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Tender Lies

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Taylor Theatre Presents

Nancy Pahl Gilsenan's

Tender Lies



**February 17-19 and 23-26, 1994
Little Theatre
Taylor University**

About the Playwright

Tender Lies is the twelfth on Nancy Gilsenan's list of eighteen published plays. As in many of her works, the play reflects her strong sense of human nature and her sensitivity to "special" people—like Arlo and his friends.

Gilsenan, a native of Minnesota, attended the University of Minnesota but didn't pursue any theatre at that time. Following marriage, a move to the West Coast, and the birth of her first child, she felt inclined to write. Since she enjoyed seeing plays, she decided she would enjoy writing one. She began writing fifteen minutes a day and has progressed to a six-hour writing span daily. She considers herself a craftsperson rather than an artist.

In 1983, she received recognition for her successful dramatization of Judith Guest's best-selling novel *Ordinary People*, and that same year wrote *Tender Lies* and *Don't Count on Forever*, an absorbing play about a family breakup.

Since 1979, she has lived most of her life in Palo Alto, California, and her zest for the city resulted in *Palo Alto—That's a Laugh*, a musical comedy spoofing life in the Peninsula's trendiest spot.

Her play *Beloved Friend* produced an invitation to the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in Connecticut where the play was refined. It was later successfully staged at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and the Hartman Theatre in Stamford, Connecticut. At the time, Gilsenan had joined Amnesty International and was writing to a political prisoner in Zimbabwe. The man had a young teenage daughter who also wrote and through this correspondence the play telling of two pen pals, a girl in Minnesota and one in Africa, materialized. *Beloved Friend* was eventually staged in Harare, Zimbabwe, with both the prisoner and his daughter in attendance.

Gilsenan wrote *Shooting Stars at the Planetarium* in the mid-eighties. It is a story about a female poet who becomes a political prisoner in a Third World civil war. She was cynically inspired by Ronald Reagan's "star wars" weapon, but the main force behind the play was a young woman who was held prisoner in Argentina for seven years.

As you observe Arlo Gibson and his slightly warped clan of boarders this evening, you are really seeing Nancy Gilsenan, a writer who cares about people and uses her plays as vehicles to help other people understand and care.

Tender Lies

Directed and Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard

THE CAST

Ben/Benbo. *Chris Thornton
Arlo Gibson. Luke Breneman
Ellie. Rachel Diller
Sheila. *Lisa Angerer
Isabel. Martha Smith
Mrs. Galarza. Jill Petersen
Mr. Bellon. Jason Francis
Mr. Fuller. Bryan Parris
Policeman. Ted Snider

The Time: 1994 and 1961
The Place: San Jose, California

**There will be a ten-minute intermission
between acts**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to Paul Spencer of PJ's Sewing Machines & Vacuums located at Mick's Flea Market, Gas City, IN, Mr. James Diller, Mrs. Mary Lynn Welch, The Soup House, and Taylor's Dining Commons, Health Center, Housekeeping, Maintenance and Safety Departments.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

Steel Magnolias

April 28-30, May 4-7, 1994

*A Communication Arts Department
Production*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....Dr. Oliver Hubbard

Set Crew.....JASON FRANCIS
Thom Mazak *JASON WELCH
Susan Mears *Danielle Beauchaine
Bryan Parris Scott Carter
Karen Stafford Larry Geans
Chris Thornton Steve Hawkins

Light Crew.....TIM DIXON
Bill Cuttino
Jeremy Hunt
Susan Mears

Sound Crew.....DAWN BALIUS
Bill Cuttino
Erik Hotmire
Craig Rosenbeck

Makeup Crew.....NICOLE ASCHLIMAN
Amy Brailey
Sara Covington
Jason Francis
Laura Gilbert
Margo Horsey
Marisa Murphree
Katharine Wagner

Properties.....JERRY FLEWELLING
Aimee Hillman Ava Archibald
Rachel Kellogg Carrie Barnhart
*Amy Phillips April Fausnight
Erika Shaw Kecia Heidebrecht
Mary Ruth VanVeldhuizen

Isabel's Art.....Margo Horsey

Costumes.....*DANIELLE BEAUCHAINE
APRIL HUNTER
Vickie Chandler
*Peter Marshall
Lisa Rozema

House.....JENNIFER HAWN
Sharon Hong Rachael Bell
Rachel Kellogg Sara Covington
Sharon Michaelson Leslee Darby
Abby Nelson Tracey Doude
Keri Quick Alesa Galvin
Lisa Rozema Maelynn Gausmann
Erika Shaw Jennifer Giese
Elizabeth Wise Danielle Hammond

Program Cover Design.....Stefan Eicher

**Alpha Psi Omega Membership*