuan* and *Shooting Gallery*. She is sad to be leaving this fine institution, and thanks all the little people who she will not forget when she is famous someday. Cari dedicates this performance to her parents, who have been there for her every step of the way.

Patrick W. Lafferty (Executioner) is a senior accounting major. Last semester he was "The Man" in *Shooting Gallery*. At the end of this semester he will be moving on to bigger things, not better, just bigger. This is the first time he has ever been an executioner and he likes it so much it scares him. This performance is dedicated to Mark, simply because he would think it was cool.

Patrick Scanlan (George Spelvin) was first introduced to theatre by the Franciscans of Padua High School. There he played "Julian" in Agatha Christie's *Unexpected Guest*, "King" in *My Favorite Year*, and "Tevye" in *Fiddler on the Roof*. His professional career took off when he was picked for the role of the Key Bank mascot, Key Toon, a seven foot tall red key. Although he was tempted by the glow of the national spotlight, he decided to continue his schooling. He exploded into John Carroll theatre as a stage crew member in *Twelfth Night*, where his duties included polishing the record player. Now this University Player is making his JCU acting debut as "George" in *The Actor's Nightmare*.

Brian Sinchak (Henry Irving) is a freshman secondary education and communications major. In high school he was in a total of nine shows, the highlight being his role as "El Gallo" in *The Fantasticks* his senior year. At John Carroll he was involved in the fall musical *Merrily We Roll Along* and is currently assisting Karen Gygli with the mainstage show *Buried Child*. He thanks the "Manny" gang and his family.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF: *CALM DOWN MOTHER*

Elizabeth Wood (Director) is a junior communications major hailing from Westerville, Ohio. This is Beth's first stab at directing and prays to God that everything "works" in the end. Under normal conditions she is found performing on the stage and not in the backstage arts. Her most notable roles on the Carroll stage include "Maria" in *Twelfth Night*, "Lenny" in *Crimes of the Heart*, and most recently "Mary Flynn" in *Merrily We Roll Along*. Beth looks forward to studying to get her MFA in acting after graduation, in order to maybe manage a restaurant and not just wait tables. If you ever see her holding a "starving actor" sign on the streets of Chicago or New York City, please drop a quarter in her cup. Beth would like to thank her simply marvelous company for putting up with her never-ending need for perfection.

Susan Filon (Stage Manager) is a senior humanities major who has been involved with theatre since the fourth grade. She has done costumes and makeup for several shows at JCU, including *Playboy of the Western World*, *Glass Menagerie* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. She has also worked for community theatres and the Cleveland Opera doing wigs and makeup. She aspires to be the Queen of the World or a Spice Girl after graduation, and would like to thank her family, friends, and Tank Girl for inspiration.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF: *THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE*

Leah Kramer (Director) is a junior in the wonderful world of communications here at John Carroll. This is the first real show she has directed, and she would like to thank the guinea pigs that worked with her last semester in directing class. She would also like to dedicate this work to her much-missed classmates from directing. When's the party, guys? Leah hopes to continue her work in all areas of theatre after college...maybe ...or maybe work in television production.....or films.....or.....oh, who knows...Wish you luck!

Matthew Polito (Stage Manager) is a Junior majoring in English. He is making his John Carroll debut.

Tyler Dorsey (Scenic Design) is a junior communications and (accidental) biology major from Parma. This is his second opportunity as a scenic designer to arrange furniture onstage. He hopes to direct in the television and film industry someday.

Michael Molloy (Light Design) is a sophomore political science major. This is his fifth consecutive production at JCU and he hopes to continue this trend through the rest of his college career. He credits his theatre interest to his high school theatre teacher, Mr. Dan Karcher. He would like to dedicate his work to his parents and all his friends who have supported him in his theatre interest.

SPECIAL THANKS

Keith Nagy
Dr. Karen Gygli*
Neil P. Ryan*
Melissa Somrack*
Cleveland Opera
Patipan Paktipatt*
JCU Communications Department

DON'T MISS

Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*
Directed by Karen Gygli
Kulas Auditorium
March 27, 28 and April 3 and 4 at 8 pm
April 5 at 2 pm



Spring
1998