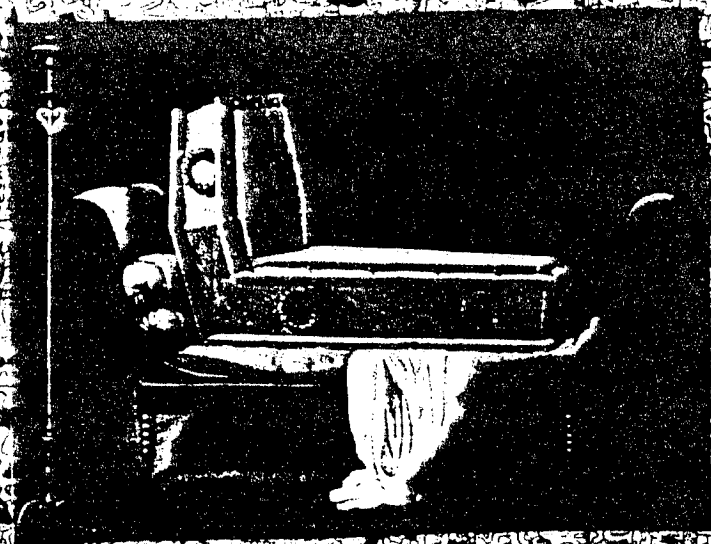


# Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

## Playbill for Suicide in b flat

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Suicide in B $\flat$



A Mysterious Overture

by Sam Sheperd

Rhodes College  
McCoy Theatre Company

Presents

*Suicide in B $\flat$*   
A Mysterious Overture

by Sam Shepard



Directed By	Cliff Spencer
Produced By	Patty Fitzgerald
Scenic Designer	Chad McGee
Lighting Designer	Jonathan Bumpas
Costume Designer	Alli Robbins
Sound Designer	Heather Ashcraft
Stage Manager	Susan Masson
Prop Mistress	Tonya Vaughn

Cast

Piano Player.....	Brett Cullum
Pablo.....	Rita Cooper
Louis.....	Jonathan Bumpas
Perrone.....	Patty Fitzgerald
Laureen.....	Alli Robbins
Niles.....	Stuart Turner
Paullette.....	Rachel Wortham

The action takes place in Niles' living room



Performance Dates:

April 16 & 17

**Heather Ashcraft** (Sound Designer) Hope you all enjoy the gunshots and mayhem tonight. They are my way of "going out with a bang," as I won't be returning to Rhodes next semester. Thanks to all for the memories. (I'm not being sarcastic this time; I mean that)

**Jonathan Bumpas** (Louis) MCMXCII. A Game of Chess. At the Risk of not sounding utterly clever, boyishly hysterical, and at the same time pretty damn funny, of being inarticulate, unbumpaslike, or in the other way around but in reverse unambiguousness and unimaginable in my word-type choices, or, God and Frank Bradley forbid, deconstructively misread into further misreadings based on a linguistic premises which is fortunately impotent and has no function and/or voice in arguing for a legit misreading in a culturally and historically shaped bio such as mine, and to avoid the embarrassment of latter finding that in the midst of my prose I confused a feminine ending with a masculine front, I will simply and seriously say that in the future I plan to take more risks that may or may not make all the difference. I'd hate for my parents to get word of what I'm unconsciously, and I mean unconsciously (or do I mean subconsciously) saying here; so anyway, "The gang wanted to give Oedipus Rex a going away present," so please, absolute quiet is the word. This is my own personal bio. This bio belongs to Jonathan Bumpas. I'm looking out for number one in this bio. Don't you be judging my bio. You think that's the purpose of bios? You think it's a reflection of the person, don't you? I don't go around judging your bio. You want to judge something you keep your eyes on the stage, or in a glass (Redundant bio writer, am I not?). Oh what the hell, look at my bio. Read it out loud if you like. Look at my beautiful, glorious, pain-staking, space-talking bio! I believe it has turned out just fine. I even feel confident enough to call it, A Monologue-like Kind of Bio of Bumpas. I do not claim to know anything in this bio that I do not know, ergo, I think it is safe to say that I know my own bio; and there's the rub, for it is in one's own bio of life that dreams may come. O sweet spontaneous bio, I shall wear my shirt sleeves rolled. j.j. bumpas {1971- }

**Rita Cooper** (Pablo) SBF—very attractive actress/singer-seeks lead roles in The Color Purple and The Wiz. Will Not Play Munchkin!! And Remember Rita "the quote queen" says, "Go from point A to B in life, making a straight line and ignore all speed bumps." And as a cheerleader on the football bus going to the game I say "My name is Rita and I think I'm bad, take a sip of my potion and move in slow motion. GIRLS-MMM She thinks she's bad. RITA-Correction MMM I know I'm bad. GIRLS-MMM She thinks she's fine. RITA-MMM Fine enough to blow ——— mind!!" Go Girl!!!

**Brett Cullum** (Piano Player) I am not a member of Company, I am not a pianist, and I am making my McCoy debut — Nor! I did however try out with about half of the people in Company as scene partners. It is only fitting that I accompany them again at the end of the year - even though 2 of the 3 were so scarred by scene work with me that they are not in the show. The other is clutching her bass and trembling. I am also glad that this time I'm not singing, not in white face, not tied to two dancers, and not speaking German. This is the last time you will ever see him on the McCoy stage. I mean it. Well... "When are COMPANY auditions?"

**Patty Fitzgerald** (Petrona) A proud woman who feels a special affinity for short canines. I hope to one day realize my dream of actually making a pleasant sound come from a saxophone. For the time being I'm content to dwell in unchartered realities, realities where final examinations in intense theatre classes are utterly taboo.

**Susan Masson** (Stage Manager) Girl of 100 lists "When I grow up, I want to be the best NAG ever." I'm not in right now but leave me a message & I'll get back to you when I get in. Now I know why they're called DEADlines.

**Chad McGee** (Scenic Designer) A couple of flats here, a couple of platforms there, a few bodyoutlines and you begin to realize that all the world really is a stage. For the interest of time — since the show opens tonight and I'm still finishing this program and getting the theatre ready — I won't be long winded. Hope you enjoy our stage. Later.

**Alli Robbins** (Laureen) I went to New York City once — or so my mother tells me. "You don't remember? You were two weeks old, and I was breast-feeding you during New York City rush hour traffic en route to Florida from Rhode Island. Are you sure you don't remember?" — I want to go back someday. My Part in this collaboration is dedicated to my father, Frederick Robbins, and thanks ChickenHead.

**Cliff Spencer** (Director) I'm not the hair club president, in fact, I'm not even a client. I think it would be cool to use the unfurnished room in my apartment for a Chia pet refuge. I enjoy going to Walgreens and smelling all the different kinds of deodorant. I used to have a humongous black car that was called "The Batmobile," but somebody stole it. Cats are okay, but they don't make the same kind of companion that a dog does. Every theatricality has its practicality. If I run my air conditioner in my room for a long time, it doesn't get that cold. If I got a job on the Starship Enterprise, I probably wouldn't get promoted. I used to have a terrible fear of barking dogs, especially barking poodles, I was bitten by a small barking poodle as a child, but now I think I'm getting over it. If I was Elvis, I could do anything I wanted. I hope to see the adjective "swell" return to the mainstream of our working vocabulary. I just found out from a paper I got back that I own a calculator/word-speller that makes mistakes too. "Intelligence is a risky business." Yes, Virginia it is possible that Santa Claus could, in fact, actually exist, but don't get your hopes up. Time passes. We live. This bird has flown. Enjoy the show.

**Stuart Turner** (Niles) "Love is blind. God is love. Therefore Ray Charles is God." —P&H Bathroom Graffiti  
I would like to wish my twin luck tonight and I'll see you after the show!

**Tonya Vaughn** (Props Mistress) I am a world renowned playwright who has joined Company here at the McCoy as dramaturg, among other things, for this production. I'm a surrealist by Nature, and have taken time out of my fast-paced

life-style to come to the aid of Susan. In my free time, I enjoy constantly quoting movies and equating everyone I meet with the animal they resemble most. Currently, I am recovering from injuries received after a fall from the light grid during last week's light hang. I was performing acrobatics while under the influence of hallucinogens secreted by my three pet roads; Jerry, Sproker, and Diamond Jim. I come to the McCoy after a sojourn with a band of Nude Shakespearean actors. My ideas of Shepard in the Nude were well received by everyone except Alli, who didn't want to be out of a job. I wish everyone luck tonight, especially my "twin" — See you on the light board.

**Rachel Olivia Wortham** (Paulette) Well, when they told me that I was going to have to write this thing, something came waiting over me and all of a sudden I was one with Wayne. It was almost as if we were sharing the same brain, because I found myself exuberantly saying "Shia!" "As if!" Its not that I didn't want to share a little about myself with you, it's just that I have absolutely NO idea of where to begin! So hang in here with me, this is going to be a stream of consciousness type thing. I am 5'1", have green eyes, mahogany hair, olive skin, and I'm a Theatre/Music Bridge Major. I was last seen in Cabaret as one of z Kit Kat gurlz. I have also performed in The School for Scandal, Merrily We Roll Along, and Candide, here at the McCoy. I have had a diverse theatrical career thus far, I often find myself playing young boys or extreme tarts. I absolutely love it! It gives me a chance to try a little of this and a little of that, while I get to where near costumes! Well, I've run out of time to write this thing. We theatre people have a hard time with this time management thing. We have no time! Anyway, I hope you enjoy the show, or if you're one of "those" people, who never read the program until hours or days after the performance, I hope you enjoyed it. Adios, A dour, Avoir, auf Wiedersen, and good night. And as my new partner in crime would say, "Party On Man/Woman!!!!"

### *Director's Note*

Welcome to the show. I hope you enjoy the performance. I want to make the point clear that what we do here in the theatre does not always have to tie up in a nice knot. The leading men and leading ladies do not always have to kiss and make up and sing a funny song. Things don't have to be normal. Confusion does not always have to be upsetting. In fact, confusion can be very invigorating. Things may not fly so straight in what you see here, but what's the point in always going one direction? As Laureen says, "What's the point in messing around in the same old dimension all the time?" Twist and turn and jump and yell and fall out of your chair. Give it a try. Have fun. Whatever you do, experience it. Let this bird fly.

O me! Oh life!

O me! O life! of the questions of these recurring,  
 Of the endless trains of the faithless, of cities fill'd with the foolish,  
 Of myself forever reproaching myself, (for who more foolish than I, and who more faithless?)  
 Of eyes that vainly crave the light, of the objects mean, of the struggle ever renew'd,  
 Of the poor results of all, of the plodding and sordid crowds I see around me,  
 Of the empty and useless years of the rest, with the rest me intertwined,  
 The question, O me! so sad, recurring- What good amid these, O me, O life?

Answer

That you are here- that life exists and identity,  
 that power play goes on, and you may contribute a verse

-Walt Whitman

**Set Crew**  
 McCoy Company  
 Theatre Production Classes  
 McCoy Work Study Students

**Make-Up Assistant**  
 Tina Bryant

**Running Crew**  
 Tonya Vaughn Light Board  
 Kiel Wilson Sound  
 Tina Bryant Spot  
 Jenny Kuykendall Spot

**Assistant Stage Manager**  
 Tonya Vaughn

**Thanks to**  
 Frankie Grace  
 Jim Holcomb  
 Mr. Lincoln's Costume Shop  
 Beth Lacaeyse  
 Karen Jones  
 Terry Scott  
 Alex Alesansri - Bruce  
 Jeremy Ramey  
 Shea Flinn  
 Margo Raiford

Nancy and Sidney the roach  
 Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk  
 Jamie Bogner, layout GOD

and thanks to Cookie, Frank, Tony, and Henry for setting us free and giving us the chance to fall or fly-- and anyone else who helped with this creation