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STELLA

A SCANDALOUS ROMANCE

by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Translated by Robert M. Browning & Frank Ryder



UNIVERSITY THEATRE
san jose state university

March 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10 8 p.m.

Tickets: University Theatre Box Office, 5th & San Fernando
Monday-Friday 1-5 p.m.; 5:00-8:15 Show Nights or call 924-4555

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Karl Toepfer teaches dramatic literature and theatre history in the Theatre Arts Department, where he is also the Graduate Coordinator. He received his doctorate from UCLA. His last mainstage production for the Department was *The Adding Machine* in Spring 1988. Since that time he has been pursuing theatre research which has appeared in *Theater Three*, *Performing Arts Journal*, and *Journal of Dramatic Criticism and Theory*, among other publications.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Goethe wrote *Stella* in 1775, and since that time, the play has provoked controversy regarding its theme of the relation between marriage and passion. For many years, the play was banned from the stage because of its strange ending. For the first production (Weiman, 1806), Goethe supplied a new, acceptable ending in which Fernando and Stella commit suicide. But this "solution" to the problem of men and women who love "too much" has always seemed to lack conviction. Therefore, we are performing the original ending. But the existence of two endings reinforces the notion of indeterminacy governing the mood of the play. Fernando cannot decide which woman he loves best, nor, it seems, can either Stella or Cecilia love him enough unless they love each other. Nor should the spectator be able to decide which woman is "best," for the play suggests that we cannot love anyone without discovering our capacity to love someone else. Any serious expression of romantic feeling implies a transgression of social convention governing erotic relations: for Goethe marriage apparently "contains" love by constricting it. A major irony of the play is that the conventional man of action, the aristocratic soldier, Fernando, is unable to act decisively or heroically in relation to sexual passion, and it is the women who act boldly, courageously, in this zone of experience.



**AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL XXII
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 in associate entry in the American College Theater Festival (ACTF). The aim 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 ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Last year more than 800 productions and 17,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the ACTF goals to help theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

STELLA

By Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Translation by Robert M. Browning and Frank Ryder

DirectorKarl Toepfer
Scenic DesignJames K. Culley
Costume and Makeup DesignElizabeth Poindexter
Lighting DesignSandra Marto
Sound DesignScott Sinagra

Cast

StellaShannon Frank
CeciliaSusan Winesberg
FernandoKelly McAllister
LucyMelanie Molina
StewardMarc Rotzow
PostmistressKate Farrant
AnnieClaire Uneda
CarlCarl Redmond
Batman/ServantFrank Lucero
LainaKat Langeder

A PLAY IN FIVE SCENES

Scene 1: Posthouse

Scene 2: A Room in Stella's Castle

Scene 3: A Room in Stella's Castle

Fifteen minute intermission

Scenes 4: Stella's Garden

Scene 5: A Room in Stella's Castle

Time: The Late 18th Century

Place: Germany

Produced by special arrangement with Suhrkamp Publishers, N.Y.

The use of cameras or tape recorders is not permitted.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical DirectorJames K. Culley
Stage ManagerDana Andersen-Wyman
Assistant Stage ManagersRian Galbreath, Enrique Dominquez
Assistant to the DirectorJamie Peters
Assistant Scenic DesignBarbara Gotcher
Assistant Lighting DesignMary Ann Evans
Assistant Sound DesignTiffany Peck
Properties AcquisitionVanessa Pacheco
Scenery ConstructionDrama 10 and 52 Students
Stage Crew HeadEnrique Dominquez
Stage CrewVelma Priest, Paul Schov
Properties Crew HeadTreesa Rosko
Properties CrewCarol Ann Callahan, Suzanne Thrash
Lighting Board OperatorKaren Eves
Sound Board OperatorAnn Eubank
Cutter/FittersAlice Sibley, Elizabeth M. Poindexter
Assistant to the Costume DesignerAlice Sibley
Fabric ArtistJude Silva
MillineriesDiane Winesburg, Alice Sibley
Costume ConstructionDrama 10 & 52 Students,
Costume Running Crew ChiefDonna Cordrey
Assistant Costume Crew ChiefMyrna Boustany
Costume Running CrewLisa Hampton, Kelly Wells
Makeup CrewSara Beukers

UNIVERSITY THEATRE TECHNICAL STAFF

Shop ForemanSteven Placke
Scene Shop AssistantsDonn Leach, Andy Hohenner
Painting AssistantGary Zaro
Costume DirectorEliza Chugg
Costume Shop AssistantsJude Silva, Diane Winesburg,
Alice Sibley
Costume Loan CoordinatorsAnnmarie Martin
Prop Room CoordinatorBuffy Davis
Lighting TechnicianSandra Marto
Lighting AssistantBarbara Gotcher
Sound TechnicianScott Sinagra
Studio Theatre TechnicianKevin Cornelious

UNIVERSITY THEATRE FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Director of Theatre.....David Kahn
Associate ProducerMitchell Dahood
Box Office ManagerShannon Frank
House ManagerDebra Timmerman
PhotographerScott Hinrichs
Publicity Crew.....Drama 10 Students
Box Office CrewDiane Elrich, Rian Galbreath,
 Kelly McAllister, Katie Amstutz, Suzie Thrash

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Limited Space Futon Store, The Berkeley Shakespeare Festival.

NEXT IN THE UNIVERSITY STAGE



Multiply an energetic corps of bright, young **Dancers** by the
 provocative **Action** of innovative staging, divide by **New** ideas
 in sensual motion times the square root of accomplished **Choreographers**
 extrapolated by infinite **Emotion**

X

Theatrical **Flash** combined with **Originality**
 divided by to-tapping **Rhythms** set over spectacular color and
 increased by **Entertainment** to the tenth power

=

*Dance
Force*

March 28-31 at 8:00 PM