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# MARQUEE

January 1995

**O**pning the new year with a rich, warm, human drama from an exciting, new American voice, the IRT presents *God's Pictures* by Daisy Foote January 3 through 29 on the IRT Mainstage. The world premiere production, directed by IRT resident director Andrew Tsao (*Odd Jobs, A Thousand Cranes*) will feature the return of audience favorite Bella Jarrett to the IRT Mainstage, as well as popular actress Priscilla Lindsay. Also on stage will be the playwright's sister and brother, acclaimed actors Hallie Foote and Horton Foote, Jr. Additionally, the siblings' Academy Award-winning father, screenwriter Horton Foote (*To Kill a Mockingbird, Tender Mercies, The Trip to Bountiful*), will be in Indianapolis for part of the rehearsal process.

In *God's Pictures*, three women working in a New Hampshire bakery face the joys and sorrows of small-town life with faith, humor, and simple courage. Family histories, dreams—or are they visions?—and the mysteries of the human heart are kneaded into a rich, warm human drama. IRT's world premiere production offers Indianapolis audiences the exciting opportunity to experience the emergence of an important American talent.

Playwright Daisy Foote worked in a bakery in New Hampshire for two years in the mid-1980s, an experience which provided the background and inspiration for

## ON THE MAINSTAGE



# GOD'S PICTURES

BY DAISY FOOTE



Bella Jarrett



Priscilla Lindsay



Hallie Foote

*God's Pictures*. In May 1993 the play was chosen for development at the New Harmony Project, a writers' conference-laboratory held annually in New Harmony, Indiana, to provide a resource group for media development. For two and a half weeks, Andrew Tsao worked with the playwright and a cast of professional actors to develop a staged reading of the piece. Following the reading, which was attended by theatre, film, and television producers from across the country, several regional theatres expressed an interest in producing the play's world premiere; Ms. Foote chose the IRT so she could continue her collaboration with Mr. Tsao.

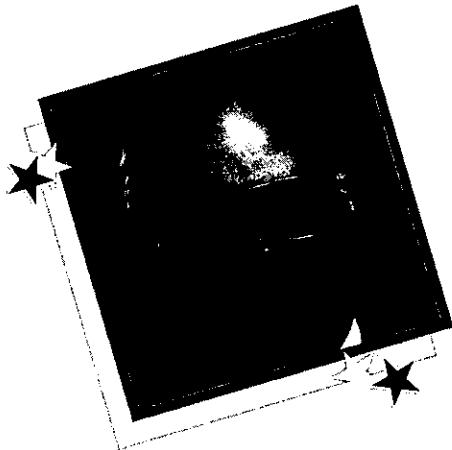
Daisy Foote's play *Villa Capri* was produced and directed by Herbert Berghof at his theatre in New York. *Living with Mary* was read as part of the Discovery Series at the Manhattan Class Company and included Barbara Barrie as part of the cast. Ms. Foote's stage adaptation of *O Pioneers!* will be workshopped and directed by Craig Slaight at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco; a screenplay of the same book was written in 1989 and optioned by Anjelica Huston in 1990. Ms. Foote recently completed a screenplay, *The Brothers O'Hanlon*, and a one-act play, *Farley and Betsy*. She is currently collaborating on a musical, *An Intimate Evening*, (continued next page)

# IN-SIDE: CROW AND WEASEL

## ON THE UPPER STAGE

BY BARRY LOPEZ  
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE  
BY JIM LEONARD, JR.

JAN 28 — FEB 25



## **Letter from the President of the Board Jerry Semler**

Dear Fellow Subscribers,

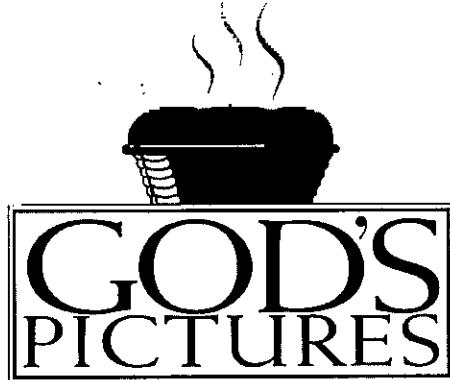
Many of you have been subscribers for years, and have many happy memories of the fine productions you have seen on the IRT Mainstage. But how much do you know about our Upperstage season?

The Upperstage is much smaller than the Mainstage, seating 250 as opposed to 600. Annually the Upperstage is the site every year of three productions chosen not only for their dramatic value, but also for their educational value—that is, they teach important historic, literary, or cultural lessons while providing wholesome, lively entertainment. The productions are designed and directed by the same professional artists who work on our Mainstage; the actors, like all actors at the IRT, are members of Actors Equity, the professional stage actors union.

This year the Junior Works program on the Upperstage is scheduled to present over 150 student matinees to children from all over the state, giving more than 30,000 students the opportunity to experience the magic and excitement of live, professional theatre.

Through Family Plays: The Upperstage Series, the same three plays are also performed on Saturdays, so children may attend with their families. All Upperstage productions are short enough for younger attention spans, yet engaging for the entire family. Family Plays are something parents and grandparents and brothers and sisters can truly enjoy—together.

If you missed *Holiday Memories* on the Upperstage last month, you missed a truly beautiful experience. Don't make the same mistake twice; call the box office and order your tickets for *Crow and Weasel* today!



*(continued from front page)*

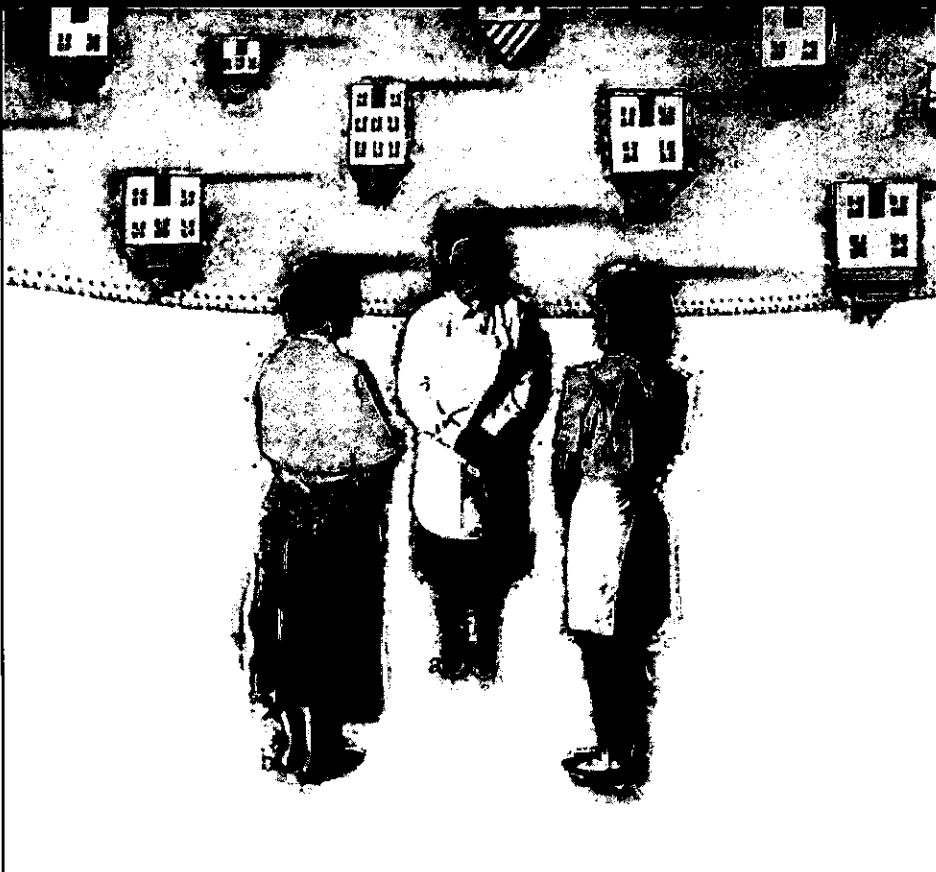
with writer Mark St. Germain and composer Randy Courts. "I am thrilled to be working with Libby Appel and the entire IRT staff," says the playwright, "and I'm looking forward to my time in Indianapolis."

The cast for *God's Pictures* includes Bella Jarrett, a ten-year IRT veteran returning for the first time since 1991's *Rough Crossing*, as Bea, who has dreams or visions which she calls "pictures from God." Priscilla Lindsay, star of *Odd Jobs* and *Shirley Valentine* and many other IRT productions over the past 16 seasons, is Sue, Bea's daughter-in-law and fellow bakery worker; her husband, Bea's son,

has abandoned her. Also featured are the playwright's sister and brother: Hallie Foote comes to Indianapolis following a successful run in her father's play *Talking Pictures* at the Signature Theatre in New York; she plays Cindy, a French-Canadian who works at the bakery but dreams of being a housewife and mother. Horton Foote, Jr., an accomplished film and television actor, returns to the stage to participate in his sister's world premiere production, playing Ray, a long-time friend of Sue and her missing husband, who now wants to marry her. Ray Frye, a mainstay at the Actor's Theatre of Louisville since 1974, makes his IRT debut as Vick, Bea's husband; Liz Stauber, who played young Macduff in the IRT's *Macbeth*, returns as Caroline, Sue's rebellious teenage daughter.

Designers for the production are all IRT veterans: scenic designer Linda Buchanan (*Odd Jobs*), costume designer Jeanette DeJong (*Great Expectations*, *The Red Badge of Courage*), and lighting designer Victor En Yu Tan (*A Thousand Cranes*, *Holiday Memories*). Original music for the production is by composer Irwin Appel (*Hamlet*, *On the Razzle*). ★

## **When the world is upside down, family is all you've got.**





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SEASON SPONSOR

## THE ASSOCIATED GROUP

“We are proud to be the season sponsor of one of the finest regional theatres in the United States.

The IRT is one of our city's great cultural assets."

## 1. BENJY TEE

*Chairman of the Board.*

*Chief Executive Officer and President*

### *The Associated Group*



YES, YOU CAN  
**STILL** GET HERE  
FROM THERE

*One year from now, the IRT will be enjoying its prime downtown location, just a few steps from the lavish new Circle Centre Mall and its dazzling showpiece, the ArtsGarden. In the meantime, however, we all may have to endure a few inconveniences as these structures are completed.*

You may recall that in the last issue of the *Marquee* we gave you a map to guide you around the construction of the Arts-Garden, which at that time was scheduled to begin November 13. Construction actually began December 5, and we now expect the intersection of Illinois and Washington streets to be closed through at least January 13. So, when you come downtown to see *God's Pictures*, you may have to alter your usual route a bit. If you would like another map, please call 635-5277, and we'll be happy to send you one.

By the time *Dreams from a Summer House* opens in February, things should be back to something like normal. In the meantime, think how great this will all be when it's done!

## H A N P Y T I P S

- If you're coming to the IRT from the north, drive down Capitol.
- If you're coming to the IRT from

# STAGE DOOR P A S S UPDATE

The IRT is happy to welcome two of its closest neighbors to the circle of restaurants where subscribers can use their Stage Door Pass. Ellington's Restaurant and Boom Baby's Sports Bar & Grill are both located in the Embassy Suites Hotel located right next door to the IRT. Both locations offer a 25% discount to Stage Door Pass holders.

Ellington's, known for its great buffets, is open for lunch Monday through Friday and open for dinner every day. The lunch buffet features a gourmet salad bar, homemade soup, and an 18-foot dessert table. Delicious dinner buffets feature Texas barbecue on Tuesdays, prime rib on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Italian on Thursdays, and crablegs and seafood on Fridays. For further information and reservations, call 236-1901.

Boom Baby's is open from 11:00 a.m. to past midnight, with a snack and sandwich menu available at all hours, making it the ideal location for a pre-show supper or an after-theatre drink. With sports events on a giant-screen TV and basketball, pool tables, and other games, Boom Baby's offers a lively, casual atmosphere for relaxing.

And remember during these cold winter months, the IRT and the Embassy Suites are connected on the basement level, so you can go from dinner to the theatre without stepping outdoors. ★



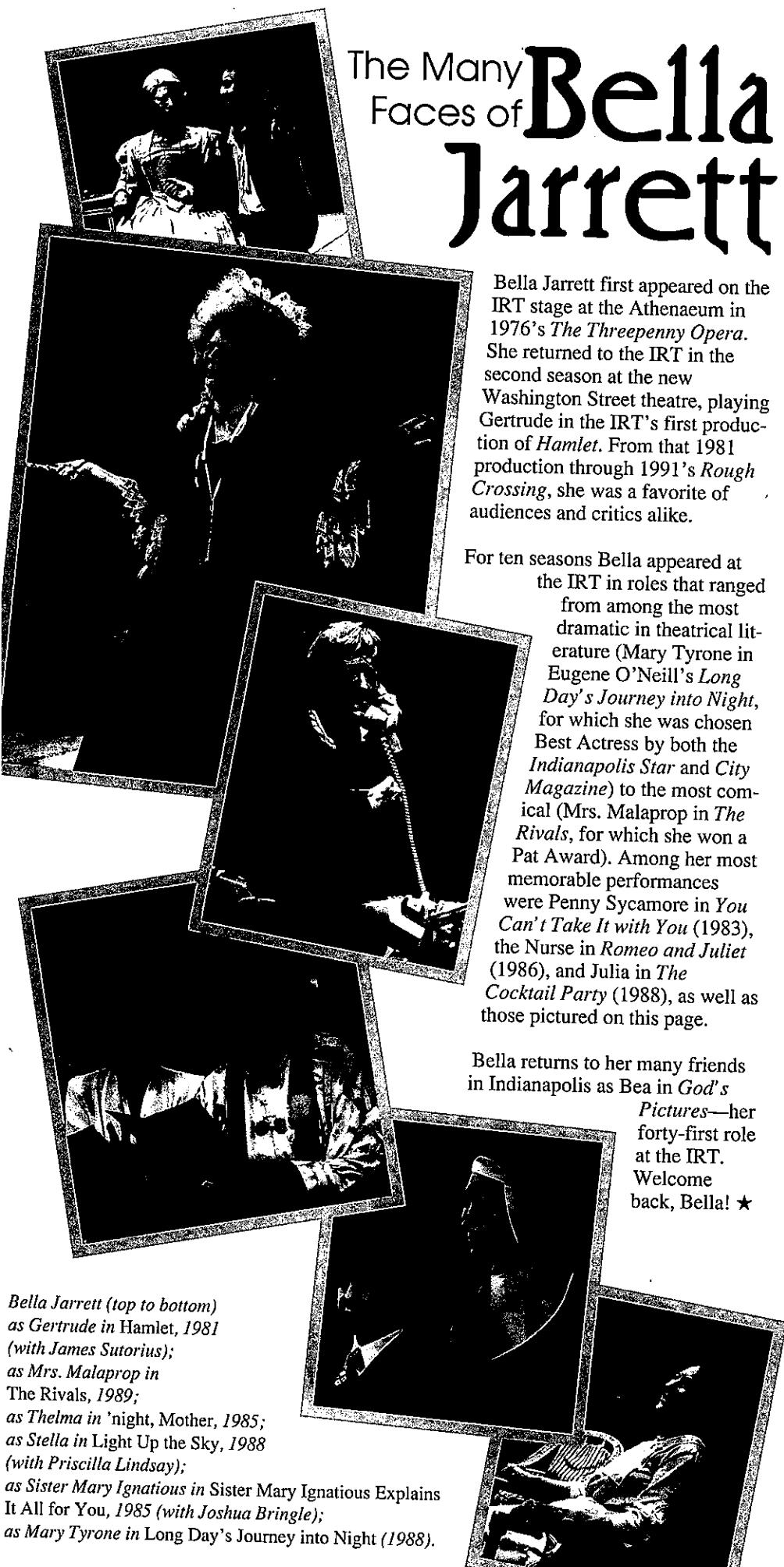
*The Marquee is a pre-show publication for the Indiana Repertory Theatre's subscribers and friends.*

**Indiana Repertory Theatre**  
140 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-3465  
Administration (317) 635-5277  
Box Office (317) 635-5252

*Libby Appel, Artistic Director  
Brian Payne, Managing Director  
Janet Allen, Associate Artistic Director*

The IRT participates in the  
Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest  
Resident Theatre Initiative.  
This project is partially underwritten by  
grants from the Indiana Arts Commission,  
the Arts Council of Indianapolis,  
and the National Endowment for the Arts.

# The Many Faces of **Bella Jarrett**



Bella Jarrett (top to bottom) as *Gertrude* in *Hamlet*, 1981 (with James Sutorius); as *Mrs. Malaprop* in *The Rivals*, 1989; as *Thelma* in 'night, Mother, 1985; as *Stella* in *Light Up the Sky*, 1988 (with Priscilla Lindsay); as *Sister Mary Ignatious* in *Sister Mary Ignatious Explains It All for You*, 1985 (with Joshua Bringle); as *Mary Tyrone* in *Long Day's Journey into Night* (1988).

Bella Jarrett first appeared on the IRT stage at the Athenaeum in 1976's *The Threepenny Opera*. She returned to the IRT in the second season at the new Washington Street theatre, playing Gertrude in the IRT's first production of *Hamlet*. From that 1981 production through 1991's *Rough Crossing*, she was a favorite of audiences and critics alike.

For ten seasons Bella appeared at the IRT in roles that ranged from among the most dramatic in theatrical literature (Mary Tyrone in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*, for which she was chosen Best Actress by both the *Indianapolis Star* and *City Magazine*) to the most comical (Mrs. Malaprop in *The Rivals*, for which she won a Pat Award). Among her most memorable performances were Penny Sycamore in *You Can't Take It with You* (1983), the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* (1986), and Julia in *The Cocktail Party* (1988), as well as those pictured on this page.

Bella returns to her many friends in Indianapolis as Bea in *God's Pictures*—her forty-first role at the IRT. Welcome back, Bella! ★

**THE IRT**

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The IRT is always eager to welcome you, not only as a patron, but also as a volunteer. This season we have welcomed Everett Kramer to the IRT staff in the new position of Senior House Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Everett comes to the IRT from Shakespeare Santa Cruz, where he ran the front-of-house operations and worked with IRT Managing Director Brian Payne.

"We always need ushers," says Everett, "with up to eight shows a week on the Mainstage alone. Ushers help with preparations for opening the lobby and assist patrons to their seats; in return, they get to see the show for free!" Everett goes on to note that capable and enthusiastic individuals may have the potential to become members of the IRT Volunteer Corps, thus receiving company benefits such as tickets, gift-shop discounts, and invitations to special events and parties.

But ushering is not the only opportunity to get involved at the IRT. Every week, the theatre offers volunteer opportunities in administration, marketing, fundraising, special events, and education. "You might find yourself preparing between-show meals for cast and crew, giving clerical assistance in the administrative offices, or leading tours of the theatre for groups of school children," says Everett. "We have an opportunity to match every volunteer."

And remember, by volunteering at the IRT, not only do you help produce Indiana's most exciting professional theatre, but you have the chance to learn new skills as well. Call Everett Kramer at 635-5277, ext. 342, and join the IRT Volunteer Corps! ★

The IRT Upperstage season continues January 28 through February 25 with *Crow and Weasel*, a story by Barry Lopez adapted for the stage by Jim Leonard, Jr. A wise and wondrous fable of discover, tolerance, and respect, the play tells of a mythic journey. In a place beyond yesterday, Crow and Weasel join together to travel beyond the horizon of their native land and find "a creature without fur or feathers." As they venture into unknown territory, their friendship grows, as does their respect for the land, the animals, and the people they encounter.

Barry Lopez is the author of *Arctic Dreams* (winner of the National Book Award) and *Of Wolves and Men*. Of his *Crow and Weasel*, a *New York Times* Bestseller, he has said, "The story is not based, as far as I know, on any Native American Legend, although its themes are ones still stressed today in various Native American communities. These include an awareness of the spiritual dimension of the landscape, an emphasis on the importance of the community over the needs of the individual, and a willing-

# CROW AND WEASEL

BY BARRY LOPEZ  
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE  
BY JIM LEONARD, JR.

ness to accept and accommodate mystery in the world. The themes of tolerance and the importance of friendship, of course, are common to many cultures today."

*Crow and Weasel* is adapted for the stage by playwright Jim Leonard, Jr., author of the much-produced off-Broadway success *The Diviners*.

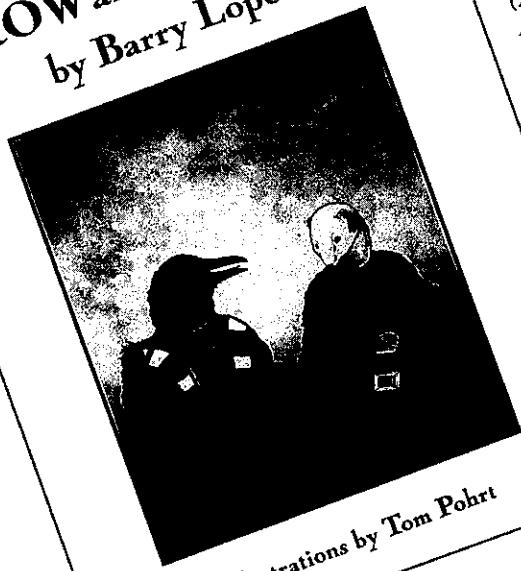
*Crow and Weasel* will be directed by IRT resident director Andrew Tsao (*Odd Jobs, A Thousand Cranes*). Choreographer is IRT associate artist and Dance Kaleidoscope artistic director David Hochoy (*Yerma, Much Ado about Nothing, A Thousand Cranes*). Set designer is Karen TenEyck (*A Thousand Cranes, Holiday Memories, On the Razzle*). Costume designer is IRT newcomer Elizabeth Hope Clancy; lighting designers are Victor En Yu Tan (*A Thousand Cranes, Holiday Memories*) and IRT newcomer Greta Fisher. Original music is by John Luther Adams.

The cast for *Crow and Weasel* includes several faces familiar to IRT audiences as well as a couple of

new actors. Ned Snell (*On the Razzle, Great Expectations*) is the humble, thoughtful Crow. IRT newcomer Mark Townsend is his bolder, braver companion, Weasel. Brad Griffith (*Holiday Memories, Great Expectations*) plays Mountain Lion, Grizzly Bear, and an Inuit Elder. Diana DuPuis (*Holiday Memories*) is Raccoon. Chuck Goad (*On the Razzle, Great Expectations*) is Marmot. IRT artistic fellow Hisa Takakuwa (assistant director for *A Raisin in the Sun* and *On the Razzle*) makes her IRT stage debut

as Raven and Mother Crow. Rick Walters (*The Secret History of the Future, Huck Finn's Story*) is Porcupine and Mouse. Milicent Wright (*On the Razzle, Tales of the Arabian Nights*) is Badger and Mother Weasel. ★

New York Times Bestseller  
**CROW and WEASEL**  
by Barry Lopez



Illustrations by Tom Pohrt



BRUCE DEAN

# DON'T FORGET YOUR STAGE DOOR PASS!

You'll receive fabulous savings with your Stage Door Pass, which was included on your season ticket card. This pass is good for discounts to the following fine establishments. We hope you'll patronize them often. Just present your Stage Door Pass (not your ticket stubs) when ordering. These offers are good for the entire season, through May 21, 1995. Please ask each participating establishment about their offer.

Boom Baby's (25% off)

The Eagle's Nest (15% off)

Ellington's (25% off)

Fireside South (15% off)

236-1800

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Girasole (*Frequent Diner's Card*)

Mickie's Simply Southern (15% off)

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## PLAYGOER'S GUIDE

### ON THE UPPERSTAGE

#### CROW AND WEASEL

story by Barry Lopez  
adapted for the stage  
by Jim Leonard, Jr.

Jan 28—Feb 25, 1995

Run Time: approximately  
one hour and twenty minutes  
without intermission

Recommended for Adults  
and Students Grade 4 and up

January 28	Saturday	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
February 4	Saturday	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
February 11	Saturday	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
February 18	Saturday	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
February 25	Saturday	11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

For ticket information or to charge tickets conveniently by phone, call the IRT Box Office at (317) 635-5252.

For group discount information or student matinee information, call (317) 635-5277.

### ON THE MAINSTAGE

#### GOD'S PICTURES by Daisy Foote

January 3 through 29, 1995

Run Time: Approximately 2 hours and 10 minutes  
including one intermission

Recommended for Adults and Students Grade 10 and up

		JAN 3 Preview 7:30 p	4 Preview 7:30 p	5 Preview 7:30 p	6 Opening 7:30 p	7 5 p 9 p
8 2 p	9 7:30 p	10 7:30 p	11 7:30 p	12 7:30 p	13 7:30 p	14 5 p
15 2 p 7 p	16 6:30 p	17 7:30 p	18 7:30 p	19 7:30 p	20 7:30 p	21 5 p 9 p
22 2 p	23 7:30 p	24 7:30 p	25 7:30 p	26 2:00 p 7:30 p	27 7:30 p	28 1 p 5 p
29 2 p						

JANUARY  
4 Pay-What-You-Can—7:30 p  
6 Opening Night—7:30 p  
7 Meet the Artists Discussion—5 p  
11 Meet the Artists Discussion—  
7:30 p  
15 Sunday Tea Talk—2 p  
17 Pub Night—6:30 p  
19 Meet the Artists Discussion—  
7:30 p  
22 Signed, Audio Description—2 p  
27 Meet the Artists Discussion—  
7:30 p  
28 Matinee Buffet & Fashion  
Show—1 p



story by Barry Lopez; adapted  
for the stage by Jim Leonard, Jr.  
January 28—February 25, 1995

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AND  
JULIET**

by William Shakespeare  
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