

*The
Summit
Playhouse
Association*

The following program is from our 2005-2006 season.

For information on our current production,
and on other shows we have presented,
please visit our web site at

<http://SummitPlayhouse.org>

The Summit Playhouse Association
Established 1918
10 New England Ave
Summit, NJ 07974
908-273-2192

The historic

Founded 1918

Summit Playhouse

Qualified by The New Jersey Cultural Trust

THE SISTERS

PRESENTS

ROSENSWEIG



SPRING 2006



Directors Notes

Wendy Wasserstein has been called the best known female playwright of her generation. She won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony award, and her plays chronicle the triumphs and travails of modern American women. She died this past January at the age of 55. When she died, she had two new works in production. When I began preproduction work on this play last fall, little did I know the immense impact and sense of loss her death, only a few months later, would have on the entire theater community. I hope this production of *The Sisters Rosensweig* does her work some small justice and that whatever experience and background you bring to this theater, you take some of Wendy's message with you. I certainly cannot express it any better than Ms. Wasserstein did in 1995:

I want my plays to be open and interesting to as many people as possible. I wouldn't want an audience of only upper-class Jewish women to come to *The Sisters Rosensweig*. I wouldn't want an audience of only feminists for *The Heidi Chronicles*. I wouldn't want an audience of all Wendy Wassersteins for any of my plays. That would be terrible!

Lastly, although their names, and what they did are listed in this program, I want to thank publicly all of the people who have worked on this production, including the entire cast, Joyce, Beth, Joëlle, Joseph, David, Hank, Natalie and Vince. And of course the production staff, including Joanne, Jim, Gerri, Brent, Lori, Nancy, Rosemary, Irene, John, Ed, Frank, Bill and Lyn.

Vincent J. Balzano

The Summit Playhouse Association presents its
Two Hundred Eighty Fifth Production

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG

BY WENDY WASSERSTEIN

Set Design

J. Guerdon Mayfield
& Vincent J. Balzano

Set Construction

J. Guerdon Mayfield

Stage Manager

Brent Baab

***Assistant to the
Producer & Director***

Joanne Wilson

Costumes

Lyn Mackie

Properties

Geraldine Zoccoli

Produced and Directed by
Vincent J. Balzano

May 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20 at 8:00pm
Sunday Matinee, May 7 at 2:00pm

The Playhouse Association
10 New England Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org

Originally produced by Lincoln Center Theater, New York City, in 1992,
following a workshop production by the Seattle Repertory Theater.

Cast

(In order of appearance)

<i>Tess Goode</i>	Natalie Smith
<i>Pfeni Rosensweig</i>	Joëlle Bochner
<i>Sara Goode</i>	Joyce Slous
<i>Geoffrey Duncan</i>	David Claypoole
<i>Mervyn Kant</i>	Joe Vierno
<i>Gorgeous Teitelbaum</i>	Beth Painter
<i>Tom Valiunus</i>	Vincent Williams
<i>Nicholas Pym</i>	Hank Bruh

Scenes

	Scene 1: Friday morning, August, 1991
Act I	Scene 2: Later that afternoon
	Scene 3: Around 8:30pm
	Scene 4: After dinner
Act II	Scene 1: Early Saturday morning
	Scene 2: Later that afternoon
	Scene 3: Early Sunday morning

Setting

Sara Rosensweig's apartment
in Queen Anne's Gate, London

There will be a 15 minute intermission, during which
juice will be served in the lounge downstairs

The Thursday benefit performance is for
the Summit Free Public Library

Production Staff

Producer & Director	Vincent J. Balzano
Assistant to the Producer & Director	Joanne Wilson
Stage Manager	Brent Baab
Set Design	J. Guerdon Mayfield & Vincent J. Balzano
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by	Brent Baab, Nancy Boucher, Frank Hawrusik, Ed Johnson, Mary Lou Mayfield, Mike Middleton, and Mike Tatlow
Set Painting	Lori Balzano
Assisted by	Rosemary Butler & Betty Kaus
Set Décor	Lori Balzano
Costumes	Lyn Mackie
Properties	Geraldine Zoccoli
Assisted by	Rosemary Butler
Make-up	Irene Bruh
Lighting & Sound	Bill Roome
Assisted by	Brent Baab & David Hoffman
Signing	Carol A. Goodman, Kean University
Audio-Description	Michael T. Mooney
Publicity	Lori Balzano
Assisted by	John Bauer
Poster, Playbill & Photography	Bill Roome
Tickets	Stephanie Fisk
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

Acknowledgments

Our friends at the Chatham Players,
for the loan of their beautiful fireplace & costumes

Larry Wilbur and the Barn Theater,
for their Cliff-clef recordings

John McEwen, New Jersey Theatre Alliance

**The Access Matinee for this production has been
underwritten by the Summit Lions Club**

Who's Who

Joëlle M. Bochner (Pfeni Rosensweig) is gracing the Summit stage for the first time. If you've been to see shows at The Chatham Community Players, you may have seen her onstage in *A Christmas Carol*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *The Secret Garden*, *Pride and Prejudice* or *Rumors*. She dedicates this performance to her Gramma Bee – a Jewish grandmother, and a true inspiration.

Hank Bruh (Nicholas Pym) performed in over thirty plays for On Stage, a repertoire company in Brooklyn. From 1972 to 1985 he appeared in such diverse plays as *The Odd Couple*, *Design for Murder*, *Anastasia*, *Come Blow Your Horn* and *Glass Menagerie*, plus many others. He did an extra role in the movie *Quick Change* which had a 15 second closeup of his face in a crowd scene (his 15 seconds of fame), and many years ago, he appeared as an extra on the soap *As The World Turns*. After twenty years of being off the stage, he is coming back to what he loves, and he is thankful for the opportunity given by the summit playhouse.

David Claypoole (Geoffrey Duncan) has been a Summit resident for the last five years. Playhouse audiences may recognize him from recent appearances in *Is There Life After High School?* and *The Imaginary Invalid*. Before arriving on the hilltop, David lived on Staten Island where he was a mainstay of the island theatre scene for 15 years, both as an actor and director, appearing in roles ranging from Amos Hart in *Chicago* to Frank Butler in *Annie Get Your Gun*, and directing big musicals including *South Pacific*, *Damn Yankees* and *Pirates of Penzance*. Among his over 50 acting credits, some of David's favorite roles include Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Buddy in *Follies*, Man #1 in *Jacque Brel ...*, Lancelot in *Camelot*, and El Gallo in *The Fantastiks*. *The Sisters Rosensweig* is only the second straight play (non-musical) in which David has ever appeared. In real life, David is a husband, father, executive recruiter, bass player, pianist, gourmet chef and Elvis impersonator.

Beth Painter (Gorgeous Teitlebaum) is happy to making her third appearance at the Summit Playhouse. Her NYC credits include *Crimes of the Heart* (Lenny), *Hamlet* (Gertrude), *Counsellor at Law* (Cora), *Snow White* (Wicked Queen) and various original works. Her other favorites include *Snakebit* (Jennifer), *The Imaginary Invalid* (Toinette), *Rumors* (Chris), *Moon Over Buffalo* (Roz), *Annie* (Ms. Hannigan), *Nuts* (Claudia), and *How To Succeed in Business...* (Hedy LaRue). Beth recently founded The Contagious Drama Workshop in Westfield, NJ. This theater school offers acting classes for kids ages 5 and up. For more information, please email Beth at contagiousdrama@yahoo.com. Thanks go out to her fabulous family who continue to support her theater habits. This one's for you Dad.

Joyce Slous (Sara Goode) is making her first appearance at The Playhouse. Having played "Dr. Gorgeous" twice before (in Westfield and at the Barn Theatre in Montville), she couldn't resist the opportunity to play Sara, in this wonderful play by the late and great Wendy Wasserstein. Some of Joyce's previous performances have included *Fifth of July*, *Rumors*, *The Boys Next Door*, *The Elephant Man*, *View from the Bridge*, *Plaza Suite*, *Baby Dance* and *Company*. She truly loves all of the women that she has helped to create on stage! When not in a 'show', Joyce is 'showing' homes for Burgdorff Realtors.

Natalie Smith (Tess Goode) has appeared in four musical productions at her high school, Oak Knoll School in Summit, NJ. Her previous roles include Phyllis from *Sophisticated Ladies* and Mona Kent in *Dames At Sea*. This summer, she attended a six-week musical theater program at Carnegie Mellon University. For the past five years, she has had private voice training with Aimee Willis and Alex Kariotis. *The Sisters Rosensweig* is her first dramatic role.

Joe Vierno (Mervyn Kant) grew up in an Italian/Jewish neighborhood in the Bronx, not far from DeWitt Clinton High School. While performing this wonderful Wasserstein play, he's reminded of his mother who, like Sara Rosensweig, had every Frank Sinatra LP ever recorded. Later in life, after his father had passed, his mother fell in love again and married a lovely man from the Bronx in a rumpled suit, which makes him think that there's a good chance that Sara and Merv might get together after all.

Vince Williams (Tom Valiunus) has moved on to bigger and better things since appearing at the Playhouse six years ago. However, if he has to go slumming he's pleased to be doing it in such exalted company and in one of the great roles in American theatre, Tom. Having previously played Harry he looks forward to the opportunity of playing Dick in the near future. Props and kudos to director, crew and cast, all of whom are insane and immensely talented.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Vincent J. Balzano (Director & Producer) has worked on many different and varied plays, musicals, and entertainments in the old millennium. In the current millennium, at the Summit Playhouse he has directed *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Black Comedy* which he conceived on the same bill with students from Summit H.S. performing *The Important of Being Earnest*. Locally, he has appeared on stage in *It's Only a Play* and *Two by Two*, both at the Summit Playhouse, in Neil Simon's *Rumors* with the Chatham Players, and in *How To Succeed ...* with the Florham Park Players. Next spring, he will be directing *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* here in Summit. Between now and then, he will rest.

Lori Balzano (Set Décor & Painting) is a proud member of Team Balzano, and has been since 1979. Lori is happy to be going to bat for the "Sisters". Her previous collaborative credits include *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Black Comedy* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. She has worked on numerous other Playhouse productions wearing many hats from the ridiculous to the sublime. In the real world outside The Playhouse she wears only two hats; mother and wife, and they are both sublime.

Irene Bruh (Make-up) has been in theater since 1972. On-stage, she has had leading roles in *Anastasia* and *Night Watch*. She is married to Hank Bruh and has three beautiful daughters, Tara, Jevon and Lisa.

Carol A. Goodman (Sign Language Interpreter) is a nationally certified interpreter and full-time professor at Kean University where she directs a student sign language performance group, The Kean SIGNatures. She signs regularly for VSA NJ (Very Special Arts of New Jersey). Dr. Goodman has been interpreting for theater perfor-

Who's Who (continued)

mances since 1982 along the east coast, including our November performance of *The Miracle Worker*.

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Design & Construction) reports that set construction has become a full time hobby: *The Sisters Rosensweig* is the third set he has built for the Playhouse. He is also active in the deaf and hard of hearing community and is encouraging people with hearing impairments to come to the theatre to enjoy the shows and become involved in the activities of the theatre. He appreciates all of the compliments for *The Miracle Worker* and *The Lion In Winter*. He would not be able to accomplish it without the enthusiasm and assistance of the crew and thanks them.

Lyn Mackie (Costumes) has done costumes for a number of Playhouse productions. On this production, she had a lot of help from the cast: they scoured their own closets, shopped the discount stores and rummaged the costume collection of The Chatham Players. There was a lot of cooperation from all the performers, for which Lyn is very grateful.

Michael T. Mooney (Audio Describer) has provided descriptions at McCarter Theatre, Morristown's Community Theatre, Edison's Plays-in-the-Park, The Bickford Theatre, EIES Radio Reading Service, and Paper Mill Playhouse where he is Manager of Outreach and Access Programs. A founding member of L.E.A.D. (Leadership and Education in Arts and Disability) in Washington DC, Michael serves on the boards of Audio-Description International, Fund for the New Jersey Blind, and The New Jersey Arts Access Task Force. He received the 2003 Ann Klein Award. (www.michaeltmooney.com)

Bill Roome (Lighting & Sound) was last seen on-stage as Anagnos in our November production of *The Miracle Worker*. Off-stage, he is the Playhouse's Technical Director and Webmaster, and has worked on lighting and/or sound for many of our recent productions.

Joann Wilson (Assistant to the Director & Producer) has worked backstage on several Playhouse productions. She has also appeared in *The Boys Next Door*, *Lettice And Lovage*, and *Enchanted April*. Joanne is thrilled to work with Vincent again, having worked with him on *It's Only A Play*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, and *Fiorello!* Thanks to Bruce for picking up the slack!

Geraldine Zoccoli (Properties) is called by some the "Queen of Props." She has been doing props for a long time and finds the challenge beyond compare. Some of the other hats she has worn are set decoration, ushering, costumes and even producing *Arsenic and Old Lace* and debuting on the playhouse stage in *Charlotte's Web*. Gerry would like to thank Maureen, John, Dawn and her grandsons for all their support.



As a courtesy to the cast and the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone
No photography or recording



Our 2006—2007 Season



The Children's Hour

By Lillian Hellman
Directed by Kate Schlesinger

November 2006

Auditions: June 2006

The Children's Hour is the story of a boarding school and its two headmistresses. One of the students, Mary, has unearthly malice and turns her vengeful eyes towards the headmistresses. The play shows the ease in which an accusation can cause the fall of the accused – guilty or not – and how a simple statement can change the course of lives. Even a child can have power over the masses with the right words.

Living Out

By Lisa Loomer
Directed by Michael Driscoll

February 2007

Living Out is an absorbing and thought-provoking play about motherhood and the American Dream seen through the eyes of three immigrant nannies and the “privileged” mommies they work for. The struggles of illegal immigrants for papers, of spouses to understand each other and the affluent and non-affluent to co-exist are all here in this bitingly funny and deeply poignant play.

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

By Burt Shevelove, Larry Gelbart and Stephen Sondheim
Directed by Vincent J. Balzano

May 2007

Something familiar, something peculiar, something for everyone — a comedy tonight. So begins this crazy, zany farce of a musical. Fast-paced, witty, irreverent and one of the funniest musicals ever written — the perfect escape from life's troubles. “Forum” takes comedy back to its roots, combining situations from time-tested, 2000 year old comedies of Roman playwright Plautus with the infectious energy of classic vaudeville. The result is a non-stop laugh-fest in which a crafty slave struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow-witted courtesan for his young master in exchange for freedom. With its unforgettable characters, a hysterical, perfectly constructed book “Forum” is one of the most popular musicals of the last 40 years.

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Next Production

Kaleidoscope Theatre for Youth Presents

Once On This Island (Junior)

**Music by Stephen Flaherty
Book and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Directed by Renee Palermo**

**July 22—July 30, 2006
Auditions: May 21 & 22**

Once On This Island (Junior) is a Caribbean adaptation of the popular Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale *The Little Mermaid* featuring a poignant story and catchy, Caribbean flavored score.

This is the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a young man from a wealthy family. When Daniel is returned to his people, the gods who rule the island guide Ti Moune on a quest to test the strength of her love against the powerful forces of prejudice, hatred and death.

With its touching story and catchy pop and Caribbean flavored score by songwriters of the film *Anastasia* and the Broadway smash *Ragtime*, *Once On This Island* is a multi-cultural feast for the heart, mind, and soul.

Playhouse Contributors

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Bill & Mary Campbell	Summit Area Public Foundation
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