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Thirst

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Otterbein College Theatre (Since 1907)

*The Department of Theatre and Dance
presents:*



Thirst

A new play by Neena Beber

**Campus Center Theatre
100 W. Home St.**

**May 28 - May 31,
June 4 - June 7, 1998**

Directed by **Dennis Romer**

Scenic Design by **Amy Kaufman**

Costume Design by **Katie Robbins**

Lighting Design by **Rob Johnson**

Sound Design by **Jenny Lynne Hitmar
& Dave Mead**

Setting

Act 1

Prelude - The Last Century
Present Time
Scene 1 - A Gallery
Scene 2 - Evelyn's Home
Scene 3 - Hans' Studio
Scene 4 - Hans' Studio
Scene 5 - Stuart's Apartment
Scene 6 - Hans' Studio
Scene 7 - Evelyn's Home
Scene 8 - Hans' Studio
Scene 9 - A Gallery

Act 2

Scene 10 - Stuart's Apartment
Scene 11 - Hans' Studio
Scene 12 - Evelyn's Home
Scene 13 - Hans' Studio
Scene 14 - Evelyn's Home
Scene 15 - Hans' Studio
Scene 16 - Evelyn's Home
Scene 17 - A Chapel
Scene 18 - A Gallery

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Cast

HENRY JAMES/ STUART Sam Jaeger
MARY TEMPLE/ CAROLINE Liz Beckham
HANS Jared Jensen
EVELYN Kelly Reeves

Production Staff

Artistic Director DENNIS ROMER
Audience Services Director BRIAN FALCK
Production Manager/Technical Director GREGORY BELL
Assistant Technical Director TIMOTHY D. ALLWEIN
Costume Shop Supervisor MARCIA HAIN
Dramaturg ANGELA J. WALTERS
Stage Manager COLLEEN MCKNIGHT
Assistant Stage Managers DEBORAH SINGER, NATALIE PADULA
Assistant to Artistic Director ARWEN NICHOLS
Properties Master GEORGE DESHETLER JR.
Wardrobe Master ROBYN HENRY
Master Painter REBECCA MORRISON
Master Carpenter LORA WINSHIP
Master Electrician MICHAEL SCHERTZER
Assistant Master Electrician JONATHAN ERWIN
House Manager EMILY VAUGHAN
Box Office Manager TRICIA COLLINS

SCENIC STUDIO ASSISTANTS

Amy Kaufman, Matt Sharpless, George DeShetler Jr., Andrew Hagan, Peter Nein, Casey Beard, Shanna Clay, Robyn A. Henry, Jenny L. Hitmar, Jason A. Jenkins, Michael Schertzer, Lora Winship, Holly E. Barnett, Joshua C. Daugherty, Natalie Padula

WARDROBE CREW

Jen Brinder, Mandy Wheeler

SET/PROPERTIES RUNNING CREW

Natalie Padula, Jen Downs

USHER CREW

Nathan Cockrill, Kendrick Knight, Brook Johnson, Gretchen Siemon, Amber Mellott, Meg Morman

Program Notes

Thirst was inspired by an early Henry James novel titled *Roderick Hudson*, first published in 1875. Henry James, author of such classics as *Portrait of a Lady*, *Wings of the Dove* and *Washington Square*, is being rediscovered. This American writer spent much of his adolescence traveling with his family throughout Europe. His education was scattered among tutors in England, France, Germany and other countries. His nomadic upbringing isolated him from others his age and therefore he had to rely on himself for entertainment. His time was dominated by writing. After five years in Europe the James family returned home to New England. As he was able Henry James returned to the continent, settling in England in 1875 and living there the last forty years of his life.

The novel *Roderick Hudson* was written in installments and published in *Atlantic* magazine. He was inspired by an artists' colony in Rome. His plot and characters were also heavily influenced by the writers of the time like William Morris Hunt, Alfred de Musset and Nathaniel Hawthorne. All these used the setting of Rome as the downfall for their protagonists. Using Rome as a symbol for lax morality and America as young innocence, the main characters were drawn into a more sordid life.

Henry James' cousin Mary (Minnie) Temple was a model for his heroine Isabel Archer in *Portrait of a Lady* and lives in most of his other works including *Roderick Hudson*. Her in death in 1870 allowed him to idealize her, seeing her as an unfinished manuscript he could turn into a masterpiece. As his literary heroine, he could make her choices for her so she would become the woman he wanted her to be. It is believed that the rebellious streak and impulsive choices of the women Henry James has created in his work represent (although altered from her true personality) Mary Temple and her influence on him.

Angela J. Walters, Dramaturg

Biographies

Neena Beber (Playwright) resides in New York and her previous works include: *A Common Vision*, *Tomorrowland*, *The Brief but Exemplary Life of the Living Goddess*, *Failure to Thrive*, *The Course of It*, and *Misreadings*. *Misreadings* was commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville, and produced at the 1997 Humana Festival. Neena has received commissions from Sundance Children's Theatre and the Amblin Commission from Playwright's Horizon. Beber also writes for children's television.

Marci Hain (Costume Shop Supervisor) graduated with a BS in Home Economics from OSU in 1977. After many years in commercial business costuming, Marci joined the Otterbein Tech team in 1989. Since then, she has run the Costume Shop full time, and has designed *Night Watch*, *Sherlock's Last Case*, and *A Few Good Men*. She also served as Assistant Designer on *Phantom*. Other credits include: *Harrigan & Hart* (Player's Theatre), *Salome* (Opera/Columbus), *Camelot* (Maine State Music Theater), as well as various high school and community theatre shows around the state.

Rob Johnson (Scenic Design and Lighting Design) is our resident scenic designer in his ninth year at Otterbein College. Some of Rob's past set designs include *Cray For You*, *Hamlet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *True West*, and *Pippin*. Recent lighting designs include *A Chorus Line* at Otterbein, *Fortunes of the Moor* at OSU, and Artscape, a festival of performing arts at The Capitol Theatre in Columbus. To date, he has designed over 100 productions. Rob continues to be at the forefront of computer-aided design and animation, and web design, and teaches courses at Otterbein in the use of that technology. Rob would like to dedicate his work in memory of his father.

Dennis Romer (Director) is a current member of Actor's Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild, and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. He has worked as a stage actor and director in over 100 productions nationwide including the Parker Playhouse, Kennedy Center, Cleveland Playhouse, Clarence Brown Theatre, Kenley Players, Meadowbrook Theatre, Raft Theatre and Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York City and Los Angeles. He has worked in many guest starring roles in prime time television, created four contract roles on soap operas, and has been seen in over 50 commercials. Dennis is

happy to be working on *Thirst* and has enjoyed this collaboration with Neena Beber.

Katie Robbins (Costume Designer) is the resident costume designer at Otterbein College. Her costumes have been seen in Otterbein's productions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Most recently, Katie designed the costumes for *Marcus is Walking, To Kill A Mockingbird, Hamlet, The Miser* and Summer Theatre's *Ten Little Indians*. She also designed CATCO's *Flying West*.

Liz Beckham (Caroline Stride) is a freshman BFA acting major from Houston, TX. Liz has recently appeared as Elise in Otterbein's winter production of *The Miser*. She would like to thank Dennis and the cast for such a great honor and feels very privileged to work with such talented individuals. She gives her love to, Rachel Mattox, Megan, Natalie, John, and the sisters of Kappa Phi Omega. Liz would like to give special thanks to her one and only and love to her parents, Mommy and Daddy Nettle, and Eric.

Jonathan Erwin (Asst. Master Electrician) is a freshman design/tech major from Upper Arlington, OH. Jon would like to thank his family, friends, beloved dog Maggie, and Mike. To the guys of the penthouse: we are not washing tux shirts tonight.

Robyn Henry (Wardrobe Master) is a sophomore BFA design/tech major from Mansfield, OH. This has been a busy quarter for Robyn since she just finished working as the assistant master electrician for *Crazy for You* (all hail the cactus!). Thanks to family, friends, Kappa, and the queen of costumes, Dauphne Maloney for support and inspiration.

Jenny Lynne Hitmar (Sound Designer/Technician) is a sophomore BFA design/tech major from Cortland, OH. Jenny is thrilled to be able to design sound for *Thirst* and hence develop an avid appetite for Michael Hedge's guitar. She'd like to thank her dad for having great taste in music.

Sam Jaeger (Stuart Bolton) is a junior BFA theatre major from Perrysburg, OH. Sam will appear this summer in CATCO's *Ten Minute Alibi*. He wants to thank Kathy, The Core, Wendy Pfaffenpuss, and Brian for editing this.

Jared Jensen (Hans Uppling) is a junior BFA acting major from Colorado Springs, CO. *Thirst* marks Jared's third production at Otterbein. He last served as understudy for *Moonchildren* and before that, he was the Player King/Hamlet understudy for last year's *Hamlet*. He dedicates this show to Natalie, his fixed point.

Amy Kaufman (Set Designer) is a senior design/tech major from Westerville, OH. During the Fall, Amy designed the costumes for *The Emperor's New Clothes*. In the Winter, she enjoyed interning as an Assistant Costume Designer at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, MN. She would like to thank her parents for their continual love and support. Lastly, she would like to thank Jesus for his inspiration and strength.

Colleen E. McKnight (Stage Manager) is a sophomore BA theatre major from Greenville, MI. After numerous positions as ASM or SM, including *The Miser, 1776*, and *Hamlet*, Colleen feels she is truly the "master of her domain". She would like to thank her parents, her future "fort" roomies, the numerous men in her life, and her roommate/other identity Sarah.

Becky Morrison (Master Painter) is a junior BFA design/tech major from Zanesville, OH. Becky would like to thank Amy for doing all the hard stuff, the participation and work study folks who helped with the crappy jobs, and Ed for all his love. Also, to MBD - Woo! Woo! Love you guys! Mike - I love you and your BN!

Kelly Reeves (Evelyn) is a junior BFA acting major from Carrollton, TX. Kelly is glad to be back on the Otterbein mainstage. Her previous credits include *Robin Hood, Wind in the Willows, Les Liasions Dangeruse, Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Ten Little Indians*. She will be appearing this summer in *The Mousetrap* and *Steel Magnolias*. Kelly would like to thank her parents for their love and support, her sisters, all her beautiful girls, and of course, her sun, her center, Marc. I love you.

Michael Schertzer (Master Electrician) is a sophomore BFA design/tech major from Marion,

OH. "I would like to thank Jon, my family, friends, and brothers of Pi Beta Sigma for helping me get through the hard long hours of college and the production."

Deborah Singer (Asst. Stage Manager) is a junior BA stage management major from Gahanna, OH. This is Debbie's first production with Otterbein College. She previously stage managed and directed shows at a small liberal arts college in East Texas. She would like to express her sincere gratitude to the cast and crew for helping make her first quarter her so enjoyable and welcoming. She dedicates her work to the memory of AU and friends Tims, Reebbs, Matt, and Judy - thanks for believing in me!

Lora Winship (Master Carpenter) is a sophomore BFA design/tech major from Gahanna, OH. Lora is glad to have a little break after ASM-ing *Crazy for You*. She was also the set designer for *Falsettos*. She would like to thank her Dad, Michele, Tim, Greg, and the girls!

Angela J. Walters (Dramaturg) is a senior BFA design/tech major from Brookeville, OH. As always, thanks to her wonderful family for all their support and love. And if anyone knows of a dramaturgy job, call me.

1997-98 Season Donors

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(Cont. "Featured Player")

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Yvonne Holsinger
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Alice Rathburn
Gregg Stewart
Charles and Muriel Pratt
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Star

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Ruth Ann Branoff
Patti and Oscar Lord
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Larry A. Propst
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Carol Brody
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Irene Campbell

Featured Player

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Bill and Cheryl Fenneken
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Kris and Cam Close

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Fire Notice - The exit indicated by a red light nearest to your seat is the shortest route to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency please do not run - walk to that exit.

Cameras and Recording Devices - The use of recording equipment and the taking of photographs during the performance are strictly prohibited.

Restrooms and Telephones - The restrooms and telephones are located upstairs in the Lobby.

Administrative Office

614/823 - 1657

Monday - Friday 9:30 - 4:30

Box Office

614/823 - 1109

Monday - Friday 1:30 - 4:30

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Presented and Produced by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Supported in Part by the Kennedy Center Corporate Fund
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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theatre education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theatre production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1999.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theatre grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theatres across the nation.

Special Thanks:

**Dennis Kaufman and Vacuform Industries
Nicholas Hill and The Department of Art
Lois F. Szudy
The Rambling Rose
Katie Pearce and Martha Schultz**