



Birmingham Festival Theatre

with Michael J. & Mary Anne Freeman

present

Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens

Music and Lyrics By Bill Russell & Janet Hood

February 21, 22 and 23 @ 8:00 PM

February 24 Matinee @ 2:30 PM

Birmingham Festival Theatre

1901 ½ - 11th Avenue South

Birmingham, Alabama 35205

www.bftonline.org

Sponsored by Michael J. & Mary Anne Freeman

Honoring

Dr. Alfred & Mrs. Shirley Freeman and

Dr. David & Mrs. Sarah Meadows

Who taught us the importance of giving

DONATIONS

Bradford A. Lynch

Mary Louise Brush, in honor of Katie Burcham

Keith Brashier

Patrick Palmer

Jeremy Erdreich and Larry Slater

Mark Garrett and Eric Smith

Floyd and Teresa Vest in honor of their niece, Cherith.

Beebe Roberts - in honor of Cecil Roberts III, who supported the Arts in Birmingham and always extended her hand to anyone in need.

Caitlin Cox in honor of the little girl she sponsors in Africa, whose name is Noncedo Bhembe.

Rebecca Coleman

Running Time: 1 Hour, 45 Minutes

There will be no intermission for this show

PERFORMANCES

Intro - Miss BFT 2008

"Angels, Punks and Raging Queens"

Patrick, Billy, Mitch, Josh

"I'm Holding On to You"

Tina, Tracey, Charlotte, Francis, Ray

"And the Rain Keeps Falling Down"

Paco, Sally, Orville, Nick

"I Don't Do That Anymore"

Christopher, Dwight, Rebecca, Claudia

"I Don't Know How to Help You"

Roscoe, Helen, Walter

"Celebrate"

Lamar, Rafaela, Nancy, Kyle

"Heroes All Around"

Paul, Nat, Joanne

"Spend it While You Can"

Bertha, Bud

"My Brother Lived in San Francisco"

Joe, Grace, Miles

"Learning to Let Go"



BFT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES

Philanthropist

Dr. George B. Whatley

Production Sponsors

Michael J. & Mary Anne Freeman

Helpers

Hal & Patti Tichenor

Chivers Woodruff

Donors

Martha M. Sykes

Donald P. Moore

Supporters

Jack and Carole Armistead

Jimmie Hess

Jan & Robert Collins

Dorvalyn Jean

Rachel Ferguson

Sue Michalek

Dr. Juanzetta Flowers

Sam & Paula Pointer

Elaine & Patrick Franzese

David & Ina Russakoff

David & Ann Fraley

Glo Spruill

Bob & Bobbie Glaze

Dr. Nancy Whitt

Friends

Dr. Graciela Alarcón

Jo Ann Mullins

Pat Fresk

Drs. George & Emily Omura

David Herring

Chandler H. & Jane Paris Smith

Brian Keith Ingram

The Generous Gifts by

The George B. and Willa Mae Whatley Charitable Trust

2007-2008 BFT Board of Directors

Jason Adams

Vicki Goldstein

Carl Sosnin

Janelle Cochrane

Ginny Loggins

Karla Stamps

John Falkenberry

Heath Mixon

Donna Thornton

Mark Pynes

CAST

Amy D. Light	Donna Thornton	Meredith Murphy
Beth Kitchin	Elmo Ranelli	Mike Wells
Billy Ray Brewton	Flannery Miles	Natalie Riegel
Brad Riegel	Gillian Puffer	Raymond Quintero
Camille Spratling	Ginny S. Loggins	Robert Hill
Cherith Parrish	John Falkenberry	Ron Bourdages
Christoph Hooks	John Michael Meredith	Saxon Murrell
Chuck Duck	Karla Stamps	Scott Nesmith
Chuck Evans	Katherine Burcham	Shawn Castle
Daniel Garza	Kimberly Kirklin-Mangina	Stephen Mangina
R. Daniel Walker	Lee Griner	Tracey Nicholson
David Coker	Leslie Brown	Vicki Goldstein
David Roberts	Mackey Ackinson	Wyatt Hood
Debbie Smith	Marva Douglas	Zoe Valour

Directed By:
J. Heath Mixon

Musical Director:
Karen Krekelberg

Lighting:
Jennifer Luck
Justin Luck

Sound Design
Marc LeMay

Set Design:
Mindy Wester

Stage Managers:
Shannon Leah McCrory
Amy Smith

DEDICATIONS

Amy would like to dedicate this performance to her Mother for being an angel in a nurse's uniform, and of course her best friend and husband, David.

Beth dedicates her performance to her best friend and greatest love, Marc LeMay.

Billy Ray dedicates his performance to his three favorite ladies in Birmingham: Cindy deSa, Donna Littlepage and Dianne Daniels.

Brad dedicates his performance to Michael Bales (Kris Robbins) whose booming voice, jovial laugh, warm nature, and bright spirit continue in the hearts and minds of those he touched.

Camille would like to dedicate her performance to her friend Virginia Re-koff, whose full embrace of life inspires all of her downtown friends and neighbors!

Cherith dedicates her performance to Andy and Matthew who teach her every day about love and patience and the AGFF for their precious gifts of time and friendship.

Chuck D. dedicates his performance to the memory of Brenda Sue Millbrooks.

Chuck E. dedicates his performance to those who wait in the canyons of death; to those who fill a void where no family is found; to those who give a hand; to those who make a stand; to those unheralded angels. They are heroes all around.

Daniel G. dedicates this performance to Kathleen Maranelli who taught him through example, that environment does not dictate character nor does circumstance dictate actions.

Daniel W. dedicates this performance to his Grandmother, Eloise Short. The first performer he ever knew.

David C. wishes to thank his family and good friends, whose example helps him be a better person. "Make someone happy..."

Debbie dedicates her performance to the first man she had a crush on and the first man who proposed to her--they both would have loved this show.

Donna dedicates her performance in memory of Keith Warner, Chicago wasn't big enough for your heart, heaven had to have you and in honor of Thomas Anderson, living courageously in South Carolina, your courage is my inspiration!

Elmo would like to dedicate this performance to his families. Without them, life could never be so strange and exciting, and with them, love and confidence could never come so easily.

Gillian would like to dedicate her performance to her family, who always take care of her.

Ginny dedicates her performance to the memory of Cliff Morrison, a great man of the theatre whom AIDS took from us.

Heath dedicates his performance to Mother and Stacy for "loving me for me," Mark and Owen for "being home when I get there" and to Dean who hated he missed the last show, but I know he's watching this one.

Jennifer dedicates her work on this show to a close friend who lost his father to AIDS. May we all live to see the day when no more children lose parents to this disease.

John dedicates his performance to his brother George, a far better actor than he will ever be, who died of AIDS in 1986.

John Michael dedicates this to all who have followed their dreams and those who have supported them, never settling for the status quo. The ones who have always fought for what they believed in and never been afraid to take a stand. There comes a point in our lives when we realize that we have to throw caution to the wind and LIVE LIFE.

Karen dedicates her performance to Donn, Joey, and Rebecca who are her reason to "celebrate each moment."

Karla dedicates her performance to Vicki A. who is always there to help people find peace - no matter what the crisis.

Katherine dedicates her performance to her mother who showed caring and compassion in a time of fear and ignorance. She would also like to dedicate this performance to Tom Langdon who died from AIDS in 2003.

Kimberly dedicates this performance to Jorge Maldonado, a wonderful friend who strongly impacted her life in many ways. Although his life was not taken by AIDS, his recent departure from this world came far too soon.

Lee (aside to Charlie): “This is dedicated to the one I love.”

Leslie dedicates her performance to Shep, for teaching her to stand out in a crowd.

Mackey dedicates the show to his mother, who has always been there for him.

Marva dedicates her performance to Jim Gray who in 1973 acknowledged the value of diversity and opened doors to a better life for her.

Meredith dedicates her performance to her soon to be nephew, Graham Patrick Ward, due this March. She hopes that in his lifetime, he may see a world not suffering with the affliction, known as AIDS.

Mike dedicates his performance to his wife Kelly Wells, whose social service and dedication to promoting sexual awareness and health improves lives.

Natalie dedicates her performance in memory of John Curtis, an amazing person and awesome hairdresser.

Robert dedicates his performance to that unnamed gang of early casualties, who died before labels, who died before shame, who died without knowing, who died all the same – “your secret is safe with me.”

Ron dedicates his performance to the memory of Jim Paffenbarger. He was the sound man for his band and died of AIDS. He was a gentle spirit, and a great sound man, and always a motivator to do one's best.

Saxon dedicates his performance to Russell Pilkington, Russell Skiles, George Falkenberg and Steve Stella, all friends of the arts who are greatly missed, and whose legacies are fulfilled whenever those of us who love them gaze with wonder into a Velasquez canvas, laugh at really tasteless jokes, use the buddy system to make sure each other's mascara isn't running after watching *The Color Purple*, step on a stage and work together to truly reach an audience, and when we remember that love is as eternal as the soul itself.

Scott N. dedicates his performance to his late aunt, Billy Jones, whose heart was full of love.

Shannon wishes to dedicate this show to her loving fiance', Jeremy, who continues to inspire her every day with his dedication, love and support. Also to her Aunt Kelley. "You will always be my best friend. I love and miss you every day."

Shawn dedicates his performance to his brother who has been living with HIV for 20 plus years. "I love you Mike."

Stephen dedicates his performance to those who never had a voice during their fight.

Tracey dedicates his performance to his father who passed away September 8, 2007. "My dad taught me to love through actions; he was a hard worker who unselfishly sacrificed for his family. I love and miss him."

Vicki's performance is in honor of her friends who have been touched by AIDS - past, present and future.

A Letter From Director J. Heath Mixon...

Have you ever heard a song for the first time and made an immediate connection? That's the way I felt 5 years ago when I heard "My Brother Lived in San Francisco" from the musical *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens*. The lyrics are some of the most haunting and beautiful I've ever heard. As I searched for more information on the show, I found that this song was one of 10 brilliant songs accompanying 32 brilliant monologues. "My Brother," was only my introduction to the tapestry that Bill Russell and Janet Hood have created. I am honored to say that I've almost come full circle with my love for this piece of musical theatre. When BFT asked me to direct this show, I was overjoyed. Now, February 21-24, you too can be as touched as I am by this piece.

Centered around the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and inspired by *The Spoon River Anthology*, *Elegies* speaks through monologues from those we've lost and songs from those dealing with loss. Each monologue and song brings forth a different story to encompass a legacy of loss and celebration of life from those affected by AIDS. This piece of theatre shows us that the face of AIDS is as diverse as the quilt itself. It is funny, touching and a piece of theatre that only BFT could stage. I'm so happy to be a part of *Elegies* and honored to bring to you, our friends, a cast and crew of over 40 talented actors and technicians to BFT's stage.

With the incredibly talented cast and crew in place, BFT is offering a weekend event that Birmingham, I know, will embrace. I think I'm most excited that a large percentage of the ticket sales will go to Birmingham AIDS Outreach. It is one thing to do theatre for theatre's sake, and quite another to partner and raise awareness and funds for a deserving organization.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Heath Mixon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

UPCOMING SHOWS

March 20 - April 5, 2008

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife

by Charles Busch

The playwright makes mirth out of misery in this comedic story of a New York culture vulture on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Marjorie Taub, a doctor's wife, is a devoted consumer of high culture: mornings at the Whitney, afternoons at Zabar's, evenings with Kafka. Plunged into a mid-life crisis of Medea-like proportions, Marjorie is shaken out of her lethargy by the reappearance of a fascinating and somewhat mysterious childhood friend, Lee. What exactly is Lee up to?

May 1 - 17, 2008

The White Rose

by Lillian Groag

In 1943, five students at the University of Munich and their philosophy professor were tried and convicted for their anonymous leafleting campaign calling for opposition to the Nazi regime. They called themselves "The White Rose." Each year in April, 10,000 white roses are distributed on the University of Texas campus in remembrance of the approximately 10,000 people killed each day at Auschwitz.

June 12 - 28, 2008

The Underpants

by Steve Martin

Steve Martin's adaptation of the original "wardrobe malfunction"! Humor and intrigue result from the failure of a fastener on a woman's undergarment. No, this isn't the Superbowl, but the instant fame and unusual consequences have Janet Jackson written all over it!



Benefiting Birmingham AIDS Outreach

SPECIAL THANKS

Southside Baptist Church

Alys Stephens Center

Forbes Piano

The NAMES Project Foundation and the AIDS Memorial Quilt

Nancy Hallmark

