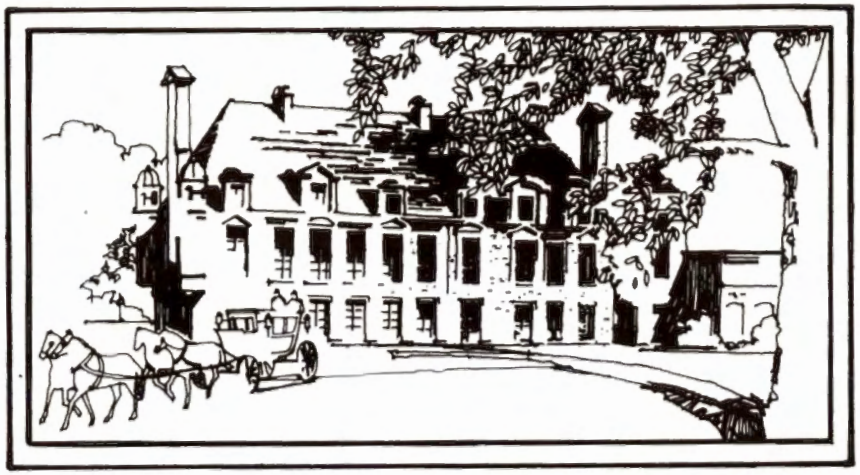

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By Paul Guest Smith
Background notes about tonight's production, written by its director

14. **Staff For This Production**
A spotlight on those who help make it happen

COVER: *Illustration by Ken Frye*

Volume 4 ..... **Number 5**

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Staten Island Civic Theatre

presents

LANFORD WILSON'S

ANGELS FALL

Directed By

PAUL GUEST SMITH

Lighting By

DAVID JOZWIAK

Set By

JOSEPH DALY

This production is made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, Staten Island Council on the Arts and Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of New York.

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ABOUT THE PLAY

By Paul Guest Smith

The scheduled production for this particular slot in our season was supposed to be *Passion* by Peter Nichols. Unfortunately, in the early stage of rehearsals, the leading actor had to drop out because of health problems. Since there was no adequate replacement to be found, the production was reluctantly dropped. It was then decided to produce Lanford Wilson's *Angels Fall* in its place, and it is our hope that you will not be disappointed.

Mr. Wilson is, of course, one of this country's finest playwrights, a Pulitzer Prize winner whose works are constantly in production. There are, at the time of writing, productions of *The Mound Builders* and *Lemon Sky* to be seen off-Broadway, and last year there were successful revivals of his plays *Balm in Gilead* and *Serenading Louie*. Here at Civic Theatre I have had the privilege of directing two of Mr. Wilson's better known plays, *Hot L Baltimore* and *Fifth of July*.

Angels Fall enjoyed a lengthy run off-Broadway and a limited run on Broadway in 1983, starring Barnard Hughes and Fritz Weaver.

On the day *Angels Fall* takes place, all roads in a remote northwestern corner of New Mexico are closed because of a nuclear accident at a nearby uranium mine. Four very different confused people find themselves confined to the sanctuary of a quiet sunbaked mission where they meet Father Doherty, the mission priest, and Don Tabaha, a young Navaho Indian, his unofficial foster son and helper. Together they act out what is a "rehearsal for the end of the world," and face the problem of "what manner of person" each will be.

The critic Ross Wetzsteon in *New York* magazine wrote: "Wilson is our supreme poet of loss and endurance. As do nearly all his plays, *Angels Fall* deals primarily with the ways in which life has not lived up to our expectations and the ways in which we find the strength — and the humor — to carry on... In his extraordinary empathy for ordinary people, he may be the last populist playwright."■

The shepherd's brow, fronting forked lightning, owns
The horror and the havoc and the glory
Of it. Angels fall, they are towers, from heaven — a story
Of just, majestical, and giant groans.
But man — we, scaffold of score brittle bones;
Who breathe, from groundlong babyhood to hoary
Age gasp; whose breath is our memento mori—
What bass is our viol for tragic tones?

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Paul Guest Smith directs this production of "Angels Fall."

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Niles Harris ..... PAUL GUEST SMITH
Vita Harris ..... MAUREEN KNUDSON
Don Tabaha ..... JOSEPH DALY
Marion Clay ..... KAREN COOPER SINCLAIR
Salvatore (Zappy) Zappala ..... ROBERT MARRA
Father William Doherty .... FRED L. HOUSMAN JR.

The Scene

Place: A small adobe mission in northwestern New Mexico

Time: A Saturday afternoon in early June

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WHO'S WHO in the CAST

JOSEPH DALY

FRED L. HOUSMAN JR.

JOSEPH DALY *(Don Tabaha)* last appeared as the Scarecrow in our holiday production of *The Wizard of Oz* at the College of Staten Island. His favorite roles include Raskolnikov in *Crime and Punishment*, Christy Mahon in *Playboy of the Western World*, Dracula, Conrad Birdie and the nerdy sound effects man in *Annie*. However, his fondest achievement is directing nine wonderful actors in *Is There Life After High School?* earlier this season. Joe is in his third term as vice president of Staten Island Civic Theatre.

MAUREEN KNUDSON

FRED L. HOUSMAN JR. *(Father William Doherty).* Long recognized as one of the very finest character actors, Fred was last seen on our stage in the title role of *Da*, for which he received a best actor nomination by the *Staten Island Register*. For his performance in *The Gin Game* at Harbor Rep, he won the best actor Reggie in 1981.

MAUREEN KNUDSON *(Vita Harris)* is extremely happy that Karen Micha was married on February 22 — so Karen couldn't do this show and get the part of Paul Guest Smith's stage wife!

ROBERT MARRA *(Zap)* is pleased to be making his dramatic debut with Staten Island Civic Theatre. He has most recently appeared in *Side By Side By Sondheim* at

WHO'S WHO in the CAST

ROBERT MARRA

KAREN COOPER SINCLAIR

SIST. His stock credits include *Whorehouse, A Chorus Line, Evita, Mame* and *Hello Dolly*. Other New York City credits include Doody in *Grease*, Tulsa in *Gypsy*, Snoopy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and Luis in *Runaways*. Robert would like to thank the people who believed in him enough to be in this production.

KAREN COOPER SINCLAIR *(Marion Branch)* is pleased to be making her debut here at Civic Theatre. New to the theatre, she was last seen as Lucetta in *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and as Sweet Sue in *Sugar*. Karen teaches gifted students, and she has a precocious 5-year-old at home. She is delighted to be working with such an experienced cast and a wonderful director. She studies voice with Eva Lazar Gabriel and acting with Letty Serra Vork. Special thanks to J.G., B.G., M.A., D.D. and all her friends and family.

PAUL GUEST SMITH *(Niles Harris)* was last seen on our stage as Simon Hench in *Otherwise Engaged*. Some of his favorite acting roles are Felix in *The Odd Couple*, Creon in *Antigone*, Roat in *Wait Until Dark* and Henry Higgins in *Pygmalion*.

PAUL GUEST SMITH

Who's Who on the Staff

PAUL GUEST SMITH *(Director)* has directed more than 30 productions on Staten Island, including two by Lanford Wilson here at Civic Theatre: *Hot L Baltimore* and *Fifth of July* (winner of the 1983 *Staten Island Register* award for best play). Paul is celebrating his 10th anniversary as a member of our board of directors, which includes a three-year term as president and a current three-year term as treasurer.

EMILIA TREGLIA *(Assistant Director).* This is Emilia's second show as assistant director, the first being last season's *Da* here at Civic Theatre. She has stage-managed many shows for us, including *Annie, Chicago* and *Is There Life After High School?*

ELLEN MITCHELL R.N. *(Stage Manager)* has had a busy 12 months, culminating last month in her becoming a registered nurse. She directed our critically-acclaimed production of *Da* last season, and was seen on stage in *Music Man* and *Is There Life After High School?* Ellen stage-managed the last seven plays directed by Paul Guest Smith, and wonders if it is to be a lifetime task.

DAVID JOZWIAK *(Lighting Designer).* David's critically-acclaimed lighting designs here at Civic Theatre include *Mame, Blithe Spirit, Chamber Music, The Real Inspector Hound, Da, Otherwise Engaged* and *Crimes of the Heart.* He also designed the sets for *Mame* and *Anything Goes.* David is an accomplished dancer, appearing with the Clive Thompson Junior Company and Royal Winnipeg Ballet of Canada. His last stage outing was as the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz.*

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JOSEPH DALY *(Set and Sound Design).* This is Joe's eighth set design for us: *Fifth of July, Dining Room, Bedroom Farce, Blithe Spirit, The Real Inspector Hound, Otherwise Engaged* and *Crimes of the Heart.*

ANDRJEZ PAWILCZ *(Technical Director)* is the only person ever to call our set designer "stupid and lazy" and get away with it! An agriculture and economy major in his native Poland, Andrjez is rapidly learning the English word "no."

Information in "Who's Who in the Cast" is provided by Staten Island Civic Theatre. Where opinions are expressed, they are those of the players, not necessarily those of SHOWTIME.

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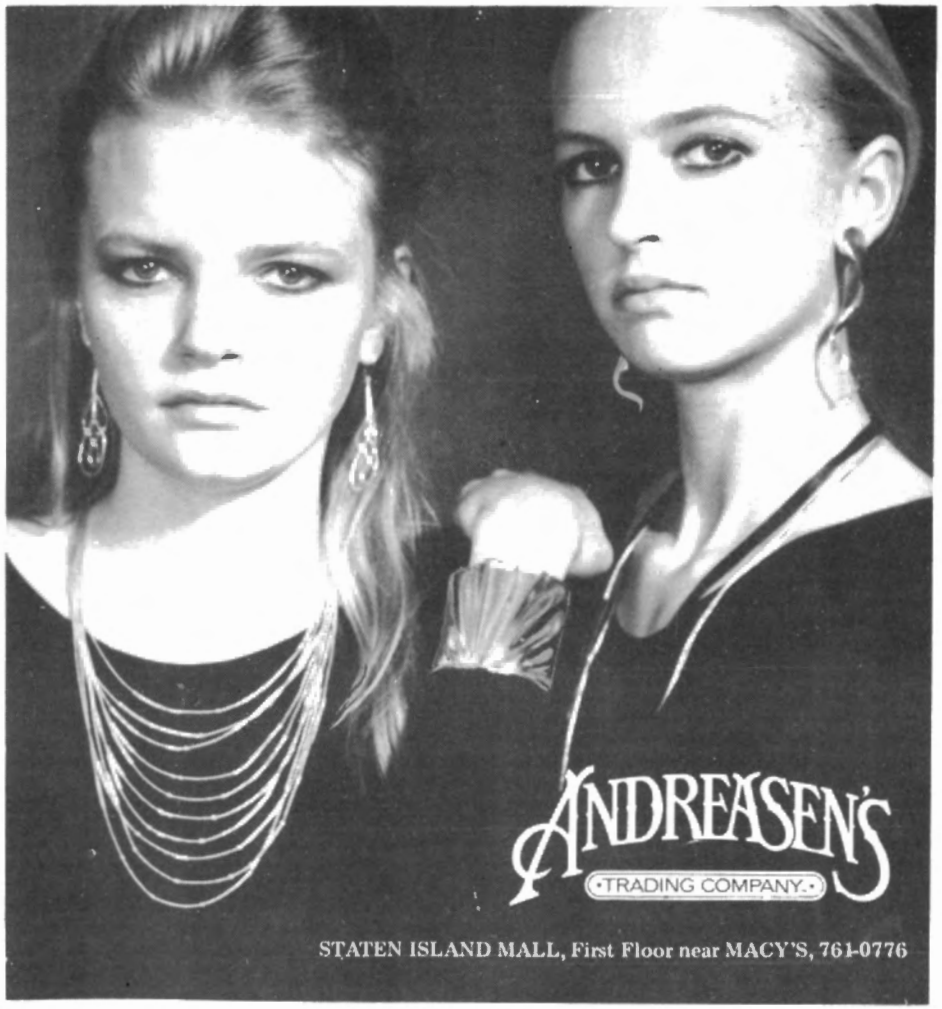

STAFF FOR "ANGELS FALL"

Director	Paul Guest Smith
Assistant Director	Emilia Treglia
Production Stage Manager	Ellen Mitchell R.N.
Set Designer	Joseph Daly
Lighting Designer	David Jozwiak
Sound Designer	Joseph Daly
Technical Director	Andrjez Pawilcz
Sound Operator	Irene Carducci
Set Construction	Renee Eith
	Irene Carducci, Maureen Knudson
	Rita Conlon, Emilia Treglia
	Joseph Daly
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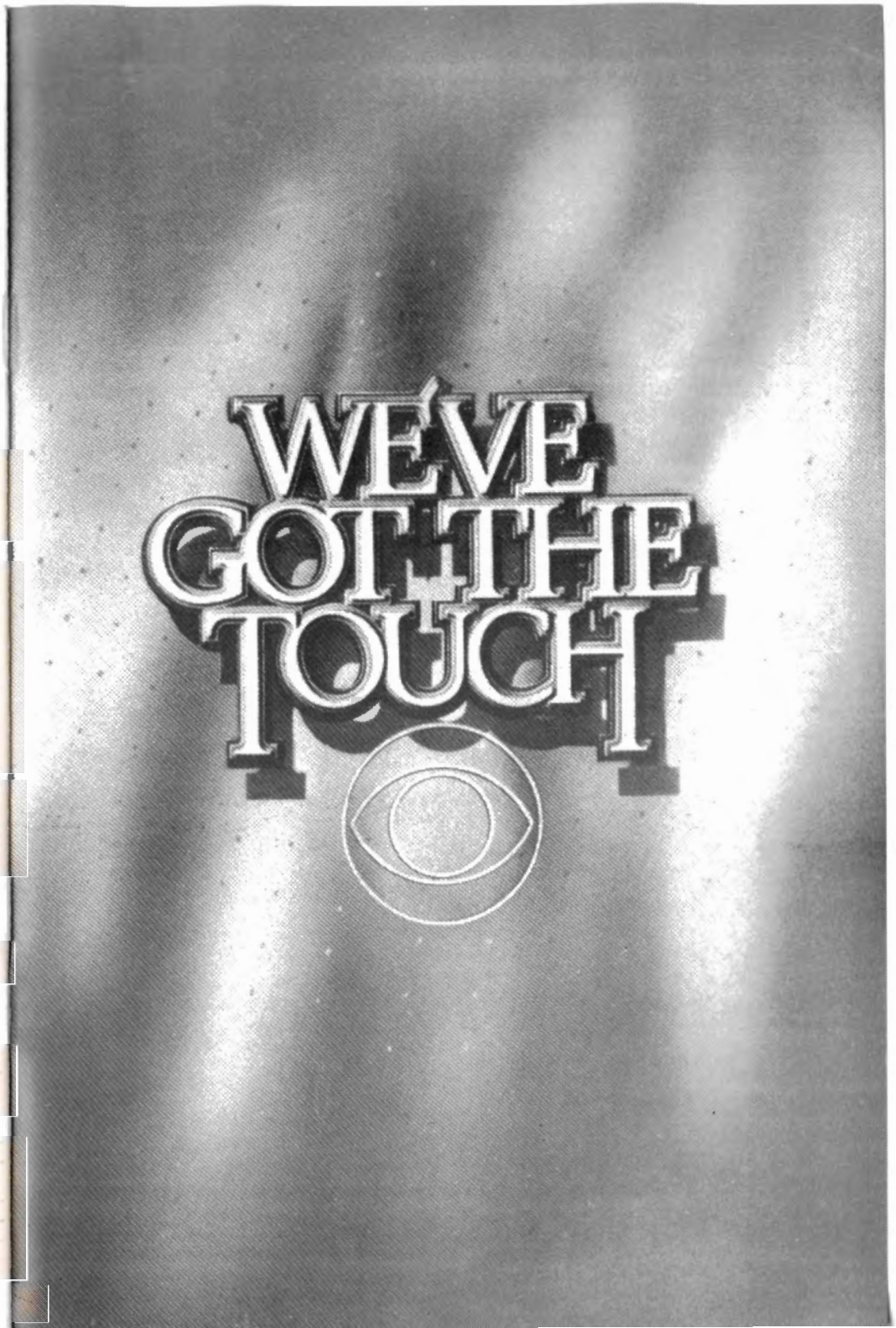
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