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Defying Gravity

Jane Anderson

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Defying Gravity

By Jane Anderson
Directed by Karen Gygli



A play about challengers, art,
lifesavers & spaghetti

April 12, 13, 19, 20 & 21

John Carroll University
Communications Department

Welcomes you to

Defying Gravity

By Jane Anderson
Directed by Karen Gygli

Produced by Special Arrangement with
SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Kulas Auditorium



Flight Crew

(In order of appearance)

Monet ~ Joseph Orlando

Elizabeth ~ Suzie Kostolansky

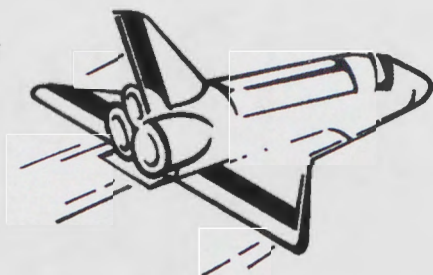
Teacher ~ Elizabeth Krymski

Betty ~ Erin Kaminski

Ed ~ Jacob Morris

C.B. ~ Charles E. Holmes, Jr.

Donna ~ Molly Webster



This play takes place, for the most part, in Florida, near the Kennedy Space Center, and in outer Space, in the recent past of the 1980's, the present day, and the future.

There will be no intermission. *Defying Gravity* runs for about 90 minutes. Please turn off any cell phones or pagers before the play begins. The use of flash photography can be distracting and dangerous to actors who are blinded for a minute by the flash, and it is distracting to the other audience members. We appreciate your cooperation in waiting until the end of the play to take photos, when the actors come out to greet audience members.

Challengers....

Charles E. Holmes Jr. (C.B.)

This is Charles' second time on the JCU stage. He last appeared in *Twilight Los Angeles*, also directed by Dr. Gygli. He is a Communications major and a Business minor. Charles plays football for John Carroll. He enjoys X-Files and The Bernie Mac Show. Charles would like to dedicate this show to his loving parents.

Erin Kaminski (Betty)

Erin is a freshman, currently majoring in Communications. Her productions in high school include, *The Music Man* and *Bang, Bang, You're Dead*, though *Defying Gravity* is her first major role. Erin dreams of one day becoming a professional actress, moving to Hollywood, living next to Sean Connery, and making regular appearances on *Celebrity Jeopardy*. She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support.

Elizabeth Krymski (Teacher)

Elizabeth is a junior Communication and English major. Her previous performances at Carroll have included the role of Bessie in *Marvin's Room*, Miep Gies in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Ophelia in the *One Act Love in Pieces*, and a recent role in *The Vagina Monologues*. Lizzy is extremely excited to have worked with the cast and crew of *Defying Gravity*. Through this experience, she has made wonderful friends and has created many great memories. She would like to dedicate this performance to her mother, for her constant love and endless support.

Suzie Kostolansky (Elizabeth)

Suzie is a senior Communications major. She has performed in John Carroll Productions such as *Live at 11* and *Best Intentions*. Suzie recently directed and acted in the spring production of *The Vagina Monologues*. In May, Suzie will return home to Chicago where she hopes to find a job -- so if you know anyone (wink, wink)...Thanks to family and friends for all of their love and support. And to Chris--Top of the Mornin' to you...e grazie di cuore.

Art...

Bill Amato (Assistant Sound Designer)

Heyo! Here he is, once again, to tickle your play-going fancy. This is Bill's first major endeavor into the world of Sound Design and what a crazy world it is. As always, the cast and crew made this production experience wonderful and he would like to thank them for it. Bill knows you will enjoy the show and hopes that you will return for many more! Some credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *West Side Story*, *Marvin's Room*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *A New York Actor*, and *Philadelphia*.

Kevin Dobill (Voice)

Kevin was last seen in the Marinello One Acts as "Barry the voiceover guy." He teaches free swing dance lessons every Wednesday at 8 pm in the gym annex. Kevin is certainly not new to the voice-over field. Remember the Kool Aid man saying "OH YEAH"? That was his second voice over job, when he was four and a half years old. Kevin is delighted to be part of *Defying Gravity*.

Karen Gygli (Director & Sound Designer)

Karen Gygli is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communications at John Carroll University. She teaches introduction to theater, African American theater history, Asian theater, acting and directing. Her productions at John Carroll have included: *Marvin's Room*, *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*; *Buried Child*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, and *The Good Woman of Setzuan*. She also serves as the president of the board for Red Hen Productions, Cleveland's Feminist Theater, and most recently directed *Body Outlaws* for Red Hen. She is looking forward to directing *Wait Until Dark* this fall at JCU, and visiting China this May to observe and study theater in Beijing and the Sino-Tibetan borderlands.

Jack Gutowitz (Stage Manager)

Jack is a senior Communications major with a Creative Writing minor. He likes to read and eat cherry pie. Jack enjoys long walks on the beach and root beer flavored candy, although he's allergic to it. Just kidding. But really, he is a talented, brilliant, and creative molecular man. He is also tall, dark, and handsome. Well, almost (but that's good enough!)

Jacob Morris (Ed)

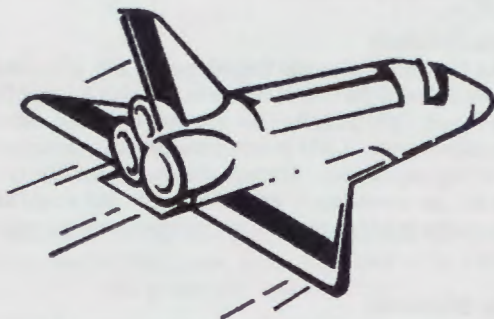
Jacob is a junior chemistry major. He's making his triumphant return to the stage after a three year hiatus. His favorite performances in high school included, *Finion's Rainbow*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and *Sherlock Holmes*. Jacob loves chocolate chip cookies, Hot Tamales, and Lizzy, Molly, Erin & Suzie. He would like to dedicate this play to all the great actors from Field High School.

Joseph Orlando (Monet)

This is Joe's third theatrical production, first on the JCU stage. His works in high school included, *Anything Goes* and *The Boyfriend*. He's very excited to be a part of the Defying Gravity Flight Crew. He is a 2nd degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and will major in Business Administration.

Molly Webster (Donna)

This is Molly's first year here at John Carroll. Molly spent her four years of high school dancing in ballet, jazz, and lyrical. She's here at John Carroll planning on majoring in Biology. She is extremely thankful for her amazing family and friends (you know who you are!) and greatly appreciates their love!



"We live by admiration, hope and love."

~William Wordsworth

Keith Nagy (Set & Lighting Designer)

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 just 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*.

Kelly Patten (Costume Designer)

Kelly graduated in May '01. A veteran to John Carroll theatre, she starred in the Spring '98 production of *Buried Child* as Shelly, Assistant Directed and starred in the fall '00 production of *Marvin's Room*, and also acted as Assistant Director/Stage Manager for the Marinello One Acts in the Spring of 2001. This is her first time coordinating costumes for a production. Many thanks go out to Karen and Keith for this opportunity, the cast for their ideas and enthusiasm, and to Kevin, her patient assistant.

Blaze Presti (Assistant Director)

Blaze is a Communications major and enjoys working at the Family Business and 95.5FM, The Fish. He is also a part of Campus Crusade for Christ at John Carroll University.

Charles Strader (Master Electrician)

This is Charles' fourth production at John Carroll. He has assisted in various forms of lighting for three of these shows (*Defying Gravity*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* and *Marinello One Acts*). Teased by Jack of being the Romeo of the crew he would like to reassure the audience that no small animals were harmed in this production. So sit back, relax and enjoy the performance. By the way, watch out for the strobe light!

Rob Therkelsen (Slide Projections)

Rob has taken part in many aspects of theatre production. He wrote and directed, *I Was Dropped on my Head as a Baby*. He assistant directed *Love in Pieces*. For *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Rob got drinks for the cast and crew. Additionally, during the One Acts this semester, Rob stood backstage. Rob would like you to know he has put everything he has into the slide projections...CLICK!

Color is my day-long obsession,
joy and torment.
-Claude Monet



& Spaghetti

Director's Notes

On the morning of January 28, 1986, I was sitting in my office at Bowling Green State University when a fellow grad student came flying into my office. "The shuttle!" he gasped. "It blew up! It just blew up on T.V.!" I hadn't even bothered to watch that morning because space shuttle launches had become so routine by that time, almost like watching a plane take off at an airport. This was a far cry from my grade school days, when all classes would stop, the teacher would turn on the TV, and we'd watch the rockets take off, or land, bobbing like a cork in the Gulf of Mexico. The Challenger launch was supposed to set up a "Classroom Earth" with live lessons broadcast from space. Of course the lesson taught to all of us by the first teacher to go up in a space shuttle, Christa McAuliffe, and the six other crew members, was very different than what had been intended. We learned that morning about the fragility of life, the fragility of human achievement, the temptation to give in to despair and fear in the midst of tremendous loss. How do we keep going when life hands us so many losses, when we are reminded so often of our human imperfection? These are some of the questions that playwright Jane Anderson explores in her play *Defying Gravity*, and this play seems most sadly appropriate in the face of so many lives lost this year all over the world. But the play is about loss in the quest for human achievement, as opposed to the senseless losses of war. It is a play full of dreams and memories, and it centers on Elizabeth, the daughter of the first teacher in space, as she grapples with her mother's legacy of courage and vision. Claude Monet, the nineteenth-century French Impressionist painter, guides Elizabeth in her quest. He too taught the world about the fragility of light, of reality, and taught the world to see in a new way. He too was obsessed with flight until he died in 1926, sixty years before the Challenger. Yet through the wonder of memory, dreams and theatre, both the 21st century Elizabeth and the 19th century Monet share the stage. Anderson brings all of these threads together in this gem of a play. What could be more important to wish for, especially today on this Planet Earth, than new eyes to see with and new courage to fly? The cast, the crew and I welcome you to *Defying Gravity* and hope you enjoy the show.

Lifesavers...

Special Thanks

to

Dr. Alan Stephenson

Sr. Mary Ann Flannery

Jill Sbema

Hannah Fritzman, Erica Wilke, Erika Thomas,

Christina Foos, & Chris Manderfield

Dr. Martin Friedman

Dr. Marianna Ortega

Kevin Cosgriff-Hernandez

Dr. Doug Bruce

Dr. Michael Setter

...for helping us to Defy Gravity

