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PREVIEWS AUGUST 17 - 22

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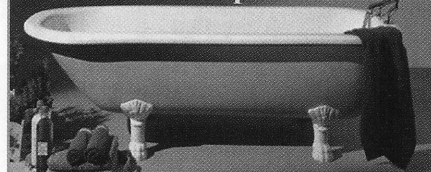
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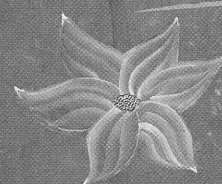
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presents

WAITING TO BE INVITED

by S.M. Shephard-Massat

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Miss Louise	Demene E. Hall
Miss Odessa	Ebony Jo-Ann
Miss Delores	Cynthia Jones
Miss Ruth	Michele Shay
Palmeroy Bateman	Keith L. Hatten
Miss Grayson	Jane Welch

Musicians: **Brian Kirk**, percussion; **Reuben Radding**, contrabass.

Time & Place: Summer 1961 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Director	Israel Hicks
Set Designer	Bill Curley
Costume Designer	David Kay Mickelsen
Lighting Designer	Allen Lee Hughes
Sound Designer	Dominic CodyKramers
Stage Manager	Jeffrey K. Hanson
Assistant Stage Manager	Anne Kearson
Production Assistant	Kavita Jhaveri
Assistant Lighting Designer	Ann Ciecko

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

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

Waiting to be Invited was originally produced at the Denver Center Theatre Company, a division of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Donovan Marley, Artistic Director. A US WEST World Premiere.

Winner of the 1996 Connection New Play Competition, Delaware Theater Company.

Originally staged in readers' theatre format by Karamu Performing Arts Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio — 1996.

This production of *Waiting to be Invited* is sponsored by a generous grant from SAFECO Corporation.



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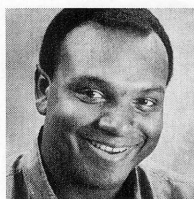
\$250 compensation for completion

THE ACTORS



DEMENE E. HALL
Miss Louise

Demene, a native of Saginaw, Michigan, and a graduate of the Academy of Dramatic Arts, has been a resident performer in Seattle for the past 11 years. Her stage credits include work at The Group, Intiman, Nu Black Arts West, Seattle Children's Theatre, and understudy projects at Seattle Repertory Theatre. She has also worked at Penumbra in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Artists Repertory in Portland, Oregon. Some may remember her as the Flower Lady in the Washington State Lotto commercials and most recently in "Lowe's of Seattle." She has done voice-over and commercial work with The Super Mall, McDonald's, The Seattle Times, and many more, plus work with Jim French's radio drama "The Harry Niles Series." Her film credits include Mrs. Biddle in *Men of Honor*, Marla Gibbs in *The Temp*, and Madear in *Just Us*. She's been seen on "Northern Exposure," "Under One Roof," and "Frasier" and she's toured Germany, Japan, Austria, and Australia as a vocalist and dancer. She has been on the boards of Nu Black Arts West Theatre and the Seattle local of AFTRA. Demene has taught and lectured on theatre arts and etiquette to classes of all ages.



KEITH L. HATTEN
Palmeroy Bateman

Keith played Palmeroy Bateman in the world premiere of *Waiting to be Invited* at the Denver Center Theatre Company. He also appeared at DCTC as Inspector Pamphilon in *Dream on Monkey Mountain* and in *A Christmas Carol*. Other roles include Brighella in *The Servant of Two Masters*, Dick Johnson in *Treasure Island*, Cookson in *Peter Pan*, the Sergeant in *One Foot on the Floor*, and Jabbari Marr in *Racing Demons*. He also appeared as Hambone in *Two Trains Running* and recently played Brakeman Ray in the film *Switchback* for Rysher Studios.



EBONY JO-ANN
Miss Odessa

Ebony has been in the Broadway productions of *The Sunshine Boys* with Jack Klugman and Tony Randall, *Sheila's Day* (co-author), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *Mule Bone*, as well as the off-Broadway productions of *Innocent Black* and *Do Lord Remember Me*. Her regional credits include *Waiting to be Invited*, *The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman vs. Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae*, *Heaven and the Homeboy*, *Spunk*, *From the Mississippi Delta*, *Lost in the Stars*, *Bubblin' Brown Sugar*,

and *Fame: The Musical*. She has been in the national and international tours of *The Wiz* with Stephanie Mills, *Satchmo*, *Apollo: It Was Just Like Magic*, and *Sheila's Day* in Grahamstown, South Africa. Ebony recently completed segments of "Law & Order," "Law & Order - SVU," "100 Centre Street," the PBS "American Authors" series, and the Campbell's Chunky Soup campaign with NFL standout Terrell Davis. She also appears in the upcoming films *Kate & Leopold* and *Marci X*. Other films include *Pootie Tang* with Chris Rock, *Eddie* with Whoopi Goldberg, *Fly by Night*, *Dark Waters*, *Chain of Desires*, *Charlie Hoboken*, *Frederick Douglass: An American Life*, *Tears of a Clown*, *The Stand-In*, and *The Day the Ponies Come Back*. Ebony is the proud recipient of five Vivian Robinson AUDELCO Awards for acting.



CYNTHIA JONES
Miss Delores

Cynthia is very pleased to be back at ACT where she last appeared as Angel in *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. Seattle audiences last saw her as Ruth in *A Raisin in the Sun* at Intiman. Some of her favorite roles include Lily in *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, The Narrator in *Black Nativity* (twice), Louise in *Seven Guitars*, and Angel, New Patagonia, and Miss Mary in *Play On!* at the Seattle Rep, which also ran in Chicago at the Goodman Theatre and in Phoenix at the Arizona Theatre Company. In Chicago, she received a Black Theater Alliance Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, and in Phoenix she won an AriZony Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical. Other favorite roles include Woman #1 and #2 in *From the Mississippi Delta* at Portland Center Stage and the Actor's Theatre of Phoenix, Nell in *Ain't Misbehavin'* at Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Cynthia in *Beehive* and Mama Eurile in *Once On This Island* at Tacoma Actor's Guild, and Woman #1 in *A...My Name is Alice* and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at The Group Theatre. Cynthia can also be heard as the reader of the Chiver's Audio Book unabridged version of *The Wedding* by Dorothy West, as character voices on various Microsoft and Valve video games, and on numerous commercials. She is currently working on her own one-woman show, *Honey, A Night in the Afterlife*.

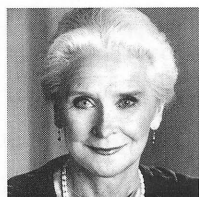


MICHELE SHAY
Miss Ruth

Michele is best known for her performances on Broadway as Louise in August Wilson's *Seven Guitars* (Tony nomination, Outer Critics Circle and NAACP awards), Samm Art Williams' *Home* with the Negro Ensemble Company, and *For Colored Girls*.... Off-Broadway appearances include *Meetings* (Obie

THE ACTORS

Award), *Playboy of the West Indies* (Lincoln Center), and as Titania opposite William Hurt in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the New York Shakespeare Festival and on A&E. She originated the role of Miss Ruth at the Denver Center Theatre Company where she was also directed by Israel Hicks as Angel in *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. Other regional performances include *Flyin' West* (Pasadena Playhouse), *Hecuba* with Olympia Dukakis (American Conservatory Theatre), Cleopatra in Antony and Cleopatra (Shakespeare & Co.), and *House Arrest* with Anna Devereaux Smith (Mark Taper Forum). Films and television include *One True Thing* with Meryl Streep, *He Got Game* starring Denzel Washington, "Family Law," "Judging Amy," and Henrietta Morgan on "Another World." Michele is the recipient of a Fox Foundation Grant which allowed her to study the connection between acting and the healing arts.



JANE WELCH
Miss Grayson

This past season Jane performed the role of E.M. Ashford in *Wit* at The Denver Center. Last fall she appeared at the Studio Arena in

Buffalo as Violet Venable in *Suddenly Last Summer*. Other favorite roles are A in *Three Tall Women*, Mammy O'Dougall in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (The Denver Center), Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Capital Rep, Albany), Birdie in *The Little Foxes* (The Asolo Theatre), and Mrs. Higgins in *My Fair Lady* (Portland Opera). She has appeared off-Broadway opposite Molly Ringwald in Horton Foote's *Lily Dale* as well as in *Collette* by Seattle's Rebecca Chace and in N. Richard Nash's *Come As You Are*. On television she was seen in Horton Foote's *Story of a Marriage* and her film credits include *Broadcast News* and *Her Alibi*. She played Bea Sullivan in the national tour of *Other People's Money*. Next fall she looks forward to playing the title role in *Driving Miss Daisy* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

THE MUSICIANS



BRIAN KIRK
Percussion

Currently the instructor of jazz and music theory at Seattle Central Community College, Brian received an M.A. in

Jazz Contemporary Music Studies from New York University. He has been an active member of the Seattle jazz community since his arrival from New York City. He has performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Jack McDuff, Lou Donaldson, Bobby Hutcherson, The Pointer Sisters, Gladys Knight, and was first call on New York's Broadway scene having performed in *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Les Misérables*, and *Jelly's Last Jam* featuring Gregory Hines. He has made numerous recordings including the soundtracks from *Philadelphia* starring Tom Hanks, *A Rage in Harlem* starring Forrest Whitaker, and the original Broadway soundtracks of *Ain't Misbehavin'* featuring The Pointer Sisters, and Cameron Mackintosh's *Five Guys Named Moe*. Brian recently composed the music for the Seattle Central Drama Department's production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



REUBEN RADDING
Contrabass

Reuben was born in Washington, D.C., to a family of musicians but spent the bulk of his career in New York City where he studied with the

virtuoso bassist Mark Dresser and became a busy stalwart of the "Downtown" scene. While there he performed frequently with a "who's-who" of modern creative musicians including John Zorn, Elliott Sharp, Dave Douglas, Andrea Parkins, Roy Campbell, Susie Ibarra, The Klezmatics, Daniel Carter, and many others, as well as writing music for TV, theater, and dance. He toured Europe as a member of Marc Ribot's SHREK, and with his own group, Myth Science, a Sun Ra-inspired quintet (CD, "Love In Outer Space" on Knitting Factory Works). He was also the co-leader of the experimental world music trio, Refuseniks, with Ted Reichman and John Hollenbeck. Currently living in the Pacific Northwest, Reuben leads the group Street of Crocodiles, co-leads the Creative String Trio, and recently has performed with Vena Cava, Lost Valentine, Wally Shoup, Eyvind Kang, Stuart Dempster, Amy Denio, Wayne Horvitz, and Italian saxophonist Carlo Actis Dato.

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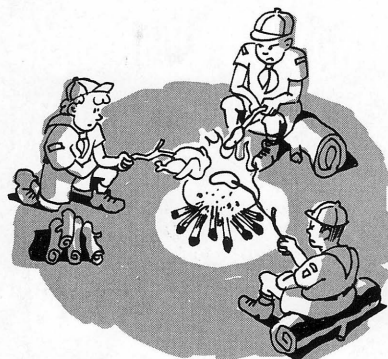
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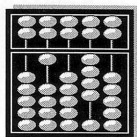


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PRODUCTION TEAM

S.M. SHEPHARD-MASSAT

Playwright

S.M. Shephard-Massat attended New York University's Tisch School for the Arts as a dramatic writing major and interned at London's Royal Court Theatre in 1991. *Waiting to be Invited*, her first play to be produced, was lovingly written about her grandmother, Louise Sims. It was first read at the US West TheatreFest and premiered at the Denver Center Theatre Company in January 2000. *Waiting to be Invited* and Ms. Shephard-Massat have been honored with the Adrienne Kennedy Award for Most Promising Young Dramatist (1996), the Connections Award from Delaware Theatre Company (1997), and a 1999 Roger L. Stevens Award from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Earlier this year, Ms. Shephard-Massat received the M. Elizabeth Osborn Award from the American Theatre Critics Association, given each year to an emerging playwright, for *Waiting to be Invited*. She lives with her family in Smyrna, Georgia.

ISRAEL HICKS

Director

Israel Hicks directed the world premiere of *Waiting to be Invited* at the Denver Center Theatre Company, where he also directed *Dream on Monkey Mountain* and the world premiere of *Kingdom*. Other DCTC directing credits include *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Seven Guitars*, *Two Trains Running*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Coming of the Hurricane*, *Fences*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Home*, and the world premiere of *Evil Little Thoughts*. In addition, he has directed at regional theatres throughout the country including The Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and Milwaukee Repertory Theater. He has directed films for the National Film Board of Canada, Universal Studios, and for the NBC and CBS television networks. He formerly was Dean of Theatre Arts and Film at Purchase College and he has recently been appointed the new director of theatre at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

BILL CURLEY

Set Designer

Bill has served on the design staff of the Denver Center Theatre Company since 1984. His credits include *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Dresser*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Misalliance*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Wit*, and *Black Elk Speaks*. In addition to the premiere production of *Waiting to be Invited* in Denver, he has worked with director Israel Hicks on *Evil Little Thoughts*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Piano Lesson*. For the better part of the 2000-2001 theatre season, Bill assisted director Sir Peter Hall and designer Dionysos Fotopoulos in the creation of the epic 10-play cycle, *Tantalus*.

DAVID KAY MICKELSEN

Costume Designer

David designed costumes for *Waiting to be Invited* at the Denver Center Theatre Company where he has spent seven seasons. Designs include *Pork Pie*, *Master Class*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Misalliance*, *Sylvia*, *Eliot Ness...In Cleveland*, *Treasure Island*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, *Taking Leave*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Coming of the Hurricane*, *The Quick-Change Room*, *Two Trains Running*, *Seven Guitars*, *The comedy of Errors*, *One Foot on the Floor*, *Peter Pan*, *You Never Can Tell*, *The Dresser*, and *Room Service*. For Arizona Theatre Company he designed 34 productions including *Amadeus*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Candide*, and *Dracula*. In 12 seasons at Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis he has designed many productions including *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and the national tour of *Animal Fables from Aesop*. He has also designed off-Broadway and for many regional companies including Williamstown Theatre Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Play House, Geva Theatre, the Oregon, Colorado, and Illinois Shakespeare festivals, San Diego, Tennessee, and New Mexico repertory theatres, Pioneer Theatre Company, Pennsylvania Center Stage, The Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Theatre of the Open Eye, and Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre in New York. He also spent five seasons with the Santa Fe Opera and two seasons with the La Jolla Playhouse. Originally from Canby, Oregon, he now makes his home in Long Beach, California.

ALLEN LEE HUGHES

Lighting Designer

Allen Lee Hughes has designed *Death of a Salesman*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, and *A Soldier's Play* at ACT. Seattle audiences may also remember his designs for *Skylight*, *From the Mississippi Delta*, *Flyin' West*, and *Having Our Say* at Intiman, and *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *I'm Not Rappaport*, and *The Brothers Karamazov* at Seattle Rep. Broadway credits include *Having Our Say*, *Mule Bone*, and *Once On This Island* which earned him his third Tony Award nomination. His other design work on Broadway includes *K2*, *Strange Interlude*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, and *Quilters*. He is the recipient of the 1997 Merritt Award for Excellence in Design and Collaboration.

DOMINIC CODY KRAMERS

Sound Designer

Since joining the ACT family a bit over a year ago, Dominic has designed sound for *Polish Joke*, *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

PRODUCTION TEAM

Hollywood, Pasadena Playhouse, Santa Clarita Repertory Theatre, Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, and the Oregon Cabaret Theatre.

JEFFREY K. HANSON

Stage Manager

Jeffrey K. stage managed his first production at ACT, *Lloyd's Prayer*, in 1990. Now in his 11th season, he has stage managed over 30 ACT productions including this season's *Big Love* and *Dinner with Friends* and last season's *The Odd Couple*, *A Skull in Connemara* and *Talley's Folly*. Other highlights from past seasons include *Quills*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Gospel at Colonus*, *The Revengers' Comedies*, *Halcyon Days*, and *The Illusion*. When not at ACT, Jeffrey K. has stage managed at Seattle Repertory Theatre on such productions as *Metamorphoses* and *The Cider House Rules, Parts I and II*. Other regional credits include productions at Seattle Children's Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Arizona Theatre Company, and New Mexico Repertory Theatre.

ACT EXECUTIVE STAFF

GORDON EDELSTEIN

Artistic Director

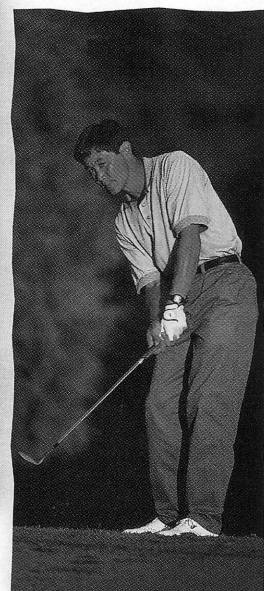
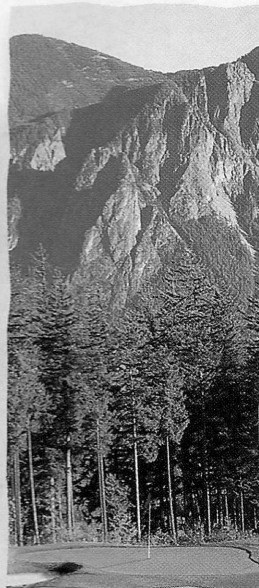
Gordon Edelstein became artistic director of ACT in September of 1997. Under his leadership ACT has produced more than 20 shows a year in its four spaces. Earlier this season at ACT, Gordon directed the acclaimed production of Donald Margulies' Pulitzer Prize-winning *Dinner with Friends*. Last year at ACT Gordon directed the American premiere of Martin McDonagh's *A Skull in Connemara*, a production that played to sold-out houses and had an extended run at the Roundabout Theatre in New York. Prior to moving to Seattle, he was associate artistic director of the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, and he was the associate artistic director of the Berkshire Theatre Festival in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Gordon's directing work has been seen at theatres all across the U.S. as well as in London. He is married to Joan Berman and has two children, Marlena and Noah.

JIM LODER

Managing Director

Jim was appointed managing director of ACT in February 2000. He arrived at ACT with 12 years of experience in theatre management, company management, facilities management, and operations. 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 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"

continued on page 14



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ACT EXECUTIVE STAFF

project. 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 professional experience as a producing director, production manager and stage manager. He trained in stage management and production management at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. Vito became the Seattle Repertory Theatre's first production manager from 1980 - 85. After serving as producing director for the Washington State Pavilion at EXPO '86 in Vancouver, Canada, he joined the Berkeley Repertory Theatre as production manager. He returned to the Pacific Northwest in 1995 after serving as director of production for all producing activities at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Ontario, Canada. Prior to joining ACT, he served as executive director of the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts near his home on Whidbey Island.

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, and this season he directed Joyce Carol Oates' *Miss Golden Dreams*. 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.

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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 Program includes projects that bring teaching artists to area schools, allow students to attend free performances and

go behind-the-scenes at ACT, 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. This year's funders include:

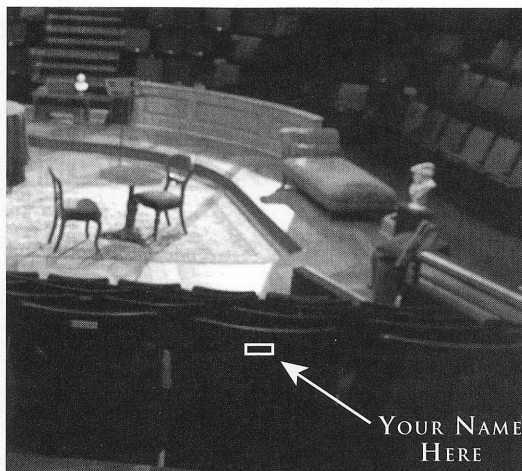
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We welcome you to join these generous contributors and make a donation to our Education and Outreach Program. Please call ACT's development department at 206-292-7660 today. Thank-you!

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