



✠ Cast of Characters

Cardinal	Mike Anthony
King Louis XI of France	James R. McKeny
Duchess of Orleans	M'Lisa Ann MacLaren
Duke of Orleans	Michael Norris
Oliver le Daim	John Davis
Lady Blanche	Liz Sage
Anne of France	Lori Schweitzer
Louis of Orleans, later King Louis XII	Joseph Chapman
Gournay	Edward Paul Yaneshek
King Charles of France	Danny Jenkins
Count of Dunois	Jim Summers
Georges d'Amboise	Roger Hampton
Anne of Brittany	Cinda Adams
Monks, guards and people of the court	Brian McGuinn, Don Howell Susan Winniford, Ernest Kearney

✠ Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1	A chapel in France, 1462.
Scene 2	The King's study, twelve years later
Scene 3	An anteroom in the Chapel of Blois, six years later
Scene 4	A cathedral in Paris, three years later
Scene 5	The King's study, the following day
Scene 6	A prison cell, three years later

ACT II

Scene 1	The King's study, several years later
Scene 2	A prison cell, later the same day
Scene 3	The King's study, years later
Scene 4	The King's study, one week later
Scene 5	A cathedral in Paris, the following week

✻ Production Staff

Director Mr. J. R. McCloskey
Set Design Mr. Norman Mennes
Lighting Design Miss Barbara Burnett
Costume Design Ms. Jo Jones
Technical Director Mr. Randall Edwards

✻ Student Staff

Director Lorri Lanning
Stage Manager Bill Koppany
Assistant Stage Manager Adimika
Master Carpenter Brian Tipton
Grips Marie Bushey, Joyce Gadiot
Gordon Herigstad, Marianne Waterman
Flyman Craig Cashin
Curtainman Michael Hattem
Master Electrician Ann S. Ng
Assistant Electrician James Bates
Floor Electrician M. Walker
Property Mistress Joellyn Jevons
Assistant Props Jeff Hanley
Clearers Barbara Belows, Michael Bourne
Jack Jones, Monica MacLean
Sound Christopher Warren
Wardrobe Mistresses Rae Stevenson, Vegie Thomas
Wardrobe Assistant Gail Marie Thomas
Wardrobe Master Sam Sanzone
Wardrobe Assistants Ernest Taylor III
Harold E. Hawkins, Virgil W. Woodfork
Headresses Sam Sanzone
Lobby Display Roger Hampton
House Manager Francesca Maria Piantadosi

Costumes and sets were designed and constructed by the faculty
and students of the Theatre Department.

Notes from the Author

The public has always been interested in why an author decides to write a particular work. Where does the author get the idea and how was the work accomplished? We were able to discover the following from Muriel Roy Bolton about her play, "The Golden Porcupine."

Of course the answer to the question, "How does the author get the idea?" is as varied as there are plays and authors. Very often, the playwright honestly doesn't know the answer. But about "The Golden Porcupine," I know.

I have always been interested in history, of all countries, and in reading French history, my attention was caught by several characters, one who was touched on only briefly, but whose life seemed too fantastic to be true. This was Duke Louis or Orleans, born at Blois in France in 1462.

I went to the libraries in search of more of him. There was very little about him in English, except for brief references to his name in books about King Louis XI of France. After Louis XI, the Spider King, there were dozens of volumes, fact and fiction, but none about Louis of Orleans, who was later King Louis XII.

I began to look for him in French books, which was slow and painful since my French is very elementary. Dictionary in hand, I read some of the historians who wrote about that period — Phillippe de Commines, Sire de Brantome, Andre Duchesne, Saint Gelais, Bayard's Memoirs — slowly I read, my interest growing. So much material! Enough for a hundred books. There were big gaps in time among the historians, disagreements, and many of the years were curtained in dusty obscurity. But still young Louis of Orleans continued to beckon, tantalizing me with enough facts to help me imagine the rest.

The dates were all there, finally. His birth, christening, marriages, wars. I was fortunate enough to find key speeches for almost all the characters, speeches in the history books which helped define characters, giving reasons for their actions. Many of these speeches, verbatim, are in the play and novel.

I wrote it first as a novel, which was published by Doubleday, and then, still interested, I adapted it to the stage. I would never have dared to imagine and write such a complicated plot. Never have dared to invent such amazing characters and incidents, their lives influencing each other, interwoven like some richly coloured Gobelin tapestry. I've embroidered a border of imagined emotions, of course, using dramatic license, but the frame work is fact. Young Duke Louis, stubbornly fighting his unequal battle, his courage only excelled by his determination, the two beautiful Annes he loved, Anne of France, and Ann of Brittany. The three of them, in their strange triangle, will interest me always. And all the others, the lovely Duchess of Orleans, gallant Dunois and clever Georges, sad King Charles and his pitiable sister Jeanne.

Of one thing, I'm absolutely certain. Let your imagination go where it chooses, you can't think of a story more amazing than the absolute facts of their lives. They lived in exciting times, with the Spider King spinning his webs to strengthen the throne, unify France, and crush the power of his Ducal Lords, while the strong Dukes, among them Orleans, defied his dictatorship. Other Dukes died in the struggle. Louis of Orleans persevered and won.

In the timeless battle for power, and the ageless struggle for supremacy in love, a parallel of the same events could happen today.

And if it does, I will probably write a play about it!

NEXT:



"DEATH OF A SALESMAN"

One of the masterpieces of the American theatre

March 29, 30, 31 and April 5, 6, 7, 8

at 8:00 p.m.

CAMINO THEATRE

THEATRE DEPARTMENT STAFF

J. R. McCloskey
Chairman

FACULTY:

Beverly Baker
Winston Butler
Dan Desmond
Randall Edwards
John Ingle
Jo Jones

FACULTY:

Fred Martin
Norman Mennes
Douglas Nigh
Alice Parichan
Robert P. Ryan
Donna Tollefson
Moria Turner
Eric Warren

STAFF:

Barbara Burnett,
Scene Shop Manager
Peter Sevaly,
Scene Shop Foreman
Angela Huffman,
Costume Assistant
Phyllis Petersen,
Costume Assistant
Robert Crosby,
Production Coordinator

COMING:

"THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH"

Thornton Wilder's classic comedy of survival

May 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 at 8:00 p.m.

CAMINITO THEATRE