

Les Comédiens Carolingiens 2023 présentent



PERSONNAGES (par ordre de prise de parole)

Henri...	Lucas CLARE
Jeanne...	Catherine BURRIS
Goudron...	Caroline KAPLAN
Plume...	Maeve KELLEY
M ^{me} Joyeuse...	Camille LYONS (21 avril) Samantha FEENEY (22 avril)
M ^{lle} Eugénie...	Charlotte SURRY (21 avril) Taylor SIMONS (22 avril)
Robert...	Andrew SOBEL (21 avril) Jay WILSON (22 avril)
Gardien-Chef...	Anne-Claire QUINDOZA
1 ^{er} Gardien...	Elizabeth GATZULIS
2 ^e Gardien...	Taylor POTENZIANO
Mise en scène...	Jeff PERSELS
Souffleuse...	Brigitte GUILLEMIN PERSELS

English Synopsis

Two enterprising investigative journalists, Henri and Jeanne, visit a Parisian mental hospital noted for its unusually enlightened and humane treatment of its patients. They encounter a man who presents himself as the director and who proceeds to regale them with an account of his “system of soothing,” which achieves miraculous results by encouraging patients in their delusions rather than trying to inhibit them. As the interview progresses, however, the journalists note the increasingly odd behavior of the director and his associates, until a thunderstorm that has been brewing finally strikes, sending the director into a murderous frenzy. Henri and Jeanne are rescued in the nick of time by the hospital staff, who themselves have only just managed to escape. Prior to the journalists’ arrival, the patients, led by counterfeit director “Dr.” Goudron, the hospital’s most notorious inmate, had taken advantage of their relative freedom to revolt, imprisoning their caretakers and exacting a gruesome revenge on the real director, Dr. Maillard.



André de Lorde was one of the house writers of the (in)famous Théâtre du Grand Guignol that regularly frightened Parisians from the late 19th century through the 1960s. This is his 1903 adaptation of the poet Charles Baudelaire’s translation of the American writer Edgar Allen Poe’s short story, “The System of Dr. Tarr and Prof. Fether” (1845). Despite its impressive literary pedigree, its representation of mental illness is obviously outdated in its exploitative voyeurism and should in no way be taken as endorsement of abusive behavior of any sort. That said, the “system of soothing” advanced by the progressive Dr. Maillard was for its time considered a compassionate improvement over previously more coercive and repressive treatment of mental illness.

Remerciements

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L'Hôtelier...	Samantha FEENEY
Noémie...	Taylor POTENZIANO (21 avril) Claire MATTES (22 avril)
Alice...	Taylor SIMONS (21 avril) Maeve KELLEY (22 avril)
Chloé...	Monica SANCHEZ (21 avril) Anne-Claire QUINDOZA (22 avril)
Camille...	Camille LYONS
Sarah...	Claire MATTES (21 avril) Charlotte SURRY (22 avril)
Guillaume...	Elizabeth GATZULIS
Thomas...	Andrew SOBEL
Clément...	Jay WILSON
Cliente ...	Charlotte SURRY (21 avril) Taylor SIMONS (22 avril)
Mise en scène...	Aaron FALLS & Jeff PERSELS
Souffleuse...	Brigitte GUILLEMIN PERSELS

English Synopsis

This satirical play follows a group of friends on their winter vacation to the mountains, where they find themselves trapped by a storm in an old-fashioned hotel run by a strange proprietor. As they check in, they discover that the hotel is said to be cursed, and that the object of the curse is always marked by a nosebleed. The group decides to go to bed for the night anyway, as there is nowhere else to stay. The quarrels begin, and Thomas, who is having an affair with Guillaume and thus cheating on his girlfriend, Noémie, notices that his nose is bleeding, making him the first impacted by the curse. He panics and leaves his blood-stained jacket in the upstairs hallway, where the others find it. They begin to argue over who it belongs to, throwing accusations at each other as doubt and suspicion take hold. Eventually, Clément is scapegoated as the owner of the jacket, and Noémie strangles him to put an end to the curse. Ridden with guilt, Thomas runs off to end his own life, leaving the strange proprietor to gloat about another successful manipulation of the hotel's guests.

Le Théâtre du Grand Guignol

The Théâtre du Grand Guignol was a small Parisian theatre that became known for staging plays with gratuitous sex and violence in the first half of the 20th century. Grand-Guignol became the basis for much of visual effects for modern theatre and the inspiration for many contemporary horror films.

This play was written by South Carolina Honors College Student Aaron Falls as part of his senior thesis. This play is Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Graduation with Honors from the South Carolina Honors College. The production is underwritten by a grant from the College of Arts & Sciences Theme Semester, devoted to the notion of "play."