

Directed by Kevin Gardner

> Based on the Myths of Ovid Written and originally directed by

Mary Zimmerman

Premiered in NYC by the Second Stage Theatre, NY, Sept. 2001. Artistic Director: Carole Rothman; Managing Director: Carol Fishman; Executive Director: Alexander Fraser. METAMORPHOSES was originally produced by Lookingglass Theatre Company, Chicago. OVID'S METAMORPHOSES translated by David Slavitt, John Hopkins Univ. Presss, 1994. Rainer Maria Rilke's Poem

ORPHEUS FURYDICE HERMES translated by Stephen Mitchell 1995 Modern Library

# The Community Players of Concord, NH Dedicate these Performances of METAMORPHOSES



To the Memory of **JOAN G. GUARDINO** 

Joan has been a hard working, active member of The Community Players since April of 1973. She won Best Supporting Actress Award for playing Mathilde in *Becket*, NH Community Theatre Assoc. Festival in 1979. Joan served as President for two years from 1986 thru 1988. She received the Osy Strong Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Organization in 1990.

Joan died on April 4, 2007 but she will live on in the hearts of those of us in the Community Players who knew and loved her.

Of her many appearances in our productions,
You may remember having seen her as
Mother Miriam Ruth in Agnes of God....1986
Kate Keller in All My Sons....1992
Big Mama in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof....2001
Helga Ten Dorp in Deathtrap....1985
Grandma Kurnitz in Lost in Yonkers....1997
Lady Johanna in A Medieval Romance....2000
Aaronetta Gibbs in Mornings at Seven....1984
Sue Smith in No, No, Nanette....1980
Aunt Eller in Oklahoma!....1993
Penelope Sycamore in You Can't Take It With You....1991
or, most recently,
Wicked Songs Your Mother Never Taught You....2005

#### **Director's Note**

Fish got to swim, bird got to fly,
Man got to ask himself why, why, why.
Fish got to rest, bird got to land.
Man got to tell himself he understand.

Because human beings die, nothing is truly 'timeless'. Even the oldest artifacts of civilization, like the stories in this play, depend for their vitality on countless, continual rebirths in every new person's imagination. Without this renewal, they would perish as readily as our own fragile, time-bound bodies. "This is the end of the world", observes Ovid when the good King Ceyx drowns on his ocean voyage. By that he means the end of the world Ceyx himself has inherited, inhabited, imagined. So it is for us all. Every death brings an end to a whole world, the world that another King, the spoiled tycoon called Midas, contemptuously dismisses as "the inner life".

Or does it? Is death really an end, or only another transformation, like birth? The metamorphoses of dead King Ceyx and his grieving Queen into seabirds makes a sad and pretty story about love and devotion, but it also asserts a human capacity for transcendence as fundamental to our nature as thought itself. "We all know", says the Stage Manager in *Our Town*, "that something is eternal." The myths of *Metamorphoses* are part of the Greeks' way of understanding death, life, and eternity, a way that comforted, disciplined, and sustained them for many centuries. Like the stories in the Bible, the Bhagavad-Gita, or the folktales of every culture, they contribute an essential chapter to the great scripture of human experience.

Publius Ovidius Naso - his last name means "big nose" - would undoubtedly (if wryly) appreciate the irony of his own posthumous transformation from literary entertainer to preserver of ancient wisdom. He was a poet of style, not substance, chiefly concerned with sophisticated wit and adult wordplay. Ovid did not believe in the Greek gods any more than we do, but the stories he tells about them have been reborn so often in the work of later artists and writers that he might as well have been devout.

His influence is particularly muscular in the theatre. Consider My Fair Lady, the Lerner and Loewe masterpiece that opened on Broadway in 1956. It's a musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's 1914 play Pygmalion, a fact that most theater goers know. But Shaw did not invent its tale of a woman-hating bachelor who sets out to create the ideal female. He got it from Ovid, whose version is the only source the story has in surviving classical literature. Playwrights of every era since his own have appropriated Ovidian themes and narratives, including the greatest literary borrower of them all, William Shakespeare, who mined the poet's work repeatedly for storylines, characters, and even individual speeches.

Mary Zimmerman is only the latest to transform Ovid's stories. Like all the rest, she was drawn to their inherent theatricality – their capacity to entertain - but also to the transcendent truths they hold. Here they are again, reborn "not for an age", as Shakespeare's friend Ben Jonson said of him, "but for all time."

## The Cast of METAMORPHOSES

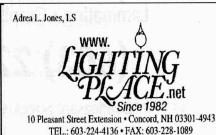
Ceres and others
Vertumnus and others
Hunger and others
Erysichthon and others
Nursemaid and others
Ceyx and others
Alcyone and others
Apollo and others
Hermes and others
Midas and others
Therapist and others
Orpheus and others
Philemon and others
Pomona and others
Aphrodite and others
Myrrha and others
Baucis and others

## Many Thanks to

The New Thalian Players for the Columns, Costumes & Wigs

#### МЕТЯМОРРНОЗЕЗ

is produced by special arrangement with Bruce Ostler, BRET ADAMS, LTD., 448 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036 Special Thanks to the Lighting Place for the Chandelier



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The Production Team of METAMORPHOSES

Director	
Director's Mentor	
Co-Producer	Candy Brehm
Co-Producer	Colleen Schwarz
Stage Manager	
Master Builder	Rick Silverberg
Assisted by	Kevin Belval, Candy Brehm,
	Kevin Gardner, Eric Hodges,
	Doug & Colleen Schwarz
Master Painter	
Assisted by	Alena Allegretti, Kevin Belval,
	Candy Brehm, Judy Dibble, Eric&
	Tess Hodges, Lacy Long, Charles &
	Jesse Mitchell, Rick Silverberg,
	Julia Townsend, Jim Webber
Lighting Design/Board	Craig Walker
Props	Bob Pearson
Assisted by	
Costume Coordinator	Kim Miracle
Assisted by	@ Gay Beane, Mary Selvoski,
	Ann Orio, Betty Thomson
Set Design	
Sound	Scott Horner
Hair/Make-up	Ann Orio
School Show Coordinator	Sharon Sweet
Backstage Assistance	Steven Meier
Banner	

Incidental music composed and recorded by Kevin Gardner: Molly Traynor, violin and mandolin; Kevin Gardner, recorders, guitar, zither, keyboard, percussion.

**Alena Allegretti** (Ceres) is sixteen years old and a senior at Bow High. She has been involved with the theater since age 6. This is her first show with the Players outside the CTP, and she's absolutely thrilled! Some of her past credits include Touchstone in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, Madame Arcati in Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. Off stage, she enjoys drawing, writing, studying history and reading comic books.

**Kevin Belval** (Vertumnus) his 6th straight main stage production with the players, Kevin has been working on his backstroke and hopes not to drown but to have a great show experience. And to you the audience, Thank You for coming to the show.

**Candy Brehm** (Co-Producer) has produced, worked backstage and appeared on stage in a number of shows for the Players and is also a member of the Players Board of Directors.

**Wayland Bunnell** (Stage Manager/Director's Mentor) has been around the Players for a few years now, doing a few things here and there. Thanks to Kevin Gardner for this opportunity, and for being one of my theatre heroes.

**Leah Burdick** (Hunger) her first time with the Players, and yes, she's thrilled about it. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Playwriting and recently co-wrote, directed and produced an original one-act play called *Dangerous Intersections*. Leah would like to thank the cast and crew of *Metamorphoses* for putting on such a fabulous show, her friends for always making her laugh, Matilda, for being the best bunny ever, and her family for being so supportive of a profession for which she does not get paid.

**Christopher Courage** (Erysichthon) has been Producing, Directing and performing in NH community theatre for the past 25 yrs. As the founding Artistic Director of the Acting Loft, he was able to present the NH premiers of shows like *Songs for a New World* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. He is thrilled to be making his 2nd appearance with CCP, last performing with them in the *Baltimore Waltz*.

**Nancy Davis** (Nursemaid) veteran actress, Nancy has performed in such diverse shows as *Nunsenses I & II*, *Deathtrap* and *Romeo & Juliet*. She's delighted to be back to the Concord community theater after a 5 year hiatus, and to be working with Kevin Garner in this wonderful play.

**Kevin Gardner** (Director) is a writer, teacher, and stonemason, as well as a lifelong actor and director. He teaches Shakespeare at St. Paul's School's Advanced Studies Program, is the author of The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls, and contributes occasional Humanities features to New Hampshire Public Radio. Kevin is thrilled to be home again with the Community Players, for whom he played Tony in *West Side Story* at the age of 17, in 1968.

**Kathryn Hodges** (Master Painter) a member of the Players since 1978. Treasurer for the Players and chairman of the Road Show Committee This is her first try at being a "Master/Mistress" Painter and will be pleased if the puffy clouds don't end up looking like marshmallows. Thanks to her mentor, Lacy Long, and her terrific painting crew. She lives in Penacook with her beloved Erik and wonderful children, Harper and Tess.

**Kevin Hodges** (Ceyx) grew up in Tulsa, OK and moved to NH only after studying theater in Oregon and Texas. This production will mark his return to the stage after a 3 year hiatus during which he sought fulfillment in the non-profit and political professions. He and his wife Emily live in Manchester with their 2 cats, Roscoe and Daisy and their dog Sherlock Bones.

**Vicky Hogan** (Alcyone) her fondest memories with the Players have included: playing a crazy circus floozie in *Murder for Rent*, a ditzy debutant floozie in *Mame* and a practically naked pin-up floozie in *City of Angels*. Vicky thinks perhaps in the past she may have been type cast and is happy to be able to stretch her wings in this show. Thanks Jon for supporting me by sharing me with my "other love" – the stage.

**Scott Horner** (Sound) is in his 3rd year with the Players and also serves as their Sound Chairperson. He has been doing sound for over 16 yrs with a variety of groups. He thanks his family and beautiful wife Tracey for there love and support.

**Peter Josephson** (Apollo) is delighted to be back on the stage after a long absence. Favorite roles have included Theseus in Midsummer Night's Dream, Harold Ryan in Kurt Vonnegut's Happy Birthday, Wanda June, Stanislavsky in Chekhov in Yalta, and Gustav in Strindberg's Creditors.

**Alex Loth** (Hermes) made his return to the world of theatre after an eight year absence with his role in the Players' production of *Translations* St.Patrick's Day weekend. From elementary school through college he acted in dozens of productions, directed, translated, and dabbled in lighting design. He's very excited to be involved in a show with so much beauty and truth in it. Alex lives in Concord with his wife Kara, whom he thanks for supporting this endeavor wholeheartedly.

**Kim Miracle** (Costume Mistress) is excited to be involved with her 3rd production with the Players. Her background is in Improv in Los Angeles, working as a vocalist for Disney Productions and various children's theatre and touring shows. She is a lyricist and a rhythm guitarist and although new to New England, loves it here.

**Charles Mitchell** (Midas) has been a NH resident for 10 yrs and is married to his beautiful wife Allyson with 2 boys Jesse and Ryan Tyler. He has been involved with the Players for all of the '06 – '07 season. He is very proud of be following in his son Ryan's footsteps. Ryan portrayed Oliver Twist in the Players production of *Oliver* Other than his family, Charles would like to thank Candy, Colleen and Wayland for all the continued hugs and support. You have all made this year a BLAST!

Mary Morris (Therapist) It is a pleasure for Mary to be back on stage with Concord Community Players. In 2004 she played "Bessie" in the Players production of Marvin's Room. Other memorable roles for Mary include "Stage Manager" in SKIT's production of Our Town, "Lee" in New London Barn Playhouse's production of "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" and "Vivian Bearing" in NEAMD's Wit.

**Bob Pearson** (Props) has been with the Players for many more years than he cares to count. He has produced shows, the last being *Translations*, has worked backstage as

well as on stage, and has been involved with committees, Board activities and other aspects of helping the organization. His recent, 1993, retirement from the Concord School System, has allowed him to travel, sleep late and enjoy life completely.

**Colleen Schwarz** (Co-Producer) has produced, worked back stage, done props, and thoroughly enjoys working with the Players.

**Doug Schwarz** (Orpheus) longtime publicity chair and current president of the Players, has played many roles on and offstage since he joined the organization in 1992. (Favorite roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Harry in *Lucky Stiff.*) He is delighted to have this opportunity to work with Kevin Gardner, and with the gifted and inspired cast of "Metamorphoses."

**Rick Silverberg** (Master Builder) likes to build with others and particularly likes to teach others how to build standard units that can be mixed and matched for future shows. Rick has been building flats since the standard fasteners were clout nails, not sheet rock screws.

**Jerry Smith** (Philemon) this is Jerry's fifth show with the players, and although he has never read any Ovid, he does enjoy the occasional Greek salad.

Erika Staaf (Pomona) Erika grew up on the dance stage, she studyed ballet in CA and received training in ballet, modern, jazz and dance composition at Buckness University, where she was also a Dance Company member and received a minor in dance. With 8 yrs of combined acting and vice training, Erika has also appeared in *Broadway, Kiss Me Kate*, and *Guys and Dolls*. This is Erika's first performance with the Community Players of Concord.

**Sharon Sweet** (Aphrodite) Sharon last appeared onstage as Lady Capulet in the Player's production of *Romeo & Juliet*. A former classics major, Sharon is thrilled to be cast as her favorite goddess. "Omnia vincit amor et nos cedamus amori." Virgil.

**Rebecca Taylor** (Myrra) This is Rebecca's first performance with the Players and she is thrilled to work with such talented people. Rebecca studied piano and music theory at Colby College. She is the Director of Performing Arts at Tilton School. She also directs a full-length play and musical each year. Rebecca is grateful to both Kevin and Tilton School for their flexibility which allowed her to be a part of the production.

**Julia Grace Townsend** (Baucis) is glad to be back on-stage again with the Player's after appearing most recently in *Communicating Doors*. She would like to thank Kevin Gardner and the producers for this awesome opportunity and the cast and crew for providing much joy, fun and room for creativity. Thanks also go to her friends and family for their enduring support.

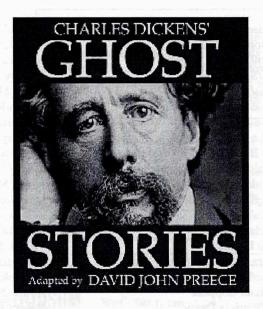
Craig Walker (Lighting) This one is for Joan, a wonderful friend who always knew how to find her light.



A Special Engagement at the Concord City Auditorium

> COMING THIS OCTOBER...

Directed by Wallace J. Pineault



City of Angels would like to take this opportunity to thank...

Jack Duncan and Doug Kelly for running the spotlights

Carol Kyne and Sharon Lajoie for casting assistance

Candy Brehm For House Managing

Scott Kiefner bass player in the orchestra

Edna Walker for the beautiful banner

Betty Lent for Make-up

Bob Lethbridge for helping with strike

Special Thanks to
Melissa Jones & Christoper Sweitzer

