

SFA College of Fine Arts, School of Theatre Present

Simply Divine Comedy

the breasts of  
**TIRESIAS**  
by Guillaume Apollinaire



2010-2011 Mainstage Series

April 26 - 30, 2011  
7:30 p.m.  
W.M. Turner Auditorium

*SFA*  
*Theatre*  
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN  
STATE UNIVERSITY

+ FORD + LINCOLN +  
**TIPTON**  
NACOGDOCHES, TX

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATION

There are a number of reasons we decided to do our own translation of *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, not the least of them being that the original French play is in the public domain, but neither of the published English translations is.

The process was similar to the one we employed last year for *Woyzeck*: dramaturg Marissa Harding and I looked at every word of the original, and of both published English versions. We first constructed a more or less literal translation, and then sought to make our text mirror Apollinaire's intent more than his words. While we didn't try to duplicate all his word-play, we did want to give a flavor of it. Hence, what is alliteration or a pun in the original may be rhyme in our version, or *vice versa*. Apollinaire's text is often euphemistic, and occasionally vulgar; some of these lines are translated literally, but for most we have sought to suggest something of the tone of the original.

I am grateful to my friends Mercedes Vaughn and Daniel Smith for their assistance with the song lyrics and the finer points of nuance, respectively.

-- Rick Jones

## GULLAUME APOLLINAIRE QUOTATIONS

"Truth beyond the real."

"When man wanted to make a machine that would walk, he created the wheel, which does not resemble a leg."

"Without poets, without artists, men would soon weary of nature's monotony."

"Memories are the hunting horns whose sound dies on the wind."

"Come to the edge," he said. They said, "We are afraid." "Come to the edge," he said."

**SFA SCHOOL OF THEATRE**  
**presents**

# **THE BREASTS OF TIRESIAS**

by **GUILLAUME APOLLINAIRE**

**TRANSLATED AND DIRECTED BY RICK JONES**

**CHOREOGRAPHY BY JUANITA FINKENBERG**

**ORIGINAL MUSIC BY JOHN KONDELA**

**SCENERY BY DANA GLOEGE**

**COSTUMES BY ANGELA BACARISSE**

**HAIR AND MAKEUP BY TORY KAY FIELDS**

**LIGHTING BY NIKKI JOHNSON**

**SOUND BY CC CONN**

**STAGE MANAGER: JANETTE BAUER\***

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: KATRINA TAPSON\***

**APRIL 26-30, 2011**

**W. M. TURNER AUDITORIUM**

## About the Cast

**Waldron Archer** (Director) is a theatre senior who graduated from Round Rock High School. His acting credits include *A Raisin in the Sun*; *Twelfth Night*; "Master Harold" ...and the boys; The Original Cast (2007-2009); *Wine in the Wilderness* and *The Gas Heart*. He is also president of the Alpha Psi Omega theatre honorary fraternity.

**Adam Wade Blain** (Lacouf) is a sophomore theatre major who graduated from Harlingen High School South. He attended Texas State Technical College from 2009-2010. He has been seen in *She Stoops to Conquer* at SFA and in *Veronica's Room* at Harlingen Performing Arts Theatre. He has also directed two children's musicals at HPAT.

**Elyse Dishman** (Singer) is a freshman theatre major who graduated from West Brook High School in Beaumont. This is her debut performance at SFA. She has appeared in *High School Musical*, *Leader of the Pack* and *Fame* at Beaumont Community Players.

**Jonathan Garcia** (Presto) is a theatre junior from Weslaco. He has acted in Original Cast 2009-2011; *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; *Almost, Maine*; *The Adventures of Homer McGundy: Revised*; *Woyzeck* and *Bad Boy Nietzsche*. He has also directed *Tom and Jerry*, *The Philadelphia*, *A Florentine Tragedy* and *The Interrogation*.

**Lamar Jefferson** (Husband) is a theatre junior who graduated from Lancaster High School in 2008. He has been seen in the SFA productions of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Twelfth Night*, The Original Cast 2009-2011, *The Other Son*, *Wine in the Wilderness* and *Defacing Michael Jackson*.

**Rosie Kolbo** (The Kiosk) is a senior theatre major from Dallas. She has appeared in *Almost, Maine*; *Seduction*; *Woyzeck* and *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You In the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad*. She has also been assistant director and props master for *Picnic*.

**Mai Le** (Journalist) is a theatre sophomore who graduated from North Mesquite High School. She has been seen in *A Young Lady of Property*, *Bad Boy Nietzsche*, *The Philadelphia*, *Degas C'est Moi*, *The Bathroom Door*, *Getting Away With Murder* and *The Battle of Bull Run*.

**Laura McFeeters** (People of Zanzibar) is a theatre freshman who graduated from Haltom High School in Watauga in 2010. At SFA, she has appeared in *Old Saybrook*; *Tongues/Savage Love* and *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad*.

## ABOUT THE CAST (CONTINUED)

**Delia Owens** (Singer) is a theatre sophomore who graduated from Western Hills High School. At SFA she has assistant stage managed *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; acted in *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad* and crewed *Almost, Maine* and *Woyzeck*.

**Hannah Peaker** (Policeman) is an American Theatre Arts student from the UK. She has appeared in SFA's *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and Preston College's *High School Musical*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Oliver*.

**Kory Pullam** (The Son) is a theatre junior from Corpus Christi. He has acted in Original Cast; *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; *A Raisin in the Sun*; *Twelfth Night*; *Big River*; *The Heidi Chronicles*; "Master Harold" ... and the boys; *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad* and *Wine In The Wilderness*.

**Bree Elizabeth See** (People of Zanzibar) is a theatre freshman who graduated from Katy High School. At SFA, she has acted in *The Lives of Great Waitresses* and crewed *She Stoops to Conquer* and *Almost, Maine*. Her Katy credits include *The Sound of Music* and *The Women*.

**Arrie Allen Tucker** (People of Zanzibar) is a theatre junior who graduated from Nacogdoches High School. This is his debut acting performance. At SFA he has directed the upstage *Gray Matter* and has several credits in lighting design and stage management. He is also treasurer of the Alpha Psi Omega theatre honorary and the 2010 Dean's Award in Theatre winner.

**Erin Whitmire** (Thérèse/Tiresias) is a senior theatre major who graduated in 2008 from Wink High School. She has acted at SFA in *Jump for Joy* as Clara, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* as Chorus and *The Other Son* as Ninfarosa.

**Patrick Wright** (Singer) is a graduate student in vocal performance from Waco High School. This is his debut SFA theatre production. He has performed in five operas with SFA opera and two with the East Texas Opera Company. In 2009, he performed with Franco American Vocal Academy in Bordeaux, France.

## Cast

Director .....	Waldron Archer*
Thérèse / Tiresias .....	Erin Whitmire
Husband .....	Lamar Jefferson*
Presto .....	Jonathan Garcia*
Lacouf .....	Adam Wade Blain
Policeman .....	Hannah Peaker
Newspaper Kiosk .....	Rosie Kolbo*
Journalist .....	Mai Le
Son .....	Kory Pullam*
People of Zanzibar .....	Laura McFeeters
	Bree Elizabeth See
	Arrie Allen Tucker*
Singers .....	Elyse Dishman
	Delia Owens
	Patrick Wright

## The Setting

Zanzibar (or is it Paris?)  
The Past... and The Present

\* indicates membership in the Beta Phi cast  
of Alpha Psi Omega,  
the national honorary dramatics fraternity

## Dramaturg's Note

Guillaume Apollinaire was born in Rome in 1880. He moved to Paris in 1899 and soon became known as a writer of poetry, prose and criticism. He was also a sergeant in the First World War, fighting for the French and eventually earning his citizenship in 1916. He began writing his first play, *The Breasts of Tiresias* (*Les Mamelles de Tirésias*), in 1903, though he added the prologue and last scene of the second act in 1916 after his involvement in the war.

This play contains many social commentaries on life in France before and during the First World War. Primarily, the issue of population decline is at the center of the action. The birth rate had started declining in France at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and did not recover until after World War II. The decline was in full swing and the French people were feeling its impact when Apollinaire began writing *The Breasts of Tiresias*. The birth rate only grew .2% between 1871 and 1911; this rate was extremely low when compared to the rates of other European countries at the time. This decline was blamed on a variety of factors, but no single cause was ever identified. Groups such as the National Alliance for the Growth of the French Population, headed by Jacques Bertillon, were founded in an effort to promote the increase of the French population. These conservative groups took a hostile view toward women who did not marry and produce French children, calling them sinful.

The play itself is also significant in that it is the first surrealist play. This term was coined by Apollinaire himself when he described *The Breasts of Tiresias* as *surréalisme* in the play's preface. He also gave the term to the ballet *Parade* by Jean Cocteau in 1917. *Surrealism* was later defined by the plays of André Breton as it developed out of Dadaism in the 1920s.

*The Breasts of Tiresias* premiered under the direction of Apollinaire himself on June 24, 1917, at the Conservatoire Renée Maubel in Montmartre to an audience of poets, artists and critics. It was met by mixed reviews and general confusion from Parisians as this was one of the first times they had been exposed to something that could be called surrealism. On November 9, 1918, Apollinaire died as a result of an influenza outbreak in Paris.

— Marissa Harding

## ABOUT THE ARTISTIC STAFF

**Angela Bacarisse** (Costume Designer) has designed over 200 productions in academic and professional theatres across the country. Her recent costume designs at SFA include *She Stoops to Conquer*; *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; *Almost, Maine*; *Twelfth Night*; *The Heidi Chronicles*; *The Elephant Man*; *Big River* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

**Janette Bauer** (Stage Manager) is a theatre senior who graduated from Richland High School. At SFA, she has stage managed *Old Saybrook* and *Bad Boy Nietzsche* and assistant stage managed *Woyzeck* and *The Elephant Man*. She was also master electrician for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

**Barbara Blackwell** (Associate Costume Designer) has designed or co-designed costumes for "*Master Harold*"... and the boys, *Tribute*, *The Member of the Wedding* and *Trudi and the Minstrel*. She was also costume illustrator for *The Land of the Dragon*. She is in her 11<sup>th</sup> year as costume shop supervisor.

**CC Conn** (Sound Designer) holds an MFA from Indiana University. Her most recent designs at SFA include *She Stoops to Conquer*; *Almost, Maine*; *A Raisin in the Sun*; *Twelfth Night*; *Woyzeck*; "*Master Harold*"... and the boys; *Picnic*; *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Too*; *The Heidi Chronicles* and *The Elephant Man*.

**Tiffany Craig** (Associate Costume Designer) was assistant costume designer for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; *Twelfth Night* and *The Elephant Man* and costume designer for *Seduction*; *Oh Dad, Poor Dad...*; *Coffee and John* and *The Ugly Duckling*.

**Tory Kay Fields** (Hair and Makeup Designer) is a sophomore theatre major who graduated from Rowlett High School in 2009. She has been wardrobe master for *The Original Cast* (Fall 2010) and *The Other Son* and stage manager for *The Original Cast* (Spring 2011).

**Juanita Finkenberg** (Choreographer) earned her MA from California State University in Los Angeles. Her most recent credits at SFA include *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Seduction*, *Jump for Joy*, *Susannah*, *Woyzeck*, "*Master Harold*"... and the boys and *Picnic*.

**Emily Gibson** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior theatre major who graduated from Mesquite in 2009. Her SFA credits include directing of *While the Auto Waits* and acting in *Old Saybrook*, *The Other Son*, *A Young Lady of Property*, *The Ugly Duckling* and *The Bathroom Door*.

**Dana Gloege** (Scenic Designer) holds a BFA from Texas Tech and an MFA from Brandeis. His SFA designs include *She Stoops to Conquer*; *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*; *Almost, Maine*; *Side by Side* by *Sondheim*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Twelfth Night*. He was also charge artist for *Woyzeck*.



## ABOUT THE ARTISTIC STAFF (CONTINUED)

**Marissa Harding** (Dramaturg) is a senior theatre and history major from Texarkana. Her SFA credits include dramaturg for *Woyzeck*, sound board operator for *Tongues/Savage Love*, props master for *Wine in the Wilderness*, *Woman in Purgatorio*, stage manager for *Breaking the Chain* and assistant director for One Act Play Festival. She will be graduating in May.

**Nikki Johnson** (Lighting Designer) is a theatre senior from Nacogdoches. At SFA, she has been co-lighting designer for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, assistant lighting designer for *A Raisin in the Sun*, and lighting designer for *Bad Boy Nietzsche* and *Frenzy for Two or More*.

**Rick Jones** (Director) is associate professor of theater at SFA and the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award for the College of Fine Arts in 2007. A published critic and theatre historian, he served for eight years on the Executive Committee for Theatre History in the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. His most recent SFA directing credits include *Woyzeck*, "Master Harold"... and the boys, *As You Like It* and *Dimly Percieved Threats to the System*.

**Maegan Kennedy** (Assistant Stage Manager) attended North Central Texas College from 2007-2009. At SFA, she has crewed *She Stoops to Conquer*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Side By Side By Sondheim*, and appeared in *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Land of Counterpane*.

**John Konderla** (Composer/Music Director) is a sophomore music composition major who attended Lee College until 2009. He was pianist for Swingin' Aces Jazz Band and has written art songs from the poems of Uwe Kolbe for the film *In My Mind* and other songs for various chamber ensembles.

**Mark Porter** (Technical Director) came to SFA early in 2007 from the Austin Theatre Alliance. He was technical director at St. Edward's University and at the Coconut Grove Playhouse. He has worked in television and film, on Broadway, and extensively off-Broadway.

**Katrina Tarson** (Assistant Director) is a theatre education senior who graduated from Dulles High School in Sugar Land in 2008. At SFA she has directed *Breaking the Chain* and *Laundry and Lies*; assistant directed *The Fiery Furnace*; assistant stage managed *Almost, Maine* and stage managed *A Young Lady of Property*.

**Stephanie Thompson** (Assistant Sound Designer) was master electrician for *Almost, Maine*; assistant to the sound designer for *Woyzeck*; sound designer for *Oh Dad, Poor Dad...*; *Old Saybrook*; *Tone Clusters*; *Coffee and John* and *The Ugly Duckling*; and sound engineer for the 2010-2011 Original Cast season.

**Jeremy Wright** (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a junior cinematography major who graduated from Mansfield Field High School in 2000. He has done art direction, grip work and craft services for SFA summer features, and he helped build the new TV studio in the communications building.

## TECHNICAL STAFF

Technical Director .....	Mark Porter
Associate Costume Designers .....	Barbara Blackwell, Tiffany Craig
Assistant Technical Director .....	Steve Bacarisse
Assistant Scene Designer .....	Jeremy Wright
Assistant Sound Designer .....	Stephanie Thompson
Assistant Stage Managers .....	Emily Gibson, Maegan Kennedy
Assistant Choreographer .....	Donovan Carter
Translation Team .....	Marissa Harding, Daniel Smith, Mercedes Vaughn
Vocal Coach .....	Joe Alberti
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Luke Landtroop, Stephen Lias, Michelle Rozic, SFA School of Music

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