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The Sixth Hour: The Deathdream of a Saint
(1980)

Spring 4-27-1980

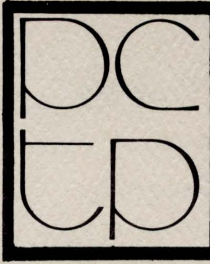
The Sixth Hour: The Deathdream of a Saint

Providence College

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*Providence College
Theatre Program*

THE SIXTH HOUR
THE DEATHDREAM
OF A SAINT



April 27-28, 1980

The Providence College Theatre Program
in conjunction with
The Providence College Music Program
presents

THE SIXTH HOUR
THE DEATHDREAM
OF A SAINT

by **MARY GAIL KOISCH**



Directed by
JOHN GARRITY

Musical Direction by
R. B. HALLER, O.P.

Scenery and Lighting Coordinated by
CARL F. GUDENIUS

Costumes Coordinated by
MARY G. FARRELL

C A S T

(In order of their appearance)

THE DYING CATHERINE **Mary Ellen Baxter**
THE DREAM CATHERINE **Wilma Mondi**
MONA LAPA BENINCASA **Kate Farrell**
GIACOMO BENINCASA **Wally Dunn**
STEPHANO BENINCASA **Danny Otero**
FATHER DELLA FONTE **Joseph Menino**
SISTER ALESSA SARACINI **Carol Smith**
SISTER ANDREA **Jane Dillon**
MASTER JOHN TANTUCCI **Peter Thomson**
MASTER GABRIEL DE VOLTERRA **Dan Foster**
CARDINAL DE MONTALAIS **Peter J. Cameron**
POPE GREGORY XI **Danny Otero**
LOUIS, DUKE OF ANJOU **Joe Gianni**
PETER DE BEAUFORT **Wally Dunn**

C H O R U S

Cathy Bennett	R. B. Haller, O.P.
Peter Cameron	Sr. Gail Himrod, O.P.
John Cox	Michael Lescault
Jane Dillon	Alex Naglowsky
Martina Flynn	Elizabeth Sweet

Chimes played by Vera Cardi

PROGRAM NOTE

THE SIXTH HOUR is a biographical dramatization written to honor the six hundredth anniversary of Saint Catherine of Siena's death. The title refers specifically to the hour of noon, the time of day set aside for the fourth of seven canonical hours of prayer; it is also the last hour of Catherine of Siena's life.

THE SIXTH HOUR is a memory play conceived as a simultaneous interplay of conscious reflection, sub-conscious memory, and devotional prayers set to music; therefore, historic fact and conventional expectations with regard to plot and characters have been underplayed and in some cases disregarded in preference to creating a more lyrical and surreal dramatization.

Catherine Benincasa lived from 1347 to 1380, a time when the plague ravaged Italy, resulting in a slow but perceptible transition: the death of the feudal system and the birth of vernacular languages. The Renaissance began to stir, doubt began to disturb the serenity of the faithful, and the Church began to lose prestige.

The Papacy resided in Avignon, it had become an established fact since 1305 when Phillip IV managed to have a friend of his, Bertrand de Got, crowned under the name of Clement V. During the black death, religious communities had to make up their losses by hastily recruiting new members, many of whom were lacking in the morality and discipline expected of clergy. Priestly prestige was lowered as traditional standards were abandoned; the Holy See's prestige was lowered by its weakening independence. Such was the state of ecclesiastical affairs which provoked Catherine Benincasa's attempts to restore to the Church the vitality, nobility and repute it had lost.

Catherine's world was a great confusion of voices; cruel and petty power struggles, greed, ignorance and sickness. Her only weapons were her courage, audacity and her tireless faith. Her life was as astonishing as it was glorious. She has been celebrated as the Seraphic Bride of Christ, healer of the sick, friend of the poor, Ambassadors of Gregory, Counsellor of Urban, and martyr for the unity of the Holy See. In her own time, Catherine's efforts were considered overwhelming failures and disappointments; subsequent history has reversed this verdict and vindicated her actions.

St. Catherine was canonized by Pius II in 1461, declared a patron saint of Italy by Pius XII in 1939, and Doctor of the Church by Paul VI on October 4, 1970. Her body lies in a sarcophagus in the Dominican church of the Minerva in Rome, and her head in a reliquary in the Church of Saint Dominic in Siena.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	R. Scott Yuille
Stage Manager	Katie Sabo
Costume Assistants	Meghan Lynch Mary Ellen Glennon Pat Landry
Electrician	Gary Burt
Stagecraft	Theatre 104

SPECIAL THANKS

Student Board of Governors
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Providence College Office of Public Information
Pastoral Council



This celebration honoring St. Catherine of Siena is being sponsored by the WOMEN'S LIAISON COMMITTEE in conjunction with:

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Here's what the critics have said . . .



“sparkling”

“lavish”

“intense”

“bright”

“clever”

“spirited”

“imaginative”

“strong”

“professional”

“enchanted”

“colorful”

“flawless”

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