

FALLING LEAVES

A one-act chamber opera
By Lauren Goldman Marshall
Music by Michael Wartofsky

SYNOPSIS:

Cast: 2F, 1M

Length: 30 minutes

Setting: An apartment in Greenwich Village, the mid-1990s

A young woman goes from being in love with death to being in love with life in this contemporary, poetic of an O’Henry short story *The Last Leaf*. Johnsy and Sue are a lesbian couple living in Greenwich Village, New York City. Johnsy has AIDS and believes she will die when the last leaf falls off a vine outside her window. Their friend Rubens, a gay artist himself battling AIDS, paints a leaf to inspire Johnsy.

PRODUCTION HISTORY:

Music Theatre Program, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, 1996, workshop staged reading, directed by Micheal Montel

Dixon Place, NYC, 1997, production, directed by Michael Montel

Northwest Playwrights Guild Valentine’s Day Benefit, Portland, Oregon, 1998, workshop staged reading

Seattle Public Theatre, 1999 – production, 6 performances, directed by Bob White

AWARDS

GAP Award, **Artist Trust of Washington**, 1998

REVIEWS:

“The Seattle Public Theater has presented both the unconventional and the unexpected in a refreshing way with their current running opera, *Falling Leaves*.... It is poignant and effective....” *Seattle Gay News*, November 12, 1999

“...by the end I was hearing almost every word and crying almost as hard as the heroine.... The singing and acting (with, of course, the story) reach emotional levels not often achieved live. I had heard that this was a short but very touching production, and the report is accurate.” Joe Boling, TPSONline.org/playback, November 17, 1999

For a copy of the libretto and a music cd, contact Lauren Marshall, webmaster@laurenmarshall.com, or Michael Wartofsky, Mwartofsky@berklee.edu