

BYU Department of Theatre and Cinematic Arts
presents



*The Belle
of Amherst*

by William Luce

a one-woman play based on the life of Emily Dickinson

featuring Barta Lee Heiner
as Emily Dickinson

through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association
in the margetts arena theatre

Production Advisor
Set and Lighting Designer
Technical Director
Costumer
Resident Stage Manager
Lighting Technician
Scene Shop Foreman

Scene Painter
Property Mistress

Ticket Office Manager
House Manager
Publicity Director
Publicity Photographer

Harold Oaks
Charles A. Henson
O. Lee Walker
Sandy Gray
R. Kent Sheranian
Greg Kearney
Dean Lorimer
David Beukers
Chris Harris
Heather Hickman

Colleen Bird
Robert Hoopes
D. Terry Petrie
Floyd Rose



September 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 at 8 p.m.

Matinee September 21 at 4:30 p.m.

EMILY DICKINSON

Notes by Paula Eckern
and Robert Nelson

Emily Dickinson, born 10 December 1830 to a prominent Amherst, Massachusetts, lawyer, was well trained socially and culturally. She was educated at several schools in the area and at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in South Hadley. She gradually began to withdraw, associating with few people outside her immediate family and select friends, finally withdrawing into almost complete seclusion, dressing in white more and more as the years went by. She wrote her poems during her seclusion. Only seven were published during her lifetime--all anonymously. There has been much conjecture concerning an unhappy romance that may have caused Emily never to leave her father's house in Amherst. But most Dickinson scholars now agree that the affair was conducted mainly in her creative mind and through correspondence and in her poetry. After a two year illness, she died 15 May 1886.

According to Thomas H. Johnson, "Emily Dickinson had no formal theory of poetics, but she had a consistent idea of the manner in which the poet is inspired." Realizing that she could not work by intuition alone, she carefully selected each word, and labored to create sharp images and bold forms. This boldness, in fact, "doomed her to obscurity in her lifetime." She was "possessed to a most uncommon degree by emotional responses so acute as to be painful to herself and others." Perhaps this is why she chose to avoid direct human contact, engaging with the outside world almost exclusively through voluminous letters. "But poetry was the act for which her life was set apart So unwilling was she to be diverted from her calling, from her own originalities which those capable of evaluating only dimly understood, that she made deliberate choice of obscurity in her own lifetime. She was right in her assurance that if fame belonged to her, she could not in the end escape it."

coming productions



by Arthur Kopit • directed by Ivan Crosland • set and lighting design by Eric Fielding • costume design by Sandra Gray • technical director, O. Lee Walker

Wings is an emotionally powerful experience. It is a magnificent adventure into the mind and a revelation of the strength and mystery of the human spirit. It takes us into the strange, terrifying, shattered world of a woman who has suffered a stroke. For her, time, place, language, speech, and thought have lost their meaning. Share with her the desperate need to comprehend, to find words, to make sense out of her splintered world. "An intensely moving vision, one of uncanny perception; a voyage of illumination." Richard Eder, *New York Times*.

October 22,23,24,27,28,29,30,31

November 3,4,5,6,7 at 8 p.m. in the Pardoe Theatre

Matinees November 2 and 7 at 1 p.m. in the Pardoe Theatre

Tickets will go on sale Monday, October 12, 1981



by Friedrich Duerrenmatt • directed by Marion J. Bentley

The Visit recounts the story of the return of the richest woman in the world to her hometown and emphasizes the impact of her personality on the community. It is a tribute to the grandeur of an ordinary man whose dignity and courage are thrown into sharp relief against the material and spiritual corruption of society.

October 15,16,17,20,21,22,23,24,27,28,29,30,31 at 8 p.m. in the Margetts Arena Theatre

Matinee October 26 at 4:30 p.m. in the Margetts Arena Theatre

Tickets will go on sale Monday, October 5, 1981

For further information phone 378-3875