

THE FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE
PRESENTS

**I Hate
Hamlet**

by Paul Rudnick

with
Fran Milam
Michael Tilley
Cathy Winn
Angela Covey
Bill Lindsey
Michael Newcity

DIRECTED BY
Jim Moody



September 14 - 23, 1995

491 North Sixth Street

(501) 783-2966 for Reservations

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I HATE HAMLET!

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Produced By Special Arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Hello again,

This is the page they give the director to fill up. He tells you about what a great play you are about to see. He tells you what a wonderful cast you are about to see and how wonderful they were to work with. If he really needs to fill up space, he will mention how dedicated and talented the backstage crew was and how smoothly the set went up, the costumes were made or found, the props gathered or manufactured, and as you are reading this you are thinking "Why do they always have to say the same thing?"

Well in this case I'm saying those things because they are true. The people working on this play started laughing during auditions and haven't stopped laughing yet. The cast and crew have been a pleasure to work for and with. The unity of vision and the dedication to the project has been restoring.

People sometimes ask me why I spend so much time doing this work (make no mistake it is work). The reason is most of the time you get to work on projects like this with people you like and admire. So I can only hope you enjoy the fruits of our labor as much as we enjoyed laboring.

Jim Moody

P.S. God gave this play a special touch when he helped make an FSLT alumni, Mark Whittington, available to stage the duel. He made the learning a challenge and an art. Glad you could be back Mark—and thanks—

"the friends of Hamlet"

CAST (in order of appearance)

Felicia Dantine.....Fran Milam
Andrew Rally.....Michael Tilley
Deirdre McDavvy.....Cathy Winn
Lillian Troy.....Angela Covey
John Barrymore.....Bill Lindsey
Gary Peter Lefkowitz.....Michael Newcity

SETTING

The Present.

The top floor apartment of a brownstone just off Washington Square in New York City.

Two Acts

There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.

CREW

Director.....Jim Moody
Producer.....Phanita Williams
Set Design.....Ed Drimmel
Gary Black
Wardrobe.....Wilma McCauley
Hazel Ann Oliver
Kaye Birkhead
Properties.....Sondra Foti
Pete Werner
Bruce Birkhead
Special Effects.....Charlie Long
Technical.....John Gallagher
Jason Henson
Prompter.....Lynda Taylor
Art Design.....Cassey Browning
Set Construction.....Darrell Smith
Steve Smith
Fight Choreographer.....Mark Whittington

CAST BIOS

Michael Newcity.....

Paul Rudnick describes Gary as "crass and calculating, yet never stupid....appalling and irresistable....shamelessly exuberant." I'm not sure if being cast as Gary was a compliment or an insult, but, hey, I've never worked so diligently and had as much fun in developing a character. Other projects where I've taken to the stage include "*Fools*," "*Nebraska/Oklahoma*," "*The Kiss*" (a Chekov reading), and most recently, "*You Must Remember This*." And for those of you that are interested, I make my real living as a Systems Analyst for Data-Tronics Corp. and as a part-time instructor at Westark Community College.

Angela Covey.....

This year marks my 20th year with the FSLT. I had no idea when I timidly entered the old building on North O what an impact it would have on my life. It has become my extended family.

Since 1975, I have had the opportunity to play a potpourri of characters. Probably my all time favorite was Sylvia in *The Women*. A role I had the most fun with was Mrs. Frasier in *Stepping Out*. In that I even got to tap dance. My husband of 38 years is my number one fan. Three of our five children have "trod the boards" at FSLT and who knows maybe one day one of our six grandchildren will follow in Nannies footsteps.

CAST BIOS

Fran Milam.....

During the last year, my connection with the FSLT has been backstage, producing *Grapes of Wrath* and *Nunsense II* and directing *Belles*. My last appearance on stage was as Patricia, the more sympathetic roommate, in *Extremities*. I have been "itching" to get back in the footlights and could not have picked a better character than "Felicia Dantine." Felicia is quite opposite my former character, Patricia, and the character I play in the everyday world, but what great fun she has been. That is why I love the theater so much, you can always be whatever you dream to be.

Bill Lindsey.....

The part of John Barrymore has given me my first chance to portray a ghost. While Barrymore was "larger than life," he became even "larger" in the after world apparently. This trip to the "other side" has been enlightening and more fun than should be allowed.

FSLT allows me to "slip the bonds" of my normal life as an English and speech teacher at Mountainburg High School. For both my regular life and my theatrical life, I remain extremely grateful.

Cathy Winn.....

A Van Buren native, is a reading Lab teacher at King School in the Van Buren School District. She graduated from John Brown University and is currently working on her Masters in Education through the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Cathy's first theatre experience was last Spring when she played "Laura Carlyle" in *The Butler Did It*, a King Opera House production that was directed by Kelly Kelle.

CAST BIOS

Michael Tilley.....

I work at the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce as the Chamber's Project Manager, which means I work on everything from economic development projects to putting up Christmas lights on Court Street.

Theatre has always been a great release for me. In college, it was a great way to forget about deadlines, obligations and bills. Now that I'm out in the real world with a J-O-B, I turn to theatre to forget about deadlines, obligations and bills.

In college, I participated in more than 10 plays and one-acts. In Fort Smith, Jim Moody provided me the opportunity to play Tom Joad in "*Grapes of Wrath*."

Hopefully you will enjoy "*I HATE HAMLET!*" as much as we enjoy performing it. Andrew Rally, the character I play, is experiencing absolute frustration - frustration we have all experienced. He isn't sure about his career choice or even if he is good at what he does. He isn't having sex with a woman that he loves but wants to strangle. People are pushing him into something that he isn't sure he wants to do. And just when things get complicated, a ghost appears in his apartment. (If you can't empathize with ghost troubles, just replace "IRS auditor" with the word ghost.)