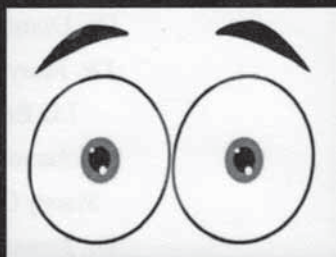




Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
Department of Communication Studies and Theatre presents

**Peter Shaffer's**

**Black**



**Comedy**

**See what happens when  
the lights go out!**



**8 PM Nov. 6, 7, 8, 14, 15  
2 PM Nov. 16  
RICKENBACH THEATRE  
2013**

**Produced through special arrangement  
with Samuel French, Inc.**



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*Department of Communication Studies and Theatre*  
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Mary Ann Swords-Greene  
Dr. Claire VanEns, Department Chair  
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# ***BLACK COMEDY***

**by Peter Shaffer**

**Director**

**Roxane Rix**

**Scenic and Lighting Designer**

**Robert Lewis Smith**

**Costume Designer**

**Mary Ann Swords-Greene**

**Stage Manager**

**Adam Kissinger**

**Photographs and recording devices are prohibited during the performance. Please turn off cell phones and all other electronic devices while inside the theatre.**

*Artwork appearing in the production:*

*Paintings by Kelsey Murray*

*"Needles" sculpture by Jayme Daly*

*Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.*

# CAST

Brindsley Miller.....Eric Eldred

Carol Melkett.....Erin Dixon

Miss Furnival.....Krysta Leigh

Colonel Melkett.....Christopher LaRose

Harold Gorringer.....Taylor Clark

Clea.....Carly Robinson

Schuppanzigh.....Steve Aguirre

Mr. Bamberger.....Jamal Jordan

The action of the play takes place in  
Brindsley's apartment in South Kensington, London,  
on a Sunday night in the mid 1960s.

*Approximate running time 75 minutes.*

*There will be no intermission.*

## Director's Notes

Can you see in the dark? You'll think you can (at least after the first five minutes or so, when you *will* be in the dark, in more ways than one)!

In this 1965 farce by renowned playwright Peter Shaffer (*Equus*, *Amadeus*), starving artist Brindsley Miller has attracted the attention of a famous art collector, who's coming by his house on this Sunday evening to see his collection. Poised for his big break, he invites his new girlfriend and her disapproving father to join them. Then all the lights go out and complications ensue: unexpected guests, mistaken identities, and romantic rivalries abound, along with plenty of stumbles and bumps in the night.

In classic farce tradition, *Black Comedy* is full of fast-paced action, secrets and lies, catastrophes waiting to happen, and objects that tend to go haywire; true to the form, it also finds humor in such stock elements as the falling-down drunk, "funny foreign accents," injury, indignity, and sexual peccadilloes. Fierce and fantastic, farce is not for the easily offended (though *Black Comedy* is fairly gentle for the genre, Buddhists and native Germans, take heed); it *is* for anyone who just wants to take a break from life's seriousness and laugh out loud. After all, the world may teeter on the brink of destruction, but, in a farce, it will never quite get there – or, if it does, we know the characters will pick themselves up like so many anvil-flattened Wile E. Coyotes and resume their desperate and merry pursuits to a happy ending.

Or, maybe not...

RR

## Who's Who in the Cast

**Steve Aguirre** (Schuppanzigh) is an English major and is happy to be part of his first KU main stage production in his final semester as an undergrad. Steve's previous roles include "Gepetto/Puppet Master" in Allentown Public Theatre's *Pinocchio*, "Nero, The Big Bad Wolf" in The Sunshine Players' *One Smart Pig*, and "Isaiah Shoels" in Perforum's *The Last Act*. Steve has also worked with Metamorphosis Performance Company. Along with being an actor, Steve is a writer, musician, and aspiring filmmaker that hopes to prove the soup is more than just broth.

**Taylor Clark** (Harold Gorringe) is a Communications Studies major and is excited to be back on the KU main stage for his fourth performance. His other roles include: "The Officer" in *Tartuffe*, "The Spartan Envoy" in *Lysistrata*, and "Matt" in *Dog Sees God*. Taylor helped build the set, and is also an avid table-top gamer.

**Erin Dixon** (Carol Melkett) is a senior Theatre major, concentrating in both Acting and Directing, with a Communications Studies minor. This is her sixth Kutztown main stage production. She was onstage last semester as "CB's Sister" in *Dog Sees God* and as "Myrrhine" in *Lysistrata* the semester previous. This past summer she worked closer to home as Assistant Director with Scranton Shakespeare Festival's production of *The Comedy of Errors*. Erin is unsure of her plans post-graduation but hopes that she won't be in the dark much longer.

**Eric Eldred** (Brindsley Miller) *Black Comedy* marks Eric's eighth and final production on the Kutztown main stage. Previous roles include "Vincent Pepel" in *The Lower Depths*, "Antonio" in *Twelfth Night*, "Mark" in *The Philadelphia*, the title character in *Tartuffe*, "Agate" in *Waiting for Lefty*, "Cinesias" in *Lysistrata*, and, most recently, "CB" in *Dog Sees God*. Graduating this semester, Eric plans to move to Los Angeles by this summer and continue his career as an actor.

**Jamal Jordan** (Mr. Bamberger) is a freshman Electronic Media major making his debut on the KU main stage. Previous roles include "Donald" in *You Can't Take It With You* and "Froggy" in *The Foreigner*.

**Christopher LaRose** (Colonel Melkett) is a senior dual major in Theatre and German. He is happy to be making his sixth appearance in a main stage production; his previous shows include *As You Like It*, *School for Scandal*, *Twelfth Night*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Philadelphia/Waiting for Lefty*. Chris is also an active musician and tries to keep Blues and 50's rock alive by playing regular shows wherever there are people who will listen.

**Krysta Leigh** (Miss Furnival) a senior Theatre major, is absolutely thrilled to be performing for her fourth time on the KU main stage. Other roles have been "Florence" in *Waiting for Lefty*, "Flipote" in *Tartuffe*, and "Marcy" in *Dog Sees God*. She has been a stage hand for many a show, mostly working with costumes. She hopes you will enjoy her performance and wishes the cast a great run for the show.

**Carly Robinson** (Clea) is a senior Theatre major and is thrilled to be making her fifth appearance in a main stage production. She was last seen as "Van's Sister" in *Dog Sees God*. Previous roles include "Mariane" in *Tartuffe* and "Betty/Bodyguard" in *Sure Thing/Waiting for Lefty*, and a member of the Women's Chorus in *Lysistrata*. She has also worked backstage in costuming for all of these productions.

# Artistic and Production Staff

**Professor Roxane Rix** (Director) has taught acting and directing at Kutztown since 2001. Her more recent KU directing credits include *Dog Sees God*, *Tartuffe*, and *Fuddy Meers*; her 2006 musical *Lucky Stiff* was selected for performance at the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Prof. Rix is best known for her work with Alba Emoting, a new technique to help actors gain emotional freedom (for which she also maintains [www.albaemotingna.org](http://www.albaemotingna.org)). Prof. Rix holds an MFA in Directing from the University of Minnesota and Certificate in Acting and Directing from Sonia Moore's American Stanislavski Theatre.

**Professor Robert Lewis Smith** (Scenic and Lighting Designer) has spent forty-plus years designing for academic theatres and teaching Theatre Design, Theatre Production, and Theatre History in New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, and Washington. Professional credits include designs for New York's AMAS Musical Theatre, The New Dramatists, Westbeth Theatre, Syracuse Stage (formally known as the Syracuse Repertory Theatre), the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, A Contemporary Theatre, Theatre Center Philadelphia, the Jersey Lyric Opera, New Jersey Ballet, and Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre. Some recent KU Mainstage credits include scenery and/or lights for *Iphigenia at Aulis* (S & L), *Arms and the Man* (S & L), *The Threepenny Opera* (S & L), *Picnic* (S & L), *She Stoops to Conquer* (S), *Italian American Reconciliation* (S), *Lucky Stiff* (S), *Hay Fever* (S), *Anatomy of Grey* (S & L), *The Little Shop of Horrors* (L), and *Crimes of the Heart* (L). Professor Smith serves as Associate Editor for Scene Design for *Theatre Design and Technology*, for which he has written articles on various topics. He has also written entries for several encyclopedias and most recently co-authored the chapter on Oliver Smith in *Late & Great: American Designers 1960 – 2010*. Here at KU he has just completed a 3-year stint as Department Chair for Speech Communication and Theatre. Professor Smith holds an M.F.A. in Design for the Stage from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and completed doctoral course work in Theatre History, Dramatic Literature, Dramatic Criticism, and Art History at University of Missouri—Columbia. Professor Smith is an All Categories member (scenery, lights, costumes, and scenic painting) of United Scenic Artists (LU 829), the organization for professional stage designers in the United States.

**Mary Ann Swords-Green** (Costume Designer) has previously designed costumes for *Dog Sees God*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Tartuffe*, *Waiting For Lefty* & *Sure Thing/The Philadelphia*, and *Lysistrata* at KU. She has also designed costumes for Marywood University, Montgomery Theatre, The Electric Theatre Company, Circle of Stones Ritual Theatre, Media Theatre, Muhlenberg College Dance Department, Desales University Dance Department, Upper Darby Summer Stage, Pennsylvania Youth Theatre, Connecticut Repertory Theatre at the University of Connecticut, and Allenberry Playhouse.

**Adam Kissinger** (Stage Manager, Technical Director) is a theatre artist and emotion coach from Berks County, PA. Currently, he is the TD for Kutztown University Theatre, a member of Metamorphosis Performing Company, a staff member with the Yocum Institute for Arts Education, and a member of the Reading Theatre Project. Adam has a BA in Theatre from Kutztown University and is a certified Alba Emoting instructor.

**Jayme Daly** (Sculpture) is a senior Studio Arts major with a concentration in Sculpture, and a Varsity member of Kutztown Cross Country, Track & Field.

**Kelsey Murray** (Paintings) is a senior Fine Arts major with a minor in German Culture and Communication. Channeling her interest in the performing arts, she is also currently collaborating with Professors Cheryl Hochberg and Andrew Brehm to create a "Ballet Russe" inspired installation which employs live music with sculptural pieces. The exhibitions will be held in Washington DC, and at The Cigar Factory in Allentown.



**Photos Of This Production**

available at

**[www.KUPictures.com](http://www.KUPictures.com)**

KUPictures.com is not affiliated with Kansas University or Kutztown University

# Production Crews

## Stage Manager

Adam Kissinger

## Assistant Stage Manager

Erin Dixon

## Light Board Operator

Kelsey Longenecker

## Scene Shop

Taylor Clark

Chris LaRose

Jareese Long

Kelsey Longenecker

Madison Stauffer

Shawn Thomas

Zack Urban

## Props Run Crew

Cast

## Prop Procurement

Carly Robinson

## Costume Shop Supervisor

Mary Ann Swords-Greene

## Scene Shop Supervisor

Adam Kissinger

## Costume Shop

Krysta Leigh

Carly Robinson

## Wardrobe & Makeup Crew

Krysta Leigh

## Production Assistants

Steve Aguirre

Myron Alston

Byron Copeland

Jamal Jordan

## Box Office Manager

Rachel Dechert

## House Manager

Roxane Rix

## Acknowledgements

*The director, cast and production staff gratefully acknowledge the following for their contributions to this production*

KU Dept. of Fine Arts

William Burnell

## Other performances at KU this term

### **KU Presents**

#### **Schaeffer Auditorium**

#### *The Time Jumpers*

Thursday, November 14, 2013 - 7:30pm

#### *Preservation Hall Jazz Band - Creole Christmas*

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 - 7:30pm

#### *Family Series*

#### *Spencers: Theatre of Illusion*

Sunday, November 10, 2013 - 2:00pm

Ticket information: 610.683.4092

[www.KutztownPresents.org](http://www.KutztownPresents.org)

### **The Sunshine Players Presents:**

#### *Once Upon a Golden Apple*

Nov. 23 and 24 at 2pm

Rickenbach Theatre

### **Perforum Presents:**

#### *Mystery, Inc.*

Written and directed by Drew Boardman

Dec. 6th and 7th at 7pm

Rickenbach Theatre

Tickets by donation, available at the MSU info desk



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