
Programs 1996-1997 Season

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Fall 11-1996

As Is Program [1996]

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre *presents*

As Is

by William Hoffman
directed by Will Kilroy



A comi-tragic drama of two men facing the realization that one of them has AIDS. Nominated for a Tony, this funny, poignant, and brilliant play won the Obie and Drama Desk Awards. Each evening will include a post-performance discussion with the cast and members of The AIDS Project.

Produced in collaboration with the USM Department of Social Work.

Main Stage, Russell Hall, USM Gorham campus

November 8, 9, 13-16 7:30 p.m.

November 10 & 17 5:00 p.m.

High School Matinee: November 13, 10:00 a.m.

 **University of Southern Maine**

Director's Note: During the research and interview process for this production, I have been extremely inspired by the courage, humor, and strength of spirit of those living with HIV/AIDS. Whether it is an actor, artist, sports figure, or a neighbor, every life is a precious gift to be cherished... and too many have been lost to AIDS, which deprives us all. Statistics reveal the need for continued research and education, and for individuals to make informed choices as they explore intimacy. I hope this production will give a glimpse into the complex reality of coping with this virus, and perhaps inspire acceptance, empathy, and compassion.

Will Kilroy

Special Thanks

Victor Rash
The AIDS Project
Brian Allen
Department of Social Work
WMPG
The American Red Cross
The Peabody House
The Maine AIDS Alliance
AIDS Seacoast Response
The Names Project
The Center for Disease Control
Kenneth Hornbeck
Nancy-Rae Johnlad
Gay Men's Chorus
Sarah Parisian

* The squares decorating the backdrop of the set were created by the cast and crew in memory of loved ones lost.

As Is
by William M. Hoffman
Directed by Will Kilroy
Assisted by Julie Marcoullier

Cast

Rich	Patrick Davis
Saul	Burke Brimmer
Lily	Francesca Jellison
Chet	Brian Saunders
Brother	Luca Richards
Hospice Worker	Stephanie Hughs

Ensemble

Business Partner, Clone 2, 2nd Woman, PWA 3, Pat - Hotline Worker, Fashion Show Announcer	Margi Huber
Doctor 1, 1st Man, PWA 1, Barney - Hotline Worker, Fashion Show Announcer	Joshua Chenard
T.V. Announcer, Pick Up 2, Vinnie, 2nd Man, PWA 5, Model 1, Dealer 1	Jason Bannister
Pick up 1, PWA 4, Bartender, Doctor 2, John, Dealer 3, Model 2	David Martin
Hospital Worker, Doctor 3, Cop, Clone 1 Marty	Jason Waron
Susan, Nurse, Dealer 2, PWA 2	Cynthia Edgeton

Setting: Various Locations Throughout New York
Time: The present, with various flashbacks

There will be no intermission. The performance runs
approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.

This show contains adult language and situations

Design and Technical Staff

Director	Will Kilroy
Assistant Director/ Stage Manager	Julie Marcoullier
Choreographer	Wendy E. Getchell
Costume Designer	Christenia Alden-Kinne
Assistant Costume Designer	Carol Baker
Scenic Designer	Charles S. Kading
Lighting Designer	Thomas Vail
Sound Designer	Jamie Grant
Dramaturg	Jennifer Swan
Assistant Stage Manager	Leslie Guerin
Technical Director	Thomas Vail
Set Construction	Stage Craft Lab
Master Electrician	Jamie Grant
Lighting Board Operator	Mike French
Sound Board Operator	Jeff Shaw
Properties Supervisors	Guy Durichek, Susan Palmer
Properties Crew	James Cox
Deck Crew	Lindsey Leavitt
Wardrobe	Matt Frongillo, Todd Vance
Lobby Display	Jenn Swan and Karen Nevers
House Manager	Alice McFarland
Promotions/ Publicity	Mary Snell
Box Office	Emmanuelle Chaulet and Staff
Theatre Office	Marjorie Novel
Graphic Design	Leigh Raposo

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services, Inc.

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Artistic Team and Crew Biographies

Will Kilroy - Director

As a director, Will's productions have ranged from *Nunsense* at Maine's Strawflower Theatre to *Look Back in Anger* in Venice, California to *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Schoolhouse Arts Center. His various acting roles include Tom in the musical *Pulp Alley* for New York's West Bank Theatre, Philip in the Hollywood premiere of *Hotel Universe*, and the daytime serials *All My Children* and *As the World Turns*. Locally he has been seen as Bruce in Vintage Repertory's *Beyond Therapy*, Joe DiMaggio in *Insignificance* at Madhorse Theatre, in *The Nerd* at the Chocolate Church and with Ogunquit's Shenanigans Productions - where he has also directed. Will's USM productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Everything Sprite* and *Purple Breasts* were chosen for competition in the American College Theatre Festival, with "Sprite" also chosen for performance at New York's Village Gate. *Purple Breasts* was chosen for a performance in Washington, D.C. for the National Breast Cancer Coalition and received the Moss Hart Award. Will has been a Kennedy Center scholarship recipient, studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Art and National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York, and holds theatre degrees from the University of Rhode Island and the University of Illinois.

Julie Marcoullier - Assistant Director, Stage Manager

Julie, of Cape Neddick, is a Junior Theatre major at USM. Previous work at USM includes being in the chorus in *Pippin*, and *Mother/Joy* in *Purple Breasts*. This is her first experience with Stage Managing and Assistant Directing a college production. Her other experience includes *The Mouse Trap* (Molly), *You Can't Take It With You* (Essie), and *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae). Julie would like to give special thanks "to my husband and three kids, and to all my profs for being understanding about all of the late work I'll be turning in".

Wendy E. Getchell - Choreographer

Wendy, of Portland, is a theatre major at USM with a concentration in Directing and Choreography. Choreography credits include: the 1995 and 1996 Dance Festivals, and *A Dream of Canaries*. A recipient of the Chris Meanor Scholarship (dance), Wendy danced with Randy James of Dance Works at this summer's Portland Dance Festival. She will be assistant coordinator for the '97 Dance Festival with Emily Ojala and also choreographing a piece for the show. Special thanks to William Kilroy, Julie Marcoullier, Jamie Grant, Emily Ojala, my love Burke Brimmer, and to my dancers and others for their dedication and patience. "Just get up and dance, I say."

Christenia Alden - Kinne - Costume Designer

Christenia has worked with the USM Department of Theatre for the past 13 years both as an instructor and as supervisor of the costume shop. A graduate of Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash., Chris did graduate work at the University of California at Davis and Trinity University through the Dallas Theater Center, focusing both in acting and costume design. She recently had her world premiere musical fantasy, *Sweet River*, performed here at USM, at Deertrees Theatre in Harrison, and also at the Maine State Festival in Brunswick.

Charles S. Kading - Scenic Designer

Charles has taught design and stagecraft at USM for 15 years. His professional credits include *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, *Dark River*, and *Keely and Du* for Mad Horse Theater; *My Fair Lady* and *Cabaret* for Maine State Music Theater; *Big River* and *Cabaret* for Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater; and *Noises Off* and *Blithe Spirit* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He also worked extensively at The Alley Theater in Houston where his credits include the US premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's *Henceforward*. In addition, Charles has designed scenery for the Seattle Repertory Theater, Intiman Theater, Cabaret Repertory Theater and Portland Stage.

Thomas C. Vail - Technical Director/Lighting Designer

Tom has been in Maine all his life. He was the technical director of USM for four years during the early 80's. He has worked with most of the theatres in Southern Maine, including Schoolhouse Arts Center, Biddeford City Theatre, Portland Players, Portland Stage Company and most recently he was the T.D. at Mad Horse Theatre last season where he also designed their summer show *Oh Coward*. He is very happy to be back at USM. Special Thanks To: his wife, Mari, and their children John, David, Christa and Jared.

* ~ *

Cast Biographies**Patrick Davis - Rich**

Patrick, of North Berwick, is a junior Theatre Major at USM. He would first like to dedicate his performances to his family. The creative process of this show has shed a whole new light on the importance of loved ones for Patrick, who himself was ill to the point of near death. Thank you and I love you. Danielle -- you are my rock, and I love you.

Burke Brimmer - Saul

Burke, from Portland, is a junior theatre major at USM. His Previous roles include Haimon in *Antigone*, Matt in *Purgatory* and The Soldier in *La Ronde*. "I am very happy to be a part of this production. Through its message I hope that everyone, especially young people, will feel the need for further education on the topic of AIDS. Please protect yourself; take care and above all never be afraid to love - and I do love you Wendy! Enjoy the show."

Francesca Jellison - Lilly

Francesca is a graduate of The University of Maine with a degree in Theater Arts. She has been involved with a variety of theater companies throughout Maine, including Bangor Community Theater doing a number of musicals such as *Oklahoma*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Cabaret* and *The King and I*. She has also been involved with the Gilbert and Sullivan group in Ellsworth. She has been in Checkov Dinner Theater performing: *The Brute*, *The Audition* and *The Marriage Proposal*. Within the past year she has performed with the "Originals" of Bar Mills in *Blythe Sprit* and *The Miss Firecracker Contest*. Her latest venture was with Shenanigan's production of *Psycho Beach Party*.

Brian Scott Saunders - Chet

Brian is a fourth-year theatre major from Winthrop. Previous roles include Dennis in *Loot*, Pippin in *Pippin*, and The Young Gentleman in *La Ronde*. Brian would like to dedicate his performance to the people of Maine who are living with AIDS.

Luca Richards - Brother

Luca, is a sophomore theatre major at USM. Previous roles at USM include Paul Fairweather in *The Poor of Portland* and Pedrillo the messenger, in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Luca was also stage manager and understudy for Shenanigan's production of *Psycho Beach Party*. Luca would like to dedicate his performance to his parents for their love and endless support.

Stephanie Hughes - Narrator/Hospice Worker
Stephanie, of Scarborough is a junior theatre major at USM. To accompany her professional and community theatre credits, her past USM roles include: Señora Demas in *A Dream of Canaries*, Alva Withers in an original one-act, *Sometimes We Just Listen to Each Other Breathe*, and Mrs. Puffy in *The Poor of Portland*. Stephanie can next be seen in New England's Premiere production of *Miss Nowhere Diner* at The Oak Street Theatre, and in the spring as Papagena in USM's fairy-tale opera, *The Magic Flute*. She feels proud to be part of a play with such a prevalent theme and great cast. "Thanks to all of you who cheer me on! "

Margi Huber - Business Partner, Clone, Woman, PWA, Pat, Fashion announcer
Margi is a senior at USM pursuing a self-designed Bachelor's degree in Human Ecology. An honor student, she is attending USM thanks to Channel 6 and a Color-Me-Green scholarship. "I hope to metamorphose from this collegiate experience as an environmental storyteller with more engagements than I know what to do with." This is her first USM play, after several classes with Will Kilroy. Special thanks go to Bob and Dodger for always being there.

Joshua Chenard - Doctor, Man, PWA, Barney, Fashion announcer, Model
Joshua is a second year theatre major at USM. Some past theatre credits include: Bottom in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, Barthalo in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Barnette in *Crimes of the Heart*. This performance is dedicated to my parents, my endless sources of inspiration. "Hope is a good thing ... Maybe the best of things... and no good thing ever dies." - Rita Hayworth, *The Shawshank Redemption*, by Stephen King.

Jason Bannister - T.V. Announcer, Pick up, Vinnie, Man, PWA, Model, Dealer
Jason is a sophomore theatre major finally securing an acting role. Past USM experience includes: light-board Operator for *Marriage of Figaro*, and light designer for SPA's *Sweet River*. Regional acting credits include *Sound of Music*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *The Nutcracker* (Portland Ballet Company), *Come Back to the 5 & Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Illusion*, and *The Lion in Winter*. Jason created the role of Whitney in the Lewiston Bicentennial Musical: *A New Home*. Jason will be performing the role of Dakota in USM's *Miss Nowhere Diner*, at Oak Street Theater in December. Jason dedicates this performance to his loving parents (All three of you!).

David Martin - Pick up, PWA, Bartender, Doctor, John, Dealer, model
David, of Windham, is a Senior theatre major at USM. Previous roles at USM include: David in *Purple Breasts*, Dr McPherson in *Birchmarks*, and Lewis in *Pippin*. David also recieved an Irene Ryan Award nomination. This summer David played the role of Starcat in *Psycho Beach Party*. David, in his last show at USM would like to thank all of the staff and especially Will Kilroy for making this show a memorable one.

Jason Waron - Hospital Worker, Doctor, Cop, Clone, Marty
Jason, of Beverly, Massachusetts is a sophomore theater major at USM. Previous roles at USM include: Mr. Puffy in *Poor of Portland*. Outside of USM he has played Bill Clinton in *Peace Accord*, Otto Frank in *Diary of Anne Frank*, and Snug/Lion in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Jason is a winner of the Beverly High School Performance Award and the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild Acting Award. Besides acting, he enjoys playing guitar and songwriting. Special thanks go to his parents for always supporting him and to any of his friends who had faith in him. "This one's for Trav".

Cynthia Ann Edgeton - PWA, Susan, Nurse, Dealer, Doctor, woman.
Cynthia, of Westbrook, is a junior Theatre major at USM. Her previous roles at USM include *Die Fledermaus* (Sally), *Patience* (Patience), *Pippin*, and *Sweet River* (Aunt Winnie). Her other theater experience includes work with the Portland Opera Repertory Theatre, *Carmen* (Chorus), and *Madame Butterfly* (Chorus). "Thanks to my mom, dad, Sue and Calvin for supporting me always and special thanks to Skippy for making me believe in myself again."

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For information on the USM Summer Theater Institute which is particularly geared for teachers and advanced actors, call Will Kilroy at 780-5394.

You may also contact Professor Kilroy for information regarding USM's Summer Theater Program for grades 7-12.

Thoughts From The Cast and Crew

"I am angered at the way this disease was perceived in the beginning. I'm saddened by the sometimes lack of compassion that has been associated with this epidemic...and I'm proud to have a small part in the healing!"

"Until I met people involved with the AIDS Project here in Maine, and several people diagnosed with HIV, I viewed it intellectually, but now I feel it emotionally."

"Through this experience, I've been able to alter my naive stereotypical thoughts on HIV, and the people that come into contact with it."

"It's truly a remarkable experience to be invited into the lives of the amazing people we've talked to during this process. I am touched and inspired by the courage of the victims dealing with this disease."

"Despite the negative effects and devastation that occurs with AIDS, I am amazed and inspired by the beauty and grace of the human spirit."

"Having never really talked to someone with AIDS, I have learned that real people are living and dying with this disease. The speakers have brought the personal side of this disease to the front of my mind, and that's what it is all about."

"It's sobering to have the people and statistics which I only see on t.v, sitting in front of me. It's real."

"This process has really showed me that AIDS is not just a gay man's disease, we are all at risk. But knowledge is power, and we don't need to be paranoid - only aware."

"I would like to dedicate my work on this play to the memory of Dr. Bradford Dudley Daziel, who died of AIDS in 1994. He was a wonderful mentor, and an inspired teacher. William Blake once wrote, "He whose face gives no light, shall never become a star." I believe the light from Brad's star will shine for a long time to come."

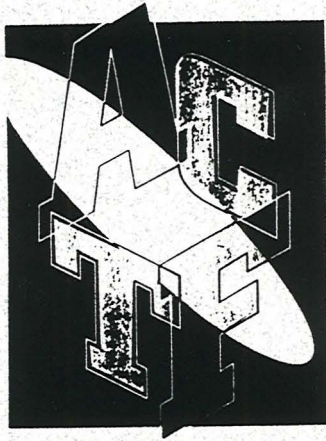
Remembering Donald Catalano and Fred H. Smith written by Richard Steinman

From opposite corners of the United States, Donald Catalano and Fred H. Smith came together in 1976. Fred was a Mainer from generations back, while Donald was a first-generation son of immigrant Italians who had settled in Southern California. Their northern and southern European heritages were reflected in their contrasting good looks but there was a reversal in their personalities: Donald was low-keyed and introspective whereas Fred was more openly forceful and could display Mediterranean fire.

They entered the University of California's School of Social Welfare (Berkeley) and quickly fell in love. They established their lives together. Donald gravitated to psychogeriatric social work and Fred to adolescent mental health. They were both keenly sensitive to human suffering and, though they expressed it in distinctly different ways, shared in common deeply held social, political and philosophical values about what constituted a just society for all citizens, and about how to achieve it. They effectively translated their passion against injustice into solid achievements on behalf of persons with AIDS, adolescents, and the elderly, including lesbians and gay elders.

They lived together for 14 years. Their beautiful house and garden, high on a hilltop of San Mateo, was their final home. Both in their mid-thirties, Donald died of AIDS late in 1990, and Fred six weeks later. Throughout the long period of nursing Donald, Fred refused to explore or reveal his health condition because he did not want Donald to blame himself for his partner's impairment. In addition to funding the higher education of several nieces and nephews, they left generous bequests to the social work education programs at both Berkely and the University of Southern Maine. Income from that fund has helped to underwrite activities such as this production.

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The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival XXIX

Presented and produced by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Supported in part by The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund, The U.S. Department of Education, Ryder System

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for adjudication by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the non-competitive KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, in the spring of 1997.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing with the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.