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Love in Pieces and Urban Myths: One-Acts

Sarah Morton

Nancy Keifer

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2001

John Carroll University
Communications Department
Presents

The Marinello One Acts

LOVE IN PIECES

Written by Sarah Morton
Directed by Carol Laursen

Urban Myths

Written and Directed by
Nancy Kiefer

Marinello Little Theatre
October 4, 5 & 6th 8 p.m.
October 7th 2 p.m.

John Carroll University
Communications Department

Welcomes you
To

LOVE IN PIECES

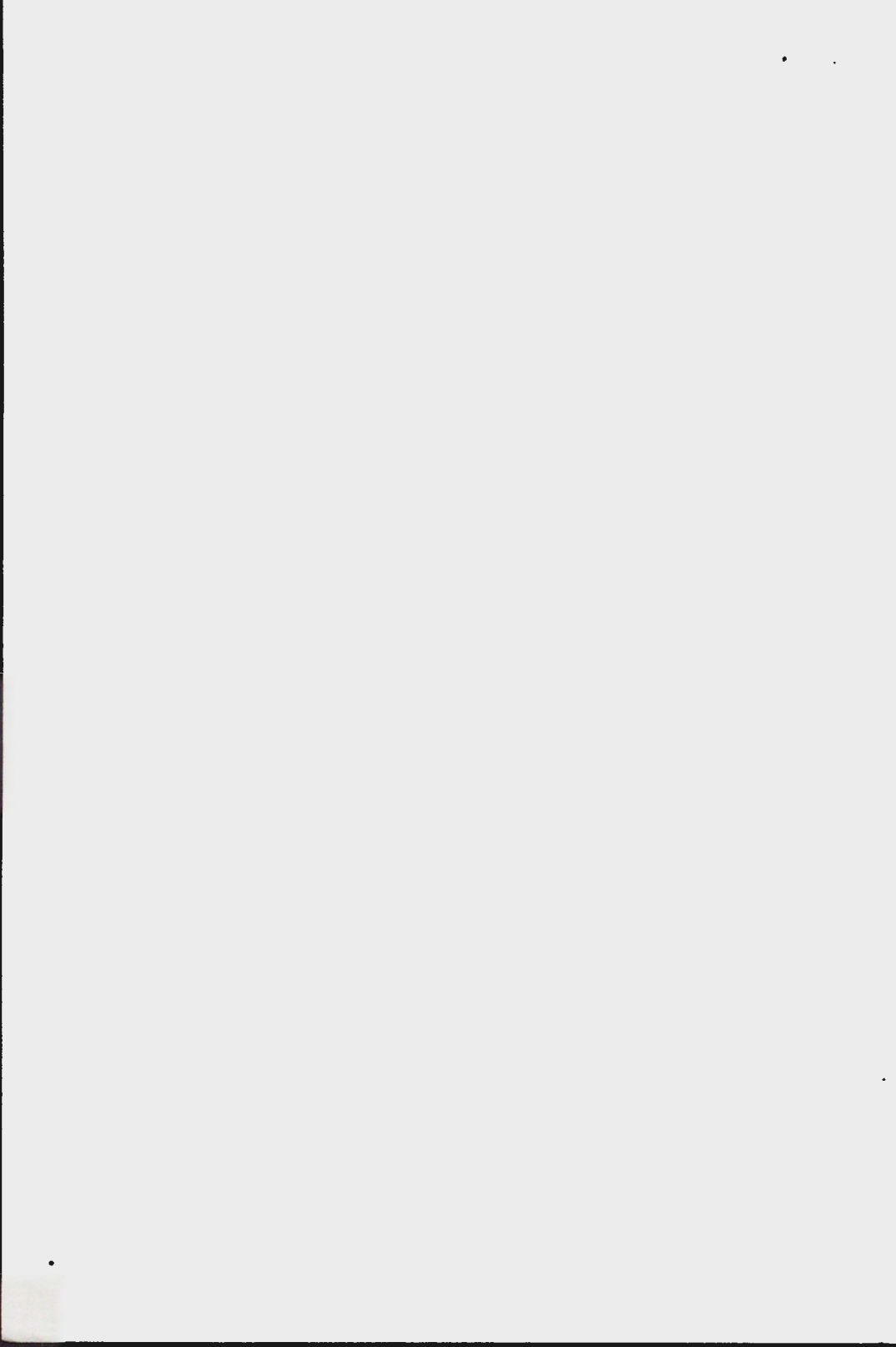
Written by Sarah Morton
Directed by Carol Laursen

And

Urban Myths

Written and Directed by
Nancy Kiefer

Marinello Little Theatre



Cast

(In Order of Appearance)

LOVE IN PIECES

1st Piece

Ophelia.....Elizabeth Krymski

Laertes.....Joey Humphries

2nd Piece

Orpheus.....Eric Smith

Eurydice.....Heather Jackson

Urban Myths

Tiffany/Maryanne.....Sara Lepro

Janet/Candice.....Michelle Price

Ellen.....Erica Wilke

Dale.....Jeff Larson

We will donate \$1 from the sale of each ticket to the
September 11th Fund. This fund is administered by
United Way and the New York Community Trust to offer
immediate and long term aid to the victims, their
families, and the communities affected by
the events of September 11.

Meet the Cast

LOVE IN PIECES

Oh woe is me,

To have seen what I have seen; see what I see.

~Hamlet by Shakespeare

Had I the lips of Orpheus and his melody
to charm the maiden daughter of Demeter and
her lord, and by my singing win you back from death,
I would have gone beneath the earth, and not the hound
of Pluto could have stayed me, not the ferryman
of ghosts, Charon at his oar. I would have brought you back
to life.

~ Alcestis by Euripides

Joey Humphries (Laertes) - This is Joey Humphries' first time acting since his portrayal of a farmer in his 3rd grade play. Thirteen years later, Joey, a senior, has stayed backstage, until today. He has experience building sets and doing lights and costumes for the one act plays and the Fall and Spring Productions in Kulas Auditorium. He is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, a Communications major and a swell guy to know. Oh – and don't forget to listen to his radio show on Monday evenings!

Heather Jackson (Eurydice) - Heather has recently turned down a Broadway audition to appear in the JCU One Acts. When asked her thoughts on the play she replied, "I love this play because I've never had the chance to wear a lizard scarf on stage before." Heather was last seen hiding out in an annex.

Production Staff

Stage Manager-	Colleen Hylwa (Urban Myths) Bonnie Brunelle (Love In Pieces)
Asst. Stage Manager-	Sharon Rudolph
Asst. Director-	Robert Therkelson (Love In Pieces)
Sound Board Operator-	Diane Ivec
House Manager/ Ticket Sales-	Bridget Fox Steve Halody
PR Manager/ Publications-	Hannah Fritzman
Set Designer-	Keith Nagy
Lighting Designer- Electrics Crew:	Joe Humphries Charles Strader
Running Crew:	Mary Beth Mershon Jeannie Kidera Jenny Basa

Michelle Lee Price (Janet/Candice) - Michelle is a senior at JCU majoring in English and Communications. *Urban Myths* is her acting debut. This past summer she was an intern at WEWS NewsChannel 5 here in Cleveland and hopes to pursue a career in broadcasting upon graduation in May. In her spare time, Michelle continues her lawsuit against Disneyland for having been accosted by one of the Three Little Pigs while visiting the amusement park.

Erica Lee Wilke (Ellen) - Erica is a senior Communications major and Political Science minor. In high school, she appeared in *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. *Urban Myths* is her JCU debut. She spent the summer interning at WOIO/WUAB 19/43-TV where she had the opportunity to interview pop groups O-Town and The Backstreet Boys. Upon graduation she plans to pursue a career in the news industry as a field reporter. Erica is very happy to have recently successfully completed her gang initiation by grabbing people coming out of shopping malls, gift wrapping them, and locking them in the trunks of their cars.

Elizabeth Krymski (Ophelia) - Elizabeth is a junior and this is her third John Carroll Production. Past performances include the role of Bessie in *Marvin's Room* as well as the character of Miep Gies in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Originally from Michigan, Lizzy is a Communications/English major who hopes to someday work in the field of Public Relations. She would like to thank her parents (especially her mother for being such an inspiration) and her friends for their constant love and unending support.

Eric Smith (Orpheus) - Eric is a senior at John Carroll University, majoring in Communications. He was raised in the small town of Cranberry, Pennsylvania, where he learned to be an acrobat and an expert crop harvester. Amazingly, Eric has been cast in every show he has ever auditioned for, which includes, exclusively, *Love In Pieces*. He enjoys working out and long walks on the beach. Someday, Eric plans to open a martial arts school under the infamous master of the small walking fist, Granel Master Sta. Finally, Eric would like to thank God for sending His Son, his family for the their time, his teachers for keeping him in line, and his friends for their friendship.

Urban Myths

Jeff Larson (Dale) - In high school Jeff appeared in *The Music Man* and *Rest Assured* and starred in the JCU one act production of *Halloween* last fall. Jeff is a junior Communications major, an RA in Murphy Hall, and does a WJCU radio show on Tuesday mornings. We are fortunate to have Jeff performing with us this weekend since he recently ate Pop Rocks candy, drank Pepsi, and blew up. Jeff continues in his quest to find Elvis and Tupac.

Sara Lepro (Maryann/Tiffany) - Sara is a junior Communications major with a Spanish minor. This is her third appearance on the JCU stage. Previous plays include *Twilight Los Angeles* and *The Wheel*. She especially thanks her family, the great cast and playwright/director Nancy Kiefer for all she's done. Sara was recently awarded a huge cash settlement from the Disney Corp. for suffering severe emotional trauma when, as a child visiting Disney World, she saw Mickey Mouse and Goofy walking around with their heads under their arms.

Center American College Theatre Festival and Fourth Freedom Forum Award for her Holocaust play, *Radiant Boys*. She is also the recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Playwriting Fellowship. Three of Kiefer's plays have been produced at JCU in both Kulas and the Little Theatre; *Could Angels be Blessed* (world premiere), *The Eighth Order* (world premiere), and *Head of Blue-eyed Man*. *Urban Myths* was a finalist in the 1991 Actor's Theatre of Louisville Ten-minute Play competition. Kiefer has taught in the Communications Department at JCU since 1988, teaching a variety of courses including playwriting and screenwriting. She is a member of the Dramatist Guild. She is also very happy to have recently received a check for \$5,000 and a free copy of Windows 98 from Bill Gates himself along with a trip to Disney World for being one of the first 1300 people in the US to send Microsoft's E-mail Tracking Message to all the people on her email list!

Carol Laursen (Director, *Love In Pieces*) - Carol Laursen received her MFA in Acting from the Professional Actor's Training Program at Ohio University as well as a BA in Math and Biology from Reed College. In 1977, she inadvertently joined a creative ensemble and has been acting and directing since. She is pleased to be directing for the first time at JCU where she is beginning her second year teaching for the Communications Department. Ms. Laursen lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband, two children and a recently adopted cat named Pez.

Keith Nagy (Set Designer)- Mr. Nagy is an assistant professor for communications at John Carroll University and previously served as Director of Production at Cleveland Opera for 16 years. He also was the resident designer for the Cleveland Opera and has designed sets and lights for such favorites as *The Turk in Italy*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata* and *Carmen*. Mr. Nagy has designed the sets and lights for a number of John Carroll University including *Twelfth Night*, *Twilight Los Angeles*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Buried Child*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Marvin's Room*, *Crimes of the Heart* and *Blithe Spirit*. At Lakeland Theatre Mr. Nagy was the set designer for *Company*, *Brighton Beach Memories* and light designer for *I Do! I Do!* He was both lighting and set designer for *Death of a Salesman*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *I Hate Hamlet*, and *A Little Night Music*. Mr. Nagy has just

Meet the Production Staff

Bonnie Brunelle (Stage Manager, *Love in Pieces*)- As a senior, Bonnie has yet to grow out of experiencing purely the sake of experience. The cast and crew view her as somewhat of an oddity since she accepted the position of stage manager without expecting credit hours, a work-study paycheck, or even points toward Alpha Si Omega in return. Verily, she enjoys having an artistic outlet and has worked on six shows at JCU prior to *Love in Pieces*. She works strictly behind the scenes. Her greatest dream is to stay in school for life to study theology, philosophy and languages, and to avoid a "real" job at all costs. However, she realizes that this is dilusional and possibly selfish, so she has set the more realistic goal of obtaining a doctorate and remaining in academia as an instructor. Did we mention she is the Little Theatre Society secretary? "manu sinistra scribo"

Colleen Hlywa (Stage Manager, *Urban Myths*) - Over the past three years, Colleen has enjoyed working on a variety of shows at JCU. She has appeared on stage in *Sunday in the Park with George*, *The Burial*, and *Present Tense* and worked backstage on *Marvin's Room*. As a Communications major, Colleen hopes to graduate and pursue a career in the arts, but for now she is happy with her cocktail waitress job at Club 33 on New Orleans Square in Disneyland where she serves hard liquor to anyone who comes in, including small children.

Nancy Kiefer (Director, *Urban Myths*)- Nancy Kiefer has written many plays, including *Gwen and Gwen* (Samuel French), *The Eighth Order*, *Could Angels be Blessed*, *The Illustrated Woman* (all with Dramatic Publishing), *The Witch of Endor*, *Dryope and Iole*, *Head of a Blue-eyed Man*, *A Place at the Feast of Love*, and *Radiant Boys*. Her plays have been widely produced around the country, including New York City, Los Angeles, Memphis, Las Vegas and Kansas City. She is the recipient of three national playwriting awards; Morton R. Sarett National Playwriting Award from UNLV for *A Place at the Feast of Love*, Michelle Renee Gilder-sleeve Award for *The Illustrated Woman*, and mostly recently a Kennedy

Playwright's Note

Urban Myths

From Aristophanes in the 5th century BC through William Shakespeare, Richard Sheridan, Oscar Wilde, Noel Coward, Neil Simon, Christopher Durang and Mel Brooks, comedy has always been big business in both theatre and films. Having written both comedic and serious plays and screenplays, I can tell you that writing comedy is a very liberating experience. The comedy writer has far greater freedom than the writer of serious drama. She needn't worry about motivation and logical progression of the story. She need not be consistent, congruous, sane, logical, ordered, or reverent.

The comedies we view in both film and theatre fall into four categories; high or intellectual, farce or low comedy, generic comedy of the Neil Simon variety, and black or dark comedy. It is into this latter category that *Urban Myths* falls.

This type of comedy generally combines comic and serious material in a harsh, often brutal contrast. The audience's laughter is uneasy, hesitant and frequently bitter. By their very nature, urban legends make marvelous material for this type of play. According to urban legend tracker Peter Van Der Linden, they appear mysteriously and spread spontaneously. They contain elements of horror and humor (the perfect combination for a dark comedy), and make good storytelling. Occasionally they are based on some small grain of truth, but that grain soon gets lost in the gross distortions and embellishments that the storytellers add as the legends spread through our culture.

As outrageous, bizarre, violent and offensive as urban legends so frequently are, we laugh at them because we do not take them seriously. No real person could possibly be that stupid, gullible, or unlucky. However, despite their dubious origins, Jan Harold Brunvand, English professor at the University of Utah and author of several books on the subject, feels they are an important part of American folklore.

In light of the recent horrific events in America, I would like to add that scene one of this play was written ten years ago. Scenes two and three were written last summer, and the play was slotted for production last spring. I mention this because of the violent and irreverent nature of many of the legends and the play's casual attitude towards violence and death. In consideration of the sensitivities of audience members, we have deleted certain legends dealing with air travel and some specific violent crimes that were simply too close to the heart of the atrocities committed on September 11th.

completed designing both sets and lights for Halle Theatre production of *Cabaret*. His design work has included opera, ballet, film, live theatre, and industrial shows. His designs have been seen at the Seattle Opera, Opera Carolina, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Michigan Opera Theatre, Connecticut Opera and Opera de Puerto Rico. Mr. Nagy's local work in the theatre has been seen at Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Dobama, The Halle Theatre, Karamu, Porthouse Theatre, and Berea Summer Theatre. Mr. Nagy, who is a member of the United States Scenic Artists local #829, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre from California State Polytechnic University and his Master's degree from Ohio University. Mr. Nagy's most recent credits include light and settings for the Halle Theatre's productions of *Rags* and *Cabaret* and lighting design for Dobama's critically acclaimed production of *Wit*.

Charles Strader (Electrics Crew) - Charles Strader is a freshman at John Carroll and this is his first set of JCU One Acts. His previous acting experience includes playing Richard Stanley in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. He has memorized and acted alone in *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *Titanic*, *Is There A Comic In The House* and, *The Hardy Boys and The Mystery of Where Babies Come From*. This year, however, he is trying lighting by learning from Joe Humphries, the best there is in this field. Despite him being vertically challenged, he thinks this that he could become big in show business. He hopes to learn much from this experience and one day show the theatre goers of JCU what he's got. Until that time, and for these plays, when you see the lights go on, think about him and know he is watching every move you make.

Special Thanks to...

LOVE IN PIECES

Benny
Sheere
Celeste
Karen Korzenko
Kelly Klima
Ed Kernan
Chris Polonsky
Roger Truesdell
Eric
Granjon
Trevor
Miranda for finding the teeth

Urban Myths

Karen Gygli
Keith Nagy
Hannah Fritzman
Jill Sberna