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Pterodactyls

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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FIU THEATRE PRESENTS

PTERODACTYLS

BY NICKY SILVER

DIRECTED BY ROSIE SERMENO

STAGE MANAGER
MELISSA ALMAGUER

SET DESIGN
NICOLE SANTAELLA

COSTUME DESIGN
ARNOLD BUESO



Deuxieme Maison 150
Florida International University
October 26-29, 2000

PTERODACTYLS

Written by Nicky Silver
Directed by Rosie Sermeno

CAST

TODD DUNCAN.....Brad Murphy
EMMA DUNCAN.....Talia Tejada
TOMMY MCKORCKLE.....Michael Santos
GRACE DUNCAN.....Eva Ruiz
ARTHUR DUNCAN.....Charles A Quinteros

PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGE MANAGER.....Melissa Almaguer
SCENIC DESIGNER.....Nicole Santaella
COSTUME DESIGNER.....Arnold Bueso
LIGHTING DESIGNER.....Sarah M. Bruning
SOUND DESIGNER.....Ozzie Quintana
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER.....Yvette Perdomo
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR.....Gustavo David Ortiz
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR.....Lydia Gonzales
PROP CREW.....Michelle Catin
COSTUME CREW.....Susie Pinedo, Damion Rochester
DINOSAUR SCULPTURE.....Nicole Santaella, Ricky Waugh
USHERS.....Yvonne Marie Perez, Lolliette Romero

ACT ONE

"Is It Any Wonder I Can't Remember A Thing?"

Setting

The elegant living room of the Duncan family of Main Line, Philadelphia.

Time

Summer

ACT TWO

Scene One: "An Appropriate Gift"- Autumn

Scene Two: "A Walk in the Park"- Winter

From the Director

One of the great joys of working in the theatre is traveling the road of discovery. Just when we think we have something figured out, something new and fresh appears to us in the rehearsal process and we come away from the experience a better and wiser human being. At a first read, *Pterodactyls* can be simply viewed as an "AIDS play", but to dismiss it as something as simple as this would mean missing what is at the core of Nicky Silver's sensitive and witty portrayal of the fate of the American family.

The Duncans' off the wall behavior and farcical antics are indeed satires, and it is easy to view them as caricatures a comic playwright has concocted for our pleasure. But on a grander scale, their "symptoms" are our symptoms; Americans are suffering from a deterioration of values and good will is being replaced by money, glamour and sex. The issues presented are those which affect us today in 2000: Alcoholism, homosexuality, gun control, child abuse, the economy and of course, AIDS.

In 1991, Nicky Silver told Backstage Magazine "I am not too concerned, specifically, with the moral statement of a play--and this has often come up in my work--I'm not endorsing any moralistic point of view or making a stand. I'm often just posing a question. "And what an important question *Pterodactyls* has posed for us! How important is our existence? Is what we do on a daily routine as important in the long run as we think it is? Or are we just another species, waiting to expire, like the dinosaurs did? These questions from a man who describes himself as a "fat Jewish kid" and claims to have never wanted anything else but to have "a life in the theater".

---Rosie Sermeno

"Listen to be frank, I'm tired of sitting through directors telling me what my play is about, so I'll tell you what it's about and you see if you agree..... Obviously, it's about denial. Denial is just dandy if it gets you through the day, but we're living at a time when, because of AIDS, it carries a terrible price. We have this epidemic because we didn't want to deal with it. Because as a culture we viewed the people who were dying as expendable. And of course, it's a comedy, employing theatrical genre as a shield or defense that these characters use to survive."

---Nicky Silver, 1993

Born in Philadelphia, Silver began writing at the age of 20 after graduating from NYU's theatre program. While writing in relative obscurity, Silver worked at Barney's selling dresses until the Vineyard Theatre's production of *Pterodactyls* in 1993. It was during this production that Silver earned a career-making rave from the New York Times. Other works include *The Food Chain*, *Raised in Captivity*, *Fit to be Tied*, *Fat Men in Skirts*, and *Free Will and Wanton Lust*.

P E R S P E C T I V E S

Second Stage Productions provide the opportunity for students to direct and design sets, costumes, lighting, and sound. Instead of a paper project or simple classroom experience, students actualize a real production.

"I enjoyed doing a student production because it is our production, our learning experience. This opportunity has given me the chance to get together with my classmates as a team, and for better or worse, make our own choices and over come our own obstacles. I think student productions are necessary in our program because in our field of study we learn just as much through practical experiences as we do reading books and studying theories."
Sarah Bruning, Lighting Designer

"Having the opportunity to work as costumer on this student-produced show has been a great privilege. As a first-year student, this experience has chartered my practical training in costume design. The challenges brought forth in this position include the opportunity to work independently, a chance to work in a friendly and supportive environment and collaborate with talented cast and crew and an opportunity to develop my sense of design. I am grateful to the faculty and staff for supporting me in this project and welcoming me into this wonderful department."
Arnold Bueso, Costume Designer

"Stage managing the Second Stage Production of *Pterodactyls* has been a challenging and insightful project. I strongly encourage any student pursuing a serious career in theatre to become involved in such productions. The minute the weight of responsibility shifts from faculty to students, the adventure begins. Best of all are the people involved in Second Stage Productions. I would like to thank those who stayed up late to encourage me and remind me that theatre is truly about love and connection."
Melissa Almaguer, Stage Manager

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