

**ACT** Ann Arbor Civic Theatre  
Presents...

# Angels Fall

by Lanford Wilson  
Directed by Burnette Staebler  
September 10-13, 1986, 8p.m.  
Saturday Matinee 2p.m.  
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

With the Support of the  
Michigan Council for the Arts



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Musical Direction by Andrew Lippha  
Choreography by TeDee A. Theofil

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Theatregoers,

Welcome to our first production of the 1986-87 season. We at AACT are very excited about our season this year. We have gone international after our season of all American plays last year with the inclusion of Moliere's *THE MISANTHROPE* and Ibsen's *HEDDA GABLER* and still kept some of America's best with the ever-popular *GYPSY* to be performed in the newly renovated Michigan Theater and *THE WIZ* at the Power Center. We have rounded out our season with the contemporary drama *ANGELS FALL* and Bernard Slade's comedy, aptly named *ROMANTIC COMEDY*. If you haven't already bought tickets for the rest of the season there is still time to do so. We hope you will join us for a season of music, drama and comedy both contemporary and classic. Enjoy the show.

Thom Johnson  
President

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## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### PLACE

The interior of a small adobe mission in northwestern New Mexico.

### TIME

The present. Act I. Five in the afternoon, Saturday, early June.  
Act II. Half an hour later.

*There will be one Fifteen-minute intermission.*

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Angels fall, they are towers, from heaven—a story of just, majestic and giant groans," writes poet Gerard Manley Hopkins. But what of man, the poet continues—"We, scaffold of score brittle bones"—what kind of voice signals *our* fall from the heights of hope and aspiration?

In *ANGELS FALL*, Lanford Wilson raises his voice to celebrate the human condition: six troubled people, who find life not living up to their expectations, tell their stories and discover in their common humanity new strength to carry on with dignity, courage, and the saving grace of humor.

# THE STAFF

Director .....	Burnette Staebler
Assistant Director .....	Melissa Green
Costume Designer .....	Gwenn Proegler
Lighting Designer .....	Mary Cole
Makeup Designer .....	Roberta Rizzardi
Poster Design .....	Debbie Bauer
Producer .....	Andy Mennick
Properties .....	Yehudit Newman
Publicity .....	Bob Alexander
Set Designer .....	Gene S. Macario
Sound Designers .....	Ray Krome Ed Potthoff
Stage Manager .....	Thom Johnson

## ABOUT THE STAFF

**BURNETTE STAEBLER** (Director) is a Civic Theatre mainstay. For AACT she has directed, among other plays, CACTUS FLOWER, THE LION IN WINTER, ANTIGONE, BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE and KISS ME KATE. She has just finished directing CAMELOT for the Chelsea Area Players. Burnette has recently played Lady Bracknell in THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST at AACT, is a member of the Board of Directors, serves on the Development Committee and also works as a volunteer in the office! In addition, Burnette finds time to work as a part-time secretary for her husband, Neil.

**MELISSA GREEN** (Assistant Director) is an enthusiastic newcomer to AACT, having just performed three roles in the Main Street production of MUSEUM. Melissa was active in high school theatre, appeared in THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND for U-M Summer Dinner Theatre and directed THE THIRTEEN CLOCKS last summer. An "avid devotee of Stratford," Melissa plans to obtain a degree in theatre.

**ANDY MENNICK** (Producer) worked as Artistic Director of Ann Arbor's Suspension Theatre. He is currently Associate Director of the Berkshire Ensemble for Theatre Arts in Williamstown, Massachusetts, a theatre-in-education institute at Williams College. In addition to directing, Andy's written works have been performed in Williamstown, Minneapolis, London and Dusseldorf.



**MARY COLE** (Lighting Designer) has an MFA in Lighting Design from the University of Michigan. She has designed lights for H.M.S. PINAFORE (Gilbert and Sullivan Society), the EMU DANCE CONCERT 1985, and DANCE THEATRE II. Her AACT lighting designs include HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES, THE LATE CHRISTOPHER BEAN, BELLS ARE RINGING, THE ROBBER BRIDEGROOM and CHICAGO.

**RAY KROME and ED POTTHOFF** (Sound Designers) were intrigued with the idea of reproducing a helicopter above the Lydia Mendelssohn stage, so in the well-equipped basement of Hi-Fi Buys they accomplished just that. This is their first involvement with AACT.

**THOM JOHNSON** (Stage Manager) is beginning his second year as Board President for AACT. His previous stage managing experience includes ANYTHING GOES, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE and MAJOR BARBARA. He has directed DRACULA and THE DINING ROOM and performed in TEN LITTLE INDIANS, KEY EXCHANGE, ON GOLDEN POND and CHICAGO.

**GENE S. MACARIO** (Set Designer) is in his second season with us at AACT. He came to us with his background in theatre from Muskegon Civic Opera and Port City Playhouse. He is currently AACT's Lighting and Sound Chair, has set designed TEN LITTLE INDIANS, HAY FEVER and BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE and has been a behind-the-scenes person for all but two productions since coming here a year ago! Outside of theatre, Gene is the Production Assistant for Biomedical Communications at University Hospitals and is finishing his MA in Communications.

**YEHUDIT NEWMAN** (Properties) has been doing properties for a long time—ever since she was twelve years old! Last season she supervised props for six AACT shows, including ORPHEUS DESCENDING, ANYTHING GOES, BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE, CHICAGO, THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH and HAY FEVER. Yehudit has also done properties work with the Comic Opera Guild and performed in their production of NAUGHTY MARIETTA. She is currently devoting much of her time to being a mother.

**GWENN ANGLE PROEGLER** (Costume Designer) is a 1960 graduate of Carnegie Mellon's Theatre Design Department. This is one of many shows that Gwenn has done for AACT, having designed BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE, THE PHILADELPHIA STORY and HELLO, DOLLY!. In the 1982-83 season Gwenn co-costume-designed PIPPIN for which she won AACT's award for Best Costume Design.

**ROBERTA RIZZARDI** (Makeup Designer) has done makeup for the Dexter Players, several area schools, the University of Michigan School of Music, as well as a myriad of AACT shows, most recently ORPHEUS DESCENDING, ANYTHING GOES and CHICAGO. A former art teacher at the Dexter Schools for many years, Roberta has recently returned to the University of Michigan to resume her art studies.



# THE CAST

(in order of speaking)

Niles Harris	Robin Barlow
Vita Harris	Susan Morseth
Don Tabaha	Rick Kukucka
Marion Clay	Carol Sheldon
Salvatore (Zappy) Zappala	Christopher Spiro
Father William Doherty	Alexander Miller

*etc  
good*

*good*

*very simple  
mission interior  
good*



## ABOUT THE CAST

*etc*

**ROBIN BARLOW** (Niles) is a professor of economics at the University of Michigan where he is also Director of the Center for Research on Economic Development. His work takes him frequently to Africa and the Middle East. He has won AACT's Best Actor Award on three occasions, for performances in *A FLEA IN HER EAR* (1981), *ON GOLDEN POND* (1983) and most recently in last season's *THE ROYAL FAMILY*. In his native Britain he has appeared in London, Oxford, Edinburgh and Windsor. In Ann Arbor he has also acted with the St. Andrew's Players.

**RICK KUKUCKA** (Don) makes his AACT acting debut in *ANGELS FALL*. He has previously appeared in *A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN* as well as Lanford Wilson's *TALLEY'S FOLLY* at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and directed *VANITIES* for the New England Repertory Theatre. A recent MBA recipient from the University of Chicago, Rick works as a program management planner for Chrysler Corporation.

**ALEX MILLER** (Father Doherty) is no stranger to Mendelssohn Theatre, appearing in several productions in the 1930s while a student at the University of Michigan. Since his retirement ten years ago he has appeared in a dozen AACT productions, notably as Wang, the water seller in *THE GOOD WOMAN OF SETZUAN*, Mr. Lundie in *BRIGADOON* and Canon Chasuble in *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST*. A Priest in real life as well as in *ANGELS FALL*, Father Alex assists at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor.

*good*

**SUSAN MORSETH** (Vita) has appeared as Myra in *HAY FEVER*, Amy Lee in *LAUNDRY AND BOURBON* and Vera in *TEN LITTLE INDIANS* at AACT.

Good

**CAROL SHELDON** (Marion) is both an actress and writer. Her AACT acting credits include roles in THE SHADOW BOX, HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES, SEVEN KEYS TO BALDPATE, A FLEA IN HER EAR and THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE. Carol has written two plays, THE ZOO KEEPER and WHEN I GROW UP, both of which won the Community Theatre Association of Michigan Playwrighting Contest, as well as several musicals. Carol has recently begun writing poetry and is preparing for her second reading this autumn.

**CHRISTOPHER SPIRO** (Zappy) describes himself as "just your average college kid causing trouble." To keep himself out of trouble, Christopher studies business at Michigan State University and has appeared there in WOYZECK, THE QUESTIONING OF NICK and EXIT THE KING. This is Christopher's first appearance with AACT.



## THE CREW

(These names were available at the time this program went to press)

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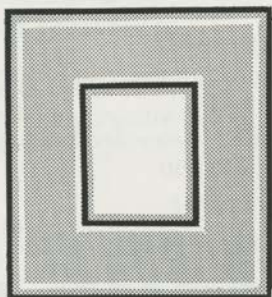


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