

THE GRINNELL COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE PRESENTS:

Sunday in the Park with George



Book by James Lapine
Music and Lyric by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Brandon Bruce
Music Direction by Dave Newport

November 18-20, 2011

Roberts Theatre

Bucksbaum Center for the Arts

Performances 7:30 p.m., Friday & Saturday, and 2:00 p.m., Sunday

GRINNELL COLLEGE



There will be a 15 minute intermission.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
No flash photography permitted.



Sunday in the Park with George

Directed by Brandon Bruce
Music Direction by Dave Newport

Set Designer	Sasha Welton
Lighting Designer	Justin Thomas
Costume Designer	Erin Howell-Gritsch
Projection Designer	Benn Doehr '15
Technical Director	Erik Sanning '89
Stage Manager	Carly Lowe '12

Ensemble Cast

Fisherwoman, bather/Billy	Caitlin Beckwith-Ferguson '14
Dot/Marie.....	Deborah Berk '12
Nurse/Harriet Pawling.....	Lorraine Blatt '14
Louise.....	Julia Chamberland
Fisherwoman, bather/Lee Randolph.....	Jessica Flannery '15
Frieda/Betty	Claire Fleckenstein '13
Boatman, Mr./Charles Redmond	Hutch Freeland '14
Mrs./Photographer	Chanel Griggs '12
Old Lady/Blair Daniels	Mackenzie Higgins '15
Jules/Bob Greenberg.....	Joe Kloehn '14
Yvonne/Naomi	Kate Loftur-Thun '14
Celeste #1/waitress	Hannah Margolies '14
Louis	Michael Oxley
Franz/Dennis	Deshaun Peters '14
Soldier/Alex.....	Ian Saderholm '15
Geroge	Luke Saunders '13
Celeste #2/Elaine.....	Lauren Sheely '14

Orchestra

Leah Kolner - Cedar Rapids - Violin 1
Sara Goplin - Ames - Violin 2
Jessica Altfillisch - Cedar Rapids - Viola
Anne Marie Kern - Story City - Cello
John Morgan - West Des Moines - Reed 1
Julie Craighead - Rock Island, IL - Reed 2
Guinevere McIntyre - Grinnell - French Horn
John Morgan, Jr. - Ames - Percussion
Marlys Grimm - Newton - Piano / Celesta
Steve Carstensen - Grinnell - Synthesizer
Kathy O'Connor - Grinnell - Keyboard Harp

Special Thanks

THE 117 Introduction to Acting class, Normando Ismay, Roger Henderson, GHS, Mike Hunter, Paul Nelson, The Music Department, Martin Andrews, The Cleveland Playhouse, Mary Schilling-Martin, University of Iowa Theatre Arts Department, Stephanie Micetich, Pam Poynter, Marcus Eagan



In the mid-1880s, Georges Seurat was frustrated. Influenced as much by science as by art, Seurat devised an entirely new way of approaching painting: chromoluminarism. This new method consisted not of mixing pigment on the palette, but of carefully placing primary and secondary colors on the canvas, allowing the viewer's eye to mix the colors together. Critics of this style mocked it ferociously, labeling it "pointillism," instead of Seurat's preferred name of chromoluminarism. His first major work, *Bathers at Asnières*, was rejected by the famous Paris Salon. He would continue to face rejection from the Parisian art scene, until his untimely death in 1891 – at the age of 31.

In the early 1980s, Stephen Sondheim faced his own frustration. His long-standing collaboration with famed director Harold Prince had come to an end. Although he had composed monumental musical theatre works such as *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, his most recent effort, *Merrily We Roll Along*, had been a flop. Sondheim's non-traditional, innovative approach to composition, combined with Prince's unconventional take on music theatre, confounded many Broadway theatre professionals. He was ready to give up on theatre all together. That is until his collaboration with visual writer/director James Lapine turned his eye toward a fellow frustrated artist who toiled almost 100 years before his own time: Georges Seurat.

Gazing into the past inspired Sondheim to look at himself, as well. By focusing on Seurat's struggles, Sondheim found an outlet to create his most personal work, *Sunday in the Park with George*. Much of what Sondheim and Lapine say about Seurat are what many have said about Sondheim. Every insult leveraged at Seurat in the song "No Life" had, at one time, been aimed at Sondheim. For years, theatre critics had enjoyed taking shots at Sondheim's work, calling it lifeless and overly controlled. Similarly, the song "Children and Art" gives a glimpse into Sondheim's personal life. The composer has often said that one of his greatest regrets in life was not having children.

As a director/actor with my own trials and tribulations to face, it is easy for me to be seduced by this work. From balancing my personal life with the demands of a career in the arts to contending with the scrutiny placed on me by critics and colleagues, *Sunday in the Park with George* has become one of those works that has inspired me through the years. It tells me to focus on the "color and light" of this wonderful work we artists do and "move on" when faced with a dilemma that makes me question my own place in theatre. It is one of those works that keeps me keepin' on. -Brandon Bruce

Production Team

Brandon Bruce (Director) is excited to be working with Grinnell this fall as a guest teacher/director. Most recently, Bruce was appointed Artistic Director of Chicago's Strawdog Theatre, where he will direct *The Duchess of Malfi* in the spring. As Artistic Director of Chicago's BackStage Theatre, Brandon directed the Joseph Jefferson Award-winning production of *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *The Ruling Class*, the new work *Denise Druczweski's Inferno*, and *Terra Nova*. As the Iowa Arts Directing Fellow at the University of Iowa (where he received his MFA in Directing), Brandon directed *Reefer Madness! The Musical* and *Akarui* (IRAM Award for Outstanding Direction of a New Work). In 2009, his production of *The Little Foxes* at Chicago's Shattered Globe received three Joseph Jefferson nominations including Best Production. In 2006, Bruce received the Orgie Award for Best Director for his staging of *Tango* at Chicago's Chopin Theatre. Other directing credits include *The 39 Steps* and *The Fantasticks* (Shawnee Theatre), *The Scene* (Iowa Summer Rep), *Catch-22* (Signal Ensemble) and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (New Leaf Theatre). For more information, visit his website at www.brandon-bruce.com.

Dave Newport (Music Director) holds both the Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa. In the spring of 2010 he retired after 33 years of teaching in the state of Iowa. He was director of bands at Grinnell High School for 20 years. Newport has conducted several honor bands and has adjudicated many state and invitational music contests. In 1999, Newport received the Outstanding Iowa Teacher Award from Grinnell College and was the recipient of the Grinnell Educator and Citizen of the Year award in 2006. He has also served as the President of both the Northeast and Southeast Iowa Bandmasters Associations. Newport has co-directed the Grinnell Community Band since 1991. In his retirement, Dave enjoys working as a barista at Saints' Rest Coffee House in Grinnell and remains very active in music education.

Kenji Yoshino '11 5th Year Design / Technology Intern is the fifth year technical intern from Hamilton, NY. He recently graduated from Grinnell College with a B.A. in chemistry. During his time as a student, Kenji participated in a few theatre productions including the student directed One Acts Festival. He is enjoying taking a more active role in Grinnell's theatre community by continuing his education in lighting design and technical directing. This summer he was awarded the Boyer Community Service Fellowship and taught science to children at the Drake Community Library through his show "Try This at Home". He hopes to attend graduate school for science education and eventually use theatre as a venue for teaching science to the public.



Ben Doehr '15 (Projection Designer) is ecstatic to be a part of *Sunday*, his third production credit at Grinnell College. Prior credits include sound design for *Naked* and *Moving-On*, as well as numerous productions in high school. He would like to give special thanks to Kenji, Justin, and Erik for their guidance in his work on this production.

Sasha Welton (Set Designer) finished her MFA in scene design at the University of Iowa. She recently was the scenic designer for *Doubt* at Southwest Minnesota State in Marshall, MN, where she taught for the semester, as well as designed the scenery for *The Madwoman of Chaillot* for the main stage season at the University of Iowa and *Gilgamesh's Game* for New Play Festival. Sasha also designed the lights and set for the gallery production of *Yellow City in December*. Last year, she designed the set for the University's main stage production of *Kid Simple: a Radio Play in the Flesh* and the rep shows of *Waiting for Lefty* and *A Man's a Man* for the MFA director's festival. Sasha designed the new play festival shows, *Akarui* and *Dust Town*.

Solveig Ellingboe '12 (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre major and has been involved with several productions at Grinnell College. Most recently, she appeared in *The Contingency Plan* and directed for the One-Act Festival in fall of 2010. *Sunday In The Park With George* has been her first experience assistant stage managing a show. She hopes you enjoy our production as much as she has!

Susannah Stengel '12 (Assistant Stage Manager) is a fourth year Theatre major from Conway, Arkansas. She is a member of Theatre SEPC, a veteran of the Grinnell-in-London Program, and a lover of all things theatrical. *Sunday in the Park with George* is the eighth production she has had the pleasure of working with at Grinnell College. Other work at Grinnell includes her stint as a scornful shepherdess in *As You Like It* and her spin in the director's chair for Salman Rushdie's *Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella of Spain Consume Their Relationship*. She hopes to make theatre forever.

Carly Lowe '12 (Stage Manager) is a fourth year GWSS major from St. Louis. She loves working in the scene shop and has been involved in a number of shows at Grinnell, including *Stovepipe*, *The Pillowman*, *100 Nights' Dreams*, and *Women of Troy*. Carly would like to say a huge thank you to all the great techies, designers, and actors who made *Sunday* possible.

Production Team

Erin Howell-Gritsch (Costume Design) has designed costumes for over 100 productions, beginning with the Des Moines Ballet in 1989. She has designed costumes at Grinnell College since 1999, where she is the resident costume designer, and has taught Introduction to Technical Theatre and Costume Design. She has also taught at Cornell College, where she designed productions of *Polaroid Stories*, *Story Theatre*, *Tartuffe* and *Our Town*. Erin's work has also been produced at the University of Iowa (Theatre, Dance, Playwright's Festival, and Black Action Theatre), Riverside Theatre, RT Shakespeare Festival, and RT Young People's Company, Graffiti Theatre, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and Hurley Dancers. Erin holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design from the University of Iowa and a Bachelor of Science from Iowa State University. She would like to dedicate this design to the memory of Mark Hunter.

Justin Thomas (Lighting Design) is assistant Professor of Theatre & Design whose most recent work has been produced by the Volkov National Theatre (Yaroslavl, Russia), the American Film Institute, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Arden Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Round House Theatre, Olney Theatre Center for the Arts, Happenstance Theatre, the 21st Century Consort, the Washington National Cathedral, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Rorschach Theatre Company, Imagination Stage, The Festival Playhouse, Potomac Theatre Project, Daniel Phoenix Singh/Dakshina Dance Company, Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, and the University of Maryland Opera Studio. As an educator, Thomas has worked for Grinnell College, American University, University of Maryland, Villa Julie College, and the Olney Theatre Institute. Thomas holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatrical Design from the University of Maryland.

Erik Sanning (Technical Director/Scenic Design) is a 1989 graduate of Grinnell College. He spent the first two years after graduation working as the Technical Director/Lighting Designer for Ballet Iowa. In the summer of 1991, Erik was able to return to Grinnell as the resident Technical Director for the Theatre Department. In addition to his work with the Theatre Department, he is also one of the founding members of Grinnell Productions, a semi-professional theatre company that was based here in Grinnell. Erik has also been a member of IATSE, the professional stagehands union, since 1990.



Caitlin Beckwith-Ferguson '14 (fisherwoman, bather/Billy) is a 2nd year English major at Grinnell College. She has been involved in lots of theater in Grinnell; she has acted in shows through Grinnell High School, Grinnell Community Theater, and Grinnell College, and she is now teaching an acting class at the Grinnell Arts Council. Previous favorite roles include Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Romaine Patterson in *The Laramie Project*, and most recently, Mary in *The Rimers of Eldritch*. She wants to thank her past theater teachers Liz Hansen and Michael Hunter for inspiring her to always be involved in theater.

Deborah Berk '12 (Dot/Marie) is a senior Economics/Theater double major. This is her acting debut at Grinnell College, although in high school she was involved in the shows *Beauty and the Beast*, *My Fair Lady*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *State Fair* under the direction of the incomparable David Busby, who taught her everything she knows. She loves musical theater more than anything in the world, and plans on continuing to work in musical production/administration after graduating! Deborah would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of her Great Nana Deborah Steiner, 1908-2011.

Lorraine Blatt '14 (Nurse/Harriet Pawling) is a second-year from Hartford, Connecticut. This is her second main stage production at Grinnell having previously been seen in *The Rimers of Eldritch*. Last year, she also participated in the one act festival as well as the *Rushdie* adaptations. In addition to performing, she works for the department as a front of house employee and stage-managed the Grinnell Community Theatre production of *Narnia* last winter. Lorraine would like to thank the cast and crew for making this an exuberantly pleasurable experience and her friends and family for more than can fit into a 100-word bio.

Julia Chamberland (Louise) is a fifth grader at Grinnell Middle School. She is the daughter of Marc and Marion Chamberland. Her love of theatre started at age 6 with a role in the Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) production of *Robin Hood*. Other roles have included "Mouse" (*Alice in Wonderland*, MCT), "Goat" (*Robinson Crusoe*, MCT) and "Lucy" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Grinnell Community Theatre). In her free time Julia likes to cook, bake, read and play piano and saxophone.

Jessica Flannery '15 (fisherwoman, bather/Lee Randolph) - *Sunday in the Park with George* is the first theater production Jessica has participated in at Grinnell College. She is a first year who was involved in her high school varsity choir and participated in various musicals and one act plays over the years. She is interested in art, singing and psychology. Jessica hopes to continue her involvement in Grinnell's theatre department in the future.

Cast

Claire Fleckenstein '13 (Frieda/Betty) is pretty psyched to return to the stage after a two-year absence. She is a GWSS/French major and is flying off to France in January to test her mastery of French and hone her taste for French cheese and pastries. Life is rough. Claire's passions include running, fall foliage, travel books, stinky cheeses available on this continent, working at summer camp and representing the Pacific Northwest with pride. Many thanks to my beautiful friends for supporting me in this endeavor and the fantastic cast for always keeping rehearsal intriguing.

Hutch Freeland '14 (Boatman, Mr./Charles Redmond) is a second year at Grinnell College. He has performed in two other mainstage productions (*The Pillowman* and *The Rimers of Eldritch*) as well as participating in the Neverland Players.

Chanel Griggs '12 (Mrs./Photographer) is making her Grinnell College Theatre debut in *Sunday*. A closet theatre nerd, Chanel participated in many high school productions, including *Pippin*, *Chicago*, and *The Crucible*. As a fourth year Chemistry major, Chanel plans on attending Graduate school for a PhD in Pharmacology. Chanel would like to give a special thanks to the entire cast and crew of *Sunday*. Her performance in the show is dedicated to her beloved high school drama teacher, Robin Bennett.

Mackenzie Higgins '15 (Old Lady/Blair Daniels) is a potential Psychology/Theatre major from Covington, WA, where she attended Kentlake High School. Acting credits include *South Pacific* (Bloody Mary), *Curtains* (Jessica Cranshaw), and *The Phantom of the Opera* (Carlotta Giudicelli). Mackenzie is thrilled to be a part of *Sunday* and sends love to the cast and directors, as well as her family, for their support and guidance.

Joe Kloehn '14 (Jules/Bob Greenberg) is a second year at Grinnell College, and this is his third Grinnell main stage performance. Last year he starred in *The Rimers of Eldritch*, playing the role of Robert Conklin, and, before that, in *The Pillowman*, in the role of Michal. In addition to his Grinnell credits, he has a deep background in high school theater at the Latin School of Chicago, where he played a wide variety of roles ranging from Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, to Mr. Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, to Mr. McAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*.



Kate Loftur-Thun '14 (Yvonne/Naomi) is excited to be working on her first musical at Grinnell College. She has previously appeared as Evelyn Jackson in *The Rimers of Eldritch* and Dr. Chasuble in Scena Theatre's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, as well as co-adapting Salman's Rushdie's "Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella of Spain Consummate Their Relationship, Sante Fe, January 1492" here at Grinnell. She'd like to thank this cast for being all-around awesome, as well as all the directors, designers, assistants, and techies for the huge amount of work/love they put into this production.

Hannah Margolies '14 (Celeste #1/waitress) is pleased to make her Grinnell College debut in this production. She is a graduate of New York's LaGuardia H.S. of Music and Art and Performing Arts, and has been featured in Victor Herbert's operetta *Naughty Marietta*. Hannah has also been featured in short productions of *Fiddler on the Roof* (Golda), *Hair* (Sheila), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator). Hannah would like to thank her voice teacher, Michael Oxley, and her family and friends.

Tenor **Michael Oxley** (Louis) holds music degrees from the University of Wisconsin and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He has performed frequently as a vocal recitalist and concert soloist, worked with choreographers and performance artists, performed in opera and music theatre, and has been a member of the vocal chamber ensembles The Village Waytes and—as founding member and music director—the octet VoiceBox. Oxley is an applied music associate in voice at Grinnell College and has also served as lecturer in voice at Wartburg College and adjunct instructor of voice at Central College.

Deshaun Peters '14 (Franz/Dennis) is honored to be returning to the stage. He made his first appearance to the stage so many years ago as Johnny Cade in *The Outsiders* and is thrilled at how far he has come since then. Some of his favorite performing credits include: The Lion (*The Wiz*), Ali Hakim (*Oklahoma*), and Tom Snout (*A Midsummer's Night Dream*) to name a few. He is a second year theatre and dance major at Grinnell College and would like to extend thanks to his family and friends for always motivating him to reach for the stars. Now sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Ian Saderholm '15 (Soldier/Alex) makes his debut in Grinnell's theatre department with *Sunday in the Park with George*. A first-year from Kentucky, he was very active in his high school theatre department, participating in more than 20 productions during those 4 years, and plans to major in Theatre here at Grinnell.

Cast

Luke Saunders '13 (George), an English major at Grinnell College, was most recently seen in the Salman Rushdie adaptations in the Spring 2011 semester as the narrator in *Yorick*. His last Theatre department production was *As You Like It* in which he played Jacques. Luke would like to thank the rest of the cast, the director, and the music director for making this challenging experience both enjoyable and rewarding. He would also like to thank his family for their continued support.

Lauren Sheely '14 (Celeste #2/Elaine) is a second year intended theatre major from Chicago. At Grinnell, she has appeared in *Strawberry Envy* and *Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella of Spain Consummate Their Relationship*. Other favorite roles include Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Napkin #4 in *Beauty and the Beast*. Lauren is thrilled to help recreate one of her favorite paintings onstage. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work, and her family and friends for embracing her brand of insanity.



Assistant Stage Manager	Solveig Ellingboe '12
Assistant Stage Manager	Susannah Stengel '12
Light Board Operator	Rebecca Young-Ward '12
Follow Spot	Emma Evans '12
Follow Spot	Abby Lowe '15
Backstage Crew	Tess Given '15
Backstage Crew	Heather Guy '14
Wardrobe Crew Chiefs	Carly Riley '13
	Alice Nadeau '13
	Jennifer Brown '12
Wardrobe Crew	Te'shar Williams '15
Program & Poster Design	Stephanie Micetich



ADMINISTRATION

Production Stage Manager

Carly Lowe '12

FRONT OF HOUSE

Front of House Manager

Lexy Leuszler '12

Front of House Staff

Benjamin Tape '12

Rebecca Young-Ward '12

Abbi Butterfield '13

Teddy Hoffman '14

Deshaun Peters '14

Kate Ferraro '12

Susannah Stengel '12

Kate Doyle '13

Deborah Tillman '14

Alex Kempely '12

Lorraine Blatt '14

COSTUME STUDIO

Costume Storage Coordinator

Alice Nadeau '13

Stitchers

Erica Seltzer-Schultz '12

Deborah Berk '12

Carly Riley '13

Kathryn Walder '12

Alice Nadeau '13

Kate Loftur-Thun '14

Jenifer Brown '12

SCENE SHOP

Properties Storage Coordinator

Brenna Ross '13

Scene Shop Staff

Andrew Marcum '12

Peter MacFarlane '12

Emma O'Polka '12

Nora Kostow '13

Leslie Bean '13

Terian Koscik '12

Colin Wong '14

Ethan Chun '12

Carly Lowe '12

Addie Asbridge '13

Brenna Ross '13

Elizabeth Holmes '13

Alicia Alexander '13

Emma Evans '12



Dance Ensemble
Directed by Celeste Miller
tRADitions + enCOUNTers
December 2 & 3, 2011 7:30 PM
December 4, 2011 2:00 PM
Flanagan Theatre

Shattered Mirrors: Stories from Salman Rushdie's
East, West
Directed by Lesley Delmenico
March 8-10, 2012 7:30 PM
March 11, 2012 2:00 PM
Flanagan Theatre

Spring Dance Performance
Directed by Celeste Miller
April 27-28, 2012 7:30 PM
April 29, 2012 2:00 PM
Roberts Theatre