

UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA

MEPHISTO

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!**

*In Special Recognition of Contributors to the School of Drama Endowed
Scholarship Campaign 1992-1993*

The School of Drama would like to thank the following individuals for their donations to the School of Drama Endowed Scholarship Fund. In recognition of their gifts, contributor's names will be engraved in a place of honor at The Glenn Hughes Penthouse Theatre. Our goal is to raise \$150,000 by July 1993. For more information call 688-1111.

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SCHOOL OF DRAMA

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Executive Director, Barry Witham
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Design, William Forrester
Design, Sarah Nash Gates
Technical Director, Jay O. Glerum
Acting, Corey Hansen
Acting, Robyn Hunt

Theatre History, Richard Lorenzen
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Acting, Steve Pearson
Theory, Michael Quinn
Acting, Judith Shahn
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Library Technician, Cindy Blanding
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Stage Technician, Alex Danilchik
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la valse

The life & loves of Camille Claudel

by
S.P. Miskowski



Silvis

UW
School of
DRAMA

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

DRAMATURG'S NOTES

A shame to her bourgeois family, and especially to her 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 poet-politician 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 artistic 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 recipient of an NEA Fellowship in Playwriting.

- Sabrina Prielaida -

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 Terpsichore!
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
Assistant Technical Director Michael Perrone
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, Lillah 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, Elena Mihailova, Hye Rey Yom
Production Office Staff Rebecca Brown, Kara Morin, Margo Whitcomb
Graphics Tom Silwa
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. *Rodin: A Biography*. 1987.
Knapp, Bettina L. *Paul Claudel*. 1982.
Paris, Reine-Marie. *Camille Claudel*. 1984.

*Music and Art Foundation Scholarship Recipient

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