

## faculty & staff

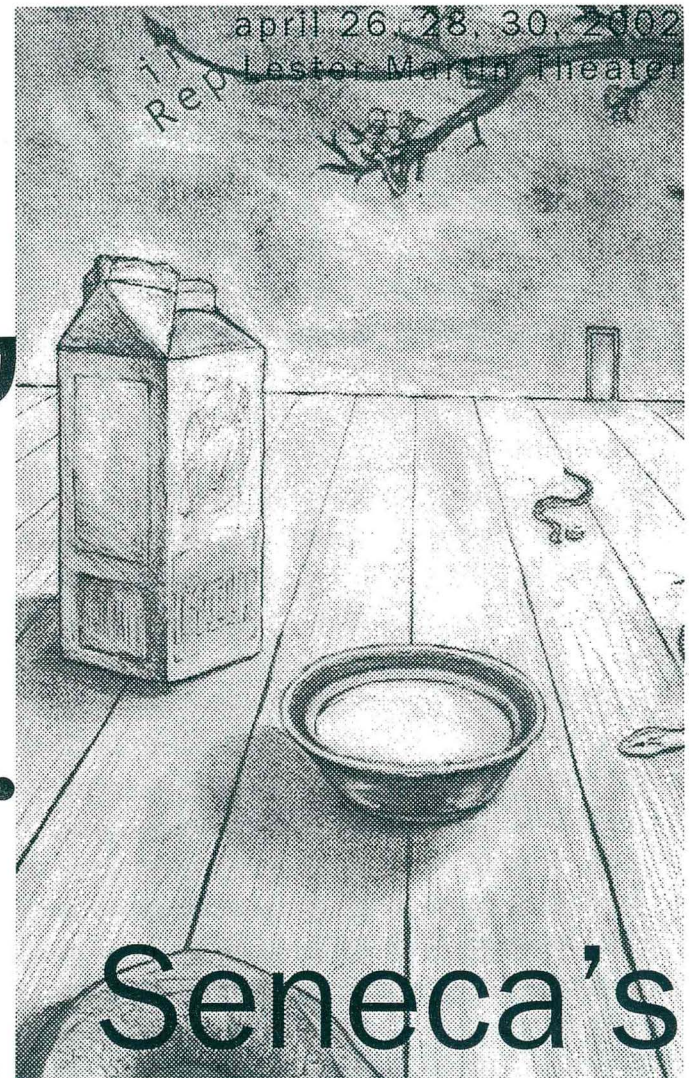
Steven Bach  
Andrew Cancellieri  
Tom Farrell  
Michael Giannitti  
Kirk Jackson  
Dina Janis  
Frank LaFrazia  
Roberta Levitow

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

coming up next  
a staged  
reading  
**the  
unknown**

a silent musical  
book and lyrics by Janet Allard  
music by Shane Rettig  
conceived and developed by Janet Allard  
and Jean Randich  
directed by Jean Randich  
May 10-12, 2002  
Margot Tenney Theater

Bennington  
drama



Seneca's  
Children

presents



# Seneca's Children

Written by Jason Myers

Directed by Alethea Root

Stage Managed by Colleen Jennings

Set Design by Iona Bruckner

Lighting Design by Monica Hubbard

Sound Design by Adam Drake

Costume Design by Leah Estell

Dramaturge Rachel Hayes

characters in order of appearance

Derek	Hans Werner-Jatzke
Bev	Amelia Powell
Vanessa	Toobe Khilji
Penny	Kristy Phinney
Martin	Jake Bandman
Berny	Josiah Weiss

Place: Some kind of London

Time: Latter days

Act One: Bev's Apartment and a library

Act Two: A park, Bev's apartment, and Vanessa's apartment.

Act Three: 2 years later, Vanessa's apartment, a park, and Bev's apartment.

Seneca's Children is performed without intermission.

## bio's

Jake Bandman (Martin) is making his Bennington debut in *Seneca's Children*.

Hanz Werner-Jatzke (Derek) has recently taken up acting at Bennington. Last term he appeared as Colonel Tuzenbach in *Three Sisters*.

Tooba Samil Khilji (Vanessa) previously was seen at Bennington as the Little Girl in *The Skriker*. She also played Maniac in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

Kristy Phinney (Penny) is making her first acting debut in *Seneca's Children*. She has done costume design for numerous dance productions and theater including *Muzungu Song*, *Baltimore Waltz*, *Miss Julie* and several dance pieces in the Martha Hill Dance Concert.

Amelia Powell (Bev) is making her Bennington debut in *Seneca's Children*. Previous roles include Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest*, Abigail in *The Crucible*, and Gilmer in *Godspell*.

Josiah Weiss (Berny) is making his Bennington debut in *Seneca's Children*. Previous roles include Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Renfield in *Passion of Dracula*, and Fortunato in *April Fish*.

Alethea Root (Director) is the director of Barrington Stage company's KIDS ACT program. She directed *Extremities* and *Suburbia* for Railroad Street Youth Project, *Huck Finn* for Lexon Middle School, and was assistant director for *Crazy For You* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for Monument Mountain Regional High School.

Colleen Jennings (Stage Manager) has staged managed *Playboy of the Western World* at Bennington. Other stage management includes *Pippin* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

## author's note

This play began with a suicide letter, the one written by Virginia Woolf. I heard it in a French film called "Under the Sand," and just as something in it spoke to the character in that movie, something in it spoke to me. It was fragile and lovely and haunting. I thought I would do an avant-garde theater piece taking famous suicide letters and orchestrating a vocal chamber piece, like Sarah Kane's "Crave." Then I remembered I am not a disciple of the avant-garde, so I set about to write a play that would somehow become as fragile and lovely and haunting as Ms. Woolf's final composition.

Of course, there is nothing lovely about suicide. And I have struggled with it as a reality and a concept, particularly now that it has become a dominating motif in two new projects on which I'm working. As I have grappled with it, I have reversed the ending of Seneca's Children more than a few times. I hope that the version you see is the best version. Thank you for coming, and thank you to: my mother for being better than any mother should ever be, for always giving me books and space and love and delicious food; my father for being interested in what I do and wanting to read and see all that I do; Steven Bach for failing me, making me so furious I had to go home and write a hit play; Gladden Schrock, his wise old blue eyes are the best for looking at something coming down the pike; Ted Hoagland for not taking me to meet Philip Roth, showing me I had to become my own icon before I could introduce myself to one; Jean Randich for the long talk in the Swan living room, it turned my world around; Roberta Levitow for the long talk in her office, it turned some lights on; Iona Bruckner for the long talk in the Woolley living room, it was senseless sense-making; Harry Newman for caring about a fetus; Craig Wright, the best obstetrician any playwright could hope for; the entire Literature and Drama faculty for putting up with my shit for the last four years; the entire cast and crew; and finally and most importantly, Alethea Root, darling director, you understand this play far better than I ever will, and you're much more fun in a rehearsal room.

## from the director

Where to begin? Jason and me. I wanted to direct a new work and Jason had written a play. But much more than that he had written a play about basic human needs, desires, failures, and love. It has been a beautiful challenge to find the humanity behind each character in this play. To discover the humor and sorrow in their, and ultimately in our every day actions. To be able to illuminate in our small way what it is to experience death and rebirth. Seneca's Children on a base level is about suicide and on a higher level about seeing each other through it. This play is dedicated to my dear friend Tyler Roberts who killed himself on April 12, 2001.

I would like to thank Colleen and my cast for going on this journey with me. My design team for indulging me. Iona my constant friend and challenger. Christina, John, and Jason Root for supporting me always and helping with the little things like props. Dan Mahoney for loving me always and holding me through my tears. Tyler, Clair, Ezra, Erin, James, and Rachel for teaching me the fragility of life. And especially Jason Myers for trusting me every step of the way.



The cast and crew would like to thank the Drama Faculty,  
their family and friends including, Andrew, Michael, Lucy,  
Vanessa, Natalia, Betsy Sherman, Shehryar, Megan A.  
Ryan, Jess Carr, Cayli, Dannikke, Emilia, Ashley, Sera, Leah,  
Abbey, The Wheat-less boys, The Dewey ho's and Co.,  
Kryssy, Ian.

## special thanks

## design & crew

Assistant Stage Manager Cristian Panaite  
Sound Board Operator Catherine Herrick  
Light Board Operator Karen Kelly  
Stage Hands Ann Viera, Sarah Harvey,  
Thomas Hughes, Jefferson Craig  
Wardrobe Caitlin Clarke, Amber Schermann  
Master Electrician K.J. Swanson  
Light Hang John Boyd, Rachel Hayes, Meridith  
Honig, Kim Hamlin, Josh McIntosh, Steven  
Wayne III, and Marjorie Tarstino  
Lighting Assistants Kryssy Wright, Monica  
Hubbard, Jennette Lipiello, Lynn Ellen Klarich,  
Rhannon Wells, Scott Bush, and  
Colleen Jennings  
Costume Construction Sarah Mutrux  
Master Carpenter Shannon West  
Senior Carpenters Josie Lawlor,  
Morgan Bender-Demoll  
Carpenters Bev Fox, Will Heyser, Ariel Horowitz,  
Sara Harvey, Cassy Nichols, Larry Dague,  
Caroline Cooper, Lizzy McCown, Emilee Lord,  
Hillary Marshal