McCoy Theatre
Rhodes College

PRESENTS

Tongue of a Bird

by Ellen McLaughlin

Directed by Wes Meador

Cast

Maxine ..... Erin McGhee
Dessa ..... Sophie Gatins
Zofia ..... Amy Gray
Charlotte ..... Emily Popp
Evie ..... Blaire Bice

Time: Mid-Winter

Place: Adirondack Mountains

There will be a 10-minute intermission between Act 1 and Act 2.

Crew

Stage Manager ..... Lindsay Johnson

Scenic Designer ..... David Jilg

Costume Designer ..... Michelle Jean Luby

Sound Designers ..... Michelle Lyn Cook-Brown, Hank Neuhoff

Lighting Designer ..... Rebecca Wolf

Technical Director ..... Michelle Lyn Cook-Brown

Costume Shop Supervisor ..... Celia Mason

Sound Engineer ..... Hank Neuhoff

Costume Crew ..... Amy Noelle Haygood, Amy Gray
Shannon King, Jim Short

Lighting Crew ..... Matt Felgendreher, Stephen Rintoul

Scenic Crew ..... Blair Bice, Matt Felgendreher, Dylan Hunter
Rob Hunter, Geoff Lees

Production Crew ..... Jessie Adair, Dave Badham
Matt Carrington, Kevin Comer
Will Donnell, Marcus Falion
Eric Friederichsen, Austin Grigsby
Phil Guthrie, Hudson Harris
Marc Mattioli, Jane Metters
Alex Mohler, Matthew Nemer
India Rhodes, Michael Siler
Nicole Vazquez

Special Thanks
Pete Montgomery
Ty Prewitt and Mainstage Teatrical Supply

Speacial arrangement of "Top of the World"
by Erin Fudge and John Dollahite

Notes from the director (and an alumnus, to boot):

I have a very deep love for the liberal arts experience, specifically Rhodes College, and, most importantly, this theatre department. As a Rhodes student and theatre major several years ago, I learned the value of asking intelligent questions, of challenging myself and fellow collaborators to push our knowledge and understanding of the unfamiliar, and the paramount significance theatre and the other arts play in the shaping of people, cultures and societies.

This theatre department exemplifies the experience a liberal arts education should provide – learning to think deeply and react positively, learning to research exhaustively in order to seek understanding, learning to question ideas and theories so we are able to explore why things happen.

Ultimately, a liberal arts education – like a good theatre program – teaches us that we're all human, that we're all in this world together and that while we all come from separate walks of life, each of us possess unique talents, knowledge and gifts that contribute to a greater good.

This department refuses to allow students to move passively through their college experiences; instead, the department strives to engage the mind, body and soul of each student daring enough to darken its doors.

How does this relate to our production of *Tongue of a Bird?* Well, this play is a prime example of the kinds of risks the department takes on behalf of its students. This show has afforded five actors, four designers, one stage manager, one director and numerous crew members the opportunity to push ourselves to a deeper exploration of human relationships and emotions while we exercise our skills and talents. It forces us to ask big questions about loss and to make bold choices toward understanding these questions.

It is my hope that our production serves as a smart example of all the good work performed through the Rhodes theatre department. Join us in our journey through Ellen McLaughlin's somewhat surreal play about very real emotions. Enjoy watching us taking chances and growing together.

I thank you for supporting the meaningful intellectual and physical work this department demands.

Wes ('00)

The Artists

Blair Bice (Evie)
A senior theatre major from Witchita Falls, Texas, Blair has appeared in the McCoy productions of *Big Love, Equus, Carousel* and *Our Town.* Directing credits include *The Vagina Monologues* (2003) and co-direction of last fall's *The Tempest.* She sends much love and thanks to her family and friends, and would like to thank the theatre faculty as well as the other senior ladies for being so supportive and teaching her more than she ever expected to learn in 4 or 5 years. Blair is a Fine Arts Scholar.

Michelle Cook-Brown (Technical Director and Sound Designer)
Michelle joined the Rhodes College faculty as Assistant Professor of Theatre last fall, and her work has been seen on stages throughout Memphis. She received her MFA in Design from the University of Memphis, and a B.A. in Art and Technical Theatre from Louisiana College.

Sophie Gatins (Dessa)
A senior theatre major from Atlanta, Georgia, Sophie lists her McCoy credits as roles in *Big Love, The Laramie Project, Equus, Metamorphoses* and *The Tempest.* She served as assistant choreographer for Playhouse on the Square's touring series of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!,* has achieved Dean's List distinction, and is a member of the Chi Omega sorority. As she leaves Rhodes, Sophie would like to thank Amy, Erin, Blair and the theatre faculty – especially Cookie – for all they've taught her. She sends much love to Mary Hollis and her family.

Erin McGhee (Maxine)
Erin is a senior theatre major from North Little Rock, Arkansas. At the McCoy she has performed in *Hamlet, The Laramie Project, Equus, Big Love, Metamorphoses* and, most recently, *The Tempest.* Also at the McCoy, she served as stage manager for *Higher Ground* and assistant stage manager for *Gianni Schicchi.* She was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Ostrander award for her role in *Hamlet* and the Irene Ryan award for her role in *Big Love.* Erin is a Fine Arts Scholar.

Amy Gray (Zofia)
A senior theatre major from Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Amy has been seen in the McCoy productions of *The Tempest, La caja misteriosa, Big Love, The Laramie Project,* and *Giants Have Us In their Books* as well as the recent student-produced staging of *Extremeties.* She won a Best Supporting Actress Ostrander award for her portrayal of Dora in *Equus.* She served as director's assistant on *Metamorphoses* in collaboration with The University of Memphis and works in the costume shop. Amy is a Fine Arts Scholar.

David Jilg (Scenic Designer)
A Rhodes alumnus and Associate Professor of Theatre, David has designed award-winning sets and/or costumes for many McCoy productions. Recent highlights include playing the role of Martin Dysart in *Equus* and directing Spanish-language productions such as *La caja misteriosa* and *Diatriba de amor contra un hombre sentado.*

Lindsay Johnson (Stage Manager)
Lindsay is a sophomore from Nashville, Tennessee, where she was seen on stage in *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Into the Woods* and *The Laramie Project.* She also has stage management experience from her high school production of *St. Joan* and *Metamorphoses,* the McCoy's joint collaboration with The University of Memphis. Lindsay is on the Dean's List for academic honors.

Celia Mason (Costume Shop Manager)
Celia has been involved in costuming the McCoy productions of *On the Verge, The World Goes Round, La caja misteriosa* and *The Tempest.* When she's not slaving away for us, Celia may be found quilting, watercoloring, enjoying photography or creating collage. She also likes an occasional bit of travel.

Wes Meador (Director)
Wes graduated from Rhodes with degrees in Theatre and English Literature. Some of Wes' favorite McCoy roles as a student include those in *J.B., The Actor's Nightmare, Assassins,* and *Blood Brothers,* for which he won a Best Actor in a Musical Ostrander award for his portrayal of Mickey. Since college, he has assistant directed *Amy's View* at Circuit Theatre and *Lost in Yonkers* at Theatre Memphis. He was also a driving force behind *Old Friends,* the McCoy's 25th anniversary celebration cabaret last fall. Wes is a Senior Media Planner with Archer Malmo Advertising, a job he credits landing in the business world to his theatre education.

Hank Neuhoff (Sound Designer and Sound Engineer)
Hank is a sophomore business administration major from Nashville, Tennessee. *Tongue of a Bird* is his first McCoy production.

Emily Popp (Charlotte)
A sophomore English major from Hamilton, Massachusetts, Emily is making her McCoy debut in *Tongue of a Bird.* No stranger to the arts, Emily is a company member of Rhodes' energetic improvisational troupe Contents Under Pressure and worked with last spring's Fine Arts Festival. She is a recipient of the Sheumaker Award for her scholastic achievements and is a member of the Kappa Delta sorority.

Rebecca Wolf (Lighting Designer)
Rebecca has returned to the McCoy after graduating from Rhodes in 2001 with a B.S. in chemistry. She is currently pursuing her M.F.A. in design for the theatre and is serving as a lighting design intern for us this spring. As an undergraduate, Rebecca designed the lighting for *Giants Have Us In their Books* and the set for *Kathie and the Hippopotamus.*

UPCOMING

SEASON 25 PERFORMANCES AND DATES

UBU ROI

By Alfred Jarry

Translated by Barbara Wright

Directed by Chris Davis '89

March 31, April 1, 6, 7, 8, 9