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The Foreigner

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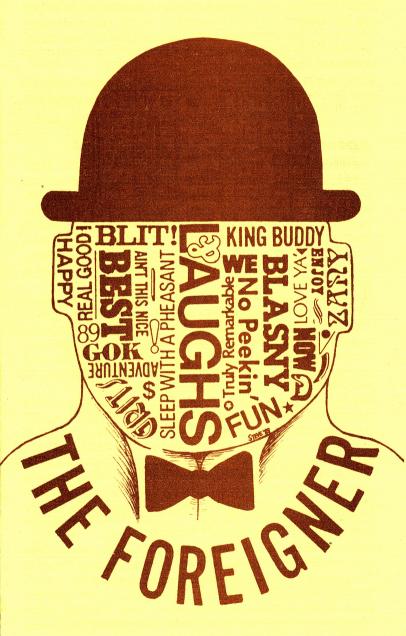
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Taylor Theatre

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	
Townspeople 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

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

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

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

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Dire	ector	Mandy Hess
Technical Di	rector	Dr. Oliver Hubbard
Set Crew		EDDIE JUDD
Set Clew		Mike Hamsher
		David Hughey
		Jeff Jacobson
		Bud Kay
		Jason Powell
		Paul Stath
Light Crow		THOM VERRATTI
Light Clew		
		David Benjamin
		Jeff Cramer
		Shawn Denny
		Lauri Mullens
		Mike Risher
Audio Toobn	icione	JIM JURGENSEN
Audio Techni	icialis	
		Joel Keiser
Make-up Cre	w	WENDY MILLER
	Emily Brailey	Carla Gollmer
	Julie Chandler	Amy Grant
	Cynthia Cox	Jane Huntzinger
	Valerie Flower	Cindy Jahn
	valette Flower	
		Heather Long
Properties		JEFF BENNETT
		JENNIFER VOSKUIL
		Elyce Elder
		Mandy Hess
		Jeff Kiger
		Maribeth Salveson
		Maribelli Sarvesoli
		IZINA ENZANIO
Costumes		KIM EVANS
		Elyce Elder
Program Cov	er Design	Steve Baarendse
House		TAMMY HITTLE
	David Abraham	Amy Grueser
	Barb Alexander	Patricia Mumme
	Emily Brailey	Heather Myers
	Ann Calkins	Brenda Schmid
	Tammy Doornbo	s Alida Stark
		Robin Verzog