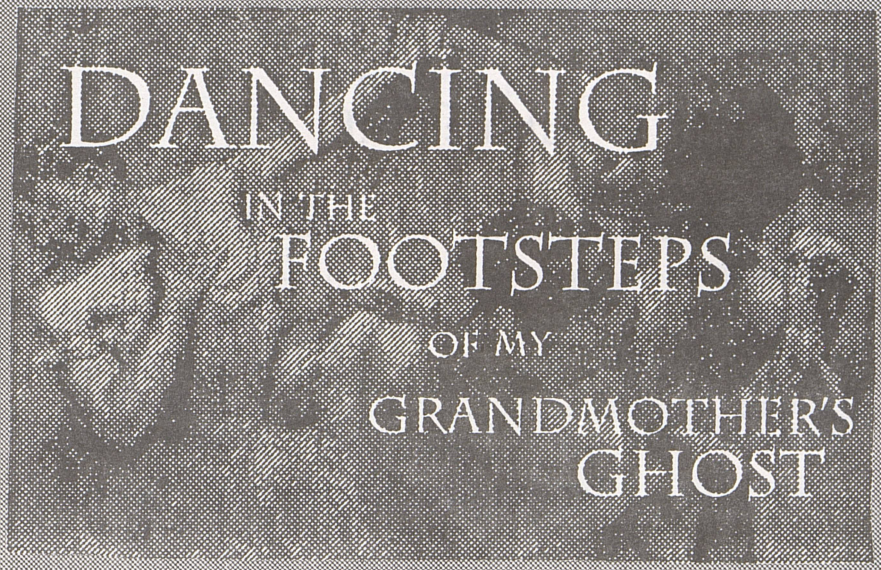

WINNER OF A 1994 ADAMSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING

by Leigh Silverman

directed by Daniella J. Topol

Wherrett Room, Skibo
Friday, May 6, 1994 8pm
Saturday, May 7, 1994 2pm and 8pm
Sunday, May 8, 1994 2pm and 8pm

Artistic Staff

Choreographer.....Kelleigh Greenberg
Set Designer.....Brian DiRusso
Set Designer.....Choli Lightfoot
Lighting Designer.....Thomas D. Beaulieu
Costume Designer.....Joel Reid

Production Staff

Production Liason.....Andy Folmer
Assistant Director/Stage Manager.....T. Emily Nelson
Assistant Stage Manager.....Brian DiRusso
Technical Director.....Hillary Knox
Paint Charge.....Mickey Sacks
Assistant Paint Charge.....Chris Boucher
Master Electrician.....Thomas D. Beaulieu
Light Board Operator.....Robyn Nace
Poster Designer.....Lynn Pausic
Publicity/Ticket Sales.....Jennifer Olsen
Publicity/Ticket Sales.....Colleen Sherman

House Managers

Lysander Abadia, Megan Dietz, Jeff Kunins,
Ken Legum, Alyssa McCunney, Matt Morrow,
Will Newton, Colleen Sherman,
Kellie Walsh, Josh Wisch

The Cast

Heather Scarlett Arnet.....Grandmother
Justin Carroll.....Father
Steven Dunlap.....Man
Christy M Moore.....Mother
Micki Lazar-Paley.....Daughter
Vincent Chew.....Violinist

Dedication

I dedicate this play to my two angels of inspiration - my mother who gave me her voice and to D.T. who believed in that voice, held my hand and took us on an adventure.
-Leigh Silverman

SPECIAL THANKS

The Director, the Playwright, and the Board of Directors of Scotch 'n' Soda would like to thank:

Dan Green, Lauren Heinz, Andy Vaughan, John Biggs, KristieAnne Reed, Carl Smith, Alison Mould, David Ford, Bill Kovasic, Jennifer Bloomfield, Scott Sickles, Lynn Jacobson, Alex Steneck, The Fence Painters, Howard Meisner, AB Tech, Matuschka and everyone else who gave so generously in their time, suport and love.

Playwright's Notes

Way back when I had just completed the first draft of this play, I included the following dedication: "This play is dedicated to anyone who has ever fought to survive." As the play has been rewritten and rewritten and recreated and revised and rewritten (you get the point) I started to hate that word, "survive." I realized that my mother, who died of breast cancer, is listed as a "survivor" of breast cancer because she lived more then four years after her mastectomy. If she died, why was she listed as a "survivor?" I know she fought with amazing determination and strength to battle the disease, and I would call her a warrior or even a hero, but never a survivor. I began to think about how I had been living my life since she died. I was always trying to make it through this hour, this day, this week, this year, just trying to survive. That was no way to live and I have taken that word, "survive," out of my vocabulary.

The play originated when I saw Matuschka, an artist and activist with breast cancer, on the cover of the New York Times Magazine in August, exposing the scar from her mastectomy in a self-portrait entitled, "Beauty Out of Damage." I was stunned at her courage and shocked that breast cancer was actually something that could be discussed in public. In my family it was always a secret that my Mom was sick and I never doubted that silence about this brutal disease was the best solution. Inspired by her portrait and memories of my mother, I created a poem, then slowly this play, and now I have broken my own silence. I have learned that silence victimizes us. It leaves us powerless and paralyzed.

The cast, Daniella, and I were lucky enough to see Matushcka's art and hear her speak last month at Chatham College. I was surprised to learn that she was also tired of being called a "survivor," and now calls herself a "thriver."

Thriver. I like that. A thriver. Thrivers with a voice. Thrivers who speak. We are thrivers without fear.

Leigh Silverman

"Artists are messengers. The truth can be shocking and uncomfortable, but it still beats tricks, lies and issues in disguise". Matuschka