

Director's Note

You're going to be challenged...maybe.

I picked up the CD of *See What I Wanna See* when Tower Records went out of business. After listening to a few of the songs I put it away. I hated it -- or at least I had a very visceral reaction, but something kept pulling me back. It's not an easy play, but complexity rarely is. Michael John LaChiusa chastised many of his fellow musical theater composers for creating safe, even ersatz musicals: "All sense of invention and craft is abandoned in favor of delivering what the audience thinks a musical should deliver. There is no challenge, no confrontation, no art -- and everyone sighs with relief."

With that in mind, I'd like to give you a few ideas to think about, some thoughts and riffs to play with, perhaps a stepping stone or two to guide you through the journey you are about to embark on.

--Stop reading this right now if you want to go it alone.--

I encourage you to do so, and revisit these notes after the performance. It's up to you.

The events you will witness during this production of *See What I Wanna See* are like a big puzzle from which pieces are missing. The show is fragmented into three distinct tales based upon the short stories by the Japanese author Ryunosuke Akutagawa: Kesa and Morito, In a Grove (R shomon) and The Dragon (Gloryday).

"LaChiusa moves from the personal to the political of killing, with the truth and lies that attend both small personal tragedies and big societal ones." Lucy Komisar, *TravelLady Magazine*

"Sometimes all that can be taken at face value is that nothing can be taken at face value. Everything, or at least all that matters, is less about what you see than about how you see it." Mathew Murray, *Off Broadway*

"Kesa" and "Morito" may seem slight in comparison to the longer stories, but it's fragmentary quality is emphasized by breaking it into two parts, each serving as an atmospheric overture for the two acts, and introducing themes both musical (the Japanese scales), and textual, (an individual's perception), that will echo throughout "R shomon" and "Gloryday." The stories have nothing and everything to do with one another.

At least we can all be absolutely sure of what we're unsure of.

Thank you. Enjoy the show.

Respectfully,
Kenneth S. Figeroid

2008 - 2009 MEMBER CIRCLE

\$1000+

Corner Drug Inc.
Jon & Laura Daniells

\$250 - \$999

Hal Wright; Molly, David and Cass Olson

\$100 - \$249

The Price Family; Robin Wiener; Bob Cooner;
Donald Grant; Dennis Leary

\$50 - \$99

Tara Barbier; David and Rosi Hollinbeck; Karen Day; Brian Huck; Andrea Thorpe; Mike, Claudia, Monika & Erika Neal

\$25 - \$49

Robin Hushbeck; Andrea St. Clair; Marilyn Norris;
The Flint Family; Gina Williams

*Review this show or see what other audience
members are saying on SeeAPlay.com*



*Vote for Artistic Differences
as "Best Theatre Group"
at KCRATV.com/alist*