

**The Theatre of
Western Springs
Presents**



This program is partially
sponsored by a grant from the
Illinois Arts Council

The Foreigner

By Larry Shue

Directed by Jack Phillips

Cast

(in order of appearance)

“Froggy” LeSueur

.....Dave Bremer

Charlie Baker

.....Rob Snyder

Betty Meeks

.....Ginny Richardson

Rev. David Lee

.....Mark Cunningham

Catherine Simms

.....Sue Valenta

Owen Musser

.....Dave Santchi

Ellard Simms

.....Ryan Foster*

*CTWS student

Setting

Betty Meeks' Fishing Lodge Resort,
Tilghman County, Georgia, U. S. A.

Time

The Recent Past

ACT I

Scene 1: Evening

Scene 2: The following morning

ACT II

Scene 1: Afternoon, two days later

Scene 2: That evening

There will be one fifteen minute
intermission.

Acknowledgments

Produced with special permission from
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

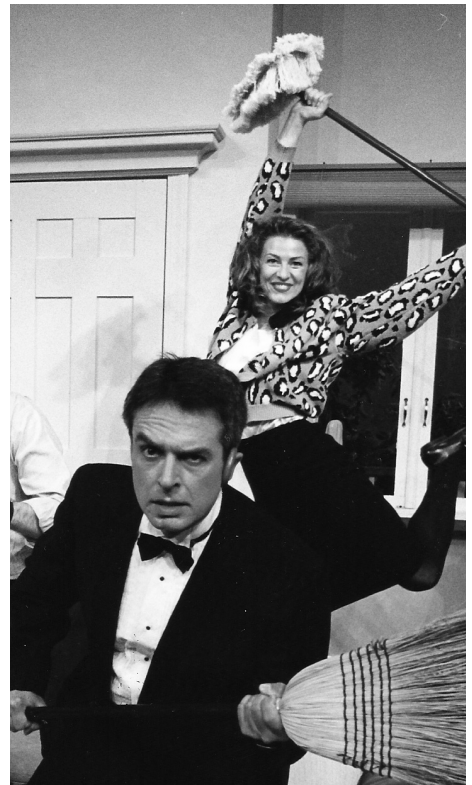
Special thanks to:

Dorothy Attermeyer, of Dorothy's Doll
Demesne/Horn Harbor, Bill Anderson,
Jr., and Art Peifer for lodge decor items.

The Fruit Store, Western Springs and
Hinsdale, for providing apple cider at
cost with free delivery.

Starbucks, Western Springs, for
providing decaf coffee for the
Thursday performances.

The photographs illustrating this
program are from The Theatre of
Western Springs' archives.



Mark Favoino and Inge Baugh in
The Nerd
TWS, September, 2000

Director's Corner

By Jack Phillips

Larry Shue has a remarkable understanding about what is funny. Jokes, punch lines are funny. Everyone understands that. Larry Shue also understands that real humor comes from the potential of pain — either emotional or physical. He puts his characters in powerful situations and surprises us with their solutions. He also has a wonderful insight into human nature. We recognize ourselves when Betty shouts at someone she thinks doesn't speak English. We know people whose charm and easy manner hides their personal agenda. We love to see bad guys lose, particularly when they are just outsmarted. And we all understand that often a tough guy attitude really hides a coward. This play is just fun. Have a good time.

Dramaturg's Diary

By Terry Locke

No discussion of *The Foreigner* would be complete without mentioning the fact that its playwright, Larry Shue, died at the tender age of 39, in a crash of a commuter plane in 1985, just as he was entering his prime as a writer. His two best-known plays, tonight's production and *The Nerd*, are now staples of university, regional, and community theatres all over America.

After graduating Cum Laude with a B.F.A. in Drama from Illinois Wesleyan University and serving in the Army, he returned and began his career as professional actor and playwright with the Harlequin Dinner Theatre in Atlanta, GA and Washington, DC. His acting credits included such diverse

roles as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*.

The Foreigner was first produced at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre in January of 1983 while he was playwright-in-residence. It was named by the American Theatre Critics Association as one of the best regional theatre plays of the 1983-1984 season and was subsequently produced Off-Broadway in November of 1984.

The story starts with Staff Sergeant "Froggy" LeSueur of the British Army serving his annual tour as a weekend demolition instructor for the American army. This year he has brought his sad and shy friend Charlie Baker to America with him in an attempt to cheer him up. Back in England, Charlie's wife is apparently dying. Compounding this, he reveals to Froggy that during his 27 years of marriage his wife found him so boring that she regularly cheated on him.

Froggy and Charlie are staying at a fishing lodge owned and operated by Betty Meeks in rural Georgia. Other guests include the Reverend David Marshall Lee and his fiancée, Southern Belle Catherine Simms. Catherine's brother Ellard, a none-too-swift country bumpkin is also on hand.

Charlie's personal problems have left him seriously despondent, and he would like to get through this time without being bothered. He doesn't want to talk to anybody, but he also doesn't want to be rude. He is, after all, British, so interacting with people means being polite. In a moment of inspired resourcefulness and without much forethought, Froggy comes up with a tidy solution: he tells Betty that

Charlie is a “foreigner” and neither speaks nor understands English.

However, over the course of three days, Charlie hears decidedly personal conversations between guests who have no idea he understands them. Before long, he has heard everyone’s secrets, including a possibly dangerous one.

The Foreigner, much like *The Nerd*, derives much of its humor from

mistaken identity. Shue’s idea for *The Foreigner* was born when he spent much of 1980 studying with a theater company in Japan. He discovered that the Japanese would tolerate even his most bizarre behavior, dismissing his inappropriate actions as the conduct of an outsider, simply because he was unaware of Japanese social customs.

The Foreigner remains Shue’s most highly regarded work and is considered the most perfectly realized of his plays.

Coming to TWS This Summer

Our 3rd Annual



SAVE THIS DATE! You don’t want to miss this!

Saturday, July 18th 6:30 to 11:00 pm

We’re planning a spectacular event – even bigger and better than the last two, so be here and be hungry!

Participating Restaurants Include

- *Ditka’s*, Oakbrook Terrace
- *Chequers*, La Grange
- *Balducci’s*, Willowbrook
- *Magic Wok*, La Grange
- *Emilio’s Tapas*, Hillside
- *Tommy R’s*, Hinsdale
- *A Taste of Vino*, Western Springs
- *Pappadeaux*, Westmont
- *La Dolce Vita*, Western Springs
- *Godiva Chocolate*, Oak Brook
- *Capri Risorante*, Burr Ridge
- *Café Salsa*, Countryside

Plus four other fine restaurants

Call the TWS Box Office for your tickets – 708-246-3380

Tickets are \$50 each and the quantity is limited

Production Credits

Director

Jack Phillips

Technical Director

Thad Hallstein

Stage Manager

Darla Goudeau

Assistant Stage Manager

Mari Lamp

Box Office Crew

Ed Barrow, Terry Kozlowski, Betsy Stiles, Marilyn Wilson

Costume Chairs

Marilyn Darnall, Carolyn Redding

Costume Crew

Linda Bremer, Peg Callaghan, Pat Giesler, Ann Marie Hultgren, Julie Suarez

Dramaturg

Terry Locke

Hospitality Crew

Dorothy Attermeyer, Bob Baker, Jazmina Baukys, Hedy Bosch, Ruth Cekal, Philip Conway, Mike DeKovic, Amany Ezeldin, Bill Fanning, Terry Fanning, Dan Herndon, Sarah Herndon, Bonnie Hilton, Karen Holbert, Mike Huth, Pat Huth, Andrea Imes, Roland Imes, Rick Kabialis, Donna Kanak, Eleanor Kanak, Rich Kanak, Bill Love, Joyce Love, Martha Kirchman,

Jeff Miklos, Arlene Page, Leslie Price, Jackie Raschke, Joan Roeder, Pat Rotz, David Thompson, Kimberly Thompson, Charron Traut, Dick Traut, Susan Waldschmidt, Marilyn Weiher, Gini Welch

House Managers

Jack Calvert, Susan Cardamone, Peggy Carlson, Kathy Cawthon, Penny Choice, Rob Cramer, Mike DeKovic, Joe Delaloye, George Dempsey, Mike Janke, Heinz Karplus, Bill Love, Mike Mallon, Jon Mills, Diane Oppenheim, Mary Pavia, Rick Pavia, James Pusztay, Don Streuber, Denny Wise

Lighting Designer

Linda Bugielski

Lighting Crew

Peggy Carlson, Paul Roach, Dave Romito, Cal Turner, Cathy Van Horne

Makeup Designers

Mary Ellen Druyan, Jennifer Jermano Miller

Makeup Crew

Karen Arnold, Cindy Blaszak, Amany Ezeldin, Janet Grasso, Julie Knoch, Cheryle McCay, Janel Palm, Mary Smith, Stephanie Williams

Program Production

Ed Barrow, Marion J. Reis

Properties Designer

Bill Rotz

Properties Crew

Joanne Brychel, Denise D'Asto, Jim Gary, Dennis Hudson, Mary Pavia, Rick Snyder, David Valenta, Mallory Whitlock

Publicity Chair

Arlene Butler

Sandwich Sunday Crew

Dorothy Attermeyer, Cindy Blaszak, Jim Gary, Craig Mahlstedt, Jan Mahlstedt

Set Construction Chair

Harry Hultgren

Set Construction Crew

Anne Cahill, Ann Marie Hultgren, Mike Huth, Mark Favoino, Art Kelly, Jon Mills, John Mueller, Paul Roach, Peter Sonnenberg

Set Designer

Bill Rotz

Set Painting Chair

Cindy Blaszak

Set Painting Crew

Kathy Cawthon, Thad Hallstein, Andea Imes, Roland Imes, Deanna Markos, CTWS construction class.

Sound Designer

Martha Niles

Sound Crew

Lori D'Asta, Gonzo Schexnayder, Betsy Stiles