

For Christmas, 1999, Theatre Algoma mounted William Gibson's *The Butterfingers Angel, Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut & the Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols in a Pear Tree*.

Directed by Patricia Ricciatti, the show ran for 6 performances.

Wardrobe design and seamstress: Trish Silva. Children in the cast: Lauren Solski (Cow), Kylie Wigmore (Sheep), Justin Duclos (Donkey), and Megan Wigmore (Stable Girl).



Dressing room: director Patricia Ricciatti stands by while Stage Manager Pirie Kaufman gives last-minute instructions.



Opening scene in William Gibson's *The Butterfingers Angel, Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut, & the Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols in a Pear Tree*, directed by Patricia Ricciatti (1999) – Adam Lyons as Angel Gabriel

The Angel (Adam Lyons) pleads with Tree (Melissa Ostrowski). Shannon McGuire and Carol Colombo as 1st and 2nd Women.



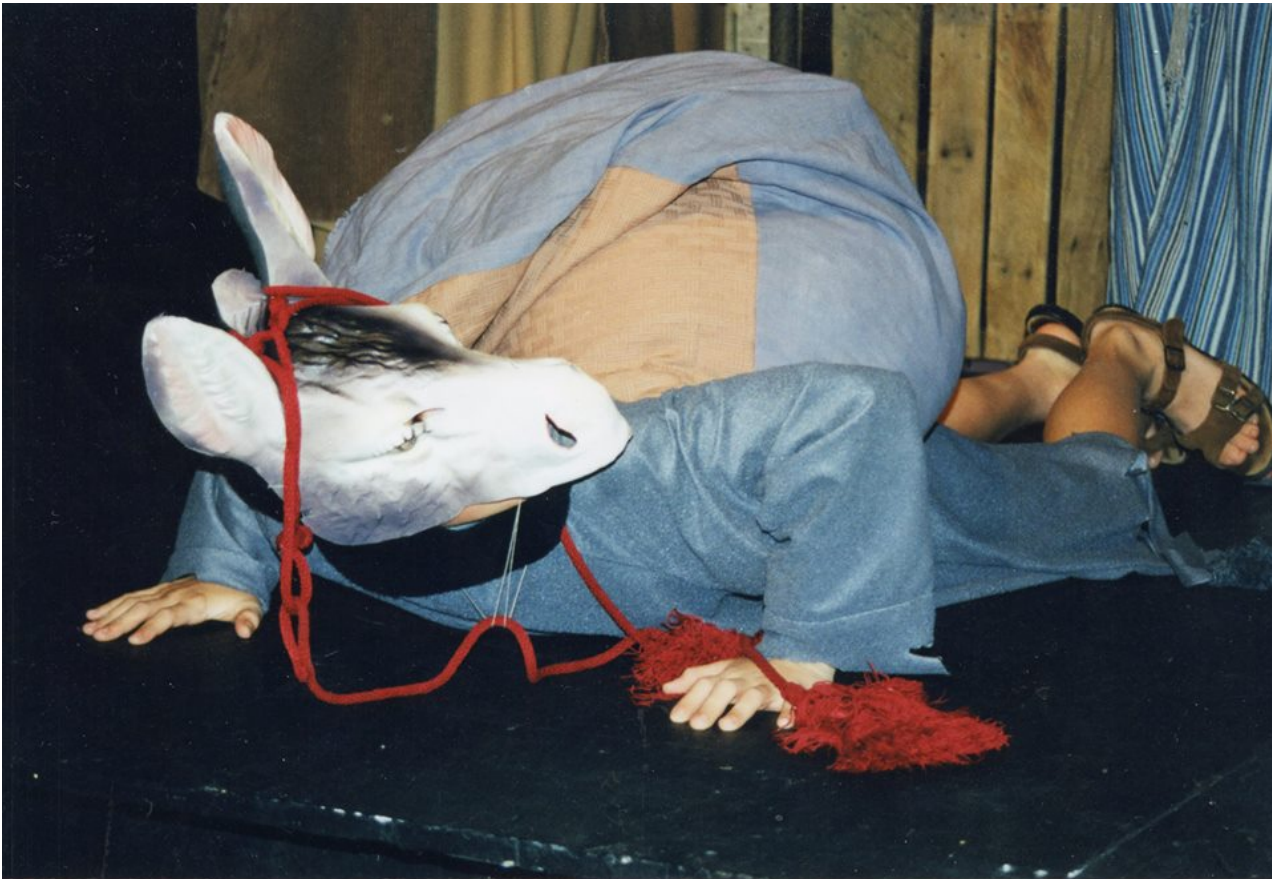


Joseph (John Solski) jealously attacks Gabriel while Mary (Lauren Dutchak) tries to calm him



The Three Kings (Gino Masotti, Richard Karhu and Ross Dukes) look toward Bethlehem while Mary (Lauren Dutchak) and Joseph (John Solski) rest on their journey.





Lyons). The Donkey (Justin Duclos) tries to carry the ailing Angel (Adam Lyons).  
The Donkey collapses beneath his burden.





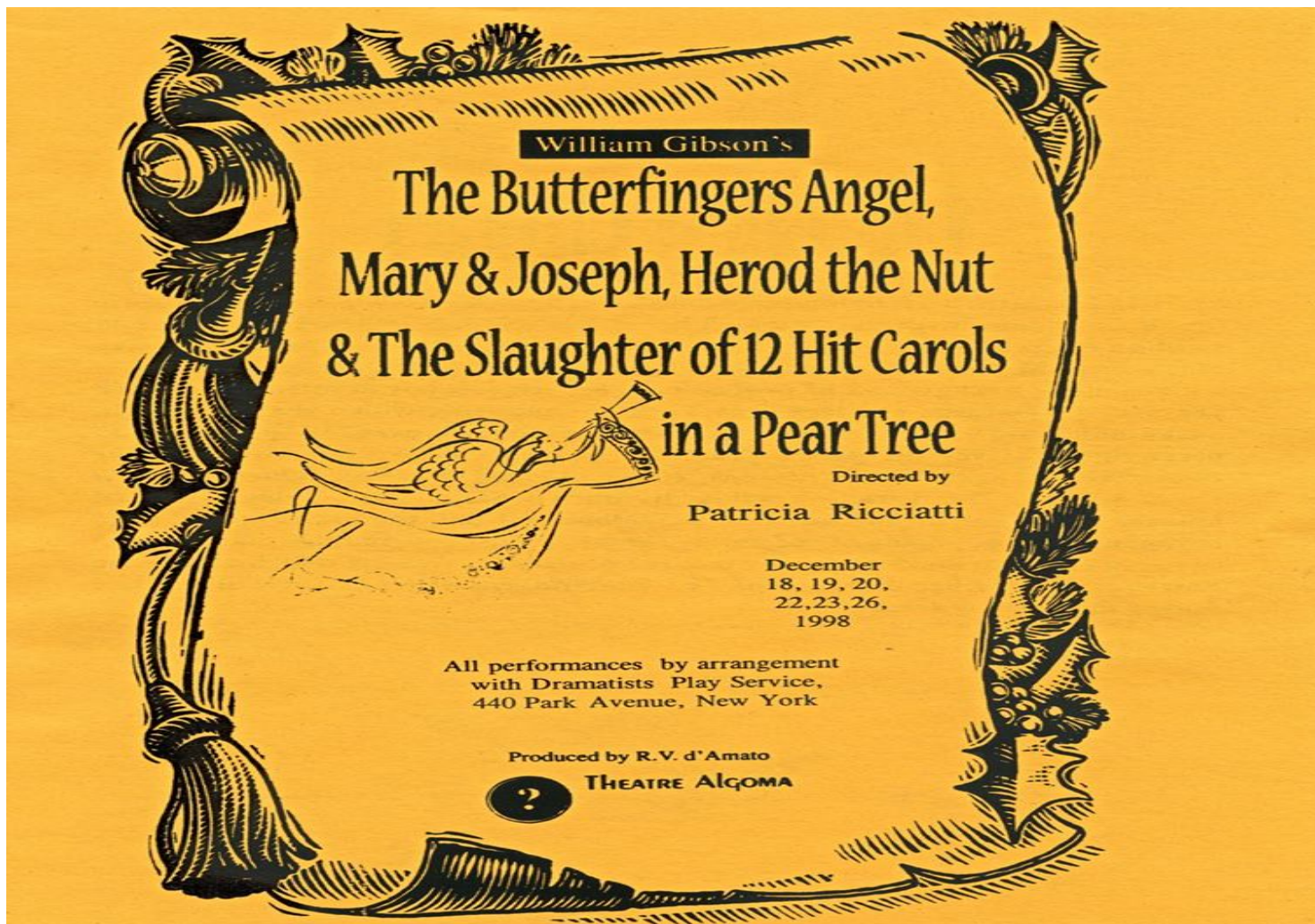




Tree (Melissa Ostrowski) complains to the animals about her lot.  
(John Lavallee) rants.

Herod

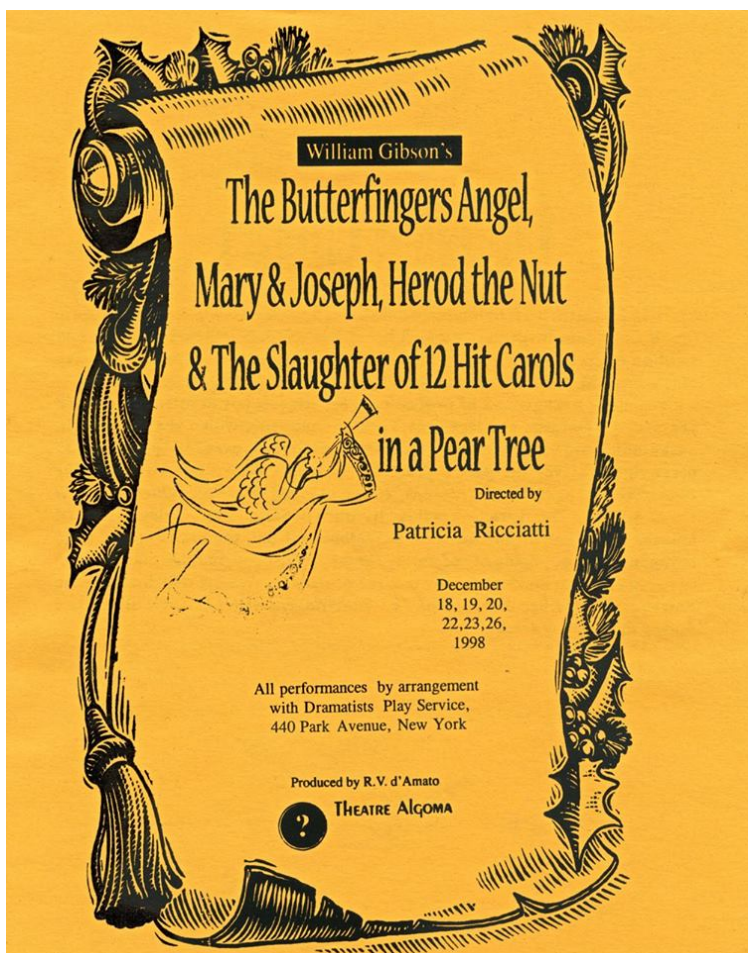




**William Gibson's**  
**The Butterfingers Angel,  
Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut  
& The Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols  
in a Pear Tree**  
Directed by  
**Patricia Ricciatti**  
December  
18, 19, 20,  
22, 23, 26,  
1998  
All performances by arrangement  
with Dramatists Play Service,  
440 Park Avenue, New York  
Produced by R. V. d'Amato  
**THEATRE ALGOMA**

Emily Colombo on lights.





## Ave Atque Vale!

With *The Butterfingers Angel, Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut, & the Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols in a Pear Tree* Theatre Algoma ends its twenty-fifth year of service to Algoma University College and to the community of Sault Ste. Marie. We are indebted to Patricia Ricciatti for her contribution of this professionally directed production to mark so significant an anniversary of Theatre Algoma.

Theatre Algoma's first production also had a breathless title (*The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade*) and was the only other Theatre Algoma play which ran over the Christmas holiday. To move from the first to the latter is to travel between the cruel and the sublime, from applying the whip to applying the balm.

It has required an intensive effort over twenty-five years to maintain a self-supporting and voluntary amateur theatre company devoted to performing leading-edge plays such as Havel's *Temptation*, and classic avant-garde plays such as *Waiting for Godot*. Many, if not most, of Theatre Algoma's plays were known to very few members of the audience beforehand. At various times when our finances were on the ebb, we never succumbed to producing a show as box-office draw, or what Peter Brook calls *deadly theatre*. Our determination to perform serious if at times obscure theatre has always paid off over the long term by winning new converts to Theatre Algoma's style of theatre.

In the light of the present government's drastic cuts in funding to universities, colleges, and other cultural institutions, it is doubtful whether or not Theatre Algoma can survive into or through another quarter century, in spite of the fact that everyone connected to the company works on a strictly voluntary basis. The combined effects of redundancies, salary cuts, and extended workloads at the university do not bode well for Theatre Algoma's future.

On a more upbeat note, two members in particular of the present production merit special notice. Pirie Kaufman, our stage manager, was among the founding cast members of Theatre Algoma, playing the role of the defrocked Jesuit priest, Jacques Roux. John Hawke, in his present role of Joseph, has likewise been involved over the years with Theatre Algoma productions. Both Pirie and John have devoted their time and talents, at one time or another, to virtually every theatre group in Sault Ste. Marie. Their dedication to the community in this regard has been outstanding.

Lastly, the children of *The Butterfingers Angel* deserve a great round of applause for their dedication to this production and for the energy which they brought to it. It is they who carry the show and who create the spirit of joy and hope for the future which is its underlying theme. Theatre Algoma likewise extends its thanks to the parents who patiently accompanied the younger members of the cast to the rather frantic schedule of rehearsals.

R. V. d'Amato  
Artistic Director  
Theatre Algoma



Hilary Connell as Mary and John Hawke as Joseph.  
Tree.  
Jonathan Lavallee as Herod.

Michael Naphan as Angel Gabriel. Erin Delong-Waldner as





Justin Duclos as Donkey, Lauren Solski as Cow, Megan Wigmore as Stable Girl, and Kylie Wigmore as Sheep.  
Three Kings: Zac Overman, Art Fink, Tom Landers.

The





Herod's Wives: Cara DeSimon & Rose

LaCroix.

Paul Sawchyn: Lighting.



Pirie Kaufman (Stage Manager) and Director, Patricia Ricciatti.