



vienna theatre project
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Vienna, 12 November 2004

Dear Teacher,

We hope you were able to obtain tickets for our production of *TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA* – we regret that we couldn't offer any additional shows. We did play two performances almost every day.

To avoid a similar ticket shortage with our December production, here's detailed information about our upcoming Christmas 2004 show at the Neue Tribüne (Café Landtmann) so as to give you sufficient advance notice to book tickets to one of the performances. Our world premiere production of *American Christmas*, based on Truman Capote's short stories *A Christmas Memory* & *One Christmas*, will be playing December 3-26 at the Neue Tribüne, downstairs inside the Café Landtmann.

AMERICAN CHRISTMAS production information at a glance

Location: **Die Neue Tribüne (Café Landtmann)** – Dr. Karl Lueger-Ring 4, 1010 Vienna

Dates & Times: **December 3-26, 2004**

Wednesday-Friday (except December 24) – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday – 2:00 p.m.

December 24 – 11 a.m.

Teachers' Preview: Thursday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.

Premiere: Friday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.

Matinees & Workshops available Mondays thru Thursdays from December 6

Adapted by & starring **Gregory Fuller**

Performances in English

Running time approx. 90 minutes (including one intermission)

Content and language suitable for all levels and ages 10+

THE PLAY

Told from the perspective of a grown-up man who remembers his childhood experience of the Christmas holiday, *AMERICAN CHRISTMAS* captures the Christmas spirit of the American South through the eyes of the little boy Truman Capote once used to be. In the first story, the grown-up man joyfully remembers the Christmas traditions his nanny introduced him to, in the second the unhappy little boy has to spend one Christmas with his estranged father in New Orleans.

Truman Capote

Born in New Orleans as the son of a salesman and a 16-year-old beauty queen, Truman Capote (1924-1984) was an American novelist, short story writer and playwright. He gained international fame with his 'non-fiction novel' *IN COLD BLOOD* (1966), an account of a real-life crime in which an entire family was murdered by two sociopaths. The Louisiana-Mississippi-Alabama area provided the setting for much of Capote's fiction. After his parents' divorce, little Truman was brought up by relatives in Alabama. One of these relatives became the model for the loving, elderly spinster in several of Capote's novels, stories, and plays. "Her face is remarkable - not unlike Lincoln's, craggy like that, and tinted by sun and wind," Capote describes his distant relative Sook, Nanny Rumbley Faulk, in *A CHRISTMAS MEMORY* (1966). Sook was sixty-something, "small and sprightly, like a bantam hen ..."

ADDITIONAL OFFERS & INFORMATION

PREVIEW

The production of **AMERICAN CHRISTMAS** will open with a free Teachers' Preview performance on Thursday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m., to which you are cordially invited. Advance reservations are required and will be handled on a first-come-first-serve basis (max. 2 tickets per teacher). This offer is for teachers only.

TICKET PRICES

Regular tickets for **TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA** are 16€, student tickets are 11€ (free seating). For groups of 10 or more students, tickets cost only 9€ per person, and one teacher ticket is free. For adult groups of 10 or more, tickets cost only 13€ per person. In both cases, advance reservations are recommended.

MATINEE PERFORMANCES & WORKSHOPS

For groups of at least 30 students, we offer workshops and/or matinee performances on the following days: Mondays thru Thursdays, December 6-23, with flexible start times in the late morning or early afternoon (generally between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.). Ticket prices for workshop or performance alone are 9€ per student, both together cost 12€ per student. Teacher tickets are free. Please arrange matinee performances and/or workshops directly with the vtp office.

TICKET RESERVATION

To reserve tickets or make arrangements for a rehearsal visit, workshop or matinee performance, please contact the vienna theatre project directly at +43 1 920 2583 or via email at office@viennatheatreproject.at.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Upon request, teaching materials to read and discuss the play in class are available in pdf- and doc-formats. These materials include information about

- the authors
- the play
- characters
- themes
- Truman Capote's original stories
- excerpts and assignments
- suggestions for teachers
- tips on how to adapt a short story for the stage
- vocabulary (English-German)

To receive these materials (available in late November), please send us an email message and specify the format in which you would like the materials to be emailed to you (pdf or doc).

PLAYTEXT

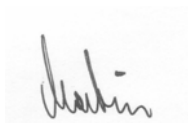
The playtext of this world premiere version of **American Christmas** is **not available** but the two short stories can be purchased on-line or in bookstores individually or in a collection of some of Truman Capote's short stories.

VIENNA THEATRE PROJECT INFO

To find out more about the *vienna theatre project*, please visit our website at www.viennatheatreproject.at, where you can also subscribe to our electronic teacher newsletter, which provides advance information about upcoming productions and projects (please indicate that you are a teacher and give the name of your school in the comments box).

We hope that our offers are of interest to you and look forward to hearing from you and meeting/seeing you at one of our performances.

Best regards,



Martin Buxbaum
Artistic & Executive Director