

PROVINCETOWN THEATER COMPANY

In our 34th Season

Presents

THE DUMB WAITER

by

HAROLD PINTER

Dan Dellea (Assistant Stage Manager) is a newcomer to PROVINCETOWN THEATRE COMPANY. In high school he was the state champion in dramatic interpretation and in college he studied dance and voice in addition to acting. This winter he will be teaching Beginning Acting in the Provincetown Continuing Education Program.

Gary Palmer (Lighting) began working in community theater when he was sixteen. Since then he has worked theaters and summer stock on both coasts, including the Player's Ring Gallery in LA and the Public Theatre in New York where he worked with Marti Aronstein.

Napi Vandereck, former board member has made a generous donation to this production, to emphasize the company's intent to pursue winter projects in the community and because The Dumb Waiter is one of the first plays produced by Provincetown Theater Company over thirty years ago.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Kim Rilleau, Tim McCarthy, Phoebe Otis, Russell Lamp and Noel Tipton.

Thur & Fri, Jan 23 & 24 at 8 pm

Sun, Jan 26, Matinee at 3 pm

Upstairs at NAPI's

By arrangement with
Dramatists Play Servic

PROVINCETOWN THEATER COMPANY

presents

THE DUMB WAITER

by Harold Pinter
directed by Sue Bowlin

Ben. Anthony Jackman
Gus. Jeff Spencer

The play is in one act set in the evening, in a basement room somewhere in Birmingham, England.

PRODUCTION STAFF:

Stage Manager Margaret Van Sant
Box Office Teddi McKay
Asst Stage Manager Dan Dellea
Lighting Technician Gary Palmer
Costume Consultant Edward Baker
Set Design Sue Bowlin
Napi Vandereck

Dumb Waiter Constructed by Joe Brickley
Understudy for Gus Dan Dellea

SPECIAL THANKS to :

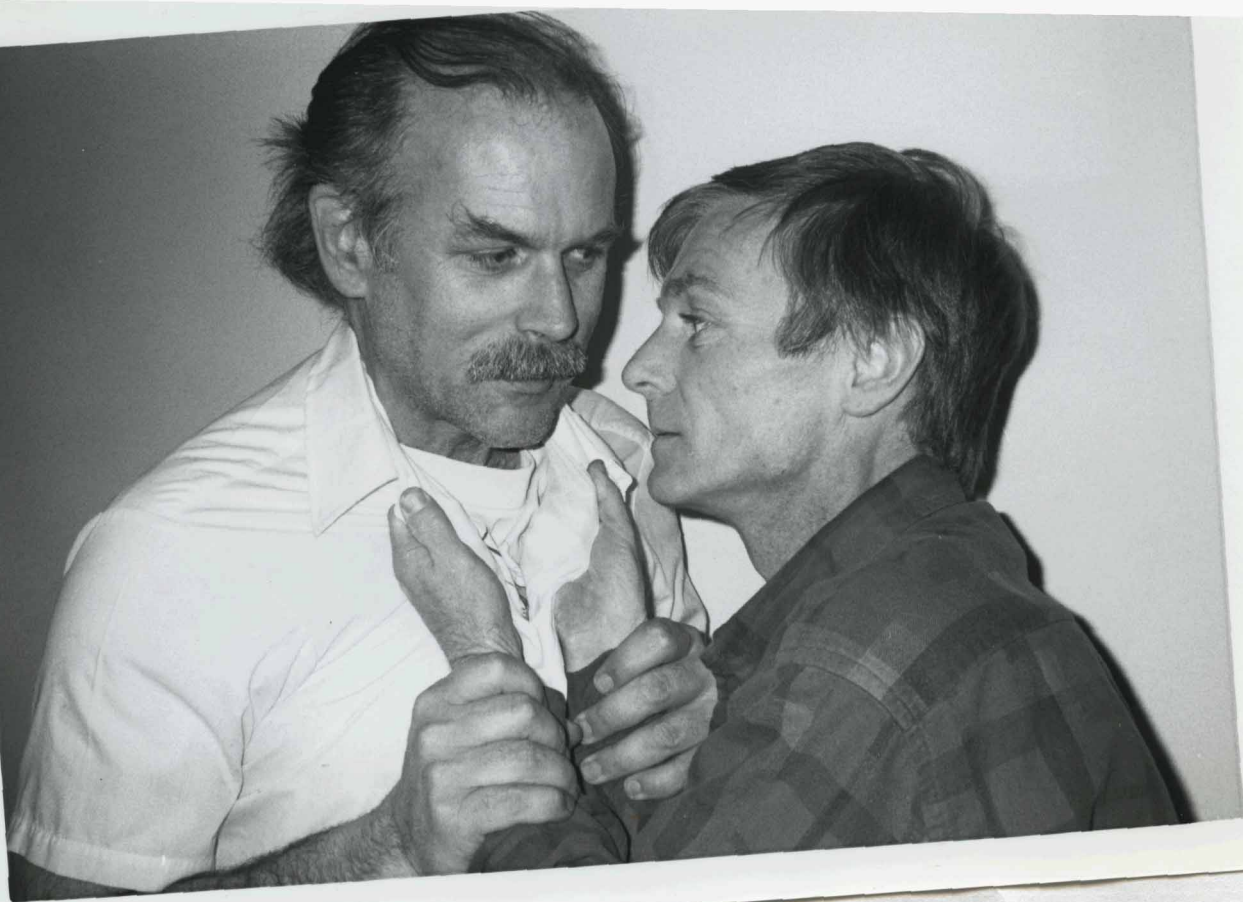
Napi Vandereck for his generous donation to make this production possible.
Bob Seay, Executive Director of WOMR and the station for making the sound tapes.
Dan Dellea mentioned frequently! above. Dan is an actor who has made a splendid, behind the scenes, contribution to this production. We are looking forward to seeing him in Miss Lizzie A. Borden Invites You to Tea next summer.

Anthony Jackman (Ben) has been a member of the PROVINCETOWN THEATER COMPANY since 1984 and is a past board member. For PTC he directed the acclaimed production of Beirut and Lion in Winter; designed and co-produced Elegies for Angels, Punks and Raging Queens which won the George McConville prize. He also produces, directs and is founder of Close to Home Aids Benefit, now in its eleventh year.

Jeff Spencer (Gus) is well known on the Cape as both actor and director, and keeps busy under both hats. Last summer for PROVINCETOWN THEATER COMPANY he directed Agnes of God and co-starred in Three Hotels, both highly acclaimed productions. Most recently he appeared in Sam Sheperd's Sympatico at the Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theatre.

Sue Bowlin (Director) a board member of PROVINCETOWN THEATER COMPANY was stage manager last summer's productions of Agnes of God and Three Hotels. For over ten years she was co-producer of New World Theatre, based in upstate New York, where she acted and directed in a variety of classic, contemporary and original plays. She also directed several productions at Boston's Lyric Stage, including O'Neill's A Moon for the Misbotten.

Margaret Van Sant (Stage Manager) most recently directed Three Hotels for the PROVINCETOWN THEATER COMPANY's '96 summer season. Van Sant managed the Literary Department at Long Wharf Theatre where she also directed and worked in the development of new scripts with contemporary playwrights. She operates her own arts consulting firm which specializes in fund raising, marketing and festival production.



JEFF SPENCER (left) and ANTHONY JACKMAN rehearse scene from Provincetown Theatre Company's production of The Dumb Waiter opening Thursday, January 23 upstairs at Napi's Restaurant.

Actors rise to the occasion in "Dumb Waiter"

By Helen Cummings

The small upstairs room at Napi's Restaurant couldn't have been more right for the Provincetown Theater Company's production of Harold Pinter's dark comedy, "The Dumb Waiter."

This is the second time in its 34-year history that PTC has staged this play. This time around, we have two superb veteran actors whose every gesture, word, move, and expression gives us access to the playwright's interior world.

As Gus, Jeff Spencer embodies a sort of pent-up, restless inertia; through him we see a middle-aged

man with the nervous ticks and babbling habits of someone undergoing a crisis of conscience. His antics and paranoia are played off Anthony Jackman's meticulously composed, increasingly volatile Ben.

Spencer and Jackman are a study of contrasts who have mastered the exquisite rhythmic interplay of Pinter's language. In something as seemingly benign as their banter about boiling water for tea — "Go light it. Light what? The kettle. You mean the gas. Who does? You do." — we see the absurdity of their lives and witness a palpable tension.

The one-act, two-character "serious-comedy" opens with Gus and Ben

THEATER REVIEW

holed up in a seedy basement room somewhere in Birmingham, England, waiting for orders from someone they refer to as "him." In the meantime, their privacy is intruded upon, first by a loud bang coming from a dumb waiter embedded in the wall between their beds, second by written orders for gourmet food sent down to them via the lift. Spencer's hilarious deadpan announcement of Macaroni Pastitsio and Ormitha Macarounda is so deliciously rendered that even Ben has him repeat the words out loud.

Although "The Dumb Waiter" is meant at times to be an amusing play, its main intent is ominous drama. As likable as these two characters can be, they are a couple of low-ball, hard core, hired assassins. Ben does not turn sinister during the course of the play which, incidentally, covers one night in these characters' lives. He has already crossed over the line and that is the crucial fact on which the outcome of the play hinges. In the opening scene especially, Sue Bowl-in's direction should have focused our attention less on Gus's eccentric behavior and more on Ben's reaction to it. This is a play not so much about Gus as it is about Gus seen from Ben's point of view.

