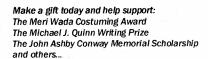
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# On The Verge



by Eric Overmyer directed by Chazz Rose

> THE PENTHOUSE THEATRE 61ST SEASON 424TH PRODUCTION NOVEMBER 8-19, 2000

# ON THE VERGE

by Eric Overmyer directed by Chazz Rose

SET DESIGN Ellen C. King COSTUME DESIGN Ellen C. King LIGHTING DESIGN Laura Jean Wickman STAGE MANAGER Paula Shepperd ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Brooke Hendricks

PROP MASTER Amy Boyce

The play begins in 1888. In Terra Incognita.

## CAST

MARY Emily Cedergreen FANNY Suzanne Morrison ALEX Barbara Suiter ALPHONSE, Jonathan Martin GROVER. YETI.

THE GORGE TROLL, MR. COFFEE, MADAME NHU, **GUS & NICKY PARADISE** 

There will be one intermission.

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Jennie Proby SET DESIGN ASSISTANT Eric Beauzay

COSTUME ASSISTANTS Kim Moréy & Amber Maurina Lewis

Ellen C. King HAIR/MAKEUP SET CONSTRUCTION Eric Beauzay

Michael Thompson HOUSE MANAGEMENT

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## Special Thanks

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# Terra ncognito

travel underground (Searching, Searching) The tunnels branch and bend I flow through the channels (Wandering, wondering) Terra Incognito. I am inside Mother Farth am inside myself All the rooms are filled And the walls are dancing (Dancing, dancing) And I am dancing Dancing the Dance of Life And the firelight flickers And the drum beats on And our blood is churning And we are growing And the walls are breathing And the music is driving-

And still | travel underground (Searching, Searching) And the tunnels branch and bend I flow through the channels (Wandering, wondering) Terra Incognito.

-Anonymous

## Essential Vocabulary

os·mos·is (òz-mo1sîs, òs-) noun plural os·mo·ses (-sêz)

- 1. a. Diffusion of fluid through a semipermeable membrane until there is an equal concentration of fluid on both sides of the membrane. b. The tendency of fluids to diffuse in such a manner.
- 2. A gradual, often unconcious process of assimilation or absorption: learned French by osmosis while residing in Paris for 15 years.

[From obsolete osmose, from earlier endomose, from French: Greek endo-, endo- + Greek osmos, thrust, push (from othein, to push).] <os·motlic (-mòtlîk) adjective o s·motli·cal·ly adverb

terra in·cog·ni·ta (tèrle în 'kòg-nêlte, -kòglnî-te) noun plural terrae in·cog·ni·tae (în 'kòg-nêltê, -kôglnî-tê')

- 1. An unknown land; an unexplored region: "a vast and virtually final terra incognita left to terrestrial explorers" (David F. Salisbury).
- 2. A new or unexplored field of knowledge. [New Latin: Latin terra, land + incognitus, unknown.]

**yearn** (yûrn) verb, intransitive yearned, yearn-ing, yearns

- 1. To have a strong, often melancholy desire.
- 2. To feel deep pity, sympathy, or tenderness: yearned over the poor child's fate.

[Middle English yernen, from Old English geornan, giernan.] <yearn1er noun < yearn1ing·ly adverb

# Playwright's Notes

It is, at least in part, a play about language. It is a play about the imagination, and about theatricality. ON THE VERGE is not a docudrama. I first encountered the historical Victorian lady travelers in Evan S. Connell's A LONG DESIRE, Luree Miller's ON TOP OF THE WORLD, Alexandra Allen's TRAVELING LADIES, and Dorothy Middleton's VICTORIAN LADY TRAVELERS, beautiful books all and there is currently a plethora of books about lady travelers. Research about them should be done for insight into their spirit and for the pleasure of it. The characters in this play ARE NOT modeled on certain individuals, even though I raided the historical record for detail, flavoring, and anecdote. The spirit of the lady travelers inspired ON THE VERGE, and that spirit is the play's true concern: the quality of yearning, courage, and imagination.

## Recommended Reading

- 1. Plays by Eric Overmyer; Broadway Play Publishing, Inc.
- 2. The Blessings of a Good Thick Skirt; by Mary Russel, Flamingo Press 1989
- 3. Masai Days; by Cheryl Bentsen, Summit Books, Simon & Schuster 1989

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