SFA College of Fine Arts & Department of Theatre present

LUIGI PIRANDELLO’S

SIX CHARACTERS IN
SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR
translated by Paul Avila Mayer

NOVEMBER 16-20, 2004
7:30 P.M.
W. M. TURNER AUDITORIUM

Sponsored in part by

SFA
Department of Theatre

TIPTON
FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY
Quotations from Luigi Pirandello

... alas, without the least fault nor the slightest pleasure of the inventor, there is a certain Pirandello lens, called a diabolical brand by the malicious, which makes you see double and triple and slanted, and in short, makes you see the world upside down. Many still use these lenses, despite the fact that I do not miss any occasion to make them know that such lenses ruin their eyesight.

In fact, every creation, every vision of life, every revelation of the spirit, necessarily carries within itself problems, questions, logical contradictions, the more decisive and evident as these creations, visions, and revelations are organic and comprehensive: and this simply because the mystery is congenital to the spirit, and to look with new eyes, to express frankly, to reorganize life is to project life once more in mystery.

I can only say that, without having made any effort to seek them out, I found before me, alive—you could touch them and even hear them breathe—the six characters now seen on the stage. And they stayed there in my presence, each with his secret torment and all bound together by the one common origin and mutual entanglement of their affairs, while I had them enter the world of art, constructing from their persons, their passions, and their adventures a novel, a drama, or at least a story. Born alive, they wished to live.

(Six Characters in Search of an Author): a mixture of the tragic and the comic, fantastic and realistic, in a humorous situation that was quite new and infinitely complex, a drama which is conveyed by means of the characters, who carry it within them and suffer it, a drama, breathing, speaking, self-propelled, which seeks at all costs to find the means of its own presentation; and the comedy of the vain attempt at an improvised realization of the drama on stage.
SFA DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
and the
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
present

Six Characters in Search of an Author

BY LUIGI PIRANDELLO
ENGLISH VERSION BY PAUL AVILA MAYER
DIRECTED BY RICK JONES

Scenic Design by Tomy Matthys
Costume Design by Angela Bacarisse
Lighting Design by Steven H. Shirey
Hair & Makeup Design by Dusti Murae Meeks
Stage Manager: Amber Talley
Assistant Director: Whitney L. Smith-Nelson
Dramaturg: Ruth Ramsey

November 16-20, 2004
7:30 p.m.
W. M. Turner Auditorium
About the Cast

Justin Urias Bauer (2nd Juvenile) is a sophomore theatre major from Austin. His previous acting credits include roles in SFA student productions of The Fifth Sun, The Vise, and Devil’s Karma. This is Jub’s first appearance on SFA’s Mainstage.

Robert Bills (Boy), a junior theatre major from Freeport, has appeared in the SFA productions of Sideways Stories from Wayside School, The Man Who Came to Dinner, You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown, 1918, and Lot 13: The Bone Violin.

Marie Charlson (Mother) has acted in many SFA productions, including Lucky, The Land of the Dragon, and Ghosts. A Garland senior, Marie was the Costume Designer for Quake and will be directing The Waste Disposal Unit.

Erica Drain (2nd Stage Manager), a junior communications major from Longview, has appeared in 1969, or Howie Takes a Trip and Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse at SFA. Erica’s crew credits include Follies, Bacchae, and The Playreading Festival.

Oliver Zemp DuBose (1st Stage Manager) is a junior from Irving. He has performed in such SFA productions as Lucky, Pericles, The Seagull, The Vise, and The “I” Word: Interns. He is also a member of Delta Sigma Phi.

Laura Edwards (1st Ingenue), an ATA student from Bristol, UK, has acted in several shows at Rose Bruford. She has taken a summer course at Sylvia Young Theatre School and was a guest presenter on the UK television show, Blissed Out.

Anna Forbes (2nd Leading Lady) is an ATA student from Exeter, England. She spent six years with The Young Generation of Musical Theatre and has received two gold medals from The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

Eric Franklin (1st Juvenile) is a freshman from Red Oak High School, where he was seen in To Kill a Mockingbird, Arsenic and Old Lace, and Our Country’s Good. He also served on the crew for SFA’s The Vise.

Greg Anthony Garcia (1st Leading Man), a sophomore theatre major from San Antonio, has appeared in such SFA productions as The Man Who Came to Dinner, The Fifth Sun, and Guernica. Greg was also the Slide Projectionist for the studio hour, Life Support.
Alexandria Glazener (Little Girl), a 3rd grader at Central Heights Elementary, is the daughter of Dennis and Charisse Glazener. Alex’s Lamp-Lite Theatre credits include Bye, Bye Birdie, Annie Get Your Gun, Anne of Green Gables, and The Wizard of Oz.

Jessica Harkness (Leading Lady), a sophomore theatre major from Orange, is making her début on SFA’s Mainstage. At SFA, she has appeared in student productions of Private Eyes and Married Bliss. Jessica is an English minor with an emphasis in writing.

Lacy Hearnsberger (House Manager) has acted in the SFA productions of Loyalties and What Are You Doing in There? Lacy is a sophomore from Fresno, California. She can be seen again this semester in The Waste Disposal Unit.

Josh Hemingway (Director) is an American Theatre Arts student from Huddersfield, UK. At Rose Bruford College, his acting credits include Reunion, The Crucible, Kennedy’s Children, A View from the Bridge, All Powers Necessary and Convenient, and Downtown.

Izchel Hernandez (Madam Pace) makes her first appearance on the SFA stage. She is a freshman from San Benito High School, where she was seen in Chamber Music, George Orwell’s 1984, Blood Money, and The Children’s Hour.

Aslan Hollier (1st Technician) is making his Mainstage début. Aslan, a freshman theatre major from Orange, has appeared in the SFA productions of Electric Roses and Devil’s Karma; he can be seen again this semester in The Waste Disposal Unit.

Ashleigh “Grace” Lubeck (Step-Daughter) is a sophomore theatre major from Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugarland. At SFA, Grace has previously been seen as the daughter of Antiochus in Pericles and as Apuch in the public full-length, The Fifth Sun.

Kate Marsden (2nd Technician) is an American Theatre Arts student from Manchester, England. Kate has appeared as Nina in The Seagull and as Miss Barclay in What the Butler Saw, as well as in several roles at Rose Bruford College.

Liane Moffat (2nd Ingenue) is an ATA student. At Rose Bruford College she has various acting credits, directed a ten-minute production, and served as Deputy Stage Manager for the Mainstage production of Reunion.
# The Cast

## The Characters:
- Father ......................................................... JR Ramirez *
- Mother .......................................................... Marie Charlson *
- Step-Daughter .................................................. Ashleigh "Grace" Lubeck
- Son ............................................................... Stephen Witkowicz *
- Boy ............................................................... Robert Bills
- Girl ............................................................... Alexandria Glazener
- Madam Pace ..................................................... Izhel Hernandez

## The Actors:
- Leading Man .................................................. Greg Anthony Garcia
- Leading Lady .................................................. Jessica Harkness
- Character Man .................................................. Walter Young
- 1st Juvenile .................................................... Eric Franklin
- 2nd Juvenile .................................................... Justin Urias Bauer
- 2nd Female Lead ................................................ Anna Forbes
- Character Woman .............................................. Jennifer Noble
- 1st Ingenue ...................................................... Laura Edwards
- 2nd Ingenue ...................................................... Liane Moffat

## The Production Company:
- Director ......................................................... Josh Hemingway
- 1st Stage Manager ............................................ Oliver Zemp DuBose
- 2nd Stage Manager ............................................ Erica Drain
- Stagehand ....................................................... Joshua Alan Spence
- 1st Technician .................................................. Aslan Hollier
- 2nd Technician ................................................ Kate Marsiller
- House Manager ............................................... Lacy Hearnsonberger

## The Setting:
A small professional theatre. Today.

This production presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

* Indicates membership in the Beta Phi cast of Alpha Psi Omega, the National Honorary Dramatics Fraternity
As one of Italy’s most celebrated 20th century authors, Luigi Pirandello is most recognized for his play *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. Pirandello tended to write plays with simple storylines, yet complex philosophical undertones. Common themes of his plays include madness, illusion vs. reality, infidelity, the symbolic wearing of masks, and the metamorphosis of life into art. *Six Characters in Search of An Author* addresses many of these topics. The uniqueness of this show exists not in the plot of the characters, the plot of the actors, or the themes of the show, but in the interweaving of the two simple plots into a multifaceted alternate reality. This reality is constantly changing for both the actors and the characters of the play—the art transforms into reality onstage in front of our very eyes. This extraordinary idea is echoed throughout the play as well as in many of his other works.

The first Italian production in Rome was an utter disaster: Pirandello had to leave the theatre early so as not to be jeered out by many close-minded audience members. It was not until Georges Pitoëff’s Paris production in 1923 (almost two years later) that *Six Characters in Search of An Author* received international acclaim. Pirandello soon learned you should “never rehearse with the author present” after he threatened to keep the show from going up when he saw Pitoëff’s outlandish plan of lowering the characters onstage with a scenery elevator surrounded in eerie, green lighting. The use of this theatrical device soon became one of the most recognized of 20th century production history. The Paris production was followed by a number of successful productions elsewhere, including a New York revival in 1955, when Paul Avila Mayer translated the text to be more colloquial and gave the theatre company’s speech pattern a closer resemblance to that of contemporary theatre.

Pirandello is recognized throughout the world as Italy’s most significant modern playwright. With the financial support of Mussolini he was able to start his Teatro D’Arte di Roma (Art Theatre in Rome). He became a member of the Accademia d’Italia in 1929 and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1934. He experienced only 13 years of his worldwide fame before dying in 1936 at the age of 69. He wrote 40 plays and hundreds of short stories, only a few of which have been accurately translated. In the words of the Father in *Six Characters in Search of An Author*, “A man must always die; even an author must always die; but a character lives forever.” Yet Pirandello lives forever as a character in our minds—as the great modern Italian playwright who brought six characters off the page and onto the stage right before our very eyes.

--Ruth Ramsey
About the Cast (continued)

Jennifer Noble (Character Woman), a junior theatre major from Mesquite, has acted in a number of SFA productions. Jenn appeared as the Nurse in The Seagull, Ralph in Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse, and Nell in Haiku.

JR Ramirez (Father), a senior from Garland, has just returned from an acting internship with the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. At SFA, he has been seen in The Seagull, Follies, Bus Stop, The Sex Education of My Mother, Hamlet, and Terra Nova. This is JR’s final appearance on SFA’s Mainstage, as he will graduate in December.

Joshua Alan Spence (Stagehand), a sophomore from San Antonio, has been in such SFA productions as The Informer, Devil’s Karma, and Graceland. He also served as the Assistant Stage Manager for The Fifth Sun and Stage Manager for The Vise.

Stephen Witkowicz (Son), a junior from Dallas, has been in many SFA productions, including The Seagull and Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse. Stephen can be seen as Hubert in SFA’s student film production of American Goldfish, premiering in the Spring of 2005.

Walter Young (Character Man), a freshman, has acted with Troupe d’ Jour in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, and Hamlet. He also wrote, costumed, directed, and choreographed Thunder in Paradise at Carthage High School.

About the Artistic Staff

Angela Bacarisse (Costume Designer) has designed over 200 productions in academic and professional theatres across the country. Her most recent costume designs at SFA include Hair, Sideways Stories from Wayside School, The Two Maples, the 2004 New Plays Festival, The Man Who Came to Dinner, and Pericles.

Barbara Blackwell (Costume Shop Supervisor) became Costume Shop Supervisor in 2000. She was Costume Illustrator for The Land of the Dragon, and has worked on many other shows: most recently, Hair, Sideways Stories from Wayside School, The Two Maples, the 2004 New Plays Festival, and The Man Who Came to Dinner.

Rick Jones (Director) is directing his second Pirandello play: the first was Right You Are! (If You Think You Are) at Cornell College in 1991. His directing credits at SFA include The Two Maples, The Increased Difficulty of Concentration, The Land of the Dragon, and Ghosts.
About the Artistic Staff (cont.)

Tomy Matthys (Scenic Designer) has taught for over 30 years at SFA, where he has designed over 200 productions. His most recent scenic designs include *Hair*, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *The Two Maples*, *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration*, *Bacchae*, *Follies*, *Bus Stop*, and *And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little*.

Dusti Murae Meeks (Hair and Makeup Designer), a senior from Canadian, has designed hair and makeup for *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration*, costumes for *Private Eyes*, and wigs for *Falstaff*. Dusti has also appeared in *Bacchae*.

Ruth Ramsey (Dramaturg) is a senior from Irving. She stage managed *Grief* and designed hair and makeup for *Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise*. At SFA, Ruth’s acting credits include *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration*, *Bacchae*, and *The Informer*.

Steven H. Shirey (Lighting Designer & Technical Director) earned a BFA from SFA in 1994 and an MFA in Lighting Design from USC in 1998. He has been Technical Director at SFA since 2001. At SFA, he has designed lighting for *Hair* and for the operas *Street Scene*, *The Consul*, and *The Magic Flute*.

Whitney L. Smith-Nelson (Assistant Director) assistant directed *Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse* and directed *The Vise*. She stage managed *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, designed makeup for *The Land of the Dragon*, and was Assistant Choreographer for *Bacchae*.

Spring Streetman (Assistant Costume Designer), a senior from Victoria, has directed *Quake* and *What Are You Doing In There?*, and assistant directed the 2004 New Plays Festival. This semester she will be costume designing *The Waste Disposal Unit*.

Amber Talley (Stage Manager), a sophomore from Katy, was Stage Manager for *The Fifth Sun* and *Private Eyes*. This semester, Amber was Sound Designer for *The Vise* and Scenic Artist for *Quake*. She also assistant stage managed *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

Mercedes Vaughn (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore theatre major from Buffalo. This is Mercedes’ first experience working on an SFA Mainstage Production. This semester, Mercedes served as the Costume Designer for the Public One-Act *The Vise*.
**THE TECHNICAL STAFF**

Technical Director .......................................................... Steven H. Shirey  
Costume Shop Supervisor .............................................. Barbara Blackwell  
Assistant Stage Manager ............................................... Mercedes Vaughn  
Properties Mistress ....................................................... Shawna Lynch  
Assistant Costume Designer ............................................ Spring Streetman *  
Sound Engineer ............................................................. Zachary Whitaker  
Lightboard Operator ....................................................... Vanity Thomas  
Projectionist ................................................................. Sarah Long  
Soundboard Operator ...................................................... Theresa Pennell  
Pain Crew ........................................................................ Cara Boden, Carleen Kirksey,  
  Matt Lawson, Erin Orr *, Courtney Outlaw,  
  Genevieve Plangman, Ryan Plumbley,  
  Stephen Rainwater, Kassidy Risien  
Scenery Construction ......................................................... Theatre 150 and 350  
Properties Crew .............................................................. Russ Arnett, Devin Collins,  
  Xanta France, Kristy Lewis,  
  Josh Real, Lori Sahualla, Clare Scallon  
Light Hang Crew .............................................................. Christina Barboza, Kristen Brittian,  
  Lacey Carnley, Chase Crowson,  
  Justin Elbert, Brandie Holliday, Rusty Lindsey,  
  Jeff Lochmann, David Nedde,  
  Matthew Oliver, Stephanie Rhoades,  
  Sarah Sweny, Nikki Terner  
Wardrobe Master ............................................................. Kristi Agee  
Costume Construction ....................................................... Theatre 150 and 350  
Wardrobe Crew ............................................................... Brooke Lightfoot, Jean McCarthy  
Hair & Makeup Crew ......................................................... Brittany Holdgraf,  
  Lindsey McElroy, Matthew Oliver  
House Manager ............................................................... Lacy Heamsberger  
Ushers ........................................................................... Theatre majors and minors  
Programs ......................................................................... Rick Jones, Melissa Recalde  
Box Office Supervisor ....................................................... Diane Flynn  
Publicity .......................................................................... Sylvia Bierschenk, Office of Arts Information

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Justin Cole, Dr. Deborah Dalton, Shari Watterston Elsworth,  
Juanita Finkenberg, Charisse Glazener, Izchel Hernandez,  
Java Jack’s, Leslie Sinclair

The graphics logo for this production is “Boccioli”  
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Visit his website at www.georgeunderwood.com
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Richard Berry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dean, College of Fine Arts</td>
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<td>Dr. Clarence W. Bahs</td>
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<td>Professor and</td>
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<td>Department Chair</td>
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<td>Ms. Angela Bacarisse</td>
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<td>Dr. Richard Jones</td>
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<td>Mr. Tomy Matthys</td>
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<td>Mr. Jack Heifner</td>
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<td>Playwright-in-Residence</td>
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<td>Ms. Shari Watterston Ellsworth</td>
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<td>Ms. Juanita Finkenberg</td>
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<td>Adjunct Faculty</td>
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<td>Melissa McMillian-Cunningham</td>
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<td>Debra Daughtery (Council Rep)</td>
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<td>Stephanie George,</td>
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<td>Nancy Lemberger, Bo Miller,</td>
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<td>David &amp; Anne Norton,</td>
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<td>Frances Spruiell, Bill Taylor</td>
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**Stokes Scholars 2004-05**


**Alumni Scholars**

Thomas Brazzle, Marie Charlson, Timothy Estelle, Erin Orr, Jennifer Stoneking

**Departmental and Other Scholarships**

Christina Barboza, Cara Boden, Sara Boland, Sean Carlson, Kera Dacy, Chris Flores, Jesse Foudray, Jacob Glover, Micah Goodding, Clint Hanna, Brandie Holliday, David Nedde, Nadaha McCullough, Bettina Palomino, Cassidy Risien, Jesse Sellers, Nicole Terna
2004-05 Mainstage Season
Faculty-Directed Productions
All performances at 7:30 p.m.

**Hair**
Book & Lyrics by Gerome Ragni & James Rado;
Music by Galt McDermot
October 7-9

**Six Characters in Search of an Author**
by Luigi Pirandello
November 16-20

**Harvey**
by Mary Chase
February 22-26

**The Member of the Wedding**
by Carson McCullers
April 26-30

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Fall 2004 Downstage Season
Student-Directed Productions
7:30 p.m. Friday; 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday

**The Vise**
by Luigi Pirandello
September 24-25

**Quake**
by Melanie Marnich
October 22-23

**Self Torture and Strenuous Exercise**
by Harry Kondoleon
November 5-6

**The Waste Disposal Unit**
by Brigid Brophy
December 3-4