

THE CITY THEATRE COMPANY

along with Dancing Cat Productions

John Pielmeier's

AGNES OF GOD

The Cast.

**Dr. Martha Livingstone.....Dawn Erin
Mother Miriam Ruth.....Jennifer Underwood
Agnes.....Laura Ray**

Time: Now.

“What good would it do you if I told you she is indeed a saint? I cannot make saints. We can only recognize saints when the plainest evidence shows them to be saintly. If you think her a saint, she is a saint to you. That is what we call the reality of the soul; you are foolish to demand the agreement of the world as well. Oh, miracles! They happen everywhere. Miracles are things that people cannot explain...Miracles depend much on time, and place, and what we know and do not know...Life it too great a miracle for us...Who is she? That is what you must discover...and you must find your answer. And while you are searching, get on with life and accept the possibility that it may be purchased at the price of hers and that this may be God's plan for you and her.”

- ROBERTSON DAVIES, *Fifth Business*

**There will be a fifteen minute intermission between acts.
Act I is one hour. Act II is forty-five minutes.**

Agnes of God Cast and Crew:

Dawn Erin is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City. She is thrilled to be back on the City Theatre stage after being seen in last fall's *Laughter On The 23rd Floor*. Favorite past roles include Kate in *Taming of the Shrew*, Amy Lee in *Laundry and Bourbon*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, and the title role in *Medea*. Dawn is also a licensed massage therapist, an avid horsewoman, and the author of the forthcoming novel *The Iron Horse*.

Laura Ray is happy to be performing in her second show at The City Theatre. A recent graduate of St. Edward's University, Laura has acted in multiple productions in the Austin area. Some of her recent show credits include Portia in *Shakespeare's Husbands and Wives* (Jill Swanson/Blue Theatre), Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* (Scottish Rite Children's Theatre), and Susan in *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* (City Theatre). In addition, she will be playing Frenchy in the Emily Ann Theatre's production of *Grease* this summer. Laura is very grateful to be able to work with such a talented cast, crew and director on this amazing play. She would like to say a special thank you to her family for their continual love and support.

Jennifer Underwood is in her first City Theatre production. Other Austin area productions include Grace Anne in *The Carpetbagger's Children*, the title role in *Miss Witherspoon*, Mrs. Venable in *Suddenly Last Summer*, Lotte Shoen in *Lettice and Lovage*, Queen Elizabeth I in *The Beard of Avon*, Catherin Petkoff in *Arms and the Man*, Mrs. Siezmagraff in *Betty's Summer Vacation*, (B. Iden Payne Award for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy), the title role in *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Gertie in *Fuddy Meers*, Mrs. Dudgeon in *The Devil's Disciple*, Kate in *The Cripple of Inishmann*, Kate in *All My Sons* and Norma in *The Misses Overbeck*, The Duchess in *The Casket of Passing Fancy*, Mag in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, (B. Iden Payne for Outstanding Cast Performance), Kate in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Vera in *Auntie Mame*, Sis in *Queen of Bingo*, Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Melissa in *Love Letters*, Bessie in *Marvin's Room*, Elizabeth in *The Petition*, Betty in *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon-Marigolds*, and Evie in *The Gingerbread Lady*. Jennifer was also awarded the 2009 Austin Critics Table Award for Outstanding Acting in a Leading Role for *The Casket of Passing Fancy* and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

Cary Urso is excited to be working with The City Theatre for the second time this year. She just completed her B.A. in Theatre and Dance from The University of Texas at Austin in December 2009. She has stage-managed for the Austin School of Classical Ballet, Blue Lapis Light, and ONSTAGE Theatre Co. and worked as a Production Assistant at Zach Scott Theatre. She would like to thank Andy for asking her to work with this dream cast – Jennie, Dawn, Laura, your talents are transcendent. And, she would like to thank her husband Jonathan because he fills her life with so much love and laughter.

Production Crew.

Directed by Andy Berkovsky
Production Stage Manager – Cary Urso
Assistant Director – Austin Rausch
Scenery and Lighting Design – Andy Berkovsky
Construction – Andy Berkovsky and Michael Pratt
Costumes – Bert Flanagan
Light and Sound Operator – Cary Urso
Stage Running Crew – Austin Rausch
House Management – Kate Crowley
Assistant Management –
Jeff Hinkle, Clay Avery, Walter Pohlmeier
Publicity Design – Rachel McGinnis and Joey Solis

About the play.

It has been thirty years since *Agnes of God* premiered on Broadway and it continues to resonate with audiences. With writer John Pielmeier, a graduate of Catholic University, it received its first production at Actor's Theatre in 1980. It ran on Broadway for a year and a half with Elizabeth Ashley, Geraldine Page and Amanda Plummer, who won a Tony Award. It was made into a 1985 film with Jane Fonda, Anne Bancroft and Meg Tilly. The story of the play is based loosely on an actual incident of a nun that occurred near Rochester, NY in 1977. Similarities are the circumstances of the baby's death in a convent and the nun's denial. In the subsequent trial, she was found not guilty. The convent used to run a high school called St. Agnes. The theme of the play – a debate of faith versus science – is as relevant today as when the drama burst into the consciousness of the country. When politicians invoke faith as their guiding inspiration and interest to influence public policy, we are witnesses to this ageless balance between spirituality and reality. As Galileo seemingly threatened the heavens and Darwin crashed the creation story, in Pielmeier's play poses a collection of contrasts between the temporal and spiritual, between facts and faith and the survival of religion in the face of modern science.

Special thanks to.

Austin Circle of Theatres Austin 360 The Austin Chronicle Mr. Greg Brooks
The Austin-American Statesman Mrs. Jennifer Bednorz Austin On Stage
Ms. Janice Berkovsky AusTix Mr. James Tiemann Ms. Karen Loyd
Austin Live Theatre Mr. Rick Crowley and Ms. Mary Ann Crowley The Austinist
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2009 - 2010 Season Tickets.

Lee Hagan Teresa Matlock Mary Ann Crowley Michael Meigs
Robert Blanchette Aletha Huston Sue Tedford and Ted Flick
Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley Susan Fegley Mike and Sue Wood
JoAnn and Ed Farrell Milton and Barbara Carr Susan Fegley
Bert Flanagan Annie Zaffrann Stanley Seaton Alexandra R. Wood
Bill and Karen Warren Claire Brooks Sean Carr Steven Weinberg
Patricia Drew and Paul Strelzick Carol Anne Thomas Cliff Avery
Clifford and Bobbe Walker Christina Jeskey and Thom Brooks

Additional Contributors.

Mr. Rick Crowley Mrs. Christine Lemp Dr. & Mrs. Ben Berkovsky
Mrs. Carmina Eaton Ms. Mary Ann Crowley Ms. Jennifer Bednorz Ashley Jorge
Mr. Jonathan Wooley Ms. Teresa Matlock Ms. Lisa Scheps Erik Virkkala
Concordia University Rodney & Donna LeRoy Mary Louise Donohoe
George & Linda Knappek Paul Strelzick & Patricia Drew Arts on Real Theatre
Keith and Debbi Anderson Washington Mooney Memorial Mark Banasau

Austin Rausch is a sophomore at St Edward's University working towards his bachelor's degree in Scenography (Design for Theatre) with a main concentration in Costume Design. He has recently appeared on the City Theatre stage as Mr. Tumnus in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and Valere in *Tartuffe*. This assistant directing opportunity has given him a sense of theatre behind the scenes and from a directorial perspective. He would like to thank Andy for this opportunity as a young actor and designer and give praise to the lovely ladies in *Agnes of God*. Austin is playing Adam in The City Theatre's upcoming show, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*.

Andy Berkovsky is a theatre graduate of Sam Houston State University and a two - time B. Iden Payne nominee for Outstanding Director (The Boys Next Door and Glengarry Glen Ross). Andy has been involved in theatre arts as performer, director, choreographer, designer, and teacher for over thirty years. He has worked with Texas stage companies The Hilton Dinner Theatre, The Alpha Psi Players, and Houston's Theatre under the Stars, Stages, and Miller Outdoor Theatre. He has directed shows on the stages of the UT Bass Concert Hall, Sam Houston State University, West Texas A&M University and Victoria College including *The Miracle Worker*, *The Laramie Project*, *Hamlet*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. As a fourteen year educator, he was able raise over one-hundred thousand dollars through productions, workshops, and contests, taught classes and workshops at Sam Houston State, West Texas A&M, and College of the Mainland and is twice honored as a Texas U.I.L. state champion director in one-act play competition. He is also an eight - time honoree as outstanding drama director, has coached numerous students to the national competition and the winner of over fifty grand sweepstakes awards at Texas theatre contests. Favorite roles include Fagin - *Oliver*, Riff - *West Side Story*, Jesus - *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Leading Player - *Pippin*, and the Emcee - *Cabaret*. Andy is so proud to have worked with such an outstanding cast and crew for this show. He gives so much thanks to his family who has shown all their love and support throughout these many years. *Agnes* is dedicated to Mr. Gene Netardus, a most intelligent man and a true believer in his family and faith.

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Ave Maris Stella

(excerpt from the song of Agnes)

Hail, O Star of the ocean,
God's own Mother blest,
ever sinless Virgin,
gate of heav'nly rest.

Break the sinners' fetters,
make our blindness day,
Chase all evils from us,
for all blessings pray.

Taking that sweet Ave,
which from Gabriel came,
peace confirm within us,

Show thyself a Mother,
may the Word diving
born for us thine Infant

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