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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WEATHERVANE PLAYHOUSE

From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley ...

Weathervane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members – Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch – and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works – even opera – with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They named their space "Weathervane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weathervane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935, the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan, with the other founders, offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938, a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. This group is now the Volunteer Guild.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1474 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-1969 and from 1974-1992. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned.

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75<sup>th</sup> season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 82<sup>nd</sup> season.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Weathervane Playhouse produces high-quality live theater with volunteer artists, designers, and technicians under professional direction, provides education and training in theater arts and appreciation, and engages and entertains its audience and constituents to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

## THANK YOU TO OUR PRODUCTION UNDERWRITERS





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- Turn OFF your cell phone because even silenced calls and text messages interfere with the sound system backstage, on stage and throughout the theater.
- Be sure your cell phone is turned off again after intermission when appropriate.
- If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please turn off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
- NO PHOTOS inside the theater or recording of the show in any way.
- Food and drinks are permitted in the auditorium, but please consume them quietly out of respect to your fellow audience members and performers.

FOR YOUR SAFETY:

- Please remain seated until the house lights have come up at Intermission and after the curtain call.
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### The Frankenstein Evolution: From Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's novel: Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus to Frankenberry, the cereal and Original Fantasy Artwork by Robert A. Kraus

This exhibit has two complementary components. The first explores the beginning of the Frankenstein story as written by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly. This frightening story was written as part of a competition to write 'ghost stories' among Mary, her husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, and Dr. John Polidori during a stormy evening at Villa Diodati near Geneva, Switzerland in June 1816. The story Mary wrote was the beginning of her book *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* which was published anonymously in 1818.

This was the beginning of the Frankenstein legend, which was most iconically brought to the silver screen in 1931 with Boris Karloff playing the Monster. That movie, however, and most other films made about Frankenstein's monster, were not true to Mary Shelley's original story. Kenneth Branagh's *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (1994) was closer to the original story than others.

Libby Jacobs, Artistic Director at Coach House Theatre from the early '80's until 1992, and frequent guest director at Weathervane Community Playhouse, wrote an original play, *Sparks* which was produced at Coach House from November 15 to December 8, 1984. Her script was a faithful adaptation of Shelley's original story. The production received favorable reviews. It was also produced in 2000 at Tree City Players in Kent, and was part of the former Salon Series at Weathervane. The plays directed by Libby Jacobs at Weathervane frequently won the Chanticleer Award for Best Play. Among those were *Lost in Yonkers*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She and her husband, Dr. John Jacobs, provided the original funding for The Libby and Jack Jacobs Library on Weathervane's second floor. Libby and Jack now reside in Wexford, PA.

Other elements of this exhibit trace the transition of Frankenstein from a feared monster to a humorous, engaging character such as Herman Munster as portrayed by Fred Gwynne in the TV series *The Munsters*.

And, of course, the monster character in our current production, *Young Frankenstein, the Musical*.

The second component of this display features the work of Robert A. Kraus, well-known local fantasy artist. He is the owner/creator of RAK Graphics. His original artwork presents unique interpretations of Frankenstein's Monster and other characters. He's also provided movie posters embellished with his original artwork. Robert is the creator of *RAK Attack Monsters*, and *Superfrecks*. He also is the sole designer of the board game, *Dragon War* and the hundreds of expansions to go with it. Robert is involved in many Comic Cons throughout the year including the San Diego Comic Con and many of the Wizard World Cons. He's always happy to meet his many fans at these events. Visit [www.rakgraphics.com](http://www.rakgraphics.com) to see all his work.

The artwork by Robert A. Kraus is for sale. If you wish to make a purchase, please inquire at the Gift Shop or the Box Office. Robert has generously offered to donate a portion of the proceeds of all sales to Weathervane. Thank you for supporting the arts!

Many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who have recently contributed time and talents.

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TALKING WITH... is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.  
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## ABOUT THE PLAY

*Talking With...* is a play comprised of monologues, each eight to ten minutes long and featuring a different female character who talks about her life and her own personal ordeals.

These extraordinary monologues received a standing ovation when they premiered at famed Kentucky regional theater company Actors Theatre of Louisville. These idiosyncratic characters amuse, move and frighten, always speaking from the depths of their souls. They include a baton twirler, a fundamentalist snake handler, an ex-rodeo rider and an actress willing to go to any length to get a job.

Many of the monologues are touching, some are intensely emotional, and a couple are even comical. All of the pieces, however, show how the varied experiences and events in one's life affect who we are as humans.

*Talking With...* is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**JANE MARTIN** (Playwright) is a Kentuckian who first came to national attention for *Talking With...*, a collection of monologues premiering in Actors Theatre of Louisville's 1982 Humana Festival of New American Plays. Since its New York premiere at Manhattan Theatre Club in 1982, *Talking With...* has been performed around the world, winning the Best Foreign Play of the Year Award in Germany from *Theatre Heute* magazine. Her other work includes: *Vital Signs*, *Cementville*, *Keely And Du* (Pulitzer Prize nominee; 1994 American Theatre Critics Association Best New Play Award), *Jack And Jill* (1997 American Theatre Critics Association Best New Play Award), *Anton In Show Business* (2001 American Theatre Critics/Steinberg Principal Citation), *Mr. Bundy*, and *Flaming Guns Of The Purple Sage*. *Good Boys* premiered at Guthrie Theater in 2002. *Flags* was co-produced by Guthrie Theater and Mixed Blood in 2004, and her most recent work, *Sez She*, premiered at Illusion Theatre in April 2006.

I liken *Talking With...* to a provocative symphonic concert with 11 different movements. Each movement has a different rhythm, evokes different responses, but at the same time also reflects and comments upon the others. While each story is uniquely told through a female voice, they all speak to the human condition and our desire to experience and understand love, intimacy, loss, disappointment, pain, joy, the divine.

The women you meet tonight have a story they need to share with you. A story they hope touches you and changes you in some way. We all need our humanity to be witnessed and acknowledged.



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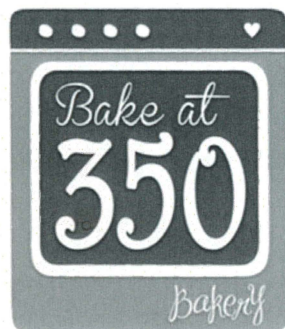


## CAST LIST

Jeanne Madison.....	Fifteen Minutes
Jocelyn Laracuenta .....	Scraps
Anita Nicole Salley.....	Clear Glass Marbles
Rocky Kunz.....	Audition
Brandi Eaton.....	Rodeo
Ella George .....	Twirler
Marci Paolucci.....	Lamps
Laura M. Niehaus .....	Handler
Ryann Marchetti .....	Dragons
Helen McWilliams .....	French Fries
Meg Hopp .....	Marks

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**BRANDI EATON** (Rodeo) is thrilled to be making her Dietz debut. She is primarily a playwright, so don't be alarmed if you see her pitch backwards off the set. Her play *A Telegram in the World of Smartphones* was the first-place winner at the 2014 8x10 TheatreFest. Brandi was most recently seen onstage at Weathervane as Rheba in *You Can't Take it With You* and as Rose Abbott in the 2017 *Murder in the Mansion* at Stan Hywet. Thanks to all of the strong, awesome women who inspire those around them every day!



**ELLA GEORGE** (Twirler) is a freshman studying zoology at Kent State University. She has had a passion for theater since she was very young and continues to pursue it twelve years later. Her more recent performances were Upline in *Footloose*, Charlotte in *Oliver!*, and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is her first time performing at Weathervane.



**MEG HOPP** (Marks) returns to the Weathervane stage in her first production ever in the Dietz Theatre. Meg is a Weathervane Chanticleer Award winner for her roles in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Oklahoma!*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and also for properties design in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Other favorite roles include Mother Superior (*Sister Act*) Masha (*Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike*) and the pastor's wife in *The Christians*. Meg has performed in community theatre for over forty years, locally with Weathervane Playhouse, Players Guild Theatre, Seat of the Pants Productions, Western Reserve Playhouse, Independence Community Theatre, and The Brecksville Theatre. She lives in Akron with her husband Steve, and is a proud member of the Weathervane Board of Trustees.



**ROCKY KUNZ** (Audition) has been performing since she was 3 years old. She started with ballet for 7 years at Nan Klinger Excellence in Dance, then moved on to jazz and hip-hop for 7 more. In middle school, she was in her first professional performance at Barberton's Magical Theatre

Company, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Rocky attended Miller South and Firestone High School participating in their visual and performing arts programs and studied opera with Sue Wallin at West Side Vocal Academy. In addition to voice and dance recitals, her stage credits include *Music Man*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Mary Poppins* and, most recently, *Hairspray*.



**JOCELYN LARACUENTE** (Scraps). This is Jocelyn's first production at Weathervane Playhouse. She has recently performed in roles such as, Audrey (*Leading Ladies*), Titinius and Cinna the conspirator (*Julius Caesar*), and Ann the Nurse (*To Be Healthy: A Work in Progress*). She currently works as assistant program director for Theatre on the Spectrum.



**JEANNE MADISON** (Fifteen Minutes) was recently featured in *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Macbeth* during the 2017 Cleveland Shakespeare Festival season. Her acting credits at Greater Cleveland's professional theaters include: *The Shadow Box*, and the world premiere of *From Breast Cancer to Broadway* at the legendary Karamu Theater; *Soiled*, and *Left In Ink* at Cleveland Public Theatre; *Jake's Women* at East Cleveland Theater; *Prelude to a Kiss* at the Ensemble Theatre; *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* at the Eldred Theater of Case Western Reserve University; and roles in numerous other classic and new plays. Jeanne was featured in the TV film *Love Finds You in SugarCreek, Ohio*, and other films and commercials. Jeanne holds a BA and an MBA from Case Western Reserve University. She is thrilled to be performing at Weathervane.



**RYANN MARCHETTI** (Dragons) is so grateful to work on this show. It is rare that you get to share the stage with 10 powerful women. Ryann is pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre at Kent State University. Credits include: *Into the Woods* (Jack's Mom), *Zorba!* (Despo), and *My Heart is the Drum* (Pit Singer). She has also studied comedy at The Second City in Chicago. Ryann would like to thank her family, friends, the cast, and Weathervane.





**HELEN McWILLIAMS** (French Fries) was last seen on Weathervane stage 20 years ago in *Company*. She has performed with various community theatres in Pennsylvania and Ohio most of her life. Her favorite roles include the Wicked Witch in *Wizard of Oz*, Mary Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life*, and the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*. When not on stage Helen's roles include physical therapist for AGMC, adjunct faculty member for KSU, mother of three teenagers, and wife to the most wonderful husband on earth. She also is a marathon runner and holds a Guinness World Record. Helen dedicates this performance to all of those who continue to follow their dreams.



**LAURA M. NIEHAUS** (Handler) is ecstatic to be back on the Weathervane Stage! She was last seen as Eleanor in the Millennial Theatre Project's Production of *Bonnie & Clyde*. Other favorite roles include Miss Stephanie in the Weathervane's Production of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Bertha in *Pippin*, Mae in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and Julia in *Lend Me A Tenor*. She also devoted her past summer to stage managing Weathervane's Emerging Artist Series Production of *The Little Mermaid*. Laura believes deeply in the inspiring and rejuvenating powers of the arts and will always find her way back to the theater. She would like to thank Deb, the cast, the crew, and her whole Weathervane family for making this experience memorable and is constantly thankful for all the joy this theater has brought to her life. Lastly, Laura would like to thank her friends and family for their unwavering support and love that get her through all the soaring highs and the anxiety-ridden lows, the late-night talks and early-morning walks, the good times and the bad times—"I love you all."



**MARCI PAOLUCCI** (Lamps) is excited to return to Weathervane's Dietz Theatre having last been there in *Uncle Vanya*, 2014, and *Three Tall Women*, 2011. She is also thrilled to be working with director Deb Lemire again. Since 1984, Marci has performed in over 100 productions in community and professional theatre venues in Northeast Ohio. *Driving Miss Daisy* directed by

Dennis O'Connell, is one of her favorite roles. Other favorites include Eleanor in *The Lion in Winter*, and Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*. Love and thanks to all her family and friends for their support during this past difficult year. Marci is dedicating her performances in this play to her late husband, Roland Paolucci, the love of her life, whom she misses every day.



**ANITA NICOLE SALLEY** (Clear Glass Marbles) is an actor, vocalist, educator and encourager with an MFA in Acting from Regent University. She graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia with a BA in Theatre in 2014 and served as Second Attendant to Miss Spelman College 2013-2014. Vocal and musical theater training includes touring nationally with the Spelman College Glee Club (dir. Dr. Kevin Johnson) and workshops with Jeff Blumenkrantz and Andrew Gowland. Favorite roles: Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Nurse Preen in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Many thanks to the cast, crew and director for a wonderful process. Much love to my family. "All glory to God."



**DEB LEMIRE** (Director) has worked professionally for over 35 years. She is a company member of Magical Theatre Company, a professional, resident and touring theatre in Northeast Ohio. She also keeps busy with her own production company, Queen Bee Productions as a Director and Producer. This is her first time directing for Weathervane. Weathervane holds a special place in her heart as her first theatre family just out of college. And it is here she met her husband of 27 years. Deb has her BFA in Musical Theatre from Kent State University and Master's work done at West Virginia University. Deb lives in Cuyahoga Falls with daughter Rachel, husband Russell and the dynamic dog duo of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.



**MARY KATE CLANCY** (Stage Manager) was bitten by the stage managing bug back in 1995 during the production of *Wolf Tales*. She has been stage managing ever since with

such shows as *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)* and *A Tuna Christmas*. Mary Kate is proud to have stage managed three Chanticleer winners. Mary Kate holds a Master's Degree from Kent State University. Her skills extend to her career as a teacher — she's "stage managed" students at Chippewa Elementary School in Brecksville for 30 years. Her only acting is in her classroom when she appears as her "cousin" from Ireland, Margaret Murphy.



**TIFFANY BIRD** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be assisting this wonderful production as stage manager. She is an attorney and avid theater goer, who has been active both on and behind stage. She has appeared most recently as Clairee Marmillion in *Steel Magnolias* for Miller Productions. Tiffany has also been onstage in *Oliver Twist* and *The Princess and the Pauper* at Orrville Community Theater and made her directorial debut this spring in *Pride and Prejudice* also at Orrville Community Theater. Tiffany's children are also active both on and off the stage. She would like to thank her family for supporting her in all her crazy endeavors!



**RICHARD MORRIS, JR.** (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) holds a B.A. in Scenic and Lighting Design from Kent State University. He was the Technical Director/Production Manager for Karamu House Performing Arts Theatre in Cleveland since 1997. He has designed scenery and lighting for over 104 productions and was the recipient of the 2011 National Black Theatre Festival award for "Outstanding Achievements in Scenic Design". In 2013, he was Keynote Speaker at Alabama State University on "African Americans In Scenic Design." Some of Richard's design credits include: *Chad Deity*, *Cut Flowers*, *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*, *The Color Purple*, *The Bluest Eye*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Ruined*, *God's Trombones*, *Yellowman*, *Caroline or Change*, *Purlie Victorious*, *Holes*, *King Heedly II*, *Jar the Floor*, *Bee Luther Hatchee*, *Raisin*, *The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated Colored Minstrel Show*, *Riff Raff*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Steal Away* and *The Tap Dance Kid*. For Ensemble Theatre: *The Rabbit Foot*, *Later Life*, and *Meetings on the Porch*. For Oberlin

College Theatre: *Blade to the Heat* and *Omnium Gatherum*, and *TopDog/UnderDog*. Oberlin lighting design credits include: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Macbeth*, *The Compromise*, and *Death of a Salesman*. For Rabbit Run Theatre: *Enchanted April*, *Ragtime*, and *Cemetery Club*. For Weathervane Playhouse: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Clybourne Park*, *Seven Guitars*, *Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Disney's The Little Mermaid*.



**CHELBY BENSON** (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a visual arts teacher at Woodridge High School in Peninsula. She enjoys working with students to tap into their creativity in visual and performing arts, making art come to life on stage as the director for Woodridge High School's fall plays, the most recent production, *David & Lisa*. As an actress, Chelby was seen on stage in the Weathervane 8x10 Theater Fest, and played Honey Pie in *The Senator Wore Pantyhose* at Western Reserve Playhouse. Chelby co-designed props for *Red* and co-designed the set for *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Weathervane Community Playhouse. She loves being back stage making a mess with paint and has helped with numerous sets and working with a wonderful crew. Chelby is excited for the opportunity to work with an all-woman production to create a striking environment for the director and cast to promote creativity and evoke pathos. "Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world." -- Hillary Clinton.



**PAM PARKS COSTA** (Properties Designer) most recently designed this season's *Young Frankenstein*, *Red* and the 8x10 TheatreFest. Other properties design credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Hamlet*, *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* (And Then Some!), *Uncle Vanya*, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, *Flyin' West*, *Annie*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Art of Deduction: Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes*, *Quilters* and *Seussical: the Musical*.



**KELLIE ROSSINI** (Lighting Designer) has been with Weathervane since October of 2016 as the Master Electrician. She designed lights for



*The Santaland Diaries* in 2016 and *A Kid Like Jake* in 2017. She has been a member of I.A.T.S.E. Local #48 since 1999 and has worked for The Canton Palace Theatre, Verb Ballets, The Manchester Dance Ensemble, Martell School of Dance, Ohio Ballet, The University of Akron Dance Department and The Dance Institute at the University of Akron. She received her first bachelor's degree in technical theatre from Kent State University and is currently working on a second in Accounting.



**KATIE ROWLAND** (Sound Designer) is currently a freshman at Firestone High School, where she is in Akron school for the Arts orchestra, the International baccalaureate program and the Color Guard. This is the first show she has designed, but she has run sound for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Flick*, *Hairspray* and many more. She would like to thank her parents for "driving her all over so she can do the things I enjoy."



**MEGAN NELSON** (Costume Designer) is excited to be working on her first show behind the scenes. She can usually be found house managing for Sunday matinees, ever since she started volunteering at Weathervane for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* in 2012. During the last 4 years, she occasionally has been called upon to assist Jasen Smith with small costume projects for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hairspray* and *Young Frankenstein*. When not at the theater, you can find her either working at selling labels or hanging out at home with her wonderfully geeky husband and their furry cat children. "Thank you!"

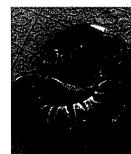


**JASEN J. SMITH** (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008. Since then, he's designed costumes for dozens of Weathervane productions. As a co-designer, he and Hedy Jones took home Weathervane's Chanticleer Award for best costume design for *Man of La Mancha* in 2009. He also won a Marquee Award from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Alliance

for his work on *Children of Eden*. Elsewhere, his design work has been seen on the stages of Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera.



**KATHY KOHL** (Assistant Technical Director) holds a degree in elementary education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in business management from Aurora University. She began her theater career at Weathervane as a volunteer on many lighting, set construction and props crews, joining the professional staff in 2002. She also served for seven years as master painter for the theater department at Firestone High School. Most recently, she was scenic co-designer for our productions of *It's Only a Play*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. In 2015, she was a recipient of the Trustee Award and holds three Chanticleer awards for her properties designs for *Enchanted April*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, and *The Philadelphia Story*. She lives with her husband, Doug, in West Akron where they raised their three children. When not at Weathervane, she very much enjoys being "Ommie" to Parker, Fiona, Beckett and Maisie.



**BEDFORD** Loves performing in *Talking With...* He has been taken care of very well by the actors, crew, and staff of Weathervane Playhouse. He is looking for a forever home, and you can find out more about how to adopt him in the lobby before and after the performance. Both of our animal actors are available for adoption in the Lobby!



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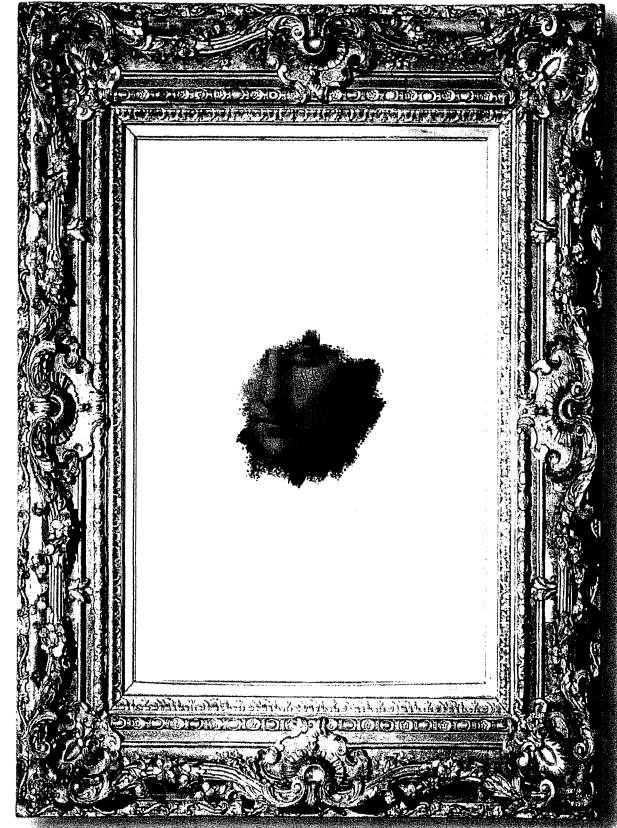


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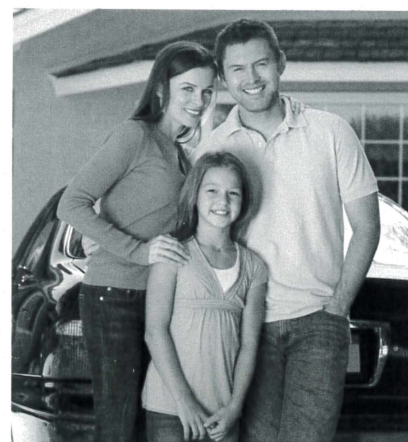
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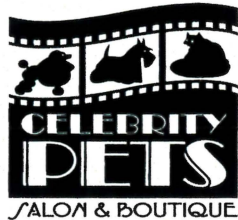


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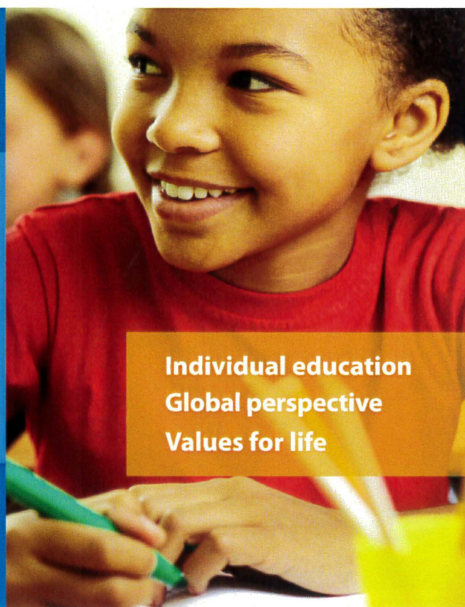
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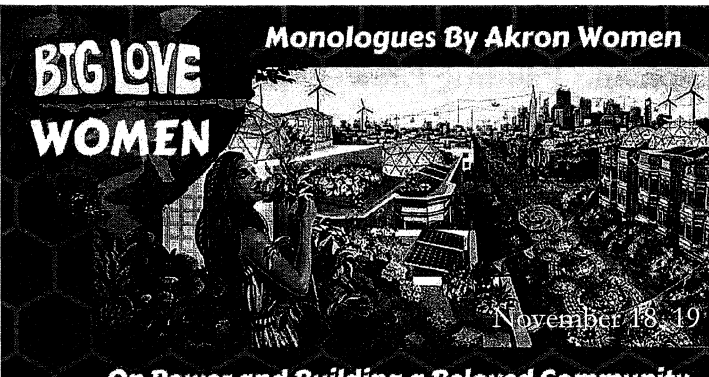


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