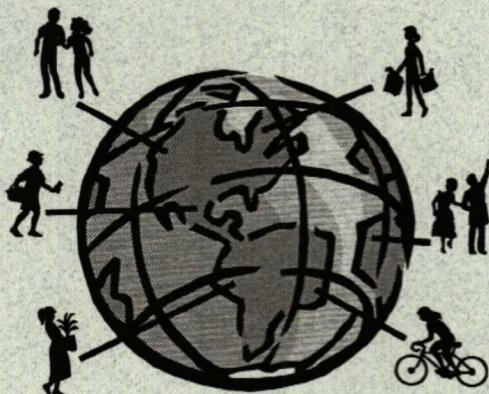


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presents

Six Degrees of Separation



by John Guare

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From the Director...

It took me a while to write the director's note. I racked my brain trying to figure out how to put all of the ideas and commentaries of *Six Degrees of Separation* into a clever little set of paragraphs. There are so many of them and each so complex that the mission overwhelmed me. I could write essays about social and racial inequality, the theory of six degrees of separation, multiple perspectives and their truths or about a million other things. However, I will not. I am going to share with you the theme that resonates most with me: The death of the imagination.

In truth, I have been obsessed with this idea for years. At what point in our lives do we stop dreaming? When do we give in to daily monotony and follow the status quo? It is a rather ambiguous line we cross. And when we do cross what happens? In the case of Flan and Ouisa, they secretly satisfy the growing hollowness of being in a dreamless state by collecting others' sarcastic witticisms, haughty commentaries and white tower tirades. Then pretend they never crossed the line by making the thoughts and anecdotes their own.

At some point, most of us become aware of the line's existence and on which side we stand. Sometimes random people enter our life and make us reevaluate. Other times we have a "eureka in the bathtub." Or perhaps, in your case, a little one-act play mirrors your own life. Whenever we become aware, we have a choice to make as to how to use the knowledge. As you watch Flan and Ouisa make their choices, consider what yours will be.

*-Amanda Ruediger
Director*

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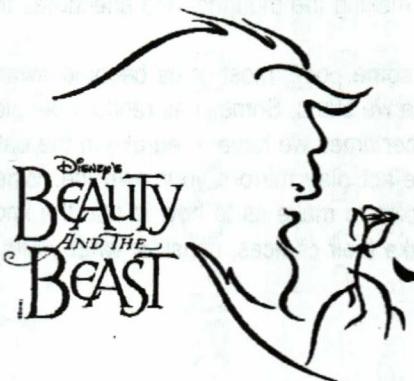
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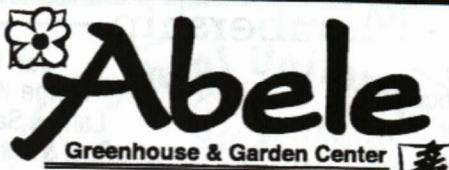
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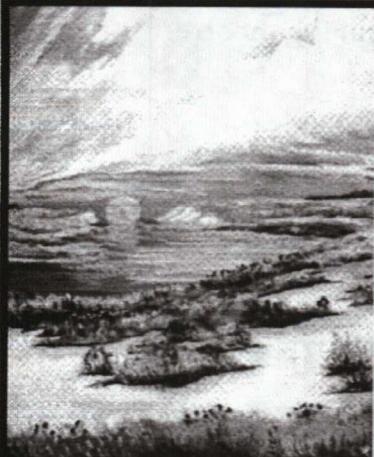
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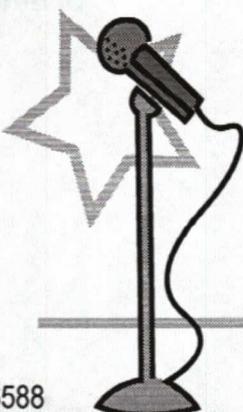
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Six Degrees of Separation

by John Guare

Director
Amanda Ruediger

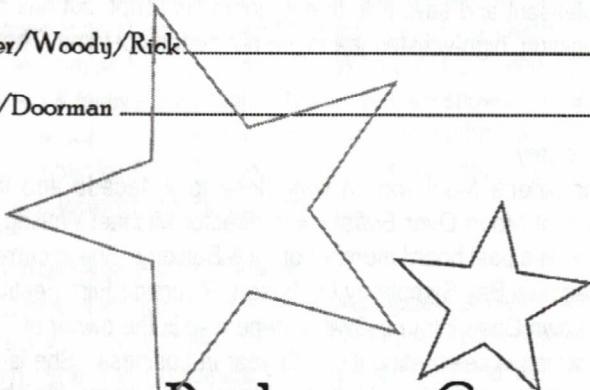
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Cast

Ouisa Katie Sunderman
Flan Steve Webber
Paul Bakari McClendon
Geoffrey Arlene Maul
Larkin Kevin Profitt
Trent/Dr. Fine Evan Werner
Elizabeth Liberty Starkweather
Tess Jennifer Profitt
Ben/Detective/Police Officer W.Roderick Watson
Bustler/Woody/Rick Chad Hamlin
Doug/Doorman Chris Clifford



Production Crew

Director Amanda Ruediger
Stage Manager Steve Magstadt
Scenic & Lighting Designer Marc Beaudin
Set Construction Len Callard, Dick Housner,
Fred Housner, George Snyder
Scenic Painter Mary Swift

Cast Bios

Chris Clifford • Doug/Doorman

Chris is a 17-year-old senior at Bridgeport High School. He plans on attending Lawrence Tech after graduation in hopes of being an architect. This is Chris' second production at Pit & Balcony, his first being *Bye Bye Birdie*. When he's not designing houses or creating blueprints he loves shredding on his Burton Snowboard or wakeboarding in the summer. He also plays guitar and sings in his band. He'd like to give a shout out to the stunningly beautiful Jennifer Profitt for lighting his way.

Chad Hamlin • Hustler/Woody/Rick

Chad is originally from Lapeer, MI. He has worked extensively with the drama department of Lapeer East, has participated in productions at S.V.S.U. and is currently attending classes at Delta College. Previous roles have included "Ugly" in the children's musical *Honk* and "Prince Charming" in *Happily Never After*. Chad is generally pleasant and says little that is not in his script, but has made it known that, in his opinion, high-waisted jeans are not period costume. They are a travesty.

Arlene Maul • Geoffrey

The last production Arlene Maul was in was close to a decade ago in Pit & Balcony's production of *Moon Over Buffalo* with director Michael Walling, whom she worships! Arlene is a past board member of Pit & Balcony. She is currently on the board of The Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, Riverside Film Festival, and coordinator of The Lawn Chair Film Festival. Arlene also is the owner of The Red Eye Coffee House which is celebrating its 15th year in business. She is excited to be part of a play with her close friends, Katie, Steve, and Liberty. It's also been a wonderful experience working with Amanda as a director and Steve as a stage manager. Thanks Katie, I owe you one!

Bakari McClendon • Paul

Bakari is a poet actively involved in his community who would like to thank God for his gifts and his family for their continued support. His theatre credits include *The Exonerated*, *Top Dog/Underdog*, and *Macbeth*. "This one's for Donta."

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Cast Bios

Jennifer Profitt • Tess

Jennifer is a cunning 19-year-old Saginaw native currently attending the University of Michigan-Flint and is a double-major in Communications and English Writing in hopes of being a national news anchor. You may have seen her in Pit & Balcony's *Bye Bye Birdie*. She enjoys nothing more than ripping up fresh powder on her snowboard in the winter or skimming along some waves on her wakeboard in the summer. She'd like to give special thanks to Chris Clifford, who's motivated her to be her very best and stuck with her through thick and thin.

Kevin Profitt • Larkin

If you listen to country music, the station you have turned to and the announcer you have heard for more years than any other in Saginaw is Kevin Profitt. There is no one on the radio today who has been on the air longer...26 years to be exact...and there has been no one ranked number one in his or her time slot more than Kevin at 98fm KCQ. Always looking for a creative outlet, Kevin entered the theatre to appear in *Bye Bye Birdie* at Pit and Balcony with his daughter, Jennifer. They again appear on stage in tonight's production of *Six Degrees of Separation*. You have seen him as the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* ... and as an emcee at P & B's always fun & festive *Diva Night*. Then there are shows in which Kevin has worked behind the scenes as a stagehand, lighting technician or as a newly elected board member for Pit & Balcony. Let's hope his career in the theatre lasts as long and is as successful as his day job.

Liberty Starkweather • Elizabeth

Liberty wants it known she is a marketing student at Delta College and Northwood University who enjoys rowing and thrifting in her spare time (but not often simultaneously). She had participated in many productions with the Bay City Players, Stages of Discovery, and Share the Funds. While Liberty's face may be new at Pit & Balcony, her family is not: Liberty represents, "In Glorious Technicolor," the 4th generation of her tribe to grace its stage. She is continually grateful for the support of her family and friends, (in spite of anything she might say in the heat of the moment).

Trent's Sofa

Gladys had a hard life on the West Side of Saginaw. She was destitute on the street (literally) in 2004 where she met a sympathetic young man from Bay City who set her up in a new life in the developing Cathedral District. She would like to thank David Sedaris for the bravery of his essays and hopes to have a big and illustrious career on the stage before retiring to a college dorm to write her memoirs.

Cast Bios

Katie Sunderman • Ouisa

An East Coast native, Katie's theatrical experiences derive from her halcyon prep-school years into her art school/college years in NYC, which at this point seems like another geologic time. A fave was being cast as the mute grandmother in *The Effect of Gamma Rays On Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds* and the of-the-moment improvisations with art school buddies in the infamous circle at Greenwich Village's Washington Square Park. But in truth, there isn't much of an acting vita for Katie, so much as a self-possessed desire (and flair for melodrama) to be in the lights. And so it is, with a palpable zest and excitement that she takes to the Pit's stage with a bevy of fine actors under the direction of their smart & spunky director and stage manager. None of which would be possible without the flexibility and support of her husband Fred who lovingly spent his evening hours with their 2 1/2 year-old son, Will, while she traipsed off to rehearsals. Katie dedicates this performance to her mother Casey Lessere, a fabulous bon-vivant who oozes chutzpah and to the memory of her brilliant father, Eugene Lessere, a New Yorker, artist, playwright ad-man and generously encouraging soul.

W. Roderick Watson • Trent/Dr. Fine

Roderick is an interior designer at Art Sample and Fiege's who loves his work, antique clocks, and ice cream, and is distractingly fascinated with-though sometimes caught speechless by-everything life has to offer. Roderick assisted backstage with the 303 Collective's recent production of *Reefer Madness*, but is making his stage debut in Pit & Balcony's production of *Six Degrees of Separation*.

Steve Webb • Flan

Some of Steve's recent shows include stage managing for *Cabaret*, and appearing in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Frankenstein, Inc.*, *Burn This*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa*, as well as a Saginaw Convention and Visitors Bureau TV spot shot locally to promote the region, in which he met his co-star, Katie Sunderman. Playing a married couple then proved a good match, as they now take the stage for a second round as husband and wife.

Evan Werner • Ben/Detective/Police Officer

Evan has been involved in theatre (or at least drama) since he was very small and got involved in this show because Liberty told him to. When asked for a bio, Evan said he wasn't sure what to write, but did share that he was fond of the color green.

Production Bios

Amanda Ruediger • Director

Amanda has worked at Pit and Balcony since high school and has "worked" her way up into the eschelons of community theatre. Although she was not originally asked to direct *Six Degrees of Separation*, she is very happy to be helping. Thankfully, enough actors were wrangled in to helping as well.

Steve Magstadt • Stage Manager

Steve is a belletrist who likes to arrange random objects in bowls, boxes and jars while contemplating his scheme to convert the Freeland Walleye Festival into a high fashion charity event to end world hunger. He has participated backstage or in the orchestra pit-in SVSU's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Pirates of Penzance*, and *Meet Me in St. Louis* at the Bay City Players, The 303 Collective's production of *Reefer Madness*, and Pit & Balcony's production of *Cabaret*. He would like to thank his partner, Roderick, for their life together; sane or otherwise it is always an adventure and never to be missed.

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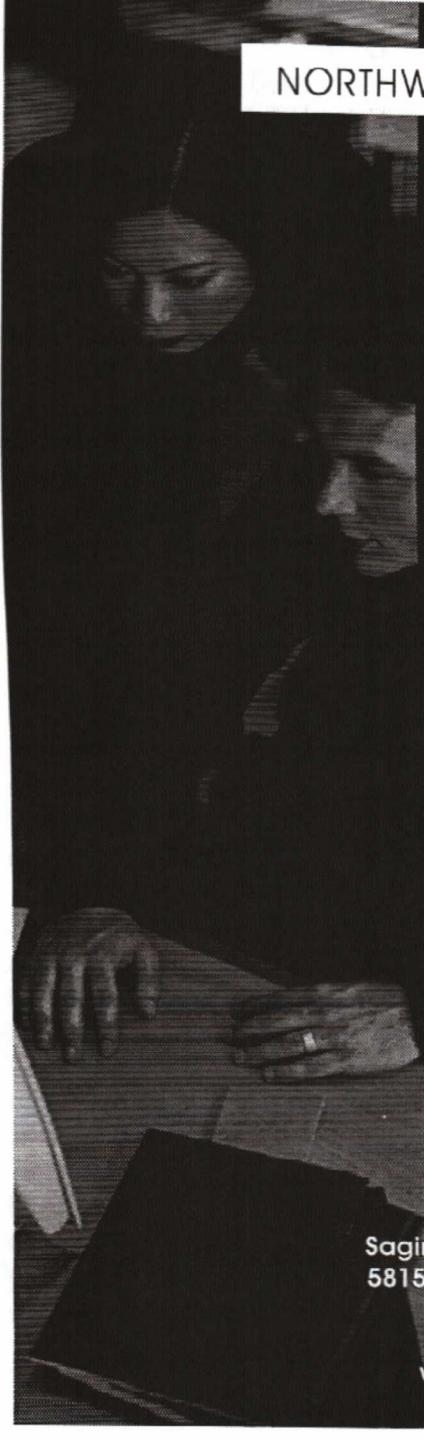
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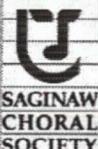
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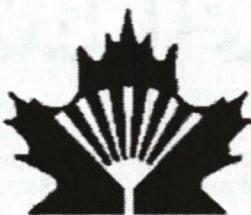
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Box Office: Open 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning two weeks prior to opening night through the last weekend of the run of the show. Tickets for any show may be purchased over the phone with a credit card or online at www.pitandbalconytheatre.com and held at the box office for pick up.

Cameras & Recorders: Not permitted during performances.

Handicapped: Certain portions of the house are designed for wheelchairs. For best accommodations, please inform us when making your reservation.

Smoking: Pit and Balcony Theatre is a non-smoking building. Patrons are welcome to smoke outside.

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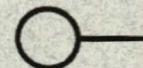
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