

# Orphans

by Lyle Kessler



Presented by The Theatre Company at IUSB  
Northside at Greenlawn, South Bend, Indiana





Although Indiana University began offering classes in the Michiana community nearly 75 years ago, certain milestones mark turning points in its history. One of the most significant took place in the spring of 1967, when the first degrees were conferred at the South Bend campus. It was the birth of the full-fledged university campus we know today.

#### A Note on Our Alumni

Alumni of the theatre program of Indiana University South Bend are spread across the country from California to New York and in Europe, working in theatre, films, television, industrial shows, and education. One has received an Emmy nomination, another a Joseph Jefferson Award. The Production Stage Manager at Yale Rep graduated from our program; so did the Production Stage Manager at La Jolla Playhouse, as did the Technical Director at the Alley Theatre in Houston. Another graduate is the Executive Director/Producer at the Lone Star Theatre in Galveston.

We have placed our students in internships at the Guthrie Theatre, the Goodman Theatre, the Alley Theatre, and the Julliard School. Graduates have received assistantships leading to M.F.A. and Ph.D. degrees at universities such as Cal Arts, Georgia, IU-Bloomington, Louisville, Maryland, Massachusetts, Miami, Missouri, Purdue, Temple and UNLV, among others.

Not all of our alumni have left the area to pursue professional careers -- our graduates enrich the cultural environment in South Bend and surrounding communities. Some have stayed to raise families, become teachers, or work in business; others have found local performance-related careers such as managing the Morris Civic Auditorium, designing industrials and working in the staghands union, radio-television, and technical direction at St. Mary's College. Many of the familiar faces on community stages were students here -- the list goes on and on.

We now are in a period of growth and change, much of which has been prompted by the formation of the Division of the Arts a little over a year ago. As we look forward to new challenges and an expanded program, it is with great pleasure that we also look back to honor the students whose talents and dedication brought us the successes of the past.

The Theatre Company  
at  
IUSB

presents

29th Season

# Orphans

121st Production

by Lyle Kessler

November 30, December 5, 6, 7, 8  
1991

#### The Production Staff

Director.....Randy Colborn  
Scenic Design.....Thomas C. Miller  
Costume Design.....Lois K. Carder  
Lighting Design.....Anthony P. Morus  
Technical Director.....Andrew Mawhorr  
Stage Manager.....Amisha Gandhi

*There will be one ten-minute intermission.*

*The use of recording or photographic devices during a performance in any auditorium of IUSB is forbidden. Eating, drinking or smoking at such events is also prohibited.*





## The Director's Notes

Simply put, *Orphans* is a love story. Of course, anything dealing with love is never simple. It is interesting to note that the playwright has given us three men to teach us a little something about love. Men aren't authorities on the subject of love, are they? Bear with me; I'm certainly not an expert. I am quite versed in *failing at love*. I am also quite aware how difficult, rare, frustrating, precious, sad, happy, and blind, love can be. I know love and it hasn't always been kind; but, I'm better at it now than I ever was. I know I'll never stop trying it . . .

I like to be good at things. I break things down to their essential elements to see how they work. Love is a living, breathing . . . thing. When you strip living, breathing things down to their essential elements to see how they work, they are not living and breathing any more. Aye, there's the rub! Love is not a thing. Love is always changing, growing -- LIVING.

In *Orphans* we see love in some of its infinite incarnations. In "Phillip" there is a child-like, innocent and forgiving love that I hope to always have. It is a love that takes nothing for granted. In "Treat" it is a demanding, stifling, abusive and deceitful love that I can reluctantly relate to . . . in "Harold" it is what I will call second chance love. It is a love that can only come from experience; "Harold" sees a lot of himself in "Treat."

As is true of much contemporary theatre, *Orphans* can't and shouldn't be easily categorized. It is dramatic, comic, absurd, profound -- human. It is also theatrical. Television handles naturalism quite badly, thank you. Theatre is theatre is theatre. When theatre aspires to be television, it is deadly.

On February 3, 1985, the Steppenwolf Theatre Company opened their production of *Orphans* in Chicago. Steppenwolf built their well-deserved reputation on the production of contemporary works that had been produced elsewhere with limited success. Their knack was for finding theatrical diamonds where others had found cubic zirconium. I like the diamond analogy because Steppenwolf's style was immensely theatrical; polished, clean, specific, dangerous and uncommonly physical. Polished, clean, and specific may seem strange adjectives for what has been called "Rock and Roll Theatre," but their choices were never half-way. Of course, I'm generalizing. In any case, their choices were crystal clear; love them or hate them.

On May 7, 1985, Steppenwolf's production of *Orphans* moved to New York following earlier successes with *True West* and *Balm in Gilead*, off-Broadway. On Off-Broadway, humans don't take a back seat to technological spectacle -- yet.

There is a film version of *Orphans*. It stars Albert Finney as "Harold." Matthew Modine as "Treat," and Steppenwolf ensemble member Kevin Anderson as "Phillip." I can't remember who directed, but I wish Terry Gilliam of Monty Python fame had. Gilliam wouldn't have shied away from the peculiar world Lyle Kessler has created for us. In other words, I don't care much for the film.

By the way, Erich Weiss/Harry Houdini was born in Appleton, Wisconsin and not on the east side of New York as "Harold" reports. Also, the "Charge of the Light Brigade" was only 600 strong: Treat says 10,000 . . .

My work on this production is dedicated to my mother. Love never dies.

# Orphans

The Company

Treat.....Darin A. J. Dahms  
Phillip.....Robert Kaercher  
Harold.....Gary Oesch  
Stage Manager..... Amisha Gandhi



### Darin A. J. Dahms "Treat"

Darin has been a very versatile actor at IUSB, handling leading roles ranging from the poetic tragedy of "Robert Scott" to the dash of "Robin Hood" and comic roles ranging from Shakespeare's "Tranio" and Wilde's "Jack Worthing" to Chekhov's "Trigorin." He portrayed "Horatio" in the recent IUSB production of *Hamlet*. A Theatre major from Mishawaka, Darin played his first role at Bingham School and would be happy with a role in a future Star Wars sequel.

### Robert Kaercher "Phillip"

A senior this year, Bob is part of a long-standing tradition of Theatre majors at IUSB from the Walkerton area. Last spring he played "Harpagon," the title role in *The Miser*, for which he was nominated for an Irene Ryan acting scholarship through the American College Theatre Festival. Among his earlier leading roles are "Petruccio" in *The Taming of the Shrew*, "Wilson" in *Terra Nova*, and "Polonius" in *Hamlet*. His future plans include graduate school in acting and possibly a career in teaching.

### Gary Oesch "Harold"

Currently teaching as an adjunct faculty member for the Division of the Arts, Gary holds an M.F.A. degree in Theatre from Ohio University. Starting in the theatre at a very young age, working with James Lewis Casaday, he later taught for seven years at the Ohio University Belmont campus. Local theatre goers will recall his roles in *I'm Not Rappaport* and *Bus Stop* for the South Bend Civic Theatre, where he also directed *Spoon River Anthology*. This is Gary's initial appearance with the Theatre Company.

### Amisha Gandhi Stage Manager

Born in Bombay, India, Amisha was raised in New York and graduated from Penn High School. She is a sophomore who expects to major in Theatre/Communications or Political Science. Among her roles for the Theatre Company are "Marianne" in last spring's production of *The Miser* and "Marilyn Monroe" in a student directing project of *Wilhelm Reich in Hell*. Her future plans include law school and a law career in the entertainment field.

## The 1991-92 Theatre Company Season

*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare  
 October 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m.  
 October 20 at 2:15 p.m.

Twin Bill in the Upstage:  
*Graceland* by Ellen Byron  
*Nice People Dancing To Good Country Music* by Lee Blessing  
 November 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 at 8:15 p.m.  
 November 24 at 2:15 p.m.

*Orphans* by Lyle Kessler  
 November 29, 30, December 5, 6, 7 at 8:15 p.m.  
 December 8 at 2:15 p.m.

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Tiberius Gorecki  
 February 21-March 1

*A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine*  
 by Dick Vosburgh & Frank Lazarus  
 April 17, 18, 24, 25 at 8:15 p.m.  
 April 26 at 2:15 p.m.

### Upcoming Concerts and Exhibits

**Family Holiday Concert: South Bend Symphonic Choir  
 and South Bend Symphony Orchestra** at 7:00 p.m.  
 Morris Civic Auditorium  
 December 3

Linda Larson Witchie & Priscilla Filos Recital at 2:30 p.m.  
 December 8

David Barton Electronic Music Recital at 8:15 p.m.  
 January 17

Philip Isenberg Recital at 8:15 p.m.  
 January 18



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.

The Theatre Company at IUSB  
 Northside Blvd. • South Bend, Indiana 46634



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 Michael Burrow, Stage Technician  
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 Philip A. Ray, House Manager  
 Sigurd E. Hepler, Box Office Assistant  
 Alice Dare Slatton, Graphics Designer

### Student Theatre Staff

Cynthia Ruth Conley, Costume Shop Supervisor  
 Kira Dalager  
 Tanja Holzhäuser  
 Helen Malosh  
 Lee Michael Lodyga, Scene Shop Supervisor  
 Donald D. Alexander  
 Joseph Chabot  
 Greta Fisher  
 Robert Kaercher  
 Christopher Koehler  
 Charles Puchala  
 Steven Shirley

### Student Construction Crew

Esin Boal	Bobby McDonald
Tracey Bunda	Cathy Mehler
Brad Deardorff	Marina Pabón
Rachel Alexis Ebel	John Pressler
Travis Feldman	Tim Richardson
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