



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
Premiere Studio



813: American Fiction

Written by Allan Dreyfuss
Directed by Wendy Sielaff

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Premiere Studio October 21–24, 1999

813: American Fiction

Written by Allan Dreyfuss

Directed by Wendy Sielaff

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

& STAGE MANAGER

Martha Montoye

SET DESIGN

Jim Neal

COSTUMES

Chaunta Woods

MAKEUP

Jane McDougall

PROPS

Gary Vecere

LIGHTS

Danny Douglas

Chuck Griffin

SET CONSTRUCTION

Jim Neal

Mike Sielaff

Gary Vecere

SET DECORATION

Cheryl Berteel

Barb Wells

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Tiff Crutchfield

SETTING

Haskill, Michigan, 1975

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

This is about the love of reading and literacy. If this play makes people appreciate the joy of reading, it will have sent its message effectively and entertainingly. —*Allan Dreyfuss*

Thanks to all of you (and you know who you are) that made this a fun and interesting experience. Let's do it again. —*Wendy Sielaff*

Cast

Jane Press	Jami Coogan
Harry Edwards	Danny Guberinich
Emmet Kelly	Odell B. Ruffin
Sam Gosset	Todd St. George
Kenneth Page	Matthew Kizaur
Robert Sinclair	Todd St. George
Rev. Emerson K. Sheen	Paul D. Domanski
Josephine Silver	Janine Hutchinson
Elise Peterman	Dianne Finger
Sandra Mae Cullen	Sheena S. McDougall
Loristine Kelly	Jennifer White
Max Morrison	Eric Skarpac
Emma Lundquist	Lyn Coffin
Frank Morello	Eric Skarpac

About the Premiere Studio

Premiere Studio is Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's new performance series of original works by Michigan playwrights. Selected playwrights have the opportunity to participate in the rehearsal process and see their work come alive on stage.

813: American Fiction closes the first Premiere Studio season. The script, by Allan Dreyfuss, won First Place in the 1998 Community Theater Association of Michigan (CTAM) Playwriting Contest.

About the Cast

Lyn Coffin (Mrs. Lundquist) is a veteran actress who appeared recently in several roles in AACT's first Premiere Studio play *Brave New World Revisited, Revisited*. She was in *Anatomy of a Murder* this summer and directed Larry Shue's *The Foreigner* at 1515 Broadway in Detroit last spring. She was nominated by the Ann Arbor News for Best Supporting Actress for her portrayal of Mademoiselle Michaux in *The Sentimental Father* lifetimes ago. She is a playwright with the Playwrights Initiative at the Purple Rose.

Jami Coogan (Jane Press) is very grateful to AACT for the wonderful theatre opportunities it has given her, from strolling the streets of fair Verona, to traveling through Texas, to tending a Michigan library! She wants to thank Wendy and Martha for making this such a fun experience and pulling together such a talented cast and crew. Thanks to Allan Dreyfuss for giving us all a chance to be a part of this inaugural performance. And as always, thank you Dreux for your love and support.

Danny Guberinich (Harry Edwards) is pleased to be performing an elderly gentleman on stage. His first time was as the Mayor in *Bye Bye Birdie*. His other credits include *Patent Leather Shoes*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Carousel*, *Cuckoo's Nest*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and many others around Washtenaw County. He dedicates his performance to his beautiful bride-to-be, Cristina.

Janine Hutchinson (Josephine Silver) works for the City of Ann Arbor as a Civil Engineer. This is her first time back on stage since high school.

Matthew Kizaur (Kenneth Page) is pleased to be joining the cast and crew of *813* and AACT! A Chicago native, he returns to community/professional work after a brief hiatus. Matt is currently acting in an independent film *Cheap, Dead, Stolen, Red*, and his

favorite roles have included Algernon, Hamlet and Christopher Wren.

Sheena S. McDougall (Sandra Mae Cullen) is a 16-year-old honor student at Lincoln High School. Her involvement in theatre at LHS has included performances in *Oliver!*, *Our Miss Brooks*, *The King and I*, *Night of January 16th*, *Music Man* and *1984*. Currently she is costarring as the Queen in *Cinderella*. She has also directed and written many shows and composed songs that have been performed in such plays as *1984*.

Odell B. Ruffin (Emmet Kelly) is a junior at EMU majoring in journalism and minoring in theatre arts. An aspiring actor, he has appeared in plays at EMU including *Dutchman* and *Devon's Hurt*, lab shows *The Fighter*, *The Big Funk* and *Get on Board* and the student film *Bump*.

Todd St. George (Sam Gosset, Robert Sinclair) has come full circle. As a high school student seven years ago, he debuted in *Insect Play* performed by Ann Arbor's Young People's Theatre (YPT). Now he is delighted to be back! Living in the Irish Hills, Todd has performed with the Clark Lake Players, the Jackson Civic and the Tecumseh Civic. Favorite roles include Wayne Wallace in *Inspecting Carol*, Charley Mayham in *Charley's Aunt* and most recently Juror #9 in *Twelve Angry Men*. He thanks his parents for their continued support.

Eric Skarpac (Max Morrison, Frank Morello) is a second-year graduate student at the University of Michigan studying nuclear engineering. Eric has been involved in theatre for many years, performing at the University of Illinois, U-M and AACT. Past productions include: *Three Tall Women*, *Rumors*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Here and Now*, *Music Man* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Eric would like to thank his family, friends, and the wonderful directors and cast for making this a great experience.

About the Crew

Danny Douglas (Lighting Design) is a junior in high school where he is known as "The Lighting Guy." He has designed the lighting for *The King and I*, *Night of January 16th*, *Music Man* and *1984* as well as many other events and activities. Upon graduation from high school, Danny hopes to go to Florida to study electrical engineering and further his skills in theatrical lighting.

Martha Montoye (Asst. Director and Stage Manager) has been involved in AACT for over a decade doing everything around the theatre except act. She is very happy to be back in Ann Arbor and especially glad to be with her old and new friends here at the theatre.

Wendy Sielaff (Director) has appeared in numerous plays including two here at AACT, *Big River*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. She has directed *God's Favorite*, *Smoke on the Mountain* and others. She is pleased to direct a Premiere Studio play for AACT and thanks her family for putting up with her rehearsal schedule.

Chaunta Woods (Costume Design) is a senior at EMU studying apparel textile and merchandising. She'll graduate in December and will pursue a career as a fashion stylist.

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Invites YOU to:

Direct a Play!

- **Directorships available for 5 plays & 3 musicals**
- **Superlative community theater facilities**
- **Stipends available**

Deadline for Proposals: November 15, 1999

Write a Play!

- **Original manuscripts welcome**
- **Premiere Studio series features local playwrights**
- **See your work come alive!**

Deadline for Proposals: December 17, 1999

Pick a Play!

- **Play Selection Committee members needed**
- **Review proposals & interview directors**
- **Help craft our 2000-01 season**

Submit letter of interest by November 5, 1999

(Note: authors/directors submitting works for consideration may not serve on the Play Selection Committee.)

For Applications and More Info...

Call **734-971-0605** or E-mail **mpatrick@bizserve.com**

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
2275 Platt Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Phone: 734-971-0605
Fax: 734-971-2769

Coming soon:

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
presents

STEEL PIER



The Dance Marathon Musical!
Nominated for eleven 1997 Tony Awards

Book by

DAVID THOMPSON

Music and Lyrics by

JOHN KANDER & FRED EBB

Conceived by SCOTT ELLIS, SUSAN STROMAN, & DAVID THOMPSON

Directed by

RONALD P. BAUMANIS

Choreographed by

RONALD P. BAUMANIS & PATTY MAZZOLA



"Belongs with *Chicago* and *Cabaret*
as a 'rich third'..." —Wall Street Journal

"Its open heart is a relief from the
push-button irony of most current
musicals..." —The New York Times

"☆☆☆☆ (out of four)" —USA Today

NOVEMBER 4-14

NIGHTLY AT 8:00 PM

SUNDAYS AT 2:00 PM

DARK ON MONDAY

Presented by exclusive arrangement with and rental materials provided
by Samuel French Inc., 45 West 25th Street, New York, NY 10010

CIVIC

For info or to volunteer:
(734) 971-AACT
www.a2ct.org

THE PLAYHOUSE
2275 Platt Road

