

SLED

Notes from the Director

Judith Thompson, one of Canada's leading contemporary playwrights is also an actor, university professor, and mother of four. She lives in Toronto in the very neighborhood this play takes place. Her other plays include THE CRACK-WALKER, LION IN THE STREETS, TORNADO and I AM YOURS. WHITE BITING DOG was produced here at the School of Drama in 1993.

I am drawn to this play, SLED, because the writing, a juxtaposition of short, economical scenes and poetic stream-of-consciousness monologues, allows us to shift from a recognizable grittiness to an operatic, larger than life experience. I am compelled by the story, dark as it is, of innocence abused leading to senseless violence. Each character in the play struggles with identity: Annie, her Gaelic background; Joe's Italian one; Jack, his rejected French Canadian childhood; Evangeline, her Native-American roots; and Kevin, who was robbed of his identity altogether. Film-like in structure, it's magic realism style transcends the every day world to include ghosts and mythic symbolism, for example, the Iroquois belief in the northern lights, in which the lights were seen as actual spirits of dead ancestors, who died through loss of blood.

Judith Thompson wrote in an article about playwrighting and her process, "...how can I represent people I abhor? ...if I give refuge in my soul to monstrous characters and nurture them inside me, won't they make a monster of me? Isn't even the temporary experience of an evil impulse enough to damage me forever? Or is it perhaps an act of purification: to dig out and face the evil possibilities in oneself may be to cleanse oneself, to face my greatest fears while not fully understanding them; to fall down that hole again, knowing, knowing that I will find the light, this is, for me, what it is to write a play."

SUGGESTED READING:

Canadian Theatre Review 1996 PN 2009 C35 86-89

Canada, Quebec and the use of Nationalism by Ramsay Cook.

SCHOOL OF DRAMA

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Sarah Nash Gates

FACULTY

Professors: Robert Dahlstrom, Steve Pearson, Barry Witham

Associate Professors: Robyn Hunt, William Forrester

Assistant Professors: Sarah Bryant-Bertail, Valerie Curtis-Newton,

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Lecturers: Tom Burke, Judith Shahn, Deborah Trout

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RETIRED, EMERITUS FACULTY AND FORMER PROGRAM HEADS

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B. Davis, Gregory Falls*, Vanick Galstaun, Robert Gray, Agnes Haaga,

Donal (Dan) Harrington*, Robert Hobbs,

Paul Hostetler, Glenn Hughes*, Robert Loper, Warren Lounsbury*,

Michael Quinn*, Duncan Ross*, Geraldine Siks, Jack Sydow,

Aurora Valentineti, Jack Wolcott

STAFF

Kris Bain, *marketing and pr manager*

Bob Boehler, *stage technician*

Nacho Bravo, *master electrician*

Malcolm Brown, *stage technician*

Sue Bruns, *office assistant*

Alex Danilchik, *stage technician*

Josie Gardner, *costume shop manager*

Arlene Hamilton, *administrator*

Dorothy Kerst, *graduate programs*

Laurie L. Kurutz, *costumer*

Cecile Kummerer, *computer technician*

Scott Perkins, *fiscal technician*

Anne Stewart, *general manager*

Joanne Tall, *secretary*

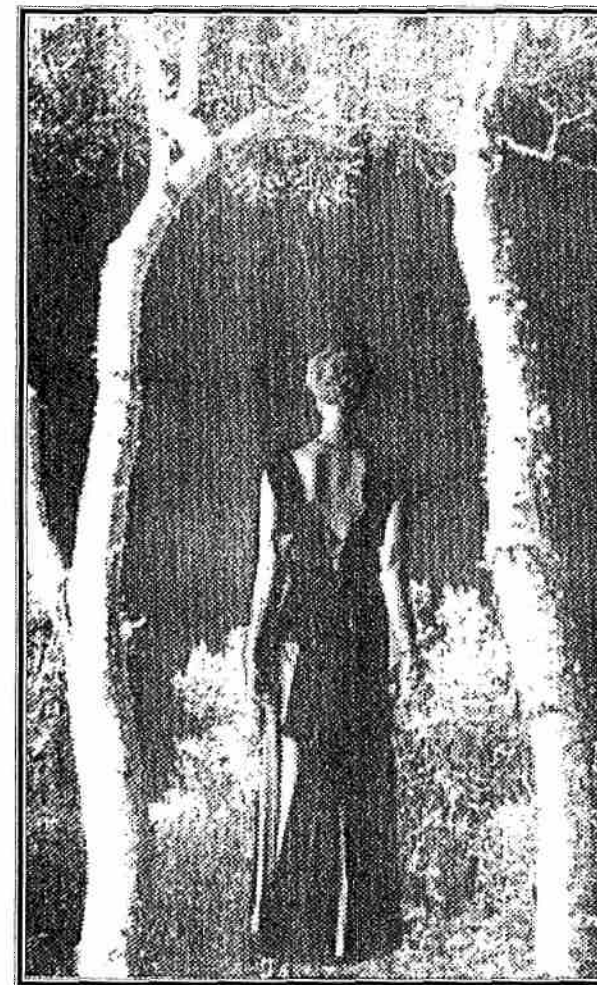
Rebecca Traber, *office assistant*

Alan Weldin, *scene shop manager*

Nanci Vaeth, *costumer*

* Deceased

SLED



By Judith Thompson



The Penthouse Theatre

59th Season

421st Production

February 17 - 28th, 1999

CAST
(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

ANNIE DELANEY	<i>Ellen Orenstein</i>
JOE	<i>Jason Gingold</i>
VOLKER, MIKE HEAD, M.C.	<i>Craig Bachmann</i>
MARSHA, MOTHER, CARMELLA	<i>Jennifer Cozza</i>
JACK PREVOST	<i>Nathan Guisinger</i>
KEVIN DORNER	<i>Peter Balkwill</i>
EVANGELINE MELNYK	<i>Ana Olivo</i>

TIME
The Present

SETTINGS
Toronto

*A lodge in Northern Ontario and its snowmobile trails
A wilderness farther north*

There will be two ten-minute intermissions.

SLED
BY JUDITH THOMPSON

DIRECTED BY JUDITH SHAHN

SET DESIGN	<i>Ross MacQuarrie</i>
LIGHTING DESIGN	<i>Juliet Chia</i>
COSTUME DESIGN	<i>Tina George</i>
FIGHT DIRECTOR	<i>Geoff Alm</i>
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	<i>Scott Capehart</i>
SOUND DESIGNER	<i>Jesse Brown</i>
DRAMATURG	<i>Shiela McNerney</i>
STAGE MANAGER	<i>Stormy Edwards</i>
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	<i>Leslie Alice Jewitt</i>
PROP MASTER	<i>Caden Manson</i>

ANNIE'S SONGS
*Lyrics by Judith Thompson; Music by Bill Thompson
Arranged & played by Scott Capehart*

OPENING MUSIC
Composed by Scott Capehart

CREE SONGS
Lyrics by Pamela Mathews

PRODUCTION STAFF

DANCE CONSULTANT	<i>Karen Omaben</i>
GABLIC CONSULTANT	<i>Colleen Roney</i>
RUNNING CREW	<i>Kristy Becher, Donna Bergman, Christian Douglas, Phil Emerson, John Gross, Keala Milles, Xan Olman, Bryan Rink, John Spencer Thorson, Marie Wickland</i>
PROGRAM COVER/ FLYER DESIGN	<i>Judith Shahn</i>
HOUSE MANAGEMENT	<i>Michael Thompson</i>
PRODUCTION OFFICE	<i>James Aitken, Jude Donski</i>
TICKETS	<i>UW Arts Tickets</i>

Special Thanks: Jason Brennan and Left Right Studios, Josie Gardner, Steve Pearson, Seattle Opera, Massimo Serifini, Shorecrest High School, John Verhaeden.



Food for the Opening Night Reception was generously provided by
RAINDANCER RESTAURANT
located on University Avenue between 43rd & 45th Avenues.

UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA

Dream of a Common Language

by Heather McDonald
Playhouse Theatre
March 3 - 14, 1999

Call UW Arts Ticket Office 543-4880