

**Jack The Ripper**  
**A Musical Play**

Book and Lyrics by Ron Pember and Denis de Marne  
Music by Ron Pember

Directed by ..... Suzanne Ramczyk

Scenic and Lighting Design by ..... Arthur L. Dirks

Costume Design by ..... Henry Shaffer

Choreography by ..... Colleen Quinn  
with Suzanne Ramczyk

Music Direction by ..... Leslie Goldberg

Dialect Coaching by ..... Gary Genard

Fight Choreography by ..... Suzanne Ramczyk

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.  
State law prohibits smoking in this building, and please do not bring refreshments into the theater.  
Please refrain from using flash photography, as it may endanger the performers.

## Director's Notes

No serial murders of modern times have spawned so much passion among professional and amateur criminologists/sleuths as the infamous “Ripper” murders of Victorian London. The maniac who terrorized the East End of London from 1888 to 1891 claimed, according to most “Ripperologists,” at least five and up to nine victims. The fascination with this case lies in the gruesome and horrific nature of the murders (most victims were disemboweled, organs were either missing or strewn about, and several of the women were nearly decapitated), and the fact that no one has ever positively identified Jack the Ripper, despite a profusion of theories.

What is known, is that eight East End prostitutes were brutally murdered in the White Chapel and Spitalfields area. Almost all accredited criminologists agree that five of the murders were committed by the maniac who came to be known as “Jack the Ripper,” the majority conceding to eight. The victims, Martha Tabram, Mary Anne Nicholls (“Polly”), Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride (“Long Liz” or “Lizzie”), Catherine Eddowes (“Kate”), Mary Kelly, Alice McKenzie, and Frances Coles, sustained numerous injuries ranging from the trademark “throat slashings” to the gruesome mutilation of Mary Kelly, in which organs were found cast about her small room.

At the time, suspects were numerous but Victorian investigative practices were incapable of solving the mystery. A popular suspect was one Montague J. Druff (presented in our musical) who was a barrister and teacher incriminated by his own family, accusing him after his suicide. Although he makes an interesting character for the stage, he was acquitted when contemporary sources revealed he was engaged in Cricket games at the time of at least two of the murders.

It is fitting that our musical be set in the style of East End Victorian Music Hall, a robust style of entertainment consisting of variety acts, defined character “types,” and the hallmark sing-alongs - the spontaneous audience participation at the heart of music hall’s popular status. Music hall flourished from about the 1840’s until approximately 1920, World War I contributing profoundly to its demise. It was such a popular form of entertainment that it was virtually an unavoidable experience for any Victorian or Edwardian individual, from the Royalty itself down to the lowliest farm worker.

Our musical, which is more of an atmospheric montage rather than a play with music, capitalizes on the most popular form of entertainment of the day to create the world of Victorian London’s East End, with its destitution, street gangs, murder victims, and a major suspect on the loose. Through the music hall standard ballads, soubrette songs, comic songs, sing-alongs, and the presiding over the night’s entertainment by the chairman, combined with the vignettes of East End street life, the world and atmosphere of life in the Whitechapel and Spitalfields area are richly created. Life in the East End was one of extreme poverty. Crime proliferated; murders were commonplace; homelessness was a given for a large percentage of the inhabitants; and prostitution was often the only viable means of existence for many women. It was a harsh, often painful life for most East End dwellers, in which the music hall provided often the only, albeit fleeting, respite. This was the world in which Jack the Ripper moved freely and stalked his prey.

## THE CAST

<i>Marie Kelly/Music Hall Soubrette</i> .....	Denise Dion
<i>Lizzie Stride/Queen Victoria/Ensemble</i> .....	Amber Faythe Robitaille
<i>Annie Chapman/Ensemble</i> .....	Amy Griffin
<i>Martha Tabram/Ensemble</i> .....	Melissa Ross
<i>Polly Anne Nicholls/Ensemble</i> .....	Allison Couture
<i>Liza Pearl</i> .....	Meghan Nicholson
<i>Catherine Eddowes</i> .....	Leslie Comperchio
<i>Frances Cole</i> .....	Melissa Prisinski
<i>Montague Druitt</i> .....	Seth Goulart
<i>Chairman/Charles Warren/Magistrate/Foreman/Police</i> .....	Jim Ferguson
<i>man/Daniel Mendoza/Suspect</i> .....	Christopher M. Kristant
<i>Dinky Nine-Eighths/Suspect</i> .....	Amanda Dubois
<i>Bluenose Stack/Suspect</i> .....	Brian Connolly
<i>Slop Wallace/Suspect</i> .....	Mike Hughes
<i>Lady Overcoat/Ensemble</i> .....	Jessica Fisher
<i>Police Sergeant Coles/Ensemble</i> .....	Russ Milligan
<i>Police</i> .....	Alex Pevzner

## ENSEMBLE

Kaile Dutton

Jennifer Hartnett

Abigail Howes

Noriko Sato

Laurie Silipigno

Yuka Sato

<i>Understudy for Marie</i> .....	Melissa Ross
<i>Understudy for Martha</i> .....	Kaile Dutton

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST?

**Denise Dion** (*Marie Kelly/Music Hall Soubrette*) Denise is a senior, who recently transferred from Shenendoah University in Winchester, VA. At BSC, she is majoring in Communications with a concentration in teacher certification in Theater, Dance, and Speech. Denise also received her Associates Degree in Music/Theater/Dance from Dean College in 1996. Her favorite roles include Ethel Levy in George M!, Ado Annie in Oklahoma, and Hope Harcourt in Anything Goes, for which she received an Irene Ryan nomination. She has worked with many groups, including The Norton Singers, Actors Collaborative, and the Foxboro (Orpheum) Repertory Co.

**Amber Faythe Robitaille** (*Lizzie Stride/Queen Victoria/Ensemble*) Amber is a 4th year Theater Arts major with a concentration in teacher certification in Theater, Dance, and Speech. Past roles here at Bridgewater include Sprigg/Gladys in Soma, Amber in Godspell, and Dogg in Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth. This past summer, Amber worked at the Weston Playhouse in Vermont, where she was seen nightly in the Act IV Cabaret.

**Amy Griffin** (*Annie Chapman/Ensemble*) Amy is a senior Theater major at BSC with a minor in Music. Some of Amy's favorite roles here at BSC include Count Rugen in The Princess Bride, Petra Wedge in Soma, and Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream for which she received the alternate Irene Ryan nomination. Amy will be graduating in January and hopes to pursue a lifelong career in the performing arts.

**Melissa Ross** (*Martha Tabram/Ensemble*) Melissa is a junior Theater major here at BSC. Some of her favorite roles include Melissa in Godspell, Nina in The Seagull, and Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream, for which she received an Irene Ryan Nomination. This past summer she appeared as Mariana in Industrial Theater's production of Measure for Measure. Melissa is currently President of Ensemble Theater.

**Allison Couture** (*Polly Anne Nicholls/Ensemble*) Allison joins us for her BSC mainstage debut. A freshman majoring in teacher certification in Theater, Dance, and Speech major with a Voice minor, she spent the past three summers performing at Riverside Amusement Park in Agawam, MA. Most recently Allison received the 1997 National Choral Award and Scholarship.

**Meghan Nicholson** (*Liza Pearl*) Meghan is a senior majoring in Theater and minoring in Music. She has performed in the ensemble in Bridgewater's production of Godspell. She was also in Lab Theater's production of Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth. In her spare time she likes to perform original songs at local coffee houses.

**Leslie Comperchio** (*Catherine Eddowes*) This is Leslie's first production at BSC. She has previously performed in high school shows. Leslie is glad to be involved in the BSC theater program.

**Melissa Prusinski** (*Frances Coles*) Melissa is a senior majoring in Theater Arts. Here at BSC her favorite roles include Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Diana Morales in A Chorus Line. She also played Uta/Dana in Soma. Before attending BSC, Melissa played Eunice in A Street Car Named Desire at Dean College.

**Seth Goulart** (*Montague Druitt*) Seth is a freshman Theater Arts Major at BSC. This is his second role at Bridgewater, having first performed Robin Starveling in last spring's A Midsummer Night's Dream. An avid participant in the theater since the age of 8, he has performed with many community and professional groups. Among his favorite roles are Bert Healy in Annie, Mr. Mushnik in Little Shop of Horrors, Anselmo in Man of La Mancha, and Issacchar in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

**Jim Ferguson** (*Chairman/Charles Warren/Magistrate/Foreman/Policeman*) Jim is a senior majoring in Communications with a concentration in Theater, Dance, and Speech. Jim has worked with Seacoast Reperatory Theater, The Green Mountain Guild, Stage One Productions, and, most recently, with the Hackmatack Theater in Burwick, Maine. Jim's favorite roles include Sergeant of Police in Pirates of Penzance, Bobby in A Chorus Line, Judas in Godspell, Pirelli in Sweeny Todd, and Bobby Franklin in Run for Your Wife. In June, Jim will attend graduate school as a M.F.A candidate at San Diego State University.

**Christopher M. Kristant** (*Daniel Mendoza/Suspect*) Chris is a senior Theater Arts major here at Bridgewater. Last semester Chris was a puppeteer in Beyond the Wizard, danced in Dance Kaleidoscope '97 and played Oberon in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Other roles here at BSC include Judas in Godspell, Cahoot/Banquo/Macduff in Dogg's

Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth, and Medvenenko in The Seagull. Chris has also performed in Macbeth with the New England Theater Company and played the role of Malvolio in Twelfth Night with the Industrial Theater.

**Amanda Dubois** (*Dinky Nine-Eights/Suspect*) Amanda, a freshman, has played a variety of roles including The Doormouse in Alice in Wonderland, Laneeta in The Music Man, and as a member of the ensemble of The Compleat Works of William Shakespeare: Abridged, for which she received an acting award from the Massachusetts High School Drama Guild.

**Brian J. Connolly** (*Bluenose/Suspect/Police*) Brian is a freshman who is majoring in Communications and minoring in Theater here at BSC. His past accomplishments include the role of Sky Masterson in Guys and Dolls and Billy in Carousel at Ashland High School. He has also done work on Barnum and Once on this Island at Ashland Youth Theater. This is Brian's first production at Bridgewater, and he hopes to be in many more

**Mike Hughes** (*Slop Wallace/Suspect*) Mike is a freshman majoring in Communications. He has played many roles, such as Albert Peterson in Bye, Bye Birdie, Seymour in Little Shop of Horrors, Benny Southstreet in Guys and Dolls, and Frederick/Phillip in Noises Off, for which he received an All Star Award for Drama Guild.

**Jessica Fisher** (*Lady Overcoat/Ensemble*) Jessica is a junior theater major. Some of her favorite roles here include Flute in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Joanne in Godspell, the Elder in Soma, and Tweedledee in Wonderland: The World of Lewis Carroll. Jess has received two Irene Ryan alternate nominations for her portrayals of Grandma in Johnny B. Or the Rollerblades and Scraps in Beyond the Wizard. She was an Irene Ryan semifinalist in the 1997 KC ACTF Irene Ryan acting competition nominated for her roles as Charlie/Ophelia in Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth. Jess was most recently seen as Mother in the Industrial Theater production of Portrait of the Live Nude Dancer this summer.

**Russ Milligan** (*Police Sergeant Coles/Ensemble*) A sophomore majoring in Theater Arts, Russ's BSC premiere was in last spring's A Midsummer Night's Dream as Snout. He looks forward to upcoming shows here at Bridgewater.

**Alex Pevzner** (*Police Sergeant Coles/Ensemble*) Alex is a sophomore majoring in Communication studies and Theater Arts. He performed the role of Winthrop in The Music Man with the Duxbury Bay Players. He also won an All-Star achievement in the role of Orin in Children of a Lesser God at the state level of the Boston Globe Festival.

**Kaile Dutton** (*Ensemble*) Kaile is a sophomore majoring in Art and minoring in Music. During past years, before coming to BSC to start her college career, she had been involved with numerous productions and dinner theaters throughout high school. This is her first college level performance.

**Jennifer Hartnett** (*Ensemble*) Jennifer is a freshman double majoring in Computer Science and Theater with a minor in Music. This past fall, Jennifer played the role of Mrs. Malloy in Hello Dolly! At Rockland High School; and performed Shakespeare's The Seven Ages of Man at a dinner show. This is her first performance at BSC.

**Abigail Howes** (*Ensemble*) Abby is a freshman majoring in Communications. Last spring Abby played the role of Sonia in Godspell with the Old Rochester Regional High School Drama Club. This is her first Bridgewater State College Performance.

**Noriko Sato** (*Ensemble*) Noriko is a freshman majoring in Theater. In her hometown of Yokohama, Japan, she played Chino in her high school production of West Side Story. This is her first performance here at Bridgewater.

**Laurie Silipigno** (*Ensemble*) In her final year here at BSC, Laurie is studying Theater Arts and Speech Communication. Her performances here include Polena in The Sea Gull and Abel/Witch in Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth. Laurie has been heavily involved technically with Bridgewater theater. This show makes her 13th production.

**Yuka Sato** (*Ensemble*) Yuka is a sophomore majoring in Theater Arts. She is a transfer student from Tomakomai, Japan. This is her first production at BSC.

## MUSICIANS

Bass ..... Greg Mooter

Percussion ..... Paul Gross

Piano ..... Leslie Goldberg

Violin ..... Norma Steiner

## Production Staff

Production Technical Director	Arthur L. Dirks
Stage Manager	Kelley Hartwell
Asst. Stage Manager	Tisha Brown
Light Board Operator	David Antocci
Sound Board Operator	Pat Dzierzak
Sound Technician	Jeff Witcher
Properties Masters	Jen Madden, Alex Valentine
Run Crew	Louis Lemieux, James Bent, Tammy Boatwright-Moore, Nicole Fallis
Auditorium Technical Director	Mark Johnson
Stage Technician	Wendy Andruk
Set Construction	Matthew Holleran, Charles McCabe, Nicholas LeDoux, Matthew Parker, Kelley Hartwell, Jason DeGracia, Laurie Silipigno, Christopher Kristant, Peter Gardner, members of the Play Production class
BSC Theater Arts Managing Director	Jim Quinn
Press & Marketing General Manager	Jen Madden
Press & Marketing Associates	Tammy Boatwright-Moore, Lindsay Russo
Graphic Designer	Jen Madden
House Manager	Francois Joseph
Box Office Manager	Jennifer Boartfield

## WHO'S WHO IN THE ARTISTIC AND PRODUCTION STAFF

**Suzanne M. Ramczyk** (*Director*) Suzanne Ramczyk is a Professor of Theater Arts at BSC where she teaches predominantly performance courses. She has directed fourteen productions here, including The Threepenny Opera, The Madwomen of Chailiot, The King Stag, No Trifling With Love, Marisol, and The Comedy of Errors, which was chosen to be performed at the 1989 Region I American College Theater Festival. She has also directed several productions off campus for summer and community theaters and was the Assistant Director for the American Repertory Theater's 1993 Production of Macbeth.

**Arthur Dirks** (*Scenic and Lighting Design*) Arthur Dirks teaches scenic design and stage lighting at Bridgewater. Arthur resumes his work with BSC theater following a two-year leave for administrative duties. Patrons may remember Arthur's design for Marisol and many previous productions.

**Henry Shaffer** (*Costume Designer*) Henry Shaffer directed last year's production of Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth and designed costumes for Godspell and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Most recently he was the resident costume designer for the Peterborough Players 1996 summer session, where he designed Marry Me a Little, The Mousetrap, and Oleanna. He is also currently the artistic director of the Raylynmar Opera and directed their inaugural production of The Gondoliers and Hansel and Gretel. He designed costumes for the Studio Theater, Source Theater, Hirshhorn Museum in Washington D.C., as well as period clothing for the Walters Gallery of Art in Baltimore, MD. As an art director, his film credits include: A Few Good Men and The Exorcist III. For network television: Liberty, Samaritan and numerous episodes of Unsolved Mysteries. Mr. Shaffer did his undergraduate work at Georgetown University and holds an MFA from Carnegie Mellon.

**Colleen Quinn** (*Choreographer*) Colleen Quinn comes to Jack the Ripper straight from choreographing another throat slashing musical: Sweeney Todd at the Weston Playhouse, Weston, Vermont. Colleen has also choreographed the BSC productions of Godspell, A Chorus Line, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Professor Quinn teaches dance classes here at BSC.

**Leslie Goldberg** (*Music Director*) Leslie Goldberg was born in Berkeley, California and grew up in Texas, Colorado, Ohio, and Turkey. She attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where she studied the piano before completing a B.A. in history and a M.M. in voice performance. She studied singing with Berton Coffin and Barbara Doscher and coached with Aksel Schiotz. After completing her Master's degree she served for two years as Music Director for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and sang with the Central City Opera House Association. In 1983 she returned to school as a doctoral student in voice at Boston University. She now teaches class and studio voice at BSC, while maintaining a private studio. Leslie is also active as a vocal production coach, giving workshops for choral and theatrical organizations, the most recent of which was the 1996 New England Theater Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

**Gary Genard** (*Dialect Coach*) Gary Genard is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in drama at Tufts University, specializing in acting and voice. He received his B.A. in Speech and Theater from Bridgewater State College, and his M.A. in Theater from the University of Illinois. Mr. Genard completed his actor training at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London, and has appeared professionally Off-Broadway in national tours, and also in summer stock. His most recent work is in the film "A Midwife's Tale," to be broadcast on PBS's The American Experience this television season. Mr. Genard currently teaches at BSC, Boston College, and Tufts.

**Kelley M. Hartwell** (*Stage Manager*) Kelley is a third year Theater Arts major at Bridgewater. She has also stage managed the children's production of Beyond the Wizard and served as Asst. Stage Manager for Johnny B. Or the Rollerblades. She was Master Electrician in the BSC productions of Godspell, Women of Troy, and was Assistant Lighting Designer for Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth. She has also done various technical work for the Star Players of Taunton, and is a member of Ensemble Theater.

**Tisha Brown** (*Asst. Stage Manager*) Tisha is a fourth year student majoring in Criminology and minoring in Theater Arts. Last year she played the Woggle Bug in Beyond the Wizard. Other roles have included Crystal in Johnny B. Or the Rollerblades. She has worked on run crew for Soma and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Tisha is the Publicity Vice President of Ensemble Theater.