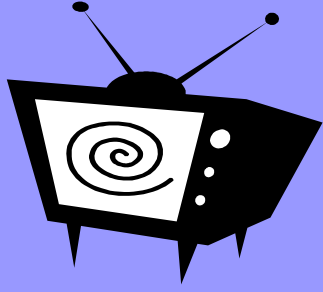


## MY TV TALKS TO ME

OBSSESSED SOAP FAN  
SWEARS CONFRONTATION  
WITH AMH'S VERONICA  
IS NO JOKE!



## 'CAN SMASHER' LAUGHS ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK

INVENTION ALLOWS WOMAN TO  
BUY THE SHOP OF HER DREAMS!



***THE NATIONAL***

\$15.00 US • June/July 2000

# EXPIRE

**SIX WOMEN WITH BRAIN DEATH  
(OR EXPIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW!)**



**Music and Lyrics by Mark Houston**

**Book by Cheryl Bengé, Christy Brandt, Rosanna Coppedge, Valerie Fagan, Ross Freese, Mark Houston, Sandee Johnson and Peggy Pharr Wilson.**

**Produced by Precor Realty Advisors and Carpenter Square Theatre**

## America's Sweetheart? Our Sources say NO!

Most people know and love her, but some very vocal critics have a different opinion of Margaret O’Ryan, plucky member of the Esther Williams Water Ballet Society of East Orange, New Jersey.

O’Ryan says jealousy and misunderstanding are to blame for these perceptions.

Faithful Expirer readers will remember the incredible saga of the swim team’s ordeal. For over 16 weeks, the team was lost at sea and presumed dead until they were rescued by the Coast Guard in a dramatic live broadcast. Word of the team’s amazing story soon spread and their celebrity grew as the world watched in fascination. Corporations were soon lining up with products for the team to endorse.

*Floating to the Top*, O’Ryan’s spicy tell-all memoir enjoyed phenomenal success and spent 48 weeks at number one on the best-seller lists. The story was later produced as a TV movie, *Swim On*, and O’Ryan was catapulted to stardom.

“I know she’s America’s sweetheart, but believe me, she was a nightmare to work with. She was always late, always complaining, and constantly demanded more screen-time,” says Bill Carlson, ex-Production Manager on the film, who was allegedly fired after a run-in with O’Ryan on the set.

“Margaret did everything in her power to undermine me”, says Agnes Finkelstein, swim team leader. She blames O’Ryan for the dismal sales of her own book *Shark Bites and Flipper Nights* and has stated publicly that O’Ryan’s book was entirely ghostwritten. “I poured my soul into that manuscript. Margaret did not write a single word of hers.”

O’Ryan had no comment on these allegations except to say, “Agnes is just jealous. It’s not my fault she’s used up and bitter. I know that people think I’m a bitch. It’s just that I am a professional and I demand the same professionalism from others.”



## My TV Speaks to Me and Yours Can Too!

Want to know what’s really going on inside your favorite soaps? Well look no further. A local woman insists she can not only channel the emotions of your favorite vixen or heart-throb, but she can also speak directly to them through your TV.

Wanda, the soap lady, reportedly received her special “gift” as she calls it, after her TV station interrupted *All My Hospitals*. An angry Veronica came through her television and things have not been the same since. Wanda believes she was blessed with this gift by a higher power. Well, at least by the power that governs all things good in Oak Ridge!

“My life was going nowhere. I had applied to Court Reporting school and to be a medical transcriptionist, but I was turned down for both. If it weren’t for this blessed gift, I don’t know where I would be.”

Probably drinking gin and sitting in front of the tube say neighbors. “She didn’t do anything ever. She must have watched at least 18 soaps a day. She would videotape the soaps she couldn’t watch and then watch them the next day,” says neighbor Heather Devereaux. “I don’t really know if that lady came out of her TV, but I do know she has really turned her life around. I haven’t seen her spit on or throw bottles at the kids in the trailer park in about three weeks!”

If you would like to witness Wanda’s powers and have her speak through your TV you better hurry. She’s just bought a Winnebago that she plans on using to travel the nation and share her psychic gifts with the less fortunate. For the time being you can reach her at:

1234 Trailer Trails Dr., Mobile Home # 7



## DIRECTOR SUCCUMBS TO ‘BRAIN DEATH’ FOR A SECOND TIME

*Is it for real or an intricate insurance scam? Read on*

Theater director Rhonda Clark remembers that fateful day in 1996 when the first signs of “brain death syndrome” began. The first sign of the syndrome was a rash of anticipation which quickly turned to an extended dizzy spell of planning and rehearsals, followed by body rushes of elation. The final stage resulted in a stupor of satisfied exhaustion. Remarkably, the patient soon experienced a period of remission from “brain death syndrome” lasting almost four years.

Early this spring, Clark claims to have noticed the familiar “brain death” rash over 90% of her body, and says other symptoms have progressed as before. From a backstage cot, she weakly raised her head and with a stalwart smile moaned, “It’s back...”

However, insurance fraud investigators have a different story to tell. “For a brain dead woman, she’s been one chipper, busy gal,” says one gumshoe who asked to remain nameless, so as not to hamper the investigation. He vows that he has observed her rushing about Carpenter Square Theatre, tending to all the duties of an artistic director and directing such shows as *How I Learned to Drive*, *Proposals*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Rumors*, *A Perfect Ganesh*, *Sylvia* and *Conversations With My Father*. In addition, he has even witnessed her onstage antics.

“Sick? Gimme a break. In that *Communicating Doors* play, she was running in and out of hotel doors like an athlete in training, lifting sofas, dragging a brawny man, hanging out of a hotel window and just plain acting all over the place. I’m not falling for this “brain dead” crap, er... pardon the expression.”

Neighbors and school officials have witnessed the woman playing theater games, improvising and dancing with students during residencies as part of the Oklahoma Arts Council’s Artist-in-Residence Program. When asked about the artist-in-residence, a local school principal retorted, “She’s got ‘brain death syndrome?’ She seemed so spunky. If it’s true, it better not be contagious or we could have an epidemic on our hands.”

Later questioned about her alleged perkiness, Miss Clark wanly replied, “Remember I had almost four years in remission. Yes, I was perky! But I’m in the throes of ‘brain death’ now. I swear it!”

The National Expirer

## Scenes and Musical Numbers

### Act One

Opening

All My Hospitals — “David, Don’t Fly Lufthansa”

Wise Up or Die (The Game Show) — “I Read Too Much”

Swim Team

Rambi — “A Simple Time”

Swim Team

High School Reunion — “Too Fat to Be Prom Queen”  
“We’ve Arrived”

### Fifteen Minute Intermission

### Act Two

Grocery Shopping

Severed Head — “Get Proud of Me”

Swim Team

Barbie and Ken — “The Real Thing”

Swim Team Movie of the Week — “Swim On”

“God is an Alien”

Recycle

“Toll Road”

Finale

### The Cast

Shawn Carey

Lysandra Dial-Meek

Emily Etherton

Mary Freeh

Renee Preftakes

Ellen Webster

### The Band

Keyboards ..... Louise Goldberg

Bass / Keyboards ..... Mary Reynolds

Percussion ..... Elyse Angelo

### Production Staff and Crew

Director ..... Rhonda Clark

Music Director ..... Louise Goldberg

Set Design / Technical Director ..... Tom Harrington

Lighting Designer ..... Tom Harrington

Assistant Lighting Designer ..... Steve Gillmore

Costume Design / Construction ..... Mary Freeh

Choreographers ..... Mary Freeh, Rhonda Clark

Stage Manager / Lightboard ..... Phil Carlton

Set Construction ..... Tom & Melody Harrington

Steven Gillmore, Bob Bates

Specialty Set Painting ..... Nick Backes

Sound Operator ..... Bob Bates

Costume Construction Crew ..... Phil Carlton, Rhonda Clark

Lysandra Dial-Meek, Emily Etherton

Taylor Etherton, Robert Erwin, Don Lusk

Adrian Thompson, Joanne Trombley

Wig Master ..... Adrian Thompson

Running Crew Chief & Voiceovers ..... Don Lusk

Running Crew ..... Lyn Bates, Lane Fields

Matt Simpson, Adrian Thompson

Joanne Trombley, George Zabolski

Spotlight Operators ..... Taylor Etherton, George Zabolski

Female Voiceover ..... Joanne Trombley

Program Design and Layout ..... Phil Carlton, Lysandra Dial-Meek

Don Lusk

### Special Thanks to:

Hobby Lobby • Oklahoma Children’s Theatre

University of Central Oklahoma Theatre Department

Russell Webster • Doug Getzoff • Tuxedo Specialists

## Socialite dumpster dives – then laughs all the way to the bank!

Last year when we did a story on the dumpster diving diva, “Ms. Socialite”, we never guessed she would come out smelling like roses or cold hard cash. But that’s just what she did!

Ms. Socialite was caught last year behind the bus station digging through trash bins in search of aluminum cans, an activity she found necessary to ensure daily stress relief. Ms. Socialite began “dumpster diving” in 1994 when she found that crushing cans was a terrific stress reliever. She marketed her wisdom in the form of a Stress-Buster Kit® which she sold for \$19.95 in magazine ads and in a memorable TV infomercial where she exclaimed, “Don’t spend money on those fancy re-



wildest dreams and finally accomplished a lifetime goal. “I always wanted to own a nail salon and that’s exactly what I bought!” Now Ms. S helps women solve their problems while

she files their tips. My Stress-Buster Kit® combines recycling with good ole muscle building, stress eliminating can crushing! I guarantee it!”

While women everywhere bought up the inner-peace inducing kits, Ms. Socialite grew richer beyond her

she files their tips.

“Let’s face it... women need a place where they can come and get things off their chest. Well, now they can do that while they are getting a new set of sculptured nails or a manicure. If they want they can go out back and crush some cans or they can try on a new swimsuit or get a tan in one of my many tanning booths.”

When asked what advice Ms. S would give to frustrated women everywhere she said, “My only advice is that it doesn’t matter how fake everything is on the outside as long as everything on the inside is genuine!”

## THE NATIONAL EXPIRER’S INSPIRING STORY OF THE MONTH



Ever feel like you don’t fit in and no matter what you do you’re bound to live a life of misery as a complete failure? Author, Jolene Davis, believe it or not, once felt the same way. That was until she gave up on self-help book propaganda and ubiquitous magazine quiz garbage.

In Davis’ newest book *SELF HELP FOR DUMMIES: Everything You’ve Always Read About Self Discovery But Were Too Stupid To Understand*, she guides you to true self acceptance beyond the self-help hype nightmare that is omnipresent in our culture.

“In my opinion, I just don’t think any of that self help mumbo jumbo makes much sense. I spent years trying to figure out who I should be until I realized I like who I am,” Davis said.

That’s when Jolene decided to write her own book about self discovery and she’s never been happier. “It’s been a whirlwind romance with the writing. I have always been an avid reader, but I just never knew I had it in me to sit down, put pen to paper and just let my feelings flow,” she says.

Writing isn’t the only thing that has kept Jolene busy. She has also adapted the popular game show “Wise Up or Die” into a fun play-at-home board game. “When I went on that show I know it didn’t look like I had that much fun, but in a way I did because it was really one of the important forks in the road of my journey to self discovery.”

Want to start changing your life for good? Jolene’s website offers free tips, chat sessions with fellow searchers for a positive tomorrow and discounted Jolene Davis merchandise. You can even download a free version of the “Wise Up or Die” on-line game. Just go to [www.shitorgetoffthepot.com](http://www.shitorgetoffthepot.com), fill out the self-esteem assessment and you’re on your way. Thanks Jolene!

## Sales Woman Sees Stars

Some people may say that pyramid sales are a thing of the past, but one woman says that they are the wave of the future.

Sister Violet, the galactic name this interstellar seller prefers to be called, has one out-of-this-world story to tell. After founding the Video Church of the Alien Redeemer and becoming acquainted with some of our friends in the sky, Sister Violet was afforded the opportunity to attend the 4,732<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celestial Sales Conference as a representative of Earth.

After a particularly moving keynote speech by Blzz&xr#qqqr Sggg\$\$ (bloop)knvch\*\*\* (roughly pronounced Belxrique Sekenvatch tsk tsk tsk (the bloop is silent)), Sister Violet was inspired to help the extraterrestrial world with her products.

“Belx really opened my eyes to the opportunities we in the retail world have. We can truly change the lives of people er...uh...alien thingies,” says Violet.

And change their lives she did. Sister Violet sold a whopping 553 cases in a matter of hours, setting an all-time record for the Shamway® Company.

But just how did she pull off this remarkable feat?

Violet says, “I just had to determine what their needs were. I really know how to talk to people, even if they don’t have faces or they have five eyes. We’re all the same inside. Everyone deserves a good facial scrub even if their skin is puce.”

Asked about the alien’s favorite product Sister Violet says, “Oh, definitely the Elasto Pore Refining Cream. Long-term exposure to radiation has left many of their skins just plain dry, but the cream proved just the trick for rehydrating with natural moisture and leaving their scales glistening. Another big seller was the Trail-Mix Douche, which faced some skepticism on Earth. That stuff sold like hot cakes out there!”

So how does the Shamway® Corporation feel about selling their products to aliens?

“I’m tickled pink!” says President and CEO Donald Erwin. “Now we are not only a worldwide company, but we’ve gone universal!”

Well, Sister, we say go girl and Sell! Sell! Sell!



## EXPIRER EXCLUSIVE CONTEST

If you like The National Expirer, you’ll love CST Web - the best source for the latest news about Carpenter Square Theatre.

We’re always looking for great stories. E-mail us your wackiest Expirer headlines or tell the 6 Women what a great time you had, and you’ll be entered in a drawing to win free tickets one of our upcoming shows.

Visit [www.carpentersquare.com](http://www.carpentersquare.com) to:

- Read articles about the making of *Six Women With Brain Death*
- Stay informed with our free Announcements and Auditions mailing lists
- Prowl the CST Archives for memorabilia from your favorite shows
- Order theatre books, videos and gifts from the CST Bookshop.

[www.carpentersquare.com](http://www.carpentersquare.com)

Selected as the best theatre web site  
by the Oklahoma Community Theatre Association

## Carpenter Square Presents Theatre at Twilight

In Kerr Park - Broadway and Kerr  
in Downtown Oklahoma City  
Friday and Saturday Evenings at 8 p.m.  
July 9 - August 14, 1999

Great Family Oriented Fun

### All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten

Directed by Lance Garrett  
July 7, 8, 14 & 15, 2000 - 8 p.m.

**Everybody and Their Dog**  
Good Clean Comedy Fun from  
OKC’s favorite Improv Group  
July 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2000 - 8 p.m.

Lawn chairs encouraged.  
Refreshments available on-site.

Call (405) 232-6500 for further information.

## Local Woman ‘Freed’ from Addiction

Sequin addiction is a terrible thing and local seamstress and costume designer Mary F. wants everyone to know that help is out there. “Looking back, I can see the pain I’ve caused the people who love me.”

It started, innocently enough, with a single tube of glitter paint. “It was just so beautiful that I had to have more, so I bought a package of sequins, but that wasn’t enough. Soon I was using 10 yards of strand sequins each week. Every penny I made went to support my addiction. I hate to admit it, but there were times that my cats went hungry just so I could afford another yard of sparkle fabric.”

Mary finally hit bottom after discovering gold lame. “I was at the fabric store at least once a day. I weep when I think about the poor boys in my costume shop – their fingers bloody and raw from sewing and gluing sequins onto cloth.

Her cries for help did not go unanswered. An intervention was arranged and Miss F. spent six weeks in detox at the Betty Ford Clinic. “I felt so safe there. Liz was just so nice, and that Matthew Perry is such a doll!”

She’s back home now and has been sparkle-free for three months. “It’s a constant struggle. But I’m beating it, and you can too.”



## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

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### Shawn Carey



Shawn is not a stranger to the stage, although it has been seven years since he has been on one as a performer. Shawn was last seen in the Carpenter Square production of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. Doing EXPIRING MINDS again is a bit of a coming home for Shawn. She was in the 1989 production of the show and is thrilled to get to do it again. When not performing on stage, Shawn is performing on the radio every morning on Rock 100.5 the KATT as part of the Rick and Brad show. She is the mother of two young girls, and she thanks them and her husband, Jim for their support.

### Renee Preftakes



Renee is a long-time supporter of CST and has appeared in RUMORS and two previous productions of SIX WOMEN WITH BRAIN DEATH (III and IV) where she gained notoriety by bashing cans with an attitude! Renee has a Master's Degree in theatre from OCU and is a member of the CST Board of Directors. Renee also recently appeared in UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE at Oklahoma Children's Theatre.

### Lysandra Dial-Meek



Most people know Lysandra as the Box Office Manager at CST where she spends endless hours slaving away because of her love of the theatre. Favorite roles include Poopay in COMMUNICATING DOORS, Tood in THE COVER OF LIFE, Annelle in STEEL MAGNOLIAS, Mary MacGregor in THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE, Cory in BAREFOOT IN THE PARK, Audrey in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, Francis Flute in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, Prudence in PRUDENCE AND THE DRAGON, and Lyse in CYRANO DE BERGERAC. She also appeared in CST's EATING RAOUL and THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE. Lysandra will next be seen playing Emily in this year's Oklahoma Children's Theatre production of OUR TOWN for the Stage Center Presents series.

### Ellen Webster



Ellen's CST credits include both productions of CHANGIN' LANES, the 1994 production of SIX WOMEN WITH BRAIN DEATH, and PERSONALS. Other credits include Desiree in A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC at Lyric Theatre, and Betty Blake in THE WILL ROGERS FOLLIES at Jewel Box Theatre. Ellen is the Artistic Director for Oklahoma Children's Theatre.

### Emily Etherton



Emily has performed at CST in PROPOSALS, PACK OF LIES and THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE. She played Nurse Ratched in the Bignose production of ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, and has appeared in several OKCCC productions. At Jewel Box Theatre, she's appeared in THE PHILADELPHIA STORY and won a Gem Award for her performance as Tansy in THE NERD. She would like to thank "Grandma" and all the other "brain dead" women in her family.

### Mary Freeh



Mary has appeared in many CST shows including RUTHLESS!, EATING RAOUL, LAUGHING WILD, both productions of CHANGIN' LANES, SING LIKE ANGELS, THE WONDER YEARS, 3 previous productions of SIX WOMEN WITH BRAIN DEATH, and THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW. She also appeared in NUNSENSE at Jewel Box. Mary is also a busy seamstress who makes costumes for many shows for local theatres, including the costumes you are seeing tonight. No small feat. (see related article on page 3.)

