Back page cover

# Front Page Cover

# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S PAGE

Update on the Murphey School! Burning Coal is very near its fundraising goal to restore the historic Murphey School auditorium, located at Person and Polk. Our plan was to finish our capital campaign on June 30th, then spend about six months on buildout, which would get us into the building by January, 2007. We aren't there yet but we are very close and I believe it possible for us to meet this timetable. Wouldn't that be extraordinary! However, we still need financial support to succeed. Although the end is near, if we stop now we will not succeed. If you can help, please drop a check into the **red envelope** you'll find here in your program, or call us with a visa or mastercard at 919.834.4001.

I am so looking forward to Burning Coal's new life in the Murphey School auditorium. I want to tell you some of the things (but only some!) we have planned for the facility. In the building, we will have a fully operational coffee shop which will be open morning, noon and night, up through performance time. We will have a small bookstore with off-beat plays and other theatre-specific publications that people can come in and read over coffee. We will be running a film series of classic movies, some of which will be "curated" to relate directly to the productions in progress. We'll have a small space devoted to the showing of local artists' work. We'll have staged readings of new plays by North Carolina writers, classes for children, teens, adults and seniors. We'll have seminars, lectures and discussions on issues of interest to the arts community. Oh, yes, and we'll produce some great plays!!! We also hope to make the space available to other area theatres and arts organizations. In short, the Murphey School auditorium should be bursting with life. I hope you will make a contribution to our campaign.

I also want to use this space to thank Rebecca Holderness for her work with Burning Coal over the years. She directed Shakespeare's *Loves Labours Lost* in our first season, *Romeo & Juliet*, which we toured to area schools, *Einstein's Dreams* (which we will reprise in our tenth season), *Travesties*, *A Doll House* and *James Joyce's 'the Dead'*, as well as tonight's *Miss Julie*. That's a pretty broad range of work. Rebecca's work is extreme in many ways, which is what I cherish about it. She pushes people, sometimes beyond what they believe to be their capacity. In twenty years of knowing and working with her, I have never yet seen her push anyone beyond their *true* capacity, though. She engenders respect, fear, admiration, awe, anger, focus and ultimately: work. Without her, Burning Coal would be nothing like the company it is today and I am most grateful to her for it. Rebecca, thank you for that work.

Lastly, I want to thank those *core* audience members (you know who you are!) without whom our little company would not exist. You will see many changes in Burning Coal in the years ahead. I hope and trust they will meet with your approval. In a profound sense, you *are* our company. Without you, we would only be whistling in the dark. Thank you ... and come again!

# **BURNING COAL** s. thanks our **CHARTER PATRONS**

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PLEASE HELP! If you've been left off of this list or know someone who has, or if any information shown above is incorrect, please call us at 919.834.4001 and we will immediately make the change. Thank you!

# BURNING COAL THEATRE COMPANYSM

jerome davis, artistic director simmie kastner, managing director produced in association with vassar college presents

# august strindberg's miss julie

adapted by kelsey egan and jack lienke

directed by rebecca holderness

production stage manager sherry derry

technical director curtis lee jones scenery & lighting design matthew adelson costume design kelli mattila properties design robin hughes graphics design simmie kastner production dramaturg kelsey egan assistant director ian finley assistant stage manager carole kelly assistant stage manager amanda watson lighting operator adam budlong guest lecturer/dramaturg dr. assad meymandi

burning coal Theatre company would like to dedicate its 2005/2006 season to the late **james shepherd lofton**, a kindred spirit.

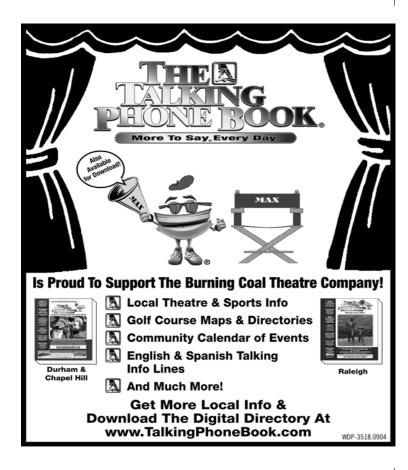
running time: 70 minutes there will not be an intermission production rehearsed at the kennedy space center, 3056 barrow drive, raleigh

burning coal theatre is a constituent of theatre communications group, the national organization for the american theatre, the north carolina theatre conference and the triangle network of theatres.

# The Cast

(in alphabetical order)

| Gabrieal Griego | Kristin |
|-----------------|---------|
| Jessica Kaye    | Julie   |
| Adam Twiss      | Jean    |



# A Special "Thank You"

Dennis Creech, Laura Bingham, Rebecca Leggett, Kenny Gannon and the Peace College Theatre Department, K.D. Kennedy, Michael Kennedy and Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy, North Carolina Theatre, Chris McMullan Photography, Raleigh Little Theatre, Andrea & Isabel Twiss.

Burning Coal Theatre Company is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County with funds from the United Arts campaign and the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Without the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts. the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, Raleigh City Council, North Carolina Arts Council and United Arts Council of Wake County, this production would not be possible. Burning Coal is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corp.

# CITY OF RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSION

This production is funded in part by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.





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# **Artist Biographies**

Matthew E. Adelson (Scenic and Lighting Designer). For Burning Coal: James Joyce's The Dead, The Man Who Tried To Save the World, Travesties (Piccolo Spoleto Festival also), A Doll's House, Romeo and Juliet and Einstein's Dreams. Matthew has collaborated with Rebecca Holderness on over 15 productions, both in New York and regionally, including 6 productions with Burning Coal. Additional credits: Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, Shakespeare Theatre of NJ, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Florida Studio, Shakespeare & Co., Portland Stage, Merrimack Rep, Westport Playhouse, Yale Rep, American Music Theatre, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Jacobs Pillow, Hopkins Center, Williams College, Lincoln Center and NY City Center, among many others. Matthew is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama, and is currently the Production Manager and Lighting Supervisor for the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Adam Budlong (Lighting Operator). For Burning Coal: Einstein's Dreams (Light Board Operator), The Weir (Rehearsal Stage Manager), Uncle Tom's Cabin (Stage Manager), The Mound Builders (Stage Manager), Company (Rehearsal Stage Manager), Juno & the Paycock (Stage Manager), Tartuffe (Tour Stage Manager), Waiting for Godot (Stage Manager), Accidental Death of an Anarchist (Stage Manager), A New War (Sound Operator). Adam has been involved with Raleigh theater for over 12 years. While his true joy is stage management, he does find time to dabble in other technical aspects.

**Sherry Derry** (Production Stage Manager). For Burning Coal: Waiting for Godot (ASM), 90 in 90 (Remount—Stage Manager). Assistant Stage Manager: The Story, Children of a Lesser God, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, As You Like It (Raleigh Little Theatre). Onstage Credits: A Streetcar Named Desire, The Emperor's New Clothes, MacBeth, James and the Giant Peach (Raleigh Little Theatre). Thank you to Jerry and Andy at Burning Coal, and Linda, Rick, and Roger at RLT for all of their help and mentoring.

**Kelsey Egan** (Playwright) graduated from Vassar College in 2005 with BAs in Neuroscience & Behavior and Drama. Additional theatrical training includes BADA's Midsummer at Oxford program and master classes with Mariah Aitkin, John Barton, Henry Goodman, Kristin Linklater and Sir Ben Kingsley. Directing credits include *Melancholy Play* by Sarah Ruhl and *Kate Crackernuts* by Sheila Callaghan, for which she received a Molly Thacher Kazan Memorial Prize for distinction in the theatre arts. Acting credits include the Major in *We Bombed in New Haven* and Rachel in the independent feature *Discover Me*, which received a 2005 Goldie Film Award.

**Ian Finley** (Assistant Director). For Burning Coal: *Taming of the Shrew, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, The Dead* (actor). Ian holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU, where he was awarded the Harry Kondoleon Award for playwriting. In addition to his directing work in association with Burning Coal's WillPower: Shakespeare in the Schools program (including *Titus Andronicus, The Tempest, Pvt. Wars, The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and others), he also works as a performer in the Triangle area (recent credits including *Blithe Spirit* at Meredith College). Ian is a member of the 2005/2006 Burning Coal Theatre Company and the Dramatists Guild.

**Gabrieal Griego** (Kristin). For Burning Coal: A Map of the World (Peggy Whitton/Madeline King), The Taming of the Shrew (Props), Travesties

(Nadezhda Krupskaya Lenin). For Williams and Jones: Diary of Anne Frank (Petronella Van Dann), The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Alice/ Mrs. Armstrong/ Mrs. McCarthy). For Ride Again Productions: Killer Diller (Costumes) Gabrieal is currently working as Video Director for Mid Summer Night's The Glass Menagerie & is a 2005/2006 Burning Coal Company member. She'd like to thank her wonderful family, friends & especially Joey.

**Rebecca Holderness** (Director). For Burning Coal: *The Dead, Travesties*, A Dolls House, Romeo and Juliet, Love's Labours Lost, Einstein's Dreams. New York City /Off Broadway: The Life of Spiders Kelly Stuart, Holderness/ The Culture Project, Visitations at Pace University/The Drama League The Lion Witch and the Wardrobe, Tour For Lincoln Center Institute. What You Will-Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing and The Rover at Lincoln Center Theatre Institute for her own company, HOLDERNESS, Riddles of Bamboo (Kipp Cheng) at Lincoln Center Theatre Lab, Cymbeline, A Winter's Tale at HOLDERNESS/the Salon, One Million Butterflies by Steve Belber at Julliard, Nervous Splendor at TWEED. Edward II, NYU/ETW Regional: Shakespeare and Company: The Valley of Decision, Glimpses of the Moon, Picnic in ASL at NTID, The Cherry Orchard (Yale University). Europe: Compagnie Image at Aigue/Paris, Otello with Andrei Serban at Choregies D'Orange/ France. Rebecca holds an MFA from Columbia, a BA from Vassar and was a Drama League & Lincoln Center Lab Director and Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voice Work. Rebecca is a professor of acting at UWM, as well as having taught at the Experimental Theater Wing, NYU, CAP21, The New School and Vassar College. After Green Heights, her first show in Milwaukee, Rebecca will direct Miss Julie Burning Coal in NC, as well as chair a new work workshop at Stoneleaf Festival/NC and shoot an original film in NY State. Caponino (Christiane Vericel) Stagaire/Mise En Scene with L'Association Francaise D'Action Artistique Theater Malacov, Otello, (Verdi) Assistant to Andrei Serban Choregies D'Orange, France. Development of New Work: Day Break (Nathan Parker) Reading, The American Place Theater, Comrades and Worms: "Fuente Ovejuna (Lope De Vega in a new BI-lingual interpretation set In Cuba, by Roegelio Emilio Martinez) Reading, Mint Theater. Workshops taught at Kentucky University and Perseverance Theater/Alaska. Academic Degrees and Awards: Best director 2004- Raleigh N&O (Travesties). Master of Fine Arts in Directing, Columbia/ Bachelor of Arts Degree, Vassar College; Regent Scholar/Fitzmaurice Voice Technique Certified Voice Teacher, Drama League Director, Lincoln Center Lab, American Dance Center Scholarship in Choreography with Pearl Lang.

**Robin Hughes** (Properties Design). For Burning Coal: Accidental Death of an Anarchist. Other credits include: Wit, The Story, Blue, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, The Diary of Anne Frank, Tartuffe: Born Again, and HMS Pinafore (Raleigh Little Theatre) and Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol (Actors Comedy Lab). Robin has been a backstage volunteer at RLT for the past six seasons and was a recipient of the Al Wolfheimer Volunteer Award in 2005. Robin's next project will be ACL's production of Moonlight and Magnolias.

**Curtis Lee Jones** (Technical Director). For Burning Coal: *Taming of the Shrew*. Curtis, a native of North Carolina, is back from Florida after 8 yrs. Originally from Williamston, NC, he graduated in 1989 from East Carolina University with a BFA in Production and Design. He has held the position of Tech Director since that time for many local and Florida theatres. Presently, he is working as a freelance Set Designer, Technical Director and

Julie was a revolutionary play when it opened in 1888. It is in a way like Ricard Strauss' Salome bringing out all the ugly but realistic side of erotic sex, class, murder and death and laying it on the table. *Miss Julie* remains one of the foremost naturalistic dramas of all time. It was a groundbreaking work that heralded a new era in modern theater, as Strindberg advocated a lack of intermissions, the use of real props and natural light. It culminated all the elements of the era's existentialism, eighteenth century theatre andopera varismo along with heightened reality revealing honesty and iconoclastic class barriers. Today, over 120 years later, the play still has major relevance and emotional impact. Critics believe that it is an amazing play that still terrifies with its insoluble equation of sex, class and death." The play offers a synopsis of human psychosexual development, examines the pedagogic succession of human affect, behavior and mental content of the landscape of unconscious.

Some historians and dramaturgs believe the play carries a good bit of the playwright's own life and bio. Born in Stockholm, August Strindberg (January 22, 1849- May 14, 1912) was born to a woman who was twelve years younger than his father. She is identified as a "servant woman" in the title of his autobiographical novel, Tjänstekvinnans son (The Son of a Servant). The humble background heavily identifies him with Jean in the play. This speculation is reinforced by the fact that his aunt Lisette was married to the English-born inventor and industrialist Samuel Owen. The entire family was socially ambitious. They wanted to break out of the social class restraint and enter higher rungs of the society. For example, August's brother, Johan Ludvig Strindberg became a successful businessman. It has been seen as the model for the main protagonist Arvid Falk's wealthy and socially ambitious uncle in Strindberg's novel Röda rummet (The Red Room). Auguste became a very successful writer, wealthy by the late 19th century standards. Many argue that his autobiography should be taken a grain of salt, because it is perhaps more a reflection of his ambitions were and what he wanted to be, or what he wished for his readers and viewers perceived him to be. And he had the talent and verbal skill as a writer and orator to succeed. He was a diluted Swedish version of Samuel Clements. Many refer to him as the Mozart of the letter. He had over one hundred books, plays, Essays, scholarly dissertations and poems. I remember seeing his portrait in the Stockholm's subway and his statue by Carl Eldh which graces one of the major city squares. He died form cancer, age 63.

\*The writer is a Raleigh Psychiatrist and art advocate

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**Dr. Assad Meymandi** (Guest Lecturer/Dramaturg). For Burning Coal: *Crumbs from the Table of Joy.* Dr. Meymandi is a noted psychiatrist, humanist, and philanthropist, who frequently speaks and writes on diverse topics that relate to his interests in medicine, art, religion, and philanthropy. Dr. Meymandi earned his MD degree from George Washington University School of Medicine. He is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, Medical Honorary Society. He holds PhDs in both biochemistry and philosophy, and he was awarded an honorary doctorate in humanities. A longtime Raleigh resident, he is in private practice as a psychiatrist and neurologist.

**Adam Twiss** (Jean). Adam is delighted to be returning to NC and performing for the second time with Burning Coal. Previous work with the company on their critically acclaimed *Pentecost* remains one of his seminal experiences in theatre. Since living and performing in Raleigh nearly ten years ago, Adam has appeared on stages in NYC, Boston, Providence and Seattle, and has been featured in several films and commercials, culminating in a "first pitch" thrown for his beloved Boston Red Sox at a critical, 2004, end-of-season game against the NY Yankees; fast-ball (a little low) right down the middle! A graduate of Trinity Rep Company's MFA program and the recipient of Trinity's "Richard Kavanaugh Award for Acting", Adam has performed over a dozen times on Trinity stages, including *The Cider House Rules*, *Othello* and *My Fair Lady*, which received the Elliot Norton Award for Outstanding Production from the Boston Theatre Critics Circle. Thanks to Andrea and Isabel for love and support; daddy will be home soon!

**Amanda Watson** (Assistant Stage Manager). For Burning Coal—Taming of the Shrew (Tailor), A New War (ASM). Amateur credits include Vanities (Mary), Oklahoma! (Laurie), Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat (Narrator), David & Goliath (Asst. Director). Amanda has been active in theatre almost as long as she could walk. She enjoys every aspect, both acting and backstage. She is very excited to be a part of this production.

# PROGRAM NOTES for "Miss. Julie" By Assad Meymandi, Md. PhD, DLFAPA\*

To appreciate and understand this sober and pedagogically significant play, Miss Julie, one must realize that it was written in 1888, in the then very conservative northern European country of Sweden. The country was imbued by the late 19th century Victorian mentality, morality, and social restrictions which permeated the entire of Europe. This was the age where tablecloths had to be long enough to cover the legs of the tables, lest sexuality and eroticism were inferred. It was also, the dawn of existentialism. Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish theologian, philosopher (1813-1855) had already laid the foundation of dealing with "here and now" of which human sexuality was an essential part. Then came Fredrick Nietzsche (1844-1900) who reinforced the notion of confronting erotic issue head on. In Nietzsche's biography there is a passage detailing his seeing the opera Carmen 23 times and proclaiming that every time he saw it he became a more informed person, a better philosopher and a more consumer of erotic mystic. Existential thinking and vigorous writings continued by Martin Heidegger (1889-1976), and later ushered into the 20th century by Albert Camus (1913-1960) and Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980). The roots of this play go even farther in history. It goes back to the "Axial Age", roughly 200 to 900 BC when diverse philosophical thoughts such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism formed the nucleus of humanities and theater as we know it today.

# **BURNING COAL THEATRE COMPANY SM**

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- ⊗ Pentecost by David Edgar
- ⊗ Einstein's Dreams by K. Cheng, from the novella by Alan Lightman

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Lighting Designer. You can see his work at Peace College, North Carolina Theatre, and here tonight with *New War*. Curtis would like to thank his family, Lora and Skylar for their patience, love and support for letting him create and follow his dream in theatre.

**Jessica Kaye** (Julie) is a recent graduate of the Columbia University MFA Acting program where she was a recipient of the Bob Hope Fellowship in Acting. Some favorite roles include Selminha in the US premiere of *The Asphalt Kiss*, Viola in an international tour of *Twelfth Night*, Adela in Eduardo Machado's *Crocodile Eyes*, Portia (*Merchant of Venice*), Maud/Victoria (*Cloud 9*), Nina (*The Seagull*), Frederick (*King Kong: the Musical*), Le Franc (*Deathwatch*), and Charlotte Corday (*Marat/Sade*). She is a graduate of Harvard University. Much love to her family and dear friends.

**Carole Kelly** (Assistant Stage Manager) has enjoyed theater since High School when she appeared as Mrs. Johnson in *The Family Nobody Wanted*. In the years that followed, she married and raised 3 children. Her third child developed an avid interest in theater, so to occupy herself while waiting to chauffeur her youngest to and from rehearsals, she asked the director what she could do to help. That simple request led her to backstage work ranging from sweeping the stage to Stage Manager. She welcomes this opportunity to work with Burning Coal as ASM.

Jack Lienke (Playwright) graduated from Vassar College in 2005, with a double major in English and Film and the college's first ever correlate sequence in Victorian Studies. He is now thoroughly delighted to be working as an editorial assistant for Random House Children's Books in Manhattan. Creative works include *Outside the Box*, an absurdist one-act, *Moving In*, a feature-length screenplay, and his senior English thesis, *Gay Sweater: Stories and Essays*, a piece from which will soon be available in The Full Spectrum: A New Generation of Writing about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Other Identities, to be published by Knopf in May 2006. Jack was born and raised in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

# BURNING COAL THEATRE COMPANY ... PRODUCTION HISTORY

### 1997/98 Season

Rat in the Skull by Ron Hutchinson Love's Labours Lost by Shakespeare Pentecost by David Edgar

# 1998/99 Season

Winding the Ball by Alex Finlayson Einstein's Dreams by Kipp Cheng Question of Mercy by David Rabe History of King Henrie the Fourth by R. Rand

## 1999/00 Season

The Steward of Christendom by Sebastian Barry St. Nicholas by Conor McPherson Romeo & Juliet by Shakespeare Night and Day by Tom Stoppard

# 2000/01 Season

The Weir by Conor McPherson
Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Rand and Kay
Watership Down by Deb Royals from R. Adams

### 2001/02 Season

A Doll House by R. Rand from Ibsen The Mound Builders by Lanford Wilson Company by Sondheim and Furth Road to Mecca by Athol Fugard

### 2002/2003 Season

Travesties by Tom Stoppard
Juno and the Paycock by Sean O'Casey
Tartuffe by R. Rand from Moliere
Crumbs from the Table of Joy by Lynn Nottage

### 2003/2004 Season

All the King's Men by Adrian Hall from the novel by Robert Penn Warren Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett The Man Who Tried to Save the World by Davis and Kay from the book by Scott Anderson

### 2004/2005

James Joyce's The Dead by R. Nelson & S. Davey 90 in 90 by Jerome Oster Safe House by Lydia Stryk Lipstick Traces by Rude Mechs Accidental Death of an Anarchist adapted by Simon Nye from the play by Dario Fo

# 2005/2006

Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare A New War by Gip Hoppe A Map of the World by David Hare Miss Julie adapted by Kelsey Egan and Jack Lienke from the play by August Strindberg

# The 2005/2006 Burning Coal Company of Artists

Jeremy Allen

Bob Barr

**Noelle Barnard** 

Morag Charlton

**Maggie Clifton** 

Ann Cole

Jerome Davis

Sonya Drum

Ian Finley

Kenny Gannon (emeritus)

Debra Gillingham

Gabrieal Griego

Lynne-Marie Guglielmi

Andy Hayworth

David Henderson

George Jack

### Becca Johnson

Simmie Kastner

Rick LaBach

Stephen LeTrent

Carmen-maria Mandlev

Carl Martin

Chris McMullan

Sherida McMullan

Terry Milner

Jan Morgan

Greg Paul

Emily Ranii

Kendall Rileigh

JeriLynn Schulke

Jenn Suchanec

**Bold** denotes new member.

# SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL believes

her fascination with ladybugs might inspire her to become an entomologist.



SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL understands a girl's interests and curiosities offer important insights into who she is and who she might become. Providing individualized attention and ongoing support for young women, SMS creates an educational environment that is challenging and personally relevant.

To learn more about our unique plan for educating young women in grades 9-12, contact the Admissions Office at 919.424.4100 or admissions@saint-marys.edu.

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