Performance of the Role of Beethoven in Moises Kaufman's "33 Variations"

Robert Flaherty Hart

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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PERFORMANCE OF THE ROLE OF BEETHOVEN IN MOISES KAUFMAN’S “33 VARIATIONS”
PERFORMANCE OF THE ROLE OF BEETHOVEN
IN MOISES KAUFMAN’S “33 VARIATIONS”

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Fine Arts in Drama

By

Robert Flaherty Hart
Emporia State University
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, 2010

May 2013
University of Arkansas
ABSTRACT

My MFA thesis requirements dictated that I would play a thesis role in a main stage University of Arkansas production, and produce with my fellow third year MFA Acting students a production of our own, showcasing the skills we have learned in our three years in the program. My thesis role was as Ludwig van Beethoven in the Fall 2012 production of Moises Kaufman’s “33 Variations” in the University Theatre. In Spring 2013, I played Dan Henniman in a Kimpel Hall Studio 404 production of Lee Blessing’s “Down the Road,” in fulfillment of the second part of my thesis performance requirements.
This thesis is approved for recommendation to the Graduate Council.

Thesis Director:

___________________________________
Amy Herzberg, MFA

Thesis Committee:

___________________________________
Mavourneen Dwyer, MFA

___________________________________
Patrick Stone, MFA
THESIS DUPLICATION RELEASE

I hereby authorize the University of Kansas Libraries to duplicate this thesis when needed for research and/or scholarship.

Agreed

_______________________________
Robert Flaherty Hart

Refused

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Robert Flaherty Hart
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks are due to all the faculty and staff of the University of Arkansas Drama Department, particularly Amy Herzberg, head of the MFA Acting Program.
DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to Raymond Francis Hart and Mary Donna Flaherty Hart.
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STATEMENT OF ARTISTRY

To act, it has been said, is to “live truthfully under imaginary circumstances.” To act successfully, I believe, is to shine a light on feelings and issues which can change the course of humanity. The subject of all dramatic works, regardless of the period or style in which they were written, is humanity. The role of the actor is to thoroughly understand the writer’s intentions and to bring his or her characters to life in a believable and compelling manner that gives voice to the writer’s hopes for, or commentary on, the state of humanity.
UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

33 VARIATIONS
BY MOISES KAUFMAN

TWO GREAT MINDS,
TWO CENTURIES APART,
MEETING IN THE SPIRIT OF
GREAT MUSIC.

SEPTEMBER 28-29
8 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 30
2 P.M.

OCTOBER 3-6
8 P.M.
OCTOBER 7
2 P.M.

For tickets, call (479) 575-4752
or visit theatre.uark.edu

“33 Variations” Program published by University Theatre, Page 1.
The Company

Mason Azbill (Schindler) is a junior undergraduate student from Bentonville, Arkansas. Mason’s previous credits at U of A include Anon in Anonymus) and Mikey in Up. He also appeared as Jeff in I Love You Because for the Boar’s Head Players at the Nadine Baum Studio Theatre.

Ashley Harmon (Scenic Designer) is a 3rd year MFA Scenic Design candidate from Bethlehem, New Hampshire. She received her BA in Theatre Production and Design from Susquehanna University, and her previous credits for U of A include Scenic Designer for The Adding Machine and Honor & The River; Associate Scenic Designer for Cabaret; and Assistant Scenic Designer for Othello and Arcadia. Ashley also recently worked as the Master Carpenter for Utah Festival Opera.

Bob Hart (Ludwig Van Beethoven) is a 3rd year MFA Acting candidate from Kansas City. He received his BA in Theatre from Emporia State University, and his previous credits for U of A include the Ghost of Christmas Present in A Christmas Carol, James in Circle Mirror Transformation, Kip in Wonder of the World, and Mr. McQueen in Urinetown.

Kelly Henry (Costume Designer) is a 3rd year MFA Costume Design and Construction candidate from Richland Hills, Texas. She holds a BA in Art & Theatre, and her previous costume design credits for U of A include Cabaret, Adding Machine, and You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown.

Grant Hockenbrough (Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior undergraduate student from Dallas, Texas. Previously, Grant was a Spotlight Operator for Cabaret.

Diana Kaiser (Lighting Designer) is a 3rd year MFA Lighting Design candidate from Muncie, Indiana. She received her BA from Ball State University, and her previous credits for U of A include Lighting Design for Cabaret, The Adding Machine, and You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown.

Katie Langley (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior undergraduate student from Jonesboro, Arkansas. Previously, Katie worked as the Assistant Director for Prime of Miss Jean Brodie.

Hannah Maxwell (Clara) is a senior undergraduate student from Bentonville, Arkansas. Her previous credits for U of A include Rosie in Cabaret and Ellen in Vesper Tom.

Khaloud M. Sawaf (Assistant Director) is a 1st year MFA Directing candidate from Damascus, Syria. She holds a BA in Mass Communication from the American University of Sharjah, and her previous credits include theatre productions for Al Qabani Theatre, Sapi Production, and the Performing Arts Department at the American University of Sharjah.

Laura Shatius (Gertie) is a 1st year MFA Acting candidate from Chicago, Illinois. She holds a BA in English/Secondary Education from the University of Illinois, and her previous professional credits include Amy in Accidental Rapture, Mary Magdalene in The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, and Sister Mary Kate in Beggar in the House of Plenty.

Jason M. Shipman (Mike) is a 1st year MFA Acting candidate from Washington, D.C. He holds a BA in Fine Arts with a minor in Anthropology, Jason was a company member for 3 years at The Warehouse Theatre, and was involved in productions such as The 39 Steps, Stones in His Pockets, The Elephant Man, and Hamlet.

Justin Walker (Diabell) is a 3rd year MFA Acting candidate from Duncan, South Carolina. He received a BA in Theatre from North Greenville University, and his previous professional credits include Raleigh in Center Stage Theatre’s See Rock City and Demetrius in Serafin Playhouse’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

Shannon Webber (Katherine Brandt) is a 3rd year MFA Acting candidate from Dahlonega, Georgia. She received a BA in Theatre from Piedmont College, and her previous credits for U of A include Frou Frou in Cabaret and Helen Griffith in Up.

Harrison Williams (Stage Manager) is a senior undergraduate student from Little Rock, Arkansas. His previous credits for U of A include Stage Manager for Vinegar Tom and Assistant Stage Manager for Cabaret and The Adding Machine. Harrison also worked as the Stage Manager for Boar’s Head Players production of One Person Shows.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Carole Boyd Haws and Andrea Welch along with The ALS Association Arkansas Chapter University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections
Joe Paul, Barbara Shadden

This production is dedicated to Sarah Burnside, whose light will always shine on our stage.

UNIVERSITY THEATRE PATRONS
(as of September 2012)
ANGELS.........................Jessie and Roger Koepple
GRAND PATRONS..............Wade Burnside and Janet Baker, Virginia Ann Coogan, Dave and Jane Gearhart, Mickey and Ralph Jensen, Vernon and Shirley Lott
PATRONS.................Ronnie and Nancy Denn, Phil Harrington, Karen Hodges, David Jolliffe and Gwynne Gertz, Marietta and Bill Morris, Denise Nemec, Luke and Janet Parsch, Mary Alice Serafini, Martha Sutherland, Charlie and Janice Transue, Bill and Nancy Waithe
FRIENDS...............Douglas James and Elizabeth Adam, Dick Bennett, Judith and Daniel Levine, Michael and Eileen Lieber, Irene Ptaszynski, Maurice and Mary Rankin, Harry and Barbara Shaddix, Murray and Carolyn Smart, Elizabeth Wheeler

For more information on becoming a University Theatre Patron, call (479) 575-3645 or visit our website at theatre.uark.edu

Staff for this Production
Stage Manager..........................Harrison Williams
Assistant Stage Managers............Katie Langley
                                        Grant Hockenbrough
Makeup Designer..........................Kelly Henry
Assistant Sound Designer...............Jesus Rivera
Board Operator..........................Travis Deal
Projection Operator.....................Baker Cimpron
Properties Masters......................Kristen Brannan, Ashleigh Burns
Assistant Properties Master.........Priscilla White
Scene Shop Supervisor..................Joseph Roller
Scenery Construction Crew............Andrew Allen, Emily Ryan Breakell, John Jarmon, Justin Spaelhe, Lydia Winkelmann, students of Production Practicum, and students of Stage Technology II

Musicians...............Mary Haley, Alan Clack, Miho Oda Sakon, Paige Higgins, Gary Sloan
Run Crew.................................Derek Nichols, Chance Weith
Wardrobe Head.........................Caryn Garlainger
Wardrobe Crew.........................Michele Benton, Ashley Hearod
Angelique Howington, Houa Xiong
Cutter/Drapers.........................Valerie Lane, Patricia J. Martin, Whitney Masters, Carley Tisdale
First Hands.........................Tiffany Bounkong, Cayla Greer, Valerie Lane, Whitney Masters, Nicole Thompson, Carley Tisdale
Stitchers.........................Michele Benton, Tiffany Bounkong
Master Electrician......................Daniel Houston
Lighting Crew.........................Andrew Allen, Jesus Rivera, Justin Spaelhe, Lydia Winkelmann

Staff for the University Theatre
Chair of Drama.........................D. Andrew Gibbs
Drama Office Manager................Barbara J. Springer
Theatre Business Manager............Ashley Cohea
Costume Shop Manager................Valerie Lane
Music Theatre Accompanist............Jennie Lee
Ticket Office Manager...............Rachel Washington
Publicity Manager.....................Stephanie Bignaull
House Manager..........................Brittany Taylor

Drama Faculty.........................Mavourneen Dwyer, Will Eubanks, Kate Frank, Robert Ford, Amy Herzberg, Morgan Hicks, Bryce Kemph, Michael Landman, Gail Leftwich, Patricia J. Martin, Michael J. Riha, Cllinesha Sibley, Kris Stoker, Patrick Stone, Les Wade

Coming Soon to the University Theatre...
The Little Dog Laughed by Douglas Carter Beane October 25-October 27, 2012 In STUDIO 404
The Exonerated by Erik Jenson and Jessica Blank October 28-October 31, 2012 At NADINE BAUM STUDIO
Blihe Spirit by Noel Coward November 9-November 18, 2012 At UNIVERSITY THEATRE

University Theatre
Presents

33 Variations
By Moisés Kaufman

"Man has no nobler or more valuable possession than time."
-Ludwig van Beethoven

Directed by Amy Herzberg
Assistant Direction by Kholoud Sawaf
Scenic Design by Ashley Harman
Choreography by Gail Leftritch
Technical Direction by Patrick Stone
Projection Design by Ashley Harman
Costume Design by Kelly Henry
Lighting Design by Diana Kaiser
Sound Design by Will Eubanks
Music Direction by Jeannie Lee
Vocal Coaching by Mavourneen Dwyer

The Cast
Dr. Katherine Brandt.................................Shannon Webber
Dr. Gertrude Ladenburger............................Laura Shatkus
Ludwig Van Beethoven................................Bob Hart
Anton Diabelli........................................Justin Walker
Clara Brandt.................................Hannah Maxwell
Mike Clark.................................Jason Shipman
Anton Schindler...............................Mason Azbill

Voice Overs: Mason Azbill (Computer Store Clerk), Kieran Cronin (Announcer), Mavourneen Dwyer (Flight Attendant) Kate Frank (Nurse)

Setting:
1819-1823 and the Present

33 Variations is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

There will be one 10-minute intermission. Refreshments will be sold in the lobby.
Pleased do not bring food or drink into the theatre

The use of photographic and recording equipment during this performance is forbidden by law.
Please turn off cellphones and other devices while in the theatre.

“Down the Road” Program, published by University Theatre. Pages 1 and 2.

A modern musical classic Winner of 6 Tony Awards in its initial Broadway production and twice since revived, this enduring favorite boasts such unforgettable songs as “The Ladies Who Lunch,” “Being Alive,” and “Side by Side.” The great Sondheim sets his story in New York, where single Bobby and his married friends navigate the always tricky waters of romantic relationships.

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by George Furth

Next up at University Theatre...

COMPANY

Lee Blessing’s

STARRING

DOWNTHEROAD

Directed by Esteban Arevalo Ibanez

April 12-14 & 21-23
Kimpel 404

Esteban Arevalo Ibanez

FREE ADMISSION
Board Operator: Connor Weeks
Sound Technician: Debbie Bous
Sound Design by Andrew Snyder
Lighting Design by Diana Kaiser
Stage Manager: Shannon Johnson

Time: Late 1980s

Justin Walker
William Reach
Bob Hart
Dan Henman
Shannon Weber

Directed by

Leah Blessing

By

ROAD
THE
DOWN

April 12-14, 2013 Kemper Hall Studio 4.4
at the University of Arkansas
A thesis presentation by the 2nd Year MFA Actors

Special Thanks to Those Who Helped With This Production

MFA Acting Program
especially Any Harrietta Head of the Drama Department Faculty and Staff.

To the University of Arkansas

THANK YOU
As Ludwig Van Beethoven in Moises Kaufman’s “33 Variations” (with Shannon Webber). Photo by University Theatre.
As Dan Henniman in Lee Blessing’s “Down the Road” (with Justin Walker). Photo by University Theatre.
PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE

The professional website for actor Robert Flaherty Hart may be accessed at:

To: Graduate School and International Studies, University of Arkansas
From: Ashley Cohea, Business Manager for University Theatre
Date: April 25, 2013
Re: Use of UT production programs in thesis publications

The University Theatre grants permission for students seeking a BA or MFA from the University of Arkansas Department of Drama to use programs for University Theatre productions in which they participated for the purpose of advancing their academic or professional careers.

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If there are any questions on this matter, or any dispute over whether a program is being used in an inappropriate manner, please contact the University Theatre business manager, listed below.

Ashley Cohea
228 Fine Arts Center
University of Arkansas
(479) 575-3645
acohea@uark.edu
To: Graduate School and International Studies, University of Arkansas

From: Ashley Cohea, Business Manager for University Theatre

Date: April 25, 2013

Re: Use of UT production photos in thesis publications

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