the illusion
By Tony Kushner
freely adapted from
Pierre Corneille
The Illusion is produced through special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc. The script to this play may be purchased from BPPI at BroadwayPlayPubl.com

Originally produced by New York Theater Workshop in October 1988
Cast

Pridamant                  Josh Harper
The Amanuensis            Emma Brashear
Alcandre                  Erik Mueterthies
Calisto/Clindor/Theogenes Skye Newcom
Melibea/Isabelle/Hippolyta Miranda Joslin
Elicia/Lyse/Clarina       Laila Sahir
Pleribo/Adraste/          William Marroquin-Haslett
Prince Florilame          Emma Withers
Matamore                  Jesus Lucero
Geronte                   Andrew Tiede
Male Understudy/Attendant Barbara Stier
Female Understudy/Attendant
Production Staff

Director
Assistant Director
Technical Director
Scenic Design
Costume Design
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Web Content
Marketing and Publicity
House Manager
Graphic Design

Director: Dr. Robert Vrtis
Assistant Director: Mim Harries
Technical Director: Tom Berger
Scenic Design: Jeff Dintaman
Costume Design: Lisa Lantz
Stage Manager: Meghan Gaffney
Assistant Stage Manager: Bella Newman
Web Content: Elaena Hoekstra
Marketing and Publicity: Kajsa Jones, Laila Sahir
House Manager: Kajsa Jones
Graphic Design: Kristin Anderson

Crew

Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator
Stage Crew

Light Board Operator: Ehren Kluge
Sound Board Operator: Anna Steinhouse
Stage Crew: Mikaela Reth, Ryan Pierce, Xavier Conzet, Madeline Geier

Makeup Design
Hair and Makeup/Dresser

Makeup Design: Tanner Huppert
Hair and Makeup/Dresser: Tanner Huppert, Claire Firary

Wig Designer
Specialty Prop Builder

Wig Designer: Alison Mizerski Hanks
Specialty Prop Builder: Ethan Heller
Emma Brashear is a sophomore Theatre major. She has previously appeared in *Metamorphoses*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *The Man Who*, and *The Vagina Monologues*. She would like to thank the entire cast for giving up on coherence long ago.

Meghan Gaffney is a sophomore History major with English and Theatre minors. She last worked as an Assistant Stage Manager for *Sunday in the Park with George*, and outside the CFA she is a Tech Executive for the Performing Arts Committee. She would like to thank the enthusiastic cast, crew, and Bella for being patient with her. Enjoy the show!

Josh Harper is a senior Communications Studies major and Theatre minor who is ready for his last performance here at Luther. He has participated in numerous Luther shows over his four years here, including *Love and Information* and *Metamorphoses*. As always he would like to thank his supportive family, loving friends, and nurturing professors for allowing him to continue to do what he loves.

Mim Harries is a senior Computer Science and Statistics major with a minor in Theatre. She has previously been involved in many Luther shows both onstage and backstage, including *Love and Information* (Stage Manager), *Metamorphoses* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *In the Next Room* (Annie). Thank you so much to Dr. Bobby for this opportunity and to the wonderful cast and crew for their energy and playfulness!
Miranda Joslin is a junior Art major and Spanish and Museum Studies double minor. This is her first major production at Luther College (she previously performed in SPIN Theatre’s 24 Hour Musical this past February). She is ecstatic to be able to share this experience with her friends and family and would like to thank them for their endless love and support.

Jesus Lucero is a senior this year and is absolutely elated to grace the stage for his first and last play at Luther. He’s a Psychology major and a Music and Women’s and Gender Studies double minor. In the past, Jesus had the opportunity of moving alongside some fabulous dancers in Forgiveness Lunch. He’d like to thank the cast of The Illusion for making him feel at home in theater and to his girls for supporting his erratic decisions the last four years. Peace and love.

William Marroquin-Haslett is a sophomore majoring in International Studies and minor- ing in Theatre. His past productions include Love and Information, The Laramie Project, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and West Side Story. He would like to thank his grandparents, Jean and Bill Haslett, for their unwavering support of his performances since the fifth grade.

Erik Mueterthies is in his sophomore year at Luther College, studying Theatre and Computer Science. He has previously appeared in Luther College’s theatrical productions as King Ceyx in Metamorphoses and Jules in Sunday in the Park with George. Erik would like to thank the cast and crew of The Illusion for creating a memorable and enriching experience for him as both an actor and a person. He would also like to thank his parents for their ongoing support of his artistic endeavors and his sister, Gina, for keeping it real.
Skye Newcom is a junior at Luther College where he is studying Theatre and Art. Skye previously performed as Eros/Silenus in Metamorphoses, a Kit Kat Klub Dancer in Cabaret, and also performed in Luther’s fall production of Caryl Churchill’s Love and Information.

Bella Newman is a sophomore English Education major. She is super excited to be involved in her second production at Luther. Bella would like to thank everyone involved in the process, especially Meghan, for being patient and beautiful!

Laila Sahir is a sophomore studying Theatre, Psychology, and Music. Here at Luther, she has been involved in Sunday in the Park with George as an Assistant Stage Manager and The Man Who. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for being generally amazing and her family for always being there.

Barbara Stier is a sophomore Theatre major with Music and Sociology minors. This is her first role here at Luther, but she has done tech for In the Next Room and Love and Information. She wants to thank her cat for just...being a cat.
Andrew Tiede is a first year studying Computer Science and Theatre. He has loved theatre since high school and is excited to be making it one of his majors here at Luther. He has been involved with one other production at Luther, The Man Who.

Emma Withers is a sophomore studying in the areas of Elementary Education, Art, and Theatre! She has previously been involved in the productions of Metamorphoses and Sunday in the Park with George here at Luther. She is blessed by family and friends who help her follow her passions and support her every step of the way. She views the stage as a giant canvas waiting to be painted.
Set Construction Crew

Britany Thorpe
Matthew Guttormson
Tyler Dintaman
Nathan Baldwin
Colin Boyle
Emma Brashear
Madeline Geier
Meghan Gaffney
Mim Harries
Ethan Heller
Tanner Huppert
Logan Larson
Karl Nycklemoe
Becca Rye
Steffie Sea
Barbara Stier
Maggie Sulentic
Josh Weisenburger
Andrew Tiede

Costume Crew

Pedro Da Costa Cadalak
Emma Kmoch
Anna Becker
Victoria Young
Abbey Syme
Laura Schueler
Nathanial Koch
Hannah Holstad
Krysta Chroninger
Alice McNamara
Evie Iralu
Emily Chlapik (Costume Storage Manager)
Miranda Poncelet (Costume Storage Manager)
Director’s Note

For all its comedic silliness, The Illusion engages with some very weighty questions, exploring nothing less than the nature of reality. As our season’s last show in a season shaped by the theme of impermanence, this show specifically asks how we experience a reality that is not fixed and permanent. For me, the play suggests that part of what it is to be human lies in our daily navigation between poles.

Between Presence and Absence

What we could call the “concrete reality” of presence, which is made up of those things that we can sense with us now, is entirely overlaid with constructs that are absent (or are at least intangible). As the play shows, our experience of reality is largely that of one kind of blended space or another between presence and absence. Pridamant seeks out the magician Alcandre because he struggles with a son who both is and is not present, who lives in the blended space of memory.

The father’s experience is no less affecting because the memory is as intangible as vapor.

Love too, as Alcandre says, is really nothing at all – or rather no thing. Yet, our ability to be profoundly affected by our experience of things that are not entirely shapes our experience of reality. And this is part of the power of theatre too. At its best theatre is an uneasy mix between presence and absence, truth and lies, reality and illusion. A blended space of imagination.

Or Magic.

After all, theatre is not unlike Alcandre’s magic: a profound effort to create an emotionally charged no thing. A weighty artifice painstakingly engineered to create something no more yielding but a dream.
Luther Theatre and Dance
2015-2016

The Man Who
By: Peter Brook and Marie Helene-Estienne
January 26, 2016

A Splinter of Light for all
Conceived and Choreographed by Andrea Vazquez-Aguirre
January 26, 2016

The Invitation Game
Conceived and Choreographed by Jane Hawley
March 10-12, 2016

The Illusion
By Pierre Comeille and Tony Kushner
April 29-May 7, 2016

Faculty and Staff
Tom Berger
Lisa Lantz
Jeff Dintaman
Jane Hawley
Andre Vazquez-Aguirre
Paul Rude
Robert J. Larson
Dr. Bobby Vrtis