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One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

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ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

by Dale Wasserman



March 20, 21, 22 at 8:00 pm
March 22, 23 at 3:00 pm

1997

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

BY DALE WASSERMAN

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Chief Bromden	Aaron Starkey
Aide Williams	David B. Causey
Aide Warren	Michael Young
Nurse Ratched	Mary Riley
Nurse Flinn	Beth Ann Cosgrove
Dale Harding	William J. O'Connor
Billy Bibbit	Aaron Shelton
Scanlon	Michael Stephan Rebresh
Cheswick	Phil Hendricks
Martini	Matthew Stinton
Ruckly	Tim Ahlberg
Randle P. McMurphy	Tim Hamelen
Dr. Spivey	Jason Miller
Candy Starr	Kelly Ann Page
Sandra	Erica Altman
Aide Turkle	DaJuan Robinson

There Will Be One Fifteen Minute Intermission

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Dale Wasserman's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* does more than merely mirror the lives of patients living on a mental ward. The patients and the staff of this ward serve to represent all human beings and society. It is this representation of mankind that makes the message of the play incredibly terrifying. Close observation of the staff and patients makes one question the existence of humanity on this particular ward. Dehumanization is the loss of humanity, or the degeneration of those qualities which characterize the "humanness." Wasserman's portrayal of the total institution exposes the dehumanizing practices of mental institutions in the first half of the century.

Self-awareness, self esteem, the capacity to love, and an individual's free will are all traits of "humanness" that Wasserman depicts as lacking in the world of Nurse Ratched's ward. The frightening reality of this ward emerges when many of the patients confess that they willingly entered into this world. When Nurse Ratched's patients are dehumanized by the identical uniforms she chooses for them or by the use of electroshock therapy, the men of this ward struggle to maintain their individual identities and the very qualities that make them human. Wasserman uses these dehumanizing practices to pose an important question: Are these patients any different from people who believe they live freely within society? Is the "machine" of civilized society any different from the electroshock therapy machine when it comes to trying to conform the way a person thinks and behaves? Wasserman leaves the answer of this question up to every individual who chooses to become a spectator of this institutionalized "society."

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Craig A. Miller II
Stage Manager	Anne M. Sedlock
Assistant Stage Manager	Tracie L. Hanks
Scenic Designer	Scott Benson
Lighting Designer	Patrick M. Leahy
Associate Lighting Designer	Michael J. Latocha
Costume Designer	Kari Beth Rust
Sound Designer	Mark Larson
Dramaturg	Cynthia D. Smith
Technical Director	James R. Granger
Faculty Advisors	Sandi Zielinski, John Stark, Dan Browder, Bill Ruyle
Sound Engineer	Doug Nagel
Fight Choreographer	Paul Denhardt
Stage Crew	Erin Harrington, Mike Rogalski, Jerrold Trice
Costume Crew	Amy Clemmons, Josh Gibbons, Jenae Godwin, Andrea Stephens, Tiffany Post
Light Board Operator	Joanie Copenhagen
Sound Board Operator	Vanessa Nelson
General Managers	E. Christopher Corrigan, Lisa Swaar

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest is a contemporary outlook on a long standing battle: The norms of "society" forced on its members, versus the human impulse to be a free-thinking, free-willed individual within that society. It forces us to look closely at, or to "observe" if you will, the way in which our society reacts to any issue it doesn't understand or doesn't want to deal with. How we are willing to lock it away, regulate it, or terminate it if it poses a big enough threat to the "way of life." Wasserman has chosen the 1960's Mental Ward, or "society in miniature" as his forum to show us the individual's struggle to break through and be free.

*"Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members."
"Whoso would be a man, must be a non-conformist."*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

-Craig A. Miller II-

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Tracie Hanks, Doug Nagel, Scott Unes, Bill "pooky" Jenkins, Summer Snow, Cal MacLean, Connie deVeer, Debbie Alley, Ali Balong, Patrick O'Gara, Charles Fudge, Paul Denhardt & Lady, Woody Hood, Dave Brennan, Laurie Adams, John Stark, Nathan Stark, Anna Stark, Fletcher Bohne, Richard M. Rowe, Magic Fingers, Cathy Sutliff, Matt Vesic, Barb Riley R.N., Crystal Schanes, Bill Prigge, & the Lining Girl.

Coming Attractions



The Love of the Nightingale

by Timberlake Wertenbaker

April 23, 24, 25 at 8 pm; 26, 27 at 3 pm

Studio Theatre (tickets \$2 at the door • limited seating)

Fledermaus by Johann Strauss, Jr.

Comic Light Opera in conjunction with the Music Department

Mar. 28, 29, April 3, 4, 10, 11 at 8 pm;

Apr. 5, 6 at 3 pm;

Gala Waltz Night: April 12 at 7:30 pm

Westhoff Theatre (tickets \$20/10/\$5 — call 438-2535)



Kite's Book by Robert Caisley

A new comedy by our own local playwright and actor.

Apr. 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 at 8 pm;

Apr. 20, 27 at 3 pm

Allen Theatre (tickets \$10/\$5 — call 438-2535)



Spring Dance Concert

Faculty and Student Choreography

May 1, 2, 3 at 8 pm

Westhoff Theatre (tickets \$5 • call 438-2535)

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Shakespeare
Festival

Hamlet

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