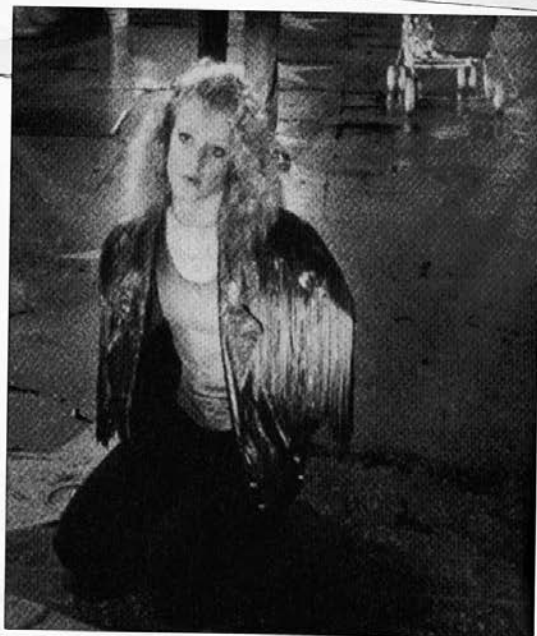


Polaroid Stories

By Naomi Iizuka



**WARNING: Profanity, nudity,
and adult situations**

Polaroid Stories

by Naomi Iizuka

directed by Walton Jones

Scenic Design by Maggie Seymour

Costume Design by Erica McClellan with special kudos to Meghan Connor

Lighting Design by Meghan Gray

Projection Design by Meghan Gray & Benjamin Wasser

Sound Design by Price Johnston

Production Dramaturg by Robyn Duyle

Hair & Makeup Design by Chelsea Case

Production Stage Manager: Dan Minzer

Assistants to the Director: Sean Cummings, Cally Hale

Assistant Scenic Designer: Taylor Webster

Assistant Costume Designer: Meghan Connor

Assistant Lighting Designer: Parker Stegmaier

Assistant Sound Designers: Lizie Ackerman, Sean Cummings

Assistant Stage Managers: Deidre Raph, Morgan Dingle

Many of the projection images projected on the stage (and displayed in the lobby) are from sketchbooks the cast created as part of their preparation for their roles.

Cast (in order of speaking)

Philomel	Kat Springer
D	Luke N. Peckinpauth
Eurydice	Christina Fontana
Eurydice	Phoebe Rae Piper*
Persephone, also Semele	Caty Pucci
Persephone, also Semele	Danielle Dickey*
Orpheus, also Tereus	Scott Sharp
Narcissus	Jeff Garland
Echo	Sophia M. Guerrero-Murphy
Echo	Sarah Navratil*
Skinhead Girl	Caitlin Melby
Skinhead Boy	Nick Holland
G	Amadeus Waters
Toyota Tercel	Alice

*(Performs on 4/15, 4/17, 4/23, and 4/25)

Three of the women's roles have been double cast, performing on different nights. This decision was made to give more women greater opportunities to perform in this play.

Time: Very recent past

Place: Abandoned train tunnels under New York City

One 10-minute intermission

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, IL

Production Team

Production Manager Jimmie Robinson
Technical Director Cory Seymour
Costume Shop Supervisor Sandra Frye
Director of Marketing & Publicity Jennifer Clary
Events Manager Eileen May

Technical Crews

Master Electrician Alex Ostwald
Assistant Master Electrician Deidre Raph
Properties Manager Kaylen Higgins
Assistant Properties Manager Brittany Lealman
Assistant Technical Director Jesse Cogswell
Light Board Operator Carrie Loeber
Projection Operator Alex Ostwald
Sound Board Operator Machel Selken
Deck Electrician Ben Fox
Stage/Prop Crew Tamac McMillan, Yoshi Yonekawa
Wardrobe Crew Richard Muller, Alexandra Romberg
Carpenters Willa Bograd, Meghan Connor, Katie Cseresnyes,
Kaylen Higgins, Bryan Hudson, Carrie Loeber, Roger Miller, Kryssi Miller,
Amy Mills, Machel Selken, Jaccie Serbus, Kat Springer,
Parker Stegmaier, Tamac McMillan, Michael Toland, Paul Vargo,
Aron Villanyi, Taylor Webster, Yoshi Yonekawa
Electricians Lizie Ackerman, Christina Fontana, Larissa Hennemann,
Carrie Loeber, Holly Marks, Richie Muller, Lindy Nichols,
Nicole Sanchez, Jeff Schreiner, Al Stafford, Matt Strauch, Taylor Webster
Scenic Artist Willa Bograd, Katie Cseresnyes, Christina Fontana,
Meghan Gray, Bryan Hudson, Kryssi Miller, Amy Mills,
Machel Selken, Kat Springer, Jenna Webster
Costume Construction Chelsea Case, Meghan Connor,
Chantel Floodeen, Mary Gibbs, Megan Loughman, Caitlin Melby,
Richie Muller, Nicole Newcomb, Alexandra Romberg, Kim Singler

Acknowledgments

Jerry's Art-a-Rama, Ink Works, Tribal Rites Tattoo and Piercing,
Open Stage Theatre Company, and "Tercel" made available by Devon Seymour

Cast Bios

Danielle Dickey – Persephone

Danielle is currently a speech major and theatre minor. This is her first mainstage production at CSU, and she looks forward to many more.

Christina Fontana - Eurydice

Christina will be graduating in May with a concentration in Technical Theatre and emphasis in stage management. She is thrilled to be working in Polaroid Stories to finish off her time at CSU. She would like to thank her family, friends, teachers, and fellow students for all their support along the way.

Jeff Garland - Narcissus

Jeff is a sophomore at CSU. He has been lucky enough to work with all the awesome talented folks here. He'd like to thank his sis, his parents, Kaylen, Ben, and all his other awesome friends and family for everything.

Sophia Guerrero-Murphy - Echo

Sophia is a Colorado native who came to CSU to stay close to the mountains. Her favorite role was Willy Wonka in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". "I don't dance to no music, I dance to the music we forget to hear".

Nick Holland – Skinhead Boy

Nick Holland is happy to play the part of Skinhead Boy. He has previously appeared on the CSU mainstage as Kastril in "The Alchemist"; in which he got to wear a kilt. In this play he lives tough on the streets has and no sense of shame.

Caitlin Melby – Skinhead Girl

Caitlin is a 3rd year here at CSU and a double major in History Education and Theatre. Her recent appearances at CSU include *The Alchemist* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

Sarah Navratil - Echo

Sarah is a senior biology major, currently completing her last semester at CSU. She is excited to be a part of her first production here and hopes to become part of this fantastic theatre community.

Luke Peckinpugh - D

Luke was born and spent his first twenty years in Northern California, where he began his college education. He soon realized that he had no clue as to what he wanted to pursue. In 2004 Luke moved to Colorado and began working as a ranch hand, a line of work which he continues to follow. In 2008, Luke decided the time had come to return to college, and on a whim, entered the theatre program at CSU, having no previous acting experience. Luke now feels very fortunate to be part of such a wonderful department, and is incredibly grateful to the staff and his fellow pupils for their instant embrace. To date, Luke's theatrical performances include the roles of Rich in *The Distance From Here*, Theseus in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, Eddie in *Fool For Love*, and Randle Patrick McMurphy in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*.

Phoebe Piper - Eurydice

Phoebe Piper is a senior Theatre major; previous CSU Theatre/Dance Dept. experience includes *The Alchemist*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. *British Group*, *Austro-Hungarian Spy*, *First Girl*, *Third Girl*, *Phoebe*, *Mrs. Pankhurst*

Caty Pucci - Persephone

Caty is on her first victory lap at CSU. She is 5' of awesome, but most of all she's just really happy to be a part of the theatre family, and very lucky to be a part of this show. "Thanks to my family and friends; you guys rock!"

Scott Sharp - Orpheus

"My name is Scott Sharp and I love theatre".

Kat Springer - Philomel

Kat Springer is in her first year at CSU. As a theatre major, she has already become actively involved in the costume shop, her classes, and the Young Producers' Organization – where she is Assistant Director of University Communications. Most recently, Kat appeared as Sandra in CSU's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". She enjoys sewing, crocheting, and singing opera in her spare time.

Amadeus Waters - G

Amadeus Waters has appeared in *The Distance from Here*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (both at CSU) and in *Lobby Hero* at Bas Bleu Theatre Company. He is also a proud player on the CSU Rams football team.

Production Staff Bios

Nathan "Cory" Seymour – Technical Director

Nathan "Cory" Seymour graduated from New England College 1984 with a BA in theater, with an emphasis in both acting and technical elements; he holds an MFA in technical theatre and production management from North Carolina School of the Arts. He worked in New York from 1990 to 1999 on several major Broadway shows as an electrician and props crew head, including *The Who's Tommy*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Titanic*, and *Phantom of the Opera*. Cory joined CSU's Theatre faculty as Shop Foreman in 2003. He is now Technical Director of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Erica McClellan – Costume Designer

Erica McClellan is a senior theatre major with an emphasis in costume and scenic design. She was assistant scene designer CSU's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and was very excited to design the costumes for this awesome play. She is very happy to graduate this year and thanks her all her family and friends for their support.

Robyn Dulye - Dramaturg

Robyn is a junior at CSU working towards her Theatre Teaching License. She has worked with many theatre companies in town including Bas Bleu and Openstage and was seen in *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Much Ado About Nothing* at CSU. Her summers are usually spent performing children's theatre at Front Range Community College.

Taylor Webster – Assistant Scenic Designer

Taylor Webster is fresh-union theatre major at CSU. Past CSU credits include: *The Alchemist* (Asst. LD), *Oh What A Lovely War* (Asst. SM), various Zing! theatre productions (Currently: Scenic design for *Pillowman*, May 7&8, Large Acting Lab). Thanks to MS and PJ for the opportunity and to KH, CC, and the theatre family for the support.

Meghan Gray – Lighting Designer/Co-Projection Designer

Meghan is a senior theatre major who has been fortunate to have opportunities in the music, theatre, and dance departments at CSU. Favorite theatre credits include: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (charge artist), *Oh, What a Lovely War* (sound design), *The Alchemist* (stage manager), *Eurydice* (scenic design), and *The Distance from Here* (Jenn). She'd like to give endless thanks for the support, encouragement, and love that her family, friends, and CSU faculty have given these past years!

Deidre Raph – Assistant Stage Manager

Deidre Raph is a Junior Technical Theatre Major and is feels very privileged to be working with such a phenomenal cast and crew. She has done a lighting design and stage managed for CSU's Opera program, but feels that she has gained the most knowledge and experience working as an Assistant Stage Manager for *Polaroid Stories*. She looks forward to future productions at CSU as well as her trip to KC/ACTF Nationals in DC for her dramaturgical work in a previous CSU production, *Oh! What a Lovely War*.

Sean Cummings – Assistant Director/Assistant Sound Designer

Sean Cummings is an actor, a writer, a singer, and a comedian. Sean has worked with theatre and film groups including Boulder Shakespeare Company, Bas Bleu Theatre and Exploding Goldfish Films, and attended the eXchange Theatre Company's 2009 Orchard Project in Hunter, New York. His play *Snipes* was a national *semi finalist* for The 2010 John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play, as well as for the KCACTF Short Play Award.

Ben Wasser – Co-projection Designer

Ben Wasser is a junior theatre major with a concentration in acting here at CSU. *Polaroid Stories* is his second show as a projection designer. He was last seen in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* as Billy Bibbit. Post-graduation he plans to pursue a career in film.

Kaylen Higgins – Properties Master

Kaylen Higgins has been drawn to CSU's theatre department like a moth to flame. She hopes to maintain her level of involvement as well as a grasp on sanity and reality. She would like to thank everyone for such unwavering support in every single thing.

Cally Hale – Assistant Director

Cally is a junior theatre major at Colorado State University. She anticipates to graduation in December 2010. Cally plans on continuing her education in playwriting and directing. She has had a great time working on the show. Peace!

Jesse Cogswell – Assistant Technical Director

Jesse Cogswell graduated from Colorado State University with a BA in theatre in the spring of 2007. Since then, he has been working full time for his alma mater as a resident lighting designer and assistant technical director. His past credits as a designer include *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Oh! What a Lovely War* for CSU, *Double Vision* for Impact Dance and High Performance Dance Theatre, and *She Stoops to Conquer* for Bas Bleu Theatre.

Daniel Minzer – Production Stage Manager

Dan is a senior theatre major at Colorado State University; graduating in May 2010. Past CSU work includes stage management for *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (2009), lighting design for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (2010) and Fall Student Dance Concert (2009), and performance in *Much Ado About Nothing* (2009) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2009). His upcoming work includes directing Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman*, opening May 7th.

Walton Jones - Director

Walt Jones, who joined the CSU Theatre program in 2006, is a 1975 graduate of the Yale School of Drama. As a teacher of acting and directing, he has served on the faculty at Yale School of Drama, and University of California, San Diego. He has directed twice on Broadway, six plays off-Broadway, including the American premiere of Howard Barker's *No End of Blame* at Manhattan Theatre Club, and over sixty plays in more than twenty regional theatres from Cambridge to Fairbanks and productions in Soviet Russia and in Tokyo. He directed world premiere productions of plays by Thomas Babe, Lanford Wilson, Naomi Iizuka, José Rivera, Arthur Kopit, Jim Yoshimura, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwrights Sam Shepard and David Mamet, John Pielmeier, Derek Walcott and Christopher Durang. Among the many actors Walt has directed are Meryl Streep, Roc Dutton, John Turturro, Tony Shaloub, Nathan Lane, Liev Schreiber, Angie Bassett, Christopher Walken, Jason Alexander, Michael Gross, Lindsey Crouse, Linda Hunt, Sigourney Weaver, Peter MacNicol, Frances Conroy, Ricardo Antonio Chavira, Lewis Black, Mariel Hemingway, John Goodman, Christopher Lloyd, Kevin Kline, Paul Guilfoyle, Bill Sadler, Athol Fugard, Max Wright, William H. Macy, Ed O'Neill, and Tony Award-winning stage actor, Jefferson Mays. Mr. Jones was a staff director at the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference from 1980 until 1990 and directed regularly for the Yale Rep, Arena Stage, and the American Repertory Theatre.

Directors Notes

Naomi Iizuka's 1997 play, *Polaroid Stories*, consciously uses stories, characters and themes from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* to tell the stories of street kids living on the edge in a desolate, urban landscape. Because these characters are named after Orpheus and Eurydice, and Echo and Narcissus, or based on stories of Dionysus, and Ariadne and Theseus, and because scenes are entitled "The Story of Semele" or "Theseus in the Labyrinth," Iizuka creates a world that has two dimensions: the gritty realm of drug dealers, homeless kids, and prostitutes and the realm of self-fashioning and shape-shifting gods. By blending these two dimensions, Iizuka comments on several Ovidian themes: the relationship of the gods to humans, women as victims, and the power of story-telling.

While Ovid is a master at portraying humans sympathetically, usually at the expense of the gods, Iizuka, by having the gods' roles played by street kids, offers an even more human perspective, exposing gods as no more than other humans and showing what happens when kids try to play god. Dionysus is a god because he is "not fucked up," because he is in charge (he refers to Skinhead Boy (Theseus) as "little brother"), and because he has a stash of drugs that he parcels out on his own terms. At the end of the play, when G (Zeus/Hades) tries to help Eurydice by giving her a knife, he offers her the means by which she will stab Orpheus.

Second, Iizuka re-casts these stories from the woman's point of view and creates women's communities in the play where they are lacking in Ovid's versions of the myths. For example, by introducing Eurydice on stage first, Iizuka presents her story from her point of view: "I got a man like a bad dream that follows me no matter where I go." In addition, she tells her story to Persephone, and when Orpheus appears, it is Persephone who mocks him. Not only do we hear stories from women's perspective, we see women reject men's offers of love. When Narcissus asserts that Echo wants "to jump [his] bones," Echo replies, "I don't want nothing you got."

Third, everyone in *Polaroid Stories* tells stories, sometimes fabricating wild lies, other times revealing personal pain. Story-telling is a way to escape the reality of the urban landscape and a way to persuade and enchant others. No story is more poignant than Philomel's story, who does not speak throughout the play, but whose story weaves through the lives of the other characters. Her music, her

song, is a radio playing old tunes. By contrast, while Orpheus can speak and tell his tales, his story-telling is usually rejected. Finally and most tellingly, there is no narrator in the play who, like Ovid, has the power to remind the audience of who is in control. As a result, the sympathy that we feel for these street kids is deeper and more compelling. By the end of the play, the stories we have witnessed help us understand and empathize with the street kids whose polaroid snapshots we see in the final scene of the play.

As a community, these characters seek economic success and personal pleasure, which in itself is not so different from any segment of society, but it's very different by degree for these people are living under constant threat of destruction, much the way the mortals live in the classical myths — at the disposal of their gods. Survival in such a world becomes an amazing act. I can identify with their bravery and pain, and the very possibility of transcendence through love makes the play quite touching.

Act One is comprised of a series of scenes based on love songs, each one focusing on a different dance of courtship, as desire pursues its object obsessively. In this rendition of Ovid's classic, Eurydice wants no part of the life she left behind, leaving Orpheus to stalk his idealized version of her into the underworld she now inhabits. Narcissus pursues his reflection in the eyes of other men as Echo tags along, unseen and ignored. Dionysus is a streetwise god, and the Lydian sailor a street kid who foolishly tries to steal from him.

Exploring what follows the frenzied coupling, the fighting, the transient high, Act Two of Polaroid Stories is the darkness after the flash. As we would with Polaroid photographs, we begin to see faces, portraits, entire lives slowly emerge from what seemed to be, moments before, only a field of darkness — vivid snapshots of kids at risk, standing their ground, running for their lives, kicking back, vamping and playing, falling in love and moving on, hoping for some metamorphoses, some happily-ever-after to their own personal stories. And then come moments of transformation: a girl who's turned into a star, a boy who flies away.

Not everyone sticks around for the end. In myth as in life, not everyone survives. But those who escape the wrath of gods and dangers of the street, are left to weave the truth of their lives in their own ways. Part stories, part lies, part myth, part reality, part lizuka, part Ovid, part my cast and creative team.

- Walt Jones

A POLAROID PRIMER

Naomi Iizuka mixes characters from Greek mythology – specifically Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* – with fictional characters constructed from hundreds of interviews that she conducted with teenage drug addicts and prostitutes; most of them homeless and living in urban areas. It is not necessary to know the myths to enjoy the play: in fact, the mythological characters portrayed onstage are never even referred to by name. Nonetheless, the inclusion of a primer seems appropriate:

Dionysus (“D,” in the play) is the son of Zeus (“G”), the king of all gods, and his mortal mistress Semele. When Zeus told Semele that he was a god, she didn’t believe him, demanding that he reveal his true identity to her as proof. He obliged, but as it was impossible for her to look upon Zeus’s true form without dying, she perished, consumed in lightning-ignited flame. To save the fetal Dionysus, Zeus removed him from the dead Semele’s womb and sewed him into his thigh.

Dionysus would become the god of wine and theatre; the god of ecstasy and madness. He was half mortal due to Semele’s parentage, and had many lovers of both sexes.

The legendary musician Orpheus may have also been the son of a god (Apollo), but he is most commonly believed to be the son of a Thracian King. He is renowned for having written a song that softened the heart of The Devil himself. Orpheus was married to the nymph Eurydice (by some accounts, one of Apollo’s daughters), but early in the marriage Eurydice was bitten by a venomous snake. She died, and the bereaved Orpheus played music so mournful that it made all of nature weep. Seeking his wife, Orpheus crossed the River of Forgetfulness, the border between Earth and The Underworld. On the other side he met Hades (“G” again), who ruled the underworld with his queen, Persephone. With a song, Orpheus convinced Hades to let Eurydice return with him to the mortal world, but Hades ruled that Orpheus could not turn to look at her until they had crossed the River of Forgetfulness together. Orpheus, unable to control himself, looked to Eurydice prematurely. She vanished from his sight and returned to Hades, this time forever.

Iizuka takes the Orpheus myth and updates its main character into a stalker boyfriend. She mixes Orpheus with elements of Tereus, the evil king who raped the maiden Philomel before cutting out her tongue so she would not inform Procne, her sister and Tereus’ wife. The god Zeus caught word of all this, and took pity on Philomel, transforming her into a nightingale so that she could once more fill the air with beautiful song.

Echo was a nymph who was cursed to be only able to parrot the words of others. Echo fell in love with a vain, famously beautiful youth named Narcissus who, by age 15, was adored by every maiden in his town, and had categorically spurned each one of them. One day when Narcissus was out hunting, Echo followed him through the woods, longing to address him but unable to speak first. When Narcissus finally heard footsteps and shouted “Who’s there?” Echo answered “Who’s there?” And so it went, until finally Echo showed herself, running to embrace the youth. He pushed her away, commanded her to leave him alone, and left her heartbroken. She spent the rest of her life in lonely glens, pining away for the love she never knew, until only her voice remained.



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Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2010.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.



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Summer 2010

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June 24, 25, 26, July 8, 9, 17, 18, 22, 25

University Theatre, UCA

The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Directed by Laura Jones

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