Cloud Nine
An Outrageous Satirical Farce by Caryl Churchill

February 23 – 26, 2012
Thursday 7:30 PM
Friday & Saturday 8 PM, Sunday 2 PM

Nelda K. Balch Playhouse • Kalamazoo College
Box Office/Info: 269.337.7333 • www.kzoo.edu/theatre
THEATRE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

On behalf of our faculty, staff, guest artists and especially students, welcome to the 48th season of Festival Playhouse of Kalamazoo College! In conjunction with the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership, we present a series of provocative, humorous and innovative plays that unite performance, text, and design while exploring what it means to live (and not live) in a socially just world.

In our Fall production, award-winning author David Hare pulled no punches in STUFF HAPPENS, which profiled the extraordinary events at the White House, at the United Nations, and all over the world leading to the U.S./Iraqi war. A play about international diplomacy, leadership and credibility, most of all, in the author's own words STUFF HAPPENS is a history play which happens to centre on very recent history.

In the Winter 2012 term, we present the riotous and outrageous political farce, CLOUD NINE by Caryl Churchill. Act One takes place in British colonial Africa and features a man playing the mistress of the household, a white actor playing a black servant and a doll playing the well-behaved daughter. Act Two is 100 years later in London, but the characters have only aged 25 years, as they explore their sexual identities through everything from heterosexual adultery to bisexual incest. One of the sharpest, politicized and funniest plays ever written, The New York Times called the original Broadway production "an evening of inspired lunacy." Caryl Churchill has emerged of one of the most successful, respected and insightful playwrights of her – or any – generation.

Spring term 2011 will see two productions: As part of our Senior Performance Series, senior Hutch Pimentel directs the Michigan premiere of BACK OF THE THROAT by Yussef El Guindi. A chilling black comedy, a Kafkaesque story unfolds of two mysterious government agents who visit the apartment of Kaled, an Arab-American writer, for some "routine questioning." What begins as friendly and humorous becomes uncomfortable, then menacing and finally violent.

We close our season with the World Premiere of KAHANI - A New Play Devised by Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership Fellow and Guest Artist Director Irfana Majumdar and students of Kalamazoo College. Kahani is the
Hindi term for “Story.” Based loosely on stories of Hindi 20th century writers, KAHANI will use many different methods of storytelling to explore the implicit power and hierarchical structures within the family and society. This truly interdisciplinary and international project from Theatre Arts, the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership, and Center for International Programs will also tour and perform at the Nirman School in India in July, 2012. As an ACSJL Visiting Fellow, Indian director, filmmaker and theatre educator Irfana Majumdar is in residence at Kalamazoo College from January through June 2012, teaching and directing.

We are proud that Kalamazoo College student playwrights once again participated in the THEATRE KALAMAZOO NEW PLAYFEST, produced at The Epic Center in downtown Kalamazoo, February 11, 2012. We brought them to the stage as the highest gift we can ever offer to an audience: brand new work from the young artists of the future of our theatre.

As always, we feature the work of our “best and the brightest” in student-directed plays, young artists who support the great tradition at Kalamazoo College of students creating their own theatre in our Senior Performance Series. In addition to BACK OF THE THROAT, senior Kyle McCord directed Israel Horovitz’s LINE in Winter term in the Dungeon Theatre.

As you can see from the above, we continue to strive to make the theatre experience at the center of the liberal arts environment: an intersection of knowledge, creativity and education for our entire community.

Theatre that is always provocative. Theatre that is always thoughtful.
Thank you for choosing the theatre tonight!
Ed Menta
Professor & Director of Theatre

THE VIEW FROM CLOUD NINE

BY MARIANNE STINE, K ’12, DRAMATURG

Sex is a big deal. Just look at the top news stories from the last year: a congressman forced to resign after sending salacious Tweets; a controversial proposal to cut government funding of Planned Parenthood; the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell. For whatever reason, people are deeply concerned with when, where, why, how and between whom sex happens. Add the separate but related subject of gender, and you have one complicated and controversial debate.

It takes a lot of nerve to write about such a hot-button issue, and a lot of talent to do it well. Fortunately, Caryl Churchill has both. This English playwright is famous the world over for creating innovative, politically charged theatre. In plays such as VINEGAR TOM (1978), TOP GIRLS (1982) and SEVEN JEWISH CHILDREN (2009) she uses events from the past to explore issues in the present. She has written about everything from the witch hunts of the seventeenth century to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Whatever the topic, Churchill approaches it with passion and style.

In 1979, Churchill agreed to write a play for the Joint Stock Theatre Group. Starting with the incredibly general theme of “sexual politics,” she found herself drawn to the idea of colonialism as a parallel to sexual oppression. The result was CLOUD NINE, an off-the-wall tragicomedy that uses such Brechtian flourishes as cross-gender and cross-race casting to challenge our most basic assumptions about gender, sexuality and race.

Sex has always been a big deal. By setting the first act of CLOUD NINE in Victorian Africa, Churchill highlights this fact. The location also allows her to tackle head-on one of the biggest debates relating to gender. It’s from the Victorians that we get the notion of gender complementarity: the theory that men and women naturally have different yet complementary traits. Thus, a heterosexual couple is like two halves of a whole; the man is the head of the house and the woman is the heart. Gender complementarity is still taught by some religious fundamentalists, mainly as an argument against feminism and the gay rights movement. So it is equally fitting that CLOUD NINE travels to what was then contemporary London in the second act.
Sex will always be a big deal. Like so many other debates, this one ultimately boils down to a question of privilege and power. Who or what determines sexual morality? Does one person have the right to tell another who they can have sex with? Why is one thing considered normal and another abnormal? And what's wrong with being abnormal, anyway? It is for this reason that a play all about gender and sexuality is included in our season of “Theatre and Social Justice.” And because of this, CLOUD NINE will always strike a chord with audiences.

FESTIVAL PLAYHOUSE
THEATRE ARTS AT KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
PRESENTS

CLOUD NINE
BY CARYL CHURCHILL

THE CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Act I - An imperialist colony in Africa, 1880

Clive ................................................... Sam Bertken
Betty ..................................................... James Villar
Joshua .................................................. Cameron Schneberger
Edward .................................................. Grace Gilmore
Vicky (the doll) .................................... Uneeda Doll
Maud ..................................................... Jane Huffman
Ellen ..................................................... Anya Opshinsky
Mrs. Saunders ...................................... Fiona Carey
Harry Bagley ....................................... Hutch Pimentel

Act II - London, 1980, but the characters have only aged 25 years

Cathy ................................................... Cameron Schneberger
Lin ....................................................... Jane Huffman
Vic ......................................................... Anya Opshinsky
Edward ................................................ Sam Bertken
Betty ..................................................... Grace Gilmore
Martin .................................................. Hutch Pimentel
Gerry .................................................... James Villar
Soldier ............................................... Fiona Carey

Act 1: An imperialist colony in Africa, 1880

Scene 1: Evening
Scene 2: Early afternoon, a few days later, Christmas
Scene 3: Afternoon, a few days later
Scene 4: Early morning, a few days later
Scene 5: Afternoon, a few days later

Act 2: London, 1980, but the characters have only aged 25 years

Scene 1: Winter afternoon
Scene 2: Spring
Scene 3: Summer night
Scene 4: Late summer afternoon
~The use of any recording device is strictly prohibited. Switch cellular phones and anything else that makes noise to silent during the performance.

~Patrons who leave their seat during the performance will be re-seated at the discretion of the house manager.

~Festival Playhouse gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation.

~A water-based haze will be used throughout the performance. It is completely non-toxic.

~There will be one 15-minute intermission.
This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theatre education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theatre productions. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships grants and awards for actors, playwrights, designers stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

A faculty colleague attends those productions that are entered on the Associate level. This includes a response session with the company following the performance. The director will be provided with a written response to the work, a copy of which will be forwarded to the regional chair. The response may be accompanied by nominations for awards, including the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Auditions. An associate production is not eligible for tour to the festival, though the institution is eligible for all other awards.

Last year more than 1,200 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theatre department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theatres across the nation.

PRODUCTION BIOS

KATELYN ANDERSON (Light Board Operator) is a First-Year Theatre Arts/Chemistry double major, for now. She aspires to use science in an artistic way through special effects or makeup and prosthetics. She is currently studying lighting design as well.

KAREN BERTHEL (Director) is currently Department Chair for Theatre Arts at Kalamazoo College. An associate professor of Theatre Arts, she teaches all of the performance courses plus Theatre Senior Seminar. She is a founding member of Queen’s Company in ’95, an all female company devoted to producing classical texts. Favorite professional credits include the Cardinal in DUCHESS OF MALFI, Gremio in TAMING OF THE SHREW, and the title role in MACBETH. Some West Coast performance and direction credits include San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Electra Theatre Company, Central Works, Boscov Productions, Human Nature, and The Marsh. Karen also spent six years with Kaiser Permanente’s Educational Theatre programs, as both an actor and manager of multiple shows that toured across the US mainland and Hawaii. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from The American Conservatory in San Francisco, is a Fitzmaurice Voicework® Associate, and a member of VASTA. Previous directing credits for Festival Playhouse include THE TEMPEST, THE ROVER, MACBETH, TOP GIRLS, ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD, AS YOU LIKE IT, IMAGINARY INVALID and an all-female production of HAMLET.

SAM BERTKEN (Clive, Edward) is a Senior Theatre Arts major. Festival Playhouse credits include: Donald Rumsfeld (STUFF HAPPENS), Trinculo (THE TEMPEST), Johnny (THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN (Irene Ryan Nomination), Berenger (RHINOCEROS), Dungeon Theatre: Pierrot (ARIA DA CAPO), Aloysius (SISTER MARY IGNATIUS...). He also directed DOES THIS WOMAN HAVE A NAME?

FIONA CAREY (Mrs. Saunders, Soldier) is a Sophomore majoring in Anthropology/Sociology. She’s worked in the Playhouse previously in DEFLOWERED MEMOIRS and STUFF HAPPENS and also with parallel 45, a Northern Michigan theater company. She is thrilled and blessed to be doing CLOUD NINE with such a warm, energetic and talented team.

GRACE GILMORE (Edward, Betty) is a First-Year and after performing in last quarter’s show STUFF HAPPENS, she is ecstatic to be a part of this quarter’s production of CLOUD
NINE. She would like to thank her friends and family for all their continuous support.

CHEYENNE HARVEY (Deck Crew) is a First-Year and this is her second production for Festival Playhouse. She had a great time in STUFF HAPPENS and is insanely excited to be working in the theater again this quarter. She hopes that everyone enjoys CLOUD NINE and gets something profound out of it.

JANE HUFFMAN (Maud, Lin) is a First-Year planning on double majoring in English and Theatre Arts. Recently seen on the Playhouse stage playing Tony Blair in STUFF HAPPENS, Jane is thrilled to be a part of another phenomenal company, playing slightly more effeminate roles. Jane sends her love and gratitude to her friends and family for their overwhelming support.

ELAINE KAUFFMAN (Costumer) has a B.S. from Western Michigan University in Fashion Design, including design classes at the American College of London, England. After taking a job in college managing the costume shop for the WMU Theatre Department, she began an unexpected career in costume design that led to working for almost every theatre in Kalamazoo and several others in the Midwest including a company that did national touring productions of Broadway musicals. She has costumed over 200 shows in the last 14 years with a few of her favorites being CHICAGO, GIGI, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM, HAMLET and JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT.

CHELSEA MILLER (Ellen, Vic) is a First-Year at Kalamazoo College. After playing Hans Blix in Festival Playhouse’s production of STUFF HAPPENS, Cameron is excited to continue his on-stage adventures in CLOUD NINE.

JON REEVES (Technical Director) has been the Director of Technical theatre going on 6 years and is proud to be part of this production. He would like to thank the students who make his job easier, well, most days...

HUTCH PIMENTEL (Harry, Martin) is a Senior Theater Arts major. He was most recently onstage for Festival Playhouse as the Old Gentleman in RHINOCEROS, and he was the Assistant Director of STUFF HAPPENS last quarter. Next quarter he will be directing the Michigan Premiere of BACK OF THE THROAT. He would like to thank his amazing friends and family for continuing to be amazing.

MARY MATHYER (Stage Manager) is a Sophomore Theatre Arts/Biology double major. Recent Festival Playhouse theatre credits include Video Designer for STUFF HAPPENS (American College Theatre Festival Certificate of Merit) and Stage Manager for 4.48 PSYCHOSIS. She would like to thank her friends who she was unable to hang out with during the past two months. She promises she will make it up to you!

INDIGO MCCOLLUM (Assistant Stage Manager) is a First Year and plans on minoring in Theatre Arts with a focus on directing. She has never been an Assistant Stage Manager before. This is the second play she has worked on for Festival Playhouse and is excited to try a managerial role.

ANNA OPHSHINSKY (Ellen, Vic) is a First Year and feels incredible lucky to have gotten to work with such a talented cast in her first main stage production for Festival Playhouse! She would like to thank her incredible supportive parents and friends, as well as Karen Berthel for the energy and talent she has put into the creation of this show. She hopes you enjoy your evening of entertainment!
production.

DANIEL ISAAC SILVERMAN (Follow Spot Operator) is a pre-med Junior. Dan played Jon in DOES THIS WOMAN HAVE A NAME? and was on the deck crew for STUFF HAPPENS. Dan once saved a kitten from a medium-sized tree.

MARIANNE STINE (Dramaturg) is a Senior English/Theatre Arts double major. She was last seen playing Paul Wolfowitz in STUFF HAPPENS. She was thrilled to find a job in theatre that allows her to talk about things like Victorian gender politics, because she is a tremendous nerd.

MADELINE VERMEULEN (Follow Spot Operator) is a Sophomore at Kalamazoo College. She has been a part of multiple Festival Playhouse productions including ALISON SHIELDS and THE WHO'S TOMMY. She is excited to be a part of CLOUD NINE and work backstage on the show as follow spot operator. Enjoy the show!

JAMES VILLAR (Betty, Gerry) is a First Year who was in STUFF HAPPENS last quarter. Now, fully prepared, he is ready to take on CLOUD NINE with a head full of dreams and a body full of energy. This, being the second play he has participated in, will be yet another learning experience.

ARSHIA WILL (Sound Board Operator) is a Sophomore working on her fifth production with the Festival Playhouse. She would like to thank her family and friends for being supportive.

FESTIVAL PLAYHOUSE IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THEATRE KALAMAZOO!
www.theatrekalamazoo.org

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MARCH 2 - 18

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MARCH 16 - 18

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THE COMEDY OF ERRORS
MARCH 13

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THE CURE FOR LOVE
MARCH 15 - 25

NEW VIC THEATRE
CRIMES OF THE HEART
OPENS MARCH 30

CENTER STAGE THEATRE
ONCE UPON A TIME: A STORYBOOK MUSICAL REVIEW
MARCH 9 - 17
Join us for the rest of Festival Playhouse’s upcoming 48th Season!

BACK OF THE THROAT by Yussef El Guindi, April 26-29, 2012
(Dungeon Theatre)

KAHANI, a new play devised by guest director, and Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership Fellow Irfana Majumdar and the students of Kalamazoo College, May 10-13, 2012

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