



Bucknell
UNIVERSITY

The Department of
Theatre and Dance
presents

Black COMeDY

by
Peter
Shaffer

October 25–28, 2013
Harvey M. Powers Theatre

Directed by Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson

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Director's Notes

For the last five years at Bucknell, I have been directing tragedies. Although I have engaged in a little realism, a little fantasy and one enormous period romance — the theme of my directing oeuvre here in Lewisburg has notably been a bit 'heavy.' From *Blood Wedding* to *The Bacchae* to *Macbeth*, there has been a lot of bloodshed. And Frankly, I blame this squarely on my home life.

I am a mom. I have two volatile teenagers, a temperamental three year old and an eight year old who is known for his ill-timed daydreaming. I also have a husband who enjoys long motorcycle rides in the country, sometimes when he is supposed to be picking up children from activities. Our house is prone to drama. As a parent, I know we always have choices. Turn the other cheek, stay on the same team, rise above the crazy...but in the heat of the moment when I find myself steeping in the thick of it I find there's often nothing helpful for the frustration seeping out every pore. But there is another choice, an obvious choice: laughter. Better to laugh, I know, than to grind your teeth at night. Better to laugh than replay that annoying conversation over and over in your head. Better to laugh than to take your kid's cell phone and send it sailing out the car window and into the Susquehanna.

A very wise friend of mine once told me a story about how family gatherings really used to bother him but how he and his wife would laugh about them afterwards. Then he had the revelation to imagine himself outside of the situation while it was happening and laugh at himself in the moment. And isn't that just the key to comedy as a whole? Put yourself outside the situation, take delight in the ridiculousness, the lack of proportion, the clash of personalities and ideas. And although there are some things in life that truly are tragic, things that we can't laugh at today or a year from today, so much of our lives are invitations to laughter and opportunities for joy. If only poor suffering Brindsley could see the comedy around him, life would be a lot more fun. Yes to blackouts! Yes to overbearing fathers! Yes to crazy ex-girlfriends! Bring them on.

Although I will be sad when this show closes, I can't wait for the show to begin tonight, because no matter what happened today, I love being in the audience. I love enjoying the circus together, together with my kids, together with my husband and together with this whole audience as only theatre can provide. I look forward to us laughing together and taking that laughter home into our silly, frustrating, wonderful lives. I may never direct tragedy again. — Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson

Guest Artist

Samantha JP Norton (Dialect and Slapstick Coach) Actors Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild, Society of American Fight Directors

Samantha holds an MFA in Opera and Theatre from the University of Maryland College Park, is an Affiliate Artist with The Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, and is the Artistic Director of Fightrix: a theatre company that trains actors and students for Stage and Film Fighting...or falling.

Sam is thrilled to be returning to Bucknell University dialect and physical work for *Black Comedy*. Past productions Sam has worked on at Bucknell are, *True West*, *Shepardfest*, *The Bacchae*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Wild Party*. Other professional affiliations are Commedia dell'Arte troupe, Zuppa Del Giorno in Scranton and Bloomsburg University.

Samantha received The New York Innovative Theatre Artists Awards for Best Supporting Actress in *How I Learned to Drive* and her role of Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown*, *The Musical*. Current productions Sam is in at BTE are *The Merchant of Venice* and *A Very Special Christmas Special* TV show.

Cast and Crew

Isabel Blatt '16 (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore studying Psychology, Education and Theatre. During her first season at Bucknell, Issey served as the assistant stage manager for *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer* and *The Complete Works of Shakespeare [Abridged]*. She was blood coordinator/run crew for the mainstage production of *Macbeth* and costume/run crew for Nightcap '12: *Groesome Playground Injuries*. This past summer, Issey worked as the assistant stage manager for TADA! Youth Theater's production of *Sleepover* in New York City.

Gabriel Calleja '16 (Brindsley Miller) cannot express his overwhelming glee at being a part of such an interesting and rambunctious motley of sarcastic and crude individuals. Gabe Calleja begins his sophomore year after a busy first year with the theater department. He has previously been on the Bucknell stage in a myriad of roles, including *The Lovesong of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (Dr. Oppenheimer); *The Complete Works of Shakespeare [Abridged]* (Hamlet), and *Masks, Movement and Mayhem* (Stewart), as well as Cocktails '12: *Sheherazade*. High school productions include *The Caine Mutiny* (Lt. Maryk), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Peter), and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Jonathan Brewster).

Sheridan Gates '14 (Clea) is thrilled to be back on stage for her senior year with this production. Over her four years at Bucknell University she has performed or participated in *The Wild Party* (Nora), *Pride and Prejudice* (Charlotte Lucas), *The Bacchae* (script supervisor), *Shepardfest* (assistant stage manager), and Cocktails (director '11 and actor '10). Other credits include *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Asher and chorus) and *Hello, Dolly!* (ensemble) with the Granbury Opera House in Texas; *A Christmas Carol* (Martha Cratchit) at McCarter Theatre; *A Chorus Line* (Diana Morales), *Julius Caesar* (Cassius), and *Sweet Charity* (Nickie) at Princeton Day School. In addition to her Theatre major, she has studied musical theatre with US Performing Arts in NYC and Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan and just returned from a semester studying theatre history in London.

Emily Hooper '14 (Carol Melkett) is overjoyed to be part of this delightful little comedypo in her final year here at Bucknell. A Theatre and Film and Media Studies double major, she has previously appeared on the Bucknell stage in *Savage/Love*, Cocktails (actor '10, director '11), *The Bacchae* (Theban Woman "Penelope"), *Pride and Prejudice* (Caroline Bingley), *How I Learned to Drive* (Lil' Bit), and *Masks, Movement and Mayhem* (George "Checkers" Carburnke). Regional theatre credits include *The Admirable Crichton* (Tweeny), *Little Men* (Daisy), *A Duck Called Ugly* (Fluffy/Nanny Goat/Old Woman) and *Present Laughter* (w/s Daphne Stillington) at the Peterborough Players. Emily spent a semester abroad this past fall studying at the London Dramatic Academy, and she recently trained this summer at The Barrow Group Theatre Company in New York City. She is an Equity Membership Candidate for the Actors' Equity Association.

Madison Lane '14 (Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre and Psychology major with a Classics minor. During her time at Bucknell, Madison has also stage-managed *Really Tying Here*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *How I Learned to Drive*, and, most recently, *Masks, Movement, and Mayhem*. She has also served as a board op and run crew on many Bucknell Theatre and Dance productions, including Cocktails/ Nightcap '12, Choreographer's Showcase 2012, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [Abridged]*, and *Night Train to Bolivia*.

Gareth Messman '17 (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman majoring in Engineering. This is Gareth's first production at Bucknell. In high school he served as the shop manager and head carpenter for *Man of La Mancha* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

E. C. Puplett '16 (Assistant Director) is a sophomore History major with a Music minor. In his first year at Bucknell, Eliot performed under John Bruner in his Cocktail, *Seeing The Light*. Coming from Great Britain, Eliot graduated with Performing Arts Honors from Battle Abbey School, East Sussex where he performed in *Merrily We Roll Along* (Charley), *A Servant To Two Masters* (Pantaloone), *Cabaret* (Cliff), and *Black Comedy* (Brindsley). Eliot has also worked as assistant to Director Thomas Hopkins, London's West End theatre.

Estie Pyper '16 (Miss Furnival) is a sophomore Theatre and English major. Last season at Bucknell, Estie played The Messenger/Gentlewoman in *Macbeth* and Delilah in the devised piece, *Masks, Movement, and Mayhem*. She also appeared in the Fall and Spring Dance Showcases. Past credits include *This Bird of Dawning* with The Sting and Honey Company in Salt Lake City, and Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew* at Waterford High School.

Trey Snow '16 (Harold Gorringe) is thrilled to make his third appearance in a Bucknell University production. He previously appeared in *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer* playing the roles of General Leslie Groves as well as J. Edgar Hoover. He has also appeared in Cocktails playing Stranger from *The Man with the Flower in His Mouth*. While attending the Fine Arts Center in South Carolina, his roles included Kafka and Hal in *All in the Timing* in addition to the Bridegroom in *Blood Wedding*.

Michael Strauss '14 (Colonel) is a Theatre major at Bucknell University and is currently pursuing a minor in Music. This past summer Michael was part of the Williamstown Theatre Festival Apprentice program where he worked with industry professionals on summer stock, touring, and Broadway shows. At Bucknell he has performed in: *Macbeth*, *The Wild Party*, *Aria Da Capo*, *The Bacchae*, Cocktail Theatre 2011: *Roadkill*, and Shepardfest: *The Sad Lament of Pecos Bill*, and *Tongues*. Michael is a member of the Bison Chips and Sigma Phi Epsilon. He is an Equity Membership Candidate for the Actors' Equity Association.

Evan Turissini '16 (Assistant Director) is a sophomore Theatre major. During his first season at Bucknell, he played Bloody Sergeant/Old Man/Murderer #2 in *Macbeth*, Eric in Cocktails '12: *The Man Who Couldn't Dance*, ensemble/chorus in *Same River*, and Dennis in *Masks, Movement, and Mayhem*! Later this season, he will be directing a short 10-minute piece as part of this year's Cocktail Theatre production.

Alex Wade '16 (George Bamberger) is a sophomore Computer Science major (probably). Alex has performed, during his first year as Doug in *Groesome Playground Injuries*, in the ensemble of *The Complete Works Of Shakespeare [abridged]*, in the ensemble of *Masks, Mayhem, and Movement*, and was the assistant stage manager of *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. He did lots and lots of plays in his high school career, most notably as George from *Our Town*.

Bryan Wills '15 (Franz Emmanuel Schuppanzigh) is happy to be a part of this production. He recently appeared in *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (Col Landstable/Strauss). Other Bucknell performances include Cocktails '12: *Superhero* as well as Bucknell Opera Company Fall 2011, Spring and Fall 2012. Other productions include Saybrook Stage: *You Can't Take it With You* (Ed Carmichael); High School performances *Music Man* (Harold Hill), *South Pacific* (Emile De Beque), and *Gyps and Dolls* (Arvide Abernathy).

Artistic Team

Stage Management..... Madison Lane '14
Scene Design..... F. Elaine Williams
Costume Design..... Paula Davis
Lighting and Sound Design..... Heath J. Hansum
Dialect Coaching..... Samantha JP Norton
Assistant Directors..... Eliot Puplett '16 and Evan Turissini '16
Assistant Costume Designer..... Shimra Fine
Assistant Lighting Designer..... Noah Fram
Clea's paintings..... Jackie Eppinger '15
Brinsley's sculpture..... Brett Walter '15
Artsy Mannequin..... Shea Braummuller '16

Cast List

Brindsley Miller..... Gabe Calleja '16
Carol Melkett..... Emily Hooper '14
Miss Furnival..... Estie Pyper '16
Colonel Melkett..... Michael Strauss '14
Harold Gorringe..... Trey Snow '16
Clea..... Sheridan Gates '14
Franz Emmanuel Schuppanzigh..... Bryan Wills '15
George Bamberger..... Alex Wade '16

Production Staff

Assistant Stage Managers..... Gareth Messman '17, Isabel Blatt '16
Costume Studio Manager..... Pam Miller
Costume Design Intern..... Shimra Fine
Costume TAs..... Bronwyn Barnwell '15, Rebecca Fritsch '15
..... Alexandra Hammond '14, Nicole Kleponis '16, Lena Madison '17
Scene Painting and Properties..... Shea Braumiller '16, Jackie Eppinger '15
..... Brett Walter '15
Makeup and Hair Design..... Sarah Welton
Wardrobe..... Serenity Randle '16, Richelle Kozluský '14
Lightboard Operator..... Shea Braummuller '16
Sound Board Operator..... Rodney West '17
Run Crew..... Alex Cohen '17, Melissa Rios '16
Technical Director..... Mark Hutchinson
Scenery and Lighting Production..... Liz Barley '14, Andrew Cannavo '17, Alex Cohen '17
..... Joe Duvall '16, Kyle Deviney '16, Erin Frey '17, Anthony Gomez '16
..... David Kading '17, Katlin Marsh '14, Reid McLain '17, Gareth Messman '17
..... Kyle Montgomery '15, Kellen Peter '16, Melissa Rios '16
..... Rachel Smith '17, Morgan Turner '14, Greg Wolf '17
Publicity..... Emily Hooper '14, Gwenn Gideon '15, Samuel Ingram '16
..... Samantha Gates '16, Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson

DePaRTMENT of TheaTRe and DanCe

Paula D. Davis, chair costume design and history
Shimra Fine costume design intern
Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson acting and directing
Noah Fram entertainment technology assistant
Christine Fry academic assistant
Gary Grant theatre history, theory, directing
Heath Hansum technical direction, lighting
Er-Dong Hu dance technique and theory
Mark Hutchinson technical coordinator
Kelly Knox, director of dance dance technique and theory
Dustyn Martincich theatre and dance technique
Pam Miller costume shop manager
Samantha JP Norton theatre adjunct
Biliana Stoytcheva-Horissian theatre adjunct
F. Elaine Williams scenography

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SPECIAL THANKS: Jason Winfield, Properties Supervisor, School of Theatre – Penn State; Samantha JP Norton; Jessie Horning; Betty Myers of Betty's Ceramics in White Deer, PA; Hope Hutchinson; John Hardt, Tim Pavlechko and Bucknell Track and Field

UPCOMING mainStage eVENTS

Fall Dance Concert

Featuring faculty, student and guest artist choreography
December 6 and 7 at 8 p.m. • Harvey M. Powers Theatre

The Mystery of Edwin Droid

Directed by Gary Grant, choreographed by Dustyn Martincich
April 11, 12 and 14 at 8 p.m., April 13 at 2 p.m.
Harvey M. Powers Theatre

oTher eVENTS

Fall Dance Showcase

November 15 at 8 p.m. and November 16 at 2 p.m.
Harvey M. Powers Theatre

"Waiting," from *Almost an Evening*

November 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. • Hunt Hall Basement

Cocktail Theatre

December 9 and 10 at 5 p.m. • Tustin Studio Theatre

Young Directors' Showcase Festival

An evening of three on-acts featuring junior directing students
February 14 and 15 at 8 p.m. • Tustin Studio Theatre

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