

**Theatre UAB**  
**Upcoming Productions**

*The Praying Mantis*  
By Alejandro Sieveking  
Directed by Naomi Baker  
March 10, 11 and 15-19, 2006  
Odess Theatre

*The Doctor In Spite of Himself*  
By Molière  
Directed by Ward Haarbauer  
April 19-23, 2006  
Sirote Theatre

For Individual Tickets please call ASC Box Office  
975-2787



**The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival-  
XXXVIII**

Presented and Produced by  
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
*Supported in Part by*  
The U.S. Department of Education  
Dr. and Mrs. Gerald McNichols  
The Laura Pels International Foundation  
The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund  
The National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

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 2006.

Last year more than 1,400 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.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Department of Theatre**

at the Odess Theatre  
in the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center

UAB DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE PRESENTS

by  
alejandro sieveking  
translated by  
charles philip thomas  
directed by  
naomi baker

**THE  
PRAYING  
MANTIS**

2005-2006 SEASON  
**THEATRE  
UAB**

## OVATION UAB

### (Sponsored by Theatre Advisory Committee)

Opening nights at Theatre UAB are OVATION UAB nights. OVATION UAB sponsors a box dinner and conversation with the director and designers before the show, as well as a post-performance party with the cast and crew.

Join us! You will be able to invite your friends to enjoy a tasty meal before the plays, be already parked and ready to settle back for an evening of live theatre.

OVATION UAB has the mission to support and sponsor the students working backstage and performing in Theatre UAB. Membership dues, ranging from \$10 - \$2500, are used to off-set the costs required of each student to participate in the productions.

To become a member of OVATION UAB, please pick up a brochure in the lobby outside the theatre and complete the form. Follow mailing directions listed in the brochure.

**Help us support our rising stars!**

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT OVATION UAB MEMBERS

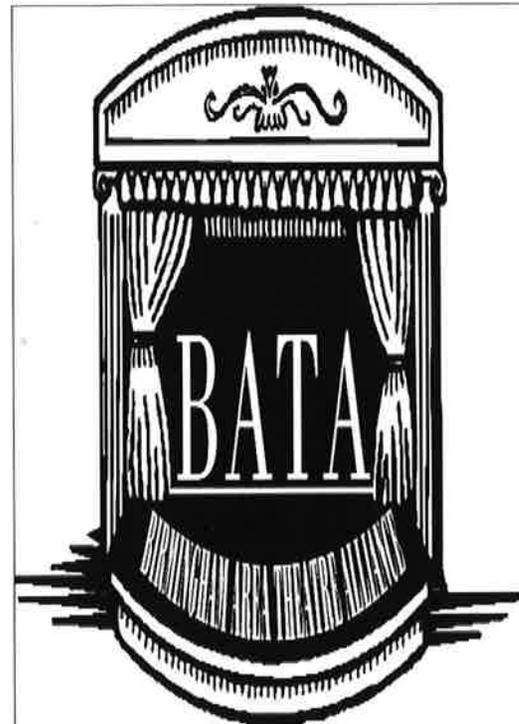
### Founding Members

Russell Drummond, Col. Daniel D. Hall,  
Patty McDonald, Carol Odess, Chandler S. Smith, Jane Paris Smith,  
BBS Martha Moore Sykes Fund

Frieda Belyeu, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Bromberg, Bert Brouwer,  
Drs. Eli and Mary Lynne Capilouto, Peggy and Michael Carlisle,  
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Frank Dawson, Linda DeRocher, Wilbur & Denise Doonan,  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Erdreich, Betty Eshelman  
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Dan Gainey, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Glaze, Darlene Gray,  
Dr. and Mrs. Ward Haarbauer, Jonathan Harrison, S. David Herring,  
Charles Joyner, Dr. Deborah Levine, Mr. and Mrs. C. David Loggins,  
Mr. and Mrs. John Meier, Drs. George and Emily Omura, Herb Patterson,  
W. B. Philips, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Rentschler, Mr. and Mrs. John Smith,  
Martha Sykes, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Tourney,  
Joyce Whitten, Chalethia Williams and Will York

## Theatre UAB Production Staff

Production Manager.....Kelly Allison  
Technical Director.....Ed Zuckerman♦  
Costume Studio Supervisor.....Elizabeth Ayres Pollard  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Program Manager.....Mel Christian  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Stage Electrics Director.....Richelle Thompson  
Properties Master.....Phillip Anderson♦  
Scenic Studio Foreman/Master Carpenter.....T. J.King  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Assistant Costume Studio Supervisor.....Rachel Vrubel  
Scenic Studio Assistants.....Ethan Feigel, J. Reid Patton, Tobie Windham,  
Robert Woods  
Lighting Assistants.....Dustin Cañez, Jonathon Offutt  
Costume Assistants.....Skye Geerts, Kristina Howard, Amanda Mattes  
Jennifer Pouyadou, Valerie Wynn  
Properties Assistants.....Monica Hooper♦, Jonathan Offutt  
Media Relations.....Shannon Thomason  
House Manager.....Jerry Sims  
Associate House Manager.....Ed Rosendahl



## **Theatre UAB Advisory Committee**

Russell S. Drummond  
and  
Joyce Whitten, Co-Chairs  
Peggy Carlisle  
Woodie and Victoria Fritz  
Ward Haarbauer  
Jonathan Harrison  
Alan Hunter  
Deborah Levine  
Patty McDonald  
Bob and Nancy Rentschler  
Pierre and Holly Tourney  
Chalethia Williams

The University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Department of Theatre  
and  
Patty McDonald and Carol Odess  
present

# The Praying Mantis

By Alejandro Sieveking  
Translated by Charles Philip Thomas

*Produced by special arrangement with GMW Productions, Inc.*

Scenic Design  
**Kelly Allison**

Lighting/EFX Design  
**Ed Zuckerman♦**

Costume Design  
**Elizabeth Ayres Pollard**

Audio Design  
**Richelle Thompson**

Stage Manager  
**Elizabeth Newberry**

**Directed by  
Naomi Baker**

Assistant Director  
**Erica Boswell**

**Opening Night, Friday, March 10, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**

This production is funded in part by The UAB Cultural Activities Committee

*No animals were harmed in the making of this production.*

♦Member of Psi Beta Cast, Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honorary

## CAST *In Order of Appearance*

Llalla.....Amanda Mattes  
Lina.....Valerie Wynn  
Adela.....Brittney Rentschler  
Juan.....Luke Harlan  
Aparicio.....John Kevin Pocus  
Teresa.....Marie Bolivar-Cano

## SETTING

*A Chilean Manor House.*

*The play will be performed with one intermission.*

### Director's Notes

When I first read *The Praying Mantis* I thought, "Wow. What a strange funny play." I could not find much information about it, but I kept looking. I thought maybe it was a feminist play. I mean, it is about women, right? I knew it had elements of expressionism, absurdism, and even farce, but what did it mean? Maybe it was about hiding unpleasantness, covering up, seduction. Some of the things the characters said just did not make sense to me. Were they telling the truth? Were they crazy?

Finally, I received the collection of Sieveking's plays that had an interview with him (translated into English). It turns out that Sieveking was writing about the classist society in Chile in the early 1970's. I began to question the relevance for a 21<sup>st</sup> century American audience. Surely, we would not relate to the ideas being raised in this play. Surely, we would not recognize the plight of the invisible poor. Surely, we would not want to enter into the manor house. Surely, you will laugh, and I hope you do. The meaning is there. The interpretation is yours.

**- Naomi Baker**

