

Taylor University

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2-16-1989

### The Foreigner

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#### Recommended Citation

"The Foreigner" (1989). *Taylor Theatre Playbills*. 324.  
<https://pillars.taylor.edu/playbills/324>

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Taylor Theatre

*presents*

Larry Shue's



February 16-19 and 23-26, 1989

Little Theatre

Taylor University



## **From the Director**

The world of Theatre is an imaginary world—a world in which all possibilities exist. IF the playwright is skillful in crafting plot, character, and dialogue, IF the actors are perseverent in the projection of energetic, believable action, and IF the audience is ready and willing to vicariously experience the life of the play on its own terms—then, and only then, does the true magic of theatre happen. Obviously, those are a lot of “IF’s.” At one level, “The Foreigner” is a silly play that opened to reviews such as “unintelligent trash,” “unpalatable hash,” and “an early candidate for Boot Hill.”\* At another level, however, “The Foreigner” is a beautifully structured, sincerely funny, warm, witty, wonderful excursion into the lives of the most unlikely group of characters to ever be assembled on the same stage. What transpires, as the characters genuinely impact one another in life-changing ways, is a testament to our need for one another and to the resiliency of the human spirit.

\* By the way, the play defied initial critical censure and went on to win the Obie and Outer Critics Circle Awards for best playwright, best director and best actor.

## **About the Play and the Playwright**

Against all odds—“The Foreigner” proved to be a survivor. Unfavorable critical reviews were not the only obstacle the show faced. Cast member Sudie Bond, who originated the role of Betty, died the second week of the run, and the day after, the theater’s boiler blew up during a performance. Rather than give up, the cast, of which Shue was a member (he played Froggy LeSueur) banded more firmly together. They took salary cuts to keep the show running, distributed fliers and met with theatre parties and student groups in post-performance seminars.

While provisional closing notices were being posted each week, the producer, Jack Mc Quiggan, was searching for secondary funding. The funding came from an oilman who just happened to be on the same flight as one of the show’s associate producers. The audiences continued to be enthusiastic and a year after its November 1984 opening at Astor Place Theatre, the unlikely Off-Broadway hit celebrated its first birthday and continued its run.

But the celebration didn’t include Shue whose life had ended tragically on September 23, 1985, in an airplane crash. At age 39, the young actor/playwright was experiencing the greatest success of his career. The previous May he had received the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best New Play by an American Playwright and at the time of his death was adapting the play for film, writing a musical version of “The Honeymooners,” working on a pilot for CBS, and preparing to act in the upcoming Broadway musical “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” after the show’s summer premiere in Central Park.

Shue was born in New Orleans, raised in Kansas and was a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and the Harlequin Dinner Theatre in Washington. He joined the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in 1977, where he appeared in a wide variety of revivals, premieres and new plays. He also authored “Wencelas Square,” and “The Nerd” which opened at London’s Aldwych Theatre and became the highest grossing play of the West End season.

John Dillon, Artistic Director at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, commented after Shue’s death: “I think Larry was just beginning to understand his full powers as a playwright. He was starting to write about matters he felt deeply about. He once told me that one of the things that gave him pleasure in ‘The Foreigner’ was that he could make it turn out all right for the good guys. In his plays he had begun to level his wit against everything that made him angry...he was too gentle to do that in real life.”

# **THE FOREIGNER**

*Directed and Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard*

## **THE CAST**

*(in order of appearance)*

“Froggy” LeSueur..... Steve Barron  
Charlie Baker ..... Jim Church  
Betty Meeks ..... Beth Kroger  
Rev. David Marshall Lee..... Thom Verratti  
Catherine Simms.....Lori Mashburn  
Owen Musser.....Dan Seibel  
Ellard Simms ..... Dan Kett  
Townspople... Brian Craig, Chuck Gray, Neil Propst

The Place: Betty Meeks’ Fishing Lodge Resort,  
Tilghman County, Georgia, U.S. A.

The Time: The Recent Past

### **ACT I**

Scene 1: Evening

Scene 2: The following morning

### **ACT II**

Scene 1: Afternoon, two days later

Scene 2: That evening

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Our special thanks to the Taylor Library and Hahn’s Little Colonial Shoppe for their help in preparing for this show.

A Communication Arts Department Production

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### **OUR NEXT PRODUCTION**

***THE CRUCIBLE***.....April 27-30, May 4-7

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



# PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Director ..... Mandy Hess  
Technical Director ..... Dr. Oliver Hubbard

Set Crew ..... EDDIE JUDD  
Mike Hamsher  
David Hughey  
Jeff Jacobson  
Bud Kay  
Jason Powell  
Paul Stath

Light Crew..... THOM VERRATTI  
David Benjamin  
Jeff Cramer  
Shawn Denny  
Lauri Mullens  
Mike Risher

Audio Technicians..... JIM JURGENSEN  
Joel Keiser

Make-up Crew..... WENDY MILLER  
Emily Brailey                      Carla Gollmer  
Julie Chandler                      Amy Grant  
Cynthia Cox                      Jane Huntzinger  
Valerie Flower                      Cindy Jahn  
Heather Long

Properties.....JEFF BENNETT  
JENNIFER VOSKUIL  
Elyce Elder  
Mandy Hess  
Jeff Kiger  
Maribeth Salveson

Costumes..... KIM EVANS  
Elyce Elder

Program Cover Design..... Steve Baarendse

House..... TAMMY HITTLE  
David Abraham                      Amy Grueser  
Barb Alexander                      Patricia Mumme  
Emily Brailey                      Heather Myers  
Ann Calkins                      Brenda Schmid  
Tammy Doornbos                      Alida Stark  
Robin Verzog