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# The Nerd

Larry Shue

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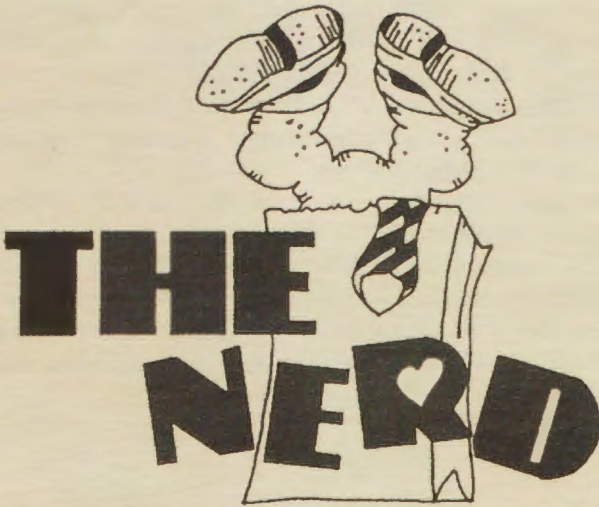
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JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

*presents*



by Larry Shue

Marinello Little Theater  
8 p.m.

OCTOBER 16-19, 23-26, 1991

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

*Department of Communications*

*presents*

# THE NERD

*by Larry Shue*

*Directed by*

**JEFF LOCKSHINE**

*Set Design by*  
**JAMES F. BECK\***

*Lighting Design by*  
**JAMES E. PARKER\***

*Sound Design by*  
**CARLTON GUC**

*The Nerd* is presented through special arrangement with  
**Dramatists' Play Service, Inc.,**  
440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Nerd. This word usually evokes some stereotypical response from most people. We think of horn-rimmed glasses, an untidy appearance, pocket protectors and an obnoxious laugh. This is accurate for much of this evening's performance.

However, *The Nerd* is much more than that. It is a story of a man merely attempting to pay back the good Samaritan that saved his life during the war. Our protagonist, Willum Cubbert, does his best to keep everyone happy when his rescuer, the annoying Rick Steadman pays an unexpected visit. Rick almost single-handedly destroys Willum's career, life and sanity with no intention of leaving.

*The Nerd* began its life in 1981 at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and starred its author Larry Shue as Willum Cubbert. One year later, the Royal Exchange Theatre Company in Manchester, England presented it and survived an unaccountably long run. Eventually the show opened in New York at the Helen Hayes Theater on March 22, 1987. It was directed by Charles Nelson Reilly and starred Mark Hamill as Willum Cubbert.

Unfortunately, the career of Larry Shue, also author of *The Foreigner*, ended early when he died in a plane crash in 1985.

The play does not rely on an extensive message or drawn out moral. It is simply the struggle between obligation, friendship, hospitality and sheer exasperation. Cast members, along with myself, often broke out in laughter during rehearsals, caught our breath and continued on. We hope that you enjoy watching these characters as much as we enjoyed creating them.

### \* 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. The Mu Theta Cast is chartered at John Carroll, and its members serve the local communities in their production of theater. Induction eligibility into the fraternity is determined by participation in theater.



## *PRODUCTION STAFF*

Director .....	JEFF LOCKSHINE
Set Design / Technical Director .....	JAMES F. BECK*
Lighting Design .....	JAMES E. PARKER*
Sound Design .....	CARLTON GUC
Assistant Director / Stage Manager .....	MARY LEE HUBER*
Production Manager .....	JAMES E. PARKER*
Master Carpenter .....	STEVE FINK*
Properties Mistress .....	SUE EBERIUS
Sound Board Operator .....	DENNIS M. KASPER
Light Board Operator .....	DAVID GARTON*
Publicity .....	TRACI EGAN, KAREN GYGLI*
Program Editors .....	JEFF LOCKSHINE, THOMAS WARD*
Faculty Advisor .....	KAREN GYGLI*
Box Office .....	JENNIFER WHITE*, ALPHA PSI OMEGA
Construction Crew .....	JOHN CILLI, ANDREA CLAPPER, PAUL BECKWITH*, DAVID GARTON*, THOMAS WARD*
Running Crew .....	SHARON BERILLA, CHRIS LAVELLE, ROBERT MILLEN
Lighting Crew .....	PAUL BECKWITH*, MARTIN GRAHAM, TRACEY MCGURK, RALPH OSTING, BRANDIE SACULLA, KATIE THOMAS, ANGELO TOMARCHIO, NICOLE VARRA

\* denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega.

## *SPECIAL THANKS*

American Commodore Tuxedo  
Peter Balunek  
Larry Bauman-Greenbrier Theater  
The Carroll News  
Joan Marie Dauber  
Kathy Dolan

Shawn Penwell  
Starship Earth Costumes  
Bob and Martha Svehla  
The Wolf -n- Pot  
WUJC  
Fr. Carl Zablotny

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Willum Cubbert .....	TIM KEO
Tansy McGinnis .....	JULIE CSANK
Axel Hammond .....	SHAWN PENWELL
Warnock Waldgrave .....	J. FRANCIS PARKS
Clelia Waldgrave .....	LAURA BELL
Thor Waldgrave .....	DANIEL FEINBERG
Rick Steadman .....	MARK S. SHEARER

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### PLACE:

The second floor apartment  
of Willum Cubbert, Terre Haute, Indiana.

### ACT I:

November 4

### ACT II:

Scene 1: Six days later.  
Scene 2: The following day.

- There will be one fifteen-minute intermission. -

*We ask that patrons refrain from eating, drinking or smoking in the theater.  
The taking of flash pictures is distracting and potentially dangerous to the  
actors during the performance.*

## WHO'S WHO ON THE PRODUCTION STAFF

**JEFF LOCKSHINE** (Director) is proud to be making his directorial debut with this production. Jeff has been involved in theatre for over ten years having responsibilities in practically all aspects of theatrical production. He has stage managed productions of *South Pacific* and *Cabaret*, designed sound for *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and designed lights for *Little Shop of Horrors* all at Greenbrier Theatre. Most recently, he served as Assistant to the Director for the Cleveland Play House production of *Abyssinia*. Jeff, equally at home on the stage as well as off, has appeared in over fifteen productions including Jack in *Into the Woods* at Greenbrier Theatre and Tom Sawyer in Beck Center/Berea Summer Theatre's *Big River*. He will complete his course work in December with a degree in Communications.

**MARY LEE HUBER** (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) is delighted to be assistant directing for the second time at JCU, her first being *The Fantasticks*. As a freshman, Mary Lee appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Matchmaker*, then went behind the scenes for *True West* and *Holiday*. Now a senior Math major, she enjoys singing and theatre to balance her more logical side. After graduation she hopes to join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for a year.

**JAMES F. BECK** (Set Design) comes to John Carroll from the University of Missouri where he served as Assistant Professor of Theatre and Faculty Technical Director. Additionally, he spent four years with Missouri's Professional Summer Repertory Theatre as Production Stage Manager and Designer/Technical Director. Some of his design works include *Crimes of the Heart*, *Angel*, *Hotel Paradiso*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *Live Oak*, an original script for which he earned a special commendation from the American College Theatre Festival. His work has been seen on the John Carroll stage for the productions of *Holiday*, *The Eighth Order*, and *The Crucible*, which he also directed. Jim will direct and design this fall's production of the musical *Baby*.

**JAMES E. PARKER** (Light Design) is a senior majoring in Communications from St. Louis, Missouri. At John Carroll, Jim was Technical Director for *Of Mice and Men* and has stage managed four shows, the latest being *The Crucible*. This past summer he worked as a carpenter for Cain Park's productions of *A Little Night Music* and *Gyps and Dolls*. In addition to *The Nerd*, Jim will design lights for JCU's fall musical, *Baby*.

**CARLTON GUC** (Sound Design) comes to the John Carroll production of *The Nerd* with over ten years of experience. Primarily a musician, he finds time to work behind the scenes as a sound designer. Most recent projects include *Phantom of the Opera - the Play*, *Driving Miss Daisy* and *My One and Only*.



## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

**TIM KEO** (Willum Cubbert), a fourth year Biology major, makes his third appearance in a John Carroll production. This past summer, Tim appeared as Phillip in the world premiere of Nancy Kiefer's *The Eighth Order* and in the spring as Birdboot in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound*. Tim was also active in theatrical productions throughout his years at St. Ignatius H.S. After graduation, he plans to seek a career in acting.

**JULIE CSANK** (Tansy McGinnis) is a senior English and Communications major. *The Nerd* is her second performance at John Carroll. She played Mrs. Campbell in last fall's Little Theater production of *The Man Who Climbed Pecan Trees*. She was also part of the running crew for last spring's *The Crucible*, and enjoyed an internship with the Cleveland Play House. Her first love is the theater, and she hopes to continue working in it after her graduation in May.

**SHAWN PENWELL** (Axel Hammond) is 25 and a native Clevelander. He is a senior Communications major at John Carroll and this performance marks his acting debut, so laugh damnit!

**JOSEPH FRANCIS PARKS** (Warnock Waldgrave), a sophomore at JCU, was born on the 30th day of July in the 1972nd year of Our Lord. Since then, his relatively simple life has been marked by three theatrical performances: the rabbi in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Mr. Foreman in *Enter Laughing*, and the Starkeeper in *Carousel*. Seemingly typecast, he will once again play an angry older man in tonight's show.

**LAURA BELL** (Clelia Waldgrave), a sophomore English major is in her first production at JCU. In high school she appeared in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. As a native of Berkley, Michigan, Laura faithfully follows hockey (the more violent the sport, the better), especially those Detroit Red Wings.

**DANIEL FEINBERG** (Thor Waldgrave) is a sixth grade student at the Agnon School. Since third grade, he has acted in many musicals at Beachwood Youth Theater. Some of the productions include *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Oliver*, *A Kid's Chorus Line*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. His most recent appearance was as Charlie in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

**MARK S. SHEARER** (Rick Steadman) is a third year Political Science student at JCU. He has performed in several productions at Central Catholic H.S. in Pittsburgh. He also appeared as Simon in JCU's production of *The Real Inspector Hound*. Mark resides in Monroeville, Pennsylvania when he isn't schooling at Carroll.



We hope that you enjoyed *The Nerd*.  
Don't miss the remainder of our exciting season:

B A B Y  
directed by James F. Beck

Kulas Auditorium  
November 8, 9, 15 and 16  
8 p.m.

C A T O N A  
H O T T I N R O O F  
directed by James Ealy

Marinello Little Theater  
December 6-8, 13-15  
8 p.m.

A M I D S U M M E R  
N I G H T ' S D R E A M  
directed by Karen Gygli

Kulas Auditorium  
March 27, 28, April 4 and 5  
8 p.m.

...plus a third production  
in the Marinello Little Theater  
in February!

WE HOPE YOU WILL ATTEND!