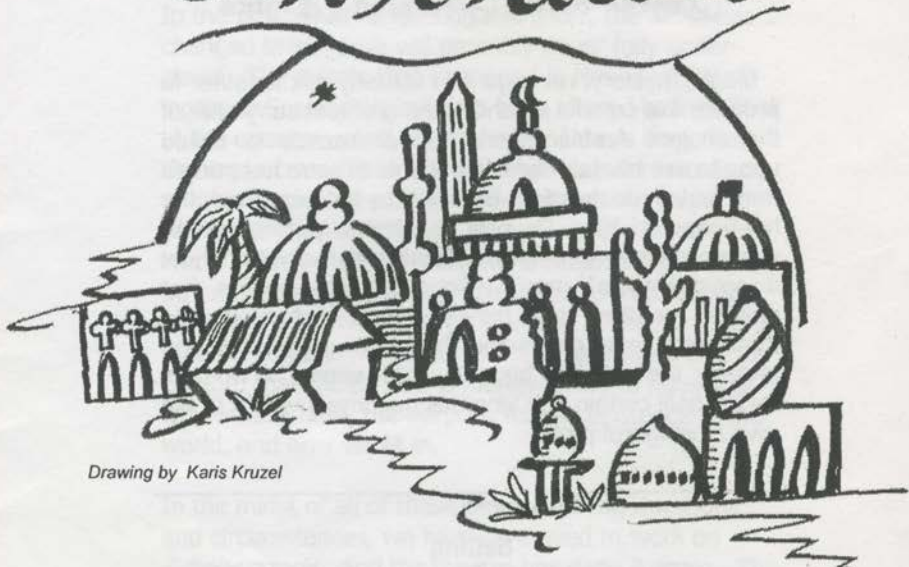


Ann Arbor Civic Theatre presents

Scheherazade



Drawing by Karis Kruzel

Legend of the Arabian Nights

by Sue Pargman

A Junior Theatre Production
directed by

Annissa Morgensen-Lindsay

October 18 - 21, 2001

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Evenings at 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, Sunday
Matinees at 2:00 P.M.

October 17, 2001

Special Wednesday Evening
Performance at 7:30 P.M.

*Proceeds to benefit the
Cantor-Fitzgerald Relief Fund*

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Services, Inc.

Scheherazade

Legend of the Arabian Nights

Magic, mystery, revenge and comedy mix together to produce this colorful legend of the greatest storyteller of the ancient Arabian world. Scheherazade is called upon to use her tale-spinning talents to save her people from certain destruction. Betrayed by his betrothed, the hot-tempered King Raynah decides to punish all the women in his kingdom. Armed only with her wit and just a smattering of magic, Scheherazade recites her stories for the king himself. Her enchanted tale transforms royal counselors into powerful genies and mutates the king into his own worst enemy: a woman. By the final curtain, the king has become a victim of his own revengeful plot!

Setting

Main thoroughfare of an ancient Persian city, circa 700 BC.

Act One

Scene One: Late afternoon on the main thoroughfare of town

Scene Two: Same location, the next morning

Scene Three: The Queen's chambers, late evening

Act Two

Scene One: The Queen's chambers, the next evening

Scene Two: The main thoroughfare, the next day

Scene Three: The Queen's chambers, late evening

There will be a 15 minute intermission between Acts One and Two.

Director's Statement:

In the process of rehearsing this show, the world has changed in ways we will probably never fully understand. The events that happened in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania have altered how we look at the country. And, in the wake of these tragedies, theatres across the country closed down for two days, an unprecedented stop in modern times. As Mayor Giuliani urged the theatres to re-open, the theatre world asked how? How can we continue to entertain, be funny, tragic, or trivial in the midst of real tragedy? All of this is answered when you look at the purpose of theatre. I teach my students from elementary-age to college, that the theatre is merely trying to figure out why we are here, the purpose for our existence in this world, and how we fit in.

In the midst of all of these brain-jumbling questions and circumstances, we have continued to work on *Scheherazade*. And the theatre has done it again. The past few weeks of rehearsals have been nothing short of amazing. Shortly after September 11th, we realized that we were working on a Middle Eastern story. We wondered if we were encountering too sensitive an area. But no, we were merely telling a story, trying to understand who we are, attempting to know who the Middle Eastern people are. And we have learned that they are just like us. They go shopping, they get married and they make mistakes and learn from them, too. They are trying to learn, just like us, to accept others for who they are.

So I encourage you to sit back, relax, and put aside your worries and concerns. Just because there is tragedy in the world, it doesn't mean we can't laugh a little too.

--Annisssa

Scheherazade Cast List

- Scheherazade — Cara Noveskey
Dinarazade (Dinny) — Anika Steppe
Grand Vizier — Scott Stelter
King Raynah — Brian Kendall
Nefario — Caleb Kruzel
Jorah — Pat Grimes
Lily/Farmer — Mijoe Sahiouni
Yazmina/Ox Backside — Kiersti Kruzel
Mariah — Sasha Lazare
Amber/Donkey Front — Kristen Stelter
Shima — Claire Psarouthakis
Cassandra/Donkey Backside — Ashley Rogow
Nadia/Queen/Ox Front — Emily Tweedy
Rhea/Shoshanna — Kristen Miller
Skeeter — Michael Vasher
Hussain — Kurt Miller
Mara — Kellen McCoy
Leah — Meghan Berry

Scheherazade Cast Bios

"Scheherazade" Cara Noveskey is 15 years old and lives in Clinton, MI. She has been in two previous plays, as Skin Horse in *The Velvet-reen Rabbit* and as Marilla in *Anne of Green Gable*, both with the Sienna Heights University (SHU) Theatre Program. She has also sung in the SHU choir for several years and danced for eight years at the Dance Center in Adrian. Cara enjoys playing guitar, drawing and reading. She would like to thank her family — dad, mom, her sisters, Anya and Sarah, and her brother Ben. She'd also like to thank her dance teacher, Eleanor Brown.

"Dinarazade/Dinny" Anika Steppe, age 10, is in the fifth grade at Eberwhite Elementary School and likes to play soccer, act, dance and hang out with her friends. She has acted in three musicals including *Barnum* and two different productions of *The Music Man*. She looks forward to being in more shows with Sasha and Pat.

"Grand Vizier" Scott Stelter is 11 years old and in sixth grade at Scarlett Middle School. Scott enjoys Lego's, video games and playing sports. He would like to thank his sister, Kristen, and his father and mother.

"King Raynah" Brian Kendall is an 8th grader at Pathfinder School in Pinkney. He has played Colin in *The Secret Garden* and Simon Stimson in *Our Town*. He enjoys playing guitar and doing impressions. He would like to thank everyone for coming to the show.

"Nefario" Caleb Kruzel attends Bates School in Dexter. He enjoys gymnastics and soccer.

"Jorjah" Pat Grimes attends Abbot Elementary School in Ann Arbor. He has acted in several plays. His favorite was *The Miracle Worker*. Pat likes to play with his friends and with his video games and toys.

"Lily/Farmer" Mijou Sahiouni attends Clague Middle School in Ann Arbor. She has performed in *Snow White*, *Girls to the Rescue* and played Alice in AACT's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. Mijou would like to thank God, her whole family (mom, dad and grandma) and all her friends that come to her productions and who have given her so much support. She would also like to thank the whole cast and crew especially Annissa, Ms. Kruzel, Emily, Kiersti, Kirsten, Ashley and many, many more. "The whole world's a stage!"

"Yazmina" Kiersti Kruzel attends Millcreek Middle School in Dexter. Her favorite activities are reading, writing, playing tennis and listening to music. Kiersti would like to thank her teachers: Ms. Boelter, Ms. Bronson, Ms. Davis and Ms. Ridenour for encouraging her acting.

"Mariah" Sasha Lazare is a 5th grader at The Ann Arbor Open School. She has acted in YPT's *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Barnum* and *The Music Man* and AACT's *Evita* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Sasha likes to sing, dance, act, play soccer, hang out with her friends and talk on the phone. Her favorite color is purple. She is excited to be acting with her friends, Anika Steppe and Pat Grimes.

"Amber" Kristen Stelter is a student at Community High in Ann Arbor. She was in AACT's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. Kristen loves cats, singing, dancing, acting, debating, writing songs and stories, and watching television. She would like to thank her parents, especially her dad for all the hard work he puts into everything.

"Shima" Claire Psarouthakis attends Slauson Middle School in Ann Arbor. Her previous acting roles include playing a dwarf in *Snow White*, the Evil Queen and Rowena in *Girls to the Rescue* and the Queen of Hearts in AACT's production of *Alice in Wonderland*. Claire would like to thank God, her parents for all their support, her sister and brother, and Jeff Daniels because he is her inspiration (especially after seeing him at her basketball game!)

"Cassandra" Ashley Rogow is a student at Tappan Middle School in Ann Arbor. She has been in two plays before. Ashley loves to sing, dance, act and do art of all kinds, especially painting, drawing and sketching. She would like to thank her mom and dad for their encouragement.

"Naida/Queen" Emily Tweedy is a student at Millcreek Middle School in Dexter. She would like to thank God for the talents he has given her. She would also like to thank her parents, Lori and Darren, her grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins and last but not least her loving brother, Scott. She also thanks her friends including cast members Mijoe, Kiersti, Caleb, Sasha, Emily and Ms. Kruzel and Annissa. Emily would like to say that she is proud to be an American

"Rhea/Shoshanna" Kristen Miller is in the eighth grade at Millcreek Middle School in Dexter. Her favorite subject is English. She loves to read novels and enjoys drama and acting. She would like to thank Annissa, Karis and Kiersti.

"Skeeter" Michael Vasher is a student at St. Francis of Assisi. He likes to ride his bike and likes art and science. He hates math.

"Hussain" Kurt Miller attends Bates Elementary School in Dexter. He likes soccer and recess at school. Kurt also enjoys Nintendo and cars. His favorite car is an Audi TT.

"Mara" Kellen McCoy goes to Angell Elementary School in Ann Arbor. She has been in YPT's *The Music Man*, *Strange Things Happen* at her church and a school production of *Freedom Bound*. Kellen enjoys singing, acting and playing field hockey. She would like to thank her mother, father and grandparents, who encouraged her to sing, act and play the piano. She would also like to thank her sister who never, ever gives up on her even when she's not doing so well.

"Leah" Meghan Berry is nine years old and is home schooled. She likes to read, play the piano, paint and act. Her past acting experiences includes Tessie in *Annie* and an Indian in *Peter Pan*. Meghan would like to thank her mom, dad and her sister for putting up with driving her to rehearsal. She would also like to thank Annissa for being a great director.



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Crew

Director:	Annissa Morgensen-Lindsay
Producers	Suzi Peterson, Billie Ochberg
Set / Costume Design:	Karis Kruzel
Lighting Design:	Paul T. Carras
Music Compilation:	Lawrence Lazare
Poster Design:	Lawrence Lazare
Original Artwork:	Lynn Ochberg, Karis Kruzel
Costume Production:	Karis Kruzel, Diana Miller, Annissa Morgensen-Lindsay, Emmy Sahiouni, Katherine Keesling, Wendy Berry
Properties:	Loretta Grimes, Karis Kruzel, Cassie Mann, Billie Ochberg Annissa Morgensen-Lindsay
Set Construction:	Karis Kruzel, Mike Kruzel, Paul Carras, Tom Steppe, Jack Vasher, Lori Tweedy, Emmy Sahiouni
Program:	Shelley Steele

Special thanks

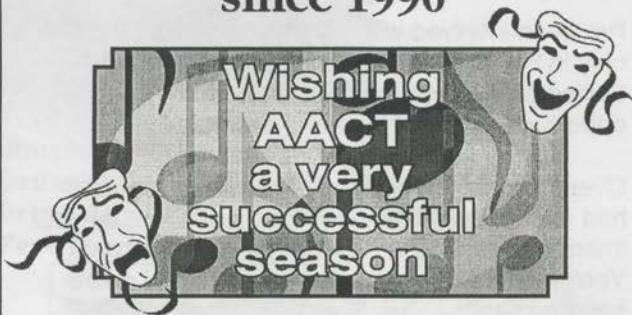
- To all of the families of the young actors for the patience, support and volunteering of their time
- To the Lindsay family for support
- To the Kruzel family for the materials
- To Zingerman's Bakehouse for the bread.



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**A message from the author,
Susan Pargman**

To the cast and crew of "Scheherazade":

First of all, I apologize for writing a play that is so hard to spell! At least I shortened Dinarzade's name to "Dinny."

I've been involved with plays ever since TV came only in black, white and shades of gray, and I'm thrilled that you young people have this special opportunity to learn the art of drama.

Over the past few months of rehearsals, you've had to strain your brains to memorize, fire up your imaginations, and work together as a team. You've obviously come through it all and now have a chance to see your efforts pay off in performance. Thanks to the adults that were caring enough to help you through all that. But the adults are not the only teachers. Did you know that adults learn from children as well? You are our examples of what it means to trust, believe in what we can only imagine and have faith in a happily-ever-after world. Adults have a hard time remembering that. We have to look to our children to remind us. My advice? Never forget what it means to be a child. Never lose the beauty of who you are right now. Try as hard as you can as you grow up to take responsibility, give and always love as deeply as you do now. b

Enough said! Let me wish you all the best for your play. It belongs to you now. Take it and run like the wind with it!



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The Lucky Spot Mar. 14-24

Directed by Wendy Wright
At the A2CT Theatre Downtown

Junior Theatre Musical TBA May 2-5

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