

*THE RECEPTIONIST* was developed at the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School New Works Festival, June 2006 with Primary Stages. Development of *THE RECEPTIONIST* was supported by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center during a residency at the National Playwrights Conference of 2006.

Originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director, Barry Grove, Executive Director, Daniel Sullivan, Acting Artistic Director 2007-08 Season in October 2007.

BEVERLY WILKINS ..... Jayne Houdyshell  
 LORRAINE TAYLOR ..... Kendra Kassebaum  
 EDWARD RAYMOND ..... Robert Foxworthy  
 MARTIN DART ..... Josh Charles

Directed by Joe Mantello; scenic design, David Korins; costume design, Jane Greenwood; lighting design, Brian Macdevitt; sound design, Darron L. West; casting, David Caparaliois; production stage manager, Martha Donaldson; stage manager, Amy McCraney.

## PART ONE

(MR. RAYMOND sits in a chair. There is a spotlight on him.)

MR. RAYMOND. My cousin used to take me rabbit hunting. I didn't like it. We'd be out in the woods and I'd spot one. I wouldn't want him to notice it. He used a bow and arrow. They scream. I didn't like it. Me I like fishing. I like fly fishing. There's nothing like it. I love it. I love everything about it. I love watching the line as I cast  
 You actually throw it back and forth and that curl of line flying out over the water it's  
 I'd have to show you I wish I could show you You'd love it.

I love reading the stream. Figuring out where the big boys are hanging out. And matching the hatch. And then floating my fly right to them and waiting for them to pop and grab it.

I love catching fish.

I love letting them go too.

I have a philosophy when it comes to a caught fish. If you catch a fish and it's ok, you let it go. But if it's snagged or it's got a hook in its gills you can't put it back in the stream because it'll die. So if that happens I think you should prepare the fish to be killed.

What I do

I bleed the fish It seems a bit gruesome but I cut the gills and I hold it in the water of the stream and bleed it out. It's the humane way to kill a fish. It depletes its oxygen levels and it goes to sleep. And then I eat it. And that's ok. Because everything out there is eating something.