



bobrauschenbergamerica

By Charles Mee





Letter from the Chair

Dr. Cynthia Allan
Department of Communication

Welcome to the 2017-2018 season of the Pittsburg State Theatre! We have come to dearly love this wonderful space as our theatre home. The facility is a wonderful and intimate space for live performance and with every new production we learn more about the staging and technical possibilities of the theatre. It has given us a whole new relationship with our wonderful audiences and we thank you for your support.

The 2017-2018 season begins October 19-22 with *Bob Rauschenbergamerica*, Charles Mee's celebration of the famous collage artist, Bob Rauschenberg, and the broader collage that is America. It is a joyous celebration of America staged like a living collage. Directed by Linden Little, this contemporary piece is sure to be an original and unique experience.

Then, on December 1-2, we continue our tradition of Theatre Unplugged with the student-directed one-act plays produced in the Studio Theatre (entrance on Joplin Street). The Studio Theatre remains the venue for student-produced theatre offerings. This year, seven senior theatre students will present their one-act plays to the public – totally free of charge.

In the spring of 2018, Gil Cooper directs one of the most famous farces ever penned with *Noises Off*. The play presents a cast of second rate touring actors rehearsing a flop called *Nothing's On*. It is a manic world of slamming doors, missed cues, and onstage-offstage intrigue. It is a perennial favorite and we are excited to bring it to the campus and community. Production dates are February 22-25, 2018. A great way to beat the winter doldrums.

In our final production of the season, from April 26-29, we present *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, by Rajiv Joseph, one of the most prominent new voices in American theatre. Directed by yours truly, this sweet and quirky piece follows Doug and Kayleen from the 3rd grade through the next 30 years, drifting back and forth through time as they compare the various calamities that keep pulling them together. The production features a unique staging technique where all the elements – make-up and costumes – are changed onstage. Close out your spring with this irresistible contemporary comedy.

Finally, I want to remind our patrons that Pitt State Theatre offers both Saturday and Sunday matinees for each of our productions in addition to our Thursday through Saturday evening performances. We have had many patrons tell us they appreciate the extra daytime performances as it is more convenient for them to attend during daylight hours.

I am sure the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Communication and PSU Theatre join me in expressing our gratitude for your support and our sincere hopes that you enjoy the 2017-2018 season.

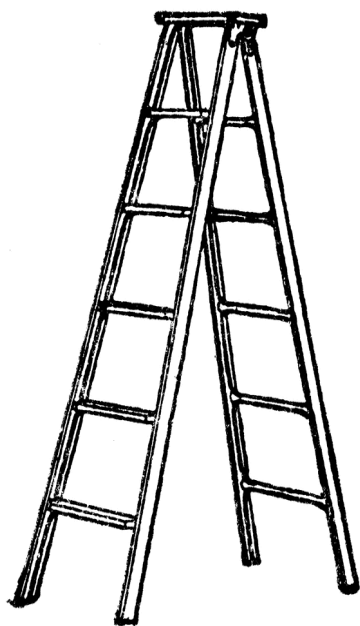
Warm regards,
Dr. Cynthia Allan

Director's Notes - Linden Little

Writing program notes is always a challenging task. I'm often torn between wanting to let a production speak for itself, devoid of my editorial voice, and oversharing the analytical details involved in constructing an interpretation of a text. I hope to avoid both extremes with this production note by simply sharing my advice to encountering this work.

bobrauschenbergamerica belongs firmly to the practices and conventions of postmodern drama/writing. That means the play lacks a traditional narrative structure. Instead of trying to plot the actions of the characters into one single story, I encourage you as an audience member to engage in making your own meaning for each moment. You come to the theatre with your own life experiences, your own emotional life, and your own political perspectives. All of those characteristics are welcome in this production. In fact, they are celebrated by the scenes and characters you will encounter.

We as an ensemble don't seek to manipulate your responses, making you cry at something sad for example. Instead, we want to open up the world of the play to include you and your unique point of view. Through this invitation I think *bobrauschenbergamerica* acts as a balm for our increasingly polarized times. Perhaps through the joyful exploration of our varied experiences we might find a direction to move forward together into the future, or perhaps we won't. In either case sharing in the experience of this performance is with worth the attempt. At least it is from my perspective. I welcome yours with the following quote from the play: "We're all glad to be here with you tonight to share this with you and we hope you have a swell evening."





Properties Master - Amanda Longpine

My favorite part about being in charge of props for this show was that it forced me to think just like Robert Rauschenberg himself! He was known for his “combines” which combined everyday found objects into art work, and that’s how I wanted the props to look like. When choosing certain props, I often looked at his art work for inspiration.

Rauschenberg was recognized for being kind, generous, and welcoming to others. It pleasantly surprised me that I too was met with a generous attitude from the businesses, the City of Pittsburg, Pittsburg Community Theatre, and everyone else who helped me gather this modge podge of objects. Special thanks to Linden Little for being my mentor and Lisa Quinteros for contributing a massive amount of help to me.



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Director.....Linden Little
Costume Designer.....Lisa Quinteros
Choreographer.....Kaye Lewis

Cast of Characters

Wilson.....Eddie Murphy
Roller Girl.....Krista Hightower*
Phil.....Austin VanBecelaere*
Susan.....Erika Moore
Becker.....Curtis Wilkins
Phil's Girl.....Jade Provence
Allen.....Stephen Reida*
Carl.....Garrett Wainscott
Bob's Mom.....Susie Lundy
Bob the Pizza Boy.....Cooper Dammrich

Setting

An American Panorama;
yesterday, or today, or maybe tomorrow

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

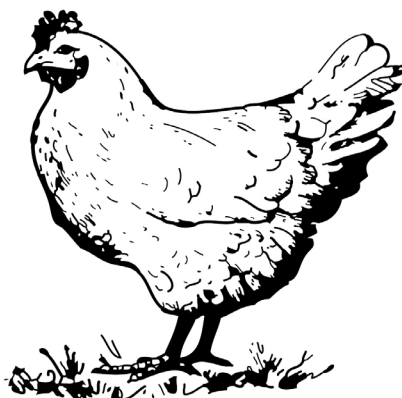
No flash photography or video recording is permitted during the performance.
Please make sure ALL cell phones are turned off. For the comfort of other audience
members, take crying or fussy children to the lobby.

Production Staff

Stage Manager	Paige Bowman
Properties Master	Amanda Longpine
Scenic Artist.....	Kaitlyn Weve*
Makeup and Hair.....	Ayman Syed
Sound Board Operator.....	Jaley Hoyt*
Light Board Operator.....	Katia Arians*
Projections.....	Alexx Parsons
House Manager.....	Grace Hendrickson
Set Construction.....	Alex Hermanson
Olivia Ellison*, Austin VanBecelaere*, Stephen Reida*, Sarah Potter, Ashton Augustine, Curtis Wilkins, & Students from COMM 363 Technical Production I	
Running Crew.....	Ryann Wiseman
Taylor Matthews, Mikey Miller, Megan VanWyngarden, Avery Chan, Alex Gardner, Cassie Rice, Ila Phelps, Ryan Urban, Ashton Augustine	

Theatre Staff

PR/Advertising Manager.....	Paige Bowman
Poster/Program Cover Art.....	April Huninghake
Production Photographer.....	Kiane David



* Indicates member of Alpha Psi Omega, Theatre Honor Society





Costume Designer - Lisa Quinteros

Americans, the people who make up these United States of America, are a patchwork people.

Apart from our Native cultures, every *thing* came from somewhere else...and then it combined with another *thing*, and then combined, and changed and morphed, and eventually became **American**...sometimes something completely New, something Extraordinary, something Awful, something Joyous, something Something! Bob Rauschenberg's art and artistry was to collage all those things, especially those mundane items: the celebration and pageantry, the dirt and trash, the nature and urban condition, family and singularity, work and play. He took these, and more, and made combines, made them into Art, made us rethink just what beauty or ugliness could be. He visualized that American patchwork.

bobrauschenbergamerica seems a step beyond that as well...combining the thoughts, actions, feelings, and memories of an American experience, but like a dreamworld run-on sentence. Our costumes and props are set to evoke memories and things from yesterday, and today, and perhaps even tomorrow. They are all at once familiar, but will represent different things to all of you, for even though our patchwork is the same quilt, each person's material is varied and beautiful, different, and absolutely, artistically... wonderful.

Thank you Amanda for all the long hours you've put in.
Props to you!

Thanks to all cast and crew for a truly unique NEW American experience!

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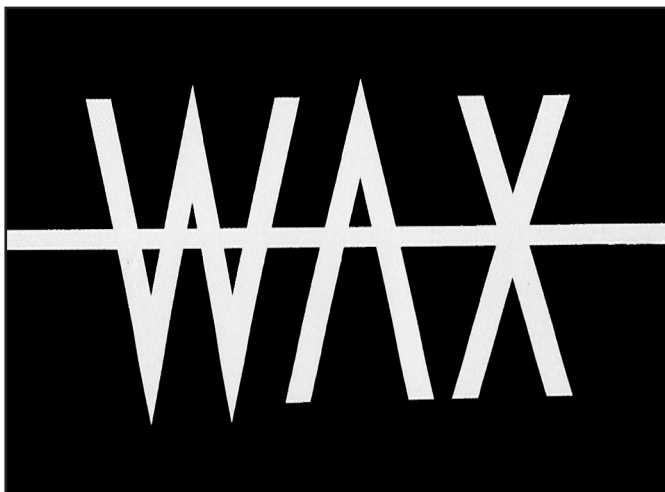


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Kaye Lewis, Midwest Regional Ballet
Kristi Geier
Leo Hudson
Kimberly Bowman
PSU Department of Music
Mimi Little
Pittsburg Community Theater
John Eastman
Student Staff of the Bicknell Center
Jason Huffman, Memorial Auditorium
City of Pittsburg Traffic & Communications
Joe Beaman
Sharp's Auto Body

