The Carthage College Theatre Department Presents:

Twin Set

By MT Cozzola
Directed by Martin McClendon

Presented by special arrangement with the Robert A. Freedman Dramatic Agency, Inc.

CAST

Betty ........................................................................................................ Alexis Gilkes
Meggy ............................................................................................ Rachel Proite
Marnie .................................................................................... Caroline Fossum

SETTING

Location: Oak Park, Illinois
Time: July, 1976

TWIN SET is performed without intermission.

TWIN SET received its world premiere at the Side Project Theatre Company, Chicago IL, in 2015.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Martin McClendon ................................................................. Director
Gabrielle Lovelace .............................................................. Assistant Director/Dramaturg
Jasmine Ratcliff ........................................................................ Production Stage Manager
Kayla Saavedra ................................................................. Assistant Stage Manager
Martin McClendon ............................................................... Scenic Designer
William Newcomb ............................................................ Technical Director/Lighting Designer
SLiM Simonini ........................................................................ Master Carpenter
Veronica Vickas ................................................................. Costume Designer
Kim Instenes ......................................................................... Costume Faculty Advisor
Nicole Thompson .............................................................. Costume Shop Supervisor
Martin McClendon ............................................................... Sound/Video Designer
Emerson Stenbeck ................................................................ Properties Master

Scenic and costume construction, lighting and painting:
The dedicated students of the Carthage Theatre Department.
NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I had the great pleasure of meeting up with the Carthage cast and creative team of *Twin Set* on a field trip to Oak Park, Illinois, where the play is set. It was an experience that will forever change the way I look at this play.

Although *Twin Set* is fictional, it’s inspired by many women I met growing up in Oak Park in the 1970s—the single mothers I babysat for, the stern-faced old women always standing in back at church, and the office workers like my mom who left home early in the morning, came home to a martini in a plastic cup, and had a meal on the table by 6pm. These were women still steeped in stereotypes of good girls and homemakers, yet sparked by the energy of the women’s liberation movement.

Revisiting Oak Park with Alexis, Rachel, Caroline, Gabi, Eme, and Martin confirmed how much has changed since those days. Yet our conversations throughout the day highlighted how eternal the struggle for self-fulfillment remains—how do we hold on to what we love while embracing change and growth? What happens when we define who we are by who we love? What is the emotional cost of independence? I’m excited to see these questions explored so imaginatively and thoughtfully by the artists of Carthage College.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Caroline Fossum** is a Junior Theatre Performance Major and is excited to be working on her fifth Carthage Production including *STAGE KISS*, *URINETOWN*, and the Music Theatre Workshop productions of *HEATHERS* and *THE LITTLE MERMAID*. Some of her favorite previous credits include Hope Harcourt in *ANYTHING GOES* (Stagedoor Manor), Julia Gibbs in *OUR TOWN*, Viola in *TWELFTH NIGHT*, Hilari in *STARGIRL* and Lady Larkin in *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS* (First Stage). She would like to thank her family and friends, especially her parents, for their never ending love and support. Enjoy the show!

**Alexis Gilkes** is a senior Music Theatre Major and Dance Minor at Carthage. She is ecstatic to be kicking off her final year here with a show as exciting and challenging as *TWIN SET*. In her time at Carthage, Alexis has been seen in fantastic productions such as *MAN OF LA MANCHA*, *URINETOWN*, *AFGHANISTAN/WISCONSIN*, the Music Theatre Workshop productions of *SIDE SHOW*, *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN*, *PAL JOEY*, and Andrew Lippa’s *THE WILD PARTY*, as well as *THE BREATH OF STARS* (for KC/ACTF production, Indianapolis 2017), *THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD*, and several Carthage Dance productions. She also served as choreographer and student dramaturg for Carthage’s 2017 New Play Initiative piece *A SEAT AT THE TABLE* and assistant directed the Carthage Music Theatre Workshop’s production of *THE LITTLE MERMAID* under Magdalene Spanuello. Alexis has recently begun exploring her own interest in playwriting, taking a new work to be explored at the CrisisArt Festival in Arezzo, Italy this past summer with support from a Carthage SURE grant. It has been very exciting for her to be able to meet and work with MT on this show! Alexis would like to thank MT, the Carthage Theatre and Music Faculty, her friends, and her family for all the support they’ve given her over the past years. Here’s to one more great year!

**Rachel Proite** is a Junior General Theatre Major and a Secondary Education Minor and is honored to be working on this production. This is Rachel’s third
production at Carthage. She has also appeared in the staged readings of WITCH’S HOUSE and NOT ENOUGH. She often works backstage on costumes. Rachel’s previous roles include Chava in Fiddler on the Roof (Imagination Theatre on Germantown), Laurey Williams in OKLAHOMA (Germantown High School), and Lowbutt in HONK (Germantown High School). She would like to thank her mom and dad for supporting her always.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

MT Cozzola (Playwright) is a Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists, and holds an MFA from Northwestern University. Her plays have been produced at Piven Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, The Side Project, 20% Theatre, The Fine Print, and elsewhere. Commissions include Working Women’s History Project, Step Up Productions, and Something Marvelous. Honors: Semi-Finalist, 2017 O’Neill National Playwrights Conference; Winner, Heartland Theatre’s 2015 New Plays from the Heartland; 2014 Illinois Arts Council Award; residencies at La MaMa Umbria, Ragdale, and Playa. She is represented by The Robert A. Freedman Dramatic Agency. Upcoming projects include WHEN THEY CAME, which will receive a workshop at Piven Theatre in January 2018, directed by TUTA Artistic Director Jacqueline Stone.

Gabrielle Lovelace (Assistant Director/ Dramaturg) is a senior theatre general major and criminal justice minor. She has worked in various crew positions in Carthage’s productions of STAGE KISS (stage crew), THE BREATH OF STARS (light board operator), URINETOWN (prop crew), the student directed production of TRIFLES (co-prop master), and the musical theatre workshop of YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (assistant stage manager). She has also designed jewelry for Carthage’s Music Theatre Workshop productions of EVITA and THE LITTLE MERMAID. She was also the prop designer for THE INVISIBLE HAND and the student directed production of A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS. She was the stage manager for Carthage’s Music Theatre Workshop production of DADDY LONG LEGS and she wrote FUTURE TENSE, a one act play that was part of NOT ENOUGH, a student directed staged reading event in fall of 2016. Most recently she spent the summer doing an internship with Chicago Dramatists Theatre. She is very excited to get to work on such a great show with such a wonderful team and she is extremely grateful for the support of all her friends and family!

Jasmine Ratcliff (Production Stage Manager) is a sophomore Theater Performance major. This will be her first time stage managing and she is very excited to be working with this team. During her time at Carthage Jasmine has been seen as Myrile Evers in A SEAT AT THE TABLE on the mainstage and Ayeesha in the studio staged reading event, AFTER ORLANDO. She would like to thank her mother and younger siblings for all they have done for her and she hopes she is making them proud.

Emerson Stenbeck (Properties) is a sophomore working on her Theatre Production major. This is her fourth production with Carthage Theatre, including MARRIAGE A LA MODE, A SEAT AT THE TABLE, and THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. She is honored to be a part of the TWIN SET team. She would like to thank her family for their continued support.
**PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES CONT.**

**Kayla Saavedra** is a sophomore at Carthage. She is a General Theatre Major and Dance Minor. Her goal after college is to be a director and choreographer. She will be appearing later this fall in two dances for the dance show NIMBLE ATTITUDES as well as directing and choreographing summer musicals for the Racine Unified School District. She is very excited to be the ASM for her first Carthage Production and would like to thank Will and Martin for making her a part of it.

**Veronica Vickas** (Costume Designer) is a junior Psychology and Theater General major. She is also the secretary of the national theater fraternity Alpha Psi Omega. Veronica is excited to be designing her first main stage show! She has designed a number of shows here at Carthage, including TRIFLES, A HISTORY OF FALLING THINGS, (Studio season) DADDY LONG LEGS (Music Theatre Workshop), and many more. She has also served as assistant designer for a number of main stage shows, including MARRAIGE A LA MODE and THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. Veronica has also run costume crew for many, many, many shows, (you don’t want to read that list). She is incredibly grateful to the Carthage theater department for giving her all of the amazing experience. A special thanks to Kim for seeing potential in a girl who didn’t even know how to sew her first day of college. Another big thanks to Veronica’s family for always being supportive of her crazy ambition; and to her boyfriend for always having faith in her skills, including drawing.

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**FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES**

**Kim Instenes** (Costume Design Faculty, Assistant Professor of Theatre) holds an MFA in Costume Design and Technology from Ohio University, and a BA in Theatre from UW-Whitewater. Her faculty credits include UW Parkside, UW Whitewater, UW Milwaukee and Lawrence University. In addition to teaching at these schools she has designed costumes and makeup for a number of productions including IMAGINARY INVALID, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, TROJAN WAR, Sweeney Todd and TRANSLATIONS. Kim continues to work as a freelance costume and make-up designer in the Milwaukee/ Chicago area. Professional design credits include THE SNOW and BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER, as well as the musical BIG at Milwaukee’s First Stage Children’s Theatre, the JEEVES Trilogy and HEROES at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and numerous shows at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Renaissance Theatre Works, Utah Shakespearean Festival and the Racine Theatre Guild. Design work at Carthage includes SPRING AWAKENING and costumes for the world premieres of NO NAME by Jeffrey Hatcher and Ghost Bike by Laura Jacqmin, to name a few. Ghost Bike won her a Certificate of Merit from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for costume and makeup design and an invitation to show her work at the Festival. Kim is excited to be a part of the Theatre Department here at Carthage as it strengthens and strives to create theatre artists of the highest quality. She enjoys the thrill of watching a student understand what a costume does for their character and watching that character come to life as a result. She would also like to thank her family, husband Doug, and children, Lauren and Dalen, for their continued support of her creative endeavors.
Martin McClendon (Director/Scenic Designer/Sound and Video Designer) received his MFA in acting from the University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana, and his BFA in acting from Rockford College. He is entering his 6th and final year as chair of the Carthage Theatre Department, and TWIN SET marks the 12th mainstage production he has directed here. Most recently he directed Carthage’s world premiere production of Regina Taylor’s A SEAT AT THE TABLE. Two of his previous productions have been selected for performance at the Kennedy Center/ American College Theatre Festival regional gatherings: THE RAILSPLITTER (2011) and AFGHANISTAN/WISCONSIN: A VERBATIM THEATRE PROJECT (2016). Martin was honored to receive the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Innovative Teaching Award for 2016-17 for his work with students in developing veteran theatre projects. He is also the co-founder, with David Chrisinger and Lawrence Gums, of Carthage’s annual Veteran Night of the Arts, held every November. Before coming to Carthage, Martin spent 10 years working as a professional actor, carpenter, and scene designer in Chicago and Los Angeles. He was twice nominated for Jeff Citation Awards while designing scenery for the Defiant Theatre Company, Chicago. Regional design credits include First Stage Children's Theatre (Milwaukee) and Actor’s Ensemble (Rockford, IL). Onstage appearances in Chicago included MOJO and SKYLIGHT (Steppenwolf), DANNY BOUNCING (Victory Gardens) and THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN (Northlight). On-camera work includes several independent movies, episodes of ER and EARLY EDITION, and numerous commercials. He is a proud member of Actor’s Equity and SAG/AFTRA. He would like to thank his beautiful wife Jennifer and his wonderful kids Arabella and Horatio for their support and inspiration.

William Newcomb (Technical Director/ Lighting Designer/Assistant Professor of Theatre) holds a B.F.A. in Technical Theatre from Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, and an M.F.A. in Arts Administration from Southern Utah University. He was assistant manager of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre for two years before coming to Carthage. William also served as production Manager for the Optimist Theatre’s Shakespeare in the Park. William is a national member of USITT. Other credits include technical director of the Wells Fine Arts Center at Tarleton State University, assistant technical director at Oberlin College, scene shop foreman at Ohio Light Opera, and assistant to the production manager of the Utah Shakespearean Festival. He would like to thank his wife Alison for her continued love and support and Spencer too.

Zackary “SLiM” Simonini (Master Carpenter) is thrilled to be under the employ of the Carthage College Theatre for his third academic year. As a 2012 Carthage graduate he feels honored to continually pursue artistic excellence with such a dedicated faculty and talented student body. Awards include a KC/ACTF special commendation in properties design for ONE DAY IN THE SEASON OF RAIN, national recognition for a distinguished new work for THE RAIL SPLITTER, and an Irene Ryan nomination for his role as Gordon Miller in ROOM SERVICE. Outside of the school year SLiM works to further his business, Inspired Carpentry & Painting LLC.

Nicole Thompson (Costume Shop Supervisor) is from Minneapolis, MN. She recently graduated from the University of Arkansas with her MFA in Costume Design and Technology. She lives in Milwaukee where she works part time at the Brass Rooster Hat Shop.
SPECIAL THANKS

MT Cozzola
Amanda Pomareda, Father George Omwando, St. Catherine of Siena/St. Lucy, Oak Park, IL
Meghan Beals, Chicago Dramatists
Prof. Rebecca Hornung, Carthage College
Prof. Marcella Kearns, Carthage College
Michael Love, Carthage AV Services

CARTHAGE COLLEGE THEATRE AND DANCE FACULTY

Theatre Department
Martin McClendon ........................................ Department Chair/Associate Professor of Theatre
Dr. Corinne Ness .................................................. Dean of the Division of Arts and Humanities/
Music Theatre Program Director
Anna Antaramian ........................................ Associate Professor/Adjunct Instructor of Theatre
Dr. Maria Carrig ............................................. Professor of English and Theatre
Magdalene Ellsworth ........................................ Adjunct Instructor of Music Theatre
Kim Instenes .................................................... Assistant Professor of Theatre/Costume Designer
Marcella Kearns ................................................ Adjunct Instructor of Theatre
Nicole Thompson .............................................. Costume Shop Supervisor
Herschel Kruger ............................................... Professor of Theatre
John Maclay ................................................... Assistant Professor of Theatre
William Newcomb ........................................ Assistant Professor of Theatre/Technical Director
Don Russell ..................................................... Adjunct Instructor of Theatre
Dr. Neil Scharnick ........................................... Assistant Professor of Theatre
Lorian Schwaber ............................................ Adjunct Instructor of Music Theatre
Zack Simonini .................................................. Master Carpenter

Dance Program
Stacy Pottinger ............................................. Assistant Professor of Theatre-Dance/Head of Dance Program
Joseph Gonzalez ............................................... Adjunct Instructor of Theatre-Dance
Piper Hayes .................................................... Adjunct Instructor of Theatre-Dance
Kristina Saldarelli ............................................. Adjunct Instructor of Theatre-Dance
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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2018.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
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