

American Premiere of
an Unknown Pirandello One Act

Why? (Perchè?)

by

LUIGI PIRANDELLO

renowned playwright and novelist

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2003
Istituto Italiano Di Cultura, New York
686 Park Avenue, New York

THE PROGRAM

Welcome

Antonio Cosenza

Deputy Director, Istituto Italiano Di Cultura, New York

Marvin Carlson

The Fin-de-Siècle Italian Stage

A Dramatic Presentation of
Why? (1892) by Luigi Pirandello
Translated and directed by *Jane House*

Cast

Enrico..... Oscar De La Fe Colon*
Giula..... Carolina McNeely
Maid..... Kathleen Stolarski

* Member of Actors Equity Association

Scene

An elegantly furnished drawing room. Side entrances to the right and left, with ornate drapes. Door with glass panes at the rear.

Jane House

The Young Pirandello:

Cesare Rossi, Ermete Zacconi, and Flavio Andò

BIOGRAPHIES

Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936) was born in Il Caos, Sicily. He was a poet, a writer of short stories and novels, an essayist, and a prolific playwright. His plays were first produced in 1910, but he only began concentrating on being a playwright in 1916, and over the next eight years he wrote 28 plays. In 1925 he and a group of friends formed the Teatro d'Arte in Rome where they introduced nine foreign plays, staged 15 world premieres, and presented many of Pirandello's works. In 1934 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Among his best known plays are the theatre-within-theatre trilogy, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Each in His Own Way* and *Tonight We Improvise*; and *Enrico IV; Right You Are (If You Think You Are)*; *The Rules of the Game*; *To Clothe the Naked*; and the unfinished *The Mountain Giants*.

Marvin Carlson, Sidney E. Cohn Professor of Theatre and Comparative Literature at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, has received the ATHE Career Achievement Award, the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism, the Calloway Prize, and the ASTR Distinguished Scholarship Award. Among his many books are *Theories of the Theatre*, which has been translated into five languages, *Voltaire and the Theatre of the Eighteenth Century*, *The Theatre of the French Revolution*, *The French Stage in the Nineteenth Century*, *French Theatrical Production in the Nineteenth Century*, *The German Stage in the Nineteenth Century*, *Goethe and the Weimar Theatre*, *The Italian Shakespearians*, *The Italian Stage from Goldoni to D'Annunzio*, and *The Haunted Stage: Theatre as Memory-Machine*.

Jane E. House (producer, director, translator) Ph.D. in Theatre, The Graduate Center, CUNY, taught courses in theatre, speech, and acting at Lehman College, NYU, and Vassar. She has made numerous appearances as a professional actress on Broadway (*Lenny*), national tours (*An Inspector Calls*, *Bedroom Farce*), regional theatre, showcases; TV (*As The World Turns*, *Sophia*); and film (*The Friends of Eddie Coyle*). She has directed plays at Lehman College and off-off-Broadway. Many of her translations from Italian appear in *20th Century Italian Drama* (Columbia Univ. Press, 1995), which she co-edited with Antonio Attisani.

ACTORS

Oscar De La Fe Colon (Enrico) was featured in *All Fall Away* by Said Sayrafiezadeh and *Little Pitfall* by Marketa Blahova, both for Immigrants' Theatre Project, and recently read short stories by Kafka for the Czech Center as part of the Goethe House/Jewish Museum/Czech Center retrospective on Franz Kafka. He is a voice-over artist for commercials and audio-books.

Carolina McNeely (Giulia) NYC: Ensemble Studio Theatre (Octoberfest), NY Theatre Wkshp (Mon.@ 3 Series), La MaMa ETC, HERE, and Jean Cocteau Rep. (New Classics)

Series). Regional: *Love's Labour's Lost* and *The Hostage* at The Bathhouse Theatre (Seattle); *As Bees in Honey Drown* (NJ); *Electra* (CA); and *Terrible Beauty* at The Empty Space Theatre (New Play Series). Film: *Mergers and Acquisitions* (Dir. Mitchell Bard; The Sarasota Film Festival); *Opal's Diary* (Leyla Modirzadeh), *The Accountant* (Glenn Gers). TV: *Charlie Callas and The Girls* (pilot); promo spots on E! and NY1. Training: M.F.A. in Acting, U. of Washington.

Kathleen Stolarski (Maid) teaches English as a second language and loves to act.