ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Night-life. Letters, journals, bourbon
sloshed in the glass. Poems crucified on the wall,
dissected, their bird-wings severed
like trophies. No one lives in this room
without living through some kind of crisis.

No one lives in this room
without confronting the whiteness of the wall
behind the poems, planks of books,
photographs of dead heroines.
Without contemplating last and late
the true nature of poetry. The drive
to connect. The dream of a common language.

Thinking of lovers, their blind faith, their
experienced crucifixions,
my envy is not simple. I have dreamed of going to bed
as walking into clear water ringed by a snowy wood
white as cold sheets, thinking, I'll freeze in there.
My bare feet are numbed already by the snow
but the water
is mild, I sink and float
like a warm amphibious animal
that has broken the net, has run
through fields of snow leaving no print;
this water washes off the scent —

You are clear now
of the hunter, the trapper
the warden of the mind —

yet the warm animal dreams on
of another animal
swimming under the snow-flecked surface of the pool,
and wakes, and sleeps again.

No one sleeps in this room without
the dream of a common language.

— Adrienne Rich

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Alan Weldin, scene shop manager
Nancy Vaeth, costumer

* Deceased

Dream of a Common Language
by Heather McDonald

The Playhouse Theatre
33rd Season
194th Production
March 3 - 14, 1999
Cast

**Dream of a Common Language**
by Heather McDonald

Directed by Chazz Rose**

Set Design: J. Clay Satterfield
Costume Design: Kristin A. Hubbard
Lighting Design: Steve TenEyck
Technical Director: Alan Weldin
Dramaturg: Ken Cerniglia
Stage Manager: Amber Spradlin
Prop Master: Alex Danilchik

A country house and garden outside Paris. Sometime in the 1870's.

~Act One~
Late morning through evening

~Act Two~
Evening through dawn

There will be one ten-minute intermission.

About the Playwright

As playwright-in-residence at Arena Stage, Ms. McDonald was commissioned to write *The Rivers and Rainiers*, nominated for a 1988 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play. Her first play, *Vanlone's Bicycle*, premiered at Yale Repertory Theatre before moving Off-Broadway. *Available Light* was produced at Actors Theatre of Louisville. *Dream of a Common Language* was originally commissioned and developed at the Women's Project. Berkeley Repertory Theatre and The Women's Project presented co-premieres of the play in 1992, directed by Sharon Ott and Liz Diamond, respectively. A recipient of NEA Playwrighting and McKnight Foundation Fellowship, she teaches at American University and George Mason University.

Suggested Reading

Impressionist Side by Side: Their friendships, rivalries and artistic exchanges by Barbara Ehrenreich White, 1996 Alfred A. Knopf, NY

Berthe Monet by Anne Higonnet, 1990 University of California Press

Production Staff

Asst. Stage Manager: Greg Perkins
Asst. Costume Designers: Kimberley Gill & Julie Anderson
Asst. Lighting Designer: Wiley Young
Sound Recordings: Jason Brennan & Left Right Stars
Directing Thesis Advisor: Robyn Hunt
Master Carpenter: Kris Shaw
Master Electrician: Ignacio Bravo
Set Construction: Julie M. Anderson, Will Kahle, David Morris, Clay Satterfield, Steve TenEyck
Costume Construction: Cynthia Albate, Tina George, Kimberley Gill, Christy Vagge, Grandpa, Vida Jank, 211 & 290 costume lab students
Dyers: Tina George, Kimberley Gill, Kristin A. Hubbard
Follow Spot Operators: Nina Oakes, Shannon Deskins
Light Board Operator: Melissa Lambright
Sound Board Operator: Jeremy Miller
Running Crew: James Barker, Shannon Deskins, Conrad Dofty, Edna Kuper, Patrick Peterson, Carrie Ams Shepard, Chris Viro, Kate Wallack
House Management: Michael Thompson
Production Office: James Athan, Jude Domski

Tickets

Special Thanks: University of Washington Housing and Food Services, Tyson Chicken, Menny Hall, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Tom Burke, Valene Curtis-Newton, Robert Dahlstrom, Josie Gardner, Mark Harrison, Robyn Hunt, Steve Pearson, Patrick Robinson, Deb Trout, Jude Domski, Thaloc Rivas, J. Daniel Stanley, Caden Manson, Brian Klass, Christopher Lane, Anne Stewart.