

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

BY HAROLD PINTER



Plymouth State
UNIVERSITY

November 19-22, 2015

Directors' Note:

Harold Pinter, (1930–2008) was a prolific English playwright and screenwriter; he also worked as an actor and director throughout his lifetime. The Birthday Party was one of Pinter's earliest plays written in the late 1950s while he was working as a touring actor. The play was initially panned but has come to be recognized as one of Pinter's seminal works. Pinter's politics and activism kept him an active writer throughout his 50 years of work, earning him a Nobel Prize. Produced about a decade after the end of the Second World War, The Birthday Party was written during the Cold War period. It was a time when spying on, listening to, and carting away did happen to those who were possibly found wanting or in opposition to the organization in charge. In the play, many questions are posed, but are unanswered. Action is presented, but why it happens is not defined or explained. Pinter's play focuses on a 24-hour period at a seaside resort town and involves Stanley, a border in a seedy household, who has spent a year attempting to circumvent discovery. As the play unfolds, the culturally oppressed Goldberg and McCann arrive at the household and become Stanley's oppressors while Meg, Petey, and Lulu are duped and tricked. Stanley, the down on his luck Everyman, is stripped of his individuality even though he also attempts to inflict his own brand of control. Pinter's characters seem lost and cut off from any rescue or salvation. Their actions become useless, as the characters cannot save themselves from the organization or their fate. We see menace, manipulation, and the macabre happen within the blink of an eye. The comic elements intertwined with ambiguity and danger complete an evening of theatre which is both thought-provoking and disturbing and make us wonder if we could possibly be the next guest of honor at the party.

- Elizabeth Daily and Catherine Jacobs

Cast
(in order of appearance)

Petey. NICHOLAS KALANTZAKOS
Meg CINDY WADE
Stanley. SHANE SMITH
Lulu. VALERIE UMBRO
Goldberg. LEO CURRAN
McCann. ROLAND DUBOIS

Setting

The living room of a house in a seaside town in England

Time - 1957

Act I: A morning in summer; Evening of the same day

Act II: The next morning

There will be one intermission

Artistic/Production Team

Producer.PAUL MROCZKA

Director.ELIZABETH DAILY

Assistant Director.CATHERINE JACOBS

Scenic Designer.HEATHER MANFREDI

Assistant Scenic Designer.MIKAELA HOGAN

Lighting Designer.MATT KIZER

Assistant Lighting Designer.JOHN FINDLAY

Costume Designer.DANEÉ R. GRILLO

Stage Manager. DARCY GRAHAM

Assistant Stage Manager. JACKIE GOODRICH

Student Technical Director. MATT EASTMAN

Props Master. BECCA MANSFIELD

Sound Board Operator CAMERON DOWNING

Light Board Operator.BRADLEIGH BLEECKER

Wardrobe and Deck Crew. COLTON RUSH

Program.ROLAND DUBOIS

Leo Curran (Goldberg) is a junior Theatre Arts major with options in Acting and Dramatic Writing. Recent credits include *King Lear* (Ensemble), *Tartuffe* (King's Officer), *Dracula* (Ensemble), and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Assistant Stage Manager/Ensemble). Leo would like to thank his friends, family, and professors for their immense support and inspiration.

Elizabeth Daily (Director) is a Professor of acting and voice/speech in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Ms. Daily holds a BA in Speech and Dramatic Art and a MEd in Rehabilitation Counseling/Deafness from the University of Missouri-Columbia; she received her MFA in Acting from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She has acted professionally in New England for The Barnstormers, Winnepesaukee Playhouse, North Country Center for the Arts, New Hampshire Theatre Project, Advice to the Players, Stage One Productions, Canterbury Shaker Village, the Belknap Mill Society and the Little Church Theater. Her professional work also includes directing, voice/speech coaching and voice-over for commercial and educational purposes. She most recently appeared as an ensemble member of *Women at the Well* at two venues in New Hampshire and Plymouth State Theatre's production of *The Glass Menagerie* (Amanda Wingfield). Recent directing credits include: *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Anatomy of Gray*, *Still Life with Iris*, and *Dracula*. Thanks to cast, crew and production staff for all the hard work.

Roland DuBois (McCann) is in his junior year majoring in Theatre Arts with an option in Music Theatre Performance. Recent credits include *Parade* (Hugh Dorsey), *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum* (Marcus Lycus), *The Threepenny Opera* (Readymoney Matt), *Tartuffe* (Laurent), and *Les Misérables* (Student/Ensemble). Roland is ecstatic to be traveling to Dublin, Ireland and studying theatre for two weeks this Winter. He will next appear as Alfie Byrne in the spring semester musical, *A Man of No Importance*, coincidentally also based in Dublin, Ireland. He thanks everyone involved with the production for their hard work, and above all he thanks Harold Pinter for crafting this incredibly dark, moving piece of theatre.

John Findlay (Assistant Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be making his design debut at the Silver Center! He is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Theatre Arts with an option in Design/Tech and Acting. John thanks the staff at Forestburgh Playhouse where he was the electrician intern this past summer. Most recently Lighting Design for the *Rocky Horror Show* (Forestburgh Playhouse). He also thanks his friends for

pushing him to succeed. He wouldn't be here without the love and support he receives from his family.

Darcy Graham (Stage Manager) is a senior majoring in Theater Arts with an option in Acting and Stage Managing. Her recent stage managing credits include *Dottie*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Pleasure Men* all at Plymouth State University. Some of her previous acting credits include *Sylvia* (Kate), *...Forum* (Gymnasia), and *Dracula* (Vixen) at Plymouth State University. Darcy would like to thank her friends and family for all their endless love and support.

Jackie Goodrich (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre Arts major with an option in Acting. She was last seen in *Sylvia* (Sylvia), the staged reading of *King Lear* (Regan), *Dracula* (Vixen) and *How I Lost My Mind* (Elly) for the Playwrights Showcase last spring. She is also Business Director of the all female a cappella group Mixed Emotions. Jackie would like to thank Darcy for teaching her the hard work it takes to be a Stage Manager. This is Jackie's first experience as an Assistant Stage Manager and she'd like to thank the cast and crew for being so patient with her throughout this whole process.

Daneé R. Grillo (Costume Designer) holds a B.A. in Costume and Scenic Design from Keene State College. She has been the Costume Shop Manager and Resident Costume Designer at Plymouth State University in the Music, Theatre, and Dance department since 2007. Additionally, she teaches classes on stage makeup, costume construction, and costume design. Past PSU shows have included *Les Misérables*, *Tartuffe*, *Dracula*, *The Threepenny Opera*, and *...Forum*. Daneé has been involved both as Costume Designer and Assistant Costume Designer at The Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith, NH, for shows including *Around The World In 80 Days*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Table Manners*, and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*. Other companies she has worked with include The Peacock Players, American Stage Festival (Young Company), and Papermill Theatre (Lincoln, NH).

Mikaela Hogan (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Design/Tech and a focus in Props and Scenic Design. Mikaela enjoys working behind the scenes as a carpenter and electrician. This summer she worked as an assistant props master for the Williamstown Theatre Festival which solidified her love of props and passion for theatre in general. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their continued love and understanding.

Catherine Jacobs (Assistant Director) is a senior Theatre Arts major with an Acting and Directing option and a Spanish minor. In the past, she has assistant directed *Rumors* and worked on *Avenue Q* as Assistant Stage Manager and *Les Misérables* as Deck Manager. She was most recently seen in Playwrights Showcase (Summer) and *Dracula* (Maid/Attendant). Catherine would like to thank Beth Daily for giving her this amazing opportunity and guiding her to become a better director. She would also like to thank the cast and crew for an unforgettable journey. Catherine's family and friends mean the world to her and she knows that without their love and support she would not be where she is today. She cannot thank them enough.

Nicholas Kalantzakos (Petey) is a junior Theatre major with an option in Acting, and is elated to be returning to the stage in this wonderful production, marking his fifth performance at Plymouth State. Other favorite credits include roles in *West Side Story*, *South Pacific*, and *The Full Monty*. In addition to his university work, Nicholas has been seen and performed on many regional stages in the Boston area and at Lincoln Center in New York City. He would like to thank his friends and family for their love and unending support.

Matt Kizer (Scenery & Projections/Lighting Designer) lives with his wife and son in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. He is the resident scenic and lighting designer for Plymouth State University, where he has been the head of the design and technology program since 1996. He is a regular designer for Jean's Playhouse in Lincoln, NH. He has designed the scenery and projections for their national tour of *A Christmas Carol*, which is going into its second year, and will be seen as far away as Colorado, Texas, and Florida. He served as faculty lighting designer for Operafestival Di Roma in Italy, where he designed lighting for *L'elisir di amore* and *The Magic Flute*, both produced with the Orchestra Sinfonica dell' International Chamber Ensemble at Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza in central Rome. He regularly designs for Auburn University in Alabama. He has designed for dance and movement in Potsdam, Germany at T-Werk in Schiffbauergasse with A-Fortiorni. He serves on the International Activities Committee for the United States Institute for Theatre Technology. He is the webmaster and a contributor for BroadwayIQ.com, BroadwayEducators.com, and other online theatre resources. He holds a BA in Theatre from Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne, and an MFA in Design from The Ohio State University.

Becca Mansfield (Props Master) is a sophomore Theatre Arts major with an option in Musical Theatre and a minor in Dance. Past PSU shows include *The Wedding Singer* (Tiffany/Sideburns Lady), *...Forum* (Vibrata), *Parade in Concert* (Mary Phagan) and Playwrights Showcase *The Narcissist* by Leo Curran (Rachel). Other credits include *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods), *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), and *The Wiz* (Evillene). She has a strong love for choreographing and has had two of her dances, *The Demons in My Head* and *Picture Perfect*, chosen to be featured in the Contemporary Dance Ensemble performance at PSU. This is Becca's first time being a prop master of any kind and would like to thank Heather, Matt, Mikaela, and Beth for all their help and guidance. Becca would also like to thank her professors for teaching her so much about this crazy thing we call theatre, her friends for giving her laughter, and of course her parents for their unquestioning love and support no matter how much of a handful she can be.

Shane Smith (Stanley) is a junior Theatre Arts major with an option in Acting. Shane was most recently seen in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Protean). Shane has filled many roles in past productions including actor, director, singer, set builder, and the list goes on. Shane is very excited to delve into the biggest departure of his acting career, with a special thanks to all his family members for the continuing support.

Valerie Umbro (Lulu) is a sophomore majoring in Theatre Arts with an option in Acting. Previous PSU credits include Playwrights Showcase *The Narcissist* (Vic) and *How I Lost My Mind* (Brittany). Other credits include *Grease* (Sandy), *Elephant's Graveyard* (Clown) and *The Wiz* (Glinda). She is also a member of PSU's all female a cappella group, Mixed Emotions. Outside of Plymouth she works at a summer camp on Lake Winnepesaukee as the head of the Drama Program. She thanks Beth and Catherine for their endless support as well as her loving friends and family for all that they do.

Cindy Wade (Meg) is a senior Theatre Arts major with a double concentration in Acting and Lighting Design. Some of her previous acting work includes *Rumors* (Officer Pudney) and *Dracula* (Vixen/Attendant). She would like to thank her family and friends for their never-ending support, and Beth for expanding her boundaries.

Photography By:

MAUNDY MITCHELL
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A Classic Tragedy

March 3-6, 2016

Special School Performance

March 3 at 10 AM

A Man of No Importance

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

And Book by Terrence McNally

In this highly theatrical musical, we're offered hope for a future where those who are considered to be unwantedly different and outcasts are, indeed, recognized as being equal, good, and welcomed.

(Adult themes regarding sexuality)

April 7-10, 2016

We Think It's Funny

Original sketch comedy written and performed by PSU Students

April 20-21, 2016

Two Shows Each Night at 7 and 9
Silver Center

Silver Center Staff

Director.Diane Jeffrey
Events Coordinator	Melissa Furbish
Business Coordinator.Sureya Ennabe
House Manager.Virginia Fisher
Assistant House ManagerSusanne Hastings
Technical Operations Manager.	Stuart Crowell
Technical Operations Supervisor.Bob Bruemmer
Technical Operations Assistant.	Heather Manfredi
Box Office Manager.	Trudy Pelletier
Box Office Staff.Nofisat Adekunle, Lauren Campbell, Roland DuBois, Taylor Fournier, Serena Gorham, and Laura Hoffman
Ushers.Sarah Bengston, Bradleigh Bleeker, Brittany Faulkner, Elizabeth Reis, Alex Boudreau, Lauren Vengren
Master Carpenters	Mikaela Hogan and Brian Williams
Master Electricians.	Jaime Mancuso and Cindy Wade
Audio Leads	Sarah Daley and Jacob Kallander
Production Staff	Amara Decker, Darcy Graham, John Findlay Kelly Boland, Leo Curran, Matt Eastman, Myles Parsons, Rosemarie Legge, Tyler McCarthy, and Zach Glennon

Theatre Costume Staff

Costume Shop Manager/Resident Designer.	Daneé R. Grillo
Costume Technicians	Julia Arey, Bradleigh Bleeker, Roland DuBois, Zach Glennon, Mary Hunter, Catherine Jacobs, Rosemarie Legge, Tayleia Meader, Jakob Stone