

In the Green Room for *The Birthday Party*

MEET THE CAST

Brad Herman (Petey)

Tell us about yourself. I'm from Centennial Colorado, though I have lived in different areas of the state throughout my life. This is the first major production at CSU that I will have been in, though I have done some technical work. I am currently a Junior and a Political Science major, minoring in theater.

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I find Harold Pinter to be an enigmatic writer and have always enjoyed reading his plays. It was a great honor to be asked to perform in one of his works.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Birthday Party*? The dynamics between characters and the relationships they develop on stage. Each actor brings a unique style and outlook and seeing this come together on stage is quite a spectacle.



Niccole Carner (Meg)



Tell us about yourself. I have been deeply involved in theatre for much of my life and love every aspect of it. Most recently, I appeared in the world premiere of Walt Jones's 1940's *Radio Christmas Carol* portraying Judy Davenport. Last year, I portrayed Queen Gertrude in CSU's production of *Hamlet* and Madge in the Open Stage Theatre and Company production of William Inge's *Picnic*.

Some of my favorite roles over the years include Katisha in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, the Teacher in Tom Stoppard's *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor* and Woman One in Samuel Beckett's *Play*. I am currently a senior, and after graduating this spring, will seek my Ph.D. in English Literature and to become a literature professor of Shakespeare and dramatic studies.

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I love absurdist theatre and I am so excited to be finally working with an absurdist script, especially Pinter.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Birthday Party*? This show is comedy of menace. It is funny and menacing all at the same time; The audience will not know what to think and a confused audience is often a captivated audience.



student news and profiles

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

SPRING 2008

Daniel Minzer (Stanley)

Tell us about yourself. I was taught to love and trained to play the piano at an early age by my father. However, at the end of high school my dreams of being a concert pianist crumbled, and I came to CSU to pursue my other great love, acting. Currently a sophomore theatre major, my first main stage role was in the 2007 summer production, *Scapin*. *The Birthday Party* is my second main stage appearance.

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? This show gives me the opportunity to play a complex character, and I enjoy the challenge. Not often is a role found that lets me explore my own self by means of a character. Stanley does this for me.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Birthday Party*? Pinter's message will touch the audience and make them examine the meaning of their own humanity.



Joanna Sintek (Lulu)



Tell us about yourself. I'm a Sophomore wildlife biology major from Denver, and I've been doing theater periodically since middle school. This is my second CSU production following a part in *Hamlet* last year.

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I have to deal with entirely too much science as a biology major and being involved in theater is what keeps me balanced!

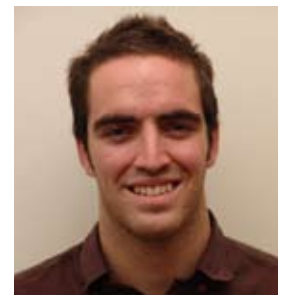
What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Birthday Party*? This is a great show - it's funny and British and different from anything I've been a part of before.

Mike Largent (Goldberg)

Tell us about yourself. I'm from a tiny little mountain town called Bayfield. I played Karl from *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*, I had several small roles in last semester's *33 Swoons*, and a bunch of high school musicals, one acts, and melodramas.

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I'm excited about this role because of the challenge it presents. Goldberg goes on at length about various things, has a lower class British accent, and has a lot of short, rapid fire, nonsensical lines with McCann, his cohort, who speaks with an Irish accent. It'll be difficult to keep the accents separate, memorize the nonsense, and keep a straight face throughout. So, I'm excited to try. Not to mention it's the tits playing a villain.

What do you think the audience will most enjoy about *The Birthday Party*? This play is full of authentic British humor. I say authentic because not only was the playwright British but so is our director. It's my opinion that if an audience can't enjoy some lighthearted British humor they can bloody bugger off.



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SPRING 2008

Dan Tschirhart (McCann)

Tell us about yourself. I'm from Fort Collins where I've lived most of my life. Previous roles include Buzz Crenshaw in 1940's *Radio Christmas Carol*, Geoffrey in *The Lion in Winter* (both at Bas Bleu), Geronte in *Scapin*, Horatio in *Hamlet*, various roles in *The Laramie Project* and De Guiche in *Cyrano De Bergerac* (all at CSU).

Why are you looking forward to being in this play? I'm excited to play McCann, because he's a new challenge. He's not the nicest of men, and he's not too bright either, but he's very conniving when he needs to be. On top of all that he's Irish too, so the accent will be another aspect of the character development.



MEET THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Eric Prince

Dr. Eric Prince has an international record as a Samuel Beckett scholar and practitioner with many published essays and interviews on Beckett in performance, and, as a director, the staging of many Beckett plays including: *Waiting For Godot*, *Footfalls*, *Embers*, *Play*, and *Come And Go*. He has recently established a Center for Studies in Beckett and Contemporary Theatre Practice which serves to promote a wide range of innovative theatre events and visits from internationally renowned guest artists and academics.

Eric has directed more than seventy productions in venues as diverse as London, Edinburgh, Scarborough, Plymouth, Augsburg, Utrecht, Amsterdam, Berlin and San Diego as well as children's theatre on the sandy beaches of Yorkshire and multi-cultural theatre on the streets of Leeds. Five of his own plays were selected for the British National Student Drama Festival, two of them *Kafka's Last Request* and *Wildsea Wildsea*, receiving the prestigious London Sunday Times Playwriting Award and Best Production Awards. From 1981 to 1999 he worked in close association with Sir Alan Ayckbourn. Two plays, *Love Is In The Air* and *Red Roses* were professionally produced by Ayckbourn's acclaimed company, The Stephen Joseph Theatre, North Yorkshire.

Since relocation from the UK to Fort Collins in 1999, Eric has directed many CSU productions including: *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor*, *Waiting For Godot*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Private Lives* and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

In addition to teaching Acting, Directing, Playwriting, Theatre History and Performing Shakespeare, he currently serves as Chair of Playwriting for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival - Region II. Region II includes Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

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