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Playbill and Promotion

A Stocking Full of Christmas Stories (2000)

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Fall 12-8-2000

## **A Stocking Full of Christmas Stories Playbill**

Providence College

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# *A Stocking Full of Christmas Stories*

*(A Christmas Readers' Theatre)*



Blackfriars Theatre December 8-10, 2000





Providence College Theatre Department

Presents

*A Stocking  
Full  
of  
Christmas Stories*

compiled and directed by  
Father Matthew Powell, O.P.

Scenic & Costume Design  
David Costa-Cabral

Lighting Design  
Paul LaRochelle

Blackfriars Theatre  
December 8-10



# *The Acting Company*

**Peter Brodbeck**

a junior theatre major from Stamford, CT

**Courtney Cullinan** a junior from

Waterbury, CT, majoring in theatre and psychology

**Patrick Degnan**

a senior biology major from Hamden, CT

**Matthew Duchnowski**

a senior mathematics major from S. Brunswick, NJ

**Patricia Hughes**

a senior theatre major from Westford, MA

**James Kalagher**

a senior theatre major from Manhasset, NY

**Elizabeth Primiano**

a senior marketing major from Cumberland, RI

**Michael Propster**

a sophomore theatre major from Granville, OH

## Part I

- In Praise of Christmas  
*an eighteenth century English ballad*  
Editha's Christmas Burglar *by Robert Benchley*  
Reginald's Christmas Revels  
*by Saki (H.H. Munro)*  
The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus  
*by Ogden Nash*  
Hoodoo McFiggin's Christmas  
*by Stephen Leacock*  
Box Savers *by Erma Bombeck*  
Merry Christmas, You-All or Who Forgot  
Savannah? *By Ogden Nash*  
Christmas Every Day *by William Dean Howells*

## Intermission

## Part II

- The Errors of Santa Claus *by Stephen Leacock*  
Home for the Holidays *by Robert Benchley*  
A Christmas Ghost *by Stephen Leacock*  
A Visit from Saint Nicholas  
*by Clement C. Moore*  
The Twelve Thank-You Notes of Christmas  
*anonymous*  
Two Christmas Dogs:  
    Gift With the Wrappings Off  
        *by Mary Elizabeth Counselman &*  
        Christmas Watch Dog *by Shel Silverstein*  
Two Christmas Gentlemen *by O. Henry*



## *Acknowledgments*

*Box Savers*, copyright 1984 by William Bombeck for the  
Estate of Erma Bombeck (1927 - 1996)

*Gift With the Wrappings Off*

Copyright by Mary Elizabeth Counselman

*The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus &*

*Merry Christmas, You-All*, copyright by Linell Nash  
Smith & Isabel Nash Eberstadt for the Estate of  
Frederic Ogden Nash (1902 - 1971)

*Christmas Watch Dog*, copyright 1996 by the Estate of  
Shel Silverstein (1936 - 1999)



## *Patron Information*

Refreshments will be sold before the performance and at intermission. Proceeds support the Friar's Cell, Providence College's student-run theatre group.

In order to avoid disrupting the performance, patrons who leave the theatre after the show has begun will be asked to view the remainder of the act from the side balcony.

The taking of photographs during the performance is strictly prohibited.

Please mute all wireless communication devices or leave them with the House Manager.

For your convenience, the River Avenue gate will be open before and immediately after each performance.

## *Crew*

Stage Managers.....Sarah Orr, Drew Royals  
Light Board Operator.....Stephen Pollak  
Scene Shop Crew....Nicholas Bellino, Nicole Bisanti  
Spencer Crockett, Patrick Degnan, Cristin Keegan,  
Paul Laroche, Leanne Martin, Crystal Paul,  
Ashleigh Sanborn, Pamela Sewll, Rebecca Shaw,  
Jess Tabak, Colleen Thorp, Adam Ziemba  
Costume Crew.....Jane Lewis,  
Jessica Pagano-Therrian, Stephanie Power,  
Stephanie Wodowski  
Box Office Manager.....Elizabeth Delmage  
Box Office & Publicity Assistants.....  
Shannon Gadoury, Brendan Lefebvre,  
Kevin McHugh, Elizabeth Mocko, JohnNeubauer  
House Manager.....Jacqueline Oswald  
Ushers.....Providence College Friars Club  
Concessions.....Friar's Cell



## *Special Thanks*

**Publications Center**, Providence College  
**Peter M. Garofalo**, Providence College Security

## *Friar's Cell Board*

President: Jessica Tabak '01  
Vice President: Michael Propster '03  
Secretary: Patrick Cohen '01  
Treasurer: Christina Furtado '01



## *What is Readers' Theatre?*

*A Stocking Full of Christmas Stories* is a readers' theatre production. Readers' theatre is a hybrid art form that may be as old as Hrosvitha of Gandersheim, the first woman playwright and a tenth century Benedictine nun who wrote plays to be done as staged readings by the sisters in her abbey. It is a cross between storytelling and a full theatrical production. For the actor it means *suggesting* a character rather than *becoming* it. It allows him or her to portray a much older person, a dog or the North Wind without the benefit of a costume. For the audience member it means using the imagination to a greater degree than in a traditional play or movie. One of the great advantages of readers' theatre is that it allows us to perform pieces of literature that, unlike plays, were not written to be performed. The selections that we will perform in *A Stocking Full of Christmas Stories* are short stories, essays and poems that we have adapted for the stage. The authors intended for them to be read, but we hope that they will also succeed as performance pieces.

You will notice the presence of books in the actors' hands. This is not because we have actors who are too lazy to memorize lines. Since readers' theatre makes use of a great deal of narration and direct address to the audience, the script serves as a reminder of the storytelling aspect of the art form. It emphasizes that the actors, as a group rather than an individual, are reading a story to you and only suggesting the action. We allow your imagination to do the rest. The book also serves as a symbol of the author, whose presence we do not forget in readers' theatre.

You might compare readers' theatre to being in the studio audience in the golden age of radio drama and comedy. Or you might think of readers' theatre as a story hour for adults.

*Father Matthew Powell, O.P.*

## *Biographies*

**Paul LaRochelle** (Lighting Design) is a sophomore biology major at Providence College. He has designed lighting for several productions for high school, college, and community theater, including *Annie*, *Genesis*, *Nunsense*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Noises Off*, *Ten Little Indians*, *Mame*, *Friar's Cell* and BOPs *GI Jive* and *Mr. Providence*. Aside from being a lighting designer, Paul is the drummer for on campus alternative rock band *Dollar 95*, as well as a DJ and board member for 91.3 WDOM FM. He resides in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

**Father Matthew Powell, O.P.** (compiler & director) is an associate professor of theatre arts and former chairman of the theatre department. He holds an M.A. in speech and theatre from Miami University (Ohio), an M.A. in theology from Aquinas Institute (Iowa) and a Ph.D. in theatre history & dramatic literature from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He formerly taught at Urbana University (Ohio) and Edgewood College (Wisconsin) and served as assistant Catholic chaplain at Tulane University (Louisiana). He has been at Providence College since 1983.

Father Powell is the author of three books: *The Christmas Creche: Treasure of Faith, Art & Theatre*



(Pauline Books & Media), *God Off-Broadway: The Blackfriars Theatre of New York* (Scarecrow Press), and *Performing Parables: Religious Folk Tales, Legends & Fables for Readers Theatre* (Resource Publications). His one-act dramatization of *The Canterville Ghost* was published in the U.S. by Meriwether Publishing and in Britain by Hanbury Plays. *The Christmas Creche* won an award from the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. & Canada and *God Off-Broadway* was nominated for the George Freedly Memorial Award, presented by the Theatre Library Association.

*A Stocking Full of Christmas Stories* is Father Powell's twelfth directing project at PC. He has previously directed works by George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, Thornton Wilder and Tennessee Williams.

## *Theatre Dept. Faculty & Staff*

David Costa-Cabral.....	Associate Professor / Theatre Dept. Chair
John Garrity.....	Associate Professor / Managing Director, Blackfriars Theatre
Mary G. Farrell.....	Associate Professor
Fr. Matthew Powell, O.P.....	Associate Professor
Fr. Kenneth Gumbert, O.P.....	Associate Professor
Kate Ambrosini.....	Special Lecturer
Tom Dooley.....	Adjunct Professor
David Sullivan.....	Special Lecturer
George Marks.....	Technical Director
Sue Spencer.....	Costume Shop Supervisor
Cheryl Barry.....	Theatre Department Secretary
Susan Werner.....	Blackfriars Theatre Secretary

## *Upcoming Events*

### THEATRE DEPARTMENT

#### *A Man For All Seasons*

By Robert Bolt

February 22-25

#### *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

By Steve Martin

April 5-8

#### *Spring Dance Concert*

April 21-22

#### *Friar's Cell One Act Plays*

April 27 - 29



*MERRY CHRISTMAS !*

*from the Students  
Faculty and Staff  
of the Blackfriars*





