



Kaleidoscope
theatre company

with the assistance of Bad Neighbors Ltd.

presents

the world premiere of

THE STAIRWELL

by Keith Merritt

directed by Marshall Mays

78th Street Theatre Lab
236 West 78th Street
New York, New York

June 23 – July 16, 2000

*This production is dedicated to Vern Merritt,
Charlie Mays and Henry Wallengren.*

June 23, 2000

Welcome to the Kaleidoscope Theatre Company! Kaleidoscope is dedicated to producing *serious* comedy. In the coming years, we intend to produce comedies of all types, both classic and new works, romantic comedies, Chekhovian comedies, black comedies and farces. While we plan to examine some classic comedies, both ancient and of the recent past, we also intend to build relationships with contemporary playwrights that write smart, comedic plays with insight and great humor.

This evening's performance features the world premiere of Keith Merritt's dark comedy *The Stairwell*. It has been a joy to work on this exciting new play by someone who also happens to be a good and old friend. This production would also not have been possible without the incredible assistance of so many people, who have volunteered their time, their talents, their know-how, and their enthusiasm.

If you enjoyed this production, please call the New York Times and tell them so. After you have done that, please tell all your really cool friends about our show and our new theatre company. Then, make sure that you are on our mailing list if you're not already, so that you can get our mailings and postcards to hear all about our upcoming season.

Thank you very much for your support,

Marshall Mays
Artistic Director

Kaleidoscope Theatre Company's Inaugural Season 1999-2000

Little Miracles: An Evening of One Acts
The Game by Laura Henry
Unearthed by Christopher Renstrom
The Calling by Liz Bartucci (premiere)

The Stairwell by Keith Merritt (premiere)

Check out our new web site at <http://members.aol.com/kaleidoscopethtr>

CAST (in order of appearance)

Ethan	Tony Javed
Dad	Ned Butikofer*
Emerson	Todd Allen Durkin*
Mary	Sarah Saltzberg
Mr. Kozni	Ned Butikofer*

*Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

There will be no intermission.

STAFF

Director/Artistic Director/Maintenance Guy	Marshall Mays
Stage Manager	Michael Minn*
Lighting Designer	Tina Stanley
Sound Designer	Dean Gray
Costume Designer	Kathleen Cullen
Set Designer	Marshall Mays
Technical Director	John Hopwood
Special Properties Design	Paul Burns
Set Crew	John Hopwood, Paul Burns Ruth Karmazon, Yang Miller Mimi Sinozich, Mark Sallinger Robert Dyckman
Director of Public Relations	Narciso Tovar
Benefit Coordinator	Margaret Sinozich
Benefit Assistants	Carol Sinozich, Debbie Damp Mark Sallinger
House Managers	Irwin Kroot, Anthony Catanzaro
Postcard Photography	Carol Sinozich
Logo Design	Tom Foral
Program	Liz Bartucci

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Mark Sallinger, Margaret Sinozich, Paul Burns, Audrey Burns, Joann Passantino, Andy Dawson, Rhonda Pearson, Narci Tovar, Umit Celebi, Betty Pincus, Lisa Stevenson, George Thorn, Nello McDaniel, Micki Hobson, Michael Yawney, Paul Harris, Gian DiDonna, Bob Jude Ferrante, Stuart Warmflash, Melissa Errico, Kate Scuffle, George Miller and the Theatre Outlet in Allentown Robert Dyckman and Marissa Ignacio and the Company of Players

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ned Butikofer* (Dad/Mr. Kozni). Credits include: Creon in Anouilh's *Antigone* and Chebutykin, the doctor in Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, (Double Helix Productions); Connie, raised from the dead in Christopher Renstrom's *Unearthed*, also a Kaleidoscope Production; Dukes Senior & Frederic in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* (Illyrium Productions) where he won the Jekyll & Hyde Award; Harold in Kessler's *Orphans*; the Captain in Bruchner's *Woyzeck*; Mathieu Dreyfus in *The Dreyfus Affair* (NYCO); Tregorin in Chekhov's *The Seagull*, Floyd in Jones's *The Oldest Living Graduate*, Shakespeare in Slover's *A March Tale* (BYU). He received his MFA in acting many years ago, from SMU in Dallas.

Todd Allen Durkin* (Emerson) trained at New World School of the Arts in Miami. Theatrical credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Midsummer Nights Dream*, *The Tempest*, Hamlet in *Hamlet*, Riff-Cat Polito in *The Virtual Adventures of Riff-Cat Polito*, *Salt Water Moon*, *Agamemnon*, and Lenny Bruce in Julian Barry's *Lenny*, which he was nominated for a Carbonell Award and Named Best Actor in a Comedy by the Miami New Times Magazine. Todd has appeared in numerous comedy clubs throughout the east coast including Caroline's Comedy Club here in NYC. In New York, Todd has worked with such companies as Theatrix, Vital Theatre Company, Millenium Stage Company, TheatreworksUSA and now is happy to be working with Kaleidoscope on *The Stairwell*. Todd is currently in rehearsals for *Begger on Horseback* to be staged by the Peccadillo Theatre Company at the Bank Street Theatre in August. Television and film credits include: *Toothpaste*, *Reindeer Games*, *America's Most Wanted*, *Ghost Stories*, *Golfballs* (nationally released at Blockbuster), and *Vote Early, Vote Often*, a finalist in the Hollywood Film Festival, which is currently enjoying a very successful run on the International Film Festival Circuit.

Tony Javed (Ethan). Stage credits include Rob in *Syria, America* with Emerging Artists, Young Gandhi in *mahatma.gandhi.com* with the Lincoln Center Director's Lab. This past year, Tony has also appeared as Vivek in *The Inverted Pilgrimage*. He played José in *Man of La Mancha* at the 1300-seat Union County Arts Center where he also served as fight/dance captain. Tony has worked with several sketch comedy troupes earning him good notices for his writing-including one from Ben Brantley of The New York Times. Tony is currently workshopping his one-man show, portions of which have been previously seen as one-acts entitled *TD* and *Karma Is a Boomerang*. Favorite roles include Ladislav in *Wenceslas Square*, Renfield in *The Passion of Dracula*, and Kevin in the award-winning short film *Miguel, Ma Belle* which has been released on home video in a package of award winning shorts called *Boys in Love*. Tony played the leading role in the soon-to-be released *Meter Maid*, an independent film produced by Wesley Snipes.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sarah Saltzberg (Mary) is a 1998 BFA graduate of Boston University's School for the Arts, Theatre Division. Favorite roles include Eva in *Rimers of Eldritch*, Jaquenetta in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha*, and Sonya in *Uncle Vanya*. She can next be seen in the soon to be released indie feature *Teacakes or Cannoll*, playing against type as a brash, loudmouthed Italian, and at HERE theatre on July 18th and 19th in *Escape from Groovytown* (part of the American Living Room Series). Sarah wishes to thank her parents, her wonderful roommates, and the balance to her Yin, Yang.

Marshall Mays (Director) is the founder and Artistic Director of the Kaleidoscope Theatre Company. Last fall for Kaleidoscope, he directed Laura Henry's *The Game*, Christopher Renstrom's *Unearthed*, and Liz Bartucci's *The Calling*. He has directed five critically acclaimed productions at the Theatre Outlet in Allentown: Craig Lucas's *Reckless*, Clifford Odets' *Waiting for Lefty*, Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, the world premiere of Renstrom's *Zion* and Terrance McNally's *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. He has also directed new plays with PA Stage Company's New Evolving Works and The Blueprint Company at New York City's First Annual Fringe Festival. Marshall is the author of *To Have and to Hold/Dance in the Giddy Circle*, which was the hit of the First Annual Festival of New York Plays at Synchronicity Space and was subsequently produced at the Trilogy Theatre in 1996.

As an actor, Marshall has appeared in over 50 productions including work at the Gene Frankel Theatre, The Mint Space, the Pennsylvania Stage Company, the Houston Shakespeare Festival, Stages Repertory Theatre and Main Street Theatre in Houston. He earned his MFA in Acting from Penn State University. This August, he will assail that great role of the Shakespearean stage. No, not Lear. He will appear as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Company of Players.

Keith Merritt (Playwright) was born in Scranton Pennsylvania, far off in the woods of Northeastern PA, three hours from the cultural mecca of New York. He occupied himself by talking to trees and making up stories. (You think I'm kidding?) He went to Penn State and received a BFA in Theatre and wrote two plays while there. *Mrs. Skinner Yawned* was workshopped by Penn State alumnus John Pielmier, author of *Agnes of God* (who laughed at most of Keith's jokes). This was encouraging. So Keith wrote another play, *Voices*, which received a full production. Then he set off for New York, to pursue a career as an actor. Two years later he moved to Los Angeles and pursued the same. Upon going to a Wrigley's Doublemint gum audition and having to watch a video teaching the proper technique for putting the gum in your mouth, he became disillusioned with the acting world. Luckily, he had kept

(continued next page)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

(continued from previous page) writing. He has been creating many shorts for the Internet ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime. Most recently, he finished a book with his sister Sue on the subject of "Finding your purpose as a wheelbarrow full of pitches for projects in every medium of entertainment available to man.

Michael Minn* (Stage Manager) is making his stage management debut. As an actor he has appeared Off-Broadway in *Making Tracks* and *Shanghai Lil's* and regionally in *The King & I* (King), *Pajama Game* (Sid) and *42nd Street* (Julian). He has also toured nationally with the Theatre-works/USA productions of *Secret Garden & Swiss Family Robinson*. He is a graduate of North Texas State and AMDA. Thanks to Mom & Dad and to Marshall for taking a chance on me.

Kathleen Cullen (Costume Designer) holds an MFA in Theatre Arts from Penn State University. She is happy to be designing the costumes for this production.

Dean Gray (Sound Designer) has designed sound for Ensemble Studio Theatre's *Thicker Than Water*, Delores Whiskeyman's *Radium Girls* (original music), Guillermo Reyes' *Miss Consuelo*, and *Southern Christmas*, Robert Clyman's *The Lower Cortex* at Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, Athol Fugard's *Blood Knot* at the 78th Street Theatre Lab and Kaleidoscope Theatre's *Little Miracles*. He's directed Jim Grimsley's *Math and Aftermath* for Harland Productions, *The Borderland* at Currican and Marshall Mays' *To Have and To Hold* at Synchronicity and most recently A.R. Gurney's *Sylvia* for the University of Wisconsin.

Tina Stanley (Lighting Designer) is completing her second season as Technical Director and her third season as Resident Lighting Designer at The Theatre Outlet in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Some of her favorite lighting design credits include *Don Pasquale* for a touring production of the Metropolitan Opera, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Picasso at the Lapine Agile*, *R.U.R.*, and *Ghetto* at Theatre Outlet. Tina holds a BA. in Theatrical Directing, a BA. in Theatrical Design, and is currently working toward her MFA. This is her first production with Kaleidoscope.

John Hopwood (Technical Director) comes to Kaleidoscope Theater from Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he is the Assistant Technical Director at The Theatre Outlet. Some of his favorite technical credits include set construction for *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, lighting design for *Agnes of God*, and creating the effects for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, an effort which won him a regional award for "Best Stage Effects of 1999."

We would like to thank our Founding Benefactors
for making this production possible:

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The Kaleidoscope Theatre Company is a proud member of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York, the service organization for New York City's not-for-profit theatres.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION



ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION was founded in 1913 to protect Actors from the severe mistreatment that occurred in the industry at that time. Since its inception Equity has had only thirteen Presidents. Its current President is Patrick Quinn. The 39,000 member Association consists of distinguished stars and other professional Actors and Stage Managers who work nationwide, from New York's Broadway to Los Angeles, from Minneapolis to Miami, in regional, stock and dinner theatre, and in theatres for young audiences which build the audiences of tomorrow. These Actors and Stage Managers are committed to working in the theatre as a profession, not an avocation, and bring to you the finest professional training and experience. By presenting Equity productions this theatre offers to you, our audience, the best entertainment presented by the finest quality Actors and Stage Managers that your admission dollars can buy.

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--Jean Houston

"Power, money, persuasion, supplication, persecution -- these can lift a colossal humbug -- push it a little -- weaken it a little over the course of a century; but only laughter can blow it to rags and atoms at a blast. Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand."

--Mark Twain

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--Ray Bradbury

Lord, what fools these mortals be!

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