Upcoming School of Drama Productions

The 2nd Annual UW Ten-Minute Play Festival
February 2-16, The Penthouse Theatre
Back by popular demand, we’re serving up another round of “theatrical haikus,” featuring a world premiere by award-winning playwright Steven Dietz. Catch ‘em while you can, they’re moving fast!

Goodnight Children Everywhere by Richard Nelson
March 2-16, The Playhouse Theatre
As the bombs began to fall on London in 1940, hundreds of thousands of parents sent their children to safety across Britain and beyond. When four siblings are reunited in 1945, they find that surviving the peace may be just as difficult as surviving the war.

THE STUDIO 201 SERIES
Join us for these simply produced plays chosen for their experimental or challenging nature.

How I Learned to Drive by Paula Vogel
February 28-March 9, 201 Hutchinson Hall
How I Learned to Drive delivers an affecting tale of a young girl’s recollections of driving with her beloved uncle in rural 1960s Maryland. Earthy humor and startling honesty intermingle with lessons about the darker sides of life as Li’l Bit learns the rules of the road—and of life—from behind the wheel.
Winner of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize. Adult Themes.

Call 206-543-4880 for ticket information.
For more info, visit:
http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama

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The Suicide: A Russian Comedy
by Nikolai Erdman
translated by John Freedman

Director
Mark Weil
Music by
Leonid Desyatnikov, Alfred Schnittke
Set Design
Ann Bartek
Costume Design
Erin Murphy
Lighting Design
Brian Healy
Sound Design
Matt Starritt
Stage Manager
Ginger Castleberry
Technical Director
Alex Danilchik
Dramaturg
Elizabeth Bonjean
Faculty Advisor
Robert A. Dahlstrom
Assistant Stage Managers
Matthew Echert, Erika Stoll
Assistant Costume Designer
Amy Schumaker
Assistant Lighting Designer
Jennifer Zeyl
Assistant Sound Designer
Dirk Sanders
Master Carpenter
Tres Tracy
Properties Master
Andrew Layton
Pan Arts Technical Director
tristan m.t. dalley
Tickets
UW Arts Ticket Office
Set Construction Crew
Adam Batten, Ann Bartek, Eric Beauzay,
Robert Gandy, Neil Jernstrom, Andrew
Layton, Eve-line Leduc, Matthew Lillard, Ben
Medina, Ben Radin, Brian Spradlin,
Matt Starritt
Costume
Kim Breskin-Auer, Rachel Canning, Niki
Construction Crew
Hernandez-Adams and Drama 291 and 211
Costume Lab Students
Running Crew
Rocki Ducharme, Eliza Furmansky,
Allison Gee, Kristin Holsather, Juliana Leung,
Jesse Parce, Jeremiah Peisert, Larisa Peters,
Elisa Pupko, Juan Romero, Stacie Sykes,
Tommy Thompson
FACULTY

Professors
Robert Dahlstrom, Jon Jory,
Steve Pearson, Barry Witham

Associate Professors
Sarah Bryant-Bertail, William
Forrester, Robyn Hunt,
Mark Jenkins

Assistant Professors
Valerie Curtis-Newton,
Catherine Madden, Odat Johnson,
Shanga Parker, Tina Redd

Acting Assistant Professor
Venus Opal Reese

Senior Lecturers
Mark Harrison, Judith Shahn

Lecturers
Jerry Collum, Deborah Trout

Artist-in-Residence
Geoff Korf

PART-TIME FACULTY
Geoff Alm, Scott Hafso,
Melissa Kerber, Peter Kyle,
Stephanie Skura, Teresa Thuman

RETIRED & EMERITUS FACULTY
Jack Clay, Betty Comtois, James Crider,
Vanick Galstaun, Agnes Haaga,
Robert Hobbs, Geraldine Sik,
Jack Sydow,
Aurora Valentinnetti, Jack Wolcott

STAFF
Kris Bain, marketing and pr manager
Jordan Baker, stage technician
Bob Boehrle, stage technician
Sue Bruns, graduate program
Mickey Chemers, development director
Jenny Crook, computer technician
Alex Danilchik, stage technician
Liz Fugate, drama librarian
Josie Gardner, costume shop manager
Arlene Hamilton, administrator
Kathy Holliday, academic advisor
Andrea Johnson, costumer
Laurie L. Kurutz, costumer
Jennifer Lavy, outgoing development
director
Rich Leibfried, master electrician
Dena Petersen, fiscal technician
Anne Stewart, general manager
Joanne Tall, secretary
Heather Tews, office assistant
Michael Thompson, assistant to the
general manager
Alan Weldin, scene shop manager

Semyon Semyonovich
Mariya Lukyanovna, his wife
Serafima Ilinishna, his mother-in-law
Alexander Petrovich, their neighbor
Margarita Ivanovna
Aristarkh Dominikovich
Yegor Timofeyevich
Nikifor Arsentyeivich, a butcher
Viktor Viktorovich, a writer
Father Yelpidy, a priest
Cleopatra Maximovna
Raisa Filippovna
Suspicious Type
Seamstress
Suspicious Type
Kostya, a waiter
Georgie, a waiter
Deaf-Mute Boy
Old Woman

* Denotes member of the Professional Actor Training Program (P Haupt)

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

Produced by special arrangement with John Freedman.

The School of Drama is proud to be a member of Theatre Puget Sound
Playwright Nikolai Erdman (1900-1970) is perhaps best remembered for the banning of his play The Suicide under the Stalin regime in 1932 and its continued suppression in Russia for some fifty years that followed. Erdman was initially a poet, served a year in the Red Army, and wrote only two complete full-length plays for the stage—The Warrant (1925) and The Suicide (1929-30). The first play made him a young star of the Soviet theatrical scene, and his highly anticipated second play was the work Stanislavsky and Meyerhold fought to see who could produce first. In 1933 he was arrested and spent three years in internal exile for writing “anti-Soviet fables.” During Erdman’s time in Siberia, he worked as a literary manager and wrote what was to be a third full-length play, The Hypnotist, of which we have only fragments today. The remainder of his career was primarily devoted to penning film scripts — one of his most famous, Volga, Volga, won the 1941 Stalin Prize for Best Film.

Before its first short-lived but official production in Russia in 1982, The Suicide found its way across borders, having its inaugural production in 1969 in Sweden, just one year before the death of its playwright. In 2003, The Suicide has found its way here to the University of Washington School of Drama. Erdman’s tale of Semyon, an ordinary working-class man who simply wants the right to “a peaceful little life and decent pay,” reverberates across cultures and time with great humor and humanity. Semyon’s realization that he has worth as an individual apart from a “cause” or from the state, is a revolutionary idea to him and to the other characters in the story. For it is in this process of imagining the meaning he can create with his death, that Semyon discovers the meaningfulness of his life.

Silence’s Roar: The Life and Drama of Nikolai Erdman by John Freedman, Mosaic Press, 1994

The Major Plays of Nikolai Erdman, translated and edited by John Freedman, Routledge, 1995

Director Mark Weil is the founding artistic director of the Ilkhom Theatre in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the first company independent of state oversight in the former Soviet Union. He has directed throughout Russia, and in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria, Norway, Germany and the United States.

Ilkhom Theatre website: www.uzonline.com/ilkhom

**Spotlight: Visiting Artists Program**

This production’s guest director appears courtesy of a generous grant from the Arts and Sciences Exchange Program. The School of Drama would like to extend special thanks to David Hodge, Dean of Arts and Science, and Michael Halleran, Divisional Dean for the Arts and Humanities, for their support in bringing Mark Weil to the University of Washington.

The School of Drama believes that an interactive relationship between our students and working professionals in the theater deeply enriches the academic experience. By working alongside professional artists, our students are challenged, motivated, and inspired and are able to begin bridging their work into the real world. Donations to the School’s Visiting Artists Program help fund:

* bringing guest artists to the School of Drama and the associated costs such as travel, housing, materials and honorariums
* developing artistic exchanges with area theatres to bring artists from their productions to the School of Drama
* formalizing events for students to attend in conjunction with productions at area theatres
* hiring guest faculty to provide release time for School of Drama faculty, allowing them to pursue creative work and relieving overloads

To make a contribution to the Visiting Artists Program fund, or to any other program in the School of Drama, contact Development Director Mickey Chemers at (206) 221-6797.

**Recommended Reading**

ACT, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children’s Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre