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INNOVAtheatre

presents...



March 8th-17th, 2019
The Baum Opera House
Miamisburg, Ohio

Opening Night: March 8th, 2019

Prelude to a Kiss

By **Craig Lucas**

Starring

Jeff Weinkam Rachel A. Smith Don Campbell John Lawson
Faith Whitt T. J. Montgomery Olivia Ekler
Franco Villongco Janet Wasson
Steve Voris Bobby Gray Joyce Barnes Shana Fishbein
Mendu Khanyile Kyle Mercuri

Directed by

Michael J. Schumacher

Producer

Jacqlyn Schott

Production Stage Manager

Jamison Meyer

Assistant Stage Manager/Props

Jamie Pavlofsky

Lighting/Sound Designer

Richard Lee Waldeck

Set Design

Chris (Red) Newman

Costumer

Kyle Mercuri

Originally produced at South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa, California in
January 1988

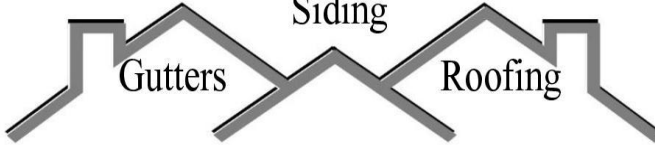
“Prelude to a Kiss is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services, Inc., New York”

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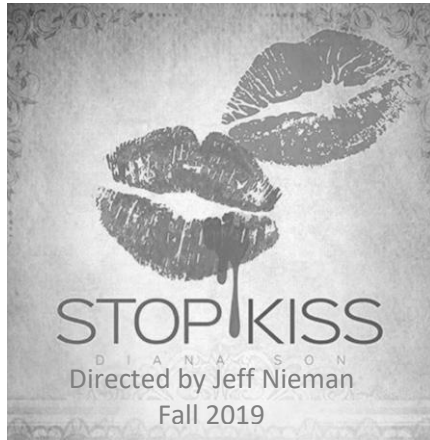
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Announcing our 2019/2020 Season



A note from the Director...



"Oh how my love song gently cries.
For the tenderness within your eyes.
My love is a prelude that never dies.
A prelude to a kiss."

The lyrics of the Duke Ellington song that opens and closes the show perfectly express the longing we all feel when we "fall in love." What this play celebrates—and it's as rare as the talent heard in Ellington's music—is the power of unselfish love that never dies, of true love that survives transient flesh.

Prelude to a Kiss is a romantic comedy that explores classic fairytale themes. Most notably, the main characters must overcome terrible obstacles to seal their union and live happily ever after with their true love. It's beautifully written and also explores how well we really know the ones we love and what we can accept about them as life goes on. Early productions were seen to be a response to the ravages of AIDS; but now, the script is a haunting commentary on love and commitment. *Prelude* is a moving example of true love, honest personal connection, and acceptance in our current age of Tinder dates and Facebook "friends".

This has been an amazing experience with some of the most talented people I have ever met. They have made my directorial debut an absolute pleasure. To quote the old man, "How precious the time is...How little we realize 'til it's almost gone."

Please enjoy our *Prelude to a Kiss*,

Michael J. Schumacher

Cast

Peter.....Jeff Weinkam
Rita.....Rachel A. Smith
Old Man.....Don Campbell
Dr. Boyle.....John Lawson
Mrs. Boyle.....Faith Whitt
Taylor.....T.J. Montgomery
Aunt Dorothy.....Olivia Ekler
Uncle Fred.....Franco Villongco
Leah.....Janet Wasson
Tom.....Steve Voris
Minister.....Bobby Gray
Jamaican Server.....Joyce Barnes
Ensemble.....Shana Fishbein, Mendu Khanyile, Kyle Mercuri

Act one

Summer/Fall 1990
New York/New Jersey/Jamaica

Act two

Fall 1990
New Jersey/New York

“Prelude to a Kiss” will be performed with one 15-minute intermission



The use of any recording device including cell phones, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.



Special Thanks

Don Weaver
Shakespeare in South Park
Jessie Faye
N. Lynn Brown
Dayton Playhouse
Chris Red Newman
Miamisburg Library
Miami Township Library
Kettering Moraine Library
Belmont Library

Staff

Director..... Michael J. Schumacher
Producer..... Jacqlyn Schott
Production Stage Manager.....Jamison Meyer
Assistant Stage Manager..... Jamie Pavlofsky
Costumer.....Kyle Mercuri
Set Design..... Chris “Red” Newman
Lighting Design.....Richard Lee Waldeck
Sound Design.....Richard Lee Waldeck
Props Mistress.....Jamie Pavlofsky
Lobby Display.....Chris “Red” Newman & Michael Schumacher
Headshots.....Don Weaver
Program.....Richard Lee Waldeck

INNOVatheatre
is proud to
be a member of...



WHO'S WHO ON STAFF



Jamison Meyer (Production Stage Manager)

Jamison is very pleased to be working with INNOVAtheatre for the first time. He has been involved in local theatre productions of *Young Frankenstein*, *Dreamgirls*, *And Then There Were None*, as well as FutureFest. He has a degree in Theatre from High Point University.

Jamie Pavlofsky (Asst. Stage Mgr./Props)

Jamie is thrilled to return to INNOVA and work with the cast of *Prelude to a Kiss*. Jamie proudly serves on the INNOVA board of directors. She has spent the past two seasons on staff for the DJCC Children's Theatre and was a 2018 Youth Instructor for Brighter Connections Theatre, a summer program for children on the autism spectrum. Also, an accomplished actress, Jamie has been seen on the stages of Dayton Playhouse, Harmony Creek, and Playhouse South. Favorite stage credits include *Ragtime*, *The Laramie Project*, and *My Fair Lady*. Thank you to Michael and Jamison for this opportunity. Enjoy the show!



Chris "Red" Newman (Set Designer)

"Red" has been designing area theater sets for the past nine years. He has been with The Dayton Playhouse for six seasons. Some of his favorite credits include *The Fantasticks*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, and *Xanadu*. Red's company, Cheeky Monkey, has been doing murals, interior design, and faux finishes for 22 years. Bringing smiles to clients daily!

Richard Lee Waldeck (Lighting/Sound Designer)

Richard has done lighting design for over 20 years and is currently designing all 5 shows for this 2019/20 season at Dayton Playhouse. He has been a freelance Director and Technical Director for theatre companies throughout the Tri-State. He is currently the Children's Theatre Director for the Jewish Federation of Dayton which recently produced *The Addams Family*. He directed *Steel Magnolias* last spring and is Founder and President of INNOVAtheatre. Past credits include; *Next to Normal*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Wedding Singer*, *A Few Good Men*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Tick, Tick... Boom*, and *The Who's Tommy* to name a few.



Jacqlyn Schott (Producer)

After having her directorial debut with INNOVAtheatre's *Ordinary Days*, Jacqlyn's happy to be back on a production team for this wonderful show! Some favorite past performance credits include Yonah (*Children of Eden*), Spider (*James and the Giant Peach*), the Wardrobe (*Beauty and the Beast*), Lady Caroline Bramble (*Enchanted April*), a Red Rat girl (*Jekyll & Hyde*), and part of the nun ensemble (*Sister Act*). In May, she'll be in CMT's *Hunchback* as Florika. When not at a theatre or school (she's getting a master's degree in Student Affairs), Jacqlyn can be found getting her nerd on playing Dungeons & Dragons.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Jeff Weinkam (Peter)

Jeff makes his first return to INNOVAtheatre since playing Tick in 2017's *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*. Favorite past roles include Adam/Noah (*Children of Eden*), Judas (*Godspell*), The Cat in the Hat (*Seussical*), Jeff Barry (*Leader of the Pack*), and Richie Walters (*A Chorus Line*). Jeff recently appeared in the IFC Film *Donnybrooke* and is a writer and performer for the video sketch group *The Exception*. Jeff is a producer and graphic designer and works for Major League Baseball. He lives in Cincinnati with his wife and two daughters, all of whom are also heavily involved in performing.

Rachel A. Smith (Rita)

Rachel was last seen with INNOVA as Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. Some other credits include: *Proof* (Catherine), *Things My Mother Taught Me* (Olivia), *Beauty and the Beast*, *Arsenic and old Lace* (Elaine Harper), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Soul Girl), *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax), *Stepping Out* (Sylvia), *Scrooge!* (Ghost of Christmas Present), *Almost, Maine* (Waitress/Hope). She has received recognition including an Orchid Award for Shelia in *The Boys Next Door* and Daytony's for her roles in *Making God Laugh* (Maddie) and *Play on!* (Polly Benish). She would like to thank everyone for their hard work!



Don Campbell (Old Man)

Although Don has 50 years of theatre experience, this is his first show for INNOVA. He is happy to be working with this talented cast and crew. Don enjoys the challenge of various roles-and this one is no exception. Thanks to Michael for this opportunity. He sends love to his biggest fan—wife Kathy—for her love and support.

John Lawson (Dr. Marshall Boyd)

John Lawson is very excited for the opportunity to play the role of Dr. Marshall Boyle with INNOVAtheatre. John most recently played the roles of Barry Klemper in *The Boys Next Door* at Fairfield Footlighters, George Wilson in *The Great Gatsby* at X*ACT, Dickon in *The Secret Garden* at Playhouse South, and Joe Pitt in *Angels in America* at Clark State. John currently resides in Dayton and graduated from Wilmington College where he majored in Social Work. John would like to thank his family, his dearest Alic Wessendorf, as well as his friends for continuous love, support, and guidance.



Faith Whitt (Mrs. Boyle)

Faith is excited to be a part of this humorous, sweet, and sentimental production. She was last seen on stage with INNOVAtheatre performing in *Steel Magnolias*, which was excerpted at AACT Southwest Regionals. Prior performances include *84*, *Charing Cross Road* at the Brookville Community Theatre, *The Addams Family* at BCT in Beavercreek and *Jekyll & Hyde* at LSC in Loveland. She would like to thank Michael for this opportunity and her family and friends for always supporting her.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



TJ Montgomery (Taylor)

TJ is very excited to be playing Taylor in his first INNOVA show! Some of his favorite roles have been Anatoly in *Chess*, Henry in *Next to Normal*, Clyde in *Bonnie and Clyde* and JD in *Heathers*. TJ would like to thank Michael and the rest of the production team for this opportunity as well as the cast for welcoming him with open arms. He'd also like to thank friends and family for their constant support as well as Mike Embree for giving him his first role and igniting his passions.

Olivia Ekler (Aunt Dorothy)

"This is Olivia's first production with INNOVatheatre- you may have seen her previously on the stage in Xenia. Recent shows include *Frankenstein*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The Hound of Baskervilles*, *The Odd Couple* (female version), and *The Great Gatsby* [XACT]. Outside of theater, Olivia is an insurance agent in Vandalia, a fur mom, and a Miami University Grad. Enjoy the show! "



Franco Villongco (Uncle Fred)

This is Franco's debut into theatre, and he is very grateful for the opportunity to work with such an excellent and talented ensemble. He is trained in im **Franco Villongco (Uncle Fred)**

This is Franco's debut into theatre, and he is very grateful for the opportunity to work with such an excellent and talented ensemble. He is trained in improv comedy at the Black Box theater where he currently performs weekly.

Janet Wasson (Leah)

This is Janet's first performance with INNOVA. After spending many years out of Ohio, Janet returned to both the state and the theater. She's previously been seen as Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with *Bespoke Theatre*, Miss Stephanie in Harper Lee's classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* with *XACT*, and as Miss Ffoliet Ffoulkes in *Murder on the Nile* at Dayton Playhouse.



Steve Voris (Tom)

This is Steve's first show with INNOVatheatre. Steve would like to thank the cast of the show for the opportunity to fill in for the role of Tom. Steve's been seen in performances at Playhouse South, Dayton Playhouse, and Harmony Creek Theatre with future projects in a little improv group called Life Unscripted Improv. Steve would like to thank Charlie Canine, Rey Feline and Miss Annette for all their support. Performing is a love, a dream and a wonderful way to meet new, exciting people with the same desire. Thank you. And hopefully we'll see you at the theatre.



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Bob Gray (Minister)

Bob's pleased to be on the stage again in this wonderful show. Bob being no stranger to the stage has been doing Community theater since 2006. Some of them are: *South Pacific*, *Legally Blonde*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Peter), and *Back to the 80's*. He thanks his wife and family for allowing him to spend time on the stage. (Technically, they request I do this to get a break from me!) Bob is a salesman for Porta Kleen and enjoys singing in the praise band at Church.



Joyce Barnes (Jamaican Server)

is a playwright, director, educator, wife and Mom—again—to two beautiful pre-teens. She has written and directed several plays with her Dayton-based theater company, Youth & Community Theater, and has appeared onstage in *Last Night in Harlem*, *First Do No Harm*, *Last Rites*, and *Unfinished*, a devised play performed with guest artist Steve Connell at the University of Dayton. She is grateful for this opportunity to work with this cast of talented, dedicated performers and crew in INNOVatheatre's production of *Prelude to a Kiss*.



Shana Fishbein (Ensemble)

Shana's favorite past roles include Queen of Hearts, *Boutique Fantasque* (Pontecorvo Ballet Studios, 2006), Announcer, *Just Another High School Play* (Smith Middle School, 2008), and Imelda Marcos Impersonator, *Wedding Singer* (Butler High School, 2011). After a sabbatical from theatre to earn her degree in Computer Science and Engineering and two Music Minors at The Ohio State University, she rejoined the stage as a maid/ensemble in *My Fair Lady* (Dayton Playhouse, 2018) and a beadseller in *Murder on the Nile* (Dayton Playhouse, 2018). She is thrilled to be joining INNOVA in this production of *Prelude to a Kiss*!



Mendu Khanyile (Ensemble)

Debuting her career as an actress in the ensemble of *Dreamgirls* (2018), Mendu Khanyile is so happy to be in the ensemble of *Prelude to a Kiss*. Mendu is proud of the talent and work ethic of her fellow Daytonian artists. "It's absolutely inspiring working with yet another talented, dedicated and fun cast, and production team!" Mendu gives a great thanks to her family for their support; and acting coach Christine Brunner & her family who continue to motivate her to greater heights in her career. "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting!"



Kyle Mercuri (Costumer / Ensemble)

This is Kyle's first show with INNOVA. Kyle was last seen in *Frankenstein*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *You Can't Take it With You*, and *Wait Until Dark*. Outside of the theatre world, he can be found practicing his French or reading about astrology. He hopes you all enjoy this amazing piece of theatre! Enjoy the show!

