

# **Lex-Ham Community Theater** presents the



## **2002 LEX-HAM SHORT-PLAY FESTIVAL** **MOTHER**

Five short plays all with the theme of *Mother*

*Waterbabies* - Adam LeFevre

*A Woman Without A Name* - Romulus Linney

7:30 p.m., March 1, 2, 8, 9 and 2:00 p.m., March 10

*Through A Glass, Darkly* - Stanley Richards

*Soul Gone Home* - Langston Hughes

*Sonny DeRee's Life Flashes Before His Eyes* - Bill Bozzone

7:30 p.m., March 15, 16, 22, 23 and 2:00 p.m., March 24

Macalester-Plymouth United Church - 1658 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul

Welcome to the second annual Lex-Ham Short Play Festival!

The theme for this year's festival is "Mother". The five plays presented in the festival show very different aspects of Mother. The woman in *A Woman Without A Name* endures harsh accusations by her son. Liz in *Waterbabies* worries about the development of her 11-month old son. Clara in *Through A Glass, Darkly* watches helplessly as her son and husband fight. The mother in *Soul Gone Home* grieves for her young son. Emma in *Sonny DeRee's Life Flashes Before His Eyes* finally gets some things she has wanted for years.

The festival allows us to present some wonderfully written and rarely performed plays.

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### **Director's Notes:**

#### **Multi-Cultural Mothers**

**By Craig Rosen**

Whenever I tackle a play I learn as much about myself as I do the text. The process of selecting plays for this festival was challenging - my goal was to find relatively short plays with the central character of mother. This proved a difficult task because I did not know what kind of play I wanted to direct. The selection process dragged on and I eventually happened upon *A Woman Without a Name*. I have always loved plays that use language beautifully - imagery, rhythm, symbol, and metaphor. I wasn't quite sure of all the layers I just knew that I loved it. I called this play my "beautiful play." However, I felt as far removed from it because I do not share its religious or cultural background. However I now believe I have a greater understanding and respect for them.

I also chose *Soul Gone Home*; a play based on the African-American experience. I felt more connected to this play (even though I am not African-American) than *Woman*, probably because of my urban background. However, the cast of *Soul* showed me layers of the play I never saw. According to my cast, some choices that I originally made had overtones that I hadn't realized. As with *Woman*, I took a cultural journey and feel a better person for it.

Finally there is *Through a Glass, Darkly*. When Michelle suggested we co-direct, part of the excitement came from our different backgrounds. I felt more comfortable with *Glass*, if, for no other reason, I connect with the east coast Jewish-American experience. However, working with many artists that do not share my cultural heritage, I listened to another perspective on my ethnicity. I am also fortunate that this cast respected my connection to the play, though they were never reverent. I knew that they offered fresh views into my culture, and though I didn't always agree, I learned about my culture through the eyes of others.

As I reflect on the choices I made, the plays I chose, I realize that this is the common bond - the opportunity to gain an understanding of the world that only art and artists can provide. I hope that you too enjoy this journey.

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### **Production Staff**

Directors - Michelle Richardson, Craig Rosen  
Music Director - Mari Lynn Ampe  
Stage Managers - Rose Warnsholz, Maggie Lally  
Set Construction - Jon Stierwald  
Costumes - Gay Bardwell, Mitzi Addis  
Props - Pat Armstrong, Debby Jo Woolhouse  
Stage Crew - Zak Forde, Tom Shestak

Lighting - Jim Penson  
Photography - Lila Taft  
Publicity - Mark Johnson  
Producer - Urban Landreman

*Waterbabies*  
by Adam LeFevre

Cast  
in order of appearance

Emma..... Heather Nielsen

Liz..... Lynne Vannelli

Location: Y.M.C.A.  
Time: Present  
Michelle Richardson, Director



Adam LeFevre has appeared in numerous roles on Broadway and on Television, and has been featured in such movies as L.I.E., Bonfire of the Vanities, Philadelphia, Only You, The Ref, Beautiful Girls, Private Parts, and The Mirror Has Two Faces.

*“I just want my child to be  
healthy and happy and safe”*

*- Liz*

An interesting fact: some aquatic centers offer swim lessons to children as young as six months old. Yet unlike the fictional course in *Waterbabies*, these classes require the parent to be in the water with their infant. Thanks to Kathi, Tony, Heather, and Lynne for providing many of the props you will see tonight. Beaucoup thanks to Beaner for giving up the search for Mr.Fish last weekend.

Michelle Richardson

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

*A Woman Without A Name*  
by Romulus Linney

Cast  
in order of appearance

Woman..... Holly Lindsay  
Arthur Moore..... Joachim Courtland  
David..... David Heffernan  
Calistra..... Anne Petersen  
Ed..... Daniel Hennessy  
Charley..... Michael Lilya  
Fanny Knapp..... Laura Barrington Bradford  
William Craig..... Stuart Alger  
Susie Balis..... Kara Greshwalk

Location: A small American town  
Time: March 24, 1900 through July 4, 1901

There will be a five minute break between Parts 1 and 2  
Craig Rosen, Director

*"I want to say, do this! Do that! Make them strong! ... But they are not mine."  
- Woman*

I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 21, 1930. My father was resident physician at University of Pennsylvania Hospital. In the Depression, we moved to Boone, North Carolina, where I spent the next four years and many summers thereafter, living the life and hearing the voices of Appalachia, to which I have often returned in novels and plays. My father died in 1943.

My mother and I moved to Washington, D.C. where I went to high school, then to Oberlin College in 1949, where I acted in all the University Drama productions, as well as stock in the summers, determined to be an actor. I went to Yale Drama School in 1953, spent two years in the Army at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, and came to New York from Yale in 1958.

I worked as a stage manager at the Actors Studio, and in a sea change, took Hiram Haydn's famous fiction workshop at the New School. At Atheneum, he published my first novel, and I was an actor no longer. My first play was successfully produced at the Mark Taper Forum in 1967. I've also taught at many universities over the years, including the Universities of North Carolina and Pennsylvania, and Columbia. I teach playwriting now at The Actors Studio Drama School, New School University, at Julliard and in the summer, at the Sewanee Writers Conference.

I have two daughters, actress Laura Linney and children's book editor Susan Linney. I am married to Laura Callanan, who is Associate Director of Investments at the Rockefeller Foundation. We live in Greenwich Village and Germantown, N. Y.  
Romulus Linney on his life

*I am not worthy, Holy Lord,  
That Thou shouldst come to me;  
Speak but the word that's Yours alone  
To set all sinners free.*

*Oh, come! in this sweet morning hour  
Feed me with food divine;  
And fill with all Thy love and power  
This worthless heart of mine.*

Words: Henry Williams Baker, 1875  
Music: St. David

*Through A Glass, Darkly*  
by Stanley Richards

Cast  
in order of appearance

Aaron..... John Townsend  
Clara..... Patsy Caron  
Mr. Lawson..... Stuart Alger  
Rosalie..... Julie Sedlak  
Sandy..... Sam Ahern  
Phil Mandelbaum..... Michael Lilya  
Carol..... Kara Greshwalk

Location: New York

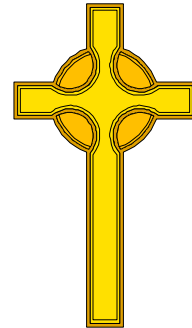
Time: 1947

Michelle Richardson and Craig Rosen, Directors



*“Look, Sandy, a nice,  
crisp chalah I baked for  
you special”  
- Clara*

Stanley Richards was born in 1918. He was the author of many books on Broadway and American drama. He died in 1980.



The most challenging part about directing this piece was to bring out the hidden qualities of each character. Sometimes what we are able to see on the surface clouds the darker instincts within. On a separate note, I believe that we can all identify with Aaron's struggle. Even though he is a bit extreme, can anyone say that they have never been treated differently because of how they look or what they believe?

Michelle Richardson

*Soul Gone Home*  
by Langston Hughes

Cast  
in order of appearance

Mother..... Lori M. Neal

Ronnie.....Frankie Carlson

Location: A city

Time: in the past

Craig Rosen, Director

“Sure, I could of let you die,  
but I didn’t”  
- Mother



Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes is particularly known for his insightful, colorful portrayals of black life in America from the twenties through the sixties. He wrote novels, short stories and plays, as well as poetry, and is also known for his engagement with the world of jazz and the influence it had on his writing, as in "Montage of a Dream Deferred." His life and work were enormously important in shaping the artistic contributions of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. Unlike other notable black poets of the period--Claude McKay, Jean Toomer, and Countee Cullen --Hughes refused to differentiate between his personal experience and the common experience of black America. He wanted to tell the stories of his people without personalizing them, so the reader could step in and draw his own conclusions.

poets.org

“The conception of *Soul Gone Home* is that of fantasy, and it contains some ironically comic moments, but its impulse is far removed from comedy. In a vignette-like episode, Hughes creates with great economy the kind of pay Zola called for in his preface to *Thérèse Raquin*. Although a fantasy in concept and structure, its atmosphere and effects are those of naturalism. Like one of Hughes’ poems, *Soul Gone Home* bristles with implications and reverberates with connotations. That which is unsaid becomes almost more important than what is put into the dialogue. The repressive dominance of the white culture is suggested only by the arrival of ambulance attendants, who are white as the mother knew they would be. The tragedy is that of a people so repressed that they can no longer love, and the ironic implications build to a shocking climax. Its impact is stark and uncomplicated, and it is a difficult play to forget.”

Webster Smalley—Five Plays by Langston Hughes

Produced by special arrangement with Harold Ober.

*Sonny DeRee's Life Flashes Before His Eyes*  
by Bill Bozzone

Cast  
in order of appearance

Sonny DeRee ..... John Townsend  
Mick ..... Jonathan Lubke  
Emma DeRee ..... Pam Scott

Location: Motel room  
Time: Present  
Michelle Richardson, Director

While not a part of my original concept, through directing this play I discovered that everyone wants someone to love them unconditionally. Thanks to Dad for the use of his chainsaw, and to Tony trusting me with his Metallica CDs.

Michelle Richardson

*"I am here to do a mother's  
duty to her only child"*

- Emma

Bill Bozzone talks about his play -

The inspiration for the play came from looking at children's art work. I noticed how kids, even in inner-city schools, tended to paint idealized lives. I also noticed that the subject matter was suggested by their teachers. It made me think about how we want our kids to be happy, despite the truth of their situations.

I'm not really much like Sonny, although I have had a tendency to chase irrational dreams. I see Sonny, at least in the beginning, as unsettled and searching. He has little solace in his life. I'm married, a father, and happy, so I thank goodness for imagination.

Wildwood was my family's vacation spot. I remember it being magical, always sunny. Before I wrote the play, I went back and saw the place from adult eyes. It was a tourist trap. I thought the image fit well -- a place remembered (at least by me) as being ideal. In reality, the place was far from that.

My mother insisted I take banjo lessons when I was young. She said she had never seen an unhappy banjo player. The song was not used in the original production -- we used an old song titled "Coney Island Baby." When the play was published, we couldn't get the rights to the song, so I wrote the one now in the text.

Bill Bozzone with the Lex-Ham Community Theater, February 2002

Produced by special arrangement with Bill Bozzone.

**Sam Ahern** (*Through A Glass, Darkly*) This is Sam's second show, and first with Lex-Ham, since graduating from Carleton in 1999 with a degree in Russian. Some of his favorite previous roles include Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods*, Louie in *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, and Jimmy Porter in *Look Back in Anger*. He loves watching the Twins, playing piano, and talking about movies or anything Russian.

**Stuart Alger** (*A Woman Without A Name, Through A Glass, Darkly*) This is Stuart's second show with the Lex-Ham Community Theater. He played Fast Eddie Van Dyke in the 2000-2001 production of *Bullets and Beauties*. He resides in the Lex-Ham neighborhood with his wife, Patricia, and son, Jack.

**Laura Barrington Bradford** (*A Woman Without A Name*) Laura is thrilled to return to the theater. Her performance as Fanny Knapp will be her first under the masterful direction of Craig Rosen, Ph.D. She thinks that *A Woman Without A Name* is exceptionally written, the entire cast and crew are just wonderful, and do an excellent job bringing the play to the audience. Laura is also a member of the John Robert Powers Academy.

**Patsy Caron** (*Through A Glass, Darkly*) Patsy is making her first appearance with Lex-Ham. She is really a "mother of eight". After being a theater major, Patsy appeared in summer stock, the Peninsula Players in Door County, Wisconsin and lots of community theater. Since all of her friends went south for the winter, she decided to have fun in St. Paul.

**Frankie Carlson** (*Soul Gone Home*) is a student at Higher Ground Academy and is appearing in his first show with Lex-Ham. Frankie sings with the U of MN's Gospel Choir.

**Joachim Courtright** (*A Woman Without A Name*) is a long-time theater lover, but first time theater actor. He is currently attending John Robert Powers School of Acting and Modeling and plans on being in many more plays in the future.

**Kara Greshwalk** (*A Woman Without A Name, Through A Glass, Darkly*) Kara is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota's Theater Department where she appeared in *The Dybbuk*, *All in the Timing*, and *The Lesson*. She has also appeared in the Minnesota Fringe Festival. Kara enjoys Italian food, red wine, and long walks.

**David Heffernan** (*A Woman Without A Name*) Dave is happy to be performing with Lex-Ham a second time. Dave is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell where he earned a B.A. in Art. Dave annually runs the Twin Cities and Grandma's Marathons.

**Daniel Hennessy** (*A Woman Without A Name*) All day long, Daniel travels the entire globe rescuing gerbils, kittens, hamsters, parakeets and other small household pets from burning buildings.

**Michael Lilya** (*A Woman Without A Name, Through A Glass, Darkly*) Michael is making his acting debut as Charlie. He is very excited to be a part of this Lex-Ham production. Michael has been a part of the Minneapolis arts scene as an accordionist with the Ethnic Dance Theatre for eight seasons and was a part of Margolis Brown's Vidpires! He would like to thank the entire

cast and crew for an outstanding creative experience and his beautiful wife Stacy for all of her support.

**Holly Lindsay** (*A Woman Without A Name*) This is Holly Lindsay's fourth production with Lex-Ham Community Theater, having played Melissa Gardner in *Love Letters*, Charlotte Frost in *The Vegetable*, and Louise Miller in *Bullets and Beauties*. Holly is known as "Mrs. Lindsay" in her Kindergarten class at Jean Lyle Children's Center and thinks her real name may be, "Halealohahau'olileilani," but she is honored to be playing *A Woman Without a Name*. For Michael and Nathan.

**Jonathan Lubke** (*Sonny DeRee's Life Flashes Before His Eyes*) is a student at Hamline University and is appearing in his first Lex-Ham show.

**Lori M. Neal** (*Soul Gone Home*) Lori has been acting in the Twin Cities for nine years having graced the stages of Penumbra, Park Square and the Guthrie to name a few. She looks forward to practicing her craft here at Lex-Ham.

**Heather Neilsen** (*Waterbabies*) swims onto the stage in her first Lex-Ham show after appearing as the storyteller in the Youth Performance Company's *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. When not on stage, Heather tromps through the woods leading small bands of youths learning about the wilderness.

**Anne Petersen** (*A Woman Without A Name*) Anne is appearing in her first Lex-Ham show, her first community theatre production, and her first venture out of high school theatre. Next year, she plans to study theatre or biology at a to-be-determined college out east. She hopes to become an on-camera actress or a genetic therapist. To Craig and her cast mates: Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this great show!

**Michelle Richardson** (Director: *Waterbabies, Sonny DeRee's Life Flashes Before His Eyes, Through A Glass, Darkly*) Michelle holds a BFA in theatre from Stephens College in Columbia, MO. Her career highlights include playing Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream* and directing *The Extravagant Vagabond* for the 2000 MN Fringe Festival. In her spare time (?) Michelle designs websites and practices figure skating.

**Craig Rosen** (Director: *A Woman Without A Name, Soul Gone Home, Through A Glass, Darkly*) Craig Rosen, Ph.D. holds a doctorate from the University of Colorado, Master of Arts from Emerson College in Boston, and a Bachelor of Arts from Temple University in his native Philadelphia. Craig has served as Producing Artistic Director of the Theatre Caravan of Colorado and taught at various colleges and universities including University of Colorado, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and, most recently, at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN. Favorite past productions include: *Hamletmachine* (Muller), *Betrayer* (Pinter), and *Keely and Du* (Martin); He has also directed and adapted plays by Brecht. Craig is currently theatre critic for "City Nights" magazine. This is his first production since moving to the Twin Cities and is excited to contribute to the local theatre scene.

**Pam Scott** (*Sonny DeRee's Life Flashes Before His Eyes*) is making her third appearance with Lex-Ham having appeared before in *Fielder's Choice* and *George Washington Slept Here*.

**Julie Sedlak** (*Through A Glass, Darkly*) Julie has been seen on many Twin Cities stages including Chimera Theater, Theater in the Round, and the University of Minnesota, where she earned her MFA in acting. She has been an improv comic and appeared in *The Hostage*, *Our Town*, *Loose Ends*, and many other plays. Her favorite productions to date are her children, Brenda and Abigail. Julie is please to be making her debut with the Lex-Ham Community Theater.

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Thanks to all the supporters of the Lex-Ham Community Theater. These include the following contributors to the 2002 fund drive:

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Dr. Francis and Louise Mayer  
Nancy Recibe  
Jennifer Schultz  
Julie Schwietz  
Jon Skaalen  
Peggy Stojevich  
Jane Zilch  
Treadle Yarn Goods

**John Townsend** (*Through A Glass, Darkly; Sonny DeRee's Life Flashes Before His Eyes*) John has acted on numerous stages in the Twin Cities over the years. His favorite roles include Ian in *Blasted* at the original Loring Playhouse, Andy in *The First Noble Truth* with Ebullient Theater, and Charles in *The Shawl* at Citystock. His most recent roles have been Claudius in *Hamlet* with Theater of Happiness, Lex Luther in *Will the Real Superman Please Stand Up* with Next Horizons at the MN Fringe Fest, and Dr. Asher in *The Crowded Bed* with the Blair Comedy Project

**Lynne C. Vannelli** (*Waterbabies*) Lynne, an adventurous gal is making her debut in the Lex-Ham festival. She thanks her family and friends for reading the script with her over and over and over and over. She's having a great time.

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**Special thanks go to**

Higher Ground Academy

for rehearsal space and considerate staff support

Macalester-Plymouth United Church  
for their gracious and generous hospitality

DeMars Design for newspaper typesetting

All the dealers at the  
Mall of St. Paul  
Fine Antiques and Collectibles  
at the corner of Selby & Fairview  
for many of the props

Grandma's Attic  
267 W 7th Street  
for use of a library table

Abbott Paint for paint

Normandale Community College for costumes

**Oh My! Productions offers a special**

**Benefit Performance of**

**Same Time, Next Year**

**by Bernard Slade**

**Starring**

**Michael Breeden (Snooks in *The Vegetable* and #2 in *Cabin Fever* in 2001)**

**and Stephanie Schodde**

**7:30 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2002**

**Central City Theatre, 610 W 28th Street, Minneapolis**

**Enjoy this story of two friends who meet once a year over 24 years.**

**All proceeds from this performance go to help the Lex-Ham Community Theater**

# Lex-Ham Community Theater

The Lex-Ham Community Theater is a program of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council (LHCC). Throughout its history, the LHCC has provided the neighborhood with programs that help to maintain good housing, a healthy environment, facilities for recreation and strategies for protection from crime. The original fundamental purposes of the LHCC remain the same: to improve the quality of life in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood and to bring about long-term, sustainable community change for the neighborhood, by the neighborhood.

For several years, the LHCC has used the Arts as one of its tools to assist in building a sense of community among Lex-Ham residents. Some of the LHCC's arts projects include a neighborhood quilt with squares created by residents and the Lex-Ham Community Band.

Since its start in 1995, the Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul. The company has enhanced the local theatrical scene by selecting lesser-known works by noted playwrights and giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors. All of its shows have provided people with little previous experience an opportunity to be on-stage or work off-stage side by side with those who have more experience.

Finally, the company strives to help build community by involving people across generations and walks of life with each of its productions.

Call (651) 645-3207 to get involved.

Check out the Lex-Ham Community Theater's web site at:  
[www.LexHamArts.org/theater](http://www.LexHamArts.org/theater)

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## Shakespeare Reading Series

Join neighbors and friends for an informal reading of *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*  
at 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 12, 2002, 1184 Portland Avenue

6:30 p.m. – potluck supper

7:00 p.m. – sit down and read the play

Parts are reassigned at the start of each scene, so everyone gets lots of opportunities to read.  
Please bring your own copy of the play

## Lex-Ham Community Theater

2002 Season

March: Short Play Festival - Five Short Plays all with the theme of Mother

July 5-13: Philip Barry's *The Philadelphia Story*  
Auditions will be in May, 2002

Fall: Full-length Drama/Suspense