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Sarah Plain and Tall

Center for Performing Arts

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THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

presents

Sarah Plain and Tall

April 5, 2003

2002/2003 Season sponsored in part by a grant from the:

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CHICAGO SOUTHLAND

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
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Theatreworks/USA
Barbara Pasternack (Artistic Director) Ken Arthur (Managing Director)

Presents

SARAH, PLAIN AND TALL
Book by Julia Jordan
Lyrics by Nell Benjamin
Music by Laurence O'Keefe
Based upon the book by Patricia MacLachlan
Directed by Joe Calarco
Assistant Direction by Jesse Bush
Music Direction by Stephen Bates
Scenic Design by Michael Fagin
Costume Design by Anne Kennedy
Orchestrations by Laurence O'Keefe

CAST
(alphabetical by role)

Anna..........................Elizabeth Cherry
Caleb..........................Steve Pacek
Estelle/Maggie....................Holly Smokovitz
Jacob..........................Mika Duncan
Matthew/William................Justin R.G. Holcomb
Sarah..........................Lani Shipman
Stage Manager.....................Randy Borden

Sarah, Plain and Tall was developed in part with support from AT&T through the AT&T: FirstStage program, administered by Theatre Communications Group. The taking of pictures and/or making of visual or sound recording is expressly forbidden. Please check the houseboard for any program changes.

ELIZABETH CHERRY (Anna) Off-Broadway: Luisa The Fantasticks, Sullivan Street Playhouse; Sukie Tawdry/Polly understudy The Threepenny Opera, Lucille Lortel Theatre; Netha The Fabulist, York Theatre Company; Student/Persephone Out of the Ruins, Ensemble Studio Theatre. Regional: Maria, West Side Story; Lili, Carnival; Luisa, The Fantasticks. Film: Two Weeks Notice. www.elizabethcherry.com

STEVE PACEK (Caleb) is glad to be joining TheatreworksUSA. He’s recently back from Los Angeles – you might have caught him on CBS’s “The Agency” back in November. Theatre credits include James Joyce’s The Dead, Seventeen, Johnny Johnson, Little Shop of Horrors. An Ithaca College alum. Thanks to “the fam” in Lansdale, PA.

HOLLY SMOKOVITZ (Estelle / Maggie) studied at the American Music and Dramatic Academy of NY; thereafter toured with Chamber Theatre Productions. More recently, Holly played Lucy in Andrew Lippa’s Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown. Aboard Sarah, Plain and Tall, Holly is very pleased to be touring with such a lovely show and company.

MIKA DUNCAN (Jacob) has appeared in New York at La Mama, Manhattan Theatre Source, and Expanded Arts. Regionally, shows include True West, Charley’s Aunt, and The Fantasticks, among others. Also, in New York he’s a resident actor for the graduate writers at NYU Tisch. Mika’s a native of Burlington, VT, with a BFA from Ithaca College.

JUSTIN R.G. HOLCOMB (Matthew / William) is tickled pink to embark on his sixth venture with TheatreworksUSA. Justin is easily tickled... Boomer Sooner!!!

LANI SHIPMAN (Sarah) can be heard on the cast recordings of School House Rock, Watch Your Step, Hon!; Dear Edwina, Willy Wonka, and the film The Associate. Most recently, Lani was seen as Mike Teevee’s Mom in the new musical Willy Wonka, based on the movie Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

Who’s Who

JULIA JORDAN (Book) was included in Women Playwrights, The Best Plays of 1997 published by Smith and Kraus, received the Francesca Primus Prize and was shortlisted for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award for her play Tatiana in Color. Tatiana was produced by Arthur Penn at The Actor’s Studio at Raw Space 1998 and at the Contemporary American Play Festival in 1999. A short film, The Hat, which she wrote and directed premiered at Sundance in front of Girlfight and was sold to the Bravo and IFC channels. She has had two ten-minute pieces produced at The Actors Theater of Louisville, Mpls./St. Paul and Nightswim. Mpls/St. Paul was a joint Heideman Award Winner and was subsequently published by Smith and Kraus. Nightswim will be published in a new collection this year. A full length play, Smoking Lesson, is planned for production this year under the direction of Joe Calarco. Her plays have been workshopped at the Sundance Institute, Playlabs in Mpls., GeVa Theater, The Cleveland Playhouse and Manhattan Theater Club. She was a playwriting fellow at Julliard and recently completed a year in residence at MTC. Ms. Jordan holds a Master of Philosophy in Creative Writing from Trinity College, Dublin.

NELL BENJAMIN (Lyrics) has written for the stage, for television and for the Internet. Nell was a staff writer on the Disney television series “Unhappily Ever After” and Creative Director for the critically acclaimed but economically untenable web-site icebox.com, where she also developed their online interactive games. She is currently working on two new musicals and a translation of Latin lyric poetry.

LAURENCE O’KEEFE (Music) Music/lyric credits include the NY tours of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals and the children’s musical The Magic Sparrow (Primary Stages and Ubu Rep.). As a member of LA’s Actors’ Gang: Imaginary Invalid (Theatre LA Ovation Award), Euphoria (LA Weekly Awards for Musical Of The Year and for music, Ovation Awards for same) and Bat Boy (LA Weekly Award, Musical Of The Year).
BackStage West Award for music, Lucille Lortel Award for best outstanding musical 2001). *Bat Boy* was nominated for Drama Desk Award for Best Musical 2001; Larry O'Keefe was nominated for Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music; Outstanding Lyrics. A graduate of USC's Graduate Film Scoring program, he has scored movies including: *Every Night and Twice on Sundays*, the musical/mockumentary of Dorothy McHugh, the Ziegfeld girl who returned to showbiz at age 85 with “Help, I’ve fallen and I can’t get up!” *Twice On Sundays* won Best Documentary at several film festivals.

LARRY (music), NELL (lyrics) and JULIA (book) collaborated on their short musical, *The Mice*, as part of the Broadway-bound 3hree, which was produced by Hal Prince and premiered by The Prince Music Theatre, subsequently mounted at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles.

JOE CALARCO (Director) Off-Broadway: *Shakespeare's R&J* (adaptor/director - Lucille Lortel Award); Second Stage: *...in the absense of spring...* (writer/director).


RANDY BORDEN (Stage Manager) is excited about his first outing with TheatreworksUSA! He is an accomplished actor, director, writer, and manager. Writer and director for Walt Disney Entertainment, ESPN, HGTB, ABC, The Disney Channel. First professional job as a stage manager, the world premiere of *Tiger Tale*, written and directed by Tennessee Williams.

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