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The Caucasian Theatrical Company
present
Hamlet
by William Shakespeare



The Company: Carlton Stone, Sr., Helga Vain, Carlton Stone, Jr.,
Edmund Dandearny, James Jenkins and Elsie Peg

Stage Blood

by Chales Ludlam

A Note from the Director, Darin A.J. Dahms;

The production of *Stage Blood* you are about to experience is somewhat of an anomaly - a mainstage production mounted entirely by students. The idea began with student and designer Robert Krege saying, literally, "Hey, let's put on a show!" and after weeks of arduous work, ends here on the stage. Or rather the prelude to a grand event ends here on the stage. Hopefully, this show will set the precedent for future student initiated productions, and will allow every member of the theatre department here at IUSB, student and faculty alike, to take a deep, pridefilled breath, and look to the future with confidence and excited expectation.

Kudos go to the IUSB faculty, Tom Miller, Randy Colbourn, Lois Carder, and Ken Cole, who trusted themselves enough to believe that what they taught us would prove fruitful, and trusted us enough to let us put on a production as we saw fit.

Finally, a personal note: Mom and Dad, thanks!

I am a firm believer in the magic of theatre. There is something ethereal and inexplicable in the strange symbiosis between the actors and the audience. They share each others energy and feed off one another. When one is strong it makes the other strong, when one is weak the other has to work that much harder. As a member of the audience, you are not a spectator, but rather a participant in a happening, a vital organ in a living creature. Whether you are watching Shakespeare or Chekov, Simon or Shepard, or in this case, Ludlam, you are the integral element in an alchemic event. The funny thing about this kind of magic, is that there are no secrets, everyone can participate, and should. If there happens to be applause tonight, remember the applause is for you. I hope that we can give you the sort of performance which you so deeply deserve, if not, to hell with it, we'll try again later.

Playing parody is like solving a murder. You have to gather a strong understanding of the victims and the suspects, gather evidence, and separate the facts from the fiction before you can present a case. We started with a very compassionate desire to know the victims of Ludlam's *Stage Blood*. Familiarizing ourselves, as any good detective would, with the habits of Hamlet, the motives of pretentious theatre, and the dark desires of film noir. We then crawled into the skin of the murderer, walked in his shoes, and plumbed the depths of a theatrically psychotic mind. We approached the play cautiously at first, then increasingly we began to continue our investigation into realms where the sane mind might have stopped. Let us reveal to you now the evidence in this bizzare case of double-identity and whodunnit. I hope you can keep up.

As a courtesy to the artists and to other members of the audience, latecomers will be seated at an appropriate time. For the same reasons return to seating following intermission should be prompt. Attendance by children under the age of responsible behavior is discouraged. Audio and video recording equipment and cameras may not be used at a performance in any auditorium of IUSB. Eating and drinking in the Campus Auditorium, Recital Hall and Uplage are prohibited. Smoking is not permitted in any building of Indiana University South Bend.



Stage Blood

by Chales Ludlam

August 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 1996

Directed by Darin A.J. Dahms

The Cast

Carlton Stone, Sr. Ken Winters
Carlton Stone, Jr. Rob Harrington
Edmund Dundreary Chis Ference
James Jenkins Jeff Szymanowski
Helga Vain Laura Brom
Elfie Fey Carrie Hunter

Manifesto: Ridiculous Theatre, Scourge of Human Folly

by Charles Ludlam

AIM: TO GET BEYOND NIHILISM BY REVALUING COMBAT.

Axioms to a theatre for ridicule:

1. If one is not a living mockery of one's own ideals, one has set one's ideals too low.
2. The things one takes seriously, are one's weaknesses.
3. Just as many people who claim a belief in God disprove it with their every act, so too there are those whose every deed, though they say there is no God, is an act of faith.
4. Evolution is a conscious process.
5. Bathos is that which is intended to be sorrowful but because of the extremity of its expression becomes comic. Pathos is that which is meant to be comic but because of the extremity of its expression becomes sorrowful. Some things which seem to be opposites are actually different degrees of the same thing.
6. The comic hero thrives by his vices. The tragic hero is destroyed by his virtue. Moral paradox is the crux of the drama.
7. The theatre is a humble materialist enterprise which seeks to produce riches of the imagination, not the other way around. The theatre is an event and not an object. Theatre workers need not blush and conceal their desperate struggle to pay the landlords their rents. Theatre without the stink of art.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

This is farce not Sunday school. Illustrate hedonistic calculus. Test out a dangerous idea, a theme that threatens to destroy one's whole value system. Treat the material in a madly farcical manner without losing the seriousness of the theme. Show how paradoxes arrest the mind. Scare yourself a bit along the way.

About the Play:

STAGE BLOOD, by Charles Ludlam, is a contemporary retelling of **HAMLET** that would have made Shakespeare cringe and Olivier wail. This epic story of a play within-a-play, within-a-play, within-a-play, details the climactic moments in the ailing Caucasian Theatrical Company's touring of **HAMLET**. None of the preening, pretentious, egomaniacal members of this troupe could have anticipated the hell that would ensue upon agreeing to take a booking in Mishawaka, Indiana. Soon after the curtain opens, a company member is murdered and everyone finds themselves a prime suspect in this freakish and enthralling parody of everything any theatre person has ever considered holy. Carl, the son of the murdered thespian, finds himself becoming more and more like the legendary dane as he attempts to solve his father's murder and keep the proud theatrical name of Stone alive. The convulsing convolutions of this mystery explode upon the stage as a colorful cast of characters connive and contrive to capitalize on this catastrophic blow to the Caucasian Theatrical Company.

The Cast

LAURA BROM -- Heiga Vain

A graduate of Mishawaka High School, Laura is currently a sophomore at IUSB where she is majoring in Nuclear Medicine. Although Laura performed in productions in high school this is her first IUSB performance. In addition to being a full-time student, Laura, also works part-time and is a full-time wife and mother.

DARIN A. J. DAHMS -- Director

Versatile in all aspects of the theatre, although primarily an actor, Darin's many credits include, director of **THE AUTHOR'S VOICE** and the Tri-Kappa Children's production of **TOM SAWYER**. A junior majoring in theatre, Darin brings to the stage a long line of credits. You have seen him on the IUSB stage as Jeremiah Grady in **LYDIE BREEZE**, Jerry in **THE ZOO STORY**, Touchstone in **AS YOU LIKE IT**, Bill and Actor Three in **MORE THAN A WORD**, Horatio in **HAMLET** and Treat in **ORPHANS**. Other performances include Harry in **THE HIRED MAN** and Pastor Oglethorpe in **SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN** at the Theater Works in Sarasota, Florida. He has also performed as the Client in **YOUR MOTHERS BUTT** in Random Acts in Sarasota, Florida and Issac in **PLAIN AND FANCY** at Amish Acres.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL-ANTHONY FERENCE -- Edmund Dunderdrey

Chris recently performed on the IUSB stage as Mobius in the 1996 spring children's show **SPACE ODYSSEY** and as Charles and William in the 1995 fall production of **AS YOU LIKE IT**. Originally from Kalamazoo, Michigan, Chris is a sophomore at IUSB majoring in voice and music. He has performed as Shempa in **THE TIME MACHINE**, Bobby in **CABARET**, and Don in **A CHORUS LINE**. In his free time he likes to sing and enjoys jazz and rhythm and blues.

ROB HARRINGTON -- Carlton Stone, Jr.

Rob has been active in many aspects of the theatre at IUSB. Most recently he appeared as Jude Emerson in **LYDIE BREEZE**. Rob also made his directorial debut in the spring of 1996 with **THE ZOO STORY**. He has appeared on the IUSB stage as Jaques in **AS YOU LIKE IT**, Joe and the Writer in **MORE THAN A WORD**, Actor Eleven (Mr. Jones and Ruark) in **GOD'S COUNTRY**, Frank Harcourt in **THE COUNTRY WIFE** and Kirk in **THE TIME MACHINE**. He also ran the soundboard and worked backstage crews for **LADYHOUSE BLUES** and **BETRAYAL**. Rob is interested in Directing and brews his own ales and lagers in his spare time. He is a senior majoring in theatre.

CARRIE HUNTER -- Elfie Fey

A freshman who plans to pursue a career in the theatre, Carrie has appeared this year on the IUSB stage as Gussie Hickman in **LYDIE BREEZE**, Penelope in **SPACE ODYSSEY** and Amiens in **AS YOU LIKE IT**, which featured her singing voice. Her past theatre experience includes Penelope Sycamore in **YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU**, Pianist in **BRIDGE OF BLOOD**, and Brenda in **FLIGHT 666**.

ERIN "BUNNY" SNYDER -- Stage Manager

Erin is a freshman majoring in theatre. She was the light board operator for **LYDIE BREEZE**, stage manager in **SPACE ODYSSEY** and assistant stage manager in **AS YOU LIKE IT**. In addition to her work at IUSB, Erin was the stage manager for **JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR** in Dunes Summer Theatre City and the light designer in **GIN GAME** at Footlight Players in Michigan City.

JEFF SZYMANOWSKI -- Jenkins

Jeff made his acting debut on the IUSB stage as Delbert in the 1996 spring production of **SPACE ODYSSEY**. He also portrayed the Victorian male in **GOBLIN MARKET**. A Washington High School graduate, Jeff has performed as Mr. Va Dann in **DIARY OF ANNE FRANK**, Father White in **THE BUTLER DID IT**, and Hugo Peabody in **BYE BYE BIRDIE**. He was also a member of the chorus in the firefly productions of **MIKADO** and **ANYTHING GOES**. Jeff is a sophomore.

JAMIE L. TALBOOM -- Assistant Stage Manager

Jamie is a graduate of IUSB and is currently the Production Coordinator for the Division of the Arts. She teaches Public Speaking at IUSB and took first place in persuasive speaking in the State Oratory Contest in 1991. Jamie's future plans are to continue to try new and exciting things that will bring positive experiences to her life. Her first role on the IUSB stage was that of Beaty in the 1996 spring production of **LYDIE BREEZE**.

KENDRIC C. WINTERS, JR. -- Carlton Stone, Sr./Gilbert Fey

A former IUSB student, Ken has worked as a technical staff member with IUSB's theatre as well as with the Osolo Conservatory in Sarasota, Florida. In his spare time he plays the keyboards and works for Woodwinds and Brasswinds. This is Ken's acting debut.

1996-97
IUSB THEATRE SEASON

STAGE BLOOD by Charles Ludlum
August 1996

MERTON OF THE MOVIES
by G. Kaufman & M. Connelly
October 1996

UNCLE VANYA
by Anton Chekov
November 1996

Tri-Kappa Children's Production
February 1997

TWO ROOMS
by Lee Blessing
March 1997

THE LIVING
by Anthony Clarvoe
April 1997



Those who wish to offer financial encouragement to the theatre program and to the students for whom it is intended are invited to make contributions to the Theatre IUSB Scholarship Fund.

Indiana University South Bend
Division of the Arts
1700 Mishawaka Ave.

34 Season / 140th Production

The Production Staff

Director Darin A.J. Dahms
Scenic Designer Robert Krege II
Costume Designer Tatjana Longerot
Assistant Costume Designer Kerith Wolf
Original Music & Sound Effects Ernie Scarbrough
Technical Designer Jeff Palmer
Stage Manager Erin Snyder
Assistant Stage Manager Jamie L. Talboom

Running Crew

Light Board Operator Ruth Zulas
Sound Board Operator Jason Smith
Dressers Kerith Wolf
Holly Sante
Grips Liz Rieck
Stage Hand Jeff Palmer

*Kappa Kappa Kappa Scholarship

*Broadway Theatre League Scholarship

Scene Shop Staff

Jeff Palmer, Angie Hanes, Cory Defebaugh, Kenny Talboom

Scene Painters

Darin A.J. Dahms, Rob Harrington, Carrie Hunter, Tatjana Longerot

Costume Technicians

Kerith Wolf, Holly Sante, Jennifer Marley, Laura Wee

Special Thanks to

Lois Carder, Joshua Longerot, Jennifer Talboom

Resident Production Staff

Dr. Thomas C. Miller, Assistant Dean of the Arts
Jamie L. Talboom, Production Coordinator
Brenda L. McKinley, Graphic Designer
David R. Davenport, Resident Stage Manager

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