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a concert reading of Sherry Kramer's

The Ruling Passion

FRIDAY DECEMBER 7th

23

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8th

2007 in D207 at 8:00 p.m.



New Works Ensemble:

Alex Bleeker, Jazmine Carroll, Iris Dauterman, Natalie Kent, Kevin Lackaff-Gilligan, Briana Magnifico, Sarah Marshall, Mae Mitchell, Brittany Olinkiewicz, Safiya Sinclair, Alex St. John, Amanda Sullivan, Daniel Wilcox, Allison Zajac-Batell

Director: Dina Janis

Stage Managers: Jana McMahon & Emily Thomas

Set Design: Carly Whitaker

Costumes: Emily Woods Hogue, Daniel Michaelson & The Costume Projects Class

Special Thanks to:

Sherry Kramer for her magical play that taught us all so very much, Danny Michaelson, Emily Hoag and the crew in the costume shop for their extraordinary generosity of spirit and enthusiasm for this project, Carly Whitaker for squeezing us in all term and "creating" out "alternative universe" for us.

There is a 10 minute intermission after Act One

Power consists in deciding which stories shall be told.

- Carolyn Heilbrun

All these powers of religion, which should never have been left lying loose, well, the press picked them up. And now the press in the first estate.

- Senator Eugene McCarthy

I have Johnsonized the land.

- James Boswell

Johnsonians, Boswellians, and Humeans are here gently reminded that *The Ruling Passion* is a work of fiction.

The historical inaccuracies herein are, hopefully, violations of the facts but not of the spirit of those depicted. In a wide ranging research I have discovered how fluid the myths of these three men are. Many of the stories I've used I have found corroborated in several sources, some I have found are often contradicted, and some occur only in works of marginal credibility.

Many historical persons depicted in *The Ruling Passion* are combined and rolled into each other. This puts the occasional famous word or sentiment into the wrong mouth of secondary characters, and means that characters will say things they never said in life. This should not be surprising. And it is necessary economy- not of production capabilities so much as the audience's attention.

Events are also manipulated, floated a little earlier or later if it serves the stream of meaning for the audience. Occasionally, there is a rather shocking alteration in historical fact. Again, I plead purpose and intention.

There is some Boswellian instinct in all of us. And some justice in Boswellizing Boswell.

Bennington College Drama Faculty and Staff

Kathleen Dimmick

Michael Giannitti

Linda Hurley

Kirk Jackson

Dina Janis

Sherry Kramer

Daniel Michaelson

Robert Post

Michael Rancourt

Jean Randich

Sue Rees

Jenny Rohn

Terry Teitelbaum