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Talk Radio (2010)

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Talk Radio Playbill

Providence College

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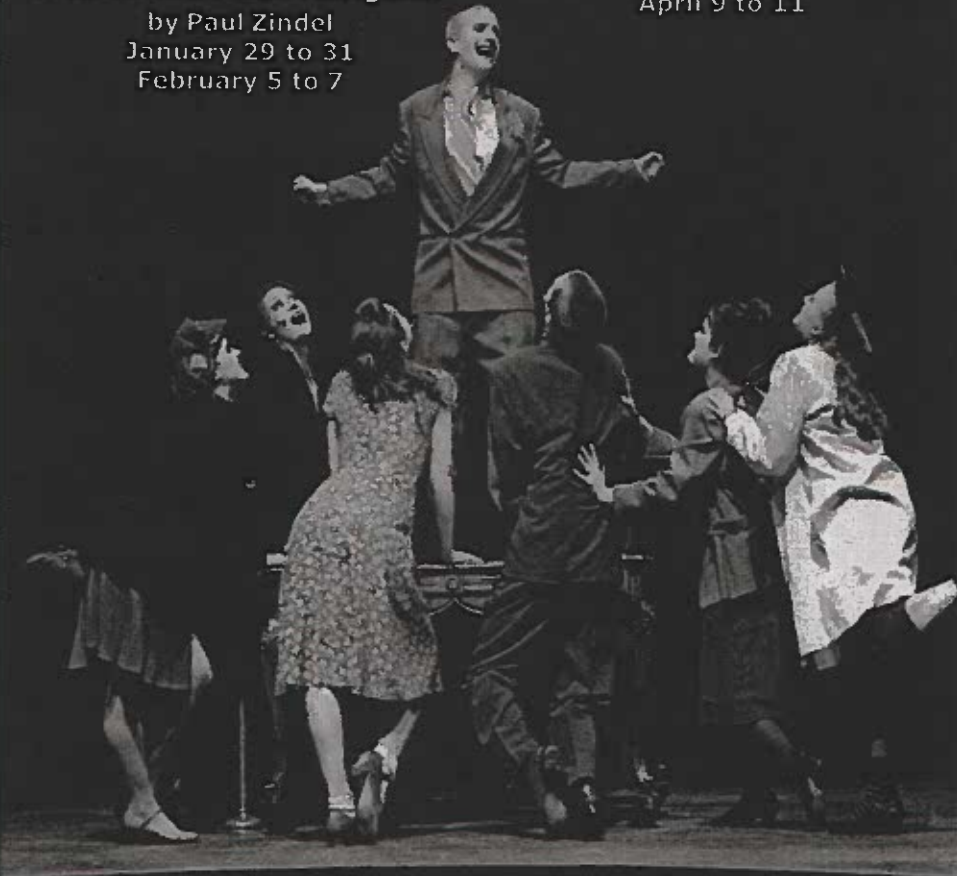
MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

Romeo & Juliet
by William Shakespeare
October 30 to November 1
November 6 to 8

Blackfriars Dance Concert
December 4 and 5

**The Effect of Gamma Rays on
Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds**
by Paul Zindel
January 29 to 31
February 5 to 7

Little Women
adapted from Louisa Mae Alcott
by Mary G. Farrell & Caolan Madden
with traditional American
and folk music
March 26 to 28
April 9 to 11



STUDENT PRODUCTIONS

Talk Radio
by Eric Bogosian
February 12 to 14

Spring Dance Concert
April 23 to 25

Film Festival
April 27

Providence College
Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film presents

ERIC BOGOSIAN

TALK RADIO

An Independent Student Production

Directed by
PETER CUNIS

Sound Design
PAUL PERRY

Lighting Design
PETER HURVITZ

Scenic Design
KENNY CARBERRY

Costume Design
KAITLYN MACDONOUGH

Sound Design
**TED BOYCE-SMITH &
ALEX MACINTYRE**



Bowab Studio Theatre
February 12-14
2010

On-Air with Eric Bogosian

"The world intrudes in my brain daily. Since my brain is dripping with all kinds of stuff...it has to end up being in my work as well."—Eric Bogosian

Talk Radio exemplifies playwright Eric Bogosian's inclination to infuse his writing with references to real-world events and issues. His 1987 *Talk Radio* refers specifically to some of the most controversial and influential topics of the decade, including the North-American Man-Boy Love Association, nuclear power, and Live Aid, a multi-venue, satellite-linked concert fundraiser for humanitarian aid in Ethiopia.

In *Talk Radio*, Bogosian reminds us of the controversies surrounding the AIDS, which was first recognized by the CDC in 1981. At the top of the play, shock-jock Barry Champlain learns about a "new report on AIDS." Rather than using this as fodder for his program, Champlain dismisses the information instantly, saying, "Forget AIDS. I don't want to talk about AIDS." The fact that Barry, a radio personality akin to Howard Stern and Don Imus, is uncomfortable discussing the AIDS outbreak on live radio suggests to audiences just how controversial this subject was at the time. The outbreak of AIDS brought mass panic and the public was confused about how to deal with this deadly new threat to their health. The medical community experienced difficulty responding to the epidemic due not only to a lack of understanding of the disease itself, but also to the stigma that American society immediately attached to the disease, with some even referring to it as "the gay plague."

Even with such dark and controversial themes to address, Bogosian characteristically employs humor to engage his audiences. He notes that comedy can "tie the audience together with me in the moment that we're in. So, I can be talking about anything. I can be talking about racism [or] concentration camps. The humor has to bring us back to where we really are and get it into perspective."

With this sense of dark humor in mind, Bogosian originally created the abrasive Champlain for a small production of *Talk Radio* in Portland, Oregon. The episodic structure of the debut performance included no onstage characters other than Champlain, portrayed by Bogosian himself. When the Public Theater later invited Bogosian to create a play in New York, he used the opportunity to further develop Champlain, writing him as a tortured soul trapped in an artistic obsession. As Bogosian refined the Champlain, the character's personality began to resemble the playwright's.

For Bogosian, Champlain typified the self-destructive artist/celebrity, recalling his fascination with "the lives of self-destructive performers like Lenny Bruce and John Belushi." He noted: "I was particularly touched by Belushi. [W]hen he died, it gave me pause to think of the incredibly strong forces in performers' lives that drive them to be self-destructive."

Inspired by controversial issues in the world surrounding him, Bogosian confronts the difficulties they present with a balanced sense of humor and pathos.

by Peter Cunis, Marc Francis, and Paul Perry

CAST

BARRY CHAMPLAIN Justin Pimentel
LINDA MACARTHUR Christine Cestaro
DAN WOODRUFF Patrick Saunders
STU NOONAN Kevin Lynch
KENT Ted Boyce-Smith
ANNOUNCER Jeff DeSisto
CALLERS Alexander MacIntyre
Kaitlin Fitzsimons
Kelly Smith
Patrick Saunders
Ted Boyce-Smith
RECORDED VOICES
John Smith
Sean Carney
Joe Mort
Teddy Kalin
Catherine McDonnell
Danielle Demisay
Matt Hassan

1987
The Broadcast Studios of WTLK Cleveland

There will be no intermission.

Cigarette smoking will take place
throughout this production.

PRODUCTION CREW

STAGE MANAGER
Conor Leary
**ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGER**
Samantha Brillhante
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR
Jayo Miko Macasaquit
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR
Brendan Hickey
LIGHT & SOUND ASSISTANT
Brendan Hickey
RUNNING CREW
Matt Hassan
Teddy Kalin
COSTUME CREW
Arielle Reindeau
Rachel Ball
PROP MASTER
Catherine McDonnell
DRAMATURGES
Peter Cunis
Marc Francis
Paul Perry
Matt Omasta
FRONT OF HOUSE ASSISTANT
Stephen Orlando
Mary Kate Kelly
BOX OFFICE MANAGER
Cassandra Perl
HOUSE MANAGER
Stephanie Kanniard
BOX OFFICE AND PUBLICITY
Alex Fiedler
Katie Guzik
Kelly Hoarty
Stephanie Kanniard
Amy McCormack
Cassandra Perl
DEPARTMENT WEBSITE
Alex Fiedler
POSTER
Jayo Miko Macasaquit
FACULTY ADVISOR
Mary Farrell
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Claudia Traub
TECHNICAL ADVISOR
Spencer Crockett
COSTUME SHOP SUPERVISOR
Maxine Wheelock
PUBLICITY COORDINATOR
Susan Werner

Special Thanks

Mary Farrell
Paul Perry

John Garrity
Claudia Traub