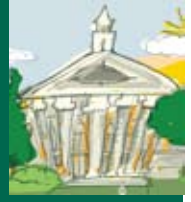


# Meet Me at the UCA

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
SPRING 2009 PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS



## **Six Characters In Search of an Author by Luigi Pirandello** **A Comic Commentary on the Nature of Theatre: a rehearsed “unrehearsed” rehearsal**

Directed by Laura Jones

April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 26 at 2 p.m.

University Theatre, University Center for the Arts

1400 Remington St., Fort Collins

\$7/CSU students, \$7/youth (ages 13-17), \$14/seniors, \$16/public

In its millennium retrospective of the major literary influences contributing to our modern sensibilities, TIME Magazine named Luigi Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author*

the most significant play of the 20th Century creating Pirandello's international reputation in early 20th Century. As a stage director tries to conduct a routine rehearsal with a company of actors and technicians, they are interrupted by the arrival of six characters insisting that their story –not the one being rehearsed – be shown and told to the audience. Not only was Pirandello one of the first writers to exaggerate the stereotypes of domestic drama by burdening them with such self-awareness, his seminal work explores the gaps between appearance and reality as well as form and content in an existential world where the tragic and comic coexist as points of view.

Director Laura Jones wishes for her students to benefit from performing this important play remarking, “*Six Characters in Search of an Author* is one of those plays in the canon of dramatic literature that a lot of people have read but few people have ever seen. I've wanted to tackle this play for years, but I finally found an adaptation that allows Pirandello's play to work on the stage like it does on the page. This particular adaptation of *Six Characters in Search of an Author* presented our student scenic and lighting designers with exciting challenges in the scope of its potential production values, while student performers have had to work to get their heads around the varying degrees of illusion and reality.” **MEET THE ACTORS**

With originality that was startling to his contemporaries, Pirandello introduced a striking and compelling dramatic situation that initially baffled but later dazzled audiences and critics alike. In what begins as a realistic play he introduces six intruders who make the extraordinary claim that they are the incomplete but independent products of an artist's imagination — “characters” the artist abandoned when he couldn't complete their story. These “characters” have arrived on the stage to find an author, someone who will give them the fullness of literary life that their original author has denied them. Furthermore, these “characters” claim that they are more “real” than the actors who eventually want to portray them.

This concept was so startling it helped to incite a riot in the audience when the original production of the play was staged in Rome on May 10, 1921. Later that year, however, audiences and critics had assimilated the extraordinary idea and were enchanted by a remounted production in Milan. The play would then see successful productions in London and New York in February and October of 1922, in Paris in 1923, and in Berlin and Vienna in 1924. Pirandello's own theatre company, founded in 1925, went on to perform the play in Italian throughout the major cities of Europe and North and South America. As a result of this assault on the theatre community, Pirandello became one of the most respected and influential dramatists in the world by the end of the 1920s, and today *Six Characters in Search of an Author* is considered one of the most influential plays in the history of world drama.

Partial reference, used with permission: <http://www.answers.com/topic/six-characters-in-search-of-an-author>

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