



**PLAYBILL**

**Proudly Present  
Neil Simon's**

**Laughter On  
The 23rd Floor**

**Director: Angela G. Brownfield**

**October 8 - 18, 1998**

*Live in the Lee H. Salisbury Lab Theatre*

**Scenic  
Designer  
Bud Jet  
Kuts**

**Costume  
Designer  
Tara  
Maginnis**

**Lighting  
Designer  
Kade  
Mendelowitz**

**Stage  
Manager  
Jessica  
Sullivan**

**Sound  
Designer  
Bert  
Arnett**

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Theatre UAF's production program is income based. Our budget for sets, costumes, props, advertising, etc. is based on revenues from ticket sales, advertisements, and donations. We appreciate your support, and we hope you enjoy our work. We thank our program advertisers for their generous support, and hope that you will patronize these community-minded companies and mention that you saw their advertisement in our program.

## FOR THE AUDIENCE

**PAGERS:** Please leave them with the house manager.  
**CELLULAR PHONES:** Please leave them with the house manager.  
**SMOKING:** Permitted outside the building only.  
**WATCHES:** Please turn off hourly chimes as to not disturb those around you.  
**PUBLIC PHONE:** Located beside the lobby (through the glass doors).  
**RESTROOMS:** Located off the lobby and downstairs by KUAC.  
**CHILDREN:** No babies in arms permitted.  
**PHOTOS:** No flash photography allowed for safety reasons.  
**GROUP SALES:** 20% discount call 474-7751.

For our shows to begin on time, we request that ticket holders arrive 15 minutes before curtain, and encourage others to purchase tickets before the evening of the event.

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—Jean Cocteau

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Monday-Friday 7:45 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday-Sunday 12:00 noon-5:00pm

## **Cast** - *In Order of Appearance*

*Lucas Brickman  
Milt Fields  
Val Skolsky  
Brian Doyle  
Kenny Franks  
Carol Wyman  
Max Prince  
Helen  
Ira Stone*

*Eric Pierson  
Shannon Luster  
Dain Geist  
Nathan Kessey  
Bret Borgeson  
Heather Maas  
Jeff Hedges  
Tiffany James  
John Perreault*

## **Production Crew**

*Stage Manager* *Jessica Sullivan*  
*Assistant Stage Manager* *Sarah Bushman*  
*Dialect Coach* *Claudia Lively*  
*Poster, Playbill & Publicity* *Kade Mendelowitz*  
*Box Office Manager, Department Administrative Assistant*  
*Jason Chapman*  
*Ticket Sales* *Adriane Bickford, Jeremy Johnson, Tesha Mulkey,  
Jennifer Sterner*  
*Technical Director* *Kade Mendelowitz*  
*Assistant Technical Director, Master Elec.* *Dale F. Kohlmetz*  
*Electricians* *Eric Eckelbrock, David Fields, Morgan A. Rozelle  
Kelly Stables*  
*Master Carpenter* *Christopher Salmon*  
*Crew Supervisors* *Angela Brownfield, Takenya Ponchione,  
Jessica Sullivan*  
*Set Construction* *\*Morgan A. Rozelle*  
*Scenic Artist* *Bud Jet Kutz*  
*Prop Master* *Sarah Bushman*  
*Sound & Light Board Operator* *Chad Stadig*  
*Costume Shop Supervisor* *Lorraine Pettit*  
*Costume Construction* *Cathy Ellis, Lufa Noss*  
*Dresser* *\*Morgan A. Rozelle*

*\* Indicates membership in the UAF SDA (Student Drama Association)*

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## Spring 1999 Course Offerings from the Theatre Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks

### **Theatre Practicum** THR 101, 201, 301, 401 (1-3 Credits) Fall, Spring

Participation in drama workshop or lab production as performer or technical staff member. Credit in this course may not be applied to a major program in theatre.

Kade Mendelowitz - Times TBA

### **Fundamentals of Acting** THR 121 (3 Credits) Fall, Spring

Basic stage acting techniques for persons with little or no prior acting experience. Emphasis on physical, emotional and imaginative awareness. Scene work fundamentals introduced.

Thomas Riccio - Monday / Wednesday / Friday 11:45am-12:45

Kade Mendelowitz - Tuesday / Thursday 3:40-5:10

### **Intermediate Acting** THR 221 (3 Credits) Spring

Continued development of physical, emotional and imaginative awareness. Emphasis on text and character analysis, scene and monologue study and presentation, introduction to improvisation.

Thomas Riccio - Monday / Wednesday / Friday 10:30am-11:30

### **Multimedia & Computers in the Theatre** THR 297 (3 Credits) Special Topic Course

The introduction of various computer applications, and how they may be applied to theatrical productions, and as an assistant to a designer, technician or business manager in the arts.

Kade Mendelowitz - Monday / Wednesday 2:00-3:30

### **Film and Drama** THR 334W (3 Credits) Spring

Comprehensive overview of film acting process for non theatre students: theoretical and practical frameworks of acting; screen performance as the means of dramatic communication.

Anatoly Antohin - Mondays 2:15-5:15

### **Lighting Design** THR 347 (3 Credits) Alternate Years

Principles and techniques of theatrical lighting design. The student will conduct practical experiments and design projects applying the experience gained from the experiments.

Kade Mendelowitz - Tuesday / Thursday 2:00-3:30

### **Makeup for Theatre** THR 351 (3 Credits) Spring

Theatrical makeup for actors, teachers, directors, and other theatre workers; makeup materials and use, straight and character makeup, illusory and plastic relief, national types, and influence of lighting.

Tara Maginnis - Wednesdays 2:15-5:15

### **History of Fashion and Dress** THR 355 (3 Credits) Alternate Spring

Social history of costume in Western Civilization, from Ancient Greece to the present time. Includes instruction in the methods of research used to find visual source material, and assignments that exercise these research skills.

Tara Maginnis - Tuesday / Thursday 11:30am-1:00 - *Also Available As A Web Based Distance Delivered Course You Can Take At Home!*

### **Advanced Acting II** THR 421 (3 Credits) Alternate Spring

Acting techniques for periods and styles. Intensive scene and monologue work. Introduction of ensemble work. Public performance of short plays. Intensive audition work.

Anatoly Antohin - Monday / Wednesday 10:30am-11:30

### **Advanced Stage Direction** THR 435 (3 Credits) Alternate Spring

Major theories and current trends in stage direction including different styles, periods and stage configurations. Emphasis on practical preparation for production, from concept to execution, of a one act play for public performance.

Anatoly Antohin - Monday / Wednesday 10:30am-11:30

UAF Theatre Department, 302 Great Hall, Fairbanks, AK 99775-5700  
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*You will be assimilated*

**Thursday, Nov. 5**

**1:10-1:50pm**

**Saturday, Nov. 7**

**2:00pm**

**FREE in the Salisbury Theatre**

**H. S. Students & Parents  
are welcome!**

**Refreshments will be served**



## *Notes From the Director*

Laughter on the 23rd Floor must surely be one of Neil Simon's best. Written in 1993, it is a roller coaster of visual and verbal comedy about the comedy writers of an 1953 variety show, during the McCarthy hearings. The Max Prince Show is enormously successful, but NBC has its doubts. Fighting budget cuts and censorship threats, Max is faced with a dilemma. Is it better to do censored art, or no art at all?

I chose this script for a variety of reasons. I wanted to direct a comedy, but drawn as I am to Commedia and Shakespearean comedy, it needed to be much more than just funny lines. The problems Max and his writers face are very familiar to local artists, and for that reason the play really spoke to me. Alaskan artists, and their stateside counterparts, are faced more and more often with dwindling support for their endeavors. Students receiving little to no arts education, diminished federal and state funding for the arts, and a trend toward censorship all are straining resources and creative expression for artists everywhere. Max chooses the noble way out, but if all of us follow his lead, who will be left to stir the imagination? I would like to thank you, on behalf of everyone involved in Laughter, for your support of the arts in Fairbanks.

This senior thesis project is part of a program which allows students to get credit for acting, directing, designing, or managing a "main stage" UAF show. It is considered the pinnacle of work done at the Bachelor's level, and while optional (and subject to faculty approval), it is one of the most important goals a theatre student may achieve. This will be the first fully produced Directing Bachelor Thesis Project mounted at UAF, and the Alaskan premiere for the play. I feel very lucky to be given this chance, and I would like to thank the faculty and staff of Theatre UAF for the opportunity and their support. I would also like to thank my parents and grandparents. This will be the first show I have directed that my maternal grandparents will see, so the show is doubly special to me.

As philosophical as I may get, the show retains its hysterically funny nature. The second time I read this script I was sitting in my dentist's office awaiting the Drill. I was laughing out loud as I read. I hope you find the play as much fun as my actors and I have. Please enjoy the show.

*Angela Brownfield*

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**Catch us on the Web!**  
**<http://www.uaf.alaska.edu/theatre>**  
**Take a Theatre Class!**



**Bret Borgeson**, *Kenny Franks*, is forced to go to West Valley High School where he occasionally goes to classes. He has been in a small number of plays through the Summer Fine Arts Camp and other associations. Music and film are his interests in which he plans to explore and succeed in.

**Angela Brownfield**, *Director*, is a graduating Senior Theatre Major of UAF. After acting, designing and film making, she has found her true calling as a director. This production is her thesis show, and the largest project she has yet to work on. Born and raised in Fairbanks, Angela plans to explore England after she graduates, but will first head to Hawaii with her father to recover from this production. She has performed in such shows as *Comedy of Errors*, and directed *Lunch with Ginger* and *On Baile's Strand* for the Student Drama Association. She dedicates this production to her supportive parents, and would like to thank the Theatre UAF Department faculty and staff for this exciting opportunity. This is the last show she will get to work on with Jessica Sullivan, and she would like to express eternal gratitude for her help and support. *Good luck in Vegas, Jessica!*

**Sarah Bushman**, *Assistant Stage Manager*. This is Sarah's first foray into Stage Managing. It's nice to be on the other side of the table once in a while. When not taking line notes, she watches anime cartoons, walks her poodle, and stresses about music theory.

**Dain A. Geist**, *Val Skolsky*, is a Freshman at UAF and a graduate of West Valley High School. As a Theatre / History major, Dain loves to stress himself out. In fact, he loves it so much that he misses the art of slumber.

**Jeff Hedges**, *Max Prince*, Jeff is a seventh year Senior at UAF majoring in History. When not viewing the latest release at the movie theatre he enjoys going to class. He would like to thank Divine Intervention in the form of Kade Mendelowitz and Claudia Lively for encouraging him to audition.

**Tiffany James**, *Helen*, is a sophomore at West Valley High School. This is her first time on UAF's stage. Look for her later this winter in West Valley's *The Speckled Band*. She thanks her parents for driving her to all those rehearsals!

**Nathan Kessy**, *Brian Doyle*, just graduated from Lathrop High School in 1998 after attending for the last 13 years. He has been involved in the arts since the early Victorian era, and one day was mugged at gun point, and forced to attend UAF. He promises that he will pursue his dramatic career in a much warmer place.

**Shannon Luster**, *Milt Fields*, is a Senior at UAF. He is majoring in theatre, and when he is not performing he is busy trying to capture the elusive tropical lunchmeat of Lola Tily Commons. You may have seen him recently in *"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"*

**Heather Maas**, *Carol Wyman*. Once upon a time there was a 17 year old Freshman at UAF. She was in a play with a bunch of other people. That was fun. Now she is living a life of debauchery on Broadway. Happy story, the end. Kisses to all.

**John Perreault**, *Ira Stone*, feels he has been here too long, done too much theatre, and keeps coming back for more. He's been running from the cops, his teachers, and his parents. They asked him if his name was Michael Diamond, but he said: "No, mine's Clarence."

**Eric Pierson**, *Lucas Brickman*, has spent ten of his seventeen years in Fairbanks. He was bitten by the theatre bug just last summer, and feels like he'll now be doing it for a while...

**Jessica Sullivan**, *Stage Manager*, is a proud graduate of West Valley High Schools' class of '97. She has completed one year at UAF and plans on continuing her education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas next semester. Even though her time in the UAF theatre has been short, she has become well acquainted with the department and is very happy that she has been able to work within Theatre UAF. She would also like to thank her parents for being very supportive as well as Kade Mendelowitz for being a very cool professor, and to Angela Brownfield for being a wonderful director.

## Theatre UAF Faculty and Staff



**Anatoly Antohin**, Playwright and Director: Anatoly has directed many shows at UAF. He received his MFA from the Moscow Institute of Cinematography, and won several awards in drama. His plays have been produced in many European countries. In the USA, he has taught and directed at the University of Connecticut, New York University, and Hollins College in Virginia. This season he directs “*Fish in A Tree*” and “*The Mikado*” in the Spring.



**Jason Chapman**, Theatre UAF's Administrative Assistant and Box Office Manager: is an alumni of UAF, where he received his BA in Theatre with a Minor in film. He has directed *Das Vedanya Mama*, *Zoo Story*, the *Grand Tarot*, and is currently working on *Tommy & Timmy's Wedding* for KDAQ & Co.- for which he also serves as president. He also works extensively in stage management and production management. Also a performer under the pseudonym of “Lady B.,” his fundraising efforts have managed to get him elected Duchess of Fairbanks.



**John Hopkins**, Musical Director: John received his Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from The University of Iowa. In addition to directing the UAF Opera Workshop at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, he directs the Choir of the North, the Alaska Camerata and teaches private voice. He will work on “*The Mikado*” in the Spring.



**Dale F. Kohlmetz**, Assistant Technical Director: Dale is the most recent addition to the Theatre UAF staff and recently graduated from UAF with a degree in Wildlife Management. This job keeps the right side of Dale’s brain happy while the left side pursues research with the UA Museum.



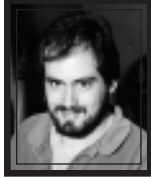
**Judy Kreith**, Dance and Movement Guest Lecturer: Judy moved to Fairbanks in 1996 to work as an artist in the schools with the Fairbanks Arts Association. She received her M.A. from Stanford University in 1987. Her choreography credits include Stanford University production of “*West Side Story*” and “*Jesus Christ Superstar*.” Currently, she is teaching a variety of dance and movement classes for children and adults in the Fairbanks area.



**Bud Jet Kutz**, Scenic Designer: was hiding for a while, but he keeps poking around. A chronic insomniac, this Jewish New Yorker loves this Neil Simon play - which asks “*Should I do art even if it's censored, and cut to the bare bone of budgets?*” Bud is still waiting for the answer to that timeless (around here) question. He enjoyed working with this student director too, and wishes her luck in the future!



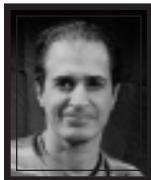
**Tara Maginnis, PhD.**, Costume Designer: Tara is slowly disappearing and reforming her molecules into html. She is now the largest costume web site on the planet at [www.costumes.org](http://www.costumes.org), where she and her cat, Shoelace, live in virtual form on the World Wide Web.



**Kade Mendelowitz**, Lighting Designer and Technical Director. Originally from New York, this workaholic is developing an Interactive CD-ROM / textbook on lighting design which he hopes to complete by December. He recently served as Technical Director and Production Manager for the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. He loves all of the various arts the Fairbanks community has to offer. Kade is the sole owner of Multimakers, and he invites you to visit his web site is at <http://www.alaskasbest.com/kade/>



**Lorraine Pettit**, Costume Shop Manager, Tara's twin joined at the mind at birth. Has recently driven up the Alcan with her feline familiar Mu. She liives in non virtual form in the costume shop at UAF.



**Thomas Riccio**, Playwright and Director, Has directed over a dozen plays with Tuma Theatre. Prior to UAF Riccio was Artistic Director of Chicago's Organic Theatre Company and Dramaturg/ Resident Director at the Cleveland Play House. He has directed at New York City's famed La Mama Etc, and others. He was a visting Professor at the Korean National University for the Arts in 1996 and has recently conducted workshops in Finland and England. Last Fall he developed and directed Pipedreams for FDA.

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***See the center of this playbill for details.***

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