The Pursuit of Persephone

Nov. 9 - 12, 2006

Duderstadt Center Video Studio
The University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
Department of Musical Theatre  
presents

The Pursuit of Persephone

By Peter Mills and Cara Reichel

Music and lyrics by Peter Mills

Original orchestrations by Daniel Feyer and Peter Mills

Director: Brent Wagner

Musical Director: Brian Lewis

Choreographer: Sean McKnight

Scenic Designer: Cassidy Bloom

Lighting Designer: Elyse Handelman

Costume Designer: Christianne Myers

Stage Manager: Colin Miller

Setting:

A Hollywood Restaurant, 1937
St. Paul, Princeton, Jersey Shore, Chicago, and other locales, 1915 - 1917

There will be one intermission.

Originally produced by Prospect Theater Company, New York, NY
Cara Reichel, Producing Artistic Director • Melissa Huber, Managing Director

The Pursuit of Persephone is presented by special arrangement with the Susan Gurman Agency, LLC.

Latecomers will be seated at a suitable break or scene change. As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode. Cellular phones and electronic watch alarms should be turned off so they will not interrupt the performance. Photography and videotaping are not permitted due to copyright restrictions. Flash photography endangers performers by causing momentary blindness.
Cast of Characters

The Big Five
F. Scott Fitzgerald ................................................................. Justin Paul
Edmund Wilson ................................................................. John Rapson
John Peale (JP) Bishop ......................................................... Joel Bauer
Ginevra King ................................................................. Janine DiVita
Marie Hersey ................................................................. Mara Newbery

College Boys
Ellis Griffin ........................................................................ Peter Gosik
Wilton Darby ........................................................................ AJ Shively
Tyler Pierce/Bartender .......................................................... Derek Krantz
Freddy Forgan ...................................................................... Andrew Arrington
Tom Connett ...................................................................... Jamie Cooper
Trip Everett ......................................................................... Josh Rouah
Clive Bagby ........................................................................ Ted Ely
A. Hamilton Samuels ............................................................... Benton Whitley

Debutantes...........Emily Bottorff, Laurel Harris, Riana Nelson, Nina Sturtz

Grown-Ups
Older Scott ........................................................................ Michael Lowney
Dean Donegan .................................................................. Alex Brumel
Mrs. King/Chanteuse ............................................................. Lauren Holmes

Orchestra
Scenes & Musical Numbers

ACT I
No One Wants the Show to Go .................................................. Chanteuse, Scott, Triangle Boys
Down the Track ........................................................................... Scott
To Beat the Band ........................................................................... Ginevra, Partygoers
To Beat the Band (reprise) ............................................................... Scott
Princeton Lives in You ................................................................. Older Scott, Triangle Boys
Class .......................................................................................... Scott, Edmund, J.P.
Letters to Boys .............................................................................. Marie, Ginevra, Debutantes
If Only / Only If .............................................................................. J.P., Scott
Black Ball ..................................................................................... Scott, Cottage Members
A Place Apart .............................................................................. J.P., Scott
Paradise for Now ......................................................................... Older Scott
Let's Don't ................................................................................... Edmund, Marie
Act One Finale .............................................................................. Company

ACT II
A Trip to the Seaside ................................................................. Trip, Scott, Princeton Boys, Jersey Girls
Invitation ..................................................................................... Ginevra
The Rich Are Different ............................................................... Servants
Improvising .................................................................................. Scott, Ginevra
The Blue Slip ................................................................. Dean Donegan, Slip Girls, J.P., Ginevra, Scott, Clive
Poseidon Myself ........................................................................... Edmund
Half and Half ................................................................................ Clive, Triangle Boys
Half and Half (reprise) ................................................................. Ginevra
I Could Never Let You Go .......................................................... Scott, Older Scott
Consolation .................................................................................. Marie
Les Jeunes Filles/Finale .............................................................. Scott, Company

"A great seething anthill was the Triangle Club. It gave a musical comedy every year, traveling with cast, chorus, orchestra and scenery all through the Christmas vacation. The play and music were the work of undergraduates, and the club itself was the most influential of institutions, over three hundred men competing for it every year." — F. Scott Fitzgerald, This Side of Paradise
By 1937, F. Scott Fitzgerald's years of fame and fortune and jumping into the Plaza Hotel fountain with Zelda were over. He was a down-and-out screenwriter living in Hollywood, thousands of miles away from Zelda, who was institutionalized in South Carolina. Around this time Fitzgerald arranged a meeting with his old college flame, Ginevra King (recently divorced) at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel restaurant. We don’t know what transpired at the meeting, only that soon afterward Fitzgerald, a reformed alcoholic, returned to his hard drinking habits.

*The Pursuit of Persephone* poses the question: who was Ginevra King to F. Scott Fitzgerald? What might have gone through his mind while he was waiting to meet her again after so many years? The legend of Scott and Zelda is well known. We were intrigued by the first woman in his life, who is represented fictionally in *This Side of Paradise* and was almost certainly the model for Daisy Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*. Ginevra and Scott corresponded for two years, exchanging hundreds of letters. When the two broke up, they agreed to destroy each others' letters. Ginevra held up her end of the bargain, but Scott saved her letters, had them typed up, and used them as fodder for his stories through the years.

More than anything else, perhaps, we have tried to capture that sense of the ephemeral nature of youth and its passions. We have worked to re-create Scott’s college world — the raucousness of the Triangle Club, the social context and class structure, and the musical sound of his era. However, although we did a great deal of research into the real events and people surrounding our story — many thanks to the Princeton University Library and Donald Marsden’s history of The Triangle Club, *The Long Kickline — The Pursuit of Persephone* is still a work of fiction, inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *This Side of Paradise* as well as his biography and the biographies of his contemporaries at Princeton such as John Peale Bishop and Edmund Wilson. We have tried to remain truthful to the spirit of Fitzgerald's college days, and have intended to honor his memory by connecting across the years to another once young and impressive Princeton undergrad. But of course with any work of dramatic fiction — liberties will be taken, and facts fall victim to dramatic license! We hope that you enjoy our imagined version of real life events.  

— Peter Mills and Cara Reichel
Peter Mills (Book, Music & Lyrics) Lyricist and composer Peter Mills received the 2003 Richard Rodgers New Horizons Award from The ASCAP Foundation, and received a 2002 grant from the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation. Most recently, he wrote book, music, and lyrics for *The Pursuit of Persephone* and *Iron Curtain*. In 2004 he wrote the music and lyrics for *Lonely Rhymes*, and in 2003 he wrote the book, music, and lyrics for *The Alchemists*. *Illyria*, a musical adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* for which he also wrote book, music, and lyrics, had its regional premiere at The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Fall 2004, and a cast album of that production was released in April 2005. *The Taxi Cabaret*, is published by Samuel French. With Cara Reichel, he wrote *The Flood*, which was selected for the ASCAP Musical Theater Workshop (2001). *Marco Polo*, written with composer Deborah Abramson, was selected for the ASCAP Musical Theater Workshop in 2000, and Peter and Deborah were chosen as 2000-01 Dramatists Guild Fellows. Peter holds an M.F.A. in Musical Theater Writing from New York University’s Tisch School for the Arts and a degree in English/Dramatic Literature from Princeton University.

Cara Reichel (Book) received her BA from Princeton University and her M.F.A. in directing from Brooklyn College. Cara is the Producing Artistic Director and a founding member of Prospect Theater Company. For Prospect, she has recently directed: *The Pursuit of Persephone* (co-bookwriter, NY IT Awards nomination for Outstanding Musical), *The Uses of Enchantment, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Lonely Rhymes, The Alchemists* (Restie Award, Best New Musical), *Dido & Aeneas* (OOBRAward), *The Taxi Cabaret* (OOBRAward), *Illyria* (co-adapter), and *Danton’s Death*, among others. Other recent directing credits include: *Julius Caesar* (GMT Productions), *The White Widow* (PASSAJ Productions), and *The Most Happy Fella* (Gallery Players). Cara received the 2002 Lucille Lortel Award from the League of Professional Theatre Women, a 2004 New Directors / New Works grant from the Drama League, and is a member of the Lincoln Center Director’s Lab and the SSD&C.

This Side of Dancing Partners: Fitzgerald was noted for his skillful performance of female roles — on stage and off. He was so convincing that he once crashed a fraternity party dressed as a debutante. According to legend, Scott filled his dance card and left a dismayed crowd of admirers in his wake.
About the Cast

ANDREW ARRINGTON (Freddy Forgan) senior, Chicago, IL
JOEL BAUER (John Peale JP Bishop) senior, Oak Creek, WI
EMILY BOTTORFF (Debutante) senior, Washington, DC
ALEX BRUMEL (Dean Donegan) senior, Marboro, NJ
JAMIE COOPER (Tom Connet) senior, Olympia, WA
JANINE D'VITA (Ginevra King) senior, Overland Park, KS
TED ELY (Clive Bagby) junior, Kalamazoo, MI
PETER GOSIK (Ellis Griffin) junior, St. Louis, MO
LAUREL HARRIS (Debutante) senior, Raleigh, NC
LAUREN HOLMES (Mrs. King/Chanteuse) junior, Memphis, TN
DEREK KRANTZ (Tyler Pierce/Bartender) junior, Charlotte, NC
MICHAEL LOWNEY (Older Scott) junior, Missoula, MT
RIANA NELSON (Debutante) junior, Olympia, WA
MARA NEWBERRY (Marie Hersey) senior, Westport, KY
JUSTIN PAUL (F. Scott Fitzgerald) senior, Westport, CT
JOHN RAPSON (Edmund Wilson) sophomore, Washington, MI
JOSH ROUAH (Trip Everett) senior, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
AJ SHIVELY (Wilton Darby) junior, Carmel, CA
NINA STURTZ (Debutante) senior, White Plains, NY
BENTON WHITLEY (A. Hamilton Samuels) junior, Goldsboro, NC

The performers in this production are composed of undergraduate students pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre in the School of Music, Theatre & Dance unless otherwise notated. The designers are composed of undergraduate students and faculty in the Department of Theatre & Drama. Scenery, costumes, properties, sound, and lighting were realized by the students and staff of University Productions, the producing unit of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

About the Artists

CASSIDY BLOOM (Scenic Designer) is a senior theatre design and production major. UM: Dance to the Music (assistant designer); MUSKET: Urinetown (stage manager), Pippin (set designer), The Wild Party (stage manager). Regional Theatre: Heritage Repertory Theatre, VA: Sunday in the Park with George, Nunsense, Enchanted April, Don’t Hug Me, South Pacific, Damn Yankees, Lettuce and Lovage, The Price, Rounding Third, My Way, The Spitfire Grill (scenic artist).

ELYSE HANDELMAN (Lighting Designer) is a junior BFA candidate in the Department of Theatre & Drama studying scenic and lighting design. UM: Friends; asst. design:
About the Artists

The Coronation of Poppea; asst. master electrician: The Laramie Project; Basement Arts: Love's Fire, The Glory of Living, Junior Artistic Director. Regional Theatre: Spoleto Festival USA, Goodspeed Musicals.

Brian Lewis (Music Director/Conductor) is an assistant professor in the Musical Theatre Dept. UM: Seussical, The Boys from Syracuse. Regional Theatre: Music Director/ Accompanist for over 25 musicals. Composer of the original musical Memoirs of a Ninja. Other: Composer of band and choral music published by Alfred Publishing; graduate degrees in conducting and film scoring.

Sean McKnight (Choreographer) UM: Choreographer: A Little Night Music; Performance: Grand Hotel, Sweeney Todd, West Side Story, Anything Goes, Candide. National Tours: Performance: The Producers, Annie Get Your Gun, 42nd Street, Cinderella. Regional Theatre: Choreography of the Los Angeles premiere of Hot Mikado - nominated for a LA Stage Alliance Ovation Award and a LA Drama Critics Circle Award. Most recently he was seen in the Kennedy Center's revival of Mame. Other: Past UM Friends of Musical Theatre scholarship recipient.


Christianne Myers (Costume Designer) is Asst. Professor in the Dept. of Theatre & Drama. More than a dozen shows at UM including: The Cradle Will Rock, The Coronation of Poppea, Tartuffe, and Don Giovanni. New York: 17 productions at The Juilliard School; off-B’way: Running Man, Oedipus, American Dreams:Lost & Found; Theatreworks/USA; The Public Theatre & Ma-Yi Ens.; Irondale Ens.; Lincoln Center Institute. Regional Theatre: The Purple Rose Theatre; Indiana Rep; Vermont Stage Co.; Clarence Brown Theatre; Syracuse Stage; Caldwell Theatre; Pine Mountain Music Festival. Other: BFA, Pace Univ.; MFA, New York Univ.

Brent Wagner (Director) is the Chair of the Department of Musical Theatre at UM. Regional Theatre: Director of numerous musicals and revues throughout the United States and Canada, including three premieres with lyricist/librettist Sheldon Harnick. Other: Former director of the Musical Theatre Program, Syracuse University; Recipient of Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education. Mr. Wagner has graduate degrees in music and in theatre from Indiana University.
Acknowledgments

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Staff for The Pursuit of Persephone

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE
Dean .................................................. Christopher Kendall

DEPARTMENT OF MUSICAL THEATRE
Chair .................................................. Brent Wagner
Faculty .............................................. Jerry DePuit, Linda Goodrich, Brian Lewis, Mark Madama, Cynthia Kortman Westphal

UNIVERSITY PRODUCTIONS
Director ........................................... Jeffrey Kuras
Admin. Assoc. ................................. Fatima Abdullah
Office Assistant III .............. Shelda Smith
Marketing & Communications Dir. ... Kerianne M. Tupa
Information Systems Manager .......... Henry Reynolds
Facilities Manager ......................... Shannon Rice
House Manager ......................... Dianne Widzinski
Graphic Design .......................... Mkftolity Designs
Photographer ............................ Peter Smith Photography
Marketing Intern .......................... Sarah Roffman
Office Assistants .......................... Chelsea LaBrie, Stephanie Shechter, Valerie Weber

PRODUCTION STAFF
Production Manager ....................... Amanda Mengden
Production Stage Manager ................. Nancy Uftner
Technical Director (Walgreen) ... Richard W. Lindsay, Jr.
Technical Director (Power) ...... Douglas Edwards
Asst. Technical Director (Power) ...... Donald C. Watkins
Carpenters .............................. Robert Michael, Jim Wright
Charge Scenic Artist ............................ Toni Y. Auletti
Asst. Scenic Artist ...................... Elizabeth Sandmaier
Properties Master ........................... Arthur Ridley
Asst. Properties Master ................. Dan Tracy
Properties Artisan ......................... Patrick Drone
Master Electrician ........................ Mark Allen Berg
Costume Shop Manager ................. Jan Evans
Assoc. Costume Shop Manager ........ George Bacon
Cutter/Drapers ............................ Virginia R. Luedke, Lea Marzonie, T J Williamson
Crafts Artisan .................................. Elizabeth Gunderson
Sound Engineers .......... Roger Arnett, Henry Reynolds
Senior House Operations Manager .. Barry LaRue
House Operations Mgrs ....... Ron Cypert, Mark Gordon
Office Assts. ............................ Adam H. Caplan, Jamie Fortier, Christina M. Hagan, Sarah Han

PRODUCTION CREW
First Asst. Stage Manager ............... Angela Kiessel
Asst. Stage Managers .............. Tracy Alexander, Ted Ely, AJ Shively, Benton Whitley
Asst. to the Director ....................... Andy Mientus
Rehearsal Accompanist .................. Greg Jarrett
Dance Captain/Asst. to the Choreographer ... Mara Newbery
Video Production ............................ Wesley Alfvyn
Master Electrician ...................... Charles Klecha
Paint ............... Laura Strowe, Rachael Brody, Paul Miller, Kelsey Moher, Adam Moskal, Laura Riggins, Angela Sarb, Brigid Schmidt
Matthew Semler, students of Theatre 250
Props ............................ Andrew Arrington, Seth Anderson, Christina Carter, Catherine Keys, Matthew Noellett, Ruth Pferdehirt, Dina Vovsi, students of Theatre 250
Professional Stitchers ..................... Elizabeth Hunsche, Laurie Kantner, Jaclyn Young, Suzanne Young
Costumes ................................. Ashley Cambers, Jessica McKinley, Tammy Ram, Colin Rich, Jose Sepulveda, Kathryn Shattock, Melanie Taves, Jennifer Trombley, students of Theatre 250
Lighting ................................. Alex Brees, Cassandra Flowers, Ryan Foy, Andrew Fritsch, Geoffrey Gilbert, Elyse Handelman, Lauren Hood, Charles Klecha, Justin Lang, Elizabeth Lynch, Joseph Ostrander, Mary Roeder, Stephanie Shechter, Daniel Silverman, Joseph Walls, Caroline Williams, students of Theatre 250

RUNNING CREW
Scenery ......................................... Benj Pasek
Props ............................ Laura Przybysz
Light Board Operator ..................... Emily Halton
Electrics ............................... Gretchen Platt-Koch, Austin Selden
Sound ...................................... Rob Alexander
Wardrobe .................................. El-Madhi Ahmed, Amanda Dye, Lizzy Klemperer, Erika Stowall

‡ Member IATSE
Così fan tutte
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
*Sung in Italian with English translations.*
Mendelssohn Theatre • Nov. 16 - 19, 2006 • University Opera Theatre

You Can’t Take it With You
by George S. Kaufman & Moss Hart
Power Center • Dec. 7 - 10, 2006 • Dept. of Theatre & Drama

Rituals & Reveries
Choreography by Martha Graham, guest Leyya Tawil, and faculty
Amy Chavasse, Peter Sparling, Sandra Torijano, and Robin Wilson
Power Center • Feb. 1 - 4, 2007 • University Dance Company

She Stoops to Conquer
by Oliver Goldsmith
Mendelssohn Theatre • Feb. 15 - 18, 2007 • Dept. of Theatre & Drama

The Bartered Bride
By Bedrich Smetana
*Sung in Czech with projected English translations.*
Power Center • Mar. 15 - 18, 2007 • University Opera Theatre

The Who’s Tommy
by Pete Townsend and Des McAnuf
Power Center • Apr. 12 - 15, 2007 • Dept. of Musical Theatre

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