

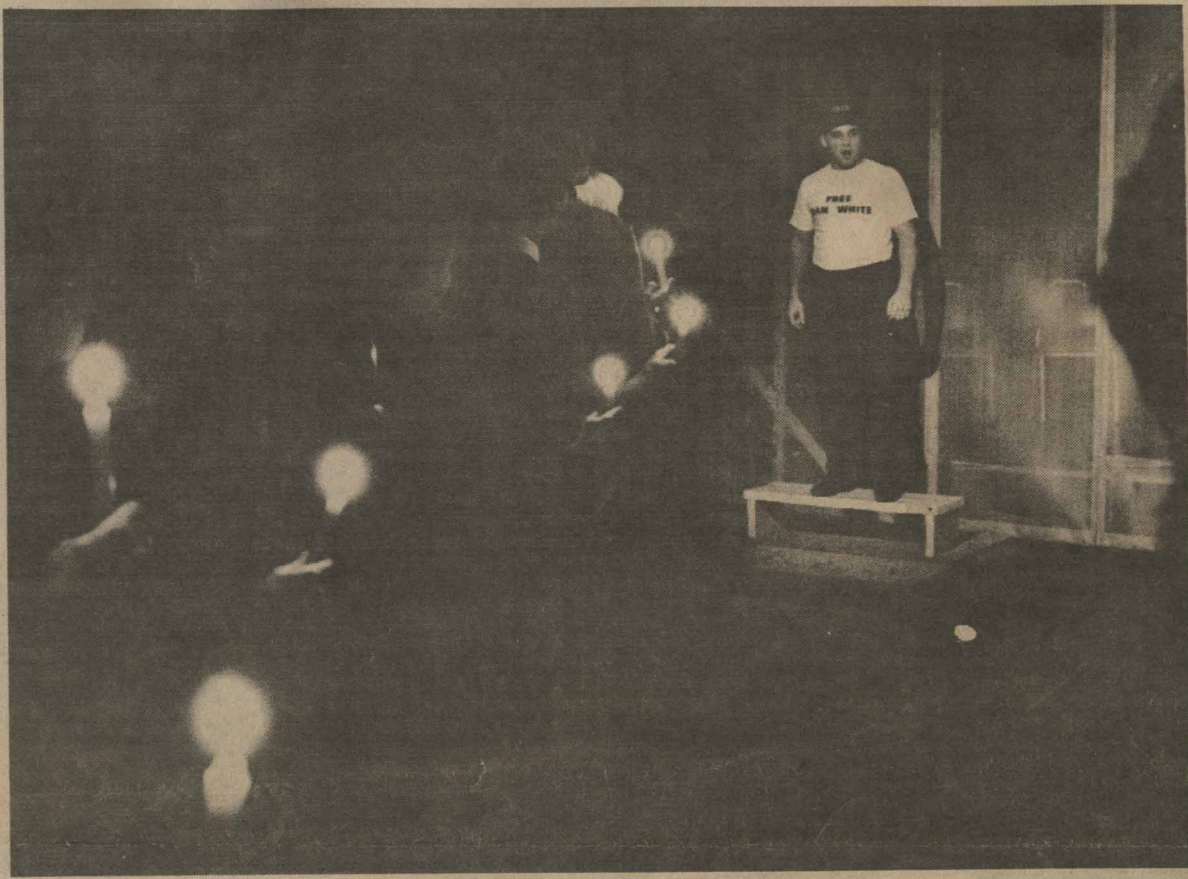
# CENTER STAGE

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STAFF PHOTOS BY RON SCHLOERB

Thom Demers, seated, playing a police inspector, listens while he's interrogated by an attorney (Kevin Shenk) in a scene from "Execution of Justice".



Brian Glidden, playing a policeman, speaks out at a candlelight march as part of "Execution of Justice" at the Provincetown Inn.

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Stage listings

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# Production pays tribute to Milk and Moscone

By Johanna Crosby  
SPECIAL WRITER

It was a cold-blooded double murder that stunned the nation.

On Nov. 27, 1978, former San Francisco city supervisor Dan White walked into the office of the city's mayor, George Moscone, and pumped him with four bullets. About 90 seconds later he walked across the hall to the office of Harvey Milk, the openly gay city supervisor, and shot him to death.

White left the City Hall building unnoticed, went to a nearby diner and called his wife. The couple met at a church, then went to the police station, where White turned himself in.

The dual assassination ignited intense feelings throughout the city, and a controversial trial touched off a series of riots.

As a tribute to Harvey Milk and George Moscone on the 10th anniversary of their assassinations, Provincetown Theaterworks will recreate this startling event by staging Emily Mann's "Execution of Justice" at 8 p.m. Nov. 25, 26 and 27 and Dec. 2, 3 and 4 in the Mayflower Room of the Provincetown Inn, 1 Commercial St. The perfor-

mance on Nov. 27 will be followed by a memorial candlelight ceremony for Milk and Moscone.

"It is a wonderfully written play, and we wanted to do it on the 10th anniversary of their assassinations," said director Susan Grilli.

Ms. Grilli said the play begins with the announcement of the murders by Dianne Feinstein, president of San Francisco's board of supervisors (she later became mayor). According to Ms. Grilli, White had turned in his resignation as city supervisor to Mayor Moscone 10 days before the assassinations. Then suddenly, he changed his mind and wanted his position back. But he failed to get any support from fellow council members.

White had earned a reputation for being openly hostile to gays. He learned through a reporter that he was not going to be reinstated, Ms. Grilli said.

White committed the murders just before Mayor Moscone was going to announce White's replacement at a press conference, Ms. Grilli said.

But the play focuses on the trial. The action is based on actual trial transcripts, interviews and news reports, Ms. Grilli said.

Ms. Grilli described the production as a "totally sensory experience," with special audio effects and riveting excerpts from the video "The Times of Harvey Milk." The video shows scenes of the candlelight march held the night of Milk's death and the riot led by the angered gay community after the verdict was handed down. That night police retaliated by storming the Castro, the gay district of the city.

During the trial a panel of psychiatrists for the defense testified that White was irrational and unstable because of the pressures of his job. One even used what became known as the "Twinkie defense," claiming that White had eaten so much junk food that he was incapable of making decisions, Ms. Grilli said.

The jury accepted the defense's contention that White had acted while he was at "diminished capacity" and convicted him of the lighter sentence of voluntary manslaughter instead of murder. (The plea of diminished capacity is no longer allowed under California law). White was sentenced to five to seven years imprisonment.

Ms. Grilli said the verdict touched off a riot led by members of the gay population, who stormed

City Hall. That night police again retaliated against the gays.

After serving five years, White was paroled. On the day he was freed, about 1,000 persons marched in San Francisco protesting his release. White committed suicide two years later.

"We are doing this play to educate people," Ms. Grilli said. "It is an important event that should not be forgotten. The audience will feel they are watching these events taking place before them and they are actually living it."

At the time of the assassinations, Ms. Grilli said, San Francisco was undergoing a change in its political structure. The conservative element was being replaced by the liberal element. White, a former policeman, was part of the conservative faction.

"White was unstable and irrational, and the only way he knew how to react was out of violence," Ms. Grilli said.

Tickets for "Execution of Justice" are \$8, except for the Dec. 4 performance, which is a benefit for the Tree of Life, a fund that provides financial assistance to people with AIDS. Tickets for the benefit are \$12. Reservations may be made by calling 487-2400. No one under 16 will be admitted.

## Stage listings

Academy of Performing Arts will present "Little Shop of Horrors" at 8 p.m. Nov. 18 and 19 and 3 p.m. Nov. 20 at the playhouse, Main Street, Orleans. The performance on Nov. 20 will be signed for the hearing impaired. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children under age 16. Reservations: 255-9929 from 1 to 8 p.m.

Falmouth High School will present the musical "Dames at Sea" at 8 p.m. Nov. 18 and 19 in the high school auditorium, 874 Gifford St., Falmouth. Tickets are \$3 at the door.

Cape Cod Community College's Rehearsal and Performance Class will perform "When the Applause Stops" at 8 p.m. Nov. 19 and 2 p.m. Nov. 20 in the Fine and Performing Arts Center at the college, Route 132, West Barnstable. Reservations: 362-6925.

Provincetown Playhouse will perform Tina Howe's "Painting Churches" at 8 p.m. Nov. 21, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 29 and Dec. 1, 2 and 3 and 2:30 p.m. Nov. 30 and Dec. 3 and 4 and "Sister & Miss Lexie" from stories by Eudora Welty at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 26 and 27 and Dec. 1 and 8 p.m. Nov. 30 at Cape Cod Community College, Route 132, West Barnstable. Tickets, \$10 to \$15, are available in advance from Side One Records in Hyannis, by calling 787-8000 or at the college box office.

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## A SIGNIFICANT WORK

On November 25, 26, 27, and December 2,3, and 4, PAPA/PTC will sponsor the Provincetown Theatreworks production of Emily Mann's "Execution of Justice". The play, which depicts the trial and judgement of Dan White for the killings of George Moscone, the Mayor of San Francisco, and Harvey Milk, a gay City Supervisor, is being directed by Susan Grili as a tribute to Moscone and Milk on the 10th anniversary of their assassinations. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 487-2400. No one under 16 will be admitted.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA PREMIERE AND PARTY

A truly Happy New Year is in store for everyone since the PTC is sponsoring a gala New Year's Eve party which will follow the premier of "Matching Wits", an original drama written and directed by Ron Weissenberger. "Matching Wits", which has been described as, "...A disturbing portrait of friendship", delves into the psyche of those tormented by relationships.

Tickets for both events may be purchased for \$18.00. However, tickets are available for either the premiere performance or the party separately for \$10.00 each. There will be a cash bar, complimentary hor d'oeuvres, and champagne to welcome in the New Year. It is hoped that all members, both old and new, will take this opportunity to reunite and make this a festive and memorable celebration. Don't miss out... Be sure to mark December 31, 1988 on your calendar as the night you plan to attend the premiere of "Matching Wits" and PAPA's New Year's Eve party at the Provincetown Inn. ...and remember, this is not an event limited to PAPA/PTC members. Tell your friends.

## MEMBERSHIP

At the November 7, 1988 open meeting of PAPA, it was decided to adopt the following membership criteria:

1. Participating Members--individuals who participate in at least one production of the theater company from inception through performance, or participate and attend a workshop on an ongoing basis for at least three months. there shall be a membership fee of \$15.00 per year and these members shall have all the rights and privileges of the regular members. In addition they shall have the right to hold elective office and to vote on any business or any decisions of PAPA at its annual meeting. Participating members are also invited to attend meetings of the Board of Directors and participate in their discussions. Participating members may present projects, ideas, or grievances but shall have no vote at Board meetings.

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2. Regular Members--individuals who have paid a membership fee of \$15.00 per year. These members shall have the privileges of discounts to theatrical productions, seminars, or publications produced by PAPA. These members shall have a voice, but no vote at the annual and general membership meetings and may not hold elective office.
  
3. Honorary Members--individuals who are so honored by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or the membership at an annual meeting. These members shall have all the rights and privileges of participating members.

Our membership year shall run from January 1 through December 31. In order for your Membership to be processed before the first of January and for you to be eligible for a discount on our production of "Matching Wits", please be sure to complete the enclosed application form and return it to us in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible. Future newsletters can only be mailed to Members of PAPA/PTC.

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