Director's Notes

I first read The Hothouse nearly 20 years ago and have been patiently waiting for the opportunity to work on it ever since. It is one of the funniest plays I have ever read. It is also one of the most inscrutable and unsettling. Set in a government-run mental institution, it offers a fascinating glimpse of an institutional bureaucracy that has long since ceased serving its humanitarian mission and devolved, as so many bureaucracies do, into an end unto itself. We never even meet the patients. We only see the staff, a highly questionable lot whose humdrum daily routine is occasionally relieved by back-biting, sexual intrigue, murder plots and plenty of alcohol. Most of us have worked for a Mr. Roote at one point or another. I know that I have.

Upcoming School of Drama Productions:

WINTER

Radium Girls
Mar. 6-17

SPRING

Thornton Wilder One-Acts
Apr. 17-28
Enrico IV
May 1-12
Marisol
May 2-12
As You Like It
May 17-25
The Phantom Lady
May 29-June 9

UW Arts Ticket Office
4001 University Way N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 543-4880

The Hothouse
by Harold Pinter
directed by Chuck Harper

Hutchinson Hall Rm. 201
February 21-March 3, 2002
The Hothouse
by Harold Pinter

Director Chuck Harper
Costume Design Jennie Proby
Lighting Design and Crew Robert Aguilar
Sara Barnes
Jennie Proby
Michael Rotman-Koenen
Matt Starritt
Dirk Sanders
Erika Stoll
Stage Managers Lindsay Scola
Caitlin Shields

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Roote Marc Kenison*
Gibbs Elliott Williams*
Lamb Darrick Clayton*
Miss Cutts Catherine Ingman*
Lush Joseph Yang*
Tubb Jon Martin
Lobb Len Childers*

*Member of the Professional Actor Training Program

Act 1
Christmas Morning

Act 2
Christmas Night

About the Author
Harold Pinter is known for his so-called comedies of menace. He is also noted for his unique use of dialogue, which exposes his characters’ alienation from each other and explores the layers of meaning produced by pauses and silence. His plays include The Birthday Party (1958), The Lover (1963), The Homecoming (1965), Old Times (1971), No Man’s Land (1975), Betrayal (1979), and Moonlight (1993). His screenplays include The Go-Between (1971), The French Lieutenant’s Woman (1981), The Handmaid’s Tale (1990), and The Trial (1993). The Hothouse was written in 1958 and first produced in 1979.

Recommended Reading
Conversations with Harold Pinter by Harold Pinter and Mel Gussow, Grove Press, August 1996
The Life and Work of Harold Pinter by Michael Billington, Faber & Faber, November 2001