The Water

UM School of Music • Musical Theatre Department
November 18 - 21, 2004 • Trueblood Theatre
The University of Michigan School of Music
Musical Theatre Department

presents

The Water

Music by Georgia Stitt
Lyrics by Jeff Hylton
Book by Jeff Hylton and Tim Werenko

Director: Brent Wagner
Music Director: Cynthia Kortman Westphal
Scenic Designer: Gary Decker
Costume Designer: Taran Muller
Lighting Designer: Andrew Fritsch
Stage Manager: Margo Brenner

Setting:
Watertown, Missouri, Late April, 1997

There will be one intermission.

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

Lenny ................................................................. Danny Binstock
Sandy ............................................................... Nicholas Ardell
Will ................................................................. John Sloan III
Nicky ............................................................... Nick Gaswirth
Harv ............................................................... Brian Mazzaferri
Cecil ............................................................... Odin Biron
Slim ............................................................... Michael Mahoney
Rebecca ......................................................... Stephanie Layton
Susan ............................................................ Tessa Waldheger
Earline ............................................................ Lorna McGee
Maddy ............................................................. Erika Foss
Joan ............................................................... Kristin Shields
Townspeople ...................... Joel Bauer, Alexandra Brock, Mark Christine,
Bethany Heinrich, Jennifer Lorae, Lauren Rosental,
Patrice Seibel, Gregory Royce Pearl, Danny Wedel

Orchestra

Piano ............................................................... Cynthia Kortman Westphal
Drums .............................................................. Alex Brumel
Guitar ............................................................... Eli Zoller
Rehearsal pianists .......................... Adam Fry, David Gilliland

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to David and Joan Marshall for their generous support of new works in musical theatre.

KC/ACTF  This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater productions. 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.
ACT I
Scene 1: The Hope Café/Junior High School
   Good, Good Morning ............................................................... Townspeople
   Ryan and the Water ............................................................... Sandy
   Maddy’s Dam Report .............................................................. Maddy, Harv

Scene 2: Outside the Junior High School
   Feel the Rain ................................................................. Townspeople

Scene 3: The Hope Café
   Wedding Plans ................................................................. Susan, Nicky
   Alive ............................................................................. Maddy, Lenny

Scene 4: Sandy and Becca's House
   River Like Life ................................................................. Becca, Sandy

Scene 5: Police Station
   To Serve and Protect ............................................................ Earl

Scene 6: The Hope Café
   The Rain Falls ................................................................. Nicky, Sandy, Becca, Susan

Scene 7: Will's House/A Church Community Room
   I Long For You ................................................................. Will
   River Like Life (reprise) ...................................................... Sandy

Scene 8: Police Station

Scene 9: The Hope Café
   Our Lives Live Here ............................................................ Sandy, Townspeople

ACT II
Scene 1: Claxton Armory Flood Shelter
   Did I? .................................................................................. Lenny, Susan, Harv, Townspeople

Scene 2: Around Watertown/The Hope Café
   Home Sweet Home ............................................................. Becca, Harv, Earl, Susan, Will, Townspeople
   Condolences ...................................................................... Lenny
   Maybe God’s Mean ............................................................. Harv

Scene 3: The Hope Café
   Fifteen ........................................................................... Becca
   Officer Darling .................................................................... Harv, Earl

Scene 4: The Cemetery
   Ryan and the Water (reprise) .............................................. Sandy, Will
ACT II, Continued

Scene 5: The Hope Café

This is Nicky ................................................. Nicky, Susan

Scene 6: Behind the Hope Café

Alive (reprise) .................................................. Lenny, Becca
River Like Life (reprise) ....................................... Becca, Sandy

Epilogue: The Hope Café (8 Months Later)

Good, Good Morning (reprise) .............................. Townspeople

Director’s Notes

The Musical Theatre Department production of The Water is a premiere. In April, 2004, the show had a two-week workshop at Theatreworks in Palo Alto, CA.

Staging new works is becoming more and more necessary in a performance training program. After graduation, most Musical Theatre alums have the opportunity to participate in readings and workshops of new musicals. These help the writers, and often the producers, to understand whether the show is ready for commercial production. For new works, this is a valuable tool in the overall process — one which costs far less than the traditional out-of-town tryout. Almost every musical on Broadway today began in a small-scale workshop.

Most college graduates arriving in New York City have had very little experience with new musicals. Generally we learn a musical from recordings and sometimes videos, but of course, these don’t exist with new works. The script and score are our only guides. Enormous demands are placed on actors in an untried musical. They must be prepared for ongoing changes, incorporate new ideas quickly, and collaborate on character development, often sharing observations with the writers. Actors can make lasting contributions to the development of a show.

Despite the large number of successful musicals, writing a new work remains a somewhat unscientific process. Countless elements must come together seamlessly in order for a show to ‘work.’ Despite the long rehearsal hours, no one knows exactly how the various parts really function until the arrival of an audience, when phase two of the learning process truly begins. Audience members become collective participants in the process, helping the director, actors, and writers to know what the next steps should be.

As we enter the 21st year of our Department, it’s worth noting that our graduates are currently performing in numerous new musicals across the nation. Some of our alums have even gone on to write new works for the stage. We are extremely grateful to the writers of The Water for allowing us to join this important process by collaborating on their new musical here at the University.
JEFF HYLTON (Book and Lyrics) has a degree from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, through Playwrights Horizon Theatre School. He wrote lyrics and co-wrote the book and music for The Elephant Man - The Musical, which was performed at the 2001 New York International Fringe Festival and published in the anthology Plays & Playwrights 2001. With Sean McCourt, he wrote the musical Galileo’s Telescope and he, Tim Werenko, and Georgia Stitt are working on a new musical comedy called The A-Bomb Follies. He is the co-author of numerous speculative screenplays including the musical comedy Joyce!! (as in DeWitt!!) and The Boob Movie!!, which he, Werenko, and composer David Azarow adapted into a stage musical featured in the 2002 NY Fringe Festival. He and Azarow are currently writing the new musical Lord Byron’s Monster. Mr. Hylton also wrote a funny dirty horror novel called Hahrper & The Thing, which is available at Amazon.com & BarnesandNoble.com. Jeff’s work on The Water is dedicated with much love to his grandfather, Jessie Leon Golden, who almost always deserves to be pinched. Hard.

GEORGIA STITT (Music) In addition to The Water, Georgia has written Lizan with Bil Wright and is currently developing two new musicals: My Mercury, a post-WWII story with playwright John Jiler, and Sing Me A Happy Song, a musical revue with composer/lyricist David Kirshenbaum. A Better Resurrection, a choral piece premiered at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and was published this year by Walton Music, and Alphabet City Cycle, a song cycle for soprano and violin with lyricist Marcy Heisler. She is represented on Susan Egan’s new solo album, CoffeeHouse. Georgia most recently worked as the Production Music Coordinator for the Disney/ABC TV musical Once Upon A Mattress starring Tracey Ullman and Carol Burnett. Other credits include the recent Broadway musical Little Shop of Horrors and the Encores! production of Can-Can starring Patti LuPone as well as Avenue Q, Sweet Smell of Success, The Music Man, Titanic, Annie, and the national tour of Parade. Georgia received her M.F.A. in Musical Theater Writing from New York University and her B.Mus. in Music Theory and Composition from Vanderbilt University. With director John Ruocco, she teaches THE GYM, an ongoing professional musical theater performance class. She is married to composer/lyricist Jason Robert Brown. For updates on Georgia’s current projects, please visit www.georgiastitt.com.
About the Creators

TIM WERENKO (Book) has directed two feature films, written several screenplays and one novel called Onkeeton Ghosts. While this is the first time he has had the pleasure of working with Georgia Stitt, he has collaborated with Jeff Hylton in and out of the theater for years. Mr. Werenko is currently a director and DVD producer in New York. He lives with his beautiful wife and two wonderful children in New Jersey... next to a river... on a flood plain.

About the Cast

NICHOLAS ARDELL (Sandy) senior, Portland, OR
JOEL BAUER (Townsperson) sophomore, Oak Creek, WI
DANNY BINSTOCK (Lenny) junior, Potomac, MD
ODIN BIRON (Cecil) sophomore, Duluth, MN
ALEXANDRA BROCK (Townsperson) junior, Houston, TX
MARK CHRISTINE (Townsperson) sophomore, Massillon, OH
ERIKA FOSS (Maddy) sophomore, Madison, WI
NICK GASWIRTH (Nicky) junior, Sherman Oaks, CA
BETHANY HEINRICH (Townsperson) junior, San Antonio, TX
STEPHANIE LAYTON (Rebecca) junior, Olympia, WA
JENNIFER LORAE (Townsperson) senior, Harrison, NY
MICHAEL MAHONEY (Slim) junior, Ann Arbor, MI
BRIAN MAZZAFERRI (Harv) junior, BFA Musical Theatre/BA Philosophy, Glenview, IL
LORNA MCGEE (Earline) senior, Fairmont, WV
GREGORY ROYCE PEARL (Townsperson) junior, Adrian, MI
LAUREN ROSENTAL (Townsperson) junior, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
PATRICE SEIBEL (Townsperson) junior, St. Clair, MI
KRISTIN SHIELDS (Joan) junior, DeWitt, MI
JOHN SLOAN III (Will) senior, Farmington Hills, MI
TESSA WALDHEGER (Susan) senior, Westlake, OH
DANNY WEDEL (Townsperson) sophomore, Madison, WI

The performers in this production are undergraduate students pursuing a BFA degree in Musical Theatre in the School of Music unless otherwise noted. The designers are faculty and undergraduate students in the Department of Theatre and 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.
About the Artists

MARGO BRENNER (Stage Manager) is a senior BFA candidate in directing in the Dept. of Theatre and Drama. UM: Stage manager - An Arthur Miller Celebration; asst. stage manager - A Streetcar Named Desire; asst. director - Guys and Dolls, Don't Dress for Dinner, She's All Yours; Basement Arts: Artistic Director, director - Three Days of Rain, stage manager - Dinner with Friends; MUSKET: director - Damn Yankees. International Theatre: Royal Shakespeare Company, student director: Hamlet, directed by Michael Boyd.

GARY DECKER (Scenic Designer) has designed more than 100 productions. In Michigan, he has worked at the Gem, Attic, Birmingham, Boarshead, and Purple Rose Theatres. Recent designs include the national tours of The Sunshine Boys and Same Time, Next Year. His scenic design for Fully Committed at The Century Theatre earned the Detroit Free Press 2002 Theatre Design Excellence Award. He has designed interiors or lighting for commercial projects including: The Elwood Grill in Detroit, The Fashion Cafe in New York, and The Arndale Centre in Manchester, UK. He has been a member of the Theatre Department faculty since 1984.


TARAN MULLER (Costume Designer) is a senior BFA candidate double majoring in costume design in the Dept. of Theatre and Drama and printmaking in the School of Art and Design. UM: Costume designer: She's All Yours; asst. costume designer: The Nutcracker, Oklahoma!; Basement Arts: The Glue Factory. Regional Theatre: MI Shakespeare Festival, wardrobe mistress: Merry Wives of Windsor, Much Ado About Nothing.

BRENT WAGNER (Director) is the Chair of the Musical Theatre Dept. 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: Director of 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.
CITY OF ANGELS

Music by Cy Coleman
Lyrics by David Zippel
Book by Larry Gelbart

A 1940s comedy of Hollywood glamour and treachery

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