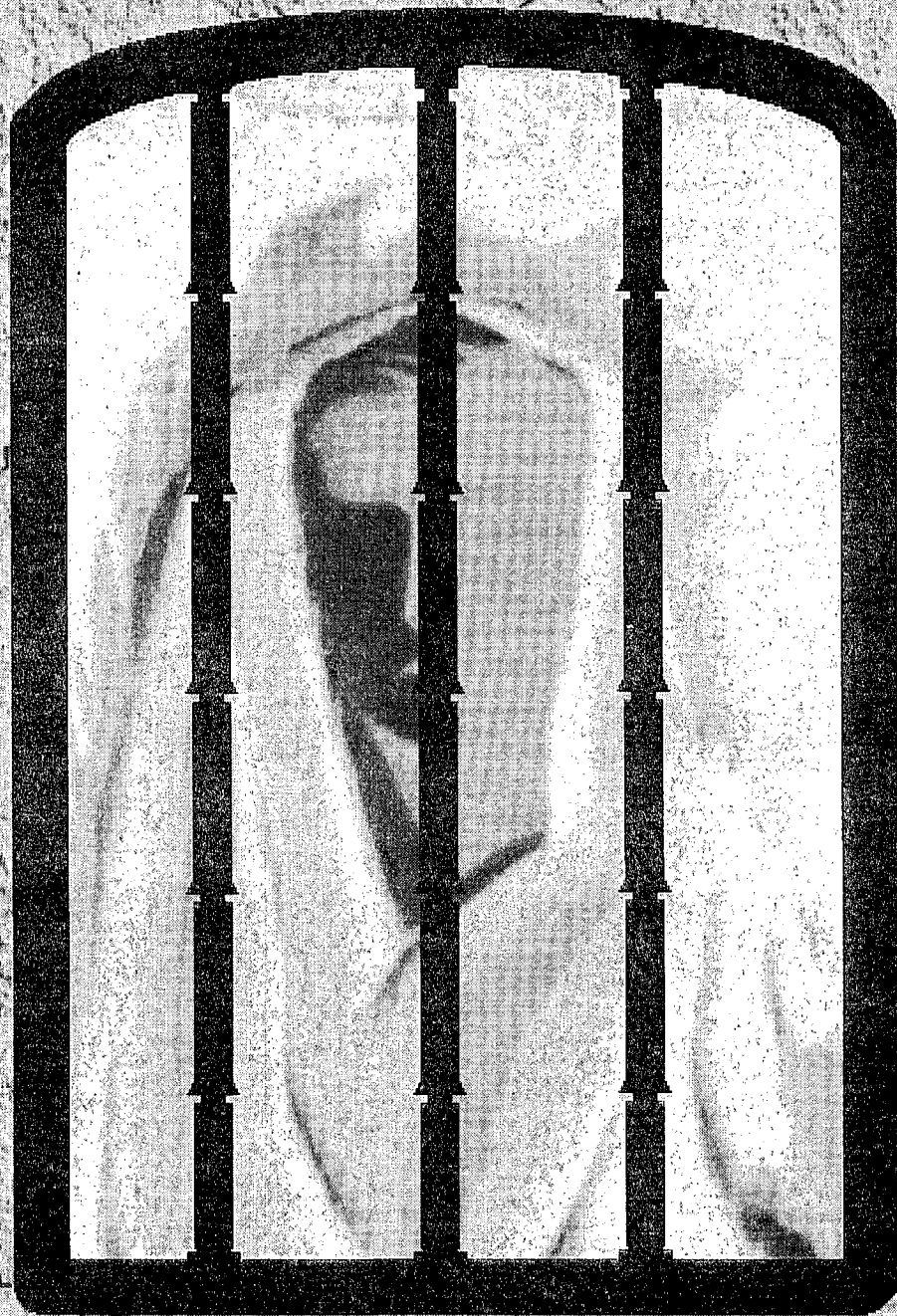


THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA



**BY FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA
DIRECTED BY KRISTEN MURRAY**

The Rhodes College Department of Theatre Presents

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA
BY FEDERICO GARCIA LORCA

Federico García Lorca was born near Grenada, Spain in 1898 and had his first play produced at age twenty two. A master of rich imagery, Lorca is considered one of the most important playwrights in the Spanish language. He captures the reality of rural life with timeless, fervid poetry. Nearly sixty years after its first reading, *The House of Bernarda Alba* remains a compelling and relevant study of social roles and rules. In 1936, just two months after completing this play, Federico García Lorca was murdered by right-wing political supporters during the Spanish Civil War. He was thirty-eight.

Upon reading *The House of Bernarda Alba*, I was struck by the ironic link between Lorca's life and this play. Oppressed by political and religious intolerance, Lorca's voice was silenced. In *The House of Bernarda Alba*, a mother in mourning imposes social control over personal expression and fulfillment. Yet if one approaches this play as simply the story of a cruel woman controlling her daughters and her mother, it becomes a dark cartoon. If one instead sees Bernarda's imperative - her need to preserve honor and family unity when her life is empty - she becomes a complex character whose flaw is her mental and emotional rigidity, not her intentions. Thus we see that the harder we try to control our lives, afraid of changes or loss, the more that sense of control eludes us.

As you enter the stage area from the center stairs, you parallel the shape of the procession into the House of Bernarda Alba. Simple and compact, our staging reflects a rural abode of few windows and fewer freedoms. Behind the bars, the sisters find themselves trapped "by what others might say." You, as the audience, become the peeping neighbors with "ears glued to the walls."

Come listen to the lives of the women in *The House of Bernarda Alba*.

Kristen Murray - Director

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA

By Federico García Lorca

1936

Translated by

James Graham-Lujan and Richard O'Connell

1945

Acts I, II, and III take place in Bernarda's house in rural Spain.

There will be one 10-minute intermission after Act II

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

La Creancia, a Maid

La Poncia, a Maid

Bernarda

Angustias, Bernarda's Eldest Daughter

Magdalena, Bernarda's Daughter

Amelia, Bernarda's Daughter

Martirio, Bernarda's Daughter

Adela, Bernarda's Youngest Daughter

Prudencia, A Neighbor

Townswomen

Regi Ott

Mary Buchignani

Glenda Mace

Sunni Thompson

Elizabeth Wells

Laura Goza

Hallie Lanier

Emily Wiggins

Carrie O'Dell

Sheila Arndt

Erin Davis

Rebecca Mahnken

Holly Bevan Mills

Elaine Scudder

Janae Sholtz

Betty Ruffin

Maria Josefa, Bernarda's Mother

ACTORS

SHEILA ARNDT (Townswoman) is a first year student from Wisconsin. Previous roles there include Katherine in *The Taming of the Shrew* and a Juror in *Twelve Angry Jurors*.

MARY BUCHIGNANI (Poncia) is a Rhodes alumna and an experienced community actor. Favorite roles have been: Lenny in *Crimes of the Heart*, Delightful and Nadine in *Dearly Departed*, Annie in *Benched Affairs* and multiple roles in *Holiday Memories*.

ERIN S. DAVIS (Townswoman) is a first year Rhodes student from Hot Springs, Arkansas. She has appeared there as Dr. Ruth Haskel in *M*A*S*H*, the wife in *L'l Abner* and Snookie in *100 ° in the Shade*.

LAURA GOZA (Amelia) is a first year Rhodes student from Laurel, Mississippi. Previous roles there include: Bertha in *I Rise in Flame Cried the Phoenix*, Cecille in *Annie*, Rizzo in *Grease*, and Annie in *The Miracle Worker*.

HALLIE LANIER (Martirio) is a second-year Rhodes student majoring in music. In New Orleans she appeared in *Carousel* and *Pippin*. At Rhodes, she played Susannah in the opera version of *The Marriage of Figaro*.

GLENDA MACE (Bernarda) is an experienced actor who has recently moved back to Memphis after ten years acting in New York. Some previous roles are: Ella in *Curse of the Starving Class*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, and Bonnie in *Holy Ghosts*.

REBECCA MAHNKEN (Production Assistant, Townswoman) is a second-year, English major from North Little Rock, Arkansas. At the McCoy Theatre she was seen in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and she worked as assistant stage manager on *Chicago*.

HOLLY BEVAN MILLS (Townswoman) is a first year Rhodes student from New Orleans, Louisiana. She has appeared there in a *Salute to the Tony Awards*, *The King and I*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

CARRIE O'DELL (Prudencia) is a junior Theatre major/English minor. At the McCoy Theatre she has been in *Sight Unseen*, *As You Like It*, and *Cabaret*; she has also worked backstage on *Spring*

Awakening, Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Glass Menagerie and Tartuff. Recently she stage managed *Death and the Maiden* at Theatre Memphis.

REGI OTT (Creancia, a Maid) is a first year Rhodes student from Hot Springs, Arkansas. She has appeared there as Lizzie Currie in *110° in the Shade*, Mammy Yokum in *Li'l Abner*, and Myrtle Mae Simmons in *Harvey*.

BETTY RUFFIN (Maria Josefa) is a retired Rhodes College Professor of Theatre and an experienced Memphis actor. Her past favorite roles include: Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Lion in Winter*, Mme de Rosemonde in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and the Wife in *Into the Narrow Bed* written by retired Rhodes Professor, Jack Forrest.

ELAINE SCUDDER (Townswoman) is a first year Rhodes student. In her hometown of Memphis she has played the Actress in *The Good Doctor* and Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

JANAE SHOLTZ (Townswoman) is a first year student at Rhodes. She is an English major and is a member of the Yearbook staff.

SUNNI THOMPSON (Angustias) is a first year Rhodes student from Huntsville, Alabama. In Huntsville she has played Kanga in *Winnie the Pooh*, the Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol*, and Mrs. Webb in *Our Town*. At Rhodes she appeared in the one-act *Danes of our Lives*.

ELIZABETH WELLS (Magdalena) is a first year Rhodes student from Atlanta, Georgia. Past appearances include a Flower Girl in *The Madwoman of Chaillot* and Performer #4 in *In Fireworks Lie Secret Codes*. At Rhodes she appeared as Trash in the one-act *What is This Everything*.

EMILY WIGGINS (Adela) is a second-year student from New Orleans, Louisiana. Last semester she appeared in the one-act *Danes of our Lives*.

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Director	Kristen Murray
Production Designer	David Jilg
Stage Manager	Mark Carapezza
Sound Designer	Kristen Murray
Lighting Designer	Eric Wilson
Costume Designer	David Jilg
Program & Poster Design	Kristen Murray
Production Assistant	Rebecca Mahnken
Light Board Operator	Ally Robinson
Sound Board Operator	Naina Eshwar
Props Chasers	Murray's Acting 120 Class, Cast of <i>Bernarda Alba</i> , David Jilg, Bill Short

KRISTEN MURRAY (Director) teaches Acting as a part time Assistant Professor of Theatre at Rhodes College. She holds an M.F.A. in Theater and a M.S. in Psychology from the University of Wollongong in Australia. An Honors graduate of Rhodes, Kristen has been seen in over a dozen Memphis productions, including: Katherine in *Henry V*, Eliza in *Pygmalion*, Billie in *Born Yesterday*, Annelle in *Steel Magnolias*, and Libby in *Blue Window*. In Australia, Kristen directed *The Winter's Tale*, assistant-directed *Steel Magnolias*, and played Maria in *Twelfth Night*.

DAVID JILG (Production Designer) holds an M.F.A. in Theatre Design from Tulane University. He designed both set and costumes for *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Illusion* at the McCoy. Other favorite productions include costumes for *Amadeus*, *My Fair Lady*, *Elephant Man* and *King Lear*.

ERIC WILSON (Lighting Designer) is a professional freelance lighting technician based in Memphis. He has done lighting for television, printwork and several feature films. Eric also produces music videos.

MARK CARAPEZZA (Stage Manager) is a second year English major from Massachusetts. He has been seen at the McCoy as Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*, Tartuff in *Tartuff* and Nick in *Sight Unseen*.

SPECIAL THANKS

Roosevelt Evans and Physical Plant Staff

John Rone

Bill Short

Don Tucker

Laura Canon

Margo Raiford

Tulane University Theatre Department

THEATRE AT RHODES COLLEGE

The McCoy Theatre is a successful collegiate and community theatre with a season of four regular plays/musicals and an outstanding annual benefit production. For the past several years, the McCoy has also supported a fifth play, the Studio Production, usually organized by students. This year directed by Kristen Murray, the Studio Production provides the opportunity for young actors to make their debut, or for mature actors to do a challenging, interesting piece that is not often produced.

We hope you will actively support the McCoy so that mainstage and alternative productions may continue to thrive on the Rhodes campus.

We encourage you to call 726-3838 to subscribe to the McCoy for our exciting fifteenth anniversary season beginning this Fall. You may also, at that time, make reservations for the McCoy Benefit, an evening of laughter and song which supports the McCoy throughout the year. The Benefit, this year featuring the music of Rogers and Hart, runs April 20-22 and 27-30.