



**presents...**

**Tom Stoppard' s**

**R**osencrantz  
&  
**G**uildenstern  
Are Dead

*Produced by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, Inc.*

**First Congregational Church of Somerville  
89 College Avenue**

<b>Friday &amp; Saturday</b>	<b>March 5th &amp; 6th</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
	<b>March 12th &amp; 13th</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 7th</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>
	<b>March 14th</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>



# About Theatre @ First

This is Somerville's newest community theatre project, sponsored by the **First Congregational Church of Somerville**. It hopes to fill an open niche in the vibrant Davis Square arts scene, drawing upon individuals and organizations throughout the community to provide a venue for thought-provoking and entertaining performing arts for all those who love to be on either side of the curtain.

If you are interested in supporting **Theatre@First** as a sponsor, volunteer or performer, please email us at [action@TheatreAtFirst.org](mailto:action@TheatreAtFirst.org) or call Beckie at (617) 621-3571. Be sure to bookmark our website (<http://www.TheatreAtFirst.org>) and join our mailing list to stay informed of future productions.

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## A Note About the Play

"All in the same boat, then?" asks the Player in the final act of *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. And indeed, as Tom Stoppard so wittily and touchingly shows us, that's exactly where we are.

Our title characters play a minor part in *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare's most famous tragedy. We know very little about them from that script. They are old friends of Hamlet's, summoned to assist Denmark's rulers in ascertaining the source and validity of Hamlet's apparent madness, ordered to escort the prince to England following his murder of a courtier. If you were expecting a happy ending, take another look at the title of our play.

From these obscure roots, Stoppard has created characters who represent each of us, adrift in our own lives. We get caught up in our daily routines, in the expectations of the people around us who often seem to understand what's going on so much better than we do. With little information we try to fit in, to play our part, hoping that we're performing up to standards and that our inevitable and unwitting mistakes aren't colossal errors. We try to understand who we are, where we have come from, what we should do and where it will all end. We sift through the layers (the play within a play within a play) to understand the meaning of it all. And it's all very funny, really.

Welcome aboard! And remember: "You can't not be on a boat."

# Program Note

The play will be presented in three parts, with a fifteen minute intermission between each section:

*Prelude* ..... A place of no name, character, population or significance  
*Fugue*..... Inside the palace at Elsinore  
*Coda* ..... On a boat

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## The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Two Gentlemen ..... Michael Babish, Jamin Leopold  
The Player ..... Jason Merrill  
Tragedians ..... Aoife Rebeka Barrington-Haber  
..... Erika Reinfeld  
..... Jane Messere  
..... Kerri Centrella  
..... Mare Freed  
..... Rachel Kline  
Ophelia ..... Lynda Harkins  
Hamlet ..... John C. Hume  
Claudius ..... Rob Noyes  
Gertrude ..... Maitland Lederer  
Courtiers ..... Jane Messere  
..... Rachel Kline  
Polonius / The Ambassador from England ..... Dan Minkle

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**MICHAEL BABISH (A GENTLEMAN)** Michael Babish? Who's he? Oh, you know who he is, and you want NOTHING to do with him! You come in here without so much as a by-your-leave and expect me to tell you about every lunatic you try to pass off with a lot of unsubstantiated... Oh, I see, you bought a ticket... Well, that seems to support your story, such as it is - it is an exact command that upon the showing of this ticket, without delay, you should be told to enjoy this play. So enjoy it! As for Michael, he will spend most of this production as “the guy on the right.”

**JAMIN LEOPOLD (A GENTLEMAN)** is a photographer/poet/database engineer, according to his business card. But on stage he's been Verges in Much Ado About Nothing, Bruce in Beyond Therapy and the lead in Philadelphia, all with the RIT Players. He's *verklempt* to be performing in **Theatre@First**'s inaugural production and wishes to dedicate his performance to Jeshuah.

**JASON MERRILL (THE PLAYER)** is very pleased to be able to work with his wife Elizabeth in this premiere production for **Theatre@First**. In the Boston area, he has recently been seen in Merrily We Roll Along with Theatre To Go and Captive Audience with Biscuit Box Theatre Company. His last role before moving to the area was Oberon in a glam rock Midsummer Night's Dream.

**AOIFE REBEKA BARRINGTON-HABER (A TRAGEDIAN)** can occasionally be seen as any of the female characters in The Altos mystery dinner theatre. She has performed at Turtle Lane Playhouse, the Maine Renaissance Faire, and King Richard's Faire, and will be performing and directing at the Vermont Renaissance Festival. She is pursuing her Masters Degree in Theatre Education at Emerson College.

**ERIKA REINFELD (A TRAGEDIAN)** has not been a mechanic of cheap melodrama since college, but is utterly beside herself to be making her triumphant return to the stage as a Shakespearean chicken. By day she can be found at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics where she earns her keep as an Education Specialist. This fowl performance goes out to her fellow Trag Queens and the ever-supportive Sarah.

**JANE MESSERE (A TRAGEDIAN & A COUTIER)** trained as a professional mime and performed with The Traveling Circus Wagon Theatre. When not dabbling in various experimental theatre forms, she rescues and rehabilitates endangered sea turtles and raises abandoned seal pups at the New England Aquarium. She is happy to be performing with the talented cast of **Theatre@First**.

**KERRI CENTRELLA (A TRAGEDIAN)** seems to be on a roll of Shakespeare-inspired comedies, having most recently appeared in a production of The Complete Wrks. of Wm. Shakespeare, Abrgd. She has also appeared in numerous productions with the Wandering Minds theatre troupe at Boston University, from which she graduated last May. In real life she is a middle school substitute teacher. She hopes none of her students find out about this.

**MARE FREED (A TRAGEDIAN)** most recently appeared as Emilia in Othello at the Regent Theatre. Her early roots were in musical theatre where she appeared in Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, Godspell, Curley: The Musical, Anything Goes and many more. She has written and performed four one-woman shows and enjoys fiction writing in her free time.

**RACHEL KLINE (A TRAGEDIAN & A COURTIER)** is thrilled to be part of **Theatre@First**'s inaugural production. Favorite roles have in-

cluded Lady Teazle in School for Scandal, Paulina in The Winter's Tale, and Chen Te in The Good Woman of Szechuan. During the day, Rachel plays the role of a second year Ph.D. student in Pharmacology at Boston University. She would like to thank the cast and crew for making this such an enjoyable experience and especially Kerri for the best throne-mounting experience ever.

**LYNDA HARKINS (OPHELIA)** is currently a student at Northeastern University working towards an English degree with a minor in Theatre. Past roles include Jessica from Removing the Glove and Claire in Buy Me a Moon Crater, both of which earned her All-Star Cast Awards from the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild. She's excited about working with **Theatre@First** and is looking forward to being in future productions.

**JOHN C. HUME (HAMLET)** is thrilled to be giving his Hamlet this season. When not fulfilling his role as "man about town" in polite society, John has most recently appeared as Adam in The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told, Valentine in Arcadia, and The Negative No-No on "Jo Jo's Dream Cart" (SCAT, Saturdays 10am). Special thanks to Julie, his artistic muse, and Landon, his "everything".

**ROB NOYES (CLAUDIUS)** hails from Western Massachusetts, where he most recently appeared onstage in Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You, Black Comedy, and Arsenic and Old Lace. He currently lives in Somerville, earns his keep as a freelance writer-online and off--and rides rollercoasters in his copious free time.

**MAITLAND LEDERER (GERTRUDE)** is excited to be part of the show. Prior to this play, she was a part of Roadkill Buffet, MIT's premiere improv comedy troupe. By day she is but a lowly software engineer, but by night she is Robotica, the android queen. Maitland would like to thank the Academy, her boyfriend and World Peace.

**DAN MINKLE (POLONIUS / THE AMBASSADOR FROM ENGLAND)** recently appeared in The Three Musketeers as D'Artagnan with Pastimes and as Mortimer in Arsenic and Old Lace with Milton Players. He has performed with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, Ubiquity Stage, Coast to Coast Theatre, and Queer Soup. He graduated from UMass Boston with a BA in Theatre Arts. He sends all his love to Joye, "the reason I make it through the day."

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**NOTICE:** *Smoking is not permitted inside the building. Nor are flash photos allowed during the performance. Also, please silence your cell phones, pages and other electronic devices. Thank you.*

# The Staff

Director.....	Elizabeth Hunter
Producer.....	Beckie Hunter
Technical Director .....	Jo Guthrie
House Manager.....	Chris DeKalb
Stage Manager.....	Rene Herzog
Props Manager .....	Michelle Goldberg
Costumer .....	Joyce Carroll Grace
Lighting Designer.....	Sarah Paul
Lighting Operator.....	Keith R. Barriere
Sound Design.....	Peter Andrews, Neil Marsh
Publicity.....	Mary Bennett
Promotional Design .....	Neil Marsh
Crew.....	Sarah Bradford
.....	Lon Bunk
.....	Katherine Gregory
.....	Margaret Hart
.....	Brecky Peabody
.....	Kendall Pritchard
.....	Chris Wagner
.....	Andy Wood
.....	and members of the cast

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**ELIZABETH HUNTER (DIRECTOR)** returns to the Boston area theatre scene after several years in California and London. Previously she has directed No Exit, Night Mother, Kennedy's Children, A Little Night Music and Zoo Story. She has been a founding member of several theatre troupes and is very excited by the interest and support that the community has generated for the debut of **Theatre@First**.

**BECKIE HUNTER (PRODUCER)** connected **Theatre@First** with **First Church**, where she has been the Moderator since 1996. She is thrilled to find a new project that makes use of the stage and expands the church's support of the arts in Somerville, while also supporting her baby sister's directorial ambitions. Administrator of the Bok Teaching Center at Harvard, in her spare time Beckie loves to travel to see live figure skating all over the world.

**JO GUTHRIE (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)** is leading a double life: computer tech by day, tech director by night. For this production she has dredged up everything she ever learned about theatre — and

then made up a bunch of stuff. Like malaria, the theatre bug may be dormant, but the fever always returns. She is honored to be part of the new adventures of **Theatre@First** and would like to thank all the people who helped out with pre-production on the show.

**RENE HERTZOG (STAGE MANAGER)** After a post-college hiatus, Rene is excited to at last make a return to the theater world. Previous acting roles include Vera in The Odd Couple (Female Version) and Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest, but Rene is happy to be behind the scenes this time in her first role as stage manager. She wishes the cast, crew and members of **Theatre@First** a great first production!

**MICHELLE GOLDBERG (PROPS MANAGER)** is amused to note that her third adventure in theatre tech is yet another Stoppard play.

**JOYCE CARROLL GRACE (COSTUMER)** is member of the Northern Lights Costumers Guild ([www.noel.pothole.com](http://www.noel.pothole.com)) and a journeyman level costumer by the International Costumers Guild standards ([www.costume.org](http://www.costume.org)). She started costuming at age 20, and learned how to use a sewing machine at 25. She has won presentation and workmanship awards at science fiction conventions. The most challenging costume she has made was a life size Barbie costume which required over 21 yards of fabric. She found making a Victorian corset easier. Motto: *It is never too late to learn to sew!* When she is not working or creating costuming, she is taking care of her husband and two lovely children (ages 4 & 7), who have already started showing signs of being chips off the old block.

**SARAH "SUMMER" PAUL (LIGHTING DESIGNER)** has a B.S. in Communications with a concentration on filmmaking. She's been involved in theatre since 1986, where she got her start as an orphan in the Carousel Theatre Company's production of Oliver!. From there she went on to various other supporting roles, from The Sound of Music to The Marriage of Bette and Boo, including stage management and lighting direction. Since 1996 she's done primarily production work, including directing A Little Quickie in 1997.

**PETER ANDREWS (SOUND DESIGN)** is an MIT alum and founder of Landmark Sound Labs. This is his first experience with community theatre, but knowing Elizabeth, not the last. In addition to providing sound for this production, he also wielded a mean paintbrush. In his free time Pete is a member of several bands on the local music scene.

NEIL MARSH (SOUND DESIGN & PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS) is a native of Indiana, majored in Broadcasting at Ball State University, and was a recipient of that school's David Letterman Scholarship. Despite this, Neil has managed to eke out an existence, offering his web/DTP/audio/music services to the rogue nations of the world (and producers of fan-made *Doctor Who* audios and videos). When he's not sowing the seeds of sedition, he's working on his research project about the CBC Radio horror series *Nightfall*. There is no truth to the rumors that Neil is married to the Producer or that he is the brother-in-law of the Director. These are patently false. And no, he is not the droid you are looking for, either.

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## Ushers, Box Office & Concessions

Kim Ardolino  
Joyce & David Burnham  
Steve Gisselbrecht  
Vin Magazini  
Zachary Newton  
Elizabeth Parsons  
Liz Scheinfeld  
Ian Tosh

Jane Asherton  
Sara Folta  
Tim Kniker  
Betsy & Dennis Mariere  
John Olson  
Kara Peters  
Melissa St. John

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# Acknowledgements

**Theatre@First** would like to thank the following people for their assistance and support:

Nina Arnfeld

Dina Flockhart

Jen Hunter

Rachel Kadel-Garcia

Janice Dallas

Michael Gady

Jason from *High Output*

Benji Kline

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## Special Thanks

Rev. Molly Baskette, Ben Davenny & all the members of FCS  
Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church  
Steve Gisselbrecht

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## About the Music

In order of occurrence:

The Tragedian's Traveling Song  
*The New Rigged Ship (Piper's Fancy)\**  
English country dance

Court Music  
*Trolly lolly\**  
by William Cornysh

Dumbshow Theme  
*Ja nuns hons pris\**  
attributed to Richard I, Lionheart

Ambassador's Fanfare  
Fanfare from *Ivory Chessboard*  
by Neil Marsh

Curtain Call  
*Io non compro più speranza\**  
by Marco Cara

\*Denotes original MIDI arrangements by Curtis Clark (©1995-97), used with his kind permission.

Voicing and recording of the arrangements used in this production were made by Neil Marsh.

# Join Theatre@First!

*We welcome all donations. As a new community theatre, we need your support!*

All contributors will receive a membership card and will have their name listed in our programs unless they prefer to remain anonymous.

## **Member**

\$25 Donation

1 free ticket to every production for 1 year, 1 free item at the snack bar when you present your membership card

## **Friend**

\$50 donation

2 free tickets to each production for 1 year, 2 free items at the snack bar when you present your membership card

## **Patron**

\$100 donation

4 free tickets to each production for 1 year, premium seating, 4 free items at the snack bar

## **Angel**

\$500 donation

10 free tickets to each production in 2004, premium seating center stage in the first 2 rows, 10 free items at the snack bar, program autographed by the leads

## **Sponsor**

over \$500

All the benefits of being an Angel, plus free ad space in the program (please make special arrangements with the Producer)

**Theatre@First** is a non-profit organization sponsored by the **First Congregational Church of Somerville**. All donations are tax-deductible and will be held in the **Theatre@First** fund and dedicated to theatre projects.

Please make your check out to **First Congregational Church of Somerville**, and mail it to:

Beckie Hunter  
**Theatre@First**  
170 Gore St. #504  
Cambridge, MA 02141

Please include your email address (if you have one) and phone number.

We will also be offering other items as we grow, such as T-shirts as we grow. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

Thank you very much for your support!

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## **T@F Members for 2004**

**Members:** Liz Scheinfeldt

**Friends:** Sara & Richard Hunter  
Ellie & Bill Manning

**Patrons:** Ellen Garrett  
Garrett Insurance Agency

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## **From the Director**

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone involved in making this show a success. Returning to directing has been a very exciting challenge and rewarding experience for me and would not have been possible without your help. From the church (who gave us a home) to the cast (who brought astonishing talent and unflagging enthusiasm to every rehearsal), the staff (who made it possible for me to focus on directing), the crew (who showed up for the long and messy hours), the volunteers (who have pitched in time, energy, money, props and costumes as needed), and my husband (whose support and participation are and endless source of joy), each of you have contributed in key ways. And extra special thanks must go to the members of the audience, who have made the whole thing worth doing. —Elizabeth Hunter, March 4th, 2004



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*Rev. Molly Baskette, Pastor*

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