# UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA

#### Мернізто

By Klaus Mann, Adapted by Ariane Mnouchkine The Playhouse Theatre

April 21 - May 1

#### Summerfolk

By Maxim Gorky
A new American translation
by Lora Bratoff and Aaron Levin
The Penthouse Theatre
May 5-15

CALL 543-4880 FOR SUBSCRIPTION AND TICKET INFORMATION!

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#### SCHOOL OF DRAMA

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Playwriting, M. E. Comtois
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Design, Sarah Nash Gates
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Acting, Corey Hansen
Acting, Robyn Hunt

Theatre History, Richard Lorenzen
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Acting, Steve Pearson
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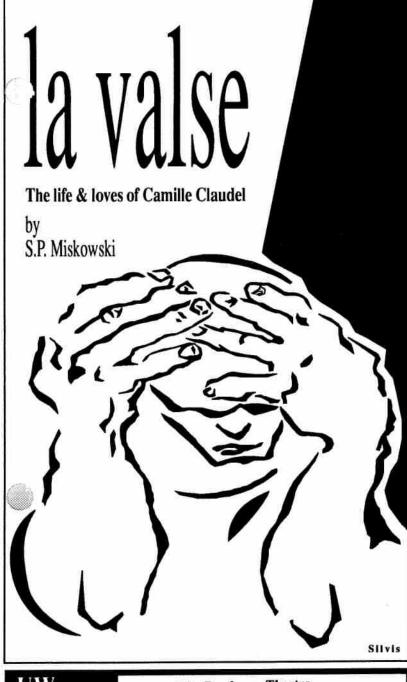
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UW
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DRAMA

The Penthouse Theatre 54th Season 399th Production April 7-17, 1993

#### DRAMATURG'S NOTES

A shame to her bourgeois family, and especially to he world-renowned brother, sculptor Camille Claudel was sentenced by her family to spend the last thirty years of her life, 1913 -1943, in asylums. Her creativity and fate have been ignored by most accounts of the period. Only in the past decade has her life and work been reconsidered. Fifty years after her death, historians and public alike are beginning to recognize Camille Claudel for both her accomplishment and her plight as a woman artist.

This new play by S.P. Miskowski features a cast of stellar characters who represent some of France's greatest modern artists in sculpture, poetry, music and theatre. Some names are more familiar than others. The play, however, must be considered as more than a historical account of how these creative lives were woven together during two of France's most prolific artistic "moments"; La belle époque and post-World War II.

This play examines Camille's life and, in some ways, her loves. But it does so through the eyes of her tormented brother, Paul Claudel. The action begins at the end of his life, as the poetpolitician finds himself haunted by the faces and voices of his own past life and loves. As Paul sifts through the baffling facts and fictions he has created for himself about his affection for Camille, we discover that the source of his artisitic inspiration had always been the very sister whom he had consigned to oblivion so many years before, the incorrigible Camille whose esprit never ceased to attract and repel him at the same time

In many ways this is a play about our muses - the obsessions which move us to create, the demons which drive us to destroy. Some of these characters face their demons, embrace their muses; others wage battle against their very urges to create. All address what it means to be an artist.

S.P. Miskowski will graduate from the M.F.A. Playwriting program in May. Her other plays include Duende (On the Boards, New Works Festival), The Last Rodin (Commissioned by A Contemporary Theatre), Wojcik (Directed by Stepan Simek, at the Playhouse in February), Feasting, Take Me Away, and Verging. Miskowski has interned at New City Theater and is the recepient of an NEA Fellowship in Playwriting.

## LA VALSE

### The Life & Loves of Camille Claudel

Written By S.P. Miskowski

Director MICHAEL QUINN

Costume Design SEAN SULLIVAN

Set Design SUSAN EDIE

Lighting Design MARK BARATTA

Composer PAUL GOLDING

Sound Technician

WILLIAM SPAULDING

Technical Director CHUCK DRISCOLL

Stage Manager STACEY J. WARNER

Dramaturg SABRINA PRIELAIDA

#### THE CAST

Paul, Age 13 BENEDICT BROWN

Camille, Age 17/Reine Claudel GINA MANGELS

Sister St. Hubert/Maman INGRID SANAI

Paul Claudel **SCOTT HOLLAND** 

Jean-Louis/Mesa/Auguste Rodin JAMES NEWMAN

Edwige/Yse/Camille Claudel ERIKA LATTA

Gaston/Claude Debussy JAMIE MCRAE

Sister Marie/Louise Claudel ARIADNE SHAFFER

O chaste Muses! doubly chaste sister! and you, drunken Terpischore! How did you think you could capture this wild thing, hold her by the hands, throttle her with the hymn like a bird that sings only when caged, O Muses patiently carved on the stony sarcophagus, she is alive, Her breast heaves! What care I if it breaks the rhythm of your choir?

-- Paul Claudel, The Muses

#### **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

Assistant Stage Manager

Jenny Fox\*

Propmaster

Alex Danilchik Michael Perrone

Assitant Technical Director Assistant Lighting Designer

Naho Shioya

Set Construction Crew

Bob Boehler, Craig Brown, Chuck Driscoll, Donald Dugan, Laura

Hibbs, Tanya Hordney, Mark Hoffman, Brent Meyers, Shawnrick

Ogdahl, Diane Palmieri, Kim

Petterson, Leilah Stewart

Costume Construction Crew

Cynthia Abbot, Jennifer Mathiesen.

Sarah Murdock

Running Crew

Andre Canty, Ellen Dessler, Ursula Dalzell, Dustin Hughes, Laurina La

Stella, Leslie Miersch

House Management

Sarah Chambreau, Young Chung,

Production Office Staff

Elena Mihailova, Hye Rey Yom Rebecca Brown, Kara Morin, Margo

Whitcomb

Tom Silwa

Graphics

Ticket Sales UW Arts Ticket Office

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Steven Alter, Mark Bly, Betty Comtois, Arlene Hamilton, Ron Heneghan, Aaron Levin, Diana Smith, Magdalena Tobe, Barry Witham, Intiman Theatre Company, A Contemporary Theatre, The Seattle Repertory Theatre. The Empty Space Theatre, The Bathhouse Theatre.

#### SUGGESTED READING

Grunfeld, Frederic V. Knapp, Bettina L. Paris, Reine-Marie.

Rodin: A Biography. 1987.

Paul Claudel. 1982.

Camille Claudel. 1984.

\*Music and Art Foundation Scholarship Recipient

-- There will be one fifteen-minute intermission --