

RENO LITTLE THEATER

in partnership with
Hug High School



★ PRESENTS AN ALL-AMERICAN CLASSIC ★

FASHION!

OR LIFE IN NEW YORK

Romance! Comedy! Intrigue! Scandal!

A Dastardly French Count (Hiss!)

Beautiful People Acting Atrociously!

🇺🇸 True Americans Saving the Day! 🇺🇸

FABULOUS FASHION & FROLICKING FUN



The event of the season! All the
fashionable people will attend-
will you?



👉 Performed at the Hug High School Theatre
September 22, 28, 29, October 5, 6 at 7:30 pm
September 23, 30, October 7 at 2:00 pm

Written by Anna Cora Mowatt

Directed by Doug A. Mishler

www.renolittletheater.org

Fashion: Some History

Fashion is often called America's first true play. While disdained by Europeans as inferior, Americans in the early 19th Century grew a heightened sense of patriotism as it created its own identity separate from Europe. It was the time of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Edgar Allan Poe, Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, James Fennimore Cooper, and the Hudson River School of painters. These artists created truly American forms of art, literature, and even philosophy. The American identity they created was constructed around a semi-roughian American who (while not as refined as Europeans) lived an honest sincere life closer to nature—closer to God. He was the “American Adam,” a new man, a man of the future not the past, a man from America not Europe!

Anna Cora Mowatt followed this theme in *Fashion*. It is filled with disdain and ridicule of fashionable New Yorkers who are too wedded to European ideas and too estranged from their rough American values of truth, honesty, and a reverence for simple nature. From today's standpoint, the language is often racist and sexist, but it was true to Americans then.

We have added an introduction in our production (creating a play within the play, if you will) to help modern audiences fall into the spirit and mindset of the often rowdy 19th Century theatre and America's very rambunctious quest for an identity.

Behind the Scenes

<i>Director</i>	Doug A. Mishler
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Tom Briggs
<i>Choreographer</i>	Amanda Alvey
<i>Lighting, Sound and Costumes</i>	Doug A. Mishler
<i>Set Design</i>	Doug A. Mishler & Tom Briggs
<i>Set Construction</i>	The Cast & Crew, Sam Coleman, & Fred the Homeless Guy
<i>Poster and Cover Art</i>	Andrew Mowers

Special Thanks

Michelle at UNR for help obtaining costumes
Somewhere in Time Antiques for loaning us the art
and Nancy Podewils for finding it

A Note From the Producers

In this Year of our Lord 1845, The Mowatt Players are one of the finest itinerant theatre companies extant. Over the last ten years this troupe has played before the crowned heads of Europe as well as the great democratic populace in our country. From the Paladium in Boston to their recent engagement at Barnum's New American Theatre in New York they have dazzled audiences. While their run in New York was sadly curtailed by a tragic fire that commenced on stage during their performance of *King Lear*, we have been informed by their counsel that their hasty departure from Boston was not due to the riot that took place during their production of *The Tempest*, nor the morals charges against two of the actors, but rather some lamentable health issues on the part of Mr. Mowatt.

Despite what happened in Richmond, Virginia, when several actors were tarred and feathered, we are lucky to have them here in our community, for—headed by the patriarch James Mowatt—this company is expert in the craft of producing refined, progressive, and charmingly witty theatre. Furthermore we have checked, and regardless of the criminal charges against them in Rhode Island, the “Players” are all morally refined and exude the highest in taste and sophistication.

We are pleased to present *Fashion*, a play written by the company's matriarch. Born into a theatrical family on a par with the Booths, Anna Cora Mowatt has penned an all-American story that illuminates this nation's essential spirit. It satirizes our Big Cities' penchant for emulating European fashion and turning their back on real American values. The play is filled with patriotism, morality, romance, intrigue, and the type of values Ralph Waldo Emerson described as “perfectly righteous and purely American.”

The Producers guarantee that nothing in this show or in the performers' behavior will offend even the most delicate of audiences. Further, the management has gone to great lengths to ensure that this show will not be marred by the intrusion of drunks and prostitutes.

The Players

(in the order of their appearance)

Mr. Twinkle.....Mr. Vladimir Black
Zeke.....Mr. Randy Murphy
Col. Howard.....Mr. Walter Anderson
Mr. Fogg.....Mr. Phileas Samuel Fogg
Prudence.....Miss Hortencia O’Thweed
Heckler 1.....Miss Anastasia Backabit
Heckler 2Mr. Frank Franklin
Mr. Trueman.....Mr. Rufus H. Scatman
Millinette.....Srta. Thérèse Genevieve Ramón
Gertrude.....Mrs. Augusta Hibbleton
Count Jolimatre.....Mr. Jedediah Hibbleton
Serafina.....Miss Lulu Darling Mowatt
Mr. Snobson.....Miss Tierrainey Rose Mowatt
Mrs. Tiffany.....Mrs. Anna Cora Mowatt
Mr. Tiffany.....Mr. James T. Mowatt



Mr. Walter Anderson is headstrong and likes to keep a tight watch over the other actors in The Mowatt troupe. He likes order and people who do what they should, and enjoys telling off people that are, in his opinion, lazy and unproductive. Mr. Anderson enjoys many things, none of which he will share here, because he is a proper man and wouldn’t like to cause a scandal.

Miss Anastasia Backabit is VERY “well known” in many towns. She has worked saloon shows and legitimate theatre all over. In 1840 she “worked” with Mary Ann Hall’s Escort service in Washington D.C. She stayed for two and a half years before deciding politics just wasn’t for her. She has been hoping to get her big break with the Mowatt Players though so far nothing but bit parts.

Mr. Vladimir Black , or Vlad the Lad (but never the cad) as he is rarely called, has appeared in numerous productions. He is particularly fond of King Lear. Unfortunately that role went to Mr.

Scatman but Mr. Black was a great Messenger—though a role without the meat a true actor feeds upon. He knows that you will be enthralled by his portrayal of the central character Twinkle in this fair show.

Mr. Phileas Samuel Fogg plays the part of his namesake, Augustus Fogg, in this dreary play, whose director demonstrates little control over the cast. Like the character he plays, Mr. Fogg is indifferent to theatre and looks forward to making his fortune in more suitable avenues, the most ambitious of which is wagering on his planned trip around the world in record time—under 100 days.

Mr. Frank Franklin hates his mother for naming him what she did. In fact, he hates everything about his mother, from her pointy nose to her screechy voice. He never wanted to act; he had aspirations of being a chef. Mother said the stage was better, but he showed her. He became the greatest chef in New York! Unfortunately, 2 months into his career he became addicted to sherry, and well here he is....

Mrs. Augusta Hibbleton, maiden name Berwick, is the heiress to the Berwick metal hoop fortune. She mistakenly married her husband Jedediah many years ago, they became interested in the theatre, and after a number of generous “donations” they became part of this itinerant company. This is her second play with The Mowatt Players.

Mr. Jedediah Hibbleton started in show business in *Mad Magician Sam's Sadistic Sideshow of the Sinister and Shocking*, where he was a strong man who bit bricks in half. After falling wildly in love with Augusta, he started a career in acting. After falling wildly out of love with Augusta, he now is seeking someone who can get him involved in politics or her into an asylum for the insane.

Mrs. Anna Cora Mowatt is proud to be one of the few women playwrights in these modern times. She believes this is her greatest play capturing the essence of American life. By the way, she still has a touch of typhoid fever, which she caught while on tour and hopes the fever does not cause her to hallucinate during tonight's performance as it did recently in New York.

Mr. James T. Mowatt is eternally grateful for the rare opportunity to share the theatre with his genius wife and talented daughters. While his professional and family life fill his every need, James has a dream to move to San Francisco to open a combination Egyptian antiquities/“bicycle” store. James envisions his new vehicle will clog the streets of San Francisco—it could happen....

Miss Lulu Darling Mowatt, daughter of Anna Cora and James, fell madly in love with Dick Nimrod, the Mowatt's set designer. When he found out she wasn't going to inherit anything from her parents, he ran off with a horse trainer, leaving Miss Mowatt with a child to take care of and a bad cough. She would like to thank him for ruining her life, and dedicates her performance to whoever finds Dick and shoots him.

Miss Teirrainey Rose Mowatt grew up locked in the attic for the first five years of her life until her loving parents were convinced she was going to be an attractive child. She has since grown into the best actress in her parents' company. She would like to thank her parents for spoiling her, and her sister Lulu Darling for having a bastard child and thus causing mother and father to only love Tierrainey.

Mr. Randy Murphy, once an up-and-coming actor, has reached a plateau in his life. His aspirations of being a stage star have fallen to the reality of playing servants in The Mowatt Players' productions. He still takes pride in the fact that after every show he will get drunk and into a difficult situation such that only his superior acting skill will allow him to escape jail time.

Miss Hortensia O'Thweed began life on her family's midwest turnip farm. She had a bastard love child with a traveling preacher and became saved. She then moved into affluent New York society via her father's political ties. Miss O'Thweed grew more devout and after years around Tammany Hall and Boss Tweed, she found the theatre district more appealing and less blasphemous—till she joined the Mowatts.

Srta. Thérèse Genevieve Ramón was born in France to German-speaking Spanish parents. She learned theatre from her mother who worked as a maid for a rich Englishwoman who required her to dance ballet as she worked. She wishes to be able speak to her mother outside of visiting hours at the penitentiary. Srta. Ramón is privileged to be accepted into this fine acting troupe, and once again apologizes profusely about the raccoon.

Mr. Rufus H. Scatman is the glittering diamond in The Mowatt Players rough, a juicy sirloin of talent and beauty. Ladies, please leave all gifts for him with the stagehands at the theatre door, but he thanks you in advance. Join The Rufus Newsletter and receive autographs and portraits of your favorite star! Just send \$1.00 to The Rufus Newsletter c/o The Mowatt Players, General Delivery, New York City.

A Lifetime of Memories

Reno Little Theater Life Members

Frank Bender

Bruno and Edna Benna

Peter S. Bing

Mrs. Robert Brigham

Diana Carter

Sam and Carol Coleman

Lester Conklin, Jr.

Gregory D. Corn, Esq.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. K. Cowan III

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Cisk

Mrs. Jack Douglass

Robert and Kathy Easley

John Flanigan

Robert and Cathy Gabrielli

Kirk Gardner and Julie Douglass

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gorell

Art and Caryn Hawman

Mrs. Helen Hepner

Patrick and Mary Hughes

Mrs. Martin Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kirk

Joan Long

Mrs. Eve Loomis

Mr. George Manilla

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas McCleary

Mrs. Rollan Melton

Mrs. Fran Merrell

Mrs. Lilika Newman

Carol Pevney

Diane and Michael Peters

David and Kelly Radu

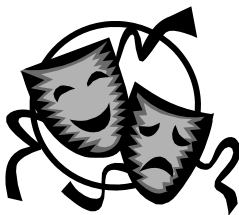
Mr. and Mrs. George Randolph

Mrs. Warren Richardson

Mrs. Sidney Robinson

Anne Stewart

James and Dani Woods



BENDER WAREHOUSE COMPANY

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Reno, NV 89512

775-788-8800

Reno Little Theater would like to thank
Mr. Frank Bender for his continuing support.

DON'T MISS A SINGLE SHOW IN RLT'S 73RD SEASON!

The Bug

by Richard Strand

December 1-2, 7-9, 14-16

Dennis works at Jericho Corp. connecting wires. The conflict between Dennis' paranoid fears and the company's maniacally rigid bureaucracy will leave both permanently changed, as secrets are revealed: like the fact that no one has ever seen Dennis' immediate boss, and how Dennis found that huge slush fund in the computer's files.

Necessary Targets

by Eve Ensler

February 2-3, 8-10, 15-17

A Park Avenue psychiatrist and an ambitious young writer travel to Bosnia to help women refugees confront their memories of the war. Though the two have little in common, they emerge deeply changed as they confront their own fears in the face of violence, resiliency and war. Based on interviews conducted by Ensler (*The Vagina Monologues*).

The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer

by Carson Kretitzer

April 12-13, 18-20, 25-27

"Do I dare disturb the universe?" Amid questions of faith, conscience and the never-ending pursuit of knowledge, this kaleidoscopic play tells of the birth of the atomic age and the cold war through the life of the bomb's "father," struggling with the consequences of what he's created, haunted by actions, decisions, and a trinity of women—mother, wife and lover.

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

May 31-June 1, 6-8, 13-15

A modern dramatic masterpiece, this is the fabulously inventive tale of *Hamlet* as told from the worm's-eye view of two minor characters in Shakespeare's play. In one of Stoppard's best-known works, this Shakespearean Laurel and Hardy finally get a chance to take the lead role.

RENO LITTLE THEATER

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