

Fall 10-23-1987

Bedroom Farce (1987)

San Jose State University, Theatre Arts

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BEDROOM FARCE



SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY THEATRE
OCTOBER 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 31 8pm

From the Director's Pen:

Alan Ayckbourn has been called Britain's Neil Simon, but he is, like the title of one of his comedies, an 'Absurd Person Singular', and uniquely the director of his own theatre at Scarborough where all of his plays were first staged. Some seventeen have then achieved success in London's West End, five at The National Theatre, where Ayckbourn is currently a director/playwright in residence. He gave the following answers to an interviewer there:

Interviewer: Why do you write?

Ayckbourn: My more successful plays I write for money. The less successful . . . due to a deep subconscious urge to change the world for the better.

Interviewer: How long did it take you write *Bedroom Farce*?

Ayckbourn: Three or four sleepless nights . . . For 360 days (a year) I think about writing, consider, contemplate and successfully avoid writing . . . (but) eventually I have to for my other self-Director of Productions.

Interviewer: Why do you describe *Bedroom Farce* as a comedy as well as a farce?

Ayckbourn: Comedy, I read somewhere, consists of larger-than-life characters in real situations. Farce, on the other hand, portrays real characters projected into incredible situations. *Bedroom Farce* is a comedy about real characters who, projected into incredible situations, start behaving in a larger-than-life manner as the situations appear to them too horribly real. I'm with Chekhov (who) called his plays comedies or farces whenever he felt like it.

Interviewer: Why are there three beds in *Bedroom Farce*?

Ayckbourn: I like threes. It's a comic number . . . a symmetrical number. Yet it's unbalanced. Most of my plays are about people caught off balance. Besides, I couldn't get any more beds on stage at Scarborough.

Hal J. Todd, Director

has acted and directed for regional professional theatres such as the Pittsburgh Playhouse, the Seattle Repertory, the San Francisco Actor's Workshop and the American Conservatory Theatre; for Shakespeare festivals at San Diego, Ashland, Oregon, and Boulder, Colorado; at Universal and M.G.M. Studios; and at Carnegie Tech and Northwestern Universities. He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, the Director's Guild, and the Screenwriters



Guild. He has been a SJSU faculty member since 1964 and was Department Chair between 1964 and 1982. His first SJSU production was *Lysistrata*, his most recent, *The Night of The Iguana*, with Shakespeare and Mollere, Chekhov and O'Casey some of his favorites along the way. Dr. Todd and his history professor wife, Joan, visit London frequently to see theatre. He found the comedy *Tishoo* there, and directed it last season at The Saratoga Chamber Theatre. He also became a fan of Alan Ayckbourn when he saw *The Norman Conquests*. Since that takes three nights, our play tonight is *Bedroom Farce*.

Bridget Kowalczyk MFA Candidate

was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She received her BFA in Acting from Wayne State University where her favorite roles played were Lady Capulet, Mary Mae Gregor in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and Helen Jones in *Machinal*. In 1986 Bridget won the SJSU Dorothy Kaucher Contest for Excellence in Oral Interpretation for a presentation from *The Belle of Amherst*. She was also seen as Hannah in *Night of the Iguana*. This summer, she played Grandma in *The Sandbox* under the direction of Edward Albee at Cal Poly as part of the C.S.U. Summer Arts Program. Bridget plans to continue teaching and acting in the Bay Area upon completion of her Master's degree in May 1988.



PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	Rita Faye Wadsworth
Assistant Stage Managers	Randy Hall, Mary Wong Scott Sinagra, Bruce Gutman
Lighting Crew	Christine Weaver*, Amanda Hatherly
Scenic Artists	Paul Luebbers, Donamarie Reeds
Scenery Construction	Andy Aranda, Tracy Peace, Kim Finelly Doug Kerster, Richard Kirlin, Drama 52 Students
Property Builder and Coordinator	Nicole Fruge*
Property Crew	Joan Crowley*, Eric Olson, Brian Harper, Jim Law
Lighting Crew	Amanda Hatherly*, Janet Schutz, Christine Weaver
Sound Technician	Naja Franklin
Makeup Design under the supervision of	Elizabeth M. Poindexter
Costume Construction	Drama 10 Students, Drama 52 Students Gwen Dapper, Nancy Nerge
Costume Crew	Kim Fleming*, Melissa Draper Gwen Dapper, Elizabeth Mills, Anne Marie Martin
Makeup Crew	Claudia Tietze, Melissa Draper, Drama 164 Students

*denotes crew head

THANKS TO OUR TERRIFIC CONTRIBUTORS

Talented New Theatre Student Scholarships (TNTSI) have been funded by extra contributions from our generous Subscribers. Our students are deeply appreciative.

In alphabetical order, our **Patrons**

E.J. Arveson
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Carl J. Mortensen
Bea Muir
John Neptune
Dr. Ralph Parkman
Brent Rothert
Richard and Mildred Steele
Doris Tietze

The first recipient of a Talented New Theatre Student award was **Mary Ann Evans**. Her award was funded by contributions from Lawrence Lee and Ellen Briggs.

UNIVERSITY THEATRE TECHNICAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Shop Foreman	Steven Placke
Scene Shop Assistant	James Cornwell
Costumer	Eliza Chugg
Costume Shop Assistants	Bridget Kowalczyk Mary Ann Evans Teri Bawdon
Costume Loan Coordinator	Ann Rands
Prop Room Coordinator	Nita Duarte

UNIVERSITY THEATRE FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Director of Theatre	Bob Jenkins
Publicist	Todd Perriera
Program Artist	Mary Ann Evans
Graphic Artists	Mark Holihan, Julia Purbee
Box Office Manager	Kelsey Harding
House Manager	Kimberley Rickers
Publicity Crew	Drama 10 Students
Box Office Crew	Nita Duarte Michael Pendragon, Doug Kester, Michael Huckaby Julie Burnett, Diane Erlich

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thanks to Nancy Denney-Phelps, Botany Bay Floral Design

We wish to thank the following individuals and firms for their support of our recent production of *When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?*

Billard's Old Telephones
Acme Vending Company/Central Music
"Sandwiched In"
Edward Medeiro, SJSU Music Department
SJSU Facilities Development and Operations Carpentry Shop

THE ACTORS

Frank Scozzari, a graduate student in Theatre Arts, last appeared as Otto in SJSU's production of *Bullshot Crummond*. Frank also has played Allan in *Play It Again*, Sam at West Valley College, Joe in *The Time of Your Life* at Foothill College, and Paul in *Footlight Frenzy* for Palo Alto Players. He has worked professionally in local videos, and this summer played Tranio in *The Taming of the Shrew* at San Jose City College. A Brooklyn native, Frank's goal is to teach at the university level.

Betsey Hayman received her Bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts at SJSU and is currently working toward a Master's degree. Betsey has appeared here as Isabel in *Moebius Band*, Miss Fellows in *The Night of The Iguana*, and Conjur Woman in *Dark of The Moon*. Her interests include teaching, acting, directing and playwriting.

Kelly McAllister, a junior at SJSU and a native of San Jose, has been seen in last year's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Snug and as Wolfgang in *The Night of The Iguana*. He played Laertes in the City Lights production of *A Marowitz Hamlet*, and has returned from summer stock in Durango, Colorado, where he appeared in two melodramas.

Andrea Falss, a drama major, is performing her first major role at SJSU. Her latest role was the Witch in Santa Clara University's childrens' production of *The Mirrorman*, through which she gained a new respect for Childrens' Theatre. She hopes to go on to get a Master's degree, and pursue work in new and experimental projects.

Rob Langeder, a senior at SJSU, plans to graduate in May. He returns after a summer of Repertory Theatre at Western Stage where he performed in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The King and I*, and *Sweeney Todd*. SJSU audiences will best remember Rob as the bumbling title role in *Bullshot Crummond* and as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Claudia Snyder, a Master's candidate in Theatre Arts at SJSU, became hooked on performing when she recited her first one-liner in a seventh grade school production. After a twenty year hiatus, she recently rediscovered college productions, playing Pegeen in Cabrillo College's summer musical *Mame*. She has since played Leonora in *The Long Christmas Dinner*, and Titania in UCSC's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Rusty Kransky, a transfer student from Livermore's Chabot College, has been singing since the age of seven. His favorite roles were, Ben Rumson in *Paint Your Wagon* and Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, both at Columbia State Park's Fallon House Theatre. Rusty also enjoyed playing the role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Rich in *As Is*. Rusty reads voraciously, sings, practices yoga, and plays backgammon in his spare time. He plans to perform forever.

BEDROOM FARCE

A Comedy by Alan Ayckbourn

Director	Hal J. Todd
Costume Design	Elizabeth M. Poindexter
Lighting Design	Ron Spaulding
Technical Direction	James R. Earle, Jr.
Scenic Design	Donamarie Reeds
Makeup Design	Kathy Keister
Sound Design	William Shepard

Cast *In order of appearance*

Ernest	Frank Scozzari
Della	Betsy Hayman
Malcolm	Kelly McAllister
Kate	Andrea Paiss
Nick	Rob Langeder
Jan	Claudia Snyder
Trevor	Rusty Kransky
Susanna	Bridget Kowalczyk

Time of Action – The present

Act One – Saturday evening, 7pm

Act Two – A few moments later

There will be a 15 minute intermission

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
The use of cameras or tape recorders is not permitted.