

## This Season at the School of Drama

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### Arabian Nights

adaptation by Dominic Cooke  
directed by Keith Hitchcock  
Penthouse Theatre  
November 26-December 9, 2007  
Fun for the whole family!

### Wild Black-Eyed Susans

by Kara Lee Corthron  
directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton  
Ethnic Cultural Theatre  
February 3-17, 2008

West Coast Premiere. Funny, moving and emotionally charged!

### She Stoops to Conquer

by Oliver Goldsmith  
directed by Matthew Arbour  
Meany Studio Theatre  
February 3-17, 2008  
Rollicking classic comedy!

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*Tickets available at 206.543.4880 and  
on-line at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama>*

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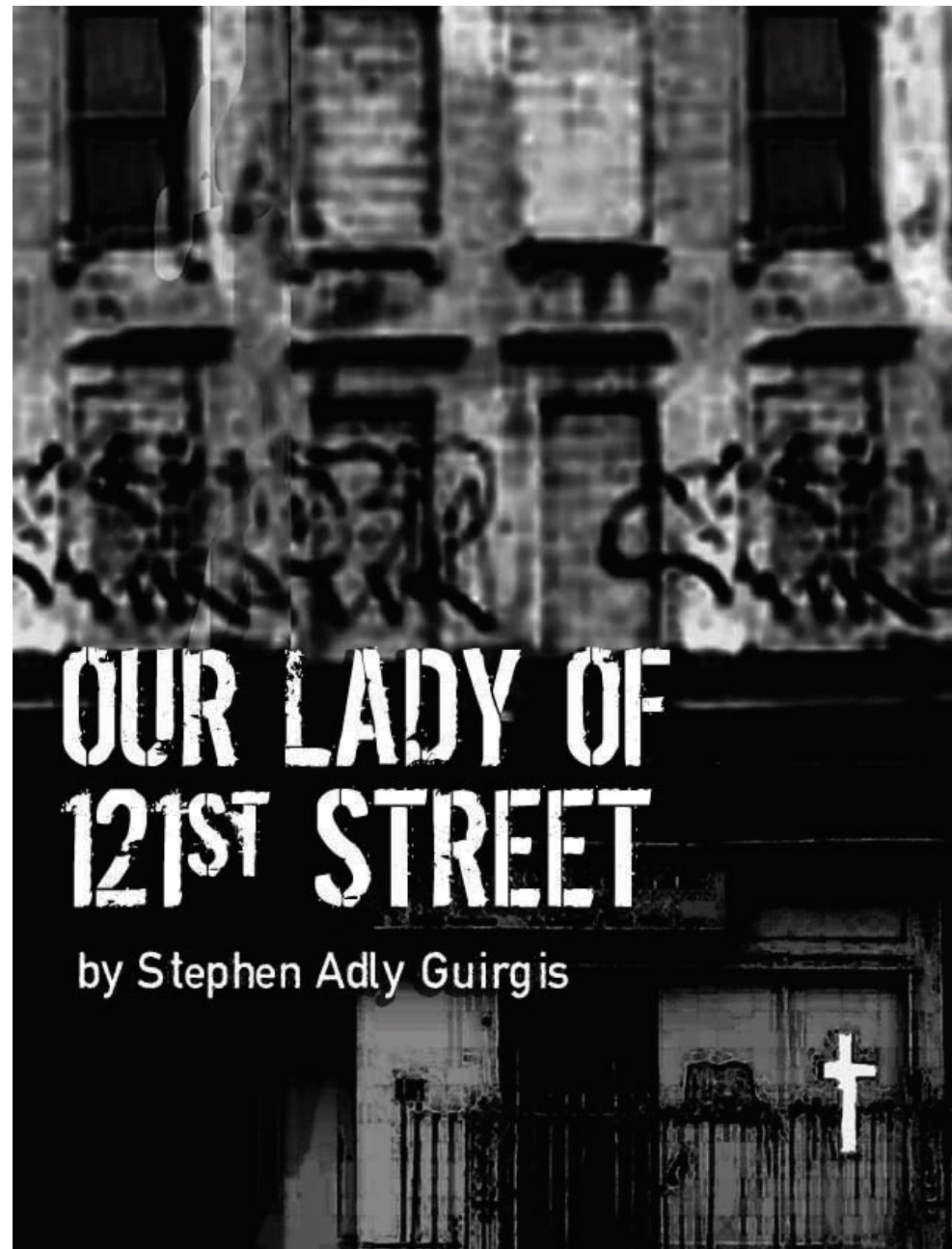
### Are you missing out?

Have you subscribed to our E-News yet? If not, visit our website and sign up today. It's easy and takes less than a minute. We'll send you monthly e-mails reminding you of productions, special events and other significant news from the School of Drama.

Join the E-News list at: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama>

### Comments?

Let us know your thoughts at: [uwdrama@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwdrama@u.washington.edu)



UW  
SCHOOL OF  
Drama

Meany Studio Theatre  
30th Season  
73rd Production  
October 28-November 11, 2007

# Our Lady of 121<sup>st</sup> Street

by Stephen Adly Guirgis

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Director</b>                  | Valerie Curtis-Newton   |
| <b>Assistant Director</b>        | David Crowe   |
| <b>Scenic Design</b>             | Edward K. Ross **   |
| <b>Costume Design</b>            | Will Alvin  |
| <b>Lighting Design</b>           | Evan Merryman Ritter  |
| <b>Stage Managers</b>            | Michelle Blair/Claire Zawa  |
| <b>Technical Director</b>        | Alex Danilchik  |
| <b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>   | Stephanie McAlexander   |
| <b>Master Carpenter</b>          | Tres Tracy-Ballon   |
| <b>Lead Scenic Artists</b>       | Jordan Baker  |
| <b>Scenic Artists</b>            | Andrew Layton, Song-yi Chun   |
| <b>Prop Master</b>               | Chris Morris  |
| <b>Set Construction Crew</b>     | Lucian Connole, Janet English, Matt Starritt  |
| <b>Costume Construction Crew</b> | Candace Joy, Inci Kangal, Kimberley Newton  |
| <b>Master Electrician</b>        | Dave Hult   |
| <b>Electricians</b>              | Drama 212 Students  |
| <b>Running Crew</b>              | Allison Abbot, Victoria Anderson, Lonnie Angle, Carrie Cates, Sara Coates, Alice Craff, Emily Fairbrook, Art Filitovich, Daniel Floresca, Naomi Glick, Kirk Hovenkotter, Kristyne Hughes, Ashton Hyman, Matt Redman, Hannah Tinker, Ryo Yamaguchi |

\*\* In partial fulfillment of the Master of Fine Arts degree in Design

Produced by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

## Special Thanks to:

Judy Shahn, Kim Powell, Tom Lynch, The College Inn Pub, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Opera, ACT, and Seattle Children's Theatre

## Tune your TV to the following shows !

It seems every time one of us here at the School turns on our television we spot alumni on various TV shows and commercials. We're delighted for everyone, and especially those that have starring or recurring roles on shows this fall or as mid-season replacements in January. We hope you will tune in and watch our former students in action!

**John Aylward:** as Dr. Anspaugh on *ER* (NBC)

**Marc Jablon:** as Larry Weston on *ER* (NBC)

**Pamela Reed:** as Gail Green on *Jericho* (CBS)

**Jean Smart:** as Regina Newly in *Samatha Who?* (ABC)

**Kyle MacLachlan:** as Orson Hodge on *Desperate Housewives* (ABC)

**Joel McHale:** the host, *The Soup* (E!)

## Coming in January!

**Christopher Wiehl:** as Shane Healy in *Lipstick Jungle* (NBC)

**Joel McHale:** as Roy in the *IT Crowd* (NBC)

## School of Drama HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Peter Donnelly, *Chair*

David Armstrong *The 5th Avenue Theatre*

Allison Narver *Director*

John Aylward *Alumnus and Actor*

Sharon Ott *Director*

Kurt Beattie *ACT Theatre*

Pat Patten *Director*

Timothy Bond *Alumnus and Director Syracuse Stage*

Laura Penn *INTIMAN Theatre*

David Esbjornson *Seattle Repertory Theatre*

Pamela Reed *Alumna and Actor*

Jean Burch Falls *Actor*

Marilynn Sheldon *The 5th Avenue Theatre*

Linda Hartzell *Alumna/Seattle Children's Theatre*

Bartlett Sher *INTIMAN Theatre*

Speight Jenkins *Seattle Opera*

Jean Smart *Alumna and Actor*

Lori Larsen *Alumna and Actor/Director*

Susan Trapnell *ACT Theatre*

Kevin Maifeld *Seattle University*

Benjamin Moore *Seattle Repertory Theatre*

### THE PROFESSIONAL ACTOR TRAINING PROGRAM (PATP)

The PATP is a three-year conservatory program leading to a Master of Fine Arts degree, designed to prepare students for careers in the professional theatre.

Ten actors are chosen every year from national auditions of approximately 1,000

The rigorous training includes work in a range of types and styles of performance, including non-realistic, realistic, classical and contemporary plays. The program is intense and demanding, with actors working from 9-5, Monday-Friday, with an additional 25 hours per week spent in rehearsals. The overall aim of the program is to provide students with the practical skills necessary to fully reveal their artistic ideas. The PATP is consistently ranked among the very best



*Noel Coward's Present Laughter*

The financial commitment our students undertake to complete their training is considerable. The School of Drama's Adopt-an-Actor program provides a major source of funding for their essential career entry activity in the Showcase

Audition Tour, which introduces them to national casting agents.

Donors become part of the PATP family, and are matched with individual actors. If you are interested in the Adopt-an-Actor program, please call the School of Drama at 206.221.6797.

To donate to the School of Drama, please make your check payable to UW Foundation/Drama, write PATP in the memo line and mail to: UW School of Drama, Box 353950, Seattle, WA 98195-3950. To give on-line, go to: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrama/support/support.html>. Thank you.

### **Support the School of Drama!**

To donate to the School of Drama, please make your check payable to UW Foundation/Drama and mail to:

UW School of Drama, Box 353950, Seattle WA 98195-3950.

To give on-line, go to: [www.uwfoundation.org](http://www.uwfoundation.org)

## Cast

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Inez</b>       | TaLena Bennett*   |
| <b>Edwin</b>      | Aaron Blakely*    |
| <b>Pinky</b>      | Samantha Cole*    |
| <b>Marcia</b>     | Hannah Franklin*  |
| <b>Father Lux</b> | Richard Hesik     |
| <b>Flip</b>       | Brian Jones*      |
| <b>Vic</b>        | Derek Lettman     |
| <b>Sonia</b>      | Jenn Ludwigsen*   |
| <b>Balthazar</b>  | Rob Olguin*       |
| <b>Gail</b>       | Richard Sloniker* |
| <b>Rooftop</b>    | Thomas Stroppel*  |
| <b>Norca</b>      | Amanda Zarr*      |

\* Denotes members of the *Professional Actor Training Program (PATP)*.

### **Synopsis of Scenes: Harlem, New York City Time: Present**

#### **Act I Late Morning**

**Scene 1** Ortiz Funeral Home

**Scene 2** The Church

**Scene 3** Near the Bathrooms

**Scene 4** Undisclosed Interrogation Room

**Scene 5** Funeral Home, waiting room

**Scene 6** Bar and Grill

**Scene 7** Confessional

**Intermission (10 min)**

#### **Act II Night**

**Scene 1** Bar and Grill

**Scene 2** Bar and Grill

**Scene 3** Ortiz Funeral Home

## The Playwright: Stephen Adly Guirgis

Stephen Adly Guirgis is a playwright whose work has been produced internationally. His plays include: *Our Lady of 121st Street*, (10 best plays of 2003; Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Best Play Nominations), *Jesus Hopped the A Train* (winner Edinburgh Festival Fringe First Award and Detroit Free Press Best Play of the Year, Laurence Olivier Nomination for Best New Play), *In Arabia We'd All Be Kings* and the upcoming *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. All four plays were directed by Philip Seymour Hoffman and originally produced by the LAByrinth Theatre Company, of which Guirgis is a founding member. Television writing credits include *NYPD Blue*, *The Sopranos*, David Milch's *Big Apple*, and *UC: Undercover*.

### Director's Note

Our production of *Our Lady of 121<sup>st</sup>* is in some ways an experiment. We approached much of the work in the usual way but we took on the challenge of non-traditional casting in a non-traditional way. Asking actors who aren't normally asked to cross the bridges of race or gender to make that trip is at the heart of our experiment. We daily faced questions like: "what does it take to step into this character's skin when it is not the same color as my own?" or "How do I speak this text authentically without stereotyping the character?" or "Do I sound silly saying this?" Pushing the idea of non-traditional casting in this way we've wrestled with the notions of race and gender, of stereotype and privilege and of compassion and courage. The results of our artistic experiment fill us, this production and, we hope, Mr. Guirgis' rich characters.

### Further Reading:

- *Jesus Hopped the A-Train* by Stephen Adly Guirgis
- *Fired!: Tales of the Canned, Canceled, Downsized, and Dismissed* by Annabelle Gurwitch
- *A Jesuit Off-Broadway* by James Martin

## School of Drama EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sarah Nash Gates

### FACULTY

#### Professors

Jon Jory, Sarah Nash Gates,  
Thomas Lynch, Barry Witham

#### Associate Professors

Sarah Bryant-Bertail,  
Valerie Curtis-Newton,  
Mark Jenkins, Odai Johnson,  
Shanga Parker, Andrew Tsao

#### Assistant Professors

Geoff Korf, Katherine Mezur

#### Adjunct Faculty

Herbert Blau

#### Affiliate Professor

Thomas Postlewait

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Catherine Madden, Judith Shahn,  
Deborah Trout

#### Lecturers

Scott Hafso, Matt Smucker

#### Part Time Faculty

Geoffrey Alm, Alban Dennis, Nancy  
Knott, Andy Smith, Chris Walker

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Robert Dahlstrom, William Forrester,  
Vanick Galstaun, Robert Hobbs, Jack  
Sydow, Aurora Valentinetti, Jack Wolcott

### STAFF

Kris Bain, *director of communications*  
Jordan Baker, *scenic artist*  
Tres Tracy-Ballon, *master carpenter*  
Bob Boehler, *technical director*  
Sue Bruns, *graduate program*  
Kathryn Burch, *administrator*  
Alex Danilchik, *scene shop manager*  
Bill Dock, *computer specialist*  
Josie Gardner, *costume shop manager*  
Danny Geiger, *director of gifts and donor*  
*relations*  
Michael Mueller, *office assistant*  
Kate Goldyn, *development assistant*  
Kathy Holliday, *academic advisor*  
Valerie Mayse, *costume specialist*  
Dave Hult, *master electrician*  
Dena Petersen, *fiscal specialist*  
Brandon Petty, *assistant to the*  
*general manager*  
Deborah Skorstad, *costume lead*  
Anne Stewart, *general manager*

## School of Drama ADVISORY BOARD

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