

In creating the libretto, I juxtaposed different elements from the biblical history of Abraham. The story begins with God's covenant with Abraham in which he is given the promise of a new land and a son. The story picks up thirteen years later, after the birth of Isaac. A famine has stricken Canaan, and faced with the destruction of his people Abraham turns to God. Their covenant takes on a new meaning. Now Abraham has to make a choice between the well being of his community and the survival of his only son.

The Director would like to thank Peter Golub, Reinhardt Mayer, Gladden Schrock, Joe Bloom, Michael Finckel, Jonas Omberg, Ashley Smith, Seana Gamel, Vincent Carté, Luke Iwabuchi, Sue Jones, Michael Giannitti, Pete Seward, Dave Choi, Meg Storey, Liz Covey, the entire cast, the production staff, crew and musicians.

The Set Designer would like to thank Dave Groupé. Tony Carruthers, Jon Paine, Alan Del Vecchio, Matthew Mike Cole, Kendall Ayoub, Melissa Grant, Abe Ober, Morgan Gabler, Booch, and Seana Gamel.

The Costume Designer would like to thank her assistants, Michelle, Greta, and a Special thanks to Terry Teitelbaum and Rosie Schaap.

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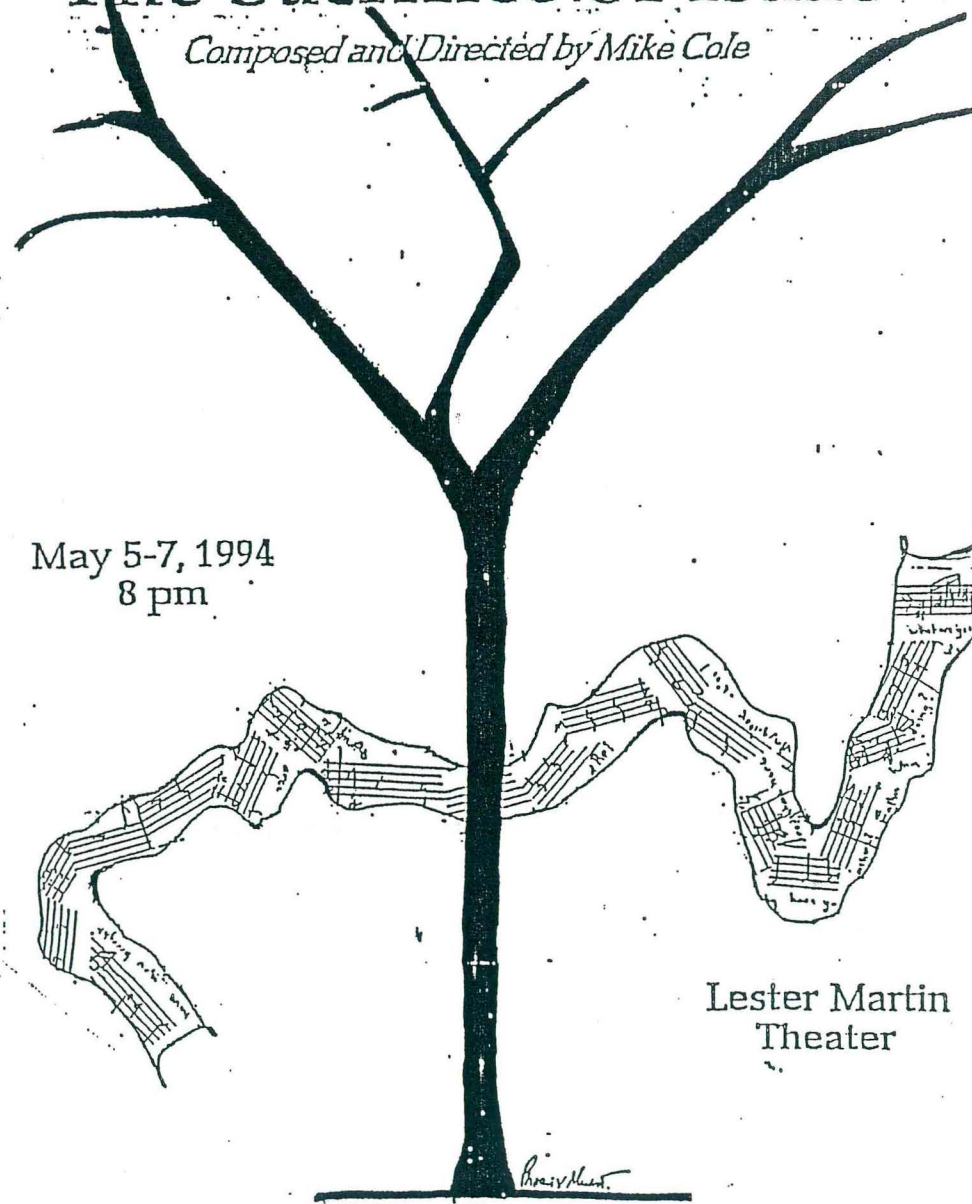
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Bennington College Music and Drama Divisions Present

The Sacrifice of Isaac

Composed and Directed by Mike Cole

May 5-7, 1994
8 pm



Lester Martin
Theater

The Sacrifice of Isaac

An Opera Composed & Directed
by

Matthew Mike Cole

May 5-7, 1994, 8 pm
Lester Martin Theater

Conductor	Peter Golub
Set Design	Peter Seward
Projections	David Choi
Costume Design	Meg Storey
Lighting Design	Michael Giannitti
Stage Manager	Jonas Omberg

Run Crew

House Manager
Light Board Operator
Follow Spot

Floor Crew
Projectionist
Video

Hedda Sjögren
Tariq Allana
Ramaa Mosley
Rachel Whitman
Abe Ober
Wendy Lawrence
Ida Krupp

Director's Note:

The "Sacrifice of Isaac" is a legend which is of fundamental importance to both the Judaic and Christian faiths.

It appears throughout passages in the Bible, Torah, and Midrash. The story takes on a number of different meanings throughout these texts ranging from a sacrifice to pacify the devil's doubt that any man on earth could be faithful to a metaphor for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

In the telling of these stories it is unclear whether or not Isaac was actually killed. In the standard version, Isaac is rescued from his father's sword, but in older accounts that aren't in the Bible, Isaac is sacrificed and resurrected, and in Jewish commentary, Isaac dies and is not saved. Kierkegaard uses the story to elaborate his idea of a leap of faith; and it was also a popular subject for medieval morality and mystery plays.

My purpose in setting this story is not to tell the definitive story (I believe that would be impossible). But to tell a story of a possible scenario in which Abraham is faced with having to sacrifice his only son.

Cast

Abraham
Sarah
Isaac
Michael
God:

Chorus:

Jeff Linebeck
Celia Twomey
Jessica Peck
Edmund Mooney
Nikki Antoniadès
Ian Jelinek
Amber McAfee
Nikki Antoniadès
Greta Feeney
Ian Jelinek
Gwen MacDonald
Amber McAfee
Edmund Mooney
Matt Westcott
Diana Whitecage

Orchestra

Violin
Viola
Cello
Guitar
Flute
Clarinet
Piano
Percussion

Seana Gamel
Guy Rauscher
Michael Finckel
John McKanna
Sue Ann Kahn
Sally Dewes
Ting Hong
David Brandt

Music Staff

Manuscripting	Vincent Carté
Manuscripting Editing	Michael Finckel
	Seana Gamel
Manuscripting Assistants	Luke Iwabuchi
	John McKanna
	Paul Opel
Rehearsal Accompanists	Stephanie Bennett
	Joseph Bloom
	Marianne Finckel

Production Staff

Technical Director	Peter Seward
Costume Assistants	Deborah Barraza
	Erica Stuckwisch
Master Electrician	Chad Dayton
Assistant Stage Manager	Ashley Smith
Photographer	Luke Iwabuchi
Poster Design	Phoenix Mayet
Program Design	Kerry Gilbertson

Crews

Set Construction & Paint	Melissa Grant
	Abe Ober
	The Intro
	Stagecraft Class
Light Hang & Focus	Alexandra Dewez
	Gypsy Lew
	Adnan Iftakhar
Costume Construction	Michelle Dorvillier
	Greta Feeney