



Our 53rd Season

273rd Production

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS

DEATH BY DESIGN

A Comedy with Murder

by **Rob Urbinati**



Directed by **Charlotte M. Tiencken**

SCENERY and COSTUME DESIGNER	Don Yanik
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Kristiana Matthews
SOUND DESIGNER	Jerry L. Collum
CO-SOUND DESIGNER	Alex M. Trewin
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Jerry L. Collum
STAGE MANAGER	Ariel Bui
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Cassie Fitzgerald
DIALECT COACH	Gin Hammond
CHOREOGRAPHER	Beth Orme
DRAMATURG	Amy Korver



THE CAST

BRIDGIT, the Maid.....	Jordan Gerow
JACK, the Chauffeur.....	Daniel Escobedo
EDWARD BENNETT, the Playwright.....	Tucker Goodman
SOREL BENNETT, the Actress.....	Miranda Boulden
WALTER PEARCE, the Politician.....	Jysal Rouzan-Price
ERIC, the Radical.....	Gabriel Adams
VICTORIA VAN ROTH, the Bohemian.....	Molly Warner
ALICE, the Visitor.....	Erin A. Barber



SETTING:

The living room of the Bennett's house in Cookham, England

TIME: 1932



November 16, 17, 18 • 21, 22, 23 - 7:30pm, 2013

Matinee November 23 - 2:00pm • 2013

DEATH BY DESIGN is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
DEATH BY DESIGN was originally commissioned and developed by Houston Family Arts Center;
Bob Clark, Executive Director, Teri Clark, Artistic Director. It premiered at HFAC in September, 2011;
Executive Producers, Mario and Lisa Garza, Directed by Lisa Garza

Please silence all audible devices and do not operate any computer or electronic devices during the performance. The use of any photography and/or recording devices is strictly prohibited by law.

**GUN SHOTS AND A STROBE LIGHT
ARE USED DURING THE PERFORMANCE**

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Rob Urbinati is a freelance director and playwright, and Director of New Play Development at Queens Theatre. He was a Theatre Consultant for *Home Box Office* in New York City from 1985-1989. He received an M.A. from the University of Nebraska and a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, and directed over forty plays at theatres across the country before returning to New York in 1995. Rob has enjoyed a continuing association with the Drama League since receiving a Fellowship from that organization in 1995. He has served on the Drama League Nominating Committee, the Selection Committee for the Fall Directors Program, the Summer Directors Program and the New Directors/New Works Program. Rob has developed various projects for Disney Creative Entertainment, serves on the Lark Theatre Playwrights Week Selection Committee. He has presented Playwriting and Directing workshops at various Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festivals.

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DIRECTOR NOTES

Murder Mysteries have been part of American and English cultures for many years - from Sherlock Holmes, to Agatha Christie, to modern day television shows like CSI, people have always been fascinated with the twists and turns of solving mysteries. So it is with the play you are about to see. But, with one big difference.

The playwright of *Death by Design* does more than write a murder mystery, he is writing a satire on the culture and norms of the year 1932. Using the likes of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, two formidable artists of the time, he talks about the politics, classism, and societal mores of the day. Through comedy, he tells a story of the people of the time and what an absurd, and yes, somewhat crazy period it was. In all honesty, things have not changed that much.

I hope that you will not only enjoy tonight's antics, but that you might see a little bit of yourself in some of these characters, and that they will make you think about what you can do now to make the world a better place. Have fun!

Charlotte Tiencken, Director

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DRAMATURG NOTES

Death by Design by Rob Urbinati - mixes the literary styles of two significant and distinct playwrights popular of the 1930's - Noel Coward and Agatha Christie. Anyone who has seen "Hay Fever" or "Private Lives" will recognize some of his favorite characters and situations as well as Coward's wit and way with words. Whoever had chanced to see one of Christie's many 'cozy' mysteries, for which she remains the famous creator, will spot figments of her own clue-dropping literary style, with even some similar homicidal methods. Great Britain in the 1930's still retained a rigid class structure. Those in the upper and middle class felt themselves to be morally superior to the lower class, and saw themselves as the guardians of the culture. This class distinction was largely self-policed and seldom questioned. In 1932, the world was still recovering from WWI, and Great Britain was just starting to feel the effects of the stock market crash three years prior in America. Yet, the southern side of the UK, where London, Kent, and Cookham are all located, remained prosperous and even flourished due to the opening of new factories and the pioneering of new light industries, further deepening the class gulf.

Amy Korver, Dramaturg

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GUEST ARTISTIC STAFF

Charlotte M. Tiencken, Director, is an Arts Administrator, Director, Producer and Educator who has been working in the producing and presenting fields for 27 years. Currently, she is the Managing Director at Book-It Repertory Theatre in Seattle. Tiencken is also president of Scarlet Productions, her consulting firm that provides support for non-profits. In this capacity, she has worked with such organizations as the Chitresh Das Dance Company where she was festival director for the first International Festival of Kathak Dance at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, Ben Munisteri Dance in NYC, En-Joy Productions in Seattle, Seattle Cable Channel and Seattle Theatre Group among others. She has directed or produced over 80 productions. Tiencken is a member of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and is past President of the Board of Arts Northwest, Theatre Puget Sound and has served on the board of the Pat Graney Dance Company among others. She has participated in granting panels for the Washington State Arts Commission and 4 Culture. She is a member of the faculty at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. as well as Seattle Pacific University.

Kristiana Matthews, Lighting Designer, graduated from SPU in 2007 and is delighted to be back to light up the Mainstage. Recent design credits include *Twelve Angry Women* (2011) and *Nunsense* (2012) at SPU, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (2011) and *On the Razzle* (2013) at NHHS, *Jane Eyre* (2012), *Spitfire Grill* (2013) and *Comedy of Errors* (2013) at Northwest University, and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (2013) for The Black Box Theatre at EdCC. You can find Kristi around town teaching technical theatre at Roosevelt High School and Northwest University, working backstage at The Black Box Theatre and is also on staff at Taproot Theatre Company.

Gin Hammond, Dialect Coach, is a Harvard University/Moscow Art Theatre grad, a certified voice geek, and is very happy to be collaborating with such talented students. She was recently the dialect coach for the world premiere of *Sugar Daddies* at ACT, written and directed by Sir Alan Ayckbourn, and is also coaching the cast of *Oliver!* at 5th Avenue Theatre. Gin has performed in Russia, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, and England, and teaches voice, voice-over, public speaking, accents and dialects. Her voice can be heard on commercials, audiobooks and a variety of video games including Defense of the Ancients (DotA), Aion, Halo 3 ODST.

Beth Orme, Choreographer, is very excited to be working with SPU students. She teaches Theatre and mathematics at Roosevelt High School. She has choreographed the annual Roosevelt High School musical, and has also choreographed at Taproot Theatre, Village Theatre, and Civic Light Opera. Some of her favorite productions are *Crazy For You*, for which she received the Seattle Times Best Choreographer of the Year; *42nd Street*; *Quilters* – directed and choreographed; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Oklahoma*; *Cats*; and *Curtains*. She is the proud wife of Matt, and mom to Grace and Henry.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Producing Artistic Director/Production Manager Don Yanik
 Technical Director Jerry L. Collum
 Assistant Technical Director Alex Trewin
 Master Electrician Molly Warner
 Light Board Operator Cassandra Thorpe
 Lighting Crew Kyle Davies, Daniel Escobedo, Tucker Goodman, Jessica Gunn, JD Walker
 Sound Operator Joyel Richardson
 Properties Crew Kelsey Boulton, Kim Mapstead
 Costume Shop Manager Amy Helmuth
 Wardrobe Manager Rebecca Eide
 Costume Crew Anna Ardill, Hannah Monson
 Makeup Zeke Slovak
 Paint Charges Ariel Bui, Alina Chop
 Box Office Manager Jessica Brown
 House Manager Lauren Kelm
 Promotion Director Kim Gilnett
 Promotion/Publicity Assistant Erin Barber

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS Gabe Adams, Zach Christensen, Malia Clancy, Andrew Davies, Jason Hill, Alex Huffman, Monroe Jesuser Jr., Connor King, Tempie Knuteson, Ida Kusumastuti, James Lynch, Josh McBrayer, Sarah Miller, Joelle Morris, Julia Mounce, Bette Beau Nettlehead, Laura Nile, Becca Notkin, Emily Olson, Tyler Sawers, Hannah Schuerman, Sammie Snively, Lance Valdez, Megan Wilford.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: ACT Theatre; UW Drama Department; Jean Sleight; Bill West.

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**The audience is invited to meet the cast and crew in the Studio Theatre,
 on the lower level, following the performance.**

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“A life without theatre is a life not worth living.” - Edward Bennett, DEATH BY DESIGN

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Upcoming University Theatre Productions – 2013-2014

THE MIRACLE WORKER by William Gibson

Directed by George A. Scranton

Mainstage Theatre: **January 30, 31, February 1 - February 6, 7, 8** - 7:30pm;

Matinees **February 1 and 8**, 2:00pm

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Student Directed One Act Plays

THE DINING ROOM by A. R. Gurney

Act One Directed by Erin Barber; Act Two Directed by Molly Warner

Studio Theatre: **March 4, 5, 6, 7, 8** - 7:30pm.

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HEDDA GABLER by Henrik Ibsen

Adapted by Jon Robin Baitz from a Translation by Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey

Directed by Andrew D. Ryder

Mainstage Theatre: **April 24, 25, 26, - May 1, 2, 3** - 7:30pm; **Matinee May 3**, 2:00pm

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THE TOMATO PLANT GIRL by Lesley Middleton

Directed by Candace Vance

Backstage Theatre: **May 27, 28, 29, 30, 31** - 7:30pm; **Matinees Only May 31**, 2:00pm

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Theatre Faculty and Staff 2013-2014

Dr. Andrew D. Ryder, Associate Professor of Theatre and Theatre Chair

Dr. George A. Scranton, Professor of Theatre

Don Yanik, Professor of Theatre

Jerry Collum, Assistant Professor and Technical Director

Jennifer Matthews, Instructor, Fundamentals of Improvisation

Charlotte Tiencken, Creative Drama

Candace Vance, Instructor, Acting I, II, III, Theatre Voice, Auditioning

Kim Gilnett, Director of Marketing and Scholarships

Bobbie Childers, Fine Arts Administrative Assistant

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE, College of Arts and Sciences, SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

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