

SIFA
School of **Theatre**
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

presents the 5th Biennial



China Dolls
by Jack Heifner
April 25 and 28

States of Grace
by James McLure
April 26 and 29



Changing
by Gretchen Cryer
April 27 and 29

sponsored in part by



SFA SCHOOL OF THEATRE
and the
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
present

A Festival of New American Plays

Directed by Jack Heifner

Scenic Design by C. L. Ward

Lighting Design by Jeff Lochmann

*Sound Design by Eric Franklin **

Choreography by Juanita Finkenberg

*Production Stage Manager: Amber Talley **

*Assistant Director: Chris Kennedy **

*Dramaturg: Chad Dexter Kinsman **

APRIL 25-29, 2006

Director's Note

Welcome to the Fifth Biennial Festival of New American Plays. This week we are proud to present exciting new works by our guest playwrights Gretchen Cryer and James McLure. None of these works has had a production at any theatre, anywhere in the world. The plays you are about to see performed are presented as "staged readings." In order to involve audiences and actors directly in the process of new play development, professional theatres and producers use readings such as the one you are about to see. Plays are meant to be performed, and the best way to see whether a play works or not is to present it in front of a live audience. This is where you come in—and we thank you for being here!

Each play in the festival has had only ten rehearsals. The actors will be performing with the scripts in their hands, relying on their talent and training to interpret the text without the advantage of a long rehearsal process. These readings have been designed to concentrate on the words of the playwrights and on the talent of the young performers. We have included a minimal amount of scenery, costumes and special effects to give the writers what they envisioned in their scripts. We are attempting to present the world of the play as closely as possible to what the author has written. The results may be a different type of theatre from what you are accustomed to seeing. Our hope is that you will find this event both adventurous and exciting.

One of my goals when we started the New Play Festival was to bring established writers to our campus and have them work with our students. We asked the invited playwrights to send us any new script they wished to hear and, in return, we have promised to give them our best interpretation of the text. Another goal has been to give audiences in Nacogdoches the unique opportunity to see new plays while they are being created. The first four festivals were great successes. Now, with this fifth festival, I hope the community will once again enjoy this celebration of "new theatre in the making."

I wish to thank the faculty and staff of the School of Theatre. My special thanks to Juanita Finkenberg for her help with all three evenings. I commend the cast, designers and crew for the work they have done. Watching these young theatre artists learn and grow is the primary reason we are here. To Gretchen and James—thank you for trusting us with your plays and for coming to visit our campus. You inspire us with your words and astound us with your generosity. We dedicate this evening to you.

- Jack Heifner

About the Cast

Kristi L. Agee (Puppeteer, *China Dolls*) was Hair Designer for *La Périchole*, Hair/Makeup Designer for *Bobby Gould in Hell* and *Three Days of Rain*, and Costume Designer for *The Laramie Project* and *Raised in Captivity*. She also directed *Gander Sauce* this semester.

Faye Ann Austin (*Good Grace, States of Grace*) is a freshman from Western Hills High School in Fort Worth, where her credits included *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. At SFA, she appeared in *Favorite Lady*.

Justin Foster Cole (*Bert, Changing*) has acted in *Sylvia, Trudi & The Minstrel, Harvey, Hair*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He was also in the SFA Singapore Project *110 in the Shade* and designed sets for *Picnic on the Battlefield, Three Days of Rain, The Waste Disposal Unit*, and *Short Stories*.

Devin Collins (*Robert, States of Grace*), a junior from Schertz, has appeared on the Mainstage in *The Tempest, The Shadow Box, Trudi & the Minstrel, Hair*, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. His Downstage credits include *Three Days of Rain* and *The Fifth Sun*.

Kera Dacy (*Carol, Changing*) is a sophomore from McNeil High School in Austin. She has appeared in the Mainstage productions of *The Tempest, The Member of the Wedding*, and *Hair*. Kera was also part of the 2005 Original Cast.

Clark Devlin (*Man One, China Dolls*) is an American Theatre Arts student from Dunfermline, Scotland. His credits at SFA include *The Tempest* and *The Laramie Project*. At Rose Bruford, he appeared in *Grief, Children's Hour* and *Lend Me a Tenor*.

Brittany Djie (*The Girl, China Dolls*) is a sophomore from Houston. She has appeared on the Mainstage in *The Tempest* and *The Member of the Wedding*. Brittany has also acted in *Favorite Lady* and *Baby Talk* at SFA.

Alicia Earls (Puppeteer, *China Dolls*) is a sophomore from Bay City. Her SFA design/crew credits include *Raised in Captivity* and *The Open Meeting*. She acted in *Das Barbecü* at Wharton County Junior College and *Steel Magnolias* at Bay City Community Theatre.

Ken Franks (*Al, Changing*) is a Graduate student from Houston. He has appeared in *Trudi & the Minstrel* and *The Member of the Wedding*; he also stage managed the Studio Hour *The Madness of Lady Bright*. This will be his last production at SFA.

About the Cast (cont.)

Geoffrey C. Gibson (Father/ Richard, *States of Grace*) is a senior from Austin. He has appeared in the SFA productions *Follies*, *Pericles*, *Copper Camp*, *Secret of Our Success*, *Bitter Sauce*, *Loyalties*, and *Bacchae*.

Micah "Man" Goodding (Barbara/Bob, *Changing*; Director of Puppetry, *China Dolls*) has acted on the SFA Mainstage in *The Tempest*, *Harvey*, and *Hair*. His Texas Shakespeare Festival credits include *The Merchant of Venice* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Chris Kennedy (Storyteller, *China Dolls*; Assistant Director) has acted in such productions as *The Night of the Iguana*, *The Tempest*, *Sylvia*, *Harvey*, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Women in Flames*, *The Seagull*, and the 2005 Original Cast. He will be interning at Milwaukee Repertory Theatre next year.

Grace Lubeck (Maggie, *States of Grace*), a junior from Sugar Land, has appeared on the Mainstage in *The Tempest*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, and *Pericles*. Her Downstage credits include *Shooting Simone*, *The Whole Shebang*, and *The Fifth Sun*.

Nadaha McCullough (Puppeteer, *China Dolls*) is a senior from Haltom. She appeared in the Mainstage productions of *The Tempest* and *Die Fledermaus*. Her Studio Hour credits include *Gander Sauce*, *Escape By Moonlight*, and *Après Opera*.

Nicholas Mills (Assistant Director of Puppetry, *China Dolls*), a sophomore from Houston, has appeared in the SFA productions of *The Member of the Wedding*, *Hair*, *The Ruffian on the Stair*, *The Red Coat*, and *The Madness of Lady Bright*.

Boni Newberry (Woman One, *China Dolls*) is a junior from Fort Worth. Her Mainstage acting credits include *Trudi & the Minstrel*, *Harvey*, *Hair*, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. She also acted in the Downstage *Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise*.

Melissa Recalde (Grace, *States of Grace*) has acted in the Mainstage productions of *Anton in Show Business*, *The Shadow Box*, *Trudi & the Minstrel*, *The Member of the Wedding*, and *Hair*. She also has credits as a designer and as an assistant director.

Nate Reid (Merle, *States of Grace*) is a freshman from Austin. He has acted on the Mainstage in *The Night of the Iguana* and served on run crew for *Raised in Captivity*. At Sam Bass Community Theatre, Nate's credits included *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Charley's Aunt*.

China Dolls
by Jack Heifner

Tuesday, April 25 and Friday, April 28

Man One Clark Devlin
Woman One Boni Newberry *
Man Two Jeffrey Stirl
Woman Two Lou Thompson
The Girl Brittany Djie
The Storyteller Chris Kennedy *

Puppeteers: Micah Goodding (Director of Puppetry),
Nicholas Mills (Assistant Director of Puppetry), Kristi L.
Agee, Alicia Earls, Nadaha McCullough, Stephanie
Rhoades

The play will be performed without intermission.

Stage Manager Darrell D. Grant
Costume Designers Angela Bacarisse
Barbara Blackwell
Makeup Designer Lacey A. Carnley
Dramaturgical Consultant Rick Jones

Jack Heifner is the author of over 30 plays and musicals in New York, Los Angeles, and theatres around the world. He is best known for his play *Vanities*, which ran for five years in New York and became one of the longest running plays in Off-Broadway history. Mr. Heifner was born in Texas and presently lives in New York City. He has been Playwright-in-Residence at SFA since 1997. At SFA he has directed *Home Fires*, *The Seagull*, *The Member of the Wedding*, and all five of the Festivals of New American Plays. This June, the musical version of *Vanities* will open in Palo Alto and the London production of his play *Seduction* will open in Chicago.

States of Grace
by James McLure

Wednesday, April 26 and Saturday (matinee), April 29

Grace Melissa Recalde *
Maggie Grace Lubeck
Robert Devin Collins *
Good Grace Faye Ann Austin
Richard/Father Geoffrey C. Gibson
Teacher/Charlie Zach Russell
Merle Nate Reid

Stage Manager Doug K. DeVos
Costume Designer Sarah D. Long
Makup Designer Matthew Reeves Oliver

There will be one intermission.

James McLure was born in Louisiana, educated by Jesuits and graduated from Southern Methodist University. He worked as an actor at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Pacific Conservatory of the Arts and then worked in New York at the Lion Theatre Company with Kathy Bates, Jack Heifner, Garland Wright and John Arnone. His plays *Lone Star*, *Laundry and Bourbon*, *Pvt. Wars* and *Wild Oats* have been produced in many countries. His film credits include "La Cybortech" with Lorenzo Lamas, "Quick" with Jeff Fahey and "Kingfish," starring John Goodman. He works in the summers with New River Dramatists in North Carolina and The Colony in Missoula, Montana, both playwright development centers. This is Mr. McLure's fourth visit to SFA. In previous festivals we have produced his new plays *Drive-In Dreams*, *Swimmers*, and *Copper Camp*. To quote Mr. McLure, "I am honored to be back."

Changing
by Gretchen Cryer

Thursday, April 27 and Saturday (evening), April 29

Bert Justin Foster Cole *
Barbara/Bob Micah Goodding
Carol Kera Dacy *
Al Ken Franks

Stage Manager Ashley Douglas
Costume Designer Sonia Elizabeth Lerner *
Makeup Designer Victoria Perry *

Time: The not-too-recent past.

Place: Alumni weekend on a Midwestern college
campus--a small liberal arts college.

There will be one intermission.

Gretchen Cryer is best known for writing the book and lyrics and starring in the award-winning *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road*. Her other shows include *Now Is the Time for All Good Men*, *The Last Sweet Days of Isaac* (Obie, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Award-winner), *Shelter*, *Hang On to the Good Times*, *The Fabulous Party*, *The American Girls Revue*, *Circle of Friends*, and *The House That Goes On Forever*. She has performed on and off Broadway and in film, and has recorded two albums. In 1999 she was the first recipient of the Ed Kleban Award, presented to promising librettists and lyricists. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild Council, and is currently a Visiting Professor at Colorado College.

About the Cast (cont.)

Stephanie Rhoades (Puppeteer, *China Dolls*) is a junior from San Antonio. Her acting credits include *Trudi & the Minstrel*, *The Shadow Box*, and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. She has also been on wardrobe crews for *The Night of the Iguana*, *The Tempest*, and *Harvey*.

Zach Russell (Teacher/Charlie, *States of Grace*) is a sophomore Finance/Economics major from Austin. He was on Special Effects crew for the Mainstage production of *The Night of the Iguana*. Zach also acted in *Charley's Aunt* at Sam Bass Community Theatre.

Jeffrey Stirl (Man Two, *China Dolls*) teaches Theatre in San Augustine. He acted in SFA's production of *The Night of the Iguana*. Among his many other acting credits are roles in *The Crucible* and *Of Mice and Men* at Northeast Texas Community College.

Lou Thomson (Woman Two, *China Dolls*) is an ATA student from Bleanau Gwent, Wales. She appeared in the Downstage production of *The Laramie Project* earlier this semester. At Rose Bruford, she acted in productions of *Grief*, *Squirrels*, and *Educating Rita*.

About the Artistic Staff

Angela Bacarisse (Costume Designer, *China Dolls*) has designed over 200 productions in academic and professional theatres across the country. Her most recent SFA costume designs include *La Périchole*, *The Night of the Iguana*, and *The Tempest*.

Barbara Blackwell (Costume Designer, *China Dolls*) designed costumes for *The Member of the Wedding*, co-designed *Trudi & the Minstrel*, and was Costume Illustrator for *The Land of the Dragon*. She became Costume Shop Supervisor in 2000.

Lacey A. Carnley (Makeup Designer, *China Dolls*) was Hair/Makeup Designer for *The Whole Shebang*. She also designed costumes for *Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise* and *Die Fledermaus*, and she was crew for many Mainstage and Downstage productions.

Doug K. DeVos (Stage Manager, *States of Grace*) is a sophomore from Hays High School in Buda, where he directed *Hackers*, assistant directed *House of the Seven Gables*, and stage managed 1984. At SFA he has crewed *Bobby Gould in Hell* and *The Night of the Iguana*.

Ashley Douglas (Stage Manager, *Changing*) is a freshman from Jacksonville. She was Assistant Stage Manager for SFA's *The Tempest*. At Jacksonville High School, she stage managed *Inventing Van Gogh* and *The Retreat from Moscow*.

About the Artistic Staff (cont.)

Juanita Finkenberg (Choreographer) earned her MA from California State University in Los Angeles. A dancer and a certified fight choreographer, she has worked on all five New Plays Festivals, as well as on a host of other SFA plays and operas.

Eric Franklin (Sound Designer) has been the Sound Board Operator for *Three Days of Rain* and *Shooting Simone*, and Light Board Operator for *Yellow Boat* and *Bobby Gould in Hell*. He also acted in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* on the Mainstage.

Darrell D. Grant (Stage Manager, *China Dolls*) has acted in *The Tempest*, *The Shadow Box*, *Trudi & the Minstrel*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Hair*, *The Two Maples*, *A Fallen Man*, and *Pericles*. He was also Assistant Choreographer for *La Périchole*, *The Tempest*, and *Die Fledermaus*.

Chad Dexter Kinsman (Dramaturg) has been Assistant Director and Dramaturg for *The Tempest* and *Hair*, as well as Dramaturg for *The Member of the Wedding*. This semester he directed *Picnic on the Battlefield*. He will spend next year in the European Theatre Arts program at Rose Bruford College.

Sonia Elizabeth Lerner (Costume Designer, *Changing*) designed costumes for *Goodbye, Oscar*, and was Assistant Costume Designer for *The Tempest* and *Harvey*. Other credits include designing the lights for *Self-Torture and Strenuous Exercise* and acting in *Hair*.

Jeff Lochmann (Lighting Designer) is a junior from Sugar Land. He was the Lighting Designer for *The Open Meeting*, *Bobby Gould in Hell*, and *The Yellow Boat*, and Sound Designer for *Goodbye, Oscar*. Jeff also served as Master Electrician for *The Tempest*.

Sarah D. Long (Costume Designer) is a senior from Bonham. She was Assistant Costume Designer for *The Night of the Iguana*, Co-Wardrobe Master for *The Tempest*, and Projectionist for *Six Characters in Search of an Author* and *Hair*.

Matthew Reeves Oliver (Makeup Designer, *States of Grace*), a Houston junior, designed hair for *The Night of the Iguana*. He acted in *The Two Maples* and has served on costume, light hang, and run crews for a number of SFA productions.

Victoria Perry (Makeup Designer, *Changing*) has designed hair and makeup for *The Tempest*, *Anton in Show Business*, *The Shadow Box*, *Trudi & the Minstrel*, *Sylvia*, *Extremities*, *The Yellow Boat*, *Quake*, *The Vise*, and *Guernica*. She has also appeared on stage in a number of Mainstage, Summer Rep, and Downstage productions.

About the Artistic Staff (cont.)

Steven Shirey (Technical Director) holds a BFA from SFA and an MFA from USC. In addition to being Technical Director since 2001, he has designed scenery for the 2004 Festival of New American Plays and lights for both Mainstage productions and operas at SFA.

Amber Talley (Production Manager) has been Stage Manager for such Mainstage productions as *The Tempest*, *Trudi & the Minstrel*, *The Member of the Wedding*, and *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. She has also designed for many Downstage productions.

C. L. Ward (Scenic Designer) has been Scenic Designer for *Raised in Captivity*, *The Whole Shebang*, *Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise*, and *Devil's Karma*. He was also Second Assistant Set Designer for *A Christmas Carol* at Dallas Theatre Center.



Announcing the 2006 season:

Bonjour, là, Bonjour

By Michel Tremblay

June 21-24 at 7:30, June 24 at 2
Downstage Theatre

A Cheever Evening

By A. R. Gurney

July 5-6, 14-15 at 7:30
Turner Auditorium

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

By Martin McDonagh

July 7-8, 12-13 at 7:30
Turner Auditorium

Production Staff

Technical Director Steven Shirey
Costume Shop Supervisor Barbara Blackwell
Lightboard Operator Jason Zednick
Soundboard Operator Zane Whitney, Jr.
Downstage Crew Ryan Angell , David Francis,
Lauren Glass, Chris Howell, Sara Jones,
Robert Minshew, Courtney Nelson,
Rachel Presa, Kaitlin Wieseman
Wardrobe Head Amanda Chandler
Wardrobe Crew Lacey A. Carnley,
Danielle Constantine,
Chris Gamel, Julie Glover
House Management Alpha Psi Omega
Programs Rick Jones, Tim Olivares *
Publicity Sylvia Bierschenk,
Office of Arts Information

* indicates membership in the Beta Phi cast of the Alpha Psi Omega National Honorary Dramatics Fraternity.

All plays in the Festival of New American Plays are produced by special arrangement with the playwrights.

Special Thanks to...

Ronald Agius, Alpha Psi Omega, Dr. Clarence Bahs,
CC Conn, Friends of the Theatre, Richard Garcia,
Nelda Hartley, Tomy Matthys, Sam Poe

**SFA School of
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Dr. Richard Berry
Dean, College of Fine Arts

Dr. Clarence W. Bahs
*Professor and Director of
the School of Theatre*

Ms. Angela Bacarisse
Assistant Professor

Ms. Carolyn Conn
Assistant Professor

Dr. Richard Jones
Associate Professor

Mr. Kyle Kennedy
Assistant Professor

Mr. Tomy Matthys
Associate Professor

Dr. Alan Nielsen
Professor

Mr. Allen Oster
Professor

Mr. Jack Heifner
Playwright-in-Residence

Ms. Shari Ellsworth
Lecturer

Ms. Juanita Finkenber
Adjunct Faculty

Mr. Brad Maule
Adjunct Faculty

Mr. David Raine
Adjunct Faculty

Ms. Barbara Blackwell
Costume Shop Supervisor

Mr. Steve Shirey
Scene Shop Supervisor

Ms. Nelda Hartley

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**Scholarships
2005-06**

Alumni Scholars

Thomas Brazzle, Justin Cole,
Chad Kinsman,
Natalie Melcher, Erin Orr

Regents Scholars

Sara Boland-Taylor,
Jessee Foudray, Sara Jones,
Meaghan Rosenberger

**School of Theatre
and Other Scholarships**

Justin Bauer, Sara Boland-Taylor,
Jessica Findell, Chris Gamel,
Nashanna Gates, Lauren Glass,
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Shawna Lynch, Nadaha McCullough,
Mark McManus, Philip Miotech,
Boni Newberry, Brandon Polanco,
Josh Real, Melissa Recalde,
Meaghan Rosenberger,
Kevin Scholtes, Casey Stephens
Tori Thompson, Sarah Zabinski

Transportation for the
playwrights
while in Nacogdoches
has been
generously provided by
Tipton Ford.

