2-15-1990

I Remember Mama
Taylor Theatre presents

John van Druten's

I REMEMBER MAMA

February 15-17 and 21-24, 1990
Little Theatre
Taylor University
About the Playwright

Anglo-American playwright, John van Druten (1901-1957), was born in London, studied law and legal history at London University and subsequently taught for three years at the University of Wales. Any free time was spent composing articles, poems and stories for Punch and other British magazines.

His first two attempts at drama were unsuccessful but his third, Young Woodley, although denied a license in England, was a major triumph when performed in the United States in 1928, establishing van Druten as a promising new talent in the English-speaking theatre. Van Druten decided to remain in the United States and was naturalized in 1944.

Van Druten adapted I Remember Mama from Kathryn Forbes’ semi-fictional autobiography, Mama’s Bank Account, at the request of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II who were impressed with its dramatic possibilities. When they later produced the play, van Druten asked to direct it. Best known for his comedies such as The Voice of the Turtle (1943), I Remember Mama (1944), and Bell, Book and Candle (1949), he also wrote serious plays, most notably I Am a Camera, an adaptation of some of the Berlin Stories by Christopher Isherwood. The play was later adapted into the long-running musical Cabaret.

Van Druten directed many of his plays for their Broadway premieres and several were made into films. In 1950, he accepted the new assignment of staging Rodgers and Hammerstein’s major musical The King and I. He also wrote numerous Hollywood film scripts, including Night Must Fall, Johnny-Come Lately, and Gaslight. He authored several novels and autobiographies, among them The Playwright at Work (1953), The Vicarious Years (1956), and The Widening Circle (1957). One of America’s most prolific writers, Van Druten turned out a play or more a year. Many of his works have remained popular because of their ability to teach as well as entertain.

About the Play

I Remember Mama opened in New York October 19, 1944, and continued for a notable run of 713 performances. Following its successful run on Broadway, the play was toured successfully with Charlotte Greenwood as Mama, and then filmed with Irene Dunne in that role. The story formed the basis for a long-running TV series, “Mama,” starring Peggy Wood. The play was also presented on Broadway in a musical version starring Liv Ullmann as Mama. Richard Rodgers wrote the score for the musical which was also called I Remember Mama.

At the time it was staged, the New York Herald Tribune provided this perceptive review of the play: “A play well worth remembering...a folk drama of heart and substance which has theatrical flourish and emotional depth...Van Druten has recaptured real people miraculously in an honest and moving tale.” After the show tonight, you will reflect with Katrin, “First and foremost, I remember Mama.”

I REMEMBER MAMA

Directed and Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Katrin............................................ Amy Joy Nordquist
Mama............................................. Lisa Curless
Papa.............................................. Jack Lugar
Dagmar......................................... Kelli Yordy
Uncle Elizabeth, a cat...................... Mittens
Christine....................................... Amy Beres
Mr. Hyde....................................... John Bollow
Nels.............................................. Jeff Bennett
Aunt Trina...................................... Mandy Hess *
Aunt Sigrid.................................... Laura Rich
Aunt Jenny..................................... Julie Miner
Uncle Chris.................................... Bruce Fouse
The Woman (Jessie).......................... Cara Chandler
Dr. Johnson................................... Joe Foote
Mr. Thorkelson................................ Fred Luchtenburg
A Nurse......................................... Lynne Kinzer
Arne............................................. Ben Eisenburg
Another Nurse................................. Elisabeth Varn-Hagen
Soda Clerk..................................... Mark Vanest
Madeline........................................ Jane Huntzinger
Dorothy......................................... Meribeth Salveson
Florence Dana Moorehead................... Beth Delmastro
Bell-Boy....................................... Kurt Stout

The Place: San Francisco, California

The Time: Around 1910

There will be one ten-minute intermission between acts

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to Long’s Heritage House, Ankeny, Iowa, and Hahn’s Little Colonial Shoppe, Hartford City, Indiana, for their help in preparing for this show.

A Communication Arts Department Production

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

THE LITTLE FOXES....... April 26-28, May 2-5

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance
PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistants to the Director............ Annette Herman
                                  Thom Verratti *
Technical Director.................. Dr. Oliver Hubbard

Set Crew............................ EDDIE JUDD *
                                  Steve Barron *
                                  Brian Brown
                                  Dan Dixon
                                  Bruce Fouse
                                  Steve Kersten

Light Crew......................... LAURI MULLENS *
                                  Shawn Denny
                                  Dan Kett
                                  Jason Wolf

Audio Technicians.................. ILAN KIBBEY *
                                  Tim Grable

Make-up Crew........................ VALERIE SMITH *
                                  Cynthia Cox *
                                  Alyson Flynn
                                  Carla Gollmer
                                  Alicia Helyer
                                  Tammy Hittle *
                                  Kristy Kett

Properties......................... HEATHER LONG *
                                  Cynthia Cox
                                  Holly Gaff
                                  Don Hoesel
                                  Joel Keiser
                                  Elyse Stirneman
                                  Tracy Tobey

Costumes............................ ELYCE ELDER *
                                  Sherri MacFadyen
                                  Wayne Bernhardt
                                  Elizabeth Berry
                                  Tammy Hittle
                                  Beth Kroger

House............................... GARY GALLUP *
                                  TAMMY HITTLE *
                                  Laura Bernd
                                  Patty Carroll
                                  Heather Jeffery
                                  Linda Johnson
                                  Lee Anne Kern
                                  Beth Kroger

Program Cover Design.............. Steve Baarendse

*Alpha Psi Omega Membership