



**McCoy Theatre
Rhodes College**

presents

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

She Stoops To Conquer

by Oliver Goldsmith

MEDEA

by Euripides

adapted by Robinson Jeffers

The Pirates of Penzance

by W.H.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

Tenth Annual Benefit

The Music of Irving Berlin

Season 15

McCoy Theatre Staff

Artistic Director	Tony Lee Garner
Production Program Manager	Thomas C. Jones
Production Manager and	
Lighting Designer	Laura Canon
Acting Program Director	Julia Ewing
Costumer Designer	David Jilg
Program Director	Margo Raiford
Box Office Assistants	Amanda Garrigan
	Laura Goza
	Regina Ott
	Heather Tyler



A Message from the Artistic Director

It is difficult to believe that we are celebrating our fifteenth season. The good seed planted with a prayer to "make our garden grow" in the winter of 1982 has blossomed into numerous and notable accomplishments. The McCoy Theatre began by beating the odds that we could successfully sell subscriptions. We were successful and the growth in the strength of our Box Office has been the best kind of growth—steady. We firmly believe that we are required to produce theatre worth paying for and worth the kind of financial support we have received from our Subscribers, Patrons and Benefactors.

The McCoy is the only college theatre program in the country to mount a production of the four-hour, two-evening *Nicholas Nickleby*. The strength of our musical theatre area is revealed by remembering some of the musicals produced by the McCoy. The current season's production of *The Pirates of Penzance* will be the second G&S musical produced by the theatre. We have produced more Stephen Sondheim musicals than any theatre company in town - four. The fact that two of our musicals, *Candide* and *Sweeney Todd* were produced by New York City Opera is an indication of the caliber of musical theatre produced at the McCoy. Last season's production of the play and Mozart's musical version of *The Marriage of Figaro* was the beginning of an exciting future for the integration of music and theatre. Bennett Wood's Annual Benefit Concerts provide financial support for our

production program and they provide audiences with entertaining lessons in musical theatre history.

The McCoy is one of only a handful of college theatre programs to utilize a repertory format. The format offers actors the opportunity to play different roles in different plays on successive nights. We presented plays in repertory in three of our seasons and plan to use it again in the near future.

Our plays are chosen from a very extensive list drawn up by a Playfinding Committee which includes students, faculty, and members of the Memphis theatrical community. The plays are selected because they have roles suitable for training young actors and with our theatre student talent pool in mind. While some of our productions have been more successful than others, we have never had a flop!

The strength of our production program is derived from a very talented faculty, intelligent and versatile students, and an energetic effective staff. Our designers are among the best in their field and our directors, faculty and guests, are in a small, elite group of extremely imaginative and distinctive theatre practitioners. This year we welcome to our faculty Dr. Thomas C. Jones. He is a playwright, director and innovative teacher. He has also assumed the responsibilities associated with mounting our first Tennessee Williams Festival which is planned for the summer of 1996.

We are grateful to many for making our first fifteen years a success. We are particularly grateful for the support of the McCoy Foundation. The trustees did not build the building and then abandon the program. Many of the advanced technical aspects of the theatre are a direct result of their support. We are indebted to Bennett Wood for creating and directing nine Benefit Concerts and to the talented performers who have helped increase our income by about \$10,000 each year. The creation of the Noreen Cathey Mallory Theatrical Fund was a thrilling beginning to the kind of support we need for the future.

The most important constituency in the theatre is the audience. We care about what we present to you because we care about what you think. We want you in our theatre and we want you to tell us what you think.

I am inspired, humbled and grateful for the experiences we have shared over the last fifteen years. The future looks wonderful and inviting. Let's go.

McCoy Theatre Rhodes College

presents

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Director	Julia "Cookie" Ewing
Set and Costume Designer	David Jilg
Lighting Designer	Laura Canon
Technical Director	Laura Canon
Stage Managers	Macon Davis, Phoebe Neal
Assistant Stage Manager	Henry Murphy
Fight Choreographer	Brian Helm
Assistant Fight Choreographer	Matt Williams
Dramaturge	Kristen Murray
Sound Designer	Matt Williams
Sound Operator	Emily Hogue
Light Board Operator	Macon Davis
Props	Elaine Scudder, Shea Flinn, Marla Rolfs, ARAMARK
Costume Design Assistants	Alli Robbins, Marla Rolfs
Hair and Make-up Design	Belinda Belk, Blaine Smith
Poster Design	Milton Johnson Sunni Thompson
Production Crew	Isabel Melo, Jessica Nelson, Elaine Scudder, Collin Dunham, Cristina Dias, Amy Dollarhide, Ron Newlin, Belinda Belk, Jenny Greene, Amanda Hall, Loretta Lambert, Holly Mills, Cori Smith, Heather Tyler, Chris Luter, Dave Harrison, Erin Potter, Beth Lacaeyse

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Trust	Meta Four: Marla Rolfs, Matt Williams, Pete Snow, Susan Ashe
Sampson	Ron Newlin
Gregory	Amanda Hall
Abram	Marla Rolfs
Balthasar	Sean Lyttle
Benvolio	Pete Snow
Tybalt	Matt Williams
Lord Capulet	Chris Luter
Lady Capulet	Melissa Anderson
Lord Montague	Shea Flinn
Lady Montague	Susan Ashe
Prince	Belinda Belk
Romeo	Cort Winsett
Paris	John Weeden
Nurse	Amanda Sisk
Juliet	Heather Tyler
Mercutio	Carrie O'Dell
Friar Lawrence	Milton Johnson
Apothecary	Erin Potter
Friar John	Henry Murphy
Watch/Others	Judith Smelser
Chief Watchman	Sunni Thompson
Children	Anna Traverse, Alison Kamhi, Zak Baker

Romeo and Juliet has been a difficult play to approach. It is thought of as a beautiful love story, yet it is shaped by a feud where lack of trust presents fear and anger, a feud where the victims are the young minds and lives, a feud that both sides keep alive out of habit. Why?

Why do feuds and anger breed more intensely than "love" or acceptance? Why is it easier to hate, to find the negative, to not trust?

This simple love story has been a favorite through time. Does it give us hope? Fantasy? Make believe? Escape? Or is it the anger we embrace? Does the love and death of these two innocents really change anything? Can we change...do we want to, or is our habit too ingrained?

Special Thanks to

John Sanford

Who's Who

Melissa Anderson (Lady Capulet), a junior English major from Germantown, is making her McCoy debut. Melissa is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority.

Susan Ashe (Lady Montague) is a junior international business major from Sheffield, AL, and was last seen in the McCoy's production of *Chicago*. She is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Catalyst, and Orientation Intern.

Zak Malkin Baker (child), a fourth grade student at Idlewild Elementary, has performed various roles at The Children's Theatre, JCC, and Our Own Voice Theatre.

Macon Davis (stage manager) is a junior French major from New Orleans, LA, and is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Rhodes Singers and Rhodes Mastersingers Chorale.

Shea Flinn (Lord Montague, Assistant Director), a senior theatre major from Memphis, has had roles in the McCoy productions of *Spring Awakening*, *As You Like It*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Glass Menagerie*.

Brian Helm (Fight Director) is a student at The University of Memphis and last year appeared at the McCoy in *The Illusion* and *The Marriage of Figaro* for which he received Memphis Theatre Awards.

Milton F. Johnson (Friar Lawrence), a junior theatre major from Dallas, TX, most recently was seen at the McCoy in *The Marriage of Figaro*. He has also had roles in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *Tartuffe*.

Alison Kamhi (child) is in the ninth grade at White Station High School. Alison has "grown up" at the McCoy having been in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Cabaret*, and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*.

Christopher Luter (Lord Capulet), a junior theatre/music major from Laurel, MS, last appeared at the McCoy in *The Illusion*. Chris had five principle roles with College Light Opera Co. in Cape Cod this past summer.

Sean Lyttle (Balthasar) is a first year student from Memphis where he has performed in *Oliver*, *The Wiz*, *Black Comedy*, and *Comedy of Errors* at Memphis University School.

Henry Murphy (Friar John), a sophomore English major from Little Rock, AR, was last seen in *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Phoebe Neal (stage manager) is a junior museum studies major from Memphis. At the McCoy Phoebe has devoted much time to backstage activities.

Ron Newlin (Sampson), a sophomore classics/theatre major from Houston, TX, has had roles in our productions of *Chicago* and *The Illusion*. Ron is a member of the Rhodes College Singers.

Carrie O'Dell (Mercutio) is a senior theatre major from Greeneville, TN, and has appeared in *Cabaret*, *As You Like It*, and *Sight Unseen* at the McCoy and has also stage managed many productions.

Erin E. Potter (Apothecary), a sophomore religious studies major from Wilmington, DE, is making her McCoy stage debut but worked backstage on all shows last year. Erin is a member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority and The Rhodes College Singers.

Marla A. Rolfs (Abram) is a senior theatre major from Lillian, AL, and was most recently seen at the McCoy in *The Glass Menagerie* for which she received a Memphis Theatre Award for Leading Actress.

Amanda Sisk (Nurse), a sophomore theatre major from Memphis, has had roles in *Chicago*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Amanda has received a Memphis Theatre Award and is a Fine Arts Award recipient.

Judith Smelser (Page) is a sophomore from Vidalia, GA, and is appearing on our stage for the first time. She is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority and the Rhodes College Singers.

Pete Snow (Benvolio) is a sophomore English major from Richmond, IN, where he appeared in *No Time for Sergeants* and *Lil' Abner*. Pete is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

Sunni Thompson (Chief Watchman), a sophomore from Huntsville, AL, where she was very active in theatre, was last seen in our studio production of *The House of Bernarda Alba*. Sunni is a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority.

Anna Traverse (Child) is in the sixth grade at St. Mary's Episcopal School and has been in the McCoy productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Cabaret*. She has also appeared in *The Selfish Giant* at The Children's Theatre.

Heather Tyler (Juliet), a junior theatre/English major from Pocahontas, AR, has had roles in *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Chicago*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Heather is a recipient of the Mark Lee Stephens Memorial Scholarship.

John Weeden (Paris) is a junior art history major from Memphis and was last seen at the McCoy in *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Matthew A. Williams (Tybalt), a senior theatre/philosophy major from Memphis, has had roles in *Spring Awakening*, *Sight Unseen*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Illusion*. Matt is on the track team and was the conference pole vaulting champion.

Cort Winsett (Romeo) is a senior business major from Memphis and most recently played Buddy in Germantown Community Theatre's *The Cardigans*. Cort was last seen in the McCoy's production of *The Fantasticks*.