Our

27th Season

Concludes. . .

Epic Proportions

by Larry Coen and David Crane

Watch For Our

28th

Season Brochure

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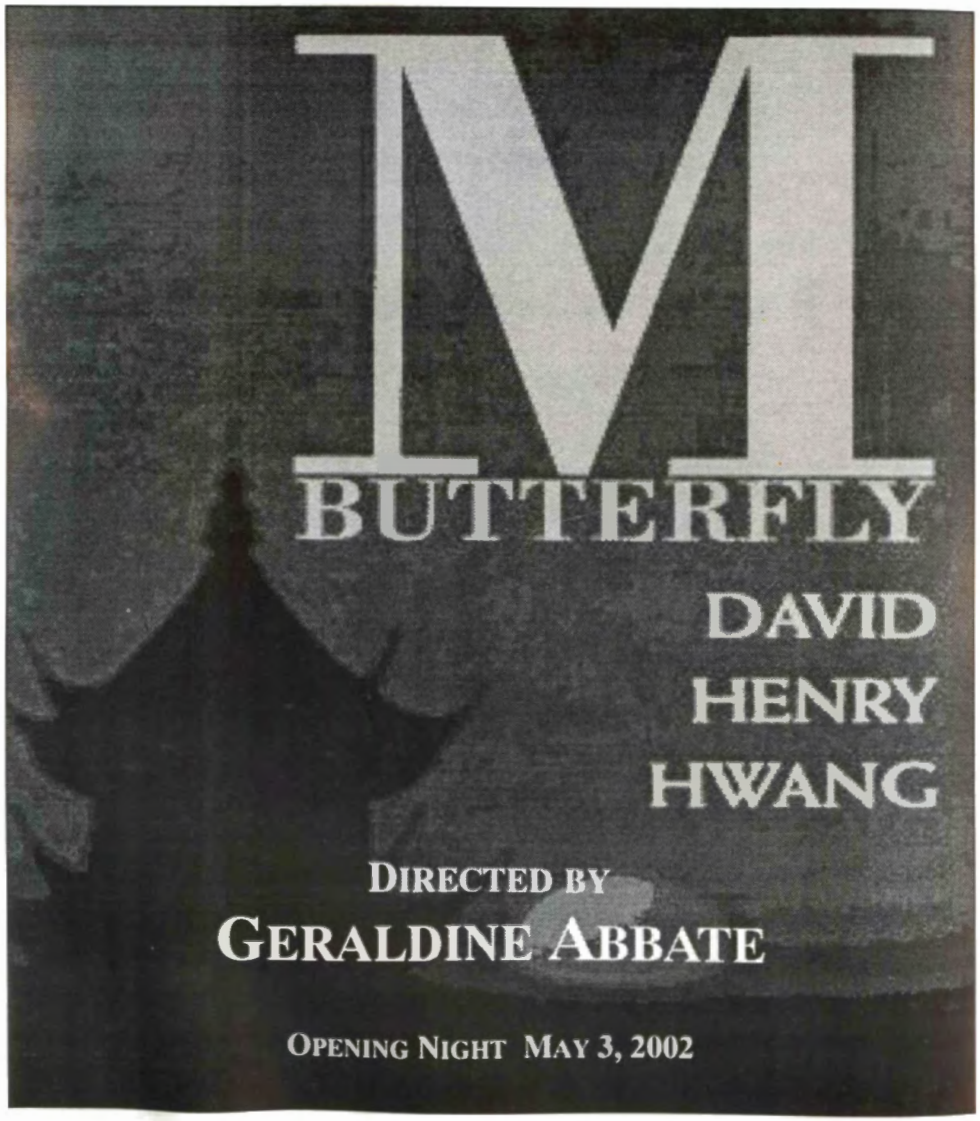
SPOTLIGHT

The Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre



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IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Directors of the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Co. expresses deepest condolences to the families of **Wendy Pressman** and **Donald Gray.**

Wendy Pressman served as a dedicated volunteer for the theatre since our production of *Into the Woods*, in which her daughter **Lisa** was featured as a stepsister. Audience members will remember her as the housekeeper in the staged reading of *A Comedy of Errors*, and most definitely as the smiling, ever busy refreshment staff. Her sense of dedication to the theatre was only exceeded by her dedication to her family, and her love for family and friends was genuine. We were lucky to have met her, blessed to have known her; her energy, spirit and indomitable will were an inspiration to us all, and she will be missed.

Donald Gray, most recently a member of the Theatre's advisory board, served in the past as Vice President of the theatre, member of the board, and liaison to the hospital. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the space in which we perform. Donald's great love was for community service to the Senior Citizens of Staten Island; he was active with RSVP/SERVE and developed an educational theater piece (with which SIST was involved) to warn of the dangers of scam artists. These activities only skim the surface of his community activism. Theater was a family affair for Don, his wife **June**, son **Dondi** and daughter **Tracy** all involved in some aspect of the company over the years. Donald Gray represents the best of community involvement; if everyone aspired to do one-tenth of what he did, the world would be a better place.

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

Crimes of the Heart... Nikki Lauren's directorial debut of Beth Henley's heartwarming drama was an auspicious one. Her cast, **Donna Dimino, Lee Tennenbaum, Glenn B. Stoops, Grethchen Greaser, Natalie Wilder** and **John Griffin** never failed to touch our hearts with their poignant and realistic portrayals of these sisters and their families and friends. Thanks to all, and also to the hardworking technical staff who delivered such a beautiful setting for this beautiful play.

Reel Love... What do you get when you take eleven actors, two musicians, eight directors, a couple of designers, throw in a patient booth and backstage crew and a REALLY organized Stage Manager? An evening of music laughter and romance called *Reel Love.* The brainchild of Nikki Lauren, this performance piece tested the talents of the SIST family, and paid off! We can now count **Ben Duvdevani, Gloria Gadzinski, Joseph Smith, Steve O'Brien** and **Steve Urhanowiez** among our directors. Of course the stalwart and faithful cast, **Loretta Digilio, Mark Muscaro, John Griffin, Nikki Lauren, Robert Carito, Joe Loffredo, Ellen Mitchell, Donna Dimino, Joseph Smith, Christine Roman** and the inimitable **Charlie McLaughlin** did their usual fine job of making us laugh and entertaining us. **Michael Ancona** served as accompanist and musical director, and the super organized **Torherg Tonnessen** made the show flow as Stage Manager. **Jodi** (never shop retail) **Garda** got the props and kept us neat. Thanks to all!

Out and About...Charlie McLaughlin will be appearing at ART this month in *Dial M for Murder*. **Lyn Beizer** and **Torberg Tonnessen** are down the road apiece with the SVPT production of *Sylvia.* **Ellen Mitchell** will be appearing in June at Manhattan's York Theater in *Kander and Ebb: And the World Goes Round* to benefit the Pediatric and Adolescent AIDS Program at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center, NYC. Was that **Ben Duvdevani** and his dad Avi (both SIST volunteers) that we saw in the Sunday April 21 Advance on their trip to San Francisco? You were just VISITING Alcatraz, right???

Harmony Day... Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Co. will again be participating in the annual Harmony Day festivities at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center on Sunday, June 9. Multicultural performances, activities for children, and tons of food make this a special and fun event for the whole family. Join us!

What's Next... Our last show of the season, opening June 15, is the uproarious comedy *Epic Proportions* to be directed by **Steve Urbanowicz.** We cannot wait!!!

— E. R. Mitchell

THE CAST

Rene Gallimard.....CRAIG STOEBLING

Song Liling.....J. LA RUE

Marc/Man #2/Consul Sharpless.....MARK MUSCARO

Renee/Woman at Party/Girl in Magazine.....CHRISTINE ROMAN

Comrade Chin/Suzuki/Shu-Fang.....SACHIKO WACHI

Helga.....MAUREEN COSTELLO

M. Toulon/Man #1/Judge.....ALLAN GOODSTEIN

Kurogo Dancers.....GINA CAPUTO, CATALINA COLON, IRENE HELLER, LEAH SCHINDLER

TIME AND PLACE

The action of the play takes place in a Paris prison in 1988, and in recall, during the decade 1960-70 in Beijing and from 1966 to 1988 in Paris.

THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

GINA-NICOLE CAPUTO (Kurogo dancer) is making her debut performance with SIST. She has been dancing for ten years with Christine Leonardi-Kramer at Great Expectations-A Dance Center, and has studied at the Broadway Dance Center in NYC. This year Gina-Nicole will be graduating from IS 51 and will be attending the Collegiate Academy at Port Richmond High School in the fall. She plans to continue dancing throughout the future and one day hopes to attend medical school.

CATALINA COLON (Kurogo dancer) is making her debut at SIST with this production. She too studies dance at Great Expectations-A Dance Center under the direction of Christine Leonardi-Kramer.

MAUREEN COSTELLO (Helga) Maureen was briefly glimpsed as Mrs. Kirby in the NeverLand Theater Company's recent production of *You Can't Take it With You*. Favorite roles include Regan in *King Lear*, Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Mrs. Higgins in *Pygmalion*, Cookie in *Rumors*, and Monica Breedlove in *Bad Seed*—at various theater companies on Staten Island, but none as atmospheric as SIST. Maureen has directed *The Winter's Tale* and *As You Like It* at SIST. Gerri thanks for the chance to be in this interesting play with this terrific cast.

ALLAN GOODSTEIN (M. Toulon/Man #1/ Judge) is no stranger to the workings of the theater, as he and his wife were founders and directors of a company in NYC. He is happy to be returning to the stage with *M. Butterfly*, and is pleased to be making his SIST debut with this cast.

IRENE HELLER (Kurogo dancer) This is Irene's debut with SIST. She is a graduate of Susan E. Wagner H.S. where she appeared in *Once Upon A Mattress*, *The Pajama Game*, *and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She is finishing her freshman year at Wagner College as part of the Honors Program. She has studied dance for sixteen years with Christine Leornardi-Kramer at Great Expectations-A Dance Center. An English major, Irene hopes to one day become a professor, but not before she auditions for the Rockettes and has a career in her father's insurance business.

J. LA RUE (Song Liling) is a native of Boulder, CO., and moved to New York after completing an MFA in acting from the University of Florida in 2001. *M. Butterfly* marks J's debut performance with SIST. After playing a leading role in the critically acclaimed *Einstein's Dreams* at last year's Fringe Festival, J. served as guest artist and visiting professor of acting at SUNY Fredonia, starring in their production of *Angels in America, Parts I and II*. Other performances include leading roles in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Into the Woods*, *Amadeus*, and *The Good Person of Sichuan*. In addition to being a writer, director, graphic designer, photographer and singer/songwriter, J. also serves as a board member for the Tobacco Bar Theatre Company, which produced J.'s original play *Disorder* in Manhattan this October.

MARK MUSCARO (Marc/Man #2/Consul Sharpless) Mark was most recently seen as part of SIST's recent revue, *Reel Love*. Prior efforts this season include serving as Stage Manager for *Crimes of the Heart* and collaborating on costume design for *God's Favorite*. Last season, he appeared in the musical revue, *An Evening With Tony*, in *Sideman* as Al Paradisio, as George Bernard Shaw and others in *Gross Indecencies...*, and in *Little Shop of Horrors* as a wino, customer and as the handler of Audrey II's last incarnation. Mark is grateful for being a part of this challenging production and to be working with "LaDivina" once again. He has nothing but praise for this talented and hardworking cast and crew, and sends thanks to Michael and Craig... they know why.

CHRISTINE ROMAN (Renee/Woman at Party/Girl in Magazine) is thrilled to be performing in her first non-musical with SIST. Christine could be seen in previous shows here, such as the recent *Reel Love*, and in last summer's *An Evening With Tony*. She can best be remembered for her portrayal of Audrey in the SIST production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. She would like to thank Craig for this wonderful opportunity, and Geri for her direction and inspiration. She is delighted to work with such a talented cast. Christine sends her love to her mom, dad, sisters, family and friends for all their love and ongoing support.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

LEAH SCHINDLER (Kurogo dancer) M. Butterfly marks Leah's debut appearance with SIST. She has been dancing with Christine Leonardi-Kramer at Great Expectations-A Dance Center tbr eleven years. She is a graduate of Anning S. Prall Intermediate School 51, where she appeared in *Bye, Bye Birdie*. She is completing her freshman year at Susan E. Wagner H.S. where she is in the Scholars' Program studying Drama. She hopes to continue dancing after she reaches her goal of becoming a physician, specializing in Emergency Medicine.

CRAIG STOEBLING (Rene Gallimard) was last seen as Sidney Lipton in *God's Favorite* last fall. Favorite roles include Mel in *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, Roat in *Wait Until Dark*, Dr. Prentice in *What the Butler Saw*, Billy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Jack in *The Boy's Next Door*, Axel in *The Nerd*, Peter in *The Heidi Chronicles*, Geoffrey in *The Sisters Rosensweig*, Drew in *Eastern Standard*, Frank in *84 Charing Cross Road* and Ken in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Craig has also directed numerous productions here, most recently *Sideman* last season. Thanks to Gerri for this great opportunity, the cast and crew for their incredible talents, Liz for her never ending "organizational skills," Lucille Stoebling and the "First Partner" for their endless supply of love and support and the usual suspects for everything else.

SACHIKO WACHI (Comrade Chin/ Suzuki/Shu-Fang) is originally from Tokyo, Japan where she performed in *Las Sylphide* and *Christmas Carol*. Since moving to the United States, she has been seen in *Guys and Dolls*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Miss Saigon* at NSMT. Sachiko holds a BA from Japan University College of Art, and is a graduate of AMDA.

WHO'S WHO IN THE STAFF

GERALDINE ABBATE (Director) Though primarily an actress, Island audiences have seen Ms. Abbate's work as a theatre director at SeaView Playwright's Theater—*Of Mice and Men*, *Becket*, *Plough and the Stars*, *Shadow of a Gunman*, *The Devil's Disciple*. However, *M. Butterfly* is particularly special to her as she has directed Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* at Sarasota (FL.) Opera. She has enjoyed the opera/theatre connection when she portrayed Maria Callas in SIST's production of *Master Class*.

ELIZABETH WATT (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with some old friends and also some new ones. Working with Geri, as director, was wonderful, and NOT moving furniture is a new experience. Liz has worked with every theatre company on Staten Island over the last twenty years and has never lost the magic that live theater gives.

CRAIG STOEBLING (Set Design) has designed numerous sets over the past fifteen years including *Crimes of the Heart*, *God's Favorite*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and *Same Time, Next Year* among many others.

WAYNE MILLER (Lighting Design) is the resident designer for SIST, where he has designed dozens of productions, most recently *Crimes of the Heart*. A free lance designer, he creates lighting for theatre, concerts, and special events. He is also an actor, singer and host of Time Warner Cable's academic game show, *Cranial Crunch*.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Geraldine Abbate

Stage Manager.....Elizabeth Watt

Set Design.....Craig Stoebling

Lighting Design.....Wayne Miller

Sound Design.....Geraldine Abbate

Lighting Operator.....Steve Fair

Sound Operator.....Board Members and Friends

Costumes.....Cecilia Smologyi, The Costume Cottage

Producer.....Ellen R. Mitchell

Photographer .....Jodi Garda

Program & Flyer .....Images/Carl and Rita Roldan

Set Crew.....Michael Ancona, Jayne Cooper, Michael John Ferraro, Gloria Gadzinski, John Griffin, Nikki Lauren, Joe Loffredo, Ellen Mitchell, Mark Muscaro, Craig Stoebling, Torberg Tonnessen, Steve Urbanowicz, Elizabeth Watt

Special Thanks To

Christine Leonardi-Kramer of Great Expectations-A Dance Center and Ellen Mitchell for the loan of the baby.

27th Season
2001-2002

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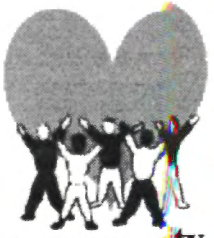

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