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by William Shakespeare
directed by Mark Harrison

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February 14-25

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about passion and indulgences.
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with honor?

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TOO MUCH WATER



created and directed by KJ Sanchez and cast

THE MEANY STUDIO THEATRE
24TH SEASON
56TH PRODUCTION
JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 11, 2001

TOO MUCH WATER

created and directed by KJ Sanchez and cast

SET DESIGN Ellen C. King
COSTUME DESIGN Norah Tullman-Kaltenbach
LIGHTING DESIGN Steve O'Shea
STAGE MANAGER Carrie Ann Shepherd
SOUND DESIGNER Matthew Jaeger
SOUND ADVISOR & SPECIAL EFFECTS Jeb Lewis
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Alex Danilchik

CAST

Holly Arsenault
Craig Bachmann
Jillian Boyd
Joanne Brooks
Ken Cerniglia
Neil Dawson
Daniel Eneberg
Bridie Harrington
Kyra Himmelbaum
Catherine Ingman
Richard Lopez
Jenny Mercein
Jamie Morgan
Ron Simons
Elliot Williams

CREW

Andrea Bonner, James Bretschneider, Heidi Brucker, Stacie Hendrickson,
Tyler King, Lenora Lin, Thomas Lin, Addie Mocca, Jamie Playter,
Ajmal Saidy, Adam Watson, Will Wheat

There will be no intermission.

Too Much Water was first workshopped in collaboration with P3 – Pacific Performance Project. A thousand thanks to Robyn Hunt and Steve Pearson and the participants of P3's summer intensive training program.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

The idea for *Too Much Water* came to me two years ago while I was playing Ophelia at Actors' Theatre of Louisville in a production of *Hamlet* directed by Jon Jory. Robyn Hunt was playing Gertrude and as we shared a dressing room, we often talked about Ophelia's journey. I was interested in following her through Elsinore (since almost everything happens to her offstage) and also tracking what happens in her mind, inside her imagination, as she goes mad. With Robyn and Jon's encouragement, *Too Much Water* was born.

As I researched Ophelia, I found hundreds of web sites, mostly written by teenage girls, devoted to Ophelia and as I read books such as *Reviving Ophelia* and *Ophelia Speaks*, I started to understand what a mythic role Ophelia has in the culture of teenage girls today. She has, in many ways, become their Cinderella or Snow White, which, given her "doubtful death" is extremely alarming. I also discovered how many great writers have been compelled by Ophelia's plight: T.S. Eliot, Poe, and Dorothy Parker to name a few.

Why is Ophelia's story so relevant to us today? For me, she speaks to several human experiences: the desire to be the perfect child, to act based purely on love in a world ruled by politics, to do everything you can to help, and yet there is no one to help you and ultimately, to be abandoned. In Shakespeare's play, everyone must deal with Hamlet's "madness" and yet there is Ophelia, truly going mad, yet no one takes care of her.

Too Much Water was written collaboratively (myself, the cast, designers, assistants and stage manager writing together!) using the art of sampling. For the last year I had gathered text that I felt relevant to Ophelia. We then read through all this source material during the first few days of rehearsal and began piecing these sampled texts into a collage of events that spoke to Ophelia's inner journey through *Hamlet*. Our starting point was: What if when we die, we have one last dream before we can move on to the afterlife... What would Ophelia dream of?

SOURCE MATERIAL

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Deborah Levy, Anne Sexton, T.S. Eliot, Kay Redfield Jamison, Dorothy Parker, Jeremy Reed, Georges Minois, Gary Soto, Sara Shandler, and others

AUTHORS & TEXTS SAMPLED FROM:

Shakespeare, Dean Young, Pablo Neruda, Virginia Woolf, The DSM III, Michael Cunningham, Seneca, "The Rules", Simone De Beauvoir, Rogers & Hammerstein, *By Her Own Hand*, *Reviving Ophelia*

SPECIAL MUSIC BY

Richard Huntley, Ralph Huntley, Three Leg Torso, Daniel Eneberg

ORIGINAL POETRY BY

Laura Phillips

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Tommy Smith
 ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Colin Baynes
 VOICEOVER SEQUENCE Wiley Young
 LIGHTING Nina Klorina, Laura Jean Wickman
 MASTER ELECTRICIAN Nacho Bravo
 PRODUCTION OFFICE Josh Costello, Adam Koplan
 TICKETS UW Arts Ticket Office

SET CONSTRUCTION

Tristan Dalley, Jeff Staver, Matt Smucker, Tress Tracy, Brice Maryman,
 Roxanne Breen, Erik Gasper, Eric Beauzay

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

Mandi Wickline, Carrie Spradlin, Carrie Witney, Heidi Ganser, Norah
 Tullman-Kaltenback, Drama 211 lab and Drama 291 students.

HOUSE MANAGEMENT

Michael Thompson, Tammie Starwich, Braxton Clement

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Ray Houle, Justin Thumler, Richard Hartley, Jon Jory, Anne Bogart, Darron
 West, Valerie Curtis-Newton, Sarah Nash Gates, Henry, UW Custodial
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