

The Summit Playhouse Association

The following program is from our 2005-2006 season.

For information on our current production,
and on 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 historic

Founded 1918

Summit Playhouse

Qualified by The New Jersey Cultural Trust

THE LION IN WINTER

PRESENTS



WINTER 2006

Merlin's prediction:

"The cubs shall awake and roar aloud. And leaving the woods shall seek their prey within the walls of the cities: among those who shall be in their way they shall make great carnage."

Roger of Hovedon, as quoted in
Eleanor of Aquitaine, by Marion Meade

In 1183, castles were cold, dirty, and often crowded with animals and peasants. Floors were strewn with rushes which were replaced at intervals, but often under them lay beer, grease, bones, and the excrement of dogs and cats!

King Henry Plantagenet's authority depended on varying titles; in England he was undisputed king. Across the Channel in Normandy, he was duke; in Anjou and Maine, count; in Aquitaine, duke by virtue of his marriage with Eleanor. Technically he was a feudal vassal of the king of France but in reality, owned more territory and was more powerful than his French lord. The language of the court was French.

The family name, Plantagenet, comes from his father's custom of wearing a sprig of *planta genesta* in his hat!

Eleanor of Aquitaine was married to the monk-like King Louis VII of France. The marriage was annulled for consanguinity. She then married Henry of Anjou, eleven years her junior, to whom she was even more closely related.

Henry's conflict with Thomas à Becket, whom he had made archbishop of Canterbury in 1162, focused largely on the jurisdiction of the church courts, and the relationship between church and state. In 1170, Becket was murdered and Henry was held indirectly responsible.

Richard the Lionheart spoke no English and spent only eight months in his English Kingdom in his lifetime.

Joann Lopresti Scanlon



As a courtesy to the cast and the other patrons, please

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The Summit Playhouse Association presents its
Two Hundred Eighty Fourth Production

THE LION IN WINTER

BY JAMES GOLDMAN

Set Design & Painting
Rhoda Roper

Set Construction
J. Guerdon Mayfield

Stage Managers

John Luckstone
& Frank Hawrusik

Assistant Director
Sondra Luckstone

Producer
Tamara Nedjar

Costumes
Kirsten Solberg

Properties
Geraldine Zoccoli

Director
Joann Lopresti Scanlon

February 24, 25; March 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 at 8:00pm
Sunday Matinee, March 5 at 2:00pm

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

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Henry II, *King of England* Mike King
Alais, *a French Princess* Megan Guinan
John, *the youngest son* Ben Solomon
Geoffrey, *the middle son* Chess Lankford
Richard the Lionheart, *the oldest son* Matt McCarthy
Eleanor, *Henry's wife* Maureen Bentley
Philip, *King of France* Rick Holloway

Scenes

Act I

Scene 1: Alais's Chamber
Scene 2: Reception Hall, immediately following
Scene 3: Eleanor's Chamber, a short time later
Scene 4: Reception Hall, immediately following
Scene 5: Eleanor's Chamber, not long afterwards
Scene 6: Philip's Chamber, immediately following

Act II

Scene 1: Henry's Chamber, shortly later
Scene 2: Alais's Chamber, early next morning
Scene 3: Wine Cellar, immediately following

Setting

Christmas, 1183

Henry's Castle at Chinon, France

There will be a 15 minute intermission, during which
juice will be served in the lounge downstairs.

The Thursday benefit performance is for the Northern New Jersey
Friends of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

Production Staff

Director	Joann Lopresti Scanlon
Producer.....	Tamara Medjar
Assistant Director	Sondra Luckstone
Assistant Producer	Anita Choubey
Stage Managers	John Luckstone & Frank Hawrusik
Set Design.....	Rhoda Roper
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by.....	Brent Baab, John Becker, Alan Bloom, George Doherty, Frank Hawrusik, Chess Lankford, Nancy Mayfield, Tamara Medjar and Mike Tatlow
Set Painting	Rhoda Roper
Assisted by.....	Morrene Jacobs, Betty Kaus, Malcom Kitson and PT Kizzia
Set Décor	Rhoda Roper
Costumes.....	Kirsten Solberg
Properties	Geraldine Zoccoli
Assisted by.....	Cathy Hawrusik
Lighting & Sound	Bill Roome
Assisted by.....	David Hoffman, Bob Murray, and Tamara Medjar
Photography	Anita Choubey
Signing.....	Carol A. Goodman, Kean University
Audio-Description	Michael T. Mooney
Publicity	Maureen Bentley
Poster & Playbill.....	Bill Roome
Tickets	Stephanie Fisk
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

Acknowledgments

John McEwen, New Jersey
Theatre Alliance
Sage Resale

Union Center National Bank
Union County Board of Chosen
Freeholders (HEART Grant)

**The Access Matinee for this production has been
underwritten by the Summit Lions Club**

Who's Who

Maureen Bentley (Eleanor) was recently drenched with holiday punch in the Summit Playhouse production of *Inspecting Carol*. Having acted and directed at various theatres hither and yon, she now teaches Acting, Improv, and Shakespeare Performance at Kean University in Union. She would like to thank her friends on the Summit Playreading Committee.

Megan Guinan (Alais) is a senior at Chatham High School. Recently she was seen right here at the Summit Playhouse as Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*. Previous roles include Lady Caroline Dester in *Enchanted April* at Chatham Playhouse and Alexandra in *The Little Foxes* at Westfield Playhouse. She's won the 2005 NJ Governor's Award for Dramatic Monologue and the 2005 Perry Award for Outstanding Youth Actress for her role as Lady Caroline. She's completely enjoyed working/playing with the Lion cast and Joann again.

Rick Holloway (Philip) is pleased to make his Summit Playhouse debut with *The Lion in Winter*. A Shakespeare aficionado, Rick's onstage credits have included: *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Petrucio), *Twelfth Night* (Duke Orsino), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck/Oberon/Lysander). Other favorites: *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Mortimer), *Jeffrey* (Steve), *Into the Woods* (Jack), *Joseph and the Amazing ...* (Joseph) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour). His most recent theatrical endeavor was directing and co-producing *Deathtrap* at Playhouse 22 in East Brunswick. His television and theatre work in NY/NJ has spanned nearly two decades.

Michael King (Henry) recently appeared in Chatham Community Players' production of *Into the Woods* and the musical revue *Roll Call*. For the Playhouse he co-hosted the *Evening with Christopher Durang...* fundraiser, performed in *A Grand Night for Singing* and appeared in *Prelude to a Kiss* and *Murder in Mind*. Additional stage credits include Harold Hill in Plays in the Park's *The Music Man*, Tevye in Chatham's *Fiddler on the Roof* and roles in *Sweeney Todd*, *The Dining Room*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Deathtrap*, *Company* and *The Desperate Hours*. He is: a New Providence resident; principal with a NYC architectural firm; helpless without Anne.

Chess Lankford (Geoffrey) is debuting at the Summit Playhouse after residing up the street for three years. Chess is a graduate of the Georgia State University Theatre Dept. He has performed in Chatham's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Jersey Voices as well (*In Sickness and Fine China*). He has also starred in several shows with the Celtic Theatre Co. (*Twilight of a Warrior*, *Righteous Are Bold*, *The Year of the Hiker*) in South Orange and recently at Dover Little Theatre in *The Hollow*. Thank you to all those who support him.

Matt McCarthy (Richard) is happy to be performing at the Summit Playhouse for the first time. He was last seen as Jim in *The Rainmaker* at 12 Miles West, which was recently named one of the 10 best shows of 2005 by Peter Filichia of the Star Ledger. Regional credits include *Proof* (Hal), *Betty's Summer Vacation* (Keith), *Pterodactyls* (Tommy), *Side Man* (Clifford), *The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged* (Adam), *A Perfect Ganesh* (Man), *The Country Club* (Zip), *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Dylan Thomas) and Mike in *Destinations* ('04 NYC Strawberry One Act Finalist). Matt is a proud member of 12 Miles West and The Theater Project.

Ben Solomon (John) is thrilled to be part of his first show with The Summit Playhouse. Acting credits include *The King Stag*, *Conversations in Exile*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Richard III: Episode 1*, and *Edward II* with Frank Ermsley Productions at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Past directing credits include *The Laramie Project*, *Tape*. Most recently Ben devised and directed *The Theatrical Dllusion*, and produced and directed the original production of *Taste* by Luke Wallens. Ben has worked with UCCS THEATERWORKS, in CO, and locally with 12 Miles West, in Bloomfield. Ben has interned with Mark Lamos at NYC Opera, and with SSDC (The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers). Ben is originally from Montclair, NJ and is a graduate of The Colorado College.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Joann Lopresti Scanlon (Director) has directed at such theatres as The Bickford Theatre, and Chatham and Westfield Community Players. Some favorite shows for Summit are: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Man of La Mancha* and last season's *A Delicate Balance*. "They say that when producing a fine show, 90% of the job is in the casting. I hope you will agree with me that here is one of the finest casts anyone could ask to work with. And a very special thank you to Michael for his loving support."

Tamara Nedjar (Producer) is a Boston native. She moved to New Jersey after graduating from Cornell University. She has worked in various roles on several productions with The Summit Playhouse, and also trains and teaches at Miss Debbi's School of Dance in Summit, where she enjoys the freedom to both choreograph and perform. In between projects, she has earned a Master's at Stevens Institute of Technology, and pursues as many extra-curricular activities as she can fit into her life. Thanks to Mike, for embracing the chaos!

Carol A. Goodman (Sign Language Interpreter) is a nationally certified interpreter and full-time professor at Kean University where she directs a student sign language performance group, The Kean SIGNatures. She signs regularly for VSA NJ (Very Special Arts of New Jersey). Dr. Goodman has been interpreting for theater performances since 1982 along the east coast, including our November performance of *The Miracle Worker*.

Frank Hawrusik (Co-Stage Manager) returns to his usual backstage role of Stage Manager. Frank's other backstage credits include *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *The Crucible* and *Dinner With Friends*.

John Luckstone (Co-Stage Manager) — This is the second time around for John in a stage managing capacity this season. In the past, he has enjoyed acting and producing at the Playhouse, as well as serving as its President. His last onstage performance was as Dr. Einstein in *Arsenic and Old Lace* in 1999. His has been a 25-year love affair with the Playhouse.

Sondra Luckstone (Assistant Director) has acted and directed for several theatres in the area. Her credits also include backstage work in all areas as well as serving on the governing board of the Playhouse. Her last directorial assignment here was the comedy hit *Moon Over Buffalo*. She is delighted to be working with Joann

Who's Who (continued)

Scanlon again with such an impressive cast and dedicated, supportive members who make the production come alive. Many, many thanks to all!

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Construction) — *The Lion in Winter* the second set Jim has built for the Playhouse. Set construction has become a full time hobby. He is also active in the deaf and hard of hearing community and is encouraging people with hearing impairments to come to the theatre to enjoy the shows and become involved in the activities of the theatre. He appreciates all of the complements for *The Miracle Worker*. He would not be able to accomplish it without the enthusiasm and assistance of the crew and thanks them.

Michael T. Mooney (Audio Describer) has provided descriptions at McCarter Theatre, Morristown's Community Theatre, Edison's Plays-in-the-Park, The Bickford Theatre, EIES Radio Reading Service, and Paper Mill Playhouse where he is Manager of Outreach and Access Programs. A founding member of L.E.A.D. (Leadership and Education in Arts and Disability) in Washington DC, Michael serves on the boards of Audio-Description International, Fund for the New Jersey Blind, and The New Jersey Arts Access Task Force. He received the 2003 Ann Klein Award. (www.michaeltmooney.com)

Rhoda Roper (Set Design & Painting) has designed over twenty sets for the Playhouse, beginning with *Foxfire* in 1992 and including last year's *A Delicate Balance*. She has also designed for The Bronx Opera Company, The Bickford Theater, Savory Singers G & S Company and other theaters around the area. Her favorite sets are *Marriage Of Figaro*, *Later Life*, *I Hate Hamlet* and her all time favorite, *The Enchanted April*.

Bill Roome (Lighting & Sound) was last seen on-stage as Anagnos in our November production of *The Miracle Worker*. Off-stage, he is the Playhouse's Technical Director and Webmaster, and has worked on lighting and/or sound for many of our recent productions.

Kirsten Solberg (Costume Design) is very happy to be back at the Playhouse and working with such a wonderful group of people. Previously, she has worked on *The Miracle Worker* (Summit Playhouse), *The Orphan Train*, *The Inspector General*, and *Chess* in London – as well as work with The City Ballet of LA, The Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company, and the Catherine Gallard Dance Company.

Geraldine Zoccoli (Properties) is called by some the "Queen of Props." She has been doing props for a long time and finds the challenge beyond compare. Some of the other hats she has worn are set decoration, ushering, costumes and even producing *Arsenic and Old Lace* and debuting on the playhouse stage in *Charlotte's Web*. Gerry would like to thank Maureen, John, Dawn and her grandsons for all their support.



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Playwright's Notes

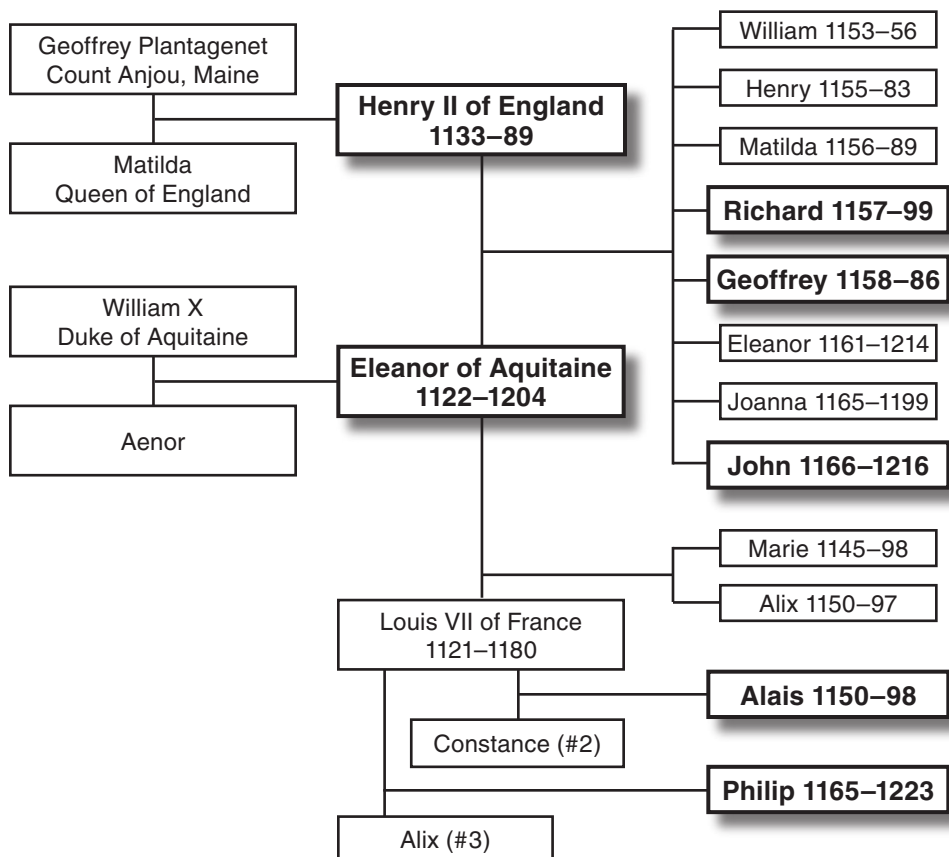
The historical material on Henry's reign is considerable insofar as battles, plots, wars, treaties and alliances are concerned. This play—while simplifying the political maneuvering combining a meeting of the French and English Kings in 1183 with a Royal Court held at Windsor the following year into a Christmas Court that never was—is accurately based on the available data.

The facts we have, while clear enough as to the outcome of relationships—such things as who kills who and when—say little if anything about the quality and content of those relationships. The people of this play, their character and passions, while consistent with the facts we have, are fictions.

This play, finally, contains anachronisms in speech, thought, habit, custom and so on. Those the author is aware of—the way, for instance, Christmas is celebrated—are deliberate and not intended to outrage the historical aspects of the script.

James Goldman

The Royal Family Tree



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Next Production

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG

By Wendy Wasserstein

Produced and Directed by Vincent J. Balzano

May 5—May 20, 2006

Sara Goode, a successful American woman living in London with her daughter Tess and working as the British rep of a major Hong Kong bank, is about to celebrate her 54th birthday. The evening shapes up to be quite interesting with the arrival of her sisters, Gorgeous (a radio talk show advice host hoping to make the jump to TV) and Pheni (a peripatetic third world travel writer). As if this is not stressful enough, a variety of men also show up: Mervyn, a furrier and a friend of Pheni's sometime bi-sexual lover, Geoffrey, who also arrives. Added to the mix are Tom and Nicholas, Tess' boyfriend looking to take her to Lithuania for "political protest" and Sara's somewhat anti-Semitic friend, respectively. All of this adds up to a comedy of unexpected romance, suspected partings, recriminations, reconciliations and, above all, newfound love and acceptance.

Playhouse Contributors

Angels (\$1000 and above)

Anonymous	Bill Roome
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