

WENDY KESSELMAN (Writer)

'My Sister in This House' won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize in 1981 and the first Playbill Award. Her other plays include 'Becca', a musical, 'A Tragic Household Tale', 'Maggie Magalita' and 'Merry-Go-Round'. Her plays have been produced at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, New York's Second Stage, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Kennedy Centre and in Ireland, Yugoslavia, Greece, Australia and Hong Kong. Her most recent play

MONSTROUS REGIMENT

Monstrous Regiment was formed in 1975 by a group of professional actors who wanted to make exciting political theatre based on women's experience; tired of seeing that experience marginalised or trivialised, we wanted to take it out of the wings and place it at the centre of the stage.

Over the years we have explored a wide range of theatrical forms including the epic, the straight play, musicals, surreal images, naturalism, cabaret....We have looked at women in revolution, in history, at work, at play; women mourning, women laughing.

The company has no Artistic Director. Company policy and artistic direction are decided collectively by a group which currently consists of five women. Monstrous Regiment is a member of the Independent Theatre Council and is funded by The Arts Council of Great Britain.

In Autumn 1987 the company will be working with the Sheffield Crucible Theatre on a series of new plays and workshops. For more details contact: 01-387 4790

'I Love You, I Love You Not', is currently in production at the American Jewish Theatre in New York.

She is a four-time winner of the A.S.C.A.P. popular award in Musical Theatre and has received fellowships from the McKnight Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.

THE LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE

The Leicester Haymarket is one of the major regional theatres in Britain. One of its policies is to collaborate with touring companies, such as Monstrous Regiment, to make available to a wide audience interesting new work. The theatre has a strong commitment to the encouragement and development of new writers.

For more information about Leicester Haymarket theatre programme, write to, or phone our Mailing List Secretary at:

The Leicester Haymarket
Belgrave Gate
Leicester LE1 3YQ
Telephone (0533) 530021

Join the free mailing list and be the first to hear about the Leicester Haymarket Theatre.

The Leicester Haymarket Theatre is funded by Leicester City and County Councils and the Arts Council of Great Britain.

LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
MONSTROUS REGIMENT
PRESENT

My Sister IN THIS HOUSE

BY WENDY KESSELMAN



SUZANNA HAMILTON (Christine)

Suzanna was brought up and lives in London. She trained at Anna Scher's Childrens Theatre and the Central School of Speech and Drama. Suzanna was recently involved in the film 'Devils Paradise', a film based on Joseph Conrad's novel 'Victory'. Other film works includes 'Out of Africa' (Felicity), 'Wetherby' (Karen), '1984' (Julia), 'Brimstone and Treacle' (Pattie) and 'Tess' (Lizzy).

Suzanna's television work includes 'Hold the Dream', 'Good-bye Days' and 'A Pattern of Roses'. Other theatre work has included Debbie in 'The Real Thing' at The Strand Theatre, Sandra Shy in 'The Oven Glove Murders' at The Bush Theatre, London and Polly in 'Robinson Crusoe' at Chipping Norton.

STEPHANIE HOWARD (Designer)

Stephanie started her career as Assistant Designer at the RSC followed by two years resident designer at Newcastle Playhouse. She has worked for a number of theatre companies including the National Theatre where she designed 'The Mayor of Zalamea' and was Costume Designer for 'Romans in Britain' and 'Lorenzaccio'. Previous productions at Leicester Haymarket include 'Merchant of Venice' and 'Baal'. Other recent work includes costume design for the English Shakespeare Company's trilogy 'The Henries'.

NANCY MECKLER (Director)

Nancy has been Associate Director at the Haymarket for the past three years. In the main auditorium she has directed 'The Cherry Orchard', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat', 'Macbeth' and 'Twelfth Night'. For the Studio Company, Nancy has directed 'Medea', 'The Phoney Physician', 'Baal', 'The Hypochondriac' and most recently 'Electra/Orestes'.

MAGGIE O'NEILL (Lea)

Maggie trained at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, leaving in 1985 to play 'Jackie' in Steven Lowe's 'Moving Pictures' at Leeds Playhouse. Following this was 'Lark Rise' at

Leicester Haymarket and the Almeida. Maggie has also played 'Janet' in 'Gimme Shelter' at Liverpool Playhouse, 'Denise' in 'Court in the Act' at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, and 'First Witch' etc. in 'Macbeth' at the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh.

Her wide film experience amounts to being 'The Paradise Girl', a three line part in 'Mona Lisa'.

MAGGIE STEED (Madame Danzard)

Maggie trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She was a member of Belt & Braces Roadshow when Monstrous Regiment was formed - waving to each other on the M.1.

Her other work includes 'Cloud Nine' by Caryl Churchill and last year 'Livia' in 'Women Beware Women' by Middleton and Howard Barker, at the Royal Court, 'Can't Pay Won't Pay' at the Criterion Theatre, 'Small Change' by Peter Gill at the National Theatre, and Howard Barker's 'Crimes in Hot Countries' and Edward Bond's 'The War Plays' at the R.S.C. for which she won the Time Out Fringe Award. Her T.V. work includes 'Fox' (Euston Films), 'The History Man' (BBC) and 'Ella' in 'Charlie', 'Becca' in 'Intimate Contact' and 'Rita' in 'Shine on Harvey Moon' all for Central T.V.

TILLY VOSBURGH (Isabelle)

Tilly trained at the Anna Scher Theatre. Her recent theatre credits include 'Banged Up' with Foco Novo at the Young Vic and on tour. 'The Lower Depths' at the Tricycle and on tour. Joe Orton's 'Up Against It' at the Old Red Lion Theatre. 'Touch & Go' at the Croydon Warehouse. 'Last Summer in Chulimsk' at the Birmingham Rep. 'The Hungry Ghosts' at the Old Red Lion Theatre and 'Johnny Oil 2' and 'Raspberry' both at the Soho Poly and the Edinburgh Festival.

On television she has recently been seen as Debbie in 'Screen Two: Will You Love Me Tomorrow?' Other television credits include 'Hayley' in Mike Leigh's 'Meantime', Eileen in 'Raspberry', Ruby in 'Hold The Back Page'. 'Victoria Wood - As Seen on TV', 'Minder', 'You'll Never See Me Again' and she will soon be seen in 'Strong Poison' by Dorothy L. Sayers. She also played 'Isabel' in Universal's film of 'The Pirates of Penzance'.

Christine
Lea
Madame Danzard
Isabelle

Director
Designer
Lighting Designer

For the Leicester Haymarket Theatre

Director
PETER LICHTENFELS

Administrator
NICK HAWKINS

Production Manager
GAIL PALLIN

Press Officer
VANESSA ASHTON

Company Manager
HARRIET ROY

Stage Manager
KIM HOLT

Deputy Stage Manager
MICHAEL MANSFIELD

Costumes, set and props built by Leicester Haymarket Theatre workshops.

For Monstrous Regiment

Production Manager
GILLIAN McBRIDE

Lighting Operator
DEBRA TRETHERWEY

Administrators
SANDY BAILEY/ROSE SHARP

SUZANNA HAMILTON
MAGGIE O'NEILL
MAGGIE STEED
TILLY VOSBURGH

NANCY MECKLER
STEPHANIE HOWARD
VERONICA WOOD

FOR THIS PRODUCTION WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

J.W. Thornton Ltd for donating confectionary
The Dounland Bedding Company for donating pillows
Richard Williams for donating bed sheets
Univer of Paris Ltd for donating glass ware
Newarke Wool for donating wool
Derwent Valley Foods Ltd for donating snacks
R.H.M. MacDougalls for donating flour
The Grand Hotel
Lewis's haberdashery department
The Dog's Body Agency
Johnson Wax
Hampshire Bakery for donating bread
Herbert M Slater Ltd
Batchelors Foods Ltd for donating soup

CREDITS FROM ALL'S WELL

Midland Educational
Parr & Co
Limeys
Manor Oren
Calsboro Sound Centres
Yongs

Presented by arrangement with Samuel French, Ltd.

Copyright 1981 of 'Sleep My Little Sister, Sleep'.
Lyrics and Music by Wendy Kesselman

1933...
the bizarre
and outrageous
incident that
shocked France

MONSTROUS REGIMENT
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE
PRESENT

My Sister IN THIS HOUSE

BY WENDY KESSELMAN

DIRECTED BY
NANCY MECKLER

DESIGNED BY
STEPHANIE HOWARD

LIGHTING BY
VERONICA WOOD

WITH
SUZANNA HAMILTON
MAGGIE O'NEAL
MAGGIE STEED
TILLY VOSBURGH



My Sister IN THIS HOUSE

MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE is a remarkable play about the lives of four lonely women, subtly exploring the themes of repressed emotion and the sometimes suffocating bonds of sisterhood.

In the summer of 1930, two devoted sisters were placed as maids in the Danzard household. In the autumn of 1933, Madame Danzard and her daughter were found brutally murdered on the stairs to the servants' quarters. The incident outraged France and inspired Genet to write 'The Maids'.

MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE has been performed widely in the United States - where it won the 1981 Susan Smith Blackburn prize - but never before in this country.

'A PLAY OF HORRIFYING BEAUTY' *New York Post*

MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE is directed by Nancy Meckler, Associate Director at Leicester Haymarket Theatre.



**Monstrous Regiment's
next production
in Spring 1987 is**

MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE

by Wendy Kesselman

In the summer of 1930, in Le Mans, France, two sisters were placed as servants in the Danzard household. They passed as twins, had identical scars on their wrists and shared a bed. They were devoted to each other.

In the autumn of 1933, Madame Danzard and her daughter were found, brutally murdered, on the stairs to the servants' quarters.

MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE is based on an historical incident whose solitary and bizarre violence shocked French bourgeois society and inspired Genet's 'The Maids'. It is a remarkable play about oppression, suppressed emotion, and the bonds of sisterhood.

**It will be opening at Leicester
Haymarket Studio in April
and after a short tour will
transfer to Hampstead
Theatre Club.**

Presented by

**MONSTROUS
REGIMENT**

THE LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE

Tel: (0533) 530021.

11 February 1987

For immediate release

MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE by Wendy Kesselman.
A co-production between THE LEICESTER HAYMARKET
THEATRE and MONSTROUS REGIMENT in the Studio theatre.

1 - 25 April

Press Night: 2 April

MURDER, MYSTERY, AND OUTRAGE

THE LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE and Britains leading women's theatre company, MONSTROUS REGIMENT will present Wendy Kesselman's remarkable play, MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE, as a co-production in the Studio Theatre from 1 - 25 April. It will be directed by Nancy Meckler, founder of the Leicester Haymarket Studio Company and marks the first performance of this work in Britain.

The play is based on the famous French crime which took place in Le Mans in 1933 when two sisters who worked as Maids murdered their employer and her daughter. The incident, whose solitary and bizarre violence shocked French bourgeois society, inspired the dramatist and poet Jean Ginet to write "The Maids".

MY SISTER IN THIS HOUSE explores the lives of four lonely women, oppression, suppressed emotion and the bonds of sisterhood. It has been performed widely in the United States where it won the 1981 Susan Smith Blackburn prize.

For further information contact _____ at the Press Office.

Leicester LE1 3YQ. Tel: (0533) 530021. Telex 341019 LEHAY G.

Vanessa Ashton

PRESS RELEASE