

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**VENUS** by Suzan-Lori Parks  
Directed by Shannon Forney '01

8pm, February 8 & 10; 2pm, February 11, 2001  
Hall Auditorium ~ General Admission Seating

*Please join us for a discussion in the Auditorium immediately following the Saturday evening performance on February 10.*

Set in London in 1810, this is the story of the Venus Hottentot, a young African woman exploited for her physical characteristics, first in a freak show, and later by the doctor who buys her body for science, lusts for her and ultimately destroys her. Using large scale puppetry to highlight the characters, this production allows us to question who is being watched and displayed through the venue of a freak show.

*Venus* is performed in rep with *Equus* during the week of February 7-11 in Hall Auditorium.

**APOLLO'S FIRE** with JOHN GIBBONS, fortepiano  
8pm, Tuesday, February 13  
Finney Chapel ~ Reserved Seating

The finest period-instrument wind players from across North America (including founder Jeannette Sorrell, OC '92, and Michael Lynn, associate professor of recorder and baroque flute) return to Finney Chapel for a celebration of Mozart's music. Sponsored by the Oberlin Conservatory of Music Artist Recital Series and the Friends of the Artist Recital Series.

**CLOSER** by Patrick Marber  
Directed by Patrick Mulryan '01  
8pm, February 15 - 17; 2pm, February 17 & 18  
Little Theater ~ General Admission Seating

A stark and cynical English comedy about a vicious erotic quadrangle and the anger, helplessness, and apologies of love. For mature audiences.

**STEVEN ISSERLIS**, cello, and **IAN BROWN**, piano  
8pm, Saturday, February 17  
Finney Chapel ~ Reserved Seating

Steven Isserlis' (OC 1976-80) artist profile is characterized by a uniquely beautiful sound, a diverse repertoire, a passion for finding neglected works and above all, commitment to the music he plays. Sponsored by the Oberlin Conservatory of Music Artist Recital Series and the Friends of the Artist Recital Series.

**NIGHT FRACTAL**  
Written and directed by Alexis Macnab '01  
8pm & 10pm, February 23 & 24  
Warner Main Space ~ General Admission Seating

*Night Fractal* is a multi-disciplinary performance piece using dance, theater, and puppetry to tell the story of creation. With an original script adapted by Alexis Macnab, '01, and an original score by Corey Dargel, '01, the show explores the connection between patterns in our universe. From a day in the life of a five-year-old to the process of star formation, the play compares the cosmic and the mundane elements of daily life and daily connections.

## CENTRAL TICKET SERVICE

Located in the lobby of Hall Auditorium

12-5 pm, Monday-Friday  
24-hour reservations (440) 775-8169

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And check out [www.oberlin.edu/events](http://www.oberlin.edu/events)

*Oberlin College Theater and Dance Program  
and the Winter Term Committee Present*

# EQUUS

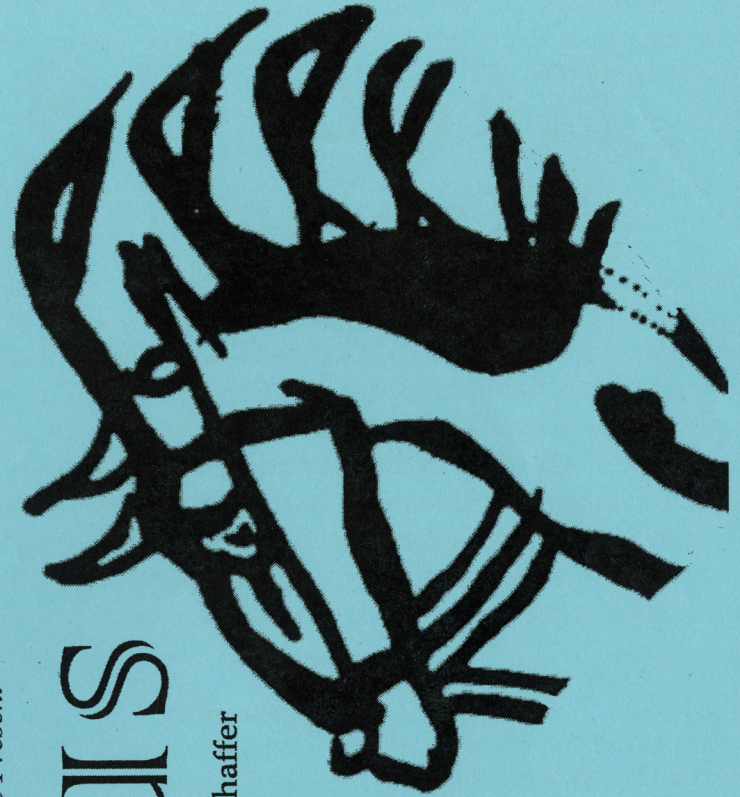
By Peter Shaffer

Directed by Rob Ross

Wednesday and Friday  
February 7 & 9, 2001  
8:00 p.m.

Saturday Matinee  
February 10, 2001  
2:00 p.m.

Hall Auditorium



## WHO'S WHO

**PETER SHAFFER (Playwright)** has written a number of plays for stage and screen, including *The Salt Land*, his first play which was presented on BBC; *Five Finger Exercises* (1958), which won the Evening Standard Drama Award and the Drama Critics Award; *Equus*, which won the 1975 Tony Award for Best Play, as well as the New York Drama Critics Circle Award; and *Amadeus* (1984), which won eight Academy Awards including "Best Picture." Shaffer's cannon includes a unique mix of philosophical dramas and satirical comedies, and continues to expand. His most recent work was the stage play *The Gift of the Gorgon*, which was produced in London in 1992, the same year in which he won the William Inge Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater. Shaffer is from Liverpool, England.

**ROB ROSS (Director)** is a senior English major with a concentration in Theater from Oakland, CA. Oberlin credits include *Life Under Water* (Director). He was the directing intern at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts. Ross is directing *Equus* for his Senior Honors Project.

**SARAH BENDIX (Scene Designer)** is a senior English major with a concentration in theater from Winetka, IL. Oberlin credits include *Lucia Mad* (Set Designer); and *Plath/Mouth* (Puppet Designer/Puppeteer); *Outside Over There* (Ensemble) and *Primitive Streak* (Ensemble/Director).

**DANIEL CARMICHAEL (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a senior math major from Roebling, NJ. Oberlin credits include *HMS Pinafore* (Boatswain/Assistant Director/Lighting Designer); *Very Truly Yours* (cast); *Yeomen of the Guard* (Director); and *Wizard of Oz* (Co-Stage Manager).

**MIRLA CRISTE AGNIR (Choreographer)** '85, is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater and Dance. She was a Theater major and Dance minor at Oberlin College and received her Master of Fine Arts at the University of California, Irvine. She enjoyed a professional stage career for many years after Oberlin and is a member of Actors Equity Association, AFTRA and the Screen Actors Guild.

**CHRIS FLAHARTY (Costume Designer)** is a Resident Designer/Associate Professor of Theater for the Oberlin College Theater and Dance Program and the Opera Theater of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. With professional and educational companies he has designed costumes for original dance and performance pieces, as well as classic and contemporary plays ranging from Shakespeare and Beckett to Moliere and Mamet, with representative works as diverse as *Tartuffe* (for which he was awarded a USITT design citation), *The Gospel at Colonus*, *On the Verge*, *Hamlet* *The Three Sisters*, *Twelfth Night*, *Picnic*, *Zastrozzi*, *Into the Woods*, and *Triumph of Love* the latter two he also directed at Oberlin College. Mr. Flaharty's designs for opera have featured several pieces from the Mozart repertory and a number of

works from the standard canon, as well as twentieth century music theater works.

**JEN GROSETH (Sound Designer)** received her BA in 1991 from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire in Theater Arts-technical emphasis, and her MFAs in Sound in 1994 and in Lighting in 1995 from the University of Illinois. Her professional credits include Ohio Light Opera Company in Wooster, OH; Stage One Children's Theater in Louisville, KY; and the Illinois Repertory Theater, Champaign-Urbana. Ms. Groseth is certified in sound as "Second Engineer" and teaches Lighting Technology, Lighting Design, and Sound Design.

**MICHAEL GRUBE (Managing Director)** is the Managing Director of the Theater and Dance Program as well as the Scene Designer for theater and dance events and the Conservatory of Music's Opera Theater. This is his 20th year with Oberlin College. An MFA graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University, his professional credits include work with The Opera Company of Boston; Music Theatre North; GeVa Theatre; and Stage One in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Grube's summer credits include designs for Music Theatre of Wichita, in Wichita, Kansas; the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, Massachusetts; and the Ohio Light Opera in Wooster, Ohio. He is the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Oberlin.

**RICK MAYFIELD (Technical Director)** received his BS in Theater in 1985 from Northern Michigan University, and in 1996 his MFA in Theater Technology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. His professional credits include work with Piper Productions and Nickelodeon Studios, Orlando, FL; Ohio Light Opera Wooster, OH; Actors Theater of Louisville, KY; and Alabama Shakespeare Company. Mr. Mayfield teaches the Technical Production classes and supervises the Theater-199 run crew requirements.

**MEG MORLEY (Stage Manager)** is a sophomore Theater Production/Design major from Sante Fe, NM. Oberlin credits include *Media Medea* (Stage Manager); *Love's Labour's Lost* (Master Electrician); *House of Yes* (Stage Manager); and *Quills* (Assistant Stage Manager/Props Mistress). She is the Treasurer for the Oberlin Student Theatre Association and a Lighting TA in Hall.

**ASHER RAPKIN (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a first year from New York, NY. Oberlin credits include *Love's Labour's Lost* (King). He is a production coordinator for the Oberlin Student Theater Association.

**CAROLYN WONG (Lighting Designer)** is a senior Mathematics major from San Francisco, CA. Oberlin credits include *Media Medea* (Lighting Designer); *House of Yes* (Lighting Designer); Fall Forward '00 *Outside the Box* (Lighting Designer); and Fall Forward '00 *And What?!?!* (Lighting Designer).

The Oberlin College Theater and Dance Program and the  
Winter Term Committee Present

# EQUUS

by Peter Shaffer

Directed by **Rob Ross**

**Michael Grube**, Managing Director

**Sarah Bendix**, Scene Designer

**Chris Flaharty**, Costume Designer

**Carolyn Wong**, Lighting Designer

**Jen Groseth**, Sound Designer

**Mirla Criste**, Choreographer

**Meg Morley**, Stage Manager

## CAST

(In order of appearance)

Martin Dysart, a *Psychiatrist* . . . . . Thomas Taylor  
Alan Strang . . . . . Daniel Neuman  
*Nurse* . . . . . Mary Ross  
Hesther Salomon . . . . . Laura Shepherd  
Frank Strang, *Alan's Father* . . . . . Peter O'Leary  
Dora Strang, *Alan's Mother* . . . . . Anne Johnson  
Horseman/Nugget . . . . . Bacilio Mendez II  
Harry Dalton, a *Stable Owner* . . . . . Aaron Bonner-Jackson  
Jill Mason . . . . . Hallie Gnatovich  
Trooper . . . . . Channing Joseph  
Spankus . . . . . Richard Braithwaite  
Spunkus . . . . . Taylor Greeson  
Flankus . . . . . Aaron Mucciolo

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## PROGRAM NOTES

In early 1972, Peter Shaffer and a friend were driving through the English countryside. As they passed a horse stable, his friend remembered an unconfirmed story he had heard, not long before, of a crime involving a young man and twenty six horses. Though the story was relayed in casual conversation, it was a tale so graphic, so horrific, yet so terrifyingly compelling, it prompted Peter Shaffer to compose one of the grandest and most theatrically stunning plays ever written.

To offer you too much information about *Equus* would, in my opinion, diminish its impact. After all, beneath its many thought-provoking investigations of individuality, passion, worship, and psychological confounds, *Equus* is, at its core, a spectacular mystery. Within the first few minutes of its opening, the details of Alan Strang's shocking crime are displayed for all to hear. Though the Who, What, Where, and even When of his transgressions are quickly revealed, the pursuit of exactly *Why* Alan Strang did what he did survives the duration of the play. Unfortunately, solving the mystery is a task that propels Martin Dysart to uncover more questions than answers; questions that may endlessly haunt him and you.

—Rob Ross, Director



The time is the present. The main action of the play takes place in Rokeby Psychiatric Hospital in Southern England.

There will be a ten minute intermission.



## Special Thanks

Meghan O'Keefe, Blythe Phillips, Seth Wochensky, Jen Groseth, Zachia Barksdale, William Williams, Merideth Chan, John Olmsted, Paul Moser, Kelly Smith, Patrick Mulryan, Shannon Forney, Stana and Rock Gnatovich, Mike Grube, Primitive Streak, Keith Friedlander, Ariel Emmerson, Charlotte Phillips, Venus, Polly, Arielle, Mom, Dad, Jack, Leslie, Rob, Meg, Sara, and Jess, Abyss House, and 171 E. Lorain St. All Anne's love to the fellas of FLE, 2nd floor Barrows rocks my world and to Zach, the funniest little man I know. Mom, I wouldn't be here without you, I owe you everything.  
The Pony Princess

*No photographic or recording equipment permitted in Hall Auditorium. Thank you.*

## Performers

**AARON BONNER~JACKSON (Harry Dalton)** is a senior Psychology major from Lexington, MA. Oberlin credits include *Lucia Mad* (Samuel Beckett); *True West* (Director); and *Life Under Water* (Hank). He is a member of In A Chord.

**RICHARD BRAITHWAITE (Spankus)** is a sophomore Religion and Philosophy major from Savannah, GA. Oberlin credits include *Buried Child* (Tilden).

**HALLIE GNATOVICH (Jill Mason)** is a freshman from Lexington, MA. She is a member of In A Chord.

**TAYLOR GREESON (Spunkus)** is a sophomore Theater/Studio Art major from Moore, OK. Oberlin credits include *Who Do You Love*; *A Separate Peace*; and *Media Medea*.

**ANNE JOHNSON (Dora Strang)** is a first year Theater major from Madison, WI.

**CHANNING JOSEPH (Trooper)** is a sophomore from Slidell, LA. Oberlin credits include *The African Company Presents Richard III* (James Hewlett); *Buried Child* (Dodge); *Hair* (Cooper); and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander).

**BACILIO MENDEZ II (Horseman/Nugget)** is a first year Dance major from Reading, PA.

**AARON MUCCIOLO (Flankus)** is a junior Theater and Politics major from Katonah, NY. Oberlin credits include *M. Butterfly* (Mark/Sharpless); and *Stop Kiss* (Detective Cole). He is a founding member of Oberlin's sketch comedy group, Piscapo's Arm.

**DANIEL NEUMAN (Alan Strang)** is a sophomore Religion major from St. Louis, MO.

**PETER O'LEARY (Frank Strang)** is a junior Theater major from Radnor, PA. Oberlin credits include *The Lost Colony* (Malcolm); *Quills* (Doctor Royer-Collard); *Travesties* (Henry Carr); and *Three in a Bed* (Andy). He is a member of "Three Man."

**MARY ROSS (Nurse)** is a first year Vocal Performance major from Anchorage, AK.

**LAURA SHEPHERD (Hesther Salomon)** is a fifth year Music Education and Theatre major from Evanston, IL. Oberlin credits include *Peter Pan* (Director); *A Tuna Christmas* (Director); *Greater Tuna* (Director); and *Into the Woods* (Jack's Mother). She has been an Oberlin College Preschool Music Lab Assistant ('98-'00) and an Oberlin Student Theatre Association Co-Chair ('98-'00).

**THOMAS TAYLOR (Martin Dysart)** is a first year Physics major from Washington, DC. Oberlin credits include *Lucia Mad* (MacGreevy/Jung); and *True West* (Lee).

## THEATER AND DANCE PRODUCTION STAFF

**Michael Grube**, Managing Director  
**Chris Flaharty**, Costume Designer  
**Jen Groseth**, Sound Designer  
**Rick Mayfield**, Technical Director  
**JoEllen Cuthbertson**, Costumer  
**Lesley Witt**, Costume Craftsperson  
**J.V. Jones**, Assistant Technical Director  
**Alice Iseminger**, Assistant Managing Director/Publicity Director  
**Barbara Sloane**, Central Ticket Service Manager  
**Deborah Sutorius**, Program Secretary  
**Marjorie Abraham**, Bookkeeper

## EQUUS PRODUCTION STAFF

**Asher Rapkin**, Assistant Stage Manager  
**Daniel Carmichael**, Assistant Stage Manager  
**Marjory Staab+**, Sound Board Operator  
**Purvi P. Patel+**, Light Board Operator

## LIGHTING, SCENERY, and STAGE CREW

*Shop Carpenters* – Megan Forney, Jane Lycan\*,  
Keith Friedlander\*, Alec Longstreth\*  
*Electricians* – Keith Friedlander\*, Meg Morley\*, Aaron Mucciolo\*,  
Charlotte Phillips\*, Seth Wochensky, Carolyn Wong\*  
*Run Crew* – Sheila Donovan+, Dana Hayden+, Catherine Miller\*,  
Matthew Van Winkle+

## COSTUMES\*

Molly Benson, Georgia Hollister Isman, Catherine Liu, Sara Olds  
*Run Crew* – Catherine Liu

## CENTRAL TICKET SERVICE & PUBLICITY\*

Miranda Balkin, Allison Curseen, Michael Dedeo, Kert Heinecke,  
Rachel Jacobs, Lisa Katona, Megan LePere-Schloop, Evan Lovett-Harris,  
Catherine Miller, Jennifer Poore, Jenny Rushlow, Jean Squires,  
Jason Thompkins, Nika Zlataric

\*Student Technical Assistants +199 Students