

FAU SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Dorothy F. Schmidt
College of Arts and Letters
Florida Atlantic University

THE DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE
AND *dance*

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL BY EMILE ZOLA

THÉRÈSE RAQUIN

BY NEAL BELL

DIRECTED BY: DESMOND GALLANT



September 28-October 7 | Studio One Theatre

www.fau.edu/theatre

Note from the Director

I've always had a fascination with the darker side of the human psyche where the baser, more primitive and animalistic aspects of human behavior lie. I find the irrationality, the passions and lusts, the fevers to which we succumb so much more compelling than the rational and intellectual sides of our natures, and it is for this reason that I had an immediate love for Neal Bell's adaptation of Emile Zola's novel, *Thérèse Raquin*.

It all started while I was still Literary Manager at Florida Stage. Much of my job was to comb through the new plays we continuously received, searching for those that were right for us. Sometime in the late 1990s, I remember opening the manuscript of Bell's "Thérèse" and reading it feverishly in one sitting. I was immediately captured by this image of a young woman repeatedly sitting by a window and staring out. What was she looking for?

By the time I put the script down I was burning. In my years of reading scripts at Florida Stage, I only experienced this fire maybe half a dozen times, and on each of those occasions, I went into the Producing Director's office hardly able to contain myself.

I wound up directing a reading of the play as part of our New Voices series. I had a great time doing it; we had a great cast, they loved doing it, it was tremendously successful, but ultimately, for whatever reason, it was not right for Florida Stage. Perhaps it was too dark or too filmic, I don't know, but I do know it never left my mind. It has been lurking in the shadows with its skeletal clacks forever haunting me... waiting for the right time.

And now, with a new class of graduate actors and a great class of undergraduates, "Thérèse" has found her time to come up out of the murk and allow some actors to bite into her. So now, you have the opportunity to watch the river with Thérèse, get a glimpse of what fascinates me (murder and lust to name but two) and, in the process, row out into the fog with us as we tell you the story of a young woman who...

Thank you for coming,

Desmond Gallant

NEAL BELL'S
THÉRÈSE RAQUIN

CAST

MADAME.....	Jenna Wyatt
THÉRÈSE.....	Katy Slaven*
CAMILLE.....	Alex Salup*
MICHAUD.....	Evan Williams*
OLIVIER.....	Connor Hammond*
SUZANNE.....	Lisa Rosen
GRIVET.....	Doug Wetzel
LAURENT.....	Michael Empson

Setting: The play begins in the countryside outside of Paris, and then moves to the city.

Late 1800s

PRODUCTION STAFF

House Manager.....	Lysette Pérez
Master Electrician.....	Stefano Marcano
Sound Engineer.....	Ashley Letourneau
Run Crew.....	Randall Swinton, Steven Kennedy
Props Crew.....	Meghan Faiella
Dressers.....	Bridget Parente, Katelyn Elliott
Wardrobe.....	Angela Caruso, Jane Lynch
Props Master.....	Abby Perkins
Assistant Shop Manager.....	John Franklin, Doug Wetzel, Katie Dickerson
Scenic Artist.....	Melina Oikonomou
Ushers.....	Francisco Carreño,* Shante Brown, Andrew Armas, Patricia Castillo
Courtesy Drivers.....	Casey Koenes, Alain Conesa

FAU Graduate Assistants: Michael Empson, Connor Hammond,* Elizabeth Price,
Sujotta Raquel,* Lisa Rosen, Katy Slaven,* Scott Wells, Evan Williams,*
Jenna Wyatt, Melina Oikonomou

** Member of Alpha Phi Omega Theatre Honors Society*

ACTOR'S INSIGHT

Jenna Wyatt (Madame) embraced the challenges involved with discovering the shifts in Madame between the two acts and the physical character work required.

Katy Slaven (Thérèse) has found the process of rehearsing “Thérèse Raquin” to present an especially good opportunity to take risks in a safe environment and stretch her emotional and physical stage life into places previously unexplored.

Alex Salup (Camille) plunged head first into Zola’s dark view of the world and, through listening and responding, have learned to take notice of the specificity of the language that Neal Bell has so wonderfully adapted.

Evan Williams (Michaud): discovered the benefits of fleshing out and living in my supporting character. Working on this play, I’ve enjoyed examining the positive and negative consequences of choice from the outside looking in.

Connor Hammond (Olivier) enjoyed exploring the simple clarity of character function throughout this process.

Lisa Rosen (Suzanne) has found discovering Suzanne and Olivier’s quirky relationship in rehearsal to be incredibly fun. They are truly “that” couple.

Doug Wetzel (Grivet) gained a deeper sense of character development through analysis of each individual line.

Michael Empson (Laurent) has found an exciting challenge to bring this complex character, with all his sociopathic tendencies, out of himself.

Department of Theatre and Dance - School of the Arts
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

presents

NEAL BELL'S

THÉRÈSE RAQUIN

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL BY EMILE ZOLA

Directed by Desmond Gallant

Scenic Design
Richard Gamble

Costume Design
Tim Dial

Lighting Design
Richard Gamble

Sound Design
Susan Cato

Stage Manager
Ashley Horowitz

Assistant Stage Manager
Eduardo Rivera

Technical Director
Thomas Shorrock

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

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Directed by Susan Cato

October 11-13, 7 pm and October 14, 1 pm, Studio Two Theatre

FAST 4WARD: A NIGHT OF ONE ACTS

Directed by Ryan Mahannah, Kayla Smith, Ashley Horowitz and Kyle Barret

December 7-8, 7 pm and December 9, 1 pm, Studio Two Theatre

For FREE reservation of tickets for Alpha Psi Omega Productions,
e-mail **FAUStudioTwo@gmail.com**.

Members of Alpha Psi Omega:

Francisco Carreno

Michael Edmonds-Osetek

Ryan Mahannah

Joanna Mandel

Matthew Morrell

Daniella Mason

Shannon Ouellette

Kayla Smith

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THE DEPARTMENT OF **THEATRE** AND *dance*

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