

faculty & staff

Steven Bach
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Tom Farrell
Michael Giannitti
Kirk Jackson
Dina Janis
Frank LaFrazia
Roberta Levitow
Daniel Michaelson

Jean Randich
Sue Rees
Lloyd Richards
Barnabas Rose
Gladden Schrock
Carol Symes
Terry Teitelbaum
Janis Young

coming up next fall

Stephen Sondheim's

a little night music

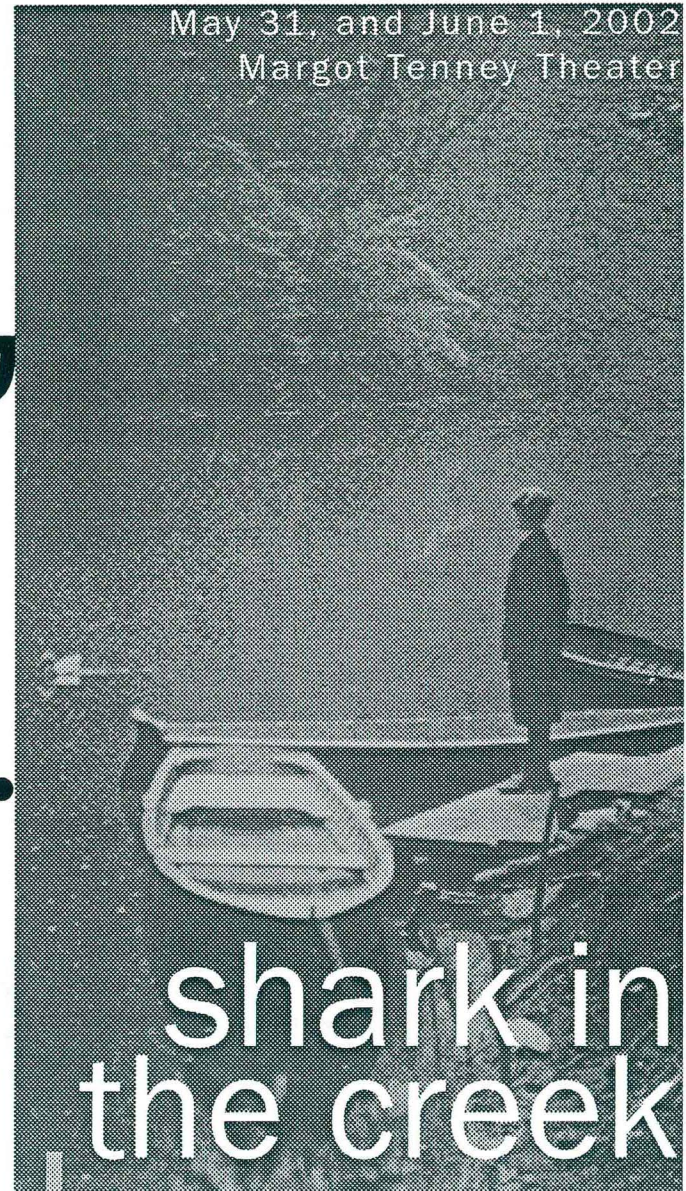
and other exciting projects.

Bennington

drama

presents

May 31, and June 1, 2002
Margot Tenney Theater



shark in
the creek

shark in the creek

A concert reading of Act I with additional songs

Written and Composed by Scott Murphy

Directed by Kj Swanson

Musical Directed and Accompanied by Scott Murphy

Lighting Design by Monica Hubbard

Scenic Design by Allison Glister

Stage Manager Lucy Skeen

Cast in Order of Appearance

James Nyman

Beth Kessler

Carson Efird

Tadd Morgan

Ryan C. Tittle

Jim Bentley

Rachel Shirk

Kevin Casey

Narrator

Paul Jr.

Alec, the mayor's son

Stanley

Mayor

Bill

Margaret, Stanley's mother

Captain, Stanley's grandfather

The Ensemble:

Nicole Asselin, Thomas Hughes,

Brita Down, Ben Mayock, Jacqie Tarsitano,

and Zubin Soleimany

Setting

A hotel outside of Matawan, NJ, 1940s.

Town of Matawan and Matawan Creek, Summer of 1916.

shark in the creek is performed without an intermission.

crew

Assistant Stage Manager

Hans Werner-Jatzke

Master Electrician Kryssy Wright

Lightboard Operator Sarah Moran

Light Hang Jake Bandman, Alex Lindo,

Kristy Phinney, Becca Rideout, and Ben Spencer

director's notes

Thank you RAMON, Monica, Allison, Sue Rees, Andrew, Frank, Zach Poff and Kryssy. LUCY-You deserve an award. Thank you to the cast for your enthusiasm and talent. Thank you KIRK, Gladden, Steven and the entire drama faculty for support, encouragement and foresight. To Ricky Ian Gordon and Roberta Levitow-thank you for revealing so much in such a short time. I am grateful. Thank you Mom and Dad for taking me to the Guthrie when I was three, for not freaking out when both your kids decided to go into theatre and for always being here in spirit. To Wolfie, Meredith, Sarah Courtney and Kim-thank you for uncompromising love (and for suggesting that I direct theatre instead of trying to direct everything else). And Thank You Scott for air hockey, New York, and the chance to be a part of what you do.

Poster and slide image sources: Edward Hopper, The Art and The Artist, Gail Levin, Twelve Days of Terror, Richard G. Fernicola, Close To Shore, Michael Capuzzo, Sharks, Reader's Digest, Iowa, Nancy Rexroth, George W. Norris, Richard Lowitt, American Photography 1890-1965, Peter Galassi.

When asked by a friend to compose a song dealing with a situation generally foreign to musicals, I became excited by the idea of having a character sing while in the midst of being eaten by a shark. As I read about various attacks, I came across pictures of an entire town blowing up a creek and smiling at the same time. It looked as if they had no idea what they were doing, like they were hypnotized. I wanted to explore this event with more than just a song. Shark in the Creek is a work of fiction inspired by the New Jersey shark attacks of 1916. The shark or possibly group of sharks attacked bathers along the Jersey shore and wound up in Matawan creek, killing one of the young boys playing there. The blowing up of the creek was in response to the attack, maybe.

What we are presenting tonight is the beginning of what I hope could be a longer, more developed work. This is a chance to see, on stage, what is working, what needs more focus and what needs less. Your reactions and insights would mean a lot...and yes characters will, indeed, be breaking out into song.

I would like to thank the following for their support in this process: Gladden Schrock, Steven Bach, Roberta Levitow, and the drama faculty, Allen Shawn, Stephen Siegel, Suzanne Jones, and the music faculty, Ricky Ian Gordon, Mikey and Sanford, Team Extreme, and, especially, The Fam.