

PROVINCETOWN THEATER COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS THE HOLIDAY CLASSIC

AMATHIL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

by
Gian Carlo Menotti

FRIDAY, DEC 5, SATURDAY, DEC 6
FRIDAY, DEC 12 AND SATURDAY, DEC 13
ALL PERFORMANCES 7:00 PM

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
236 COMMERCIAL STREET
PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

ADULTS \$12 STUDENTS AND SENIORS \$6
INFORMATION 487-8673
RESERVATIONS PRS 487-6400

DIRECTED BY JEFFRY GEORGE CISMOSKI

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A Note From the Artistic Managing Director:

Since its inception in 1963, the Provincetown Theater Company has been dedicated to the presentation of plays of historic interest to Provincetown, as well as providing a showcase for the new works of talented playwrights, both local and national. Throughout its more than three decades of theatrical presentations, PTC has also offered the Cape community exciting evenings of musicals, performance art, revivals of classic plays, and New England premieres of contemporary plays.

We believe that a community-based theater group can provide stimulating, challenging and worthy theater to a town that can be truly called the "birthplace of modern American drama." Unique to PTC's mission is its belief that a theater company is a reflection of the community it serves. To that end, PTC offers an outlet of artistic expression for local actors, directors, technicians, and playwrights who are pursuing professions in the theater, as well as encouraging and applauding the involvement of individuals—both adults and children—from the Provincetown and Cape community who simply want to get involved in theater for the pure enjoyment of it!

We want you to become involved with PTC! Please feel free to speak to the box office representative about the many opportunities available in the various PTC programs. Or call me at the PTC office, (508) 487-8673. Together we prove that theater is truly a collaborative art. I look forward to working with you during the winter and spring productions, and through our classes in acting, directing, and playwriting.

—Roger

The Provincetown Theater Company
Presents

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

An Opera in One Act

Words and Music by
Gian-Carlo Menotti

FEATURING

Julie Maykowski
Sam Steen
Raif Greco

Jon Arterton
Joel Maxwell
Jeffry Cismoski

AND IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Mary Abt
Anne Brinton
Hannah Monet Cristina
Tommy Czyoski
Mara Glatzel
Raif V. Greco

R.F. Griffith
Dian Hamilton
Ben Iannitti
Kira Irving
Keith Labasbas
Teddie McKay

Pat Medina
Phoebe Otis
Louise Paquette
Alan Wagg
Peter Warnock

Royalty Costumes
Richard DeQuattro

Lighting Design
Allen Gallant

Set Design & Construction
Anthony Jackman

Musical Supervision and Direction
Mary Jo Paranzino

Keyboard and Orchestra Supervisor
Pat Hartzell

Ensemble Costume Design
R.F. Griffith

Stage Manager
Roger Cacchiotti

Directed and Choreographed by
Jeffry George Cismoski

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CAST

Mother	Julie Maykowski
Amahl	Sam Steen
King Kaspar	Joel Maxwell
King Melchoir	Jon Arterton
King Balthazar	Jeffry Cismoski
Page	Raif V. Greco

CHORUS

Mary Abt	R.F. Griffith	Pat Medina
Anne Brinton	Dian Hamilton	Phoebe Otis
Hannah Monet Cristina	Ben Iannitti	Louise Paquette
Tommy Czyoski	Kira Irving	Alan Wagg
Mara Glatzel	Keith Labasbas	Peter Warnock
Raif V. Greco	Teddie McKay	

ORCHESTRA

Conductor – Mary Jo Paranzino
 Keyboards & Orchestra Supervision – Pat Hartzell
 Bass – Karen Harding
 Oboe – Diane Fisher

Director	Jeffry George Cismoski
Stage Manager	Roger Cacchiotti
Lighting Design	Allen Gallant
Light Board Operator	Greta Holman
Set Design & Construction	Anthony Jackman
King's Costumes	Richard DeQuattro
Ensemble Costume Design	R.F. Griffith
House Manager	Lucy Bishop
Company Photographer	Mark Adams
Poster Design.....	John Andert
Program Design.....	Phoebe Otis

Special Thanks To: The Meeting House, The Provincetown Inn, Nelson's,
 Provincetown Recreation Department, Provincetown Second Hand Store, Larry Reiley,
 The Fine Arts Work Center, The Parents

cal and popular music. As an actor, Teddie has performed in the PTC productions of *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Fezziwig), *The Judgment of Father Martinho*, and Harry Kemp's *Don Juan in a Garden* (Dona Constanza). Teddie plays drums and sings in the local band, "The Hot Flashes," and is co-chair of the Provincetown Theater Company Board of Directors.

Pat Medina (*chorus*). "I began singing under the direction of John Thomas in November 1996 in the Outermost Community Chorus as a tenor. We've completed five choral events and are currently working on our sixth. I joined the Universalist Choir in October 1997 and became involved in this production of *Amahl* with the PTC."

Phoebe Otis (*chorus*). Phoebe has been a member of PTC since 1970 and is a former member of the PTC Board of Directors. A professional singer and performer, she has appeared in soaps and commercials in New York City, as well as nightclubs and cabarets in Provincetown. PTC productions include roles in *Dracula* (which she co-wrote), *The Revolt of Mamie Stover*, *Burn This*, and *The Lost Gospels of Blankenberg*. She has directed many shows for PTC, including the award-winning *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens* and several versions of *A Christmas Carol*. Phoebe has twice been nominated for A.C.T.E. awards.

Louise Paquette (*chorus*) is "still sewing." She also enjoys playing folk music, both with the "Cape Cod Fiddlers," and as a D.J. on WOMR's air waves. This is her first experience with group singing.

Alan Wagg (*chorus*) has been a Provincetown realtor for the past 20 years, as well as the organist and choir director at the Christian Union Church in Truro for nine years. He now happily sings in the Provincetown Choral Society and the choir at the Unitarian Meeting House.

Peter Warnock (*chorus*) is a 20-year resident of P'town and has been in various shows and benefits over the years, including "Close to Home." He is also a member of the U.U.M.H. Choir and the AIDS Ministry, for which he developed the Positive Performances series for HIV artists and performers.

Diane Fisher (*oboeist*). Currently residing in Provincetown, Diane studied at Ithaca College and Cornell University. She is the Founder of the Diane Fisher Orchestra.

Karen Harding (*bass*). Karen is a Provincetown-affiliated artist, now living in North Eastham, and is a charter member of the Diane Fisher Orchestra.

Greta Holman (*light board operator*). Greta is the sexton of the U.U. Meeting House. She has had vast experience in television production in New York City and is delighted to be living here on the Cape and working on *Amahl*.

The Board of Directors, staff, and members of the Provincetown Theater Company would like to extend our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a very merry New Year!! Look for an extensive series of readings and plays by PTC throughout the winter season, including staged readings of the classic thriller, *Rope*, and the hilarious hit comedy, *Lettice and Lovage*.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Mary Abt (*chorus*). Mary has a B.S. in Music Education and teaches general vocal music at Truro Central School. She sings with the U.U. Choir, the Provincetown Choral Arts Society, and the Outermost Chorus. Mary has performed in *The Sound of Music*, *The King & I*, *The Pajama Game*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Mame*, *Oklahoma*, *Carousel*, *Cabaret*, *Darlin' Cory*, *There & Back*, *The Three Penny Opera*, *Lil' Abner*, and *Brigadoon*. Mary sings professionally with the group, "Destiny."

Anne Brinton (*chorus*). With the exception of the '60s (blissful married life—with the emphasis on the blissful!), Anne sang or danced in nightclubs in New England and appeared in Boston's Spectator Theatre production of *Candide*. She moved to P'town, joined the Provincetown Theater Company, appearing in *A Thurber Carnival*, and sang in the local band, "Take Five." Anne is a member of the U.U. Choir.

Hannah Monet Cristina (*chorus*). Hannah is a 2nd Grade student at Provincetown Veteran's Elementary School. She used to live in Pittsburgh and likes to play soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and tee-ball. She performed in *O, Christmas Tree* for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Graders.

Tommy Czyoski (*chorus*). Tommy is in the 6th Grade at the Provincetown Veteran's Memorial Elementary School. He has appeared locally in *The Coney Island of Dr. Moreau*, *Little Luncheonette of Terror*, *You Ain't Nothin' but a Werewolf*, and *Ghosts on Strike*.

Mara Glatzel (*chorus*). "My name is Mara Glatzel and I'm 12. I live in Provincetown, and I am a 7th Grader at Provincetown High School. I have acted in a lot of plays, and I've enjoyed the unique experience of being in the opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*."

Dian Hamilton (*chorus/dancer*) is an actor, writer, and yoga teacher who just moved to P'town from New York City. "It is a joy to be singing and dancing in Provincetown with my newly adopted community!"

Ben Iannitti (*chorus*). "Originally from New York City, I am grateful to have the honor of working with such a talented and fun cast. Thanks Jeffry!"

Kira Irving (*chorus*). "I was born on December 26, 1984, and I have lived in Provincetown all my life. I have been in four plays put on by the Community Center and two put on by the Provincetown Library. During the summer I sail at the West End Racing Club, and I love fishing with my family. My mother Eleanora works at the Provincetown High School, and my father Mark owns the Atlantic Spice Co. in Truro. Besides sailing, some of my other favorite sports are soccer, softball, and volleyball. I have never been in an opera before, but I love to sing and play my saxophone and so I thought this would be a good experience."

Keith Labasbas (*chorus/dancer*). Keith sings tenor in the U.U. Choir. Originally from Virginia, he moved to Provincetown in 1996. This is his first stage performance, and he is pleased to be a part of the PTC.

Teddie McKay (*chorus*) is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory where she majored in singing and piano, and is a member of AGVA (American Guild of Variety Artists). Teddie toured the country performing on stage as a solo vocalist specializing in classi-

JULIE MAYKOWSKI (*Mother*) is a native of beautiful Colorado. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. She then taught voice as a Graduate Teaching Assistant while completing her Master of Music degree at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas. She had been heard as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Nannetta in *Falstaff*, and Little Red in *Little Red Riding Hood*. Julie made her professional opera debut as Laetitia in an Opera Kansas Production of *The Old Maid and the Thief*. She was most recently heard in New York City, premiering a new opera entitled *John Grace Rantor*. Julie is thrilled to be making her Provincetown debut, and would like to thank Jeffry for his blind faith in a "butch-diva".

SAM STEEN (*Amahl*) is a sixth grader at Harwich Middle School. This is the 12th play Sam has participated in, including *The Wizard of Oz*, *Annie*, *Peter Pan*, *The King and I*, *Dear Friends and Gentle Hearts*, *Amherst Sabbath*, and *Cabaret*. He most especially recalls his roles as Oliver in *Oliver* with The Highlanders, and Colin in *The Secret Garden* at the Academy Playhouse in Orleans. He sees this opportunity to play Amahl as an important theatrical and singing experience for a possible future in acting, not to mention a joyful one.

JON ARTERTON (*King Melchoir*) began singing as a choirboy at The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He received a Master of Music degree from The New England Conservatory, and an MFA in acting from Smith College. In 1988, he founded the proudly gay a cappella group The Flirtations.

JOEL MAXWELL (*King Kaspar*) is currently pursuing a Music degree at Berklee College of Music. Joel is an avid Music Theatre fan. Roles include the Pharaoh in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Duane in *Applause*, H@nsel in Humperdink's *H@nsel and Gretel*, and Fagin in *Oliver*. This is the second production of *Amahl...* for Joel, who is taking a sabbatical to enjoy the beautiful fall in Provincetown. He hopes you enjoy this interpretation of the opera and receive its beautiful message of love and miracles.

RAIF VICTOR GRECO (*Page*) was a circus clown for two years before coming to Provincetown. For the past ten years, he has been a member of the Meeting House Choir, in addition to singing with The Provincetown Choral Society and Richard Busch's Outer Cape Cammerata. His theatre experience includes a role in Scott Storr's *Dreamboys*, (not mounted), and a leading role in the PTC production of *Pippin*, in 1993.

GIAN-CARLO MENOTTI (*Composer*) was born in Cadegliano, Italy in 1911, and educated at the Milan Conservatory and at the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, where he taught composition from 1941 to 1955. In 1958, he founded a festival of the arts in Spoleto, Italy. Menotti's operatic works include *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *The Island God* and *The Consul*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1950. *Amahl*, based on the story of the three wise men, is the first opera ever written for television.

JEFFRY GEORGE CISMOSKI (*Direction, Choreography and King Balthazar*) is delighted to bring *AMAHL...* to life in Provincetown. He has worked alongside direc-

tors and choreographers such as Tommy Tune, George Abbott and Susan Stroman. Mr. Cismoski, an original cast member of the first national tour of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* starring Alexis Smith, choreographed and stage managed numerous productions of *Whorehouse* across the country. Known as the "Fix-it Production Stage manager" in New York, he has re-staged and directed shows such as *Broadway Bound*, *My One And Only*, *Secret Garden*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Carousel*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Phantom*. He is best known for his "calling" of the revivals of *Mack and Mabel*, *Barnum*, and *Candide*, along with the world premiers of *Zombie Prom*, *Sayonara*, *Phantom*, and *Beyond A Reasonable Doubt*. Even though he has retired from stage managing, he still works for director Philip Wm. Mckinley, the new director of Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus. This past summer he had the pleasure of working with Mr. Mckinley on the world premier of the other *Jekyll and Hyde* and the tour of *The Wizard of Oz*. Mr. Cismoski spent two summers at the North Shore Music Theater in Beverly, MA. where he stage managed more than 25 full-scale productions ranging from *Funny Girl* to *Macbeth*. At North Shore, he created "Team North Shore", a high school intern theatre program that has launched one of the largest high school educational theatre programs in the Northeast. Before that, he spent seven seasons at the state theatre of New Jersey, the famed Papermill Playhouse, as their Resident Production Stage Manager. He has appeared on national television in *Trapper John, M.D.* and *One Life To Live*. He is presently co-chairman of the Provincetown Theater Company and is Co-owner of Utilities here in town with his partner Hunter O'Hanian.

ANTHONY JACKMAN (*Set Design & Construction*) has been a member of PTC since 1984. As an actor he has appeared in PTC productions of *What the Butler Saw*; *Noises Off*; *Larry*, *Queen Of Scots*; *Jenny St. Joan*; and most recently as Ben in Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*. His set designs have been nominated for 8 A.C.T.E. awards, and he was part of the PTC team that was presented with the George McConville Memorial Award for the acclaimed production of *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens*. This summer Tony designed the set for the PTC production of *Cute Boys*....He has also directed two plays for PTC: Alan Bown's *Beirut* and James Goldman's *The Lion in Winter*. He is also Founder and Producer for the past 11 years of "Close to Home," the annual benefit for the Provincetown AIDS Support Group.

RICHARD DeQUATTRO (*Royalty Costume Design*) A visual artist, Richard is of the planet earth. His artistic visions formulate twenty-four hours a day, drawing on light, color, scenic and passionate connections with those elements and souls he encounters. He discovered his artistic passion at an early age by experimenting in his grandmother's studio in Florida. His foundation of historic accomplishments supplements his "of the moment" belief in art only slightly. He has held one-man shows in galleries in New York City, Palm Beach, Miami, Key West, Mexico and Paris. His artwork has been photographed for such publications as *Esquire*, *Marque*, *Architectural Digest*, *Art News*, *Arts Magazine* and *Mia Casa*. His first review in *Arts Magazine* described Richard as "possessing a crystalized, powerful style with sureness of brush stroke and confident vision." Mr. DeQuattro's wearable art was also a part of DIFFA, Design Industries Foundation for AIDS, appearing with such notables as Joseph Abboud, Giorgio Armani, Norma Kamali and Yves Saint Laurent to name a few. He has won numerous awards and grants for his fine art and wearable collections. Richard continues to donate his talents to countless benefits and events.

R.F. GRIFFITH (*Ensemble Costume Design/Chorus*) "Griff" recently retired after 30 years as a professor of Art and Design at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. One of the founding members of Gallery NAGA in Boston, in the 1980s, he was also director of the Norman Gallery on Newbury Street. As an artist and printmaker, he has shown extensively, and his work is in many public and private collections. He now spends most of his time being a thespian and restoring his 1840s farmhouse with his partner. He is thrilled to be part of this production, and as one of the costume designers, he finally gets to play "paperdolls". Thank you, Jeffry.

ALLEN GALLANT (*Lighting Design*) has vast experience with disco, theatre, and live performance lighting, construction and design and has produced large outdoor stage productions for audiences of over 4,000 persons. Allen's most recent foray into theater credits him with forming The Meeting House Theatre. He was stage manager for the four-month run of *Big Wind on Campus* and toured with that production. As Theatre Manager for the M.H. Theatre for the 1996 season, he designed lighting for *The Negative Room* and various short weekend productions here and in the upstairs performance space. In 1997, he designed, installed and was resident lighting designer for the Club Euro. This fall he was a volunteer member of the lighting staff for the Boston Rock Opera's stage production of *The Rocky Horror Show*. He is manager of his lover, Gary Talbot as "Ginger Vitas". Allen wants all to know that he was a member of his high school audio-visual club and his yearbook slogan was "I'll do it!"

MARY JO PARANZINO (*Musical Direction*) studied music at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She also completed Composition & Arrangement at Chatauqua Institute of New York. She is currently Choir Director at the Unitarian/Universalist Meeting House of Provincetown, and founder of the musical group "Destiny".

PAT HARTZELL (*Keyboards and Orchestra Supervision*) began her music education at the age of four, with piano lessons. One year later, she participated in her first talent competition, in Nazareth, PA, playing *Anitra's Danz* by Grieg. She lost to an accordion player playing *Lady of Spain*. At Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, she graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Music Performance in 1974. In 1975, she joined the Air Force, playing in concert, rock, marching and jazz bands. In 1980, Pat left the service to form a rock band. Later, she joined other bands, until 1987, when she gave up music full-time. In 1996, she moved to Provincetown, where she works with local artists and lends her talents to many benefits.

ROGER CACCHIOTTI (*Stage Manager*) is the Artistic Managing Director of the Provincetown Theater Company. He has written, performed, and directed shows in New York City, Boston and in the southwest including his performance-art piece, *Almost 40—Nothing Personal*. He just completed a double Master's degree in Directing and Theater Education at the University of New Mexico where he studied on a Fellowship, taught undergraduate acting, and served as administrator of the Youth Theatre Program. He also taught acting and playwriting in the Albuquerque Public Schools through New Mexico's Wrinkle Writing Program, which culminated in full productions of student-written plays. This summer Roger directed the PTC production of *Cute Boys in Their Underpants Fight the Evil Trolls*.











"Amahl and the Night Visitors" magnificent

By Mary-Jo Avellar

The Provincetown Theatre Company's second annual production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" is, in a word, magnificent.

If anyone had told me this production would be better than last year's, I wouldn't have believed it possible. But it's true.

Superbly directed once again this year by Jeffrey George Cismoski, "Amahl and the Night Visitors" is a gift for the heart, a vision for the eyes and a feast for the ears.

It delivers the timeless message of the power of faith, hope and love to work miracles.

Those who missed this past weekend's production are still in luck. "Amahl" will be performed Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Meeting House.

In a reprise of their roles as the Mother and Amahl, Julie Maykowski and Sam Steen were sensational. Maykowski's powerful soprano resonated alternately with love for her son Amahl and with despair at not being able to provide for him.

Maykowski's acting was wonderful and filled with subtle little nuances, such as a raised eyebrow here or a skeptical look there, which were missing in her interpretation last year. She is a fine and accomplished performer.

A year older, Steen has grown immeasurably in the role of Amahl, the crippled shepherd boy with the pure heart and vivid imagination. With his rosy cheeks and true, clear voice, Steen could easily be featured as a solo performer in any boys' choir seen over the holidays on television specials.

Steen was clearly in command of his role and, believe it or not, more at ease and possessed of a maturity not present in last year's stellar performance. His voice seemed stronger as it reached those stratospheric notes in the upper registers of the musical scale. Although the day is drawing nigh when Steen will be playing one of the kings instead of Amahl, it was wonderful to hear his beautiful boy's soprano.



Sam Steen as Amahl and Julie Maykowski as his mother

The supporting performers in "Amahl" were also first rate with veteran performer and baritone Jon Arterton performing for the second year in a row as the serious King Melchior. He was joined by two newcomers, bass Peter Bez, who replaced Cismoski as the regal King Balthazar, and the tenor voice of Stanley Wilson as the humorous King Kaspar.

Wilson was especially effective and provided just the right amount of comic relief in what is an otherwise serious production.

Special praise is well deserved for the Page, Gary Talbot (aka Ginger Vitas) and teenager Isis Graham, a member of the ensemble, who performed a respectable solo dance routine in very cramped quarters.

The intimacy of the basement stage at the Meeting House added a special touch of warmth and charm at

the end of the production when the 21-member chorus of shepherds entered the hall from behind the audience. Their voices resonated marvelously as they made their way forward to the stage to pay honor to the Three Kings.

Kudos as well to Richard DeQuattro for the spectacular costumes on the kings, Tony Jackman for his set design and all of the behind the scenes crew who worked long and hard at making this production one to remember.

Local theater is difficult under the best of circumstances and opera even more so, but clearly PTC's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" is a labor of love and well on its way to becoming a Provincetown holiday tradition.

P.S. Don't forget the Kleenex. I did.

"Amahl" is a show worth singing about

By Joe Burns
BANNER STAFF

"Amahl and the Night Visitors," Gian-Carlo Menotti's made-for-TV opera, has become a Christmas classic since its introduction to American audiences in 1951 but, despite its popularity, the vocal demands of "Amahl" have often put it beyond the reach of many community theater companies. Fortunately, artistic talent is never in short supply in Provincetown, and so for the second consecutive year, the Provincetown Theatre Company and director Jeffrey George Cismoski are presenting "Amahl" at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House theater at 7 p.m. Thurs.-Sat., and at 3 p.m. Sun.

The English language opera is the story of Amahl (Sam Steen), a poor, crippled, shepherd boy and his struggling widowed mother (Julie Maykowski), whose lives are forever changed when they are visited by three kings on their way to find the new-born Christ child.

The three — King Kaspar (Stanley Wilson), King Melchior (Jon Arterton) and King Balthazar (Peter Bez) and their Page (Gary Talbot) — are being guided by a star, but the star that guides "Amahl" is Maykowski, who returns for the second year as Amahl's mother. Her glorious lyric-soprano and her dramatic ability elevated the evening and undoubtedly inspired the cast.

Steen, also reprising his role in "Amahl," showed a flair for comedy during last Sunday's matinee performance. His timing and expression as he announced to his doubting mother the arrival of first one, then two and finally three kings at their door was as well executed as any skit you're likely to see.

The Kings were quite the cut-ups themselves, and a bit closer, at times, to the Three Stooges than the Three Wise Men. Wilson, as the rotund Kaspar, showed his Ed Wynn-ing ways with a routine involving his treasure box. And while we're on the subject of humor, that silly goose step of Talbot's as he set out the Kings' belongings was pure Monty Python.

The trio also harmonized like a barbershop quartet, minus one — not surprising, considering that Arterton was the founder of the a cappella group the Flirtations. Here he also served as chorus master; accompaniment provided by Pat Hartzell offered strong support.

R.F. Griffith seemed to bring a bit of Charles Dickens into the Mideast motif he created for the ensemble. The ceremonial wear that Richard DeQuattro created for the Kings and Page are in all likelihood the most original and colorful outfits ever seen in an "Amahl" production — Technicolor dreamcoats that contrasted sharply with the earth tones worn by Amahl and his mother, their

excess expressed the opulence of royalty without the need for stylistic clichés.

The set design by Anthony Jackman was a study in simplicity, and lighting by Allen Gallant made brilliant use of a basic black backdrop.

Unfortunately, the sight line at the small Meeting House Theater does not allow for many unobstructed views. It might be worth trying to make more creative use of the space by exploiting and integrating its limitations.

◆ THEATER REVIEW ◆

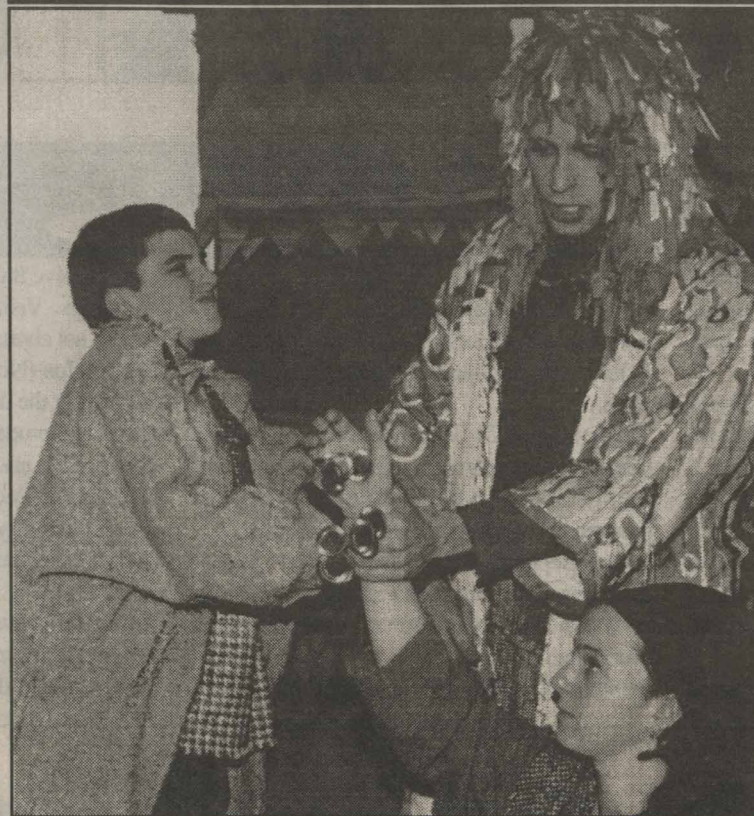


Photo Vincent Guadagno

Amahl (Sam Steen) comes to his mother's (Julie Maykowski) defense as she struggles with The Page (Gary Talbot).

Murder continued from page 17

white certainty of the truth she sought with the shadings of subjectivity she often found.

"I would meet people that were friends of Dad's and I would be told stories, how much they missed him and how important he had been to them and all that, but none of this felt very tangible. And there was a point when I realized that I was looking for information, not just out of curiosity, but also to get away from this anecdotal information."

In another segment, Swetzoj juxtaposes the orderliness of the DNA pattern that gives us life with the disorderliness that has shaped her life.

"I think when I was a kid I had fantasies that other people's lives were orderly and peaceful and 'normal,' " she says. "There's a part of me that has struggled to find order in my own life and yet has been used to having a lot of chaos."

While Swetzoj says that her father's murder has defined her life, she refuses to allow her father to be defined by his murder, and through her research and documentary she has, in a sense, become his biographer. "Theme: Murder" is a confirmation and a dedication to a life.

"At the time [I filmed it], it was a little more visceral than that. It was really about wanting to know things," Swetzoj says. "Now that I look at it, I can see that I was trying to reclaim him as human being from the identity of murder victim."