

## A&E news and reviews



Saturday, November 15, 1997

Pop / Jazz Vocalist & Musician

# Suede

in concert

• 8:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church on Pearl Street in downtown Burlington

### TICKETS

\$12 by calling 863-2437

or at these local merchants:

Peace and Justice  
in Burlington  
Phoenix Rising  
in Montpelier  
Vermont Book Shop  
in Middlebury

This performance benefits Vermont CARES and Outright Vermont

## "Millennium Approaches" at UVM Theater

BY CHRIS TEBBETS

drama

**A**ngels in America has been called the most important American play of the century. Its two parts, "Millennium Approaches" and "Perestroika", won 1992 and 1993 Pulitzer Prizes for drama, Tony awards for best play, the Drama Critics Circle, and London Evening Standard Awards, among others. So as the University of Vermont Theater Department prepares to present Millennium Approaches this month, why do they consider it to be a tough sell?

"It's not mainstream, it's more radical than a number of visions we've put on the stage in the past," says the production's Director, Assistant Professor of Theater Peter Jack Tkatch, "But it's a worthwhile vision." The play, widely known in some circles, and surprisingly unknown in others, has a natural cache with the gay community. Its gay characters and the role of HIV/AIDS are unapologetically drawn by the playwright Tony Kushner, who subtitles Angels as "a gay fantasia on national themes." Says Brad Daughtry, UVM Theater Department Marketing Director, "the gay audience is a major audience for this play, [but] since the issues are ultimately universal, it will also appeal" to many others. "I am counting heavily on the reputation of the play and the word of mouth that is happening."

Tkatch has begun rehearsing his eight actors, juggling academic schedules with the demands of mounting a complicated three and a half hour production in six short weeks. The cast includes UVM students Daron Byerly, Corina Carlson, Cynthia Davis, Morgan Foxworth, Isaac Leader, and Greg Steen, along with community member Ruth Wallman, and Actors Equity Association guest artist Kermit Brown in the role of Roy Cohn. Preliminary research assignments to the cast include HIV/AIDS, homophobia, racism, Mor-

monism, Judaism, and societal intolerance. Many if not all of the characters in Angels in America are outside of the mainstream — part of the play's message, and part of what keeps it a marketing challenge. "One of the big questions of the play," says Tkatch, "is how do we bring the whole society to acceptance instead of building up walls of prejudice and fear?"

Within its three interwoven story lines — concerning a gay couple, a Mormon couple, and the dying, closeted and homophobic Roy Cohn, — Tkatch sees issues of community, politics, intolerance, and ultimately, he says, of hope for the future. Referring to Part One's title, Millennium Approaches, he says that if nothing else, "It's a journey towards hope." Kushner has said that the first play is about despair and the second is about hope, but Tkatch says that Millennium Approaches is infused with voices that calm and inform and reassure. "Whether that voice is imagined, hallucinated, or real, we don't know. And that's going to be up to the individual audience member to decide, whether or not they're hopeful, or pessimistic." With the challenges of mounting and selling this production, it is clear which side the UVM theater department stands on.

Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches will play at the Royall Tyler Theater on the UVM campus November 12-15 and 20-22 at 7:30 PM, and November 23 at 2:00 PM. Friday/Saturday tickets are \$11.50; all other performances are \$10, with \$8 tickets for students and seniors. The November 20 performance will be followed by an audience discussion with the play's cast and director, and Vermont CARES Executive Director Tim Palmer. For tickets or information call 656-2094.

CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE PLAYERS SEVENTH SEASON

### A TRIBUTE TO JAMES DEAN

Two original stage adaptations of James Dean's greatest films!

A Vermont Premiere

## East of Eden

Thursday-Saturday, November 13-15 8 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday, November 21, 22 8 p.m.

A Vermont Premiere

## Rebel Without a Cause

Thursday-Saturday, April 9-11 8 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday, April 17, 18 8 p.m.

SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT

Return Engagement;  
Back by Popular Demand!  
Two Days Only!

A.R. Gurney's

## Love Letters

With Dottie Wilks and Donald Rowe

Friday, Saturday, February 13, 14 8 p.m.

For information or reservations,  
call: 860-2707

"The theatre shows us all that we are, all that we wish to be, and all that we are capable of." William Hazlitt

**JILL SOBULE**  
Merrie Amsterberg

**MeTRONOME**  
188 Main Street Burlington, VT 802-865-4563

**November 21 7PM**

**GAY CHAT LINE**  
SIZZLING LOCKER ROOM ACTION  
JOIN IN OR JUST EAVESDROP  
PHONE SEX FOR THE GAY 90'S  
**1-900-745-3306**  
MORE ACTION AT 1-900-745-2845

**LIFESTYLES DATELINE**  
ALL LIFESTYLES • LOCAL AND NATIONWIDE  
REAL MEN **1-900-745-3710** REAL #S  
\$2.49/MIN • VISIT US AT WWW.XAPEX.NET • 18+YRS