


penfold
THEATRE CO.
PRESENTS



John & Jen

music by Andrew Lippha
lyrics by Tom Greenwald

directed by Michael McKelvey



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When selecting a show, I find that most directors try to find pieces that "speak" to them. Does the piece have a story or theme with which they can relate? Can they bring something to the piece artistically? (Now, for those of you know me, this opening statement may not speak well of me since the last two shows I have directed were filled with violence and an excess of blood). In the case of *The Last Five Years*, the stories of Cathy and Jamie were ones that I felt I had lived myself and knew intimately. I think after the response from audience members, the majority of them shared a similar cathartic experience.

When I first listened to John and Jen, I immediately fell in love with Andrew Lipa's music and the journey of these three characters, but the numerous themes were what resonated to all of us who worked on the project. This not only the story of a brother and a sister or mother and son, but also one that makes us think of the chance to make things right for past choices. At its core, it is a story about the loss of the innocence of youth. John and Jen embraces adolescence and then magnifies how quickly children have to grow up to be "adult adolescents.". This is even more prevalent in today's society. I am hoping that you can sit and take this journey with these characters, and, instead of reflecting poorly upon what never was, think about what still will be. One door closes so that another can open. John asks "Where are those kids now?". They are in each one of us.

- Michael McKelvey



John & Jen

A Musical

Music by Andrew Lipa
Lyrics by Tom Greenwald

CAST

John.....Andrew Cannata
Jen.....Sarah Gay

MUSICIANS

Keyboard.....Steve Saugey
Cello.....Jeanette Cannata
Percussion.....Trevor Detling

PRODUCTION

Director.....Michael McKelvey
Assistant Director.....Nathan Jerkins
Stage Manager.....Angelica Manez
Assistant Stage Manager.....Caitlin Scully
Set Designer.....David Utley
Costume Designer.....Glenda Barnes
Lighting Designer.....Sam Chesney
Props Master.....Karen Arrendondo
Light Board Operator.....William Culbertson
Set Construction.....Ryan Crowder, David Boss,
Sean Dean, Nathan Jerkins
Greg Ludwig, Sean Martin
Matt Sanderson
Scene Painters.....Aaron Bell and Erin Wendel
Graphic Designer.....Derek Kolluri

CAST



SARAH GAY (Jen) is delighted to have made it back to her Penfold family so quickly. Thank you to Michael for making this opportunity possible. Most recently, she has been seen in *The CHERRY ORCHARD* (Breaking String), *THREE DAYS OF RAIN* (Penfold), *GRAPES OF WRATH* (Zach Scott) and *THE SECRET LIVES OF IN-BETWEENERS* (Vortex Rep). Some favorite Canadian credits include: *AS YOU LIKE IT* (CanStage), *CABARET* (New Yorker, Toronto), *SEUSSICAL* (Carousel Theatre), and co-producing and appearing in the Jessie award-winning musical revue *THE WORLD GOES ROUND* at Pacific Theatre. She is thrilled to report that in April she will be a guest artist in Mary Moody Northern Theatre's production of *CITY OF ANGELS*. For David - I love you, little brother.



ANDREW CANNATA (John) has been performing for local audiences for the last five years, having won a few awards including a B. Iden Payne Best Actor in a Musical award for his portrayal of Sid Sorokin in *Pajama Game* at the Mary Moody Northern Theatre. Among his favorite roles: Jamie in *LAST FIVE YEARS*, Benjy Stone in *MY FAVORITE YEAR* and Chip Tolentino in Zachary Scott Theatre's production of *25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE*. He would like to thank his friends and family, especially his parents. They have always been his foundation and his biggest supporters.

PRODUCTION TEAM

KAREN ARRENDONDO (Property Master) is a graduate student at Texas A&M San Antonio working to get her degree in Education. She has most recently worked as a scenic artist for the production of *Evil Dead: The Musical*. Karen has won awards for ACTF Region VI in both props and set design. She has also worked in Chicago, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. A special thanks to her family and friends who have helped with this production.

GLENDA BARNES (Costume Designer) is proud to be working with Penfold and Michael McKelvey again! Happily a homegrown product of Texas, she received her BFA in Costume Design at Texas State University and also currently teaches 16 two year olds in Cedar Park, TX. Glenda previously designed *Three Days of Rain* and the award winning musical, *The Last 5 Years*, for Penfold. Recent credits also include makeup design for *Doctuh Mistah's Evil Dead: The Musical*, *Frost/ Nixon* and *Heroes* for Austin Playhouse and the Austin Shakespeare's youth production of *Comedy of Errors*. Much love and many thanks to the people of Austin who continue to support the Arts!

NATHAN JERKINS (Assistant Director) is one of the founding members of the Penfold Theatre Company, working to ensure the highest artistic and production quality from every Penfold show. He is thankful for the opportunity to continually try new things and Michael McKelvey's willingness to allow him to assistant direct under him. He is grateful to his wife for her support and to each and every one of you for choosing to experience JOHN & JEN with us. Enjoy!

ANGELICA MANEZ (Production Stage Manager) received her BA in Theatre Art Administration from St. Edward's University. Some of her stage management credits include *EVIL DEAD THE MUSICAL* (DrMr), *SWEENEY TODD* and *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* (SSA) *THE MUSIC MAN* (Zilker Theatre Productions), *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*, *SNOW WHITE*, and *CINDERELLA* (SRCT), *CYRANO DE BERGERAC* and *DEATH AND THE KING'S HORSEMAN* (MMNT), and *CANCIONES FOR GENERATIONS* (Performance Encounters). She would like to dedicate this production to Jaime. I love you little brother!

MICHAEL MCKELVEY (Stage and Musical Director) is thrilled to be doing his 2nd collaboration with Penfold. The first yielded *THE LAST FIVE YEARS*, which was named Best Musical by the Austin Critics' Table. Some of his other stage and music directing credits include *SWEENEY TODD*, *OKLAHOMA*, *ASSASSINS* (SSA), *EVIL DEAD* (DrMr), *THE PAJAMA GAME* (MMNT), *THE FROG PRINCE*, and *CHRISTMAS CAROL* (SRCT). Michael has received two ACT awards for Musical Direction for *CRAZY FOR YOU & PARADE*, the ACT John Bustin Award, 3 B. Iden Payne Awards for Musical Direction for *ASSASSINS*, *SEVEN BRIDES...* & *SWEENEY TODD* and 2 BIP Awards for Stage Direction for *ASSASSINS*, *SWEENEY TODD*. *SWEENEY TODD* also won the BIP Award for Best Musical. He is the Coordinator of Music and Director of Musical Theatre at St. Edward's University, and is the Artistic Director of The Performers' Workshop and SummerStock Austin. In the coming months, he is scheduled to direct *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*, *CITY OF ANGELS* and *ANNIE*. He would like to thank Irene for all her love, patience and support.

CAITLIN SCULLY (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be part of this production. She attends McNeil High School and is involved with JOHN AND JEN as an apprentice to the stage manager. Caitlin has been involved with Advanced Theatre since Middle School. She would like to thank Ryan Crowder, of Penfold Theatre Company, and Angelica Manez for this wonderful opportunity.

DAVID UTLEY (Set Designer) is thrilled to be working again with his friends at Penfold Theatre Company. David received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Texas. He is a member of The Art Director's Guild and his film credits include, *MAN OF THE HOUSE*, *ELVIS AND ANABELLE*, *HOMO ERECTUS*, *RENDITION*, *THE EXPRESS*, and *THE PROPOSAL*. David designs scenery for theatres around the country and has assisted Tony award winner David Gallo and Emmy award winner John Taccovelli. David currently and beautiful wife Megan currently live in Los Angeles, where he is working on Ray Romano's new sitcom, *MEN OF A CERTAIN AGE*.

ABOUT PENFOLD THEATRE CO.

Penfold Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to opening and operating a live, professional theatre in the north Austin metro area. Our mission is to empower artists to create work of the highest caliber and to engage diverse audiences through stories that inspire and impact our community.

Founded in the summer of 2007, Penfold has been recognized on multiple occasions for its stellar productions and ground-breaking education programming. In its inaugural season alone, the company collected 2 Austin Critics' Table Awards (Best Musical, Best Actor in a Lead Role), on top of 11 other award nominations.

John & Jen rounds out the 2009-2010 season. Starting this August, the 2010-2011 season will feature our first productions in north Austin! "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" and "Oleanna" will appear in downtown Round Rock. For updates, check www.penfoldtheatre.org.

The website also chronicles our ongoing progress toward a new performance venue in downtown Round Rock. We are extremely grateful to the new members of our board of directors, who are working diligently with us to make this dream a reality.

In addition to what you see on stage, Penfold offers a variety of education and outreach programs, including the StarCo Play Reading Series, the Student Apprentice Program and the Artists in Schools Program.

Of course, our work begins and ends with you. Some of you have made tonight possible by volunteering your time and money. For that, we thank you. All of you make our efforts worth while by joining us tonight to engage this powerful work of art.

Enjoy the show!

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and 3 *Chronicle* "Best Of Austin"
awards under his belt ...

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SPECIAL THANKS

Irene Adams, Robert Alvarez, Rose Arredondo, Michael Barnes, Jo Carpenter, Sean Dean, Angela Flowers, Brittany Huerta, Michael Lee, Susanna Martinez, Ben Roberts, Lisa Schepps, Lisa Scully, Khara Vincent.

Ballet Austin; Minuteman Press Round Rock; St. Edwards Costume, Theatre and Music Departments; Zach Scott Performing Arts School

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2010-2011 SEASON

August 2010

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)

All 37 plays deliciously compacted into 97 minutes of pure hilarity. Come with us on a fast-paced romp as we celebrate (and abuse) the Bard's beloved cannon!

January 2011

OLEANNA

A university professor and student lock in a power struggle over lines of class, age and gender. This production offers a surprising twist on one of David Mamet's most respected works.

May 2011

THE LION IN WINTER

Made famous by the 1968 film featuring Peter O'Toole and Katherine Hepburn, this midieval tale about deep family dysfunction and Machiavellian intrigue rings as true today as it did in the twelfth century.