

GREENSTAGE
presents



A Touch of the Poet

by Eugene O'Neill

Directed by Peter Burford

February 21 - March 23.
2002

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ABOUT THE PLAY

*“There is a cursed destiny in these decadent times.
Everywhere the scum rises to the top.”*

Boston is about to blow: It’s 1828 and scores of Irish immigrants have arrived, fleeing poverty and desperate for a better life in the United States. Instead, they encounter the Yankee elite’s withering condescension and occupy the bottom rung of the social ladder.

A war hero in Ireland, the vainglorious Major Cornelius Melody is a barkeep in Boston. His wife, Nora, is kind but simple, and his daughter, Sara, despises him. Faced with an ebbing past and a hollow future, he drinks as much liquor as he sells. When Sara falls for the son of a Yankee family, Melody’s pride is singed. Will his bitterness destroy his daughter’s chance for love?

GreenStage presents Eugene O’Neill’s landmark drama, “A Touch of the Poet”. O’Neill intended to write an eleven piece cycle chronicling the life of an American family, but “A Touch of the Poet” was the only such play completed when he died. GreenStage is proud to offer “A Touch of the Poet”—replete with live Irish music—as the debut offering in its new American Classics series.

NOTICE:

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and watch alarms that might go off during the performance.

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.

*** THERE IS A GUNSHOT IN THIS SHOW ***

A Touch of the Poet

By Eugene O'Neill

CAST

Con Melody • Phillip Clarke
Nora • Erin Day
Sara • Adrienne Mays
Cregan • TJ Langley
Maloy • Dave Dodge
Deborah • Molly Blades
Gadsby • Dean Wilson
O'Dowd / Musician • Amber Maier
Roche / Musician • Dennis McCabe
Riley / Musician • Mark McQuinn

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director • Peter Burford
Stage Manager • D'Arcy Harrison
Costumes • Angie Stutting
Set Design • Peter Burford
Props • Erin Day, Tony Driscoll,
Alison McRae
Production Manager • Ken Holmes
Publicity • Litsa Dremousis
House Manager • Laura Garcia

SPECIAL THANKS

Drew Mayhew, Isabel Hamilton, Katie Kurtz, The D.O.G., Amelia Meckler,
Jennifer Albee, Amelia Meckler, Stephen Shults, Speakeasy.net, Steve Cooper,
Brad Cook, Union Garage, David Nochimson

Board of Directors

Erin Day, David J. Dodge, Ken Holmes, Amelia Meckler

CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Molly Blades (Deborah) This is Molly's first role with Greenstage, and she's been having a blast. The past year has kept her happily busy after far too long away from the stage. Her credits include *Unfair Arguments with Existence* at A Theatre Under the Influence, the title role in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* with the Island Players, performances in last year's Fringe and Mae West Fests, and EXITheatre's *Projekt 2000*. Raised in New Orleans, she can't get enough of playing eccentric characters like Deborah. Molly also hopes to develop an additional career as a dramaturg to justify her extensive library research. She sends kisses to her beloved husband Frank for his unflagging support.

Peter Burford (Director) Peter is a founding member of Theatre Paradox and has directed many of Paradox's shows. Most recently, he directed Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* in the fall of 2000. He has also directed *The Glass Menagerie*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, and *The Dumb Waiter*. As an actor, his most memorable recent role was that of Orson Welles in *War of the Worlds* at Union Garage—a role he will (hopefully) reprise this Halloween. He has also appeared in *Troilus and Cressida* (Greenstage), *The Racket* (Theatre Under the Influence), *Re&G are Dead*, and *Equus* (Theatre Paradox). When he isn't directing or acting, Peter enjoys his cushy day-job for Headlight Software. Other addictions include photography, scuba diving, traveling, and Diablo II.

Philip D. Clarke (Con Melody) is pleased to be making his debut with GreenStage. Since moving to Seattle in 1995, Philip has worked with Tony & Tina's Wedding, Theatre Under the Influence, Theatre Babylon, Theater Schmeater, and Seattle Shakespeare Company. Thanks to all for their help and support. Etta, Thanks for keeping me aware. Enjoy.

Erin Day (Nora) This is Erin's seventh season trotting the boards with GreenStage. Some favorite roles with the company include Portia in *Julius Caesar*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Jailer's Daughter in *Two Noble Kinsman*, and Timon in *Timon of Athens*. Thanks for coming, enjoy the show, and remember "...truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dave Dodge (Maloy) David is delighted to be joining this great cast in this great play. Favorite roles performed with GreenStage include Richard in *Richard II*, Apemantus in *Timon of Athens*, Yephodov in *The Cherry Orchard*, and Morris in *The Ballad of Young Will Jones*.

D'Arcy Harrison (Stage Manager) D'Arcy was born and raised on the frigid coasts of Rhode Island and now hovels pleasantly in Seattle's Capitol Hill. She has been heavily immersed in theatre since childhood and continued by earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in the Kristin Linklater based program in Boston, MA. She has appeared in such plays as *Angels in America*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *The Crucible*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Grease*. She looks forward to fledgeling projects to emerge from her company, Vagabond Theatre Alley. D'Arcy hopes to partner with GreenStage again in the future, whether as a performer or producing contributor.

Ken Holmes (Production Manager) Ken has been working with GreenStage for nearly a decade. With the company he has acted, directed, produced, built things and moved things. He has also been seen on stage with Theater Schmeater, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Stepping Stone Productions, Steeplechase Productions, and Northern Lights Productions, amongst others. He is hoping to work with more companies with the word "productions" in their name. Ken has also worked as a graphic designer, photographer, magician, and sometimes dons a tutu for Applemania Singing Telegrams.

TJ Langley (Cregan) *A Touch of the Poet* marks T.J.'s GreenStage debut. Other recent Seattle stage roles include *All in the Timing* with ReAct (Seattle Fringe Festival), *Sex in Seattle* with the lovely SIS ladies, and *Sweet Thursday* at Book-It Repertory Theater. Keep an eye out for T.J. in his upcoming role as the groom in a much anticipated Portland production! Smooches to his co-star Sidney.

Dennis McCabe (Roche, musician) Dennis received his dramatic training at the University of Washington where he is currently employed. After rehearsals he can often be spotted at local dance venues, doing the lindy hop or zydeco in his signature Converse All Star high tops, his collection spanning every color of the rainbow. Dennis has been acting for decades in the Seattle area with roles ranging from the juiciest leads such as the flamboyant Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* to the nap-inducing corpse in *Gazebo*. He would like to thank his wife Kay for her pioneering work in Act-Anon, a support group for partners of theatrical workers. A special thanks also to his daughters Mary and Lena for making his job as a parent easy.

Mark A. McQuinn (Riley, musician) Mark was remanded to the custody of Greenstage after a foiled attempt at global conquest using an unholy army of chimeric monsters created by recombinant DNA techniques, which is illegal in Fremont. He escaped briefly but was discovered hiding out in the Odd Duck Theatre. He is still grateful to DAMN for the sanctuary, temporary though it may have been. He now has a surgically implanted radio transponder, and is continually monitored for public safety.

CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES *(continued)*

Amber Maier (O'Dowd, musician) Amber was born in Berkeley, Ca. in the Summer of Love to cheerleader-turned-Bohemian parents. She has traveled to India, England, France, Hong Kong, and the Hawaiian Islands. Amber loves to dance and has been bellydancing since age six, and now teaches it. She makes a living as a freelance illustrator/painter, and has always been involved with theatre--ten years in the Renaissance and Dickens' Faires, various smaller stage credits in Marin and Santa Cruz, and now starting over in Seattle with a few film-extra credits. She has been in and out of at least three Irish bands, playing pennywhistle, bodhran, and singing. Beyond the continuance of interests, she has no idea what the future holds, but looks forward to it. That, and actually getting to see Ireland one of these days!

Adrienne Mays (Sara) Adrienne has her BA in acting, and is pondering an MFA in the near future. She likes vanilla ice cream and pulls her hangnails (ouch). She doesn't like coffee or cold rain, but other than that, she thinks Seattle is great. Thanks for coming to the show!

Angie Stutting (Costumer) Angie has has the privilege of working with her very good friends at GreenStage on a number of exciting projects over the last three years. In this time she has been the costumer for *Timon of Athens*, *Volpone*, *The Ballad of Young Will Jones*, and *Henry IV Part One*. Angie also made her Seattle stage debut with GreenStage as Cal, in Mary Anne Hale Harding's *Squish*. She enjoyed sharing this last summer with GreenStage as Helen of Troy and Patroclus in *Troilus and Cressida*. She is very happy to be venturing into new territory along side this innovative company as a costumer on this show. She would like to thank Ken Holmes for introducing her to all these special people and giving her her first shot at costuming all those years ago. Angie would also like to thank her Seattle mom, Alison for all the support she gives and her Mom in Iowa for always giving her confidence in her creativity. Thanks Mom!

Dean Wilson is excited to be making his Greenstage debut in "Touch of the Poet". He is currently an undergraduate at the University of Washington where he has appeared as George H Jones in *Machinal*, Phil in *Hurlyburly*, and Yens in *Vikings*. In Houston, Dean appeared as File in *The Rainmaker* at Actor's Theater, Tommy Jackson in *The Kentucky Cycle* at The College of the Mainland, and as Bo Bob Jasper in *Cheatin'* at Theater Suburbia.

GreenStage, Seattle's veteran Shakespeare in the Park Company is committed to providing quality productions of classical theater for all people. It is our belief that *art should be free*. Now, more than ever, just as we need food to nourish and restore us, humanity needs art. Our productions focus on storytelling in an effort to bring the characters of the play to life.

You can help us provide our programs by contributing to GreenStage. Premiums for contributors at certain levels include T-shirts, Coffee Mugs, Shakespeare Saucers and our undying gratitude.

GreenStage has been performing in the Seattle area since 1989. In that time we have produced twenty-six productions, eighteen from Shakespeare's canon. Our season includes two outdoor touring productions each summer, which have become a tradition for many and are seen by thousands of area residents and visitors.



Jared Lyn and Jeff Spaulding in Macbeth

Since 1995 we have also been producing plays in indoor venues as well. This winter we are proud to present the first play in our American Classics Series, Eugene O'Neill's *A Touch of the Poet*.

GreenStage has taken on some of Shakespeare's best-loved plays as well as several of the more problematic. In addition to Shakespeare, we have also produced classics such as *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekov and *Volpone* by Ben Jonson.

This coming summer GreenStage's



Eli Sklov Simons, Jason Marr and Rachel Hornor in Troilus and Cressida

Shakespeare in the Park season includes *Henry IV, Part Two* and *Taming of the Shrew*. We will also be taking part in the second annual Seattle Outdoor Theater Festival in Volunteer Park on July 20 & 21.

Find out more about GreenStage at www.greenstage.org



Lori K. Davis, Angie Stutting and Rachel Hornor in Squish by Marianne Hales Harding



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www.greenstage.org

2002 Shakespeare in the Park

Henry IV, Part Two • directed by Linda Lombardi

The battle over the crown continues! The third play in GreenStage's ongoing project of presenting Shakespeare's histories in historical order. In *Richard II*, Bolingbroke deposed Richard to become Henry IV. In *Henry IV, Part One* the new king, with a little help from his son Hal and a fat fellow named Falstaff, successfully defended the crown from rebel forces. In *Henry IV, Part Two* the rebels are in arms again and King Henry's health is failing. Will the rebel forces be able to stop the crown from being passed from Henry IV to his son Hal? And what will become of that fat fellow, Falstaff?

Taming of the Shrew • directed by Laura Garcia

Ah, love! The youngest daughter of old Baptista has suiters clamoring over her hand, but her father won't allow her to be wed until someone agrees to marry her older sister, the sharp-witted and strong-willed Kate. Enter Petruchio, a man who may just be able to match wits with the fiery Kate. The battle of the sexes has begun. Join us this summer for one of Shakespeare's funniest and most loved comedies. Filled with romance, trickery, disguised identities, and a spark or two of true love, *Taming of the Shrew* is sure to entertain.

Watch for us this summer at a park near you!

IN SEATTLE: Discovery Park • Volunteer Park • Seward Park • Woodland Park • Sand Point Magnuson Park • Lincoln Park

IN LYNNWOOD: Lynndale Park • IN KENT: Kent Canterbury Faire

AND . . .

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GreenStage over the years.

By Shakespeare unless otherwise noted.

- 2001 Squish! - by Marianne Hales Harding, directed by Amelia Meckler • Seattle Fringe Festival
Troilus and Cressida - directed by David Nochimson • Shakespeare in the Park
Macbeth - directed by Ken Holmes • Shakespeare in the Park
- 2000 The Winter's Tale - directed by Tony Driscoll • Richard Hugo House
Much Ado About Nothing - directed by Stacey Lind • Shakespeare in the Park
Henry IV, Part One - directed by Linda Lombardi • Shakespeare in the Park
The Ballad of Young Will Jones - by David J. Dodge, directed by Tony Driscoll • Fringe Festival.
- 1999 - by Ben Jonson, directed by Lisa Viertel • Nippon Kan Theater
Volpone
Timon of Athens - directed by Ken Holmes • Shakespeare in the Park
Comedy of Errors - directed by Tom Smith • Shakespeare in the Park/Langston Hughes Cultural Art's Center
The Bind - by David J. Dodge, directed by Lorn Richey • Fringe Festival
Root of Chaos - by Douglas Soderberg, directed by Lisa Viertel • Fringe Festival
- 1998 Richard II - directed by Tony Driscoll • Nippon Kan Theater
Two Noble Kinsmen - by Shakespeare and John Fletcher, directed by Ken Holmes • Shakespeare in the Park
Midsummer Night's Dream - directed by Tom Sunderland • Shakespeare in the Park/Langston Hughes Cultural Art's Center
- 1997 Cymbeline - directed by Tony Driscoll • Nippon Kan Theater
As You Like It - directed by Tom Sunderland • Shakespeare in the Park
Julius Caesar - directed by David J. Dodge • Shakespeare in the Park/Nippon Kan Theater
- 1996 Love's Labour's Lost - directed by Tony Driscoll • Shakespeare in the Park
Measure for Measure - directed by David J. Dodge • Shakespeare in the Park
Measure for Measure - directed by Patrick Vest • Langston Hughes Cultural Art's Center
- 1995 Titus Andronicus - directed by Tony Driscoll • Langston Hughes, Brown Bag Theater
Pericles - directed by David J. Dodge • Shakespeare in the Park
Twelfth Night - directed by John Bogar • Shakespeare in the Park/Langston Hughes Cultural Art's Center
- 1994 The Cherry Orchard - directed by Carys Kresny • Seattle Parks
Midsummer Night's Dream - directed by David Russo • Shakespeare in the Park
- 1989-93 (as Shakespeare Northwest)
Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, Taming of the Shrew



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You can help by donating whatever you can. Green-Stage is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. Ask your employer about corporate matching!

Thanks for supporting our theater!

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