

Next Season at the School of Drama

THE IMAGINARY INVALID

by Moliere
October 27-November 9, 2003
Playhouse Theatre

OTHELLO

by William Shakespeare
December 3-14, 2003
Penthouse Theatre

MEPHISTO

by Klaus Mann, English translation by Timberlake Wertenbaker
January 25-February 8, 2004
Meany Studio Theatre

THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES

by John Guare
February 29-March 14, 2004
Playhouse Theatre

World Premiere

TBA

Written and directed by K.J. Sanchez (guest) and the PATP III's
April 11-25, 2004
Playhouse Theatre

World Premiere

SUITE FOR STRANGERS

written and directed by Robyn Hunt (faculty)
April 25-May 9, 2004
Meany Studio Theatre

UNFINISHED WOMEN CRY IN NO MAN'S LAND WHILE A BIRD DIES IN A GILDED CAGE

by Aishah Rahman
May 23-June 6, 2004
Penthouse Theatre

Call 206-543-4880 for a brochure and additional information.

For more info, visit:
<http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama>



The Desk Set



by William Marchant

The Playhouse Theatre
May 25-June 8, 2003
37th Season
212th Production

The Desk Set

by William Marchant

The Production Staff

Director	Tommy Smith
Set Design	Andrew Layton
Costume Design	Niki Hernandez-Adams
Lighting Design	Kristine Hain
Sound Design	Jules Hill
Stage Manager	Matthew Echert
Technical Director	Jerry L. Collum
Dramaturg	Melissa Weaver
Assistant Director	M. Louise Lytle
Assistant Stage Manager	Alex Hayes
Assistant Lighting Designer	Ann Bartek
Properties Master	Andrew Layton
Master Electrician	Cale Millberry
Tickets	UW Arts Ticket Office
Costume Construction Crew	Kim Breskin-Auer, Rachel Canning, Niki Hernandez-Adams, Eve-Line Leduc, and Drama 291 and 211 Costume Lab Students
Electrics Crew	Drama 212 Students
Running Crew	Julie Carlson, Katy Dixon, Liz Erber, Allison Gee, Brandon Jacobsen, Tiffany Jewell, Brian Lange, Michael Place, Tyler Polumsky, Rachel Roby, Steven Thomas, Janet Vilonza, Randy Vinneau, T. Ivan Winkler

Special Thanks

ACT, Mickey Chemers, Austin Elston, Intiman Theatre,
Michael McQuilken, Seattle Children's Theatre,
Seattle Repertory Theatre

Program Spotlight: Bachelor of Arts

This production of *The Desk Set* is one of many University of Washington School of Drama productions showcasing the talents of our top-rated Bachelor of Arts in Drama program. Founded in 1941 by Professor Glenn Hughes, the University of Washington School of Drama has grown into one of the most comprehensive and widely respected theatre training institutions in the country. The BA program is dedicated to providing a well-rounded major within a liberal arts context. The School of Drama recognizes and supports the view that a drama major, like a history or English major, is an end in itself. The faculty considers the optimum preparation for the theatre artist to be comprised of a liberal arts undergraduate major in drama and a graduate conservatory education. In this way, it resembles other professions, such as medicine or law. Undergraduate majors are required to complete core courses in acting, design and technical theatre, theatre history, dramatic literature, and performance criticism, as well as high-level electives including courses in intermediate and advanced level acting, design and technical theatre, stage management and a directing series. BA's work with the School's amazing faculty, graduate students, theatre professionals and visiting artists from around the world. BA's get intense training in innovative techniques and even have the opportunity to participate as professionals in the exciting and vibrant Seattle theatre community.

Well-known alumni of the Bachelor of Arts in Drama program include Ann Southern, Robert Culp, Lois Smith, Frances Farmer, Ella Raines, Dawn Wells (Maryann of TV's *Gilligan's Island*), Rex Henriot, Bridget Hanley, and local celebrities Linda Hartzell (Artistic Director of the Seattle Children's Theatre), actress Cindy Bosco, and Michael Immerwahr (Former Technical Production Director at the Seattle Rep).

If you are interested in making a contribution to support any School of Drama program, call Mickey Chemers, Director of Development, at 221-6797, or mail a donation to UW School of Drama, Box 353950, Seattle, WA 98195-3950.

School of Drama

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Bob Boehler, *stage technician*
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA

Glenn Hughes 1930-1961

Gregory Falls 1961-1971

Donal Harrington 1966-67*

Jack Sydow 1971-73

James Crider 1973-74*

Paul Hostetler 1974-1985

Betty Comtois 1985-1989

Barry Witham 1989-1994

* Acting

The Cast

Bunny Watson

Barbara Suiter

Peg Costello

Emily Cedergreen

Sadel Meyer

Lauren Aboulafia

Ruthie Saylor

Mikano Fukaya

Richard Sumner

Andy Kidd

Abe Cutler

Jonathan Martin

Kenny

Joe Feeney

The Man

Lathrop Walker

The Old Lady

Britt Boyd

Elsa

Amanda Shaver

Mr. Bennett

Adrian Gaeta

Miss Warriner

Kristi Reiersgard

Mr. Ferris

Graham Mills

Act One

Early December morning.

Ten-minute Intermission

Act Two

Scene 1—The day before Christmas, early evening.

Scene 2—Three hours later.

Ten-minute Intermission

Act Three

Four weeks later.



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

*The Desk Set is produced by special
arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.*

From the Dramaturg

The Desk Set opened on Broadway October 24, 1955 at the Broadhurst Theatre. Quickly establishing itself as a hit, it garnered rave reviews for its star, Shirley Booth, as the indomitable intellect, Bunny Watson. The well-known movie version, starring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy was released in 1957 and versions of each continue to play in regional, Broadway and home theaters to this day. Almost fifty years later, this slapstick satire about a group of research librarians facing replacement by an electronic brain still resonates for many professionals and office workers caught in the conflict between new technology and job security.

Electronic computers, which were used in military and government environments during World War II, were just being marketed to businesses in 1954. Known mostly as high-powered calculators, like the "Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer" (ENIAC), these early computers, though capable of storing large amounts of data and performing rapid multiplication, did not seem to have an easily definable business application. In fact, they did impact payroll offices and other clerical jobs which required repetitive calculation – replacing many jobs that during and after World War II were held by women.

Many women in the 1950s were working diligently to establish themselves in careers, especially in roles as professionals and managers. Gender relations were strained – notice how *The Desk Set's* female employees are still encouraged to kiss their bosses at Christmas time. In 1955, finding a husband was the only real job security a women had. Bunny Watson and her team of researchers had good reason to fear that automation could replace their work. Librarians, as early adopters of automation and technology, are in many ways still facing the same themes as the 1950s professional – and still just as likely to laugh about it.

The Playwright

William Marchant was born May 1, 1923 in Allentown, PA. A novelist, journalist and playwright, he is most famous for writing *The Desk Set* -- which ran for 297 performances on Broadway. He won the National Theatre Conference best first play award in 1952 for *Within a Glass Bell* and received praise for his memoir, *The Privilege of His Company*, about his friendship with Noel Coward. After the success of *The Desk Set*, he continued to write novels, theatre reviews and adaptations for television. He passed away in 1995.

Recommended Reading

The Desk Set: A Comedy in Three Acts by William Marchant, New York: Samuel French, Inc. 1983.

The Privilege of His Company: Noël Coward Remembered by William Marchant, Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1975.

To Be Continued: A Play in Three Acts by William Marchant, New York: Dramatists Play Service, 1952.

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