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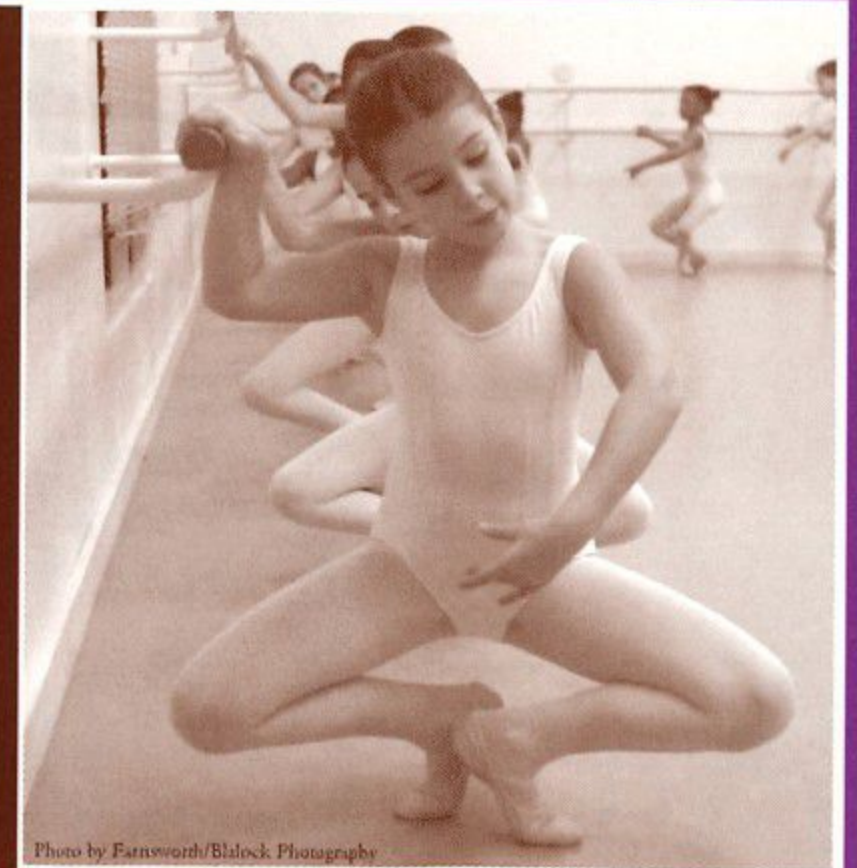


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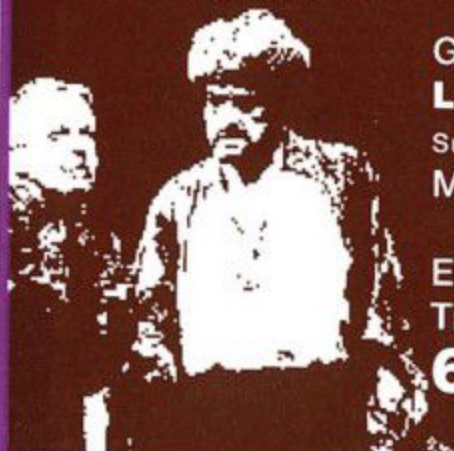
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November 2001



Dear Theatre-goer,

On the surface, *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*, written at the beginning of the 20th century, would seem to have little to say to us here at the beginning of the 21st century. Especially in the aftermath of the events of September 11th, it is hard to feel our usual joy in opening the season. Indeed, it is hard to believe that what we are doing has any immediate relevance. However, the process of bringing *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* to life has affirmed for us the role the arts can play in difficult times. And *Rebecca's* fundamental themes - the value of education, the importance of human relationships, the tension between the restrictive and protective natures of rules, and the arts (in *Rebecca's* case, poetry) as a vehicle for self expression - remain eternal.

As we worked to create the show for you, our audience, we found new meaning in the distinctly collaborative nature of theatre. Every production requires the combined efforts of a number of very different kinds of artists - actors, designers, painters, technicians, choreographers, directors - who must all work together toward the realization of a common goal, despite differences in perspective and personal vision. Our work on *Rebecca* has been a daily reminder that people can put aside their differences to serve a purpose larger than themselves.

At the same time, our dedication to intergenerational and multicultural casting, our outreach to underserved audiences, our commitment to doing quality work continue to provide a context for expressing our view of an ideal society. We hope that your experience as a member of our audience will lead you to new insights that will entertain you and sustain you, and provide you with a sense of hope in these difficult times.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Kosoff
Producer

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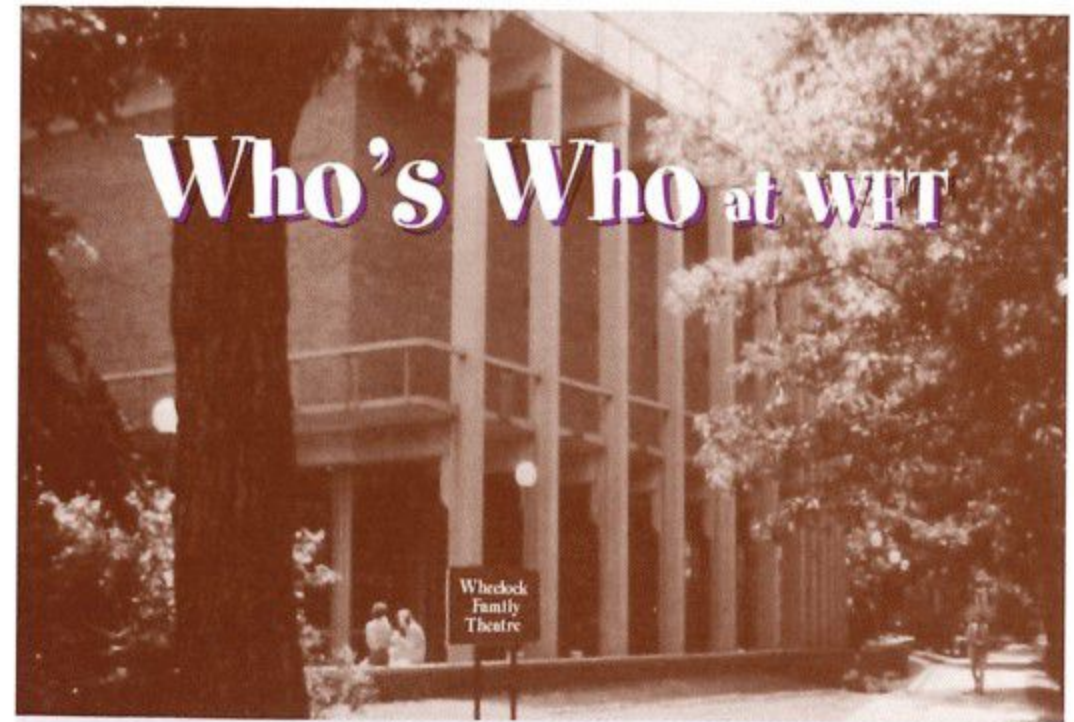
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Rich Archer (Assistant Technical Director) is happy to join WFT this season. In the past, you may have seen his special effects here in *Aladdin* and *The Hobbit*. Rich is a founding/steering committee member of the Peabody House Theatre Coop in Somerville, where he has served as a technical director and designed such productions as *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Roosters*, and *Waiting for Godot*. He is also busy as a professional magician - "The Amazing Richard" - producing bunny rabbits in the Boston/Cape area!

Courtney Blackwell (Elisha Simpson), an 8th grader at the Nashoba Brooks School in Concord, enjoys math, French, baking, walking her yellow Labrador Retriever Kayte, biking, and playing soccer. Her real interests lie in the arts, though - singing, dancing, and acting. She takes voice lessons, in between doing tap, jazz, and ballet at the West Concord Dance Academy, and she has acted in many plays. Favorite roles include the Scarecrow in a school production of *The Wizard of Oz* and Zani in *The Emperor's New Clothes* and a Zanni in *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* at the Harwich Junior Theatre.

Lily Blau (Hanna Randall), a junior at Concord Academy, is excited to be back at WFT. She was last

(continued on page 5)

Our Next Production:

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FEBRUARY 1-24, 2002

The Tucks try to keep their secret, but they cannot evade the inquisitive mind of ten-year-old Winnie Foster, or the greed of a mysterious stranger.

WHO'S WHO (continued from page 4)

seen in the Concord Academy production of *A Mid Summer Night's Dream*. Lily enjoys acting, singing, and dancing, and would like to thank her mom and dad for their love and support.

Lynne Buckson (Props) has been working in theatre for 20 years as a costumer and prop and puppet maker. She recently graduated from Wheelock College with a BS degree in Art and Elementary Education. Lynne enjoys teaching theatre arts to children in the WFT Education Program. Though she's volunteered on many WFT productions, she is happy to be officially on board for the first time.

LeWana Clark (ASL Interpreter), a certified Sign Language Interpreter since 1979, primarily works as a legal interpreter in courts and legal settings across the Commonwealth. She also teaches and mentors other interpreters who are interested in specializing their work in the legal field. LeWana is the staff interpreter for the Boston Gay Men's Chorus and interprets all of their performances. She has also worked here at Wheelock on such shows as *The Miracle Worker*, *Ole Sis Goose*, and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*.

Ellen Colton (Lucy Cobb) has been a part of the cast of *Shear Madness* at the Charles Playhouse in Boston since 1997, where she has played the Beacon Hill socialite, Mrs. Shubert, in over 800 performances. She most recently was a guest artist at The New Century Theatre at Smith College, appearing as Stella Livingston in Moss Hart's *Light up the Sky*. Other credits include the NE premiere of Joe DiPietro's *Over the River and Through the Woods* at the Lyric; *The Cemetery Club* and *Rumors* at Worcester Foothills; *First Love* at Gloucester Stage; *The Boys Next Door* at Merrimack Rep; and *After-Play* and *Beau Jest* at the Summer Theatre at Mt. Holyoke. Ellen also is a lecturer at M.I.T.'s School of

(continued on page 6)



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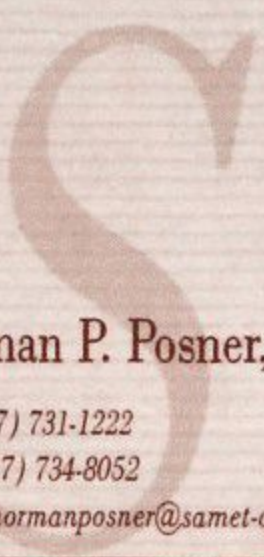
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WHO's WHO (continued from page 5)

Engineering, where she coaches students on speech and presentation skills. A member of the boards of directors of the Screen Actors' Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, she is a vice president of the Boston Branch of Actors' Equity Association.

Teddy Crecelius (Seesaw Simpson) is always delighted to be at Wheelock, where he has appeared in numerous productions, including *Our Town*, *The Hobbit*, *Stuart Little*, and *Cinderella*. Other roles include Tommy in *Ah, Wilderness!* at the Huntington; Bert in *All My Sons* at Lyric West; Gabriel Scully in *Portia Coughlin* at the Sagan; and *A Christmas Carol*, *Oedipus Rex*, and *Antigone* at the Lyric Stage. As a singer, Teddy has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Camerata, and Youth Pro Musica Young Men's Chorus. He is a 10th grader at Newton South High School.

Amy Royal Darr (Millie Smellia) is thrilled to be in her first production at WFT! She has been a member of WFT's Story Troupers for the past two years and

(continued on page 7)

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WHO's WHO (continued from page 6)

has also appeared with Tufts Children's Theatre's Goddard Players in their production of *The King Stag*. She is a sophomore at Somerville High School, where she studies drama and was seen in *The Thunder on Sycamore Street* last year. Amy thanks her parents for putting up with late night rehearsals and for supporting her passion for the stage!

Janelle Dempsey (Emma Jane Perkins) is thrilled to be performing in her 9th WFT production. Favorites here have included *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Little Princess*, and *The Hobbit*. Janelle has worked at various theatres in the Boston area since the age of 8, including the Huntington and the Colonial. She is in the 11th grade at Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School in Cambridge and would like to thank her mom a thousand times for her never-ending love and support.

Andrea Doane (Choreographer) has worked as a choreographer and teacher for the Wheelock Family Theatre since its debut in 1981. In addition, she is an audio-describer for the WFT and has described at the Huntington and the Wang. Andrea teaches 1st grade at the Devotion School in Brookline.

Anthony Estrella (Adam Ladd) is appearing in his first role at Wheelock. He has appeared at Trinity Repertory Company, Boston Playwrights Theatre, the American Stage Festival, and SFGT (alias Stage), among others. He is currently on the faculty of the University of R.I., where he teaches acting and script analysis. Anthony is a graduate of the Trinity Repertory Conservatory.

Yahanna Faith (Clara Belle Simpson), a 15-year-old homeschooler from Cambridge, has appeared in several shows at WFT, including *The Hobbit* (Dwalin), *The Tempest* (an Ariel), *Anne of Green Gables* (Molly Spencer), and *The Prince and the Pauper* (an urchin). She also played Andrea in the musical *Once on This Island* at Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Yahanna loves being part of the WFT community and is delighted to be part of this show.

Aaron Fisher (Elijah Simpson) became interested in theatre in 5th grade, when he accidentally got a lead role in the school musical. Since then, he has participated in 3 summer theatre workshops and 6 plays, including *Twelve Angry Men* (11th Angry Man), *Bugsy Malone* (title character), and *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince). Aaron is making his WFT debut in *Rebecca*.

(continued on page 11)



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Ages 2 to 6

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm

by **Marisha Chamberlain**

based on the novel by Kate Douglas Wiggin

DIRECTOR

Susan Kosoff

SET DESIGNER

Kitty Lovell

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Richard Testa

CHOREOGRAPHER

Andrea Doane

COSTUME DESIGNER

Marian Piro

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Greg Nash*

ASL INTERPRETERS

LeWana Clark

AUDIO-DESCRIBER

Tricia Norton

Sharon M. Mendes

Jody Steiner

CAST

Jane Sawyer	Jacqui Parker*
Miranda Sawyer	Jane Staab*
Aurelia Sawyer Randall	Grace Napier*
Jeremiah Cobb	Jeff Robinson*
Rebecca Randall	Polly Furth
Lucy Cobb	Ellen Colton*
Emma Jane Perkins	Janelle Dempsey
Elijah Simpson	Aaron Fisher
Elisha Simpson	Courtney Blackwell
Seesaw Simpson	Teddy Crecelius
Clara Belle Simpson	Yahanna Faith
Millie Smellia	Amy Royal Darr
Miss Dearborn	Monique Nicole McIntyre*
Adam Ladd	Anthony Estrella*
Randall Children	Lily Blau, Julius Gordon, Christina Monnen, Jared Spencer, Jenna Spencer

TIME: The turn of the 20th century PLACE: Maine

There will be one 15-minute intermission between the acts. The taking of photographs and use of recording devices is strictly forbidden. Please turn off cell phones and beepers. Please, no eating or drinking in the theatre. Ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices.

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE



* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. The Wheelock Family Theatre is operating under the terms of a Developing Theatre's Program of Actors' Equity Association. The contract used is a Letter of Agreement.

Wheelock Family Theatre

Staff

Producer **Susan Kosoff**
General Manager **Jane Staab**
Education Program Director **John Bay**
Publicity and Marketing Director **Charles G. Baldwin**
Assistant to the Producer/Grantswriter **Kay Arden Elliott**
Access Coordinator **Jody Steiner**
Technical Director/Stage Manager **Michael Haber***
Assistant Technical Director **Rich Archer**
Technical Consultant **Rick Mauran**
Box Office Manager **Tricia Theis**
Props **Lynne Buckson**
Master Electrician **Gordon Manson**
Scenic Painters **Heather Michelle Balchunas,
Fishy Bundy, Kitty Lovell**
Assistant to the Director **Priscilla Fales**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Carole Charnow, Ed Coakley, Jeff Coburn, Andrea Genser, Susan Kosoff, Robin Mount, Lynne Rosansky, Stanley Rumbaugh, Michelle Seligson, Jane Staab

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CREWS

Dan Barnard, Aoife Barrington, Melanie Basque, Kelly Blanchette, Liz Fontini, Beth Lebowitz, Chris Marinis, Martha Paquin, Lauren Rudy, Dana Tunick

VOLUNTEERS

Jenny Back, Martha Bakken, Jeanine Belcastro, Cheryl Bezis, Laura Brody, Lynne Buckson, Nancy Close, Tom Craig, Nicole Crossman, Amy Day, the Eisenberg-Guyot Family, Andi Genser, Annie Giddings, Michelle Green, Nancy Greiner, Melody Holt, Ruth Kahn, Tara Krauss, Joel Light, Bill Monnen, Elizabeth Moore, Colleen Mullaly, Tricia Norton, Gabriel Paley, Merle Perkins, Patti Pickett, the Rabadjija Family, the Rich Family, Betty Rowe, Linda and Jared Spencer, Christine Zydel

WORK/STUDY STUDENTS AND INTERNS

Dan Barnard, Heidi Benton, Kelly Carrelas, Sarah Coston, Liz Fontini, Laura Jordan, Beth Lebowitz, Veronica Lewis, Mary Clare Moller, Audrey O'Brien, Lauren Rudy, Marika Saddler, Jessica Sanchez, Dana Tunick

SPECIAL THANKS

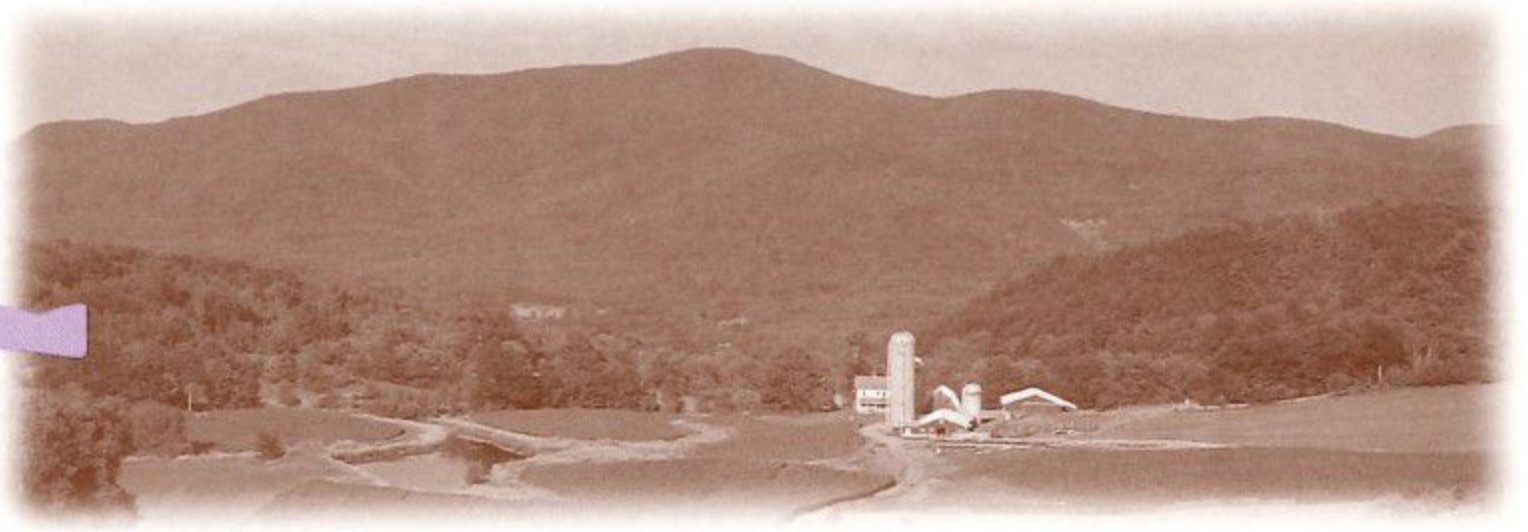
Stefan Barnas; James P. Byrne; Carole Charnow; Maggie and Edward Donovan; Michael Draper and ARA-MARK; Milan Feterik; Michael Getz and Trinity Repertory Theatre; Kevin Gillespie for poster design; Kippy Goldfarb for photography; Tim Healy; Tricia Norton; Juan Rojas; Ann Sorvari for the study guide; Manny Heckley, Susan Mackey, and members of the Facilities staff; the Office of the President and members of the Wheelock College community who have made this production possible.

Costumes for this production were created with support from the Sandra Nesson Kivowitz '56 Fund given in her memory by family and friends. Lighting for the Little Theatre was made possible by the generous support of Suzanne Newton.

WFT is supported in part by grants from the Actors' Equity Foundation; Boston Cultural Council (a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council); The Boston Foundation Fund for Arts and Culture; The Cloud Foundation, FleetBoston Financial Foundation; the Massachusetts Cultural Council; The Peabody Foundation; Proscenium Fund for Audience Development, Inc.; Wheelock College; and VSA arts of Massachusetts.

The Wheelock Family Theatre is dependent on performance income and contributions. Your support is needed to sustain the Theatre. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law and may be sent to the Wheelock Family Theatre, 200 The Riverway, Boston, MA 02215-4176.

We wish to thank all the people who have joined with us since the program went to press.



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WHO's WHO (continued from page 7)

Polly Furth (Rebecca Randall) has been involved in theatre as often as possible for the past 7 years. She has appeared in *Annie* (title role) and *Oliver!* (Artful Dodger) with Randolph Community Theater; *Musical Holiday Party XII* with Quincy Dinner Theatre; and, most recently, as the Pauper in WFT's production of *The Prince and the Pauper*. Polly has also enjoyed participating in WFT's vacation week institutes and summer program. Thanks to her chauffeurs!

Julius Gordon (Randall Child), WFT "The Next Generation," loves *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, swords, singing, and his dad!

Michael Haber (Technical Director) is a new addition to the family. He is a graduate of Long Island University with a master's degree in theatre. Mike comes to WFT from Fitchburg, where he worked as master electrician for the Americulture Arts Festival. Thanks to Sue and Jane for this opportunity - he's looking forward to a wonderful season.

Susan Kosoff (Director) is a founder of the WFT and a professor of theatre and education at Wheelock College. She has directed many WFT productions - most recently last season's *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. She serves on the board of directors of Harwich Junior Theatre and as vice president of StageSource, Boston's alliance for theatre producers and artists.

Kitty Lovell (Set Designer) is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design in painting. She is very excited to be designing at Wheelock for the first time. Kitty has worked throughout NE as a scenic artist and designer. Her credits include designing and producing *El Corazon* at Blood From a Turnip (Providence); the Women's Playwriting Festival at Perishable Theatre (Providence); *Medea* at the New Gate Theatre (Providence); *Lenny Hackman's Liver* at Boston Playwrights Theatre; *WIT* at Persephone Theater at The Firehouse in Newburyport; and *A Christmas Carol* at Trinity Rep. Currently, Kitty is designing Perishable Theater's new show for young audiences. A founding member of El Studio La Mano, she is on the faculty at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Sharon M. Mendes (ASL Interpreter) is the lead interpreter and coordinator of interpreter services for Boston's first visual and performing arts school, Boston Arts Academy. She has been interpreting for a number of years in a variety of settings: liturgical, educational, and theatrical. This is Sharon's 3rd appearance here at WFT.

(continued on page 12)

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WHO'S WHO (continued from page 11)

Monique Nicole McIntyre (Miss Dearborn) is thrilled to be back at WFT, after having to leave the cast of *The Prince and the Pauper* last season with a broken ankle. Past shows here have included *Anne of Green Gables*; *The Good Times are Killing Me*; *Tuck Everlasting*; *Ah, Wilderness!*; and *Androcles and the Lion*. Monique has also been seen at Merrimack Rep in *Defying Gravity*, the Nora in *Stop Kiss*, and the Lyric in *The Old Settler*. She has been performing in regional theatre since 1988 and can be seen in many NE commercials.

Christina Monnen (Randall Child) has been backstage at WFT since before she was born. She is thrilled to be in *Rebecca* and to finally have a good reason to be onstage. Christina enjoys books, preschool, singing, and -- especially -- watching mom and dad in shows like *Cinderella* and *Hello, Dolly!*

Grace Napier (Aurelia Sawyer Randall) is delighted to return to WFT, this time in the company of her daughter, Christina. Last season Grace appeared in *Hello, Dolly!* with her husband, Bill Monnen, and in *The Prince and the Pauper*. Favorite WFT productions include *Cinderella* (title role), *Little Women* (Meg), *The Music Man* (Marian), and *The Secret Garden* (Martha). Grace has toured nationally in *The King and I*, and worked off-off-Broadway, as well as regionally, at the American Stage Festival, Charles Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, Palace Theatre, and Walnut Street Theatre.

Greg Nash (Production Stage Manager) began his association with the Wheelock Family Theatre 21 years ago as the Caterpillar in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, WFT's first show. Most recently, Greg was seen here onstage as John Canty in *The Prince and the Pauper*. In addition to performing, Greg has stage-managed 18 productions during the past 9 seasons at WFT. A graduate of the Boston University School of Theatre Arts, Greg's stage managing career has also taken him off-Broadway and to the Goodman and Long Wharf Theatres.

Tricia Norton (Audio-describer) is the mother of Stacey (11) and Marie (7), a Home Visitor for the Quincy, MA Commission on the Family; a family child care provider; a 1985 Wheelock College BSW graduate; and a member of the Friends of WFT and the NE Alliance of Multiracial Families. As WFT's director of development and promotion, she helped secure the grant for equipment and training that made WFT the first theatre in NE to offer audio-description.

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WHO'S WHO (continued from page 12)

Jacqui Parker (Jane Sawyer) is very happy to perform at WFT once again; she feels at home with the kinfolk here. Other Wheelock roles include Shere Khan in *The Jungle Book* and Gonzala in *The Tempest*. Jacqui was most recently seen in the Lyric's *A...My Name Will Always Be Alice*, for which she won her 3rd IRNE award. She has also received IRNEs for her portrayals of Elizabeth Borney in the Lyric's *The Old Settler* (for which she also received the Elliot Norton Award) and Vera Cortez in Centastage's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Other credits include: Blues Speak Woman in *Spunk* (Vineyard Playhouse); Harriet Tubman in the touring production of *Are You Ready My Sister* and Amos Favorite in *Intoxicating* (Underground Railway); and Dr. Bessie Delaney in *Having Our Say* (New Rep). Jacqui got her start in the business as a playwright, winning an award at the age of 13 for her play, *What's Going on Down in the Basement?*. More recent works include the musical play *SHADES; Get Rid of the Roaches...a love story* (produced at The Women on Top Theatre Festival); and *Shadow Dance* and *Half My Name/La Mitad de Mi Nombre*, written with Candy Batista (to be produced at the African American Theatre Festival in January 2002). Jacqui gives all praise and thanks to God for these many blessings.

Marion Piro (Costume Designer) co-founded Costumes by Illusions in 1986 and designs for theatres nationally and locally. In and about the Boston area, the company has worked with Chiswick Park, the Lyric, North Shore, and WFT. Among the many shows she has designed professionally are *The King and I*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *As You Like It*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The Secret Garden* and *Chicago*.

Jeff Robinson (Jeremiah Cobb) is appearing in his 5th production at WFT. He would like to dedicate his performance to his daughter, Rebecca Rose Robinson.

Jared Spencer (Randall Child), a 6th grader at the Graham and Parks School in Cambridge, is thrilled to be performing in his 3rd WFT production. Past WFT credits include *The Jungle Book* and *The Prince and the Pauper*. Jared has also been seen in *Black Nativity*. He enjoys hip-hop dancing, acting, reading, soccer, and playing the recorder.

Jenna Spencer (Randall Child), a 4th grader at the Graham and Parks School in Cambridge, is thrilled to be performing in her 5th WFT production. Past WFT

(continued on page 14)

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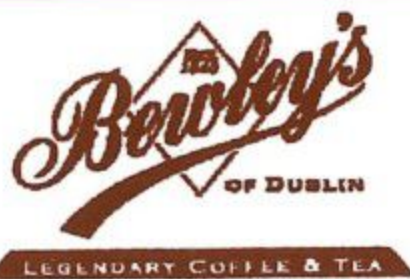


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WHO's WHO (continued from page 13)

credits include *The Tempest*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. Jenna has also appeared in the pre-Broadway production of *Macbeth* at the Colonial with Kelsey Grammer, in *Black Nativity*, and in a TV commercial for A.J. Wright. Jenna models locally with Model Club, Inc.

Jane Staab (Miranda Sawyer) is proud to be a part of WFT, a pioneer in accessibility and "colorful" casting for 21 years. She believes strongly that theatre teaches us understanding and tolerance of differences and helps us realize, as well, that a human being can learn, change, and grow.

Jody Steiner (ASL Interpreter) made her WFT debut in *Peter Pan* and "got hooked"! As WFT's access coordinator and the co-founder of PAH! Deaf Youth Theatre, Jody has created opportunities for Deaf teens to interpret with her on stage and for Deaf/Blind people to attend performances. She was last seen in WFT's world-premiere production of *My Hands Remember*.

Richard Testa (Lighting Designer) is pleased to be back designing for WFT. His past Wheelock credits include *Stuart Little*, *The Jungle Book*, and *My Hands Remember*. Other design credits include: *Mere Mortals* at the Nora; Alvin Ailey Rep Ensemble's new pieces entitled *Moments We Share*, *Last Montage*, *Crossing 2...To*, and *Lark Ascending* (remount of original Ailey piece); *Entrevista 187* at the Dallas Theatre Center; *Die Fledermaus* at Opera Memphis; *Il Barbiere De Siviglia* at the Opera Company of El Paso; and *The Magic Flute* and *The Bartered Bride* for the University of Southern California. Currently, Rich is the owner and principal designer of TLD - a lighting design firm that specializes in corporate industrial shows, trade shows, and special live events.



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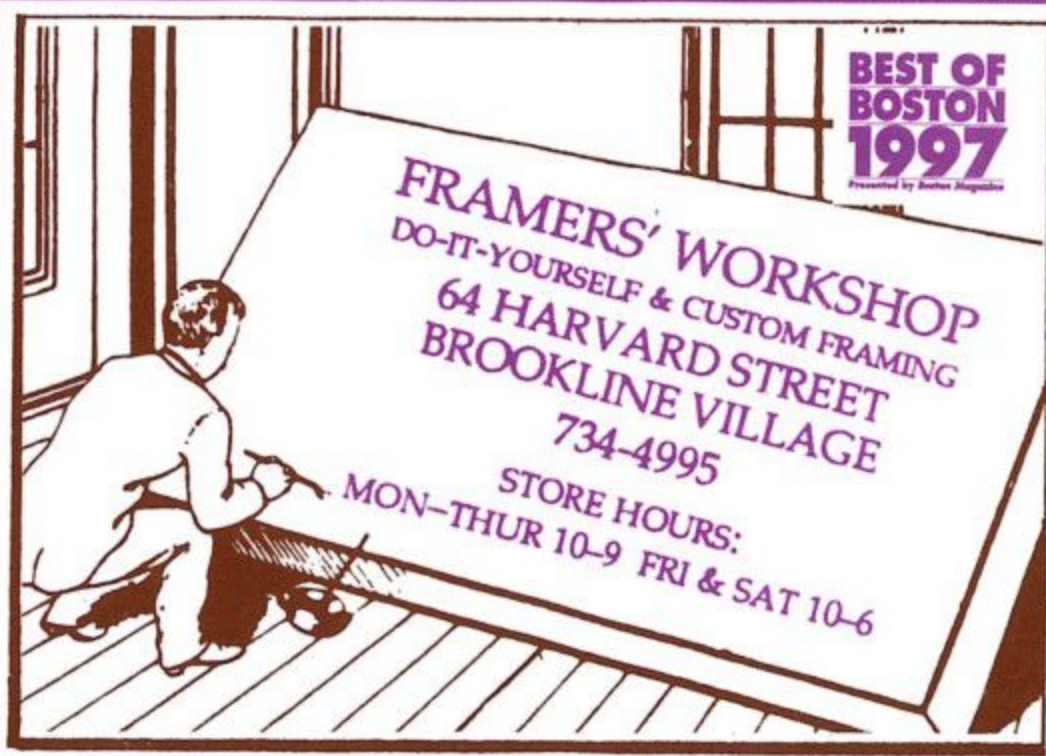
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