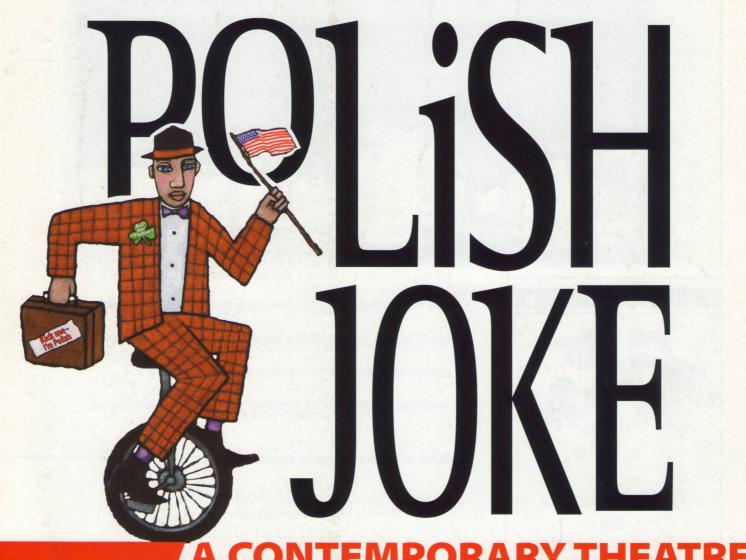
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A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE



# A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

**PRESENTS** 

# Polish Joke

July 12 - August 5 Previews July 6 - 11

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Editor: Barry Allar e-mail: barry@acttheatre.org Cover design by Jackie Phillips

A large print version of this Encore Arts Program is available from the house staff.

A Contemporary Theatre
Kreielsheimer Place
700 Union Street • Seattle, WA 98101
Administration: 206-292-7660 / Fax: 206-292-7670
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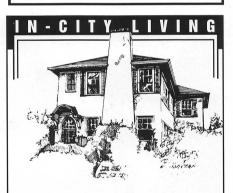


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# A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

GORDON EDELSTEIN Artistic Director

IIM LODER Managing Director

Vito Zingarelli Producing Director

presents

the world premiere of

# Polish Joke

by David Ives

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Roman, Ladislaw, Sanitation Worker,

Thaddeus, Doctor

Richard Ziman

Tasiu

Ted deChatelet

Voytek, Priest, Cop, Leon, O'Flanagan

John Aylward

Magda, Zosia, Florist, Enid,

Mrs. Flanagan, Nurse, Olga

Leslie Law

Helen, Portia, Woman in Black,

Rachel, Miss MacFlanagan

Nancy Bell

Director

Jason McConnell Buzas

Set Designer

Loy Arcenas

Costume Designer

Rose Pederson

Lighting Designer

Mary Louise Geiger

Sound Designer

**Dominic CodyKramers** 

Stage Manager

Anne Kearson

**Production Assistant** 

Jessica Bomball

Assistant Lighting Designer

**Don Crossley** 

#### There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Audience members are reminded to please silence all electronic devices such as cellular phones, pagers, and watch alarms prior to the performance.

The actors and stage manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

New York casting by Jay Binder.

Polish Joke was originally workshopped at the Ojai Playwrights Conference.

This world premiere of *Polish Joke* is sponsored by a generous grant from the Seattle Arts Commission.



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A Contemporary Theatre is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), the American Arts Alliance, the Washington State Arts Alliance, Theatre Puget Sound, and is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group. ACT is also a member of the Downtown Seattle Association and the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. This theatre operates under an agreement between LORT and Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States. Directors and choreographers at ACT are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, an independent national labor union.

A CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

# A Message from the Seattle Arts Commission

Thirty years ago, the City of Seattle recognized the pivotal role played by the arts in creating a vibrant, healthy community by forming the Seattle Arts Commission. While some were ready to turn the lights out on Seattle in June of 1971, a visionary mayor and city council were willing to lay the groundwork for the future of Seattle's artistic vitality.

Today, that vision continues and thrives.

The original ordinance that established the Seattle Arts Commission charged us with the responsibility to "Promote and encourage public programs to further the development and public awareness/ interest in the fine and performing arts."

One of the ways the Seattle Arts Commission fulfills that responsibility is by supporting organizations of the caliber and spirit demonstrated by A Contemporary Theatre. In addition to maintaining a high standard of artistic excellence, ACT is committed to reaching the broadest audience possible through community outreach programs.

For more than 35 years, ACT has contributed to the creative life of Seattle and we are proud to play a part in supporting their continued artistic success.

We also recognize the contribution you make, as an audience member. Thank you for participating in the lively, diverse arts community that helps make Seattle such an extraordinary place to live. Ultimately, you are the reason we support theatres and other arts organizations like ACT.

Susan B. Trappell

**Executive Director** 



# THE ACTORS



JOHN AYLWARD
Voytek, Priest, Cop,
Leon, O'Flanagan
Over the years, John
has performed
numerous roles at
ACT, most recently as
Willy Loman in Death

of a Salesman, Vic Parks in Man of the Moment and Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol. Some of his other favorites roles at ACT include Teddy in When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?, Zangler in On the Razzle, Shelly Levine in Glengarry Glen Ross and Daffyd Ap Llewellyn in A Chorus of Disapproval. As a member of the Seattle Repertory Theatre's resident acting company he played leading roles in Waiting for Godot, Scapin (with Bill Irwin), The Real Inspector Hound, Twelfth Night, The Miser, House of Blue Leaves, Curse of the Starving Class, Inspecting Carol, A Flea in Her Ear and Tartuffe among many others. John appeared on Broadway with Stacy Keach in The Kentucky Cycle, at the Dallas Theatre Center playing the mad Inspector Truscott in Joe Orton's Loot, and at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles with Psychopathia Sexualis. Television work includes the recurring role of Dr. Anspaugh on the hit NBC series "E.R." His film credits include Buddy, Instinct, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III. He has worked in numerous theatres throughout the U.S. and Canada including Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Berkeley Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Manitoba Theatre Center, the Old Globe Theatre, and he is a founding member of Seattle's Floating Theatre Company and The Empty Space Theatre, where he has also directed several productions.



NANCY BELL
Helen, Portia, Rachel,
Woman in Black, Miss
MacFlanagan
Nancy most recently
appeared earlier this
year at the Berkeley
Repertory Theatre in

Fall, a co-production with Baltimore's Center Stage, where it was staged last fall. Other regional theatre credits include work at South Coast Repertory, McCarter Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center, Studio Arena Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and the Paper Mill Playhouse. In New York, her work has been seen at New York Theatre Workshop and Ensemble Studio Theatre, among others. On television, she has appeared on "Chicago Hope," "Mad About You," "Newsradio," "Star Trek: Voyager," "Cover Me," "Payne," "The Journey of Alan Strange," "Guiding Light," and the television films Thirst and American Tragedy.



TED DECHATELET Jasiu
Ted recently moved to the Pacific Northwest from New York
City where he performed with the
Classic Stage Com-

pany, Queens Theatre in the Park, and the Culture Project, among others. Regional credits include the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Buffalo's Studio Arena Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, New American Theatre, and the Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, and North Carolina Shakespeare festivals. In January, he returned to New York to film the independent feature *Macbeth*, a comedy?, which will premiere at the New York Independent Film Festival in September. When not in Seattle, Ted lives in McMinnville, Oregon, with his partner Janet, and teaches at Linfield College.



LESLIE LAW
Magda, Zosia, Florist,
Enid, Mrs. Flanagan,
Nurse, Olga
Leslie is delighted to
be back at ACT,
having appeared here
over the years in Man

of the Moment, The Cover of Life, The Revengers' Comedies, and two seasons of A Christmas Carol. She has been seen at many area theatres including Book-It, Seattle Shakespeare Company, One World Theatre, Centerstage, Tacoma Actors Guild, The Bathhouse, AHA! Theatre, Civic Light Opera, and Seattle Repertory Theatre where she performed most recently in As You Like It, a co-production with Arizona Theatre Company. This winter she played Anna in the chamber musical After the Fair at the Village Theatre. A familiar face at Seattle Children's Theatre, her many productions there include Animal Farm, Time Again in Oz, Still Life with Iris, and Little Rock. Leslie is a graduate of the UW Professional Actor Training Program under Jack Clay.

# THE ACTORS



RICHARD ZIMAN
Roman, Ladislaw,
Sanitation Worker,
Thaddeus, Doctor
Richard is making his
Seattle debut in Polish
Joke. He was last seen
as Sir Toby Belch in

Twelfth Night at the Dallas Theatre Center. He originated the role of Schultz in Tennessee Williams' Not About Nightingales at the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain directed by Trevor Nunn, which he later performed on Broadway. Other Broadway shows include Epic Proportions, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, and Lost in Yonkers. Off-Broadway: Kit Marlowe, Julius Caesar, The Normal Heart, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, and How It All Began. Richard received a DramaLogue Award as Petruchio in The Taming of the Shrew for Shakespeare Festival LA. Regional: American Conservatory Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, the Alley Theatre in Houston, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Wilma Theatre. TV and films include "Law & Order, SVU", "Cosby," "100 Centre Street," Hackers, and Clockers. Next year he may be seen in Death to Smoothy with Robin Williams, directed by Danny DeVito.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ACT gratefully acknowledges the following for their assistance with Polish Joke

Daniel Keane, Market Place Salon

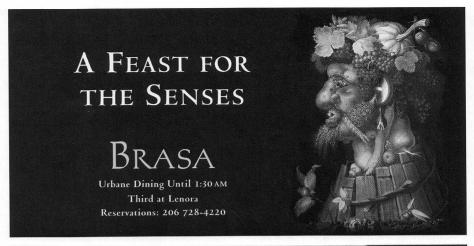
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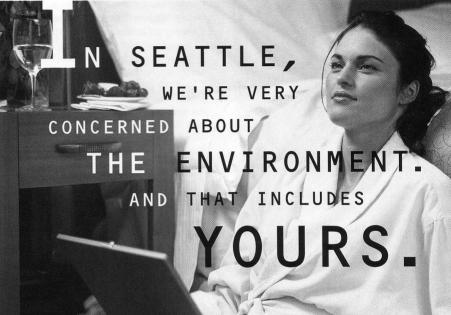
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# PRODUCTION TEAM

#### DAVID IVES

Playwright

David Ives is probably best known for his evening of one-act comedies, All in the Timing (which was conceived and directed by Polish Joke's director, Jason McConnell Buzas). Timing played for 600 performances off-Broadway, won the Outer Critics Circle Award for playwriting, and in the 1995-96 season was the most performed play in the country outside of Shakespeare productions. Other plays include Time Flies, Don Juan in Chicago, Ancient History and The Red Address. His children's novel, Monsieur Eek, will be published by HarperCollins in September. He is currently at work on two musicals with Bat Out of Hell composer Jim Steinman: Batman and Dance of the Vampires, which will appear on Broadway next spring.

# JASON McConnell Buzas

Director

Jason directed the off-Broadway, stock, regional, and European premieres of David Ives' All in the Timing. He has directed the premieres of new plays by Mr. Ives, David Mamet, Marty Martin, Ron Carlson, Julie Bovasso, Sherry Kramer, Ishmael Reed, Peter Tolan, Harry Kondoleon, Marjorie Kellogg, Sharon Holland, and Anthony Neilsen off-Broadway and for such theatres as the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Manhattan Punch Line, Actor's Studio, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Primary Stages, and the Philadelphia Festival Theatre for New Plays. He is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University.

#### LOY ARCENAS

Set Designer

Seattle design credits include The Ballad of Yachiyo and Golden Child for Seattle Repertory Theatre and Nine Armenians for Intiman. Broadway credits include Love! Valour! Compassion!, Once On This Island, Prelude to a Kiss, and High Society. He designed the American premieres of Tom Stoppard's The Invention of Love and Indian Ink, both for American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. Directing credits include Diana Son's Stop Kiss for Brava!, John Robin Baitz's adaptation of Ibsen's Hedda Gabler for the Aurora Theatre Company, Han Ong's Middle Finger, Swoony Planet, and Watcher, and Ralph Pena's Flipzoids, all for Ma-Yi Theatre Company. He served as resident director for New Dramatists last season, and he is the recipient of the Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Set Design. Loy is from the Philippines.

#### Rose Pederson

Costume Designer

Rose has designed costumes for over 100 productions at theatres around the country. She has designed many plays for ACT, including Temporary Help, The Notebook of Trigorin, The Nina Variations, The Language of Flowers, Life During Wartime, Sunsets and Glories, Eleemosynary, Shadowlands, and My Children! My Africa! On Broadway, she designed the costumes for Bill Irwin's Largely New York. She has also designed many productions for Seattle Repertory Theatre as well as Intiman Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, The Empty Space, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, New City Theater, and Portland Center Stage. Her work has also been seen at The Kennedy Center, The Cleveland Play House, Tacoma Actors Guild, and Berkeley Repertory Theater. She has worked closely with playwrights developing new plays, among them Ki Gottberg, Irene Fornes, and Richard Foreman. She is resident designer at Seattle University.

## Mary Louise Geiger

Lighting Designer

Mary Louise returns to ACT where she designed Later Life and Betty the Yeti. Other area credits include Book-It, Seattle Repertory Theatre (New Patagonia, The Real Inspector Hound), Seattle Children's Theatre, and Portland Center Stage. Her many credits at Intiman Theatre include The Smell of the Kill, The Real Thing, A Question of Mercy, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, The Royal Family, Gross Indecency, and Angels in America. Off-Broadway credits include Tongue of a Bird at The Public Theater and I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change at Westside Arts. Regional credits include the Mark Taper Forum, Berkeley Rep, Long Wharf Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Playmakers Rep, Philadelphia Drama Guild, Virginia Stage Company, and Alley Theatre. She designed touring productions of The Sound of Music (NetWorks, USA, and Asia) and Ken Hill's The Phantom of the Opera (Europe). Mary Louise is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and she is on the faculty at the University of Washington. Next year she will be on the faculty at the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU.

#### DOMINIC CODYKRAMERS

Sound Designer

Since joining the ACT family a bit over a year ago, Dominic has designed sound for Big Love, Monster, In the Penal Colony, Talley's Folly, the Flying Karamazov Brothers' L'Universe, and Communicating Doors. He is also proud to serve as a member of ACT's production staff in the role of master sound engineer. Dominic holds an M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts and has been honored with the United States Institute for Theatre Technology's "Clear-Com Sound Achievement Award." Additional sound design credits include Universal Studios Hollywood, Pasadena Playhouse, Santa Clarita Repertory Theatre, Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, and the Oregon Cabaret Theatre.

#### Anne Kearson

Stage Manager

Anne is pleased to return to ACT, having stage managed Big Love this season, God of Vengeance, In the Penal Colony, and 2.5 Minute Ride last season, A Christmas Carol, Side Man, Stonewall Jackson's House, and The Crucible in 1999, and serving as assistant stage manager for Violet in 1998. Locally she has worked at Seattle Repertory Theatre (The Beauty Queen of Leenane, An Ideal Husband, Seven Guitars), and Tacoma Actors Guild (Miss Julie, Oleanna, The Glass Menagerie). Other stage management credits include five seasons with South Coast Repertory, five seasons with Shakespeare Santa Cruz where she served as production stage manager, two seasons with the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Shakespeare Orange County, the Los Angeles Festival of the Arts and the "Latino Laugh Festival" for Showtime. Anne finds continuous joy in her daughter, Rebecca, and is proud to be the third generation of Kearsons in the entertainment industry.

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# **ACT FACTS**

A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) is a professional non-profit theatre company that produces a season of plays, special events and *A Christmas Carol* from its home in downtown Seattle. Founded in 1965 in the former Queen Anne Hall (now the home of On the Boards), ACT moved to its new facility in 1996 after a \$35 million capital campaign.

Kreielsheimer Place (pronounced CRYuls-hy-mer) is the facility at 7th & Union where ACT produces its plays. It was formerly known as the Eagles Building and was re-named in honor of the Seattlebased Kreielsheimer Foundation. ACT's production and technical shops, ticket office, and administrative offices are also located at Kreielsheimer Place.

ACT's Mainstage Season alternates between its two larger stages, The Falls and The Allen.

The Falls (named in honor of ACT's Founder, Gregory A. Falls) is a 381-seat thrust stage with seating on three sides.

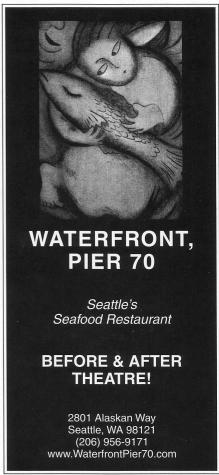
The Allen (named in honor of the Allen Foundation for the Arts) is a 387-seat arena stage, or theatre-in-the-round.

The Bullitt (named in honor of Dorothy S. Bullitt) is a flexible performance space that is used for The Bullitt Season and a variety of special performances, readings, and workshops.

**Buster's** (named in honor of Ellsworth C. "Buster" Alvord) is ACT's 2nd floor meeting room that is used as a performance space for *Late Nite Catechism* and other special events.

If you have any questions about ACT's facility or are interested in holding your event in one of our rooms or theatres, please call ACT at 206-292-7660.







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# ACT EXECUTIVE STAFF

#### GORDON EDELSTEIN

Artistic Director

Gordon Edelstein became artistic director of ACT in September of 1997. Since his arrival, ACT has enjoyed its highest subscription renewal rate in the institution's past 30 years, playing to nearly 140,000 patrons per year. Under his leadership ACT has produced more than 20 shows a year in its four spaces. Last year at ACT Gordon directed the world premiere of Donald Margulies' God of Vengeance and the American premiere of Martin McDonagh's A Skull in Connemara. ACT's production of A Skull in Connemara played to sold-out houses and was extended through May of this year at the Roundabout Theatre in New York. And ACT's acclaimed production of Pamela Gien's The Syringa Tree (which premiered at ACT in 1999) has been playing since September in New York at Playhouse 91. Last year, Gordon directed the world premiere of The Flying Karamazov Brothers' L'Universe, which is currently on an international tour. Previously at ACT he directed the world premiere of Lisette Lecat Ross's Scent of the Roses starring the legendary Julie Harris, Death of a Salesman starring John Aylward, The Crucible, which was named one of the top productions in the country by The Wall Street Journal, as well as the world premiere of David Wiltse's Temporary Help. Prior to moving to Seattle, he was associate artistic director of the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, where he directed over 15 productions, and he was the associate artistic director of the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where he produced or directed over 30 shows. His other directing work has been seen around the country, from the Perseverance Theatre in Alaska to Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. Gordon was nominated for an Emmy Award for his direction of "Abby My Love" for CBS and directed "Brotherly Love" for HBO as well as "Notes for My Daughter" for ABC. He is married to Joan Berman and has two children, Marlena and Noah.

#### IIM LODER

Managing Director

Jim was appointed managing director of ACT in February of last year, after serving as ACT's general manager since July of 1999. He arrived at ACT with 12 years of experience in theatre management, company management, facilities management and operations, as well as human resources experience. He also has an extensive background in construction management and quality assurance. Jim spent five years with Seattle's Intiman Theatre as general manager and another five years as company manager for The Utah Shakespearean Festival. He also

# ACT EXECUTIVE STAFF

spent two years at Seattle Repertory Theatre. He is currently on the board of ArtsWest Theatre and for the last three years he has been on the board for the Northwest AIDS Foundation's "Audiences Fight AIDS" project. He has also served on the Technical Advisory Committee for Seattle Central Community College's Arts Management Certificate Program. Jim holds an M.F.A. in Drama from the University of California at Irvine and a B.A. in Theatre from Southern Utah State College.

#### VITO ZINGARELLI

Producing Director

Vito joined ACT as producing director in 1998 after more than 20 years as a producing director, production manager and stage manager, independently and at resident professional theatre companies across North America. He trained in stage management and production management at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis under the artistic leadership of Michael Langham and moved to Seattle in 1978 where he continued his work as a stage manager with seasons at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Alaska Repertory Theatre as well as at the original Empty Space Theatre in Seattle. Vito became the Seattle Repertory Theatre's first production manager from 1980 - 85 working under the artistic leadership of both John Hirsch and Daniel Sullivan. He also enjoyed a close collaboration with then technical production director, Robert Scales, in The Rep's building and move into the Bagley Wright Theatre, where for the first time Seattle Rep's performance stages, production shops and administrative offices were combined under one roof. After serving as producing director for the Washington State Pavilion at EXPO '86 in Vancouver, Canada, he joined Sharon Ott at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and served as production manager from 1987 - 92. He returned to the Pacific Northwest most recently in 1995 after serving as director of production for all producing activities at North America's largest resident theatre

company, the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, Canada. Prior to his appointment at ACT, Vito produced several independent productions and tours to Europe and Japan as well as serving as executive director of the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts near his home on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound.

#### KURT BEATTIE

Associate Artistic Director

Kurt recently joined ACT as associate artistic director and previously served as the associate artistic director of Seattle Repertory Theatre. Last season at ACT, he directed Via Dolorosa in The Bullitt. He has directed locally at Intiman, The Empty Space, the University of Washington, and the Seattle Rep, where he recently directed "Art." As an actor, he has appeared in leading and major roles at ACT (most recently as Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol), the Seattle Rep, Intiman, The Empty Space, and at various regional theatres throughout the country. Also a playwright, he was the recipient of a FirstACT commission last year and is writing a play for Seattle Children's Theatre.

#### LIZ ENGELMAN

Literary Manager and Dramaturg Liz joined ACT in 1998 as literary manager and dramaturg. Previously she was the literary manager and dramaturg at Intiman Theatre and prior to that she was the assistant literary manager at Actors Theatre of Louisville where she served as resident dramaturg for Mainstage, Classics in Context, and Humana Festival productions. She has also worked on the development of new plays at the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, ASK Theatre Projects, New York Theatre Workshop and was the Reading Series coordinator for the Civita Festival in Bagnoregio, Italy. She studied dramaturgy and new play development at Brown and Columbia Universities where she received her B.A. and M.F.A. in theatre and dramaturgy, respectively. Liz is co-editor with Michael Bigelow Dixon of three collections of plays.

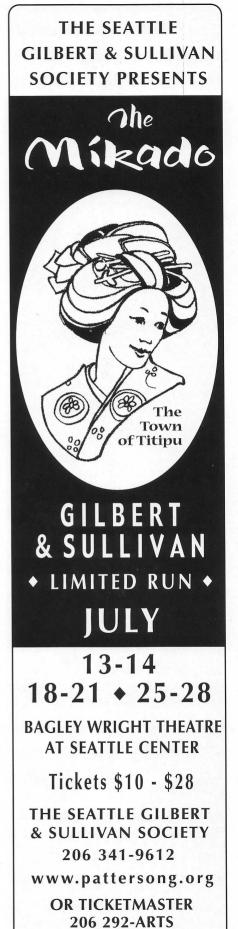
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# DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

# ACT'S EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF PROJECTS

ACT has instituted a well-designed and exciting Education and Outreach Program that complements our artistic programming, serves our mission, develops new and diverse audiences, and meets the needs and criteria of the educators, students, and communities it aims to serve. Education programs instill in children a love for the arts not only as a form of entertainment but as a way to communicate ideas and learn about the world, while simultaneously creating patterns of attendance and an interest in the arts that will last a lifetime. Outreach programs remove barriers, both financial and psychological, that prevent young and underserved populations from attending the theatre; they are essential for making the theatre a place that is affordable, welcoming, and relevant to these groups.

ACT's Education

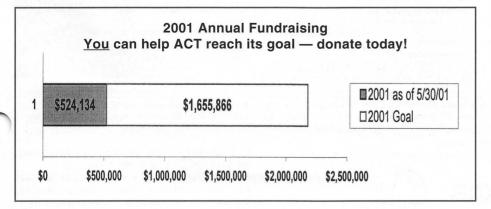


Low-priced student matinees and lively post-play discussions are some of the many projects in ACT's Education and Outreach Programs.

Program includes projects that bring teaching artists to area schools, allow students to attend free performances and go behindthe-scenes at ACT, fully produce students' own plays on stage before live audiences, and bring master theatre artists to college drama classes. Our Outreach Program includes projects that provide complimentary and low-cost tickets to young and underserved audiences,

provide fringe theatres with much needed rehearsal space and production resources, offer lectures and symposia that address issues relevant to diverse segments of our community, and offer an annual event to provide a forum for discussion on the role of race in our community.

ACT's Education and Outreach Program is supported entirely by donations. Funders such as The Norcliffe Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, PONCHO, King County Arts Commission, Fred Meyer Foundation, the E.K. and Lillian F. Bishop Foundation, Dupar Foundation, Bishop Fleet Foundation, and numerous individuals make our Education and Outreach Program possible. We welcome you to join these generous contributors and make a donation to our Education and Outreach Program. A postage-paid envelope can be found in this program or in the lobby. Thank you!



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Stablished in 1988 in memory of the noted civic leader and arts patron Ned Skinner. Through 2000, CCA has made over \$760,000 in grants to small and midsize arts groups from this \$2.1 million fund.

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In 1997, Barry & Ginger Ackerley established this fund with a personal gift of \$1 million. Earnings from the fund reward excellence among CCA beneficiaries, most recently to Seattle Opera, Seattle Symphony and Seattle Repertory Theatre.

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Established in 2000, by a \$1 million endowment gift from the Kreielsheimer Foundation, the Kreielsheimer Fund will provide grants in support of CCA/ ArtsFund sustaining beneficiaries. The first grants from fund earnings will be made in 2001.

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#### Jean T. Fukuda Memorial Fund

The Fukuda family and the Emeritus Corporation established this fund in memory of Ms. Fukuda's love of the performing arts. Earnings support CCA's performing arts beneficiaries.

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by S.M. Shephard -Massat Directed by Israel Hicks

August 23 - September 16 Previews August 17 - 22

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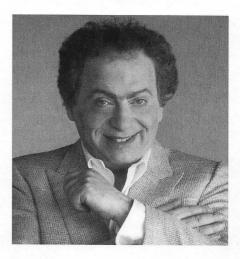
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