

SPONSORED BY THE
GEORGE MEANY CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES-NATIONAL LABOR COLLEGE

a jazz opera

FORGOTTEN

*The Murder at the
Ford Rouge Plant*



FRIDAY, MAY 2 & SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2003

**Thanks to the following institutions for their support
in the development and production of “Forgotten”:**

Yip Harburg Foundation

Puffin Foundation

Maryland State Arts Council

AFL-CIO

George Meany Center for Labor Studies-
the National Labor College

Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO

Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO

Thanks to:

Peter Jones who wrote the first song about Lewis Bradford,
which stimulated interest in the story; Elise Bryant who shaped the story
and visited Detroit with Steve to trace the steps of labor history;
Sue Schurman, President of the National Labor College, who gave
this show a home; Mickey Doug’s Country Music for props
including the 1930s radio console and Ford Model A body parts;
Dave Elsila who helped restore the graves of the Ford Hunger Marchers;
Katie Elsila; Donna Messersmith Jones, Steve’s wife; Charlie Micallef,
educator with the International Association of Machinists;
Kathy Micallef; George Fulginiti-Shakar; Ari Roth of Theatre J;
Holly Syrrakos of GO! Creative; Deb Thurlow; and, Janet Trevathan.

Thanks to the family of Lewis Bradford:

Ella-Kari Lofffield, Bob Lofffield, Michael Kelsay,
Kate Bates, Lewis Conn, Pat and Ollie Moles.

**Thanks to those veterans of Detroit in the 1930s
who gave their time to be interviewed:**

Victor Reuther, organizer of the United Auto Workers;
Mary Daniels; Willard Hunter; Frank Sladen Jr.; and,
Shirley Colser, who worked at the Howard Street Mission.

**Finally, thanks to the wonderful cast and team of technicians
who have worked together to bring this show to life.**

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The Murder at the Ford Rouge Plant

FRIDAY, MAY 2 & SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2003

A BENEFIT FOR THE LABOR HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**Composer &
Music Director**

Steve Jones

Director

Elise Bryant

**Cast (in order
of appearance)**

Nurse Attendant	Marjani Dele
Ella Bradford	Sarah Ecton Luttrell
Little Ella	Fosse Thornton
Henry Ford.	Ron Wilson
Lewis Bradford.	Mike Thornton
Foreman	Del Ward
Allen Johnson.	Julian Hipkins
Joe Cantor	Peter Jones
Rosie Johnson	Pam Parker
Frank Lopez	Nat Mathis
Father Coughlin	David Troup
Harry Bennett.	Scott Sedar
Clara Ford	Laurel Blaydes

Chorus

Carl Bailey	Jean Giles	Mattie McDonald
Janice A. Bailey	Ken Giles	Iris Parks
Renee Barnes	Terry Hardy	Don Pelles
Allyne Beach	Susan Holleran	Sue Schurman
Tony Blair	Peter Jones	Hetty Scofield
Marjani Dele	Sue Kyle	Danny Ramish
Jackie Fralley	Dottie Madison	Del Ward
	Nat Mathis	



Musicians	Bass	Scott Giambusso
	Drums	Steve Larrance
	Additional songs and music	Maurice Sugar
Choreography	Deborah Rosenstein	
	Liz O'Connor	
Technical Assistance	Stage Manager	JoAnn M. Williams
	Costume Design	Michele Reisch
	Sound Technicians	Chip Leonard
		Michael Poist
	Video	Barbara Johnson
		A.C. Warden
	Set Design	Allan Grimm
	Prop Mistress	Liz Alfred
	Props	Larry Smoot
	Graphic Design	Holly Syrrakos
	Box Office Manager	Janet Trevathan
Assistant Box Office Manager	Janet Yarmola	
House Manager	Sue Wendell	
Principal Characters	Ella Bradford	wife of Lewis Bradford
	Allen Johnson	radio announcer at WXYZ who is also an unemployed worker, later a co-worker of Bradford's at Ford's; husband of Rosie
	Henry Ford	industrialist; husband of Clara Ford
	Lewis Bradford	former minister; becomes an organizer at the River Rouge plant; husband of Ella
	Rosie Johnson	unemployed woman, becomes a union organizer; wife of Allen Johnson
	Father Charles Coughlin	the "Radio Priest" who supported Hitler in the 1930s
	Harry Bennett	Ford's "enforcer"
Clara Ford	wife of Henry Ford	



Songs, Act 1

Keep the Wheels Rolling On

Allen Johnson with Henry Ford, and the entire cast

You're Gone Again

Ella and Lewis Bradford

We Can Start Again

Lewis Bradford

The Forgotten Man's Hour

*Allen and Rosie Johnson, Ella and Lewis Bradford, Joe Cantor,
Frank Lopez*

The Hour of Power/Cleanse Ourselves

Father Coughlin and the Radio Choir/Lewis Bradford and the Troupe

I Invented Auto-Love

Henry Ford

The Ford Hunger March

Rosie Johnson and the Workers Chorus

You'll Be Like My Son

Henry Ford and Harry Bennett

I Got a Job

Lewis Bradford

I Know the Fear

Harry Bennett

When You Organize

Lewis Bradford and the Troupe

Bradford You Are Dreamin'

Allen Johnson

It's About Time

Lewis Bradford with Ella Bradford and Rosie Johnson

A New Beauty

Lewis Bradford

Sit Down (by Maurice Sugar)

Rosie Johnson and the Workers Chorus

I'm Here For You

Lewis and Ella Bradford

Radio, Guns and Money

Father Charles Coughlin, Harry Bennett and Henry Ford



INTERMISSION

**Songs,
Act 2**

Shake Hands with the Devil

Clara Ford

Cleanse Ourselves (reprise)

Father Coughlin and the Radio Choir/Lewis Bradford and the Troupe

We Speak Louder than Machines

Rosie Johnson and the Workers Chorus

The Stakes are High

Henry Ford, Harry Bennett and Father Charles Coughlin

Battle of the Overpass

Allen Johnson and the Troupe

I Got a Bad, Bad Feeling

Ella Bradford

Let's Take a Walk

Harry Bennett

I Cannot Be Silent

Lewis Bradford

Bradford I have Got a Job for You

Foreman

We All Will Forget

Hospital Attendant, Ella Bradford and Harry Bennett

I'm Here For You (reprise)

Ella Bradford

We Remember You

Rosie and Allen Johnson, the Workers Chorus and Ella Bradford

Epilogue

After receiving more threats, the widow and her children left Detroit, never to return. Sixty-five years later, there are grandchildren and great-grandchildren and others who know Lewis's story and keep it alive. Lewis Bradford is not forgotten.

In 1941, after years of struggle the United Auto Workers was on the verge of winning a contract at the Ford Motor Company. Henry Ford declared he would shut down all the plants worldwide before he would sign with the union. Clara Ford threatened to divorce Henry if he didn't come to an agreement with the union, and the next day he signed the most far-reaching contract ever in the auto industry. Today Local 600 at the River Rouge plant is a strong militant local of the UAW, with a fighting tradition.



ELISE BRYANT,
Director
and
STEVE JONES,
Composer
and Music
Director



Elise Bryant teaches at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies-National Labor College and has directed labor theater for almost 20 years. Her father worked at the Rouge plant for 40 years.

Steve Jones is a member of the American Federation of Musicians Local 161-710. His grandfather was Ella Bradford's first cousin.

Appearances



**SARAH ECTON
LUTTRELL**
as Ella Bradford



RON WILSON
as Henry Ford



MIKE THORNTON
as Lewis Bradford



JULIAN HIPKINS
as Allen Johnson



PAM PARKER
as Rosie Johnson



DAVID TROUP
as Father Coughlin



SCOTT SEDAR
as Harry Bennett



LAUREL BLAYDES
as Clara Ford

The **George Meany Center for Labor Studies-National Labor College** (GMC-NLC) serves the higher education needs and desires of working men and women and their union representatives. It began with George Meany's vision that labor have its own college — a national center that would provide continuous labor education for all union activists. As GMC-NLC grows and develops to accommodate changing circumstances and provide greater opportunities, these two central goals remain consistent: bringing higher education to workers; and, preparing union representatives for the challenge of leadership in a global economy. GMC-NLC offers campus labor programs as well as undergraduate and graduate degree programs.



The **Labor Heritage Foundation** (LHF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the labor movement through music and the arts. Every June the LHF and the George Meany Center sponsor the Great Labor Arts Exchange, a gathering of union members, union staff, union officials, artists, labor educators and youth who use songs, art, poetry, theater, skits, posters, cartoons, and film to promote the union movement.

The John Handcox Scholarship Fund helps participants attend the Great Labor Arts Exchange. The Fund is named in honor of John Handcox, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union organizer who wrote “Roll the Union On” and other labor classics, and who was a regular Arts Exchange participant himself until his death in 1992.