

Banff School of Fine Arts

presents

Opera Division Workshop Production

"SUSANNAH"

A Musical Drama in Two Acts
by Carlisle Floyd

By permission Boosey and Hawkes (Canada) Ltd.

Friday, July 30th and Saturday, July 31st
at 3:45 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

MARGARET GREENHAM THEATRE

Producer-DirectorRobert H. Cowden
Musical DirectorWilliam Shookhoff
Accompanist-CoachesSandra Atkinson
Michael Massey

Set and Lighting DesignerGreg Chandler
Costume and PropertiesJanet Knechtel
Make-up DesignerJohn Cox
Choreography byJack Robertson
Jim Green

CAST

Susannah Polk	Jeannette Dagger, Windsor, Ontario (Friday evening, Saturday afternoon) Ann Cooper, Toronto, Ontario (Friday afternoon, Saturday evening)
Sam Polk	David Borgeson, Toronto, Ontario
Olin Blicht	Ronald Patton, Lafayette, Ohio (Friday evening, Saturday afternoon) Donald Oddie, Vancouver, B.C. (Friday afternoon, Saturday evening)
Little Bat McLean	Lary Benson, Edmonton, Alberta
Elder McLean	David Dunbar, Calgary, Alberta
Elder Hayes	Roger Ohlsen, Edmonton, Alberta
Mrs. McLean	Nancy Greenwood, Toronto, Ontario
Mrs. Hayes	Iris Fraser, Edmonton, Alberta
Mrs. Gleaton	Andrea Mellis, Chilliwack, B.C.
Mrs. Ott	Elaine Erickson, De Forest, Wisconsin
First Lady	Adele Baker, Calgary, Alberta
Second Lady	Susan Gudgeon, Hamilton, Ontario
Ensemble	Beverley Cohen, Winnipeg, Manitoba Frances Dietz, Red Deer, Alberta Lorill Drummund, Calgary, Alberta Constance Payton, Toronto, Ontario Jane Porter, Edmonton, Alberta Jacqueline Preuss, Barrhead, Alberta Barbara Prowse, Calgary, Alberta Sandra Gavinchuk, Smoky Lake, Alberta Michael Turgeon, Edmonton, Alberta William McGuire, Toronto, Ontario
Dancers	Vicki Schwinning, San Mateo, California Sandra Baron, Edmonton, Alberta Joanne Tokaryk, Toronto, Ontario Allan Douglas, Penhold, Alberta Jim Green, Edmonton, Alberta Bill Clark, Toronto, Ontario Garry Hogg, Cheltenham, Ontario
Violinist	Denis Letourneau, Edmonton, Alberta
Guitarist	Jacqueline Preuss, Barrhead, Alberta

SUSANNAH

SUSANNAH is a contemporary American musical drama based on the Apocrypha story of Susannah and the Elders. The composer, Carlisle Floyd, has adopted the Biblical story as a libretto, in an attempt to show the alienation and persecution of an innocent girl by her narrow-minded and unsympathetic neighbors. The work is up-to-date in the sense that it illustrates the hopelessness of an individual faced with the disapproval of society at large, and the tragedy of Susannah is the fact that she is gradually forced to become a hard, lifeless, cynical copy of those who surround her.

The opera begins in a mountain valley, on a sultry evening in mid-summer. A square dance is in progress, and Susannah, a young girl of freshness and charm, is conspicuous by virtue of everyone's interest in her activities. The Elders' wives comment on her, jealously observing that "so pretty a face must hide some evil. They's evil in that one, you'll see." The Evangelist, Olin Blitch, arrives and is greeted with tremendous enthusiasm and a hope that he can save many lost souls.

In the scene which follows, Susannah sings a beautiful aria, "Ain't It a Pretty Night," describing her hopes and dreams for the future. The next morning Susannah is bathing in a stream close to her home. The Elders, in search of a baptism creek, stumble upon her, and driven by guilt at their lustful desire for her, vow to bring her to repentance. That same evening at a community picnic, Susannah is told that she is no longer welcome. In the closing scene of Act I, Little Bat, the retarded son of one of the Elders, comes to tell Susannah why the community has decided to ostracize her. Hurt and uncomprehending, Susannah turns to her brother Sam for consolation as the curtain falls.

Act II begins at the farmhouse with Susannah and Sam trying to understand their situation. Sam has never been able to cope with the problems of life, and all he can do is urge Susannah to go to the Revival Meeting that evening. Scene II is really one of the most exciting pieces of musical theatre composed in the English language since World War II. Floyd's grasp of the primitive tension and impact of a Revival Meeting is masterful. Against her will, Susannah is almost convinced to repent of a crime which she never committed.

Sometime later, back at the farmhouse, she sings a haunting folk song which conveys the emptiness of her present situation. Reverend Blitch, frustrated by his near victory at the Revival Meeting, comes to make one last effort to save Susannah's soul. He is again rejected, but the emotional and physical strain has overcome the young girl, and she submits to a passion which the Evangelist cannot control.

Deeply frightened by his own transgression against "thee and the woman" Blitch pleads with the Lord for forgiveness. He attempts to convince the Elders of Susannah's innocence, but in vain. And, as the gripping work draws to a close, Sam is driven to murder the Evangelist, and Susannah cuts her last tie with the community.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	David Walsh, Toronto, Ontario
Assistant Stage Manager	Douglas Scott, Calgary, Alberta
Production Co-ordinator	Bryan Cockroft, Victoria, B.C.
Scenery Design	Greg Chandler, Calgary, Alberta
Lighting Design	Greg Chandler, Calgary, Alberta Janet Knechtel, Montreal, P.Q.
Costumes	Janet Knechtel, Montreal, P.Q. Pamela Whitelaw, Calgary, Alberta
Properties	Janet Knechtel, Montreal, P.Q. Linda Parsons, Coquitlam, B.C.
Stage Crew	Patricia Bradley, Nanaimo, B.C. Denise Cranna, Yellowknife, N.W.T. Ronald Fedoruk, Brandon, Manitoba Murray Palmer, Coquitlam, B.C. Joanne Whilsmith, Exeter, Ontario Esther Wilcox, Scandia, Alberta

SUMMER PRODUCTIONS 1971

Head - Stagecraft Department - Summer School	Prof. J. Graham
House Manager	Mr. Lloyd Montour
Costume Department Head	Mrs. Liliane Johnson
Costume Workshop Supervisor	Mrs. Enid Larson
Production Co-ordinator	Bryan Cockroft
Property Mistress	Miss Janet Knechtel
Make-Up Artist	Mr. John Cox

Margaret Greenham Theatre

Stage Manager	Mr. Doug Scott
Lighting Technician	Mr. Ron Fedoruk
Artistic Director & Manager, Theatre Complex	Laszlo L. Funtek

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We especially wish to express our thanks to the Ballet, Musical Theatre and Strings Divisions and to the Costume Department for their understanding co-operation.

COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE IN THE THEATRE FOYERS AFTER ALL PRESENTATIONS