

The Summit Playhouse Association

The following program is from our 2002-2003 season.

For information on our current production,
or other shows we have presented,
please visit our web site at

<http://SummitPlayhouse.org>

The Summit Playhouse Association
Established 1918
10 New England Ave
Summit, NJ 07974
908-273-2192

The Summit Playhouse Association Presents

Wit

by Margaret Edson

directed by Chris Messineo



Eighty-Fifth Season

*If poysonous mineralls, and if that tree,
Whose fruit threw death on else immortall us
If lecherous goats, if serpents envious
Cannot be damn'd; Alas; why should I bee?
Why should intent or reason, borne in mee,
Make sinnes, else equall, in mee, more heinous?
And mercy being easie, 'and glorious
To God, in his sterne wrath, why threatens hee?
But who am I, that dare dispute with thee?
Oh God, Oh! of thine onely worthy blood,
And my teares, make a heavenly Lethean flood,
And drowne in it my sinnes blacke memorie.
That thou remember them, some claime as debt,
I thinke it mercy, if thou wilt forget.*

*John Donne
Holy Sonnet Five
1609*

The Playhouse Association
presents its
Two Hundred Seventy-Fifth Production

Wit

by **Margaret Edson**

Set Construction

Roy Pancirov &
Deryk Harrison

Costumes

Fran Harrison

Set Concept

Joann Scanlon
& Chris Messineo

Stage Manager

George Doherty

Lighting & Sound

Bill Roome

Properties

Judy Fraser

Producer

Fran Harrison

Directed by

Chris Messineo

February 21, 22, 28 at 8:00pm

March 1, 6, 7, 8 at 8:00pm

Sunday Matinee, March 2 at 2:00pm

Produced in New York City by MCC Theater
(Bernard Telsey and Robert Lupone, Executive Directors;
William Cantler, Associate Director), Long Wharf Theatre, and Daryl Roth,
with Stanley Shopkorn, Robert G. Bartner and Stanley Kauflet.
Lorie Cowen Levy Associate Producer; Roy Gabay, General Manager.

The Playhouse Association
10 New England Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org

Cast

Vivian Bearing, Ph.D..... Diane Faith Spodarek
Harvey Kelekian, Ph.D..... Art Delo
Jason Posner, M.D.(name removed by request)
Susan Monahan, R.N., B.S.N..... Shelley Brown
Evelyn Ashford, D. Phil. Jean Kuras
Mr. Bearing Art Delo
Lab Technicians, Students, Residents Deborah Moore,
Tamara Nedjar,
Ricardo Pino,
Dan Rizzo

Setting

Room 707 of the University Hospital
Comprehensive Cancer Center, present day,
and other locations from Vivian Bearing's past.



Please visit our lounge downstairs, where we have cast pictures from many of our past productions. Currently on display are productions from the 1950's through last November's production of *Moon Over Buffalo*.

Production Staff

Director	Chris Messineo
Assistant Director	Thomas P. Dwyer
Producer	Fran Harrison
Assistant Producers	Betty Kaus & Deryk Harrison
Stage Manager	George Doherty
Assisted by	Frank Hawrusik
Set Concept	Joann Scanlon & Chris Messineo
Set Construction	Roy Pancirov & Deryk Harrison
Assisted by	John Bauer, John Becker, Ted Deutz, George Doherty, John Gurley, Ed Johnson, and Mike Tatlow
Set Decoration	Fran Harrison & Judy Fraser
Set Painting	Ann Houpt, Bill Houpt, John Becker, Fran Harrison and Kathy Tatlow
Lighting & Sound	Bill Roome
Assisted by	Deryk Harrison & Joe Vierno
Costumes	Fran Harrison
Assisted by	Judy Long & Lee Ryden
Properties	Judy Fraser
Assisted by	Gerry Zoccoli
Make-up	Alice Kosowski
Flyer	Chris Messineo & Bill Roome
Publicity	Lori Balzano
Tickets	P. T. Kizzia
Program	Bill Roome
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

Acknowledgments

The Playhouse wishes to thank the following for their assistance:

Diana Sorge of Overlook Hospital
Lee Ann Caffrey, R.N., M.S.N., O.C.N.
Pathways/Interweave
Hospice of St. Barnabas Hospital

The Thursday benefit performance is for
The Community Pre-School of St. John's.

Who's Who

Shelley Brown (Susan Monahan) is thrilled to be making her debut at Summit Playhouse. She was most recently seen as Caitlan O'Hare in *Over the River and Through the Woods* at Westfield Community Players. Some of her favorite roles include Nancy in *Angel Street*, Sunny Freitag in *Last Night of Ballyhoo*, Mrs. Peters in *Trifles*, and Gret/Angie in *Top Girls*, for which she received an Irene Ryan nomination. Many thanks to Chris, the wonderful cast and crew, and the two special nurses in my life who inspired me in this role. A very special thanks to Jeff for his continuing support and love.

Art Delo (Dr. Kelekian) is pleased to return to Summit Playhouse where he had a wonderful experience in last season's *The Waverly Gallery*. He is president of Jersey City's Attic Ensemble.

Jean Kuras (Evelyn Ashford) made her first appearance at Summit two years ago, playing Elizabeth Almond in *The Heiress*. She was 2002 Perry Award nominee for her portrayal of Mrs. Warwick in *The Unexpected Guest*. Jean is author of *Images of America: Bloomfield*.

Deborah Moore (Ensemble) is a native of Newark and now resides in Montclair. She has always had a great love for the theater and movies, and she decided about two years ago to pursue training in acting. Deborah is making her theatrical debut in this production of *Wit* at the Summit Playhouse. She is thrilled to be a part of the cast and would like to thank the director Chris Messineo, and the Summit Playhouse for this opportunity. She looks forward to performing more in the future, and gives special thanks to Alberta Handelman her coach, and all of her family and friends for their continued love and support.

Tamara Nedjar (Ensemble) grew up outside of Boston, where she enjoyed a hectic lifestyle, and was actively involved in a variety of the performing arts. After a hiatus during which she received her Bachelor's degree from Cornell University and then relocated herself to New Jersey, she is eager to return to the theater. She has been working with The Summit Playhouse and Miss Debbi's School of Dance.

Ricardo Pino (Ensemble) is excited to make his Summit Playhouse debut with such a powerful play and talented cast and crew. He has previously appeared in *The Laramie Project* (Father Schmidt/Detective Rob DeBree/DJ Shadow) and *Dracula* (Dr. Van Helsing), and will be appearing next in *The Odd Couple* (Roy) in various theatres in New Jersey. He has also done live English translation for the Spanish Repertory Theatre in New York, and some Spanish language television.

Dan Rizzo (Ensemble) has been interested in theater for some time, but this is his first time on stage. During the day his life is filled with meeting new people while

doing all sorts of odd jobs, like painting, carpentry, etc. for “We Do That” in Summit. He is excited to be part of the play.

Diane Faith Spodarek (Vivian Bearing) was born in Canada and grew up in Detroit. A New Yorker now for twenty years she has appeared in numerous off-off-Broadway shows and independent films. Also a video artist and writer, she has received three NYFA and one NEA artist’s fellowship awards. The most recent publication of her writing is in *Even More Monologues for Women by Women*. Her favorite roles are playing herself in her one-person show, *The Drunk Monologues* and playing Mom to her daughter Dana. Diane thanks Chris Messineo, the Summit Playhouse and Fran Harrison for this great opportunity to be a part of *Wit* and to work with a wonderful and fun cast. Also, a special thanks to Betty Kaus and Tom Dwyer. She dedicates her performance to you, the audience. May you be filled with peace, joy, love, and light. Om Shanthi.

Production Staff

Chris Messineo (Director) first appeared on stage at age ten, in Ibsen’s *An Enemy of the People*. 25 years and 30 productions later he is thrilled to be directing for the first time. Most recently at Summit Playhouse he played Mortimer Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Chris is a programmer for Agile Technologies. He lives in New Providence with his wife and a daughter who makes them both laugh. Much thanks, to an immensely talented and dedicated Summit Playhouse production team who made all my visions a reality. For Mark, my first director, who shined brightly in the light.

Thomas P. Dwyer (Assistant Director) has been a member of the Playhouse for many years. Most often he has worked back stage and on the Board of Governors. However on our stage he has appeared in *She Loves Me* and *Man of La Mancha* and in *Five Finger Exercise* and *Haunting of Hill House* at other venues. He has been closely associated with such successful shows as *Angels in America*, *Marvin’s Room*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Cocur*. Traveling and gardening are just two of his passions.

Fran Harrison (Producer & Costumes) is a long time supporter of women’s issues and is happy to have the opportunity to produce *Wit*. In previous seasons she produced *The Doll’s House*, *Dial M for Murder* and *Enchanted April*, and was assistant producer for last summer’s Teen Festival. Her costume design credits include many shows for the Playhouse, The Children’s Theatre of Charlotte, NC and The Overlook Musical Theatre. She is a member of our Board of Governors, and is the Summit representative for the Tri-County Community Theater Group.

Betty Kaus (Assistant Producer) has been a Playhouse member since 1950. She has acted, directed, produced, worked behind the scenes, is a past president and is a permanent member of the Board of Governors.

Judy Fraser (Properties) is so pleased to be associated with this production. Nearly five years ago, Judy was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer. Today she remains cancer free and enjoys spending her spare time helping out at the Summit Playhouse, the Cranford Dramatic Club and the Cranford Repertory Theatre.

Active Members

Brent Baab	Ann Houpt	David Rappaport
Lori Balzano	Bill Houpt	Josephine Ray
Vincent J. Balzano	Morrene Jacobs	Dee Robertson
John Bauer	Ed Johnson	Sandy Robertson
John Becker	Betty Kaus	Bill Roome
Debra Bernstein	Myung Kim-Bondy	Rhoda Roper
Nancy Boucher	Anne King	Robert Roper
Glory Bowen	Michael King	Sandra Rudnitsky
Mary Jo Boyd	Joyce Kitson	Nancy Lee Ryan
Kathleen Creegan	Malcom Kitson	Paul Sacks
Robbi Curtis	Chris Kolmodin	Kate Schlesinger
Maya Daniels	Alice Kosowski	Candace Selwyn
Margareth De Jesus	Stow Lovejoy	Moo Shaffer
Nina Deutz	Joan Ludwig	Ken Smith
Ted Deutz	Tom Lyttle	Linn Smith
George Doherty	Lyn Mackie	Sue Smith
Sandy Fornuff	Carole Mancini	Sherri Strauss-Williams
James Gomez	Dave Maulbeck	Kathy Tatlow
John Gurley	Janet Maulbeck	Michael Tatlow
Nancy Gurley	Caitlin Mehner	Chris Tolles
Lois Hageman	Joan Mehner	Harriett Trangucci
Megumi Haggerty	Chris Messineo	Paul Tukey
Deryk Harrison	Elizabeth Messineo	John Vicich
Frances Harrison	Kelly Mott-Sacks	Joe Vierno
Art Hausker	Tamara Nedjar	John Walz
Beverley Hausker	Barbara Neff	Christopher Williams
Cathy Hawrusik	Beth Painter	Joanne Wilson
Frank Hawrusik	Rose Pancirov	Marguerite Wurtz
Rebecca Hawrusik	Roy Pancirov	Geraldine Zoccoli
Pam Heller	Anne Poyner	

Retired Active Members

Jeanne Brinkmann	Bill Garmany	Elizabeth Rayball
Arnold Buchiane	Maggi Kelly	George Redgate
Marjorie Bultman	Joe Kizzia	Joann Scanlon
Ali Campbell	P. T. Kizzia	Joan Rose Thomas **
Bill Campbell	Gil Leigh	Lovey Trucksess
Bud Dawson	John Luckstone	Liz Van Deusen
Liz Dawson	Sondra Luckstone	Rosalie Cox Volkening
Tom Dwyer	Ed Mahler	
Conover English **	Norma McGough	** Honorary Member
Cynthia Fennick	Rose Pach	
Stephanie Fisk	Robert W. Parsons Jr.	
Lee Franklin	Kay Poole	

Playhouse Board of Governors, 2002–2003

President	Vincent J. Balzano
Vice-President	Frank Hawrusik
Secretary	Jo Ray
Treasurer	Nina Deutz
Business Manager	Ed Johnson
Tickets	Nancy Boucher
Production Committee	Frank Hawrusik, Lori Balzano, Fran Harrison
House and Grounds	Brent Baab
Technical Director	Bill Roome
Development	John Bauer
Grants and Donations	Nancy Boucher
Gifts and Benefits	Joan Mehner
Playreading Committee Chair	David Rappaport
Entertainment	Nancy Gurley
Historian	P. T. Kizzia
Legal Advisor	Gilbert E. Owen

Playhouse Information

If you are interested in Active Membership, Subscriptions, or Additional Tickets, call (908) 273-2192 and leave a message. We will respond accordingly. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please sign our guest book in the lobby. For more information about The Playhouse, including a complete list of all our productions and pictures of the recent ones, please visit our web site, www.SummitPlayhouse.org.

Next Production

Is There Life After High School?

Book by Jeffrey Kindley, music and lyrics by Craig Carnelia

May 2—18, 2003

Directed by John Vicich

Musical direction by Bill Houpt

Auditions: February 24 & 27, and March 2, at 7:00pm

This musical is a sometimes serious, often touching, but always amusing reminiscence on the one experience virtually every American has in common: high school. As the graduates, some recent and some long ago, return for their high school reunion, every memory, painful, funny or happy, will strike a chord.

Third Playhouse Benefit

Music of the American Colonies

Colonial balladeers Anne and Ridley Enslow will be featured at the next benefit for our Building Accessibility Project, on Sunday, March 30, at 3:30pm. The Enslows will wear 18th century attire, sing music of the era, and accompany themselves on various period instruments, including the violin and the hammered dulcimer.

There will be a catered reception following the performance. Tax deductible donations of \$50 per person will help us reach our financial goal.

We Need Your Help!

Ever wonder how the Playhouse selects a season?

What plays would *you* like to see us present?

Each year a Playhouse committee reads dozens of plays in different categories to come up with a list of plays for our next season. We'd like your help! Keeping in mind the limited size of our stage, please take a minute to suggest any plays that you'd like to see us do. Tear off this page and give it to an usher, or leave it on the ticket desk.

Thank you for your help!

Comedies _____

Mysteries _____

Classics _____

Dramas _____

Musicals _____

Contributors

Angels (\$1000 and above)

Union County Community Development Block Grant
The Summit Area Public Foundation
The Estate of W. J. and Maryanne Pyle
Pfaltz & Woller PA Charitable Fund
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
Manley-Winser Foundation
Nancy Boucher
Bill Roome

Benefactors (\$500—\$999)

The G. Morrison Hubbard Foundation
Summit Education Foundation
W. John Bauer
Joan Rush Jones

Sponsors (\$250—\$499)

Ed & Joyce Johnson
Betty Kaus

Friends (\$100—\$249)

The Exxon Mobil Foundation
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Lori & Vincent J. Balzano
Frank & Cele Cheston
Robbi Curtis & George Doherty
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Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. Fedor
Mr. & Mrs. H. N. Fiaccone
Mr. & Mrs. William Gural
Nancy Gurley
Deryk & Frances Harrison
Cathy & Frank Hawrusik
Pam & Howard Heller
Morrene Hubbard Jacobs
Arlene Jonach
Joyce & Malcom Kitson

Mr. & Mrs. E. Anthony Lamb, Jr.
Merita Lim
Kathryn Lynch
John & Sondra Luckstone
Lyn Mackie
Rose & Roy Pancirov
Betsy Potter
Dee & Marty Robertson
Linn & Sue Smith
Kathy & Michael Tatlow
Harriett & Neal Trangucci
Nancy Twaskas
Julianne & Robert Venezia
Jan Clare Viehman
Donna & Jack Walcott

The Playhouse Association's 2002—2003 Season

Moon Over Buffalo

By Ken Ludwig

November 8—23, 2002

Wit

By Margaret Edson

February 21—March 8, 2003

Music Of The American Colonies

Anne and Ridley Enslow

A benefit for the Playhouse Accessibility Fund

March 30, 2003 at 3:30

Is There Life After High School?

Book by Jeffrey Kindley

Music and lyrics by Craig Carnelia

May 2—18, 2003

Auditions:

February 24 & 27, and March 2, at 7:00pm

For information on the roles, see

www.SummitPlayhouse.org/auditions.html

Playhouse Accessibility Project

The Playhouse is committed to making our theater handicapped accessible. In preparation, the beautiful Jack Manley Rosé mural in our lobby has been moved to make way for a lift and a new rest room. Some of the \$165,000 cost has been covered by grants from foundations, but we still need to raise at least \$40,000. Private donations are extremely important, because they demonstrate our commitment to this project. Contributions are tax deductible, and may be sent to

The Playhouse Association
10 New England Ave
Summit, NJ 07901

You may also "Buy A Brick for the Playhouse Path to Accessibility." Details are available in the lobby, or can be obtained by calling (973) 377-9058.