

Fall 1989

## About Face (1989)

San Jose State University, Theatre Arts

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# A<sup>b</sup>OUT f a C<sup>E</sup>



A Farce  
by Dario Fo

Photo: Scott Hinrichs

UNIVERSITY THEATRE  
s a n j o s e s t a t e u n i v e r s i t y

## ABOUT FO

Dario Fo (1926- ), a highly controversial Italian playwright, satirist and performer, has been entertaining European audiences for years. Due to his political views, he has been considered a risk and therefore has been denied a visa to the United States until very recently. In 1985, he was refused entrance to the United States, when he was scheduled to speak at a Free Trade in Ideas conference. Consequently, he was seen via satellite from Toronto. At the conference he was quoted as saying: "The fact the State Department denied...the visa is something which makes me very proud. I took a look at the list of people denied visas to the United States, and then I realized that I am in beautiful company."

## ABOUT FACE

*About Face*, originally entitled *Car Horns, Trumpets, and Raspberries*, takes a satirical look at terrorism. Utilizing the classic "mistaken-identity farce," Fo chose the Italian millionaire, Gianni Agnelli as his target. In *About Face*, Agnelli is abducted by the Red Brigades, then severely injured in a car accident. Through a series of misunderstandings, his face is reconstructed to resemble the face of an Italian factory worker, Antonio Berardi. In the course of the play, Fo manages to satirize not only capitalism, but bureaucratic incompetency and police corruption as well.

This production, in keeping with Fo's style is filled with "lazzi" – or comic bits, reminiscent of the Marx Brothers, "asides" to the audience, which create a sense of intimacy or a shared secret, and a sense of improvisation through updated references and occasional ad libs.

In this production, Gianni Agnelli has been appropriately renamed "DonAldo Trumpo" to appeal to the American sensibility – magnifying the fact that lust for power and greed is universal. As the plot unravels, the audience is left with the sense that the power and influence of industrialists has been greatly underestimated and is truly a force to be reckoned with.



## BRIDGET KOWALCZYK, DIRECTOR

Bridget received her M.F.A. in Theatre Arts with specialization in Performance from San Jose State University in May 1989. While pursuing her Master's degree, she also taught four semesters of Oral Expression. Also at San Jose State, Bridget directed several studio productions, including: Mrozek's *Out at Sea*, Handke's *Kaspar*, and *Futurist Performance* by various Futurist artists. Her last directing project, *The Box*, ran simultaneously with the world premiere of *The Duck Sisters*, written by the guest playwright-in-residence, Sheldon Rosen. Her interest in performance art led to the creation and performance of the production, *The Bells*, a piece highlighting the dual nature of man, based on the Edgar Allen Poe poem of the same name. Future projects include

the mounting of a production she wrote entitled "It's All Cellophane!" – a piece written in the style of the Futurists. In 1988, Bridget was awarded the title of Best Student Director at San Jose State. In addition to directing, Bridget has played a wide variety of roles in various productions. Her most thrilling experience as an actor was being directed by Edward Albee in the role of Grandma in *The Sandbox*. Currently, Bridget can be seen in the role of Carol in the musical comedy, *Angry Housewives* at San Jose Stage Company in Downtown San Jose.



# ABOUT FACE

by  
Dario Fo

Director ..... Bridget Kowalczyk  
Scenic Design ..... James K. Culley  
Costume and Makeup Design ..... Elizabeth M. Poindexter  
Lighting Design ..... Sandra Marto  
Sound Design ..... Troy Arnett

## Cast

Antonio/DonAldo Trumpo ..... Richard Galli  
Rosa ..... Deanna MacLean  
Lucia ..... Kat Langeder  
Sergeant ..... Len Harris  
District Attorney ..... Gary R. Voss  
Doctor/Agent ..... Kevin Cornelius  
Squad Leader/Dumbo ..... Douglas A. Kester  
1st Police Officer ..... Annmarie Martin  
Window/Gopher ..... Brendan Averett  
Waiter/Schizo ..... David Scott  
Alpo/2nd Police Officer ..... Leith Burke  
Man-in-Overalls/Hypo ..... Marc Rotzow  
Spy ..... Shannon Frank

## The Scenes of The Play

**Act I:** Hospital

*Fifteen minute intermission*

**Act II:** Rosa's House

Time: Present

Place: Italy

Produced by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

The use of cameras or tape recorders is not permitted.

WARNING! Strobe lighting will be used at the end of Act II



## PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	James K. Culley
Stage Manager	Cheryl Saad
Assistant Stage Managers	Kate Ferrant, Teresa Roskos
Assistant to the Director	Debra Timmerman
Assistant Scenic Design	Pip Panitchpakdi
Properties Acquisition	Jan Paivinen
Scenery Construction	Drama 10 and 52 Students
Stage Crew Head	Andy Hohenner
Stage Crew	Joseph Garcia, Wilson Villanueva, Mike Martin, Marc Rotzow
Properties Crew Head	Marcy Phillips
Properties Crew	Ona Brazwell, Remon Zabanch
Lighting Operator	Rian Galbreath
Followspot Operators	Mike Kubit, Vanessa Pacheco, T. Rusty Randolph
Sound Operator	Donna Cordrey
Cutter/Fitters	Eliza Chugg, Elizabeth M. Poindexter
First Hands	Alice Sibley, Joy White
Fabric Artists	Glenda Lubiner, Cathie Milner
Costume Construction	Drama 10, 52 and 153 Students
Costume Running Crew Chief	Buffy Davis
Costume Running Crew	Catalina Pelayo (assistant), Lisa Alba, Karen Eves, Dawn Trimble
Makeup Crew	Kimburli Doty, Jennifer Tilman, Dierdra Chang, Kim Torregano
Masks and Special Projects	Annmarie Martin
Lazzi Consultant	Michael Cawelti

## UNIVERSITY THEATRE TECHNICAL STAFF

Shop Foreman	Steven Placke
Scene Shop Assistants	Pip Panitchpakdi, Heather Dobson, Greg Evens
Painting Assistant	Gary Zaro
Costumer	Eliza Chugg
Costume Shop Assistant	Glenda Lubiner, Diane Winesburg
Costume Loan Coordinators	Teri Bawdon, Deanna MacLean
Prop Room Coordinator	Buffy Davis
Lighting Technician	Sandra Marto
Lighting Assistant	Andy Hohenner
Sound Technician	Scott Sinagra
Studio Theatre Technician	Todd Fouyer

## UNIVERSITY THEATRE FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

<b>Director of Theatre</b> .....	David Kahn
<b>Associate Producer</b> .....	Mitchell Dahood
<b>Box Office Manager</b> .....	Shannon Frank
<b>House Manager</b> .....	Debra Timmerman
<b>Photographer</b> .....	Scott Hinrichs
<b>Publicity Crew</b> .....	Drama 10 Students
<b>Box Office Crew</b> .....	Diane Elrich, Rian Galbreath, Kelly McAllister

## THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

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In alphabetical order, our patrons:

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Music Department, SJSU; Marty Schulter, Disabled Student Services; San Jose Stage Company; Dr. David Kahn; Eliza Chugg



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*The facade of the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum is a reproduction of the Avenue of Ram Sphinxes from the Karnak Temple at Thebes.*





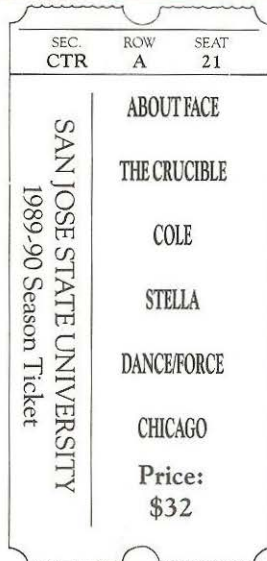
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