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The Season Ticket, March 2003

Columbia College Chicago

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Season Ticket

March 20, 2003

Spring 2003

Golem Fact or Fiction?

By definition Golem is an artificial human being of Hebrew folklore endowed with life. Fact, Tom Mula's version of *Golem* has been called "truly spellbinding." (*Sun-Times*) Fact, this winner of Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award for New Work, will be presented at the Columbia College Getz Theater March 2003. There is a story that in order to save a community in Prague, a Rabbi creates a mystical, larger-than-life creature from the earth at his feet, Fiction? This is a dramatization of the legend of a factual rabbi known as Judah Loewe, of Prague and his creation (Golem). This Frankenstein-like creature becomes an unimaginable weapon of destruction.

When Tom Mula, writer and director, wrote *Golem* in 1990 the story of "hope and defense against oppression" (Tom Mula) was particularly relevant. Years later it seems as though the words "weapons of mass destruction" will forever linger in our world.

"The first story of the Golem was believed to have been told in the middle ages." (Mula) Today we are still searching for something to save us, like this "Golem." Will we ever find something

to protect us from those who are unlike ourselves, people who, for instance, say a different prayer than we do? Perhaps if the fear of the unknown is removed by opening the mind to different beliefs, and lifestyles, we would not have to use airplanes, bombs, or mystical creatures to save us.

What can be learned from an old legend that seems so far fetched? Is this "Golem" so outlandish and fictional? We have created weapons that invoke immeasurable power over our enemies. Did Rabbi Loewe actually conjure up this creature? It is your choice to believe the reality of this story. Today's weapons, fact. Yesterday's Golem, fact or fiction? You be the judge.

Golem is directed by Tom Mula. Set design by Katrina Rawls and Julie Lutgen, lighting design, Jacob Snodgrass, music by Larry Schanker, and costumes by Joyce Greening.

Performance schedule:
 Thursday, Mar 20, 4:00pm
 Friday, Mar 21, 7:30pm
 (10:00am student matinee)
 Saturday, Mar 22, 7:00pm
 (opens)
 Sunday, Mar 23, 3:00pm
 Wednesday, Mar 26, 6:30pm
 (10:00am Student matinee)
 Thursday, Mar 27, (10:00 student matinee)
 Friday, Mar 28, 7:30pm



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Sundown Names and Night-Gone Things

The 17th anniversary of The Theodore Ward African-American Playwright contest presents this year's winner, Leslie Lee. Lee's depiction of the early life of Richard Wright, in *Sundown Names and Night-Gone Things*, has earned him the right to showcase his literary work at Columbia College.

This story, based on Richard Wright's life during the late 1930's, relays a message of a struggle for pride and integrity. Despite the harshness of the Depression, blacks herded into the ghettos were still fighting against ignorance. These disenfranchised people wanted the last days of their lives to end with dignity. For many, paying for burial insurance premiums seemed next to impossible. Times being what they were, burial agents came up with ways for their female patrons to pay for premiums. These arrangements, despite an accepted morality, creates true feelings of love are cheated. Along with love can come jealousy, which is what starts this story in motion. The characters go through many struggles, but perhaps the biggest struggle of them all is just surviving as African-Americans in the 1930's.

Leslie Lee is the author of numerous plays that have been produced regionally and in New York City. Some of his plays include *Elgy To A Down Queen*, *Cops and Robbers*, *Between Now and Then*, *The Rabbit's Foot*, *Spirit North*, *Legends*, *Sugar Hill*, and *Mister*.

For television, Mr. Lee has co-authored *The Vernon Johns Story*, featuring James Earl Jones and Mary Alice, for the Tribune Corporation.

February 26– March 9, 2003 in the New Studio Theater *Sundown Names and Night-Gone Things* will be performed.

Schedule:

Wednesday, Feb 26, 6:30pm
 Thursday, Feb 27, 4:00pm
 Friday, Feb 28, 7:30pm
 Saturday, Mar 1, 7:30pm
 Sunday, Mar 2, 7:00pm
 (opens)
 Tuesday, Mar 4, 11:00am
 Wednesday, Mar 5, 2:00pm
 Thursday, Mar 6, 7:30pm
 Friday, Mar 7, 7:30pm
 Saturday, Mar 8, 7:30pm
 Sunday, Mar 9, 3:30pm

Hay Fever is Contagious

April 23-May 4, 2003 in the New Studio Theater, Hay Fever takes over. It's Noel Coward at his wittiest and wickedest. The unconventional Bliss family, London's favorite celebrities, have escaped to their country house for a restful and relaxing weekend. Unbeknownst to the others, each of them has invited a guest. As they arrive, manners and morals quickly disappear and partners change. Crazy party games, melodramatic scenes and high camp load this weekend in the country with hilarity.

Escape to a world where people have so much money the only thing on their minds is pleasure. This is exactly where, as directors Pauline Brailsford and Caroline Dodge Latta described him, "The Master" Noel Coward takes his audience. These artistic,

well to do, free spirits are sure to make the laughing bug spread like the plague.

Pauline Brailsford and Caroline Dodge Latta are ecstatic about working with the students of Columbia on such a refreshing story. "Pauline and I were so impressed with the preparedness of the auditioning students. They were so professional." (Dodge Latta) When interviewing Brailsford and Dodge Latta, the two were more than happy to spread their knowledge about this fabulous playwright. Learning about this fascinating man whose life experiences are as intricately woven as a Persian rug could make one feel a little inferior. On the other hand, the entertainment world would have suffered a great loss without Coward's gifts.

Experience some of Noel Coward's greatest work for yourself. With direction by Pauline Brailsford and Caroline Dodge Latta, Lights, Jennifer Larkin, sets, Jason Epperson, Costumes, Kristine Roof and Jason Epperson. This show is sure to be a must see.

Performance Schedule:

Wednesday, April 23, 6:30pm
Thursday, April 24, 4:00pm
Friday, April 25, 7:30pm
Saturday, April 26, 7:30pm
Sunday, April 27, 7:00pm
Tues, April 29, 11:00pm
Wednesday, April 30, 2pm
Thursday, May 1, 7:30pm
Friday, May 2, 7:30pm
Saturday, May 3, 7:30pm
Sunday, May 4, 3:00pm



Sure to make the laughing bug spread like the plague.

Honey, Sing Me A Love Song... at our ten year reunion.

Think about your ten year high school reunion. What is the one song that takes you back in time. You remember, the love song you would play over and over again because it reminded you of that one special person. Music, like time travel, can transport thoughts into reality in the mind.

Go ahead, revisit your past! The music department presents an evening of love songs through the ages, from classic to contemporary. This trip will take you

from one high school reunion to another. The graduating classes of 1955, 1975, and 2005. No matter when you graduated or will be graduating, this night filled with music is sure to give you "those feelings" all over again.

Director Susan Padveen shares what a task it has been to choose the music for this show. "It has been such a challenge selecting the music. There are so many good songs. It was hard to decide." (Padveen)

Devised by Phillip Seward and Susan Padveen, directed by Susan Padveen, choreography by Wilfredo Rivera, musical direction by Doug Lofstrom and vocal direction by and Bobbi Wilsyn. This show will be in the Getz Theater may 13-18, 2003

Performance schedule is:

Tuesday, May 13, 11:00am
Wednesday, May 14, 11:00am
Thursday, May 15, (opens) 7:30pm
Friday, May 16, 7:30pm
Saturday, May 17, 7:30pm
Sunday, May 18, 3:00pm

This night filled with music is sure to give you "those feelings" all over again.



What's up with the faculty?

Will Casey

is currently playing 6 roles in the Jeff-recommended, critically-acclaimed production of *The Cider House Rules*, produced by Famous Door Theatre. Have you seen it yet? You should! This show features Columbia College faculty, alumni, current students, and is directed by faculty member David Cromer.

Susan Philpot

was the dialect coach for *The Mousetrap*, produced by Brian Posen, Broutil & Frothingham, directed by Susan Padveen. She also coached a production at Richard's High School in Oak Lawn. The play is a one act by Eve Ensler called *Bosnia Necessary Targets*. The production will be part of a Chicago area high school play contest. Susan recently led a workshop for the Palatine school district which demonstrated to teachers the teaching techniques of accents and dialects.

Clare Nolan

over break, the Sweat Girls, with whom Clare

writes and performs, brought their latest work to performance. *Cirque du Sweat* was viewed in a weekend of workshop performances at the Belle Plaine Studios. The Sweat Girls look forward to doing this piece in a fuller production later in the year. Anyone interested in producing please contact Clare Nolan at Columbia College.

Dale Calandra

Dale is now Creative Director of Planet III based in Chicago. He will be directing his first feature film in the fall of 2003, *The Dogs Are Dead*.

Paul Amandes

Paul has spent a great deal of his time recording and directing. A CD of a new musical comedy he's written, *Two Fool's Gold*, was unveiled at a CD release party February 1. In April, *Two Fools Gold* will receive a production at Columbia College in the Classic Theater. Paul directed *Glengarry Glen Ross* for the Open Door Repertory Theater in February. In May, Paul will direct the Midwest premier of *Holes* for Oak Park-River Forest High School.

Cecilie O'Reilly

Cecilie is the Irish Accent Coach for the upcoming production of *The Lonesome West* by Martin McDonagh at Milwaukee Rep. Theatre. She recently sang with her family in a concert of Christmas music at the Raue Center for the Performing Arts in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

Nana Shineflug

In October, Nana's company, the Chicago Moving Company (CMC) produced an alternative modern dance festival in Hamlin Park, called *The Other Dance Festival*. Seventeen of Chicago's hippest and most exciting companies and individuals performed in the Festival. In December, CMC produced a company works concert called *Hanging On The Edge*. The second weekend in February they sponsored a workshop in Gurdjieff Movements taught by internationally known teacher James Tomorelli. This spring CMC will be performing their home season at Harold Washington Library on April 4th and 5th. Nana will be performing in the Estrogen Fest on April 17, 18, 19 and 24, 25, 26th at the Gallery 37 Theater as well as in

the Asian Dance Festival May 9, 10, 11 at Links Hall. In the Spring she will be curating and producing *Glass Layers*, May 2, 3, 4. The artists in this festival are all graduates of the Interdisciplinary Arts Graduate Program at Columbia. She will be participating in the multidisciplinary festival Fieldtrips, which is produced by The Field Chicago on May 16, 17, 18 at Links Hall; and in the Three City Exchange on June 13, 14, 15 also produced by The Field Chicago and this year involving artists from New York City and Seattle. And Nana will be helping with the Dance festival that occurs at the Summer Solstice celebration at the MCA.

Brian Posen

Brian produced *Tour De Farce* at the Theater Building. *Tour De Farce* is directed by faculty member Terry McCabe. He also produced *Everyone Loves Ramen*, Broutil and Frothingham, both at the Theater Building. These shows started mid semester and will run through March. *It's Not the Heat It's The Cupidity* opens February 26th and runs through the end of March. This show is for all his musical sketch comedy troupe Cupid Players, which he directed. Cupid Players, which Brian Performs and produces for, performed at the Seattle Sketchfest, Miami Improv Fest, and has shows coming up in

NYC, LA, Porland, Iowa, San Francisco, and the Chicago Improv Fest. This group is also in discussion with HBO for possibly being on sketchpad.

David Woolley

David has been busy staging *Fights for Vikings: A Musical In Two Axe*, (Noble Fool Theater), *Music of the Spheres*, (Goodman Theater), *Golden Boy* (Raven Theater), and *Golem* (Columbia College). David has more to come in April.

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Ticket Prices

Full price tickets

New Studio mainstage \$5

Getz main stage \$10-14

Director's projects, faculty workshops, staged readings **free**

Reduced tickets for students and senior citizens

Free Shows

Season Ticket written by **Mitchaleen Lowe**

Other contributors
Tom Mula
Pauline Brailsford
Caroline Dodge
Latta
Kathleen Perkins
Susan Padveen
Chuck Smith
Paul Amandes
Will Casey
Susan Philpot
Dale Calandra
Clare Nolan
Brian Posen
David Woolley
Nana Shineflug

The Columbia College Theater Center has so much to offer our audience members. Our main stage productions are just some of the entertainment available. We offer free directing projects and faculty workshops. This semesters line up:

Dianeira

February 23-27 Directed by Kathleen Perkins *Dianeira* was written by Timberlake Wertenbaker as a radio drama, originally broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in 1999. It continues Wertenbaker's practice of updating classical Greek tales and was inspired by the Trachinae of Sophocles. In contemporary northern Greece, while the fighting across the border in the various splinters of Yugoslavia has barely been contained, the playwright and some friends seek out a storyteller who unravels, for them and us, an ancient tale of anger fueled by an unending cycle of atrocity and reprisal.

Lower Depths

March 23-27 in the New Studio Theater written by Tunde Ikoli and directed by Phillip VanLear. Explore the lower depths of society with a group of people search-

ing for an escape away from the pain and disappointment that their lives have become. Each of these characters in their pursuit of happiness or power copes with the hand that life has dealt them in vastly different ways. Some of these characters go to extreme measures to get what they want and some are just victims of circumstance.

The Shape of Things

April 15-17 in the Classic Theater written by Neil Labute and directed by Susan Padveen. This a story of a young student involved in a transforming relationship, and exposing truths and lies about love and manipulation. By the author of Your Friends Your Neighbors, In The Company of Men, and Nurse Betty.

Two Fools Gold

April 8-12 directed and written by Paul Amandes in the Classic Studio Theater. The Time of the play takes place in the 1880s From October through June of the following year. PLACE: The tiny railroad (and former mining) town of Corazon Springs, Colorado and the nearby foothills of the Rocky

Mountains. After various bouts of unrequited love, grizzled Mack (never had a woman) & gnarly Andy (never able to keep one) meet up with the young cowboys Perry (never without one) & Idaho (never noticed by one). The cowboys are being chased by the depraved bounty-hunter Calliope Catesby who was tipped-off by Perry's paramour. So the four take an oath to chuck romance, then head to the foothills to live as prospectors for the rest of their days. After a snowed-in winter in a one-room cabin with only their books, their diminishing comradery, and their increasingly well-spiced imaginations - they strike gold. The snow thaws & they head into town to cash in. Widow Helen, mayor & barkeep, wants to head east as soon as her sister Willella is smart enough to take over. (Could be a while.) Marianna has come out west looking for adventure- a schoolmarm's version of it.