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On The Verge

next at The School of Drama:

The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window

by Lorraine Hansberry
directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton
THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
November 30–December 10

Provocative drama from the
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Too Much Water

by Karenjune Sanchez & Cast
directed by Karenjune Sanchez

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by Eric Overmyer
directed by Chazz Rose

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

The School of Drama is proud to be a member of Theatre Puget Sound.

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
HAIR/MAKEUP Ellen C. King
SET CONSTRUCTION Eric Beauzay
HOUSE MANAGEMENT Michael Thompson
FACULTY ADVISOR Bill Forrester

RUNNING CREW

Rachel Blount, Andy Kidd, Annmarie McMahon, Bob Nydegger, Richard Reade, Anna Rosenzweig, Angela Smith, Lucinda Steffes, Kwang So, Kevin Swantek, Adam Watson

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Sarah Nash Gates, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, ACT, Home Depot, Mark Harrison, Al Micallef, Valerie Curtis-Newton, Anne Stewart, and Chris Lane

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Terra Incognito

I travel underground
(Searching, Searching)
The tunnels branch and bend
I flow through the channels
(Wandering, wondering)
Terra Incognito.
I am inside Mother Earth
I 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 I travel underground
(Searching, Searching)
And the tunnels branch and bend
I flow through the channels
(Wandering, wondering)
Terra Incognito.

-Anonymous

os·mos·is (òz-mòl sîs, 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 unconscious 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·moti·c* (-mòtîk) adjective o *s·moti·cal·ly* adverb

terra in·cog·ni·ta (tèr lè ìn 'kòg-nêl te, -kòg l nî-te) noun

plural **terrae in·cog·ni·tae** (ìn 'kòg-nêl tê, -kòg l nî-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*.] <*yearn·er* noun < *yearn·ing·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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