

student news and profiles

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

FALL 2007

MEET THE CAST AND CREW OF *BENT* BY MARTIN SHERMAN

Martin Sherman's powerful and emotional play Bent is about the lives of two gay men during the Holocaust. Dustin Demonja directs this production for his senior capstone thesis project as a Theatre major.

MICKEY BROOKS (MAX)

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I'm a freshman theatre major, and my previous experience includes many shows with my high school troupe in Sugar Land, Texas, as well as a few performances with the Masquerade Theatre Company in Houston.

Why are you excited to be in Bent? This is my first show at CSU and it definitely won't be my last. This is the first Holocaust play I've ever done, and it will probably be the most challenging role I've ever played. I'm sure I'll come out of it with long-lasting memories.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? I hope there will be a renewed sense of the horrors of the Holocaust, especially for those victims who weren't Jewish, and that it will increase awareness of the homosexual community, then and now.



AUSTIN HALL (UNCLE FREDDIE)

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I'm a senior Theatre and Technical Journalism double major. I've played an ugly woman, a bourgeois man, a soldier and a gravedigger in my shows at CSU (*James and the Giant Peach*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and *Hamlet*, respectively). I've worked on the technical aspects of many productions and I'm currently developing my senior thesis project.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? I believe that the audience will walk away from with an expanded view, and it's something I'm excited to be part of.

ANDREW KATERS (HORST)

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I am a senior in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Theatre, and my previous roles at CSU include 1st lieutenant in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, a player in *Hamlet*, and countless parts in various one act plays and directing scenes.

Why are you excited to be in Bent? I am excited for this role because it will be a challenge, and it is a very powerful piece.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? My character is proud of what he has and who he is, even when it isn't very much, and I hope the audience will take this away with them.



JOSH SAVAGE (RUDY)



Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I'm a Theatre major, and this is my first play at CSU. At Windsor High, I probably had the most fun portraying the mad hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*.

Why are you excited to be in Bent? Because this is a story of homosexuality in one of the most horrific events in modern history, it is something of a challenge.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? Hopefully the audience and I both will walk away with a better understanding, appreciation, and reverence for what happened nearly seventy years ago.



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ERIK WOOD HOLLOWAY (GUARD)

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I'm a double major in Psychology and Theatre. I have assisted in the technical aspects of a number of shows, and was the voice of one of the disembodied men in the student run production of *Low Level Panic*.

Why are you excited to be in Bent? I am excited to be in *Bent* because it is a powerful play that will touch many people.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? I believe that the audience will bring home with them just how powerful affection can be and how it can sustain a person, even during some of the most abhorrent abuse in history.



JOSHUA WELLS (WOLF)



Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I am a freshman majoring in Theatre. I have had roles in many high school and community theater productions including *How to Make an American Teenage Quilt*, *Romeo and Winifred* and *Hair From the Head of a Prince*. My favorite production was *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* in which he played Gideon.

Why are you excited to be in Bent? I'm excited to be in *Bent* because it is my first production at CSU and I know I will learn so much.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? After seeing *Bent*, audiences will walk away with a new sense of what went on during the Holocaust and maybe even tears in their eyes.

DUSTIN DEMONJA, DIRECTOR, SCENIC DESIGNER, SOUND DESIGNER, PHOTOGRAPHER

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I'm a double major in Theatre and Visual Arts Photography, and my theatre experience in Fort Collins goes back to my freshman year. I participated in *James and the Giant Peach*; played several roles in *Cyrano De Bergerac* and *33 Swoons*; was assistant stage manager for *Waiting for Godot*; was stage manager for *The Miracle Worker* and *Low Level Panic*; and served as projections designer for *The Laramie Project*. I also worked with Bas Bleu Theatre Company last winter when I played the lead role of Mickey in *Greetings!*.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? I think *Bent* will leave audience members with a factual sense of what happened in the holocaust and how hate and prejudice can be taken to the extremes.



CHRISTINA FONTANA (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR AND STAGE MANAGER)

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I am in my second year at CSU, studying Theatre and Pre-Dentistry. I was Assistant Stage Manager for rehearsals of *The Miracle Worker*, Assistant Master Electrician for multiple shows, and performed in the 2006 *Production, Too!* one act plays, and *Murder for Words*, a one act musical.

Why are you excited to be part of Bent? I'm thrilled to be part of *Bent* because it is fascinating to watch such an influential script grow into a powerful show.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? I hope that the audience will walk away from the show with a better understanding that victims of concentration camps were truly human and their sufferings should not be forgotten.



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MEGHAN GRAY (LIGHTING DESIGNER)

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I am in third year at CSU, but this is her first as a theatre major. I've worked on every main stage show since my freshman year as well as many of the smaller productions.

Why are you excited to be part of Bent? I'm thrilled for my first design opportunity!

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? I hope the audience will learn as much from this show as I have.

STEPHANIE MCGOWAN (GRAPHIC DESIGNER)

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I am a senior majoring in Graphic Design and minoring in business. This is my first time designing a poster for a production here at CSU, but I hope it won't be my last. I have designed posters for the National High School Rodeo Association, covers for Aurora Public Schools: Program Planning Guide, logos for businesses, and many other projects.

Why are you excited to be part of Bent? I am so honored to be designing posters for such a great piece directed by a very talented friend of mine!

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? I think *Bent* will leave the audience with a factual sense of what happened during the Holocaust, while also touching on hate and prejudice issues that were present then and are still issues now.



JANELLE SUTTON (COSTUME DESIGNER)

Tell us about yourself and your background in theatre. I'm a junior studying Theatre and Apparel & Merchandising. My costume design credits include *Catastrophe* and *33 Swoons* at CSU and *A Year of Frog and Toad* with the Children's Theatre Company of Sioux Falls, SD and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* with Up in Lights Productions in Loveland, CO.

Why are you excited to be part of Bent? Costuming *Bent* is a wonderful experience to expand my knowledge and design skills.

How do you think the audience will be impacted by this play? I hope that the patrons of this production will always remember what happened during the holocaust and strive to prevent history from happening again. History must be lived to be understood.

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