

Bucknell Department Of Theatre & Dance



Women Wearing The Same Dress

« by Alan Ball »

October 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2009

8:00 p.m.

Harvey M. Powers Theatre

Bucknell
UNIVERSITY

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Presents

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress

By Alan Ball

DirectionAnjalee Deshpande
Assistant DirectionSarah Kosheff '11
Scene DesignF. Elaine Williams
Costume DesignPaula Davis
Assistant Costume DesignAlizon Baretzky
Lighting DesignHeath J. Hansum
Sound DesignNicholas Gehman '10
Technical DirectionMark Hutchinson
Dialect CoachMichael Barbour
Stage ManagementRyan Abercrombie '11
Assistant Stage ManagementEmma Case '13, Noelle Lampazzi '13

CAST (in order of apperance)

Frances (and U/S Trisha)Rachel Pearce '10
MeredithAli Keller '12
TrishaChristina Cody '12
GeorgianneJulia Frieri '10
Mindy (and U/S Georgianne)Wendy Schibener '10
TrippKobi Davis '11
U/S FrancesSophie Dawson '12
U/S MeredithEmily Singleton '12
U/S MindyJillian Lewis '13
U/S TrippEdward Palliet '11

There will be one 10-minute intermission –

Please Note: Smoking, the taking of photographs, and the use of recording devices are strictly prohibited. Please turn off your cell phones & beepers before the performance begins.
Thank you.

Special Guest Artist - Michael Barbour

(Dialect Coach) After receiving his MFA in acting from Catholic University and an MA in Speech for Syracuse University, Professor Barbour has been acting professionally for over thirty years. He performed at Syracuse Stage in *Amadeus*, at the Red House in *Rounding Third* and *A Naked Girl on the Appian Way*, and with Gifford Family Theatre in *Mother Hicks*, *Fever 1793* and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, among many other shows. Professor Barbour is the assistant director of theatre at Le Moyne College and has worked there as a guest actor (*Translations*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Living*,) and director (*Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Lady's not for Burning*, *An Evening of Ives* and *Our Town*.) He has acted in regional productions, toured the country with National Players, and appeared in numerous commercials, training films, and network television programs. Professor Barbour has also done extensive work on voice and dialect coaching, having trained with Patsy Rodenberg at the Michael Howard Studio on New York City. He has coached dialects for productions including *Slab Boys*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *An Ideal Husband* and *Arcadia*.

Director's Notes

DIETER & ISAAC: *We are your wedding planners, darling. We'd been thinking of a sort of nautical theme for you setting out on a voyage together, that was the idea but if you prefer it here in the woods, we can change it, no problem. We can change it to a woodland theme or a rocky hill and crag theme. And we could do the hand-fasting ceremony, calling on all the four directions, for the blessing of the deep and fruitful earth, invoking the God of Love. Or a golf course theme. All the bridesmaids dressed as caddies, little golf bags on every table holding wedding candies.*

JULIAN: *It's lovely here. Nature. All untrammelled and untamed.*

HEINER: *I hate nature. The muck. The tangle of it. Mile after mile of empty meadows. Nothing has been arranged with any sense of economy or restraint. I like a landscape that shows some evidence of having been touched by human hands.*

JULIAN: *And yet here in the natural world you have the open air, fresh water, the companionship of animals in their natural homes.*

HEINER: *I look at nature and I think: did god have any taste at all? The shapes are grotesque. The colors are garish. The smells are horrid and your feet are always wet.*

From *A Perfect Wedding*

By Charles L. Mee

Playwrights Alan Ball and Charles Mee share a common theme in their plays about weddings; the exploration of a culture that Ball says promotes "purchasing a pre-packaged experience" rather than living a genuine experience. Both playwrights, with rich Southern understandings have very vibrant and visceral descriptions of large societal weddings in the South and the pressures that come with these monumental rites of passage. While Mee focuses on how these pressures affect the bride and groom, Ball's play concentrates on a lesser-studied group known as the Bridesmaids.

As anyone who has ever been a bridesmaid knows, her feelings are the least of the day's concerns. As one of the bride's ladies in waiting, her main duty is to appear, like the bride, flawless. The bridesmaids are both props and decorations and often times asked to be devoid of all individual personality in an effort to create an aesthetic that is at its core – elegant, tasteful and inauthentic. Like the tangle of nature that Mee describes, the "natural" woman is grotesque and must be 'tamed' with economy and restraint in order to make her part of the perfect wedding. This wedding aesthetic is the metaphor through which Ball examines his lifelong thematic exploration: living an authentic life in an inauthentic world.

Just as the bride demands the bridesmaids squeeze themselves into dresses and hairstyles they would never choose for themselves, so too does our culture force women to squeeze into roles and choices that try to restrain who they are in an effort to become who they should be. All of the women in this play have constricted their own natures to fit with cultural and societal expectations of who they should be. It is only when they begin to see the madness in each other that they can see it in themselves. It is only when they begin to support each other that each of them begins to really blossom and grow. It is only when they help each other that they finally realize happiness only becomes possible when we accept what we are instead of what we are supposed to be. And although what we are may be unsightly, untamed and overgrown what we are not - is alone. So sit back and relax. Get ready for garish colors and grotesque sights. Prepare to smell bad and get your feet wet. Enjoy *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*.

-Anjalee Deshpande

Special Thanks To:

Rodney Young, Tracy Shaynak, Coralynn Davis, Debby Abowitz, Chris Petersen, Christine Prendergast, Colin Henry, Cap and Dagger and University Hair Design.

Tuxedo rental provided by J. Kleinbauer Co. of Selinsgrove.

Generous support by the Bucknell Association for the Arts and the Richard A. Klein Theatre and Dance Endowment has made our 2009-2010 artistic season, guest artists' performances, master classes, workshops and residencies possible.

Cast & Crew Bios

Rachael Pearce (Frances) is honored and thrilled to have been performing all her four years at Bucknell. She has had the privilege to play the major roles of the Wife in *Blood Wedding*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Tessie in *Never in My Lifetime*, Katherine in *The Secret Rapture*, Frau Gabor in *Spring Awakening* and now Frances in *Five Women*. Rachael attended the Stella Adler Studio Summer Conservatory Program in the Summer of 2008 and NYU's Tisch School for the Arts Summer 2009 Program. She wants to thank the cast, crew, the Department, and Anjalee for a joyous and refreshing journey this fall with *Five Women*.

Ali Keller (Meredith) is a sophomore theater major here at Bucknell University and is thrilled to be playing Meredith in this production of *5 Women Wearing the Same Dress*. She has previously been seen as a reveler in *Twelfth Night* and Lisa in *The Outcome* and is the only female member of Bucknell University's premiere improv comedy troupe *We Brake for Nobody*. She would like to thank the Bucknell Theater department for always being encouraging and supportive.

Tina Cody (Trisha) is incredibly excited to perform in such an incredible piece with an even more incredible cast of women! Tina is a sophomore Theater major with a minor in dance. She played Mae in *Mud*, a dancer in *12th Night*, and was in *Ferris Wheel* for Cocktails last year. She would like to thank Anjalee for her incredible understanding and faith as well as the rest of the cast for such a life changing experience.

Julia Frieri (Georgeanne) is beyond thrilled to be back on the Bucknell stage! Julia is a senior Theatre major with a minor in dance and she will be directing *bobrauschen-bergamerica* on the mainstage in February. You may have seen Julia as Wendla in *Spring Awakening*, Hope in *Urinetown*, and Maire in *Never in My Lifetime*. Directing credits at Bucknell include *MUD* by Maria Irene Fornes and Assistant Director on *Blood Wedding*. Julia would like to thank the incredibly talented cast for an amazing experience and Anjalee for her support and guidance.

Wendy Schibener (Mindy) is a double major in English and Theatre from Rockaway, NJ. This is her fourth and final year at Bucknell after returning from a semester abroad at Queen Mary University in London. She has previously acted on the Bucknell stage as "Maria" in *Twelfth Night*, "Sarah" in *A Time for Farewells*, and many other roles. She has also directed several one-acts at both Queen Mary and Bucknell. Wendy is looking forward to pursuing a future career as a starving (but happy) artist in the theater world. She feels so blessed to be involved in such a spectacular production as *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*.

Kobi Davis (Tripp) has his first proud appearance on the Bucknell stage as a southern gentleman. Kobi is a transfer student from Tulsa Community College in Oklahoma; there he studied theatre and received his Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. Kobi's last on stage performance was that of Lysander from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* where he received the best male actor award from TCC. His experiences with the director and cast has been wonderfully dynamic and influential. He would especially like to thank Anjalee for her devotion to the show.

Ryan Abercrombie (Stage Manager) is a junior Theatre and Economics double major and is proud to be stage managing his third mainstage production at Bucknell. He has been involved in some way with nearly every production since his arrival—previous credits including SM for *The Children's Hour* and *Life as a Ball and Feste* in *Twelfth Night*. Ryan is also an Officer-Candidate Seaman in the United States Navy and is contracted to attend OCS and flight school in Pensacola upon graduation. Congratulations to Anjalee, the cast, the design team, the TAs, and his awesome ASMs for a job well done!

Emma Case (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be a part of this production of *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. As a freshman, this is her first production with Bucknell. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew of *Five Women* for making her first play in college such an excellent experience.

Noel Lampazzi (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman majoring in Environmental Studies and Classics and is happy for this opportunity to participate as an ASM in *Five Women*. This is her first production here at Bucknell, but she has worked backstage for nearly twenty productions in high school, including stage manager for *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *As You Like It*. Noel currently hopes to work as a conservationist or zoologist.

Sophie Dawson (U/S Frances) is a sophomore and is extremely excited to be able to participate in her third production at Bucknell with a fantastic cast! She has been performing in a wide variety of theater productions for seven years and plans on majoring in theatre during her undergraduate years. Good luck to all!!

Emily Singleton (U/S Meredith) is a sophomore Theatre and Philosophy major with a dance minor. During her first season at Bucknell, Emily played a colorful and rambunctious reveler in *Twelfth Night*, Evelyn Munn in *The Children's Hour*, and The Bride in *Blood Wedding*. Emily has always had a passion for theatre, and has studied at The Circle and the Square Theatre School, and spent this past summer at The Neighborhood Playhouse Theatre school in NYC. Emily would like to thank Anjalee for giving her the opportunity to try something new, because she has LOVED working to support such a talented cast!!

Jillian Lewis (U/S Mindy) is so grateful for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful production! Jillian is a freshman at Bucknell University and feels truly luck for this experience. She would like to thank Anjalee and the cast for making her feel at home!

Nicholas Gehman (Sound Designer) is a senior this year who is thrilled to be working sound for this production. He plans to graduate this year as an elementary education major and is hoping to take time off after graduation to play guitar in a rhythm and blues band. He has performed in numerous appearances with Michael Truitt, Rex Litwin and Slapdash.

Paula Denise Davis, costume design and history
Anjalee Deshpande, acting and directing
Christine Fry, academic assistant
Mark Hutchinson, technical coordinator
Gary Grant, theatre history, theory, directing
Heath Hansum, technical direction, lighting
Er-Dong Hu, director of dance, dance technique and theory
Kelly Knox, dance technique and theory
Dustyn Martincich, theatre and dance technique
Pam Miller, costumer
Alizon Baretzky, costume design intern
F. Elaine Williams, chair scenography

UPCOMING MAINSTAGE EVENTS

Bobrauschenbergamerica – February 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2010 – The Harvey M. Powers Theatre.

Shading Silhouettes of Smaller Ones – March 6, 7 and 8, 2010 – The Tustin Theatre.

Curtains – April 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2010 – The Harvey M. Powers Theatre.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Cocktail Theatre; The Directing 340 One Act Play Festival – Monday December 7 and Tuesday December 8, 2009 – The Tustin Theatre.

Showcase: No Exit – March 25, 26, 27, 28, 2010 – The Tustin Theatre.

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