Director/Playwright’s Notes

This play had its inception in 1989 when, after moving from New York City to Nebraska to start the Blue Barn Theatre, I drove with my wife through the Sandhills of northwestern Nebraska. The landscape out there entranced me. The beauty of it, the silence, the ocean-like movement of the rolling hills. It was a great time of transition in my life. The effort of founding a theatre took such a blind leap of faith. Perhaps it’s appropriate that the play is being mounted again on the eve of the Blue Barn’s tenth season. In many ways we are coming around the circle to the place where be began, and, as the saying goes, it’s the same, and at the same time, it’s completely different.

This production is a new exploration of the play’s themes. Bill Van Deest (Scenic/Lighting Designer) came in with a wonderful genesis of ideas from sources as diverse as photographs of real third world slums to images that had risen in his dreams. The resulting set provides a canvas which works stylistically with the text to create the inner and outer worlds of the characters, while allowing the audience a share of the creative freedom in defining the worlds of the play. Wendy Stark (Costume Designer) adds to this with a costume design which physicalizes the psychic/spiritual journey that each character goes through in the span of the play. Steve Hitch (Sound Designer) creates a soundscape to round out the creation of this strange world, which again allows the audience’s imagination to participate in the story.

Finally, the actors bring to the play their own deep sense of growth and change, and the struggles that ensue when life asks us to follow that path. It is my hope that these elements will work together to give you a powerful telling of The Empty Plough.

— Kevin Lawler
Director/Playwright

Gliding O'er All

Gliding o'er all, through all
Through Nature, Time and Space,
As a ship on the waters advancing,
The voyage of the soul - not life alone
Death, many deaths I'll sing.

— Walt Whitman

Department of Fine & Performing Arts

Roger Aikin - art history - Department Chair
Marilyn Kieliszewski - music - Acting Associate Chair - Performing Arts
Michael Flecky, S.J. - photography - Associate Chair - Visual Arts

Theatre
Alan Klem - Theatre Coordinator
Mark Krejci - Technical Director
Bill Hutson - Associate Chair - Performing Arts (on sabatical)
Kevin Lawler - Adjunct Theatre
Michael J. McCandless - Building Operations Director
Wendy Stark - Costume Designer
Bill Van Deest - Scenic Designer

Music
Carole Seitz - Music Coordinator
Fred Hanna
Adjunct Music
Nestor Hirzbaum - flute/piccolo
Craig Bircher - trumpet
Margaret Carpenter - violin/viola
Ken Kieliszewski - euphonium/tuba
Elaine Majors - piano
Margo Romig-Motyczka - violin/viola
William Ritchie - string bass
Luigi Waite - percussion
Margaret Wilkinson - cello
John Bennett - chorus/piano
Mary Birch - harp
Ron Cooley - guitar
Paul Koenig - voice
David Moore - music education
Louis Stout - horn
Claudette Valentine - chorus/piano
M. Eugene Williams - clarinet/saxophone
Jay Wise - trombone

Dance
Valerie Roche - Dance Coordinator
Adjunct Dance
Lynn Nevin

Visual Art
Littleton Alston - sculpture
G. Ted Bohr, S.J. - art history - Gallery Director
Bob Bosc - painting
Don Doll, S.J. - photography - Charles & Mary Heider Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair
Jerome K. Horning - ceramics
John Thein - printmaking

Staff
Robert Caudillo - Promotions Coordinator
Elaine Witt - Department Secretary
THE EMPTY PLOUGH

KEVIN LAWLER
Director

BILL VAN DEEST
Scenic/Lighting Designer

WENDY STARK
Costume Designer

STEVE HITCH
Sound Designer

THE KENNEDY CENTER
AMERICAN COLLEGE
THEATER FESTIVAL XXXI

Presented and Produced by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Supported in part by The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund
The U.S. Department of Education
The National Committee for the Performing Arts

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KC/ACTF).
The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KC/ACTF representative, and certain students are selected to participate in KC/ACTF programs involving awards, scholarships, and special grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered in the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KC/ACTF regional festival
and can also be considered for invitation to the KC/ACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1999.

Last year more than 900 productions and 18,000 students participated in the American College Theater Festival nationwide. By entering this production, our department is sharing in the KC/ACTF goals to help college theater grow and to focus attention on the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

NOTICE

THE USE OF CAMERAS OR OTHER RECORDING DEVICES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED DURING PERFORMANCES.

CAST

Lillian ............... Krystal Anne Kremla
Fran .................. Nicole Cannon
Vern .................. Nick Zadina
Fern ................. Jerilyn Marie Buresh
Joseph ............... Kevin Lawler

SCENES

ACT ONE

THE CITY IS A VAST, DESOLATE PLACE THAT IS RAPIDLY DYING.
ALONG THE PERIMETER OF THIS CITY IS A HUGE STRIP OF ABANDONED STREETS AND BUILDINGS KNOWN AS "THE DEAD ZONE."

scene 1 Prologue
scene 2 Another Day
scene 3 The Wind
scene 4 The Actual Edge
scene 5 Ghosts and Ships
scene 6 A Vessel
scene 7 Setting Sail

10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

JUST BEYOND THE DEAD ZONE IS A MYSTICAL PLAIN
THAT STRETCHES OUTWARD TOWARD INFINITY. THIS
PLACE IS KNOWN AS THE "PRAIRIE SEA" OR "THE VOID."
The stars are a place on the other side of death.

scene 1 Waking Up to Stars
scene 2 First Voyage
scene 3 Where Are We
scene 4 Row, Row, Row Your Boat
scene 5 The Sirens

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director .................................. Mark Krejci
Charge Scenic Artist ............................... Bill Van Deest
Stage Manager ..................................... Brad Gude
Light Operator .................................... Denise Chapman
Sound Operator .................................... Rick Silva
Costume Construction ............................ Emily Karovance,
Denae Smith, Erin Dunn,
Mary Applegate, Nicole Cannon,
Ann Coombs, Rachel Collen
Costume Running Crew ............................. Erin Dunn
Assistant to Costume Designer..................... Erin Dunn
Running Crew ...................................... Ann Griner
Set Crew .............................................
Nicole Cannon, Denise Chapman,
Nader Deek, Preet Goraya,
Ann Griner, Scott Lancaster,
Jake Mason, Brian McKeran,
Nanofo Modikwa, Nick Payne,
Kammi Skidla, Brent Tierney,
Matt Toye, Laura Vacanti,
Rick Silva, Dan Fix
Light Crew .......................................... Scott Kurz, Travis Ausen,
Jenni Taylor
Box Office .......................................... Kelly Goodall
House Manager .................................... Elizabeth Mangrich

SPECIAL THANKS

Brad Finkle