

SFA
School of Theatre
Intersect 1, across from Exhibition

2008-2009 Mainstage Series

SFA College of Fine Arts and the School of Theatre present



The Heidi Chronicles

by Wendy Wasserstein

April 28 - May 2, 2009

W.M Turner Auditorium

7:30 p.m.

sponsored in part by



**SFA SCHOOL OF THEATRE
and the
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
present**

The Heidi Chronicles

by

Wendy Wasserstein

Directed by Alan Nielsen

Scenery by Jathan Innerarity

Costumes by Angela Bacarisse

Lighting & Sound by CC Conn

Hair & Makeup by Courtney Parker

Stage Manager: Brittany Nelson

Assistant Director: Austin Chason

Playwrights Horizons, New York City, first produced THE HEIDI CHRONICLES Off-Broadway in 1988 following a workshop production by the Seattle Repertory Theatre.

Produced on Broadway by the Shubert Organization, Suntory International Corp., and James Walsh in association with Playwrights Horizons.

**April 28-May 2, 2009
W.M. Turner Auditorium**

About the Cast

Daniel Anderson (Steve) is a senior from Skidmore. On the SFA Mainstage he has appeared as Munsee in *Cornbury* as a part of the 2008 Play Reading Festival. Daniel was also in the Studio Hour *Shakespeare and Mushrooms*.

Arianna Bermudez (April), a senior from Houston, has performed in *This Day Forward*, *As You Like It*, and *Grease* as well as being a member of the Original Cast. She has helped choreograph for *Big River* and *The Bartered Bride*.

Garrett Cross (Peter Patrone) is a junior theatre education major from Texas High School in Texarkana. He has acted as Johannes in *This Day Forward* on the Mainstage and in *The Rising of the Moon* and *Line* in the Downstage.

Brittany Djie (Betsy/Woman #2) is a senior from Houston. She has acted in *China Dolls*, *The Tempest*, *The Member of the Wedding*, and *Bonjour, là, Bonjour* and directed *Purgatorio* and *Naomi in the Living Room*.

Lucy Drury (Denise) is an American Theatre Arts student from London. While at SFA, Lucy had choreographed for the Original Cast. In London, she acted in *Keely and Du* and *The Reunion* and directed *The Glass Menagerie*.

Nashanna Gates (Fran) a senior from Garland, has appeared in *The Bartered Bride*, *Tribute*, *Dimly Perceived Threats to the System*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Anton in Show Business*, and *The Piano Lesson*.

Kelli Grimes-Baggett (Jill), a senior from Lufkin, has served on props crew for *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *The Elephant Man*. While at Angelina College, she acted in *James and the Giant Peach*, *Ramona Quimby*, and *Miss Julie*.

Sarah Hale (Debbie), a senior from Kilgore, has acted in *Big River*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *This Day Forward*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and *Penguin Blues*. While at Kilgore College, she appeared in *Scapino* and *Bus Stop*.

Caroline G. Harrell (Lisa) is a sophomore from Athens. She has acted in *Big River*, *Take Five*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and *The Bald Soprano* at SFA as well as being a member of the Original Cast.

J. Kyle Harris (Scoop Rosenbaum) is a senior from Longview. He has acted in *Grease*, *Hair*, *Raised in Captivity*, and *The Whole Shebang* at SFA. He was an acting intern for the Texas Shakespeare Festival and was in *Six Characters in Search of an Author* and *The Cherry Orchard* at Kilgore College.

Jt Hearn (Ray), a freshman from Emory, acted in *Big River* on the SFA Mainstage. He appeared in *Black Angel*, *Rhinoceros*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Oklahoma!* at Rains High.

Jazzay Jabbar (Ensemble) is a freshman from Garland. She appeared in *Big River* on the SFA Mainstage and *Getting Out*, *South Pacific*, *The Exonerated*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *The Scarlet Letter* while at Naaman Forest High School.

About the Cast (continued)

Nicholas Mills (Chris Boxer) is a senior from Houston. He has performed in *Big River*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Grease*, *China Dolls*, *Hair* and *Animal Keepers*, as well as the Original Cast. He spent last year on internship at Rose Bruford College in London.

Flooi Jón Ófeigsson (Waiter/Hippie) is an American Theatre Arts student from Iceland. While at SFA he has been a member of the Original Cast. While at Rose Bruford he appeared in *Bullets over Broadway* and *Dracula*.

Allison Ostrander (Heidi Holland) is a junior from Plano. While at SFA she has acted in *Big River* on the Mainstage and in the Studio Hour *Emotional Baggage*. Allison also designed hair and make up for *Defacing Michael Jackson* and *The Rising of the Moon* in the Downstage.

Jacqueline Pirtle (Clara/Announcer/ Sandra Zucker-Hall), a sophomore from Houston, has acted in *27 Wagons Full of Cotton* and *Finger Food*. She represented Texas in the Poetry Out Loud competition in Washington, D.C.

Kory Pullam (Mark), a freshman from Corpus Christi, appeared in the *Big River* ensemble at SFA and in *Catfish Moon*, *¿De Donde?*, *Suessical the Musical*, and *Boys Next Door* while at Foy H. Moody High School.

Sammy Stanphill (Becky) is a junior from Katy. A BFA performance major, she has acted in *This Day Forward* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* on the Mainstage and *Perchance, Happy Mug*, and *Da'Nile* in the Upstage.

Sarah Zabinski (Susan Johnson) a senior from League City, has acted in *Big River*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Babes Off Broadway*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and *Grease*. She is an Original Cast member and has acted in several SFA films.

About the Artistic Staff

Angela Bacarisse (Costume Designer) has designed over 200 productions in academic and professional theatres across the country. Her recent SFA costume designs include *The Elephant Man*, *Big River*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and *Driving Miss Daisy*. She also designed lights for *Crimes of the Heart*.

Steve Bacarisse (Assistant Technical Director), who joined the SFA staff this fall, has worked extensively backstage and in the scene shop at the Texas Shakespeare Festival. He also has a background in professional carpentry.

Barbara Blackwell (Costume Shop Supervisor) is in her ninth year as costume shop supervisor. She has also designed or co-designed *Tribute*, *The Member of the Wedding*, and *Trudi and the Minstrel*, and she was Costume Illustrator for *The Land of the Dragon*.

Christine Branch (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior from Sugar Land. She has assistant stage managed *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and stage managed *This Day Forward*, *Catastrophe*, *The Boy in the Basement* and *Can-Can*.

Cast List

Heidi	Allison Ostrander *
Susan	Sarah Zabinski *
Peter	Garrett Cross
Scoop	J. Kyle Harris
Ensemble	Daniel Anderson, Arianna Bermudez *, Brittany Djie, Lucy Drury, Nashanna Gates *, Kelli Grimes-Baggett, Sarah Hale *, Caroline G. Harrell *, Jt Hearn, Jazzay Jabbar, Nicholas Mills, Flosi Jón Ófeigsson, Jacqueline Pirtle, Kory Pullam, Sammy Stanphill

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT ONE

Prologue: 1989, Lecture Hall, Columbia University, New York

Scene 1: 1965, A high school dance, Chicago

Chris Nicholas Mills

Scene 2: 1968, Manchester, New Hampshire

Hippie Flosi Jón Ófeigsson

Scene 3: 1970, A church basement, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Jill Kelli Grimes-Baggett Fran Nash Gates

Becky Sammy Stanphill

Scene 4: 1974, Outside the Chicago Art Institute

Debbie Sarah Hale Clara Jacqueline Pirtle

Woman 3 Brittany Djie Mark Kory Pullam

Scene 5: 1977, An Anteroom at the Pierre Hotel, New York

Molly Jazzay Jabbar Lisa Caroline G. Harrell

ACT TWO

Prologue: 1989, Lecture Hall, Columbia University, New York

Scene 1: 1980, Scoop & Lisa's Apartment, New York

Denise Lucy Drury Betsy Brittany Djie

Scene 2: 1982, A TV Studio, New York

Steve Daniel Anderson April Arianna Bermudez

Scene 3: 1984, A Restaurant, New York

Waiter Flosi Jón Ófeigsson

Scene 4: 1986, The Plaza Hotel, New York

Sandra Zucker-Hall Jacqueline Pirtle

Scene 5: 1987, A Children's Ward in a NY Hospital, Christmas Eve

Ray Jt Hearn

Scene 6: 1989, An Empty Apartment, New York

About the Playwright

Wendy Wasserstein (1950-2006) lived most of her life in New York City. She was educated at Mount Holyoke College and the Yale School of Drama. Her plays include: *Uncommon Women and Others*, *Isn't It Romantic*, *The Heidi Chronicles*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *An American Daughter*, and *Third*. She also wrote three books: *Bachelor Girls*, *Shiksa Goddess*, and, completed just before her death, *The Elements of Style*.

The director Andre Bishop wrote, "Wendy's plays are about many things: friendship, loneliness, independence, achievement. They manage at once to be shrewdly observed and deeply personal. . . . Let me simply say that they are about a generation of women—intelligent, attractive, educated, *uncommon* women—who, while attempting to deal with their fears and disappointments, manage to define and redefine who they are. At the end of the each play, [her heroines] come to terms with themselves."

This is certainly true of Heidi Holland, the protagonist of *The Heidi Chronicles*. In a play that covers almost 25 years, from 1965 to 1989, Heidi stands apart and observes her friends as they move "from the idealism and political radicalism of their college years through militant feminism and, eventually, back to the materialism that they had sought to reject in the first place." Moreover, Wasserstein astutely places these characters in the larger world by setting her scenes during historic moments in our nation's turbulent history: 1965, arguably among the last few years of American innocence; 1968, at the beginning of the doomed Eugene McCarthy campaign and the riots and assassinations yet to come; 1970, when everyone's consciousness was being raised by Est and Esalin and "I'm Okay, You're Okay"; four years later when Watergate has brought down Richard Nixon; 1980, and the death of John Lennon; and so on. The issues these characters debate, and the choices they make in response to those issues, capture perfectly the "elevator ride from the radical sixties to the heartless eighties."

But unlike her friends in the play, Heidi learns from what she sees, and follows her own course accordingly. And, as noted, at the end of the play Heidi has come to peaceful terms with her past and now looks forward to the future. Like Wendy Wasserstein herself, Heidi is successful, self-confident, and well respected. She is her own woman.

The Heidi Chronicles began as a workshop production at the Seattle Repertory Theatre and had its New York debut at Playwrights Horizon on December 12, 1988. It transferred to Broadway on March 9, 1989, and subsequently won the Pulitzer Prize, the Tony Award, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, and the Drama Desk Award, among others.

About the Artistic Staff (continued)

Austin Chason (Assistant Director) is a junior from Spring. He has assistant directed *Side Man* and *Animal Keepers*, and acted in *Big River*, *As You Like It*, and *The Servant of Two Masters*. Austin served as the master electrician for *The Elephant Man* and Props Master for the 2008 Play Reading Festival.

CC Conn (Lighting and Sound Designer) holds an MFA from Indiana University. Her most recent SFA credits include lights and sound for *The Elephant Man*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Driving Miss Daisy*, lights for *Androcles and the Lion*, and sound for *Big River* and *Crimes of the Heart*.

Jathan Innerarity (Scenic Designer), a senior from Lindale, has done assistant scenic design for *Big River* and designed *Defacing Michael Jackson* and *The Rising of the Moon*. Jay is the student production technical director and will attend the University of Memphis in the fall to pursue a Master of Fine Arts in Scenic Design.

Nikki Marie Johnson (Master Electrician), a sophomore from Nacogdoches, has designed lights for *Defacing Michael Jackson* and *Line*. Nikki was also the light board operator for *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Crimes of the Heart*.

Aaron Kline (Assistant Hair and Makeup Designer), a junior from Brenham, has served on wardrobe crew for the Original Cast and *Defacing Michael Jackson* and acted in *Androcles and the Lion* and *Emotional Baggage*.

Brittany Nelson (Stage Manager) is a junior from Midlothian. She has stage managed *Crimes of the Heart* and *The Red Key* and assistant stage managed *Big River*, the 2008 Play Reading Festival, and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*.

Alan Nielsen (Director), a professor of theatre at SFA, is a published author, playwright, and composer/lyricist. He has written and directed for the Original Cast since 1991. He received the Teaching Excellence Award for the College of Fine Arts in 1999 and 2003. A PhD graduate of the City University of New York, he is a member of the Dramatists Guild. Recent SFA directing credits include *Androcles and the Lion*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, and *Grease*.

Courtney Parker (Hair and Makeup Designer) is a senior from Red Oak. At SFA she has done design for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Cornbury*, *Don't Say a Word*, *As You Like It*, and *Blithe Spirit*. She also was the wig and makeup intern for the Central City Opera in Central City, CO, for *West Side Story* and *Susannah*.

Bree Sturtevant (Assistant Costume Designer), a sophomore from Schertz, has been wardrobe master for *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and the 2008 Play Reading Festival and on wardrobe crew for *Big River* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*.

Kendall Thompson (Props Master) is a junior transfer from Baytown. She has designed hair and makeup for the Original Cast, been on wardrobe crew for *Big River*, and been props coordinator for the School of Theatre.

Arrie Allen Tucker (Assistant Stage Manager), a freshman from Nacogdoches, has stage managed *Defacing Michael Jackson*, *Line*, *Lunch With Ginger*, and *Emotional Baggage* and was production assistant for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

Technical Staff

Technical Director	Mark Porter
Costume Shop Supervisor	Barbara Blackwell
Assistant Technical Director	Steve Bacarisse
Assistant Stage Managers	Christine Branch, Arrie Allen Tucker
Assistant Projections Designer	Miguel Maymi *
Assistant Costume Designer	Bree Sturtevant
Assistant Hair and Makeup Designer	Aaron Kline
Master Electrician	Nikki Marie Johnson
Properties Master	Kendall Thompson
Wardrobe Master	Jessica Rodriguez
Assistant to the Sound Designer	Holly Adair *
Light Board Operator	Natalia Gutierrez-Borja *
Sound Board Operator	Jake Suggs
Projectionist	Erin Morris
Scenery Construction	Theatre 150 and 350
Props Collection/Run Crew	Chris Barcus, Becky Cunningham, Marissa Harding, Katherine Rowe, Samantha Walker
Fly Rail Operator	Josh Turay
Floor Run Crew	Janette Bauer, Katie Cleveland, Christopher Ferguson, Amanda Hirsch, Kara Killough, Marcos Rodriguez
Light Hang Crew	Janette Bauer, Jon Garcia, David Hathway *, Randy Hill, Lamar Jefferson, Jasmine LaBome, Robert Meza *
Paint Crew	Emmy Harris, Rosie Kolbo, Lindsay Rigney, Kaitlin Wieseman
Load-In Crew	Janett Bauer, Lindsey Fahrni, Emmy Harris
Costume Construction	Theatre 350
Wardrobe Crew	Brooke Dennis, Cindy Law, Aiesha Lindsay, Shaylynn Lynch, Katrina Tarson
House Manager	Alicia Earls *
Programs	Marissa Harding, Rick Jones
Box Office Manager	Diane Flynn
Publicity	Sylvia Bierschenk, Office of Arts Information

* Designates a member of the Beta Phi cast of
Alpha Psi Omega,
the national honorary dramatics fraternity

The Heidi Chronicles
is produced by special arrangement by
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Book and Original Lyrics
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Picnic
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