

the gunn high school theatre dept. presents six student directed



--the plays--

And Momma Do You Love Me?
.....Molly Hershage
Santa Claus.....e.e.cummings
Red Cross.....Sam Shepard
The War in Heaven
.....Joseph Chaikin and Sam Shepard
Low Frequency.....Rob "Rocky" Kestov
Words Words Words.....David Ives

The Plays
Sam Shepard

m a y 18, 19, 24-27

Crew

Designers

Lighting Design

Geoff Brumfiel

Katy-Jo Melena

Set Design

Ann Altstatt

Costume Design

Sherril K. Hopper

Stage Manager

Kate Julian

Assistant Stage Manager

Malena Fitting

Light Board Operator

Katy Orr

Sound Board Operator

Jeremy Katz

Master Carpenter

Jacquie Pratt

Construction Consultant

Jason Selznick

Set Gang

Sam Anderson

David Coffman

Costumes Foreman

Jeremy Katz

Amber Blote

Props Chiefs

Mandy Burton

Chisato Uno

Running Crew Boss

Malena Fitting

Running Crew

Mandy Burton

David Coffman

Mickey Dutta

Lauren McDaniel

Chris Tucker

Chisato Uno

Publicity

Tomoko Nakajima

Poster

S. Mark Anderson

House Manager

Courtney Rowe

Production Coordinator

Jim Shelby

Program

J. Ebenezer Merlin

The Gunn Theatre Department Proudly Presents

Spring '95 Student Directed One-Acts

And Mama Do You Love Me?

Written and directed by Molly Hersage

Santa Claus: A Morality

by e. e. cummings

Directed by Samuel M. Anderson
and Nicole Reich-Weiser

Red Cross

by Sam Shepard

Directed by Ethan Ryan

The War in Heaven

by Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin

Directed by Mary Heather Cogar and Alexi Zeller

Low Frequency

Written and Directed by Rob "Rocky" Rakove

Words, Words, Words

by David Ives

Directed by Matt Horn

*There will be a fifteen minute intermission.
Please, no food or drink in the Studio Theatre.*

Cast

And Mama Do You Love Me?

Shelly
Doctor
Sally
Ray

Elyse Kleidon
Jason Selznick
Mickii Cheng
Bobby Kamin

Santa Claus: A Morality

Santa Claus
Death
Woman
Child
Mob

Jordan Allen-Dutton
Kristen Sandberg
Talia Kirschner
Claire McCabe
Shana Barchas
Alex Hanawalt
Abe Heifets
Tiffany Medina
Alex Merilo
Rachel Mills
Kevin Ng
Karen Wang
Becky Zuanich

Red Cross

Carol
Jim
Maid
Mary Magdalene

Lindsey Selden
Jesse Merlin
Jenni Witt
Malena Fitting

The War in Heaven

Angel
Ensemble

Laura Stinger
Anya Collier
Brian Flegel
Naomi Hamburger
Nick Junkerman
Joni Marshburn
Katie-Jo Melena
Nat Pickering
Irene Varfolomeeva

Low Frequency

A
B

David Kramer
Audrey Hannah

Words, Words, Words

Milton
Swift
Kafka

James Holloway
Hadar Belkin
Erin Jacklin

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Flegel's Fine Home Furnishings

And Mama Do You Love Me?

I think this is a play that forces its characters to deal with reality. The main character, Shelly, is living in an incredibly destructive household which her mother created. Shelly is faced with the decision to escape the situation and risk losing her mother, or she can continue to stay in a place in which her life is endangered. It is Shelly's struggle to decide between these two options, and her final course of action, that is the true theme of this play.

I wrote this play because I wanted people to know that they have a choice to change their lives. Oftentimes we are so caught up in a relationship or situation that we cannot see a way out. Every time I see Shelly in this play I am still amazed at the strength of her character. I am inspired by her determination and her spirit, but most of all I envy her ability to get out. That ability is something most people do not yet possess.

Thank you to my talented cast and crew. You have made a dream of mine come to life.

-Molly Hersage

When e.e. cummings, (famed American poet and lower-case-letter proponent,) gave a series of appropriately entitled "Non-Lectures" in 1953 he chose to end with a reading of **Santa Claus**. It was balanced by a diary on communism, ("a fanatical religion of irreligion,") and was meant to portray capitalism, ("omnivorous social hypocrisy.") He described the play thusly:

"Whereas a world rises to fall, a spirit descends to ascend," and then rambled through a lot of schtuff about "Love" and "the Artist."

What does it mean? For us, **Santa Claus** became a metaphorical summary of the life of the artist in free (market) America. The artist tries to give, but he may only survive if he succumbs to commercialism. It is only after his body is taken by death that he, through his work, may rediscover the essentials of love, innocence, and understanding. Written in 1946, but living in 1995, Santa is less a spherical elf and more an emotional being.

-Sam Anderson and Nicole Reich-Weiser

When Sam Shepard wrote **Red Cross**, he certainly didn't have in mind what you're seeing tonight. At the same time, we are true to his script in that there is nothing left out. **Red Cross** as you're about to see it is about symbolism and its use and abuse in theatre. The true test of the audience here is not to "figure it out" but rather to discern between what is sincere and what is jest. Like many of Shepard's works, **Red Cross** is brilliant in that he has created three characters that you could easily pass on the street at any point in time, but presents them in a very different and unusual light. In effect, Shepard says that we all have our own little quirks, and that your neighbor, and probably even you, are just as bizarre as the people on stage.

-Ethan Ryan

Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin had been long-time friends and collaborators when, in 1984, Joseph Chaikin was hospitalized with a stroke. They began to work on **The War in Heaven** as a healing process, incorporating Shepard's poetry with Chaikin's recovering speech patterns.

We have the great fortune of working with a cast who had the curiosity and absolute willingness to explore words, thoughts, and actions as an ensemble through rehearsals, vigils, and quests for food. Special thanks to Brian for allowing us to knock out his teeth. Thank you all, and remember:

"You can make a fresh start with your dying breath."

-Berthold Brecht

-Mary Heather Cogar and Alexi Zeller

It's been a terrific experience working with Gunn Theatre for the past three years. For my directorial debut I owe thanks to the following people: Greg Bratman, Dusty Brown, Jordan and Alexi for advice and encouragement, Jim Shelby for guidance and for taking a chance with me, and Audrey and Kramer for patiently putting up with their rookie director and giving 110%. Lastly, I should thank Hall of Fame pitcher Steve "Lefty" Carlton for being the nut he is. About the play, remember this:

The truth is out there.

-Rob "Rocky" Rakove

Monkey see, monkey do. A little monkey business is always important.

-Matt Horn



Please be advised that there will be a loud gun
shot and theatrical fog during the performances.!

