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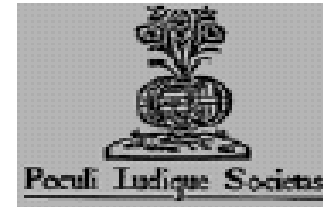
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Friar Bacon & Friar Bungay



By Robert Greene

Directed By John Barclay

Director's Notes:

When I started on the journey of this production I had no idea that it would end here. Faced with a large cast (31 named characters), a long and technically demanding play and working with a long established company in a space they know well, I thought to start at point A (auditions) and end at point Z (zero hour, opening night).

Instead I got alphabet soup. It's very tasty.

Robert Greene is mostly famous for insulting William Shakespeare. One of the "University Wits", he wrote a number of plays, some verse and other bits and bobs. Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay is likely his most famous work. It has been called the first romantic comedy in English drama. Clearly taking a page from Marlowe's Dr. Faustus, Greene has filled the play with images of the alchemical magic then in fashion.

The play was a success in its day and formed part of the repertory of the newly created professional theatre companies that were touring England and building the great theatres of London. It is perhaps through their forgiving eyes that it is best to view tonight's performance.

I hope that you enjoy the soup.

John Barclay

LINDA PHILIPS

Linda is currently the Artistic Director of PLS. She first started sewing costumes and painting sets for PLS in 1984. Since then she has worked in almost every aspect of production except acting. Linda has directed many plays for PLS, including "Mankind", "The Second Shepherds' Play", "Noah's Ark", "Coventry Shearmen" and "Tailor's Pageant" and last season's opening production, "The World and The Child". Linda has costumed countless PLS productions, and also works as a costumer for many other companies. Upcoming: a second delightful summer at Theatre Collingwood.

MARK ASHLEY RYDER

Vowing for the third time in his life never to work in theatre again Mark was out having a couple of drinks when he met Linda, Sandy, Helen and Jennifer. After declining their generous offer to work with PLS, they order one more round. Mark woke to find himself chained to the desk in the office. He finds it comfortable for the most part, running water, fridge, microwave and bathroom. His newest vow is to never let a hiring committee buy him a drink. "Does anyone have a hacksaw?"

SOFIA STEFOU

Trained at Equity Showcase Theatre and currently training at Second City in Toronto. Sofia has been involved in numerous independent film projects both in Canada and India, including "Fresh Lime", "Kal Ho Na Ho", "Corpora Cavernosa", "What Haven't I Been Given"? And her most recent role as Scintella in the original screenplay "Come All Ye Faithfu". Sofia has worked with such notable Indian entertainers as Shah Rukh Khan, Ambitah Bachanan and Zakir Hussein, worl famous tabla player. "Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay" is Sofia's theatrical debut. Sofia would like to sincerely thank her family and friends for their unwavering support in her talents and abilities and would like to add "Mom and Dad, this one's for you. Thank you so much for all your guidance and support. I love you."

DEVIN UPHAM

(dēv-in up-hām) (n) 1. An actor of Nova Scotian descent. 2. The celtic poet that lives upstairs. 3. Most recently seen on tv's 'Mastermind' as Bucky Barret. Devin Upham is in this show.

REG GOOD

Reg is having a marvelous time with PLS as it represents the best of theatre for him: a collaborative effort among committed, creative and delightful people who, with nothing but a floor, some words, and ourselves, seek the redemption of magic in the company of you, our audience. Thank you all for that. Reg's interest is with the avant-garde theatrical movement through the sixties and how its ideas of transformation, connection and relation inform ritual theatre and liturgy. His special theatre guides are James Roose-Evans, Enrique Perdo and Bathsheba Garnet. Stage work includes "WASPS" (HHT/HHDS), "St. Joan" (Upstart Crow), "Uncle Vanya" (Upstart Crow), Pan theatre work-in-progress (Enrigue Pardo Roy Hart Group), "Who Killed Lairs P[Jones]" (TDS), "In the Gloaming", "Omy Darling" (U of Ottawa), "St. Sam and the Nukes" (U of Ottawa).

DIANE JAKACKI

Diane is happy to be back with PLS after her trial by (hell) fire with "Don Juan" at U of T last Fall. When not in Emmanuel 119, she is hard at work on her MA in English. Award-winning playwright, director, principal of the late (sniff) Downstage TheatreWorks. And now look: they've got her in livery! Favorite productions include "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Real Inspector Hound", "I Hate Hamlet", "Rubbing Brass" (original), "Blocked" (original). O, Canada!

LAURA KYSWATY

A graduate of York U (BFA Dance) and the Second City Conservatory, Laura has appeared in the critically acclaimed Fringe shows, "Shakespeare's Comic Olympics" and "Shakespeare's Gladiator Games" and the Summerworks Festival hit, "Phae" and recently appeared as Starvling the tailor in "A Midsummer's Night Dream" with Right Off the Farm Prod. Film credits include "Canada Underground", "Fvoyer" and "Nowhere to Hide".

The Company

Offstage

John Barclay	Director
Diane Jakacki	Stage Manager
Linda Phillips/Brin Conard	Design
Eric Buchanan	Fight Director
Mark Ashley Ryder	Facilitation
Chris Hicklin	Assistant Facilitator

Onstage

Rachel Baker	Friar Bacon, Joan
David Barclay	Vandermast, Burden, Devil #2
Natalie Boutari	King of Castille, Clement, A Post
Drea Burck	Narrator, Ralph Simnell, Serlsby
Alan Campbell	Lacy, Scholar #2, Hercules
Brin Conard	Edward Prince of Wales, Thomas
Reg Good	King Henry the Third, Keeper
	Warren, Earl of Sussex
Diane Jakacki	Richard, Devil #1
Laura Kyswaty	Margaret, Ermsby, Scholar #1
Devin Upham	Emperor or Germany, Miles,
	Lambert
Sofia Stefou	Friar Bungay, Mason, Elinor

A special thanks to all our volunteers, Cathy McNight, Victoria University, Emmanuel College and Paul Walty for the poster design.

RACHEL BAKER

Having graduated from McMaster University with a bachelors's degree in Theatre and Film Studies, Rachel now lives and works in Toronto. She is very excited to be playing Friar Bacon....mmm... breakfast meat. Past roles include Jane Jones in "Bag Babies" - McMaster Summer drama Festival, Katrina in "Bathory" - Hamilton Fringe, and Joyce in "Possible Worlds", - McMaster Production. Rachel would like to thank Gilbert for his patience and Devin for his encouragement, as well as the cast and crew for a fabulous show.

DAVID BARCLAY

Dave is very excited to be performing the roles of Burden, Vandermast and Plutus for you today. Dave recently graduated from McMaster University with a degree in Arts & Science and Theatre & Film. Since then he has appeared in Players' Players productions of "The Red Hill Valley Expressed", and "Celebrititis" in Hamilton and Cheshire Unicorn's "One Butterfly" in Toronto. He expresses a sincere desire for you to enjoy the show.

JOHN BARCLAY

John Barclay has been doing theatre long enough to know better. His directing credits include "Measure for Measure", "As You Like it", "The Skin of Our Teeth" and "Inherit the Wind". This is his first time directing for PLS, although he remembers his dad directing for the York Cycle in 1977. The blame lies somewhere after that.

NATALIE BOUTARI

I have been performing on stage since the age of 12 (I'm currently 19 years old). Having pursued drama as an A-level course in a British school, I developed a thorough passion, understanding, and reasonable preartory practice for the 'real world' of theatre. I combined my singing skills with acting in the musical production of "Blood Brothers" and "Oliver". I participated in George Feydeau's farce "A Flea in Her Ear" as assistant stage manager. For A-level projects I devised short pieces with groups and performed in "Find Me" and "Nothing Compares to You". I also assisted direction for 8th graders' productions at school. I arrived in Toronto just over a year ago to study fine arts at U of T with a strong desire for acting. In December 2004, I performed a 20-minute monologue as an opening act for "Joker's Wild", a student production at U of T.

ERIK BUCHANAN

Erik is an Equity Fight Director who has been choreographing fights for 8 years. His work with the PLS includes, "Don Juan: Ladykiller of Seville", "The Play of Mary Magdalene", The Coventry Christmas play, "The Death of Christ" "The Joy of Sachs", "John John" and "The Wandering Scholar From Paradise." Other Credits include "The Three Musketeers" (St. John's Youth Theatre), "Amos Goes to Hogtown" (Squeezebox Theatre) and "Much Ado About Nothing" (Squeezebox Theatre) "Seven Stories" (Amicus Theatre) "Corpse" (Sunshine Festival Theatre) "Man of La Mancha" (Scarborough Musical Theatre) "Coriolanus" (Walking Shadow Theatre) and "Waiting for the Parade" (TTM Productions)

DREA BURCK

Drea is excited by the chance to give free reign to her multiple personalities in this show. Other favorite roles include Capri, in "Making Conversation" at the Tim Sims Playhouse and Toinette, the saucy maid, in "Imaginary Invalid". She has also appeared in a number of student and independent films.

ALAN CAMPBELL

Alan is a second year U of T student, majoring in history with minors in English and Political Science. He hails from the great metropolis of Owen Sound, where at the age of 14, he was introduced to the world of theatre as Train Man #4 in "The Music Man". His U of T stage credits include Stage Blue's, "Suburban Motel" and In the Moment Productions, "A Midsummer Night's Dream". He is thrilled to be working with PLS, and amazed they let him play with a sword.

BRIN CONARD

Brin has been backstage for a number of years now, most notably in Ryerson Theatre School's technical program and subsequently in the costume shops of Seamless Costumes and the National Ballet. She is using this experience to get in touch with her inner dude. She'd like to thank the cast for being so darn wonderful, and her husband for his creativity and determination.