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Cabaret

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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FIU THEATRE PRESENTS
CABARET

"IN HERE LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL"
DIRECTED BY PHILLIP M. CHURCH

MARCH 4-7 & 11-14, 2004
WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
MAINSTAGE THEATRE
MIAMI, FLORIDA
Notes from the Director
“Illusion and Seeking ID”

“Life is a cabaret old chum.” So goes the oft-quoted phrase from the title song of the musical Cabaret. At times one wonders whether the reverse isn’t perhaps closer to reality: “Cabaret is a life old chum.” In Europe of the 20’s and 30’s one might well have compared life to a cabaret, whereas in the 21st Century one is tempted to draw the conclusion that “life is a reality TV Show, old chum.” Ebb and Kander’s Cabaret is as relevant to us today as it was when they first wrote the piece in the late sixties. As a rule, playwrights are not given to plucking arbitrary ideas out of the air and developing them for mass consumption — the playwright is an intimate observer of society, becoming the all-reflective messenger of the times, and when a production is draped in memorable music and pulsating dance numbers a playwright’s message can either become obscured or it can be harnessed and enhanced with knowing insight. Living in the year 2004 it is hard not to make comparison between the characters that inhabit the stage world and those with whom we live out our reality. At this very moment in history the whole world is seized, consciously or subconsciously in a virtual state of fear and terror — and like those living in 30’s Berlin who discovered means of fictional escape so society today attempts to escape an anxiety of an unimaginable future through fantasy. The Berliners had their cabarets and revue shows and we have our fantasy films, video games, reality TV and Money-Makes-the-World-Go-Around game shows. It is interesting to note how programs such as “Fear Factor” and “Survivor” have grown in popularity while the world becomes more and more unstable. It would seem that our human impulse prompts us to create illusions in which to seek safe havens and freedom. Yet, the fact remains that at some point the curtain must fall, the audience must disperse and the MC must return to his solitary single-room dwelling only to be confronted by the question of his true identity. Who or what is the MC? Is he merely a device to advance the action of the play? Or is he merely a device to advance the action of the play? Or is he merely the messages’ messenger, the MC is nothing without the actor/being beneath the character. As an adjunct to the greater theme of illusion and reality Cabaret is also a play about identity; identity that is lost or never found or more disturbingly, identity that is imposed from the outside, an identity easily conferred on those whose identity was nothing but an illusion. Like Cliff and Sally, Herr Schultz and Faulein Schneider and the multitude of characters that have peopled countless projects throughout their careers. Included in their list of credits are Chicago, the musical Kiss of the Spider Woman, Woman of the Year, and Cabaret. The pair have received three Tony Awards and two Emmy Awards. JOHNNY VAN DRUTEN, whose play I Am a Camera was based on Isherwood’s The Berlin Stories. Eventually the storyline would become the basis for the musical Cabaret. Van Druten is described as a “prolific” playwright. He also worked as a stage director. Born in London in 1901, he became an American citizen in the mid-1930s. He is credited with plays such as There’s Always Juliet (1931), Flowers of the Forest (1934), Bell Book and Candle (1948), and The Voice of the Turtle (1943). He died in 1957.

Finally, on a more personal note, immense gratitude goes out to the show’s two consummate guest professionals, musical director Elsie Augenblick and choreographer Ana Blanco. They brought to the process of this production unstinting wisdom and expertise, introducing many young people to a forbidding new genre of performance for the very first time. Thank you for your combined energy and commitment. And, as always, a dedication to PD for undiminished life-spirit!

Phillip M. Church
Director

About Isherwood
Christopher Isherwood was born in Disley, Cheshire, England in 1904. He was educated at Cambridge University, where he met and became a close friend of W.H. Auden. Prolonged visits to Germany between 1929 and 1933 provided Isherwood with the material for his best-known fictional work, popularly entitled THE BERLIN STORIES, but in actuality a pair of loosely structured novels: MR NORRIS CHANGES TRAINS (1935) and GOODBYE TO BERLIN (1939). The depiction of the glittering and grotesque metropolis of Germany, its cafés, night-people, and vices, was based on his observations in the decadent Weimar Republic in pre-Hitler years. Isherwood died on January 4, 1986, at the age of 81. (HTTP://WWW.KIRJASTO.SCI.FI)

The Writers
JOE MASTEROFF is a graduate of Temple University and entered show business as an assistant stage manager immediately after completing his military service in World War II. Masteroff is credited with the libretto for the musical “She Loves Me!” a musical produced in New York with success in 1963.

JOHN KANDER (composer) and FRED EBB (lyricist) have worked together on countless projects throughout their careers. Included in their list of credits are Chicago, the musical Kiss of the Spider Woman, Woman of the Year, and Cabaret. The pair have received three Tony Awards and two Emmy Awards.

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History of Cabaret
In 1966, the original stage production of Cabaret was produced starring Joel Grey as the emcee introducing such standards as “Wilkommen,” “Tomorrow Belongs To Me,” and the title song.

The film Cabaret soon made it to the big screen in 1972. It was directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse. The movie featured Liza Minnelli as Sally Bowles and Grey as the emcee. John Kander and Fred Ebb wrote new songs for the film, including “Mein Herren,” “Money, Money” and “Maybe This Time.”

The revival in 1987 starred Joel Grey, again, as the emcee but was not as successful as previous ventures. In 1998 a “much raunchier” version directed by Sam Mendes and Rob Marshall was produced at Studio 54 in New York winning numerous awards including the Tony for Best Musical Revival.
Florida International University’s Department of Theatre

Presents

**Cabaret**

Book by Joe Masteroff
Based on the play by John Van Druten and
Stories by Christopher Isherwood
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

**Cast**

EMCEE........................................... Ricky Waugh
CLIFF BRADSHAW.......................... Kristian Cardenas
SALLY BOWLES............................... Carolyn Zeller
SCHNEIDER.................................... LaVonne Canfield
SCHULTZ...................................... Zee Garcia
ERNST......................................... Vladimir Berrios
KOST........................................... Lisa LaGrande
MAX............................................ Tony V
VICTOR.................................... Yecid Benavides
BOBBY........................................... Aaron Millis
CHILD......................................... Karl Urban
KIT KAT GIRLS...................... Kristy Webb, Marissa Diaz, Sarah Brohee
Elizabeth Ferrer, Kristina Bingham, Julia LaVault, Barbie Perez
CHORUS/Two Ladies.................. Jennifer Rumberger
CHORUS/Two Ladies....................... Chrissie Fit
GORILLA/CHORUS........................ Cristina Suarez
MATRE DAME/CHORUS................ Minette Perez
CUSTOMS OFFICER/CHORUS............... Jason Valdes
SAILOR/CHORUS.............................. Damion Rochester
SAILOR/CHORUS.............................. David Solomon
WAITER/CHORUS............................ Hess Wesley
S.A. OFFICER/CHORUS.................... Rentier Murillo
S.A. OFFICER/CHORUS.................... Jonathan Gonzalez

**Technical Crew**

Asst. Tech Director................ Austin Dorson
Shop Foreman....................... Tim Ofril
Floor Crew...... Koleen Hawkins, Jason Carpenter
Kirsten Lindgren
Light Board Operator ............ Brenda McCune
Sound Board Operator .......... Maria Rovira
Scenic Artist.......................... Alexis Diamond
Props Master............................ Mo Suarez
Asst. Props Run ...................... Roger Benavides
Casper Machado, Katie Perry
Asst. Electrician..................... Alex Dominguez
Light Hang....................... Juan Espinosa, Roxanne Gomez, Cynina Fiallo, Daniel Gutierrez, Kirsten Lindgren, Frank Millan, Danielle R.
Schochman, Michelle Steele, Ramon Veunes, Kirsten Webb
Costume Head .................... Nan Suphariyanonnda
Makeup Design.................. Kea McElfresh
Assistant Makeup............ Virginia Canizales, Nan Suphariyanonnda

**Directors**

Phillip M. Church
Elise Augenblick
Ana L. Blanco
Craig A. Young
Heather Rae Miller
Celso Peruyera
Irina Reyes
Daniel Suarez
Fletcher McCune
Casper Machado
Courtney Just
Amanda Healy and
Jonathan Gonzalez
Sarah Brohee

**Setting:**

Berlin, Germany 1930 and 1931

There will be two 10 minute intermissions.

As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode. Cellular phones and watch alarms should be deactivated. We thank you for your consideration. Enjoy the show!

**Cabaret** is produced with special arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

Cast

**Technicians**

Asst. Props Run......................... Roger Benavides
Casper Machado, Katie Perry

Asst. Electrician..................... Alex Dominguez
Light Hang....................... Juan Espinosa, Roxanne Gomez, Cynina Fiallo, Daniel Gutierrez, Kirsten Lindgren, Frank Millan, Danielle R.
Schochman, Michelle Steele, Ramon Veunes, Kirsten Webb

Costume Head .................... Nan Suphariyanonnda
Makeup Design.................. Kea McElfresh
Assistant Makeup............ Virginia Canizales, Nan Suphariyanonnda

**Asst. Stage Managers**

Amanda Healy and
Jonathan Gonzalez
Sarah Brohee

**Sound Designers**

Fletcher McCune

**Assistant Stage Managers**

Amanda Healy and
Jonathan Gonzalez
Sarah Brohee

Asst. Lighting Designer
Elise Augenblick

**Choreographer**

Ana L. Blanco

**Scenography**

Craig A. Young

**Costume Designers**

Heather Rae Miller

**Technical Director**

Celso Peruyera

**Stage Manager**

Irina Reyes

**Asst. Lighting Designer**

Ana L. Blanco

**Asst. Set Designer**

Craig A. Young

**SCENODRAMATURG**

Heather Rae Miller

**Asst. Costume Designer**

Irina Reyes

**Dramaturg**

Daniel Suarez

**Asst. Set Designer**

Fletcher McCune

**Asst. Lighting Designer**

Casper Machado

**Dramaturg**

Courtney Just

**Assistant Stage Managers**

Amanda Healy and
Jonathan Gonzalez
Sarah Brohee

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Department of Theatre Administration

Chair ................................................................. Leroy Clark
Business Manager .................................................. Abel Cornejo
Administration .................................................. Marianna Murray, Nathalie Brenner
Box Office Manager ............................................... Rhonda Leaphart
Office Assistants .................................................. Jessica Barrera, Tony V
Scene Shop Assistants .......................................... Fletcher McCune, Ramon Venues, Frank Millan, Mark Thomas, Julio Alvarez
Costume Shop Assistants ...................................... Maritxell Carrero, Annie Clontz

Guest Faculty

ELSIE AUGENBLICK was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She moved to Florida in 1968. Mrs. Augenblick earned the Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Southern College and the Master of Music from The University of South Florida. She has worked for the Theatre and Dance Department at Florida International University as Vocal Coach and Choral Director for a variety of shows, including Fiddler on the Roof, and Company. Mrs. Augenblick recently acted as vocal coach/choreographer and played the role of Sister Robert Anne in the musical comedy Nunsense for Kendall Community Church of God in Miami. She has been an Adjunct Instructor for the Department of Theatre and Dance and the School of Music at FIU. Mrs. Augenblick is recognized as a soprano soloist, choral conductor, adjudicator, clinician and teacher throughout Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania. In addition to her teaching duties and performance career, she is a free-lance artist and in demand as a clinician/adjudicator for Music Festivals where she has the privilege to conduct workshops and adjudicate choirs, ensembles and soloists from throughout the United States.

ANA L. BLANCO is Associate Director of Miami Hispanic Ballet as well as the International Ballet Festival of Miami. She also serves as guest choreographer for the theatre departments at South Miami Magnet Middle and Elementary schools. Mrs. Blanco received her dance training from Pedro Pablo Pena, of the National Ballet of Cuba, Opera Ballet and also Musical Theatre of Havana. She has performed as soloist for Creation Ballet and Miami Hispanic Ballet and also toured with the Frankie Show. She is a musical theatre major from Florida State University, and is currently working on her B.A. at Barry University. Mrs. Blanco has been recognized and awarded for her work by ACCA Mrs. Blanco has appeared in numerous stage productions (A View From The Bridge, Company, Seesaw). Film experience includes the Spanish film “Amigos”.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR “BEAUTIFUL” ORCHESTRA!!

CONDUCTOR .................................................. Elsie Augenblick
PIANO .......................................................... Emmanuel Schwartzman
VIOLIN .......................................................... Sprite Crawford
TRUMPET ..................................................... Sam Lussier
TROMBONE .................................................. Dave Dickey
WOODWIND .................................................. Rob Smiley
WOODWIND .................................................. Rocky Yera
GUITAR ........................................................ Mike Bordelon
BASS .......................................................... Rodolfo Zuniga
PERCUSSION .............................................. Rodolfo Zuniga

BEFORE IT HITS HOME
By Cheryl West
Directed by Lesley Ann Timlick

April 8-11 and 15-18

Join our email list today and stay up-to-date on our events and productions!
Barbie's Place
Hair and Beauty Spa
A Unisex Salon

Wishes the cast and crew of Cabaret the very best!

9901 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33173
Phone: (305)412-5515
Fax: (305)412-1608