

QUINN ARTS

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Press Release

For Immediate Release



The Quinn Family Presents Bahá'u'lláh's Mystical Masterpiece "The Seven Valleys" in Original Stage Production

The Quinn Family is pleased to present their original musical theater adaptation of the 19th century mystical book, "The Seven Valleys". Performers Marty, Wendy and Caitlyn Quinn take audiences on a delightful and thought provoking journey through seven spiritual stages in the search for God. In this "parable of spiritual search"¹, the stages are represented symbolically as the Valleys of Search, Love, Knowledge, Unity, Contentment, Wonderment and True Poverty and Absolute Nothingness. Audiences have described it as "a remarkable effort of team showmanship...fused into a unique experience" with "awesome music, drumming and dance", and experienced "like a meditation". The 75-minute musical theater production features unusually beautiful hand-painted silk costumes and seven Persian-styled silk covered doors produced by Vermont artist Ellen Spring and expert Persian calligrapher Burhan Zahrai. Premiered in Europe in 1997, The Seven Valleys is an exquisite and compelling theatrical experience not to be missed.

Written by the Persian nobleman Mirza Husayn 'Alí (later known as Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith) around 1855, The Seven Valleys describes in poetic language the mystic's spiritual journey toward

¹ John Walters, New Hampshire Public Radio

God. As in Homer's Odyssey, the traveler must pass through many spiritual trials before reaching his "heavenly homeland". Lovers of the mystic poets Rumi, Hafiz and Attar will hear famous passages explained in the play, as well as stories and quotes from the Bible and Koran. Its themes are universal and applicable to all people. "While engrossed in the action on stage one feels deeply for the wayfarer and his cause and experiences a mental journey of their own." says Kendra Willie of The Aquinian².

The Quinns are comprised of Marty, Wendy and their 15-year old daughter Caitlyn. Caitlyn has delighted audiences with her strong performance since the age of seven while in the Quinn's first production "The Magic Bird". She studies ballet and singing, and performs regularly with the NH seacoast's Oyster River Players. Her roles have included Puck and Titania from Midsummer Night's Dream, Louise from Carousel and Josephine from HMS Pinafore. Wendy besides being trained in voice, modern dance and ballet, is also a doctor of clinical psychology. Instrumental in the creation of the sets and costumes, her artistic sensibilities express a deep appreciation of east and west, modern and classic styles. Marty is a master drummer and has composed the music for The Seven Valleys. As a youth, he studied acting at the Cleveland Playhouse. He toured for many years playing drums and percussion for Broadway shows and has recorded with Darius Brubeck, Pat Martino and Doah World Music Ensemble. Marty has also developed new ways of perceiving information through music and has recently been invited to present his work, "The Climate Symphony", at the National Science Foundation. Together, the Quinn family has dedicated the last four years to producing The Seven Valleys.

The performance will take place at:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF HALL

- **DATE AND TIME**
- **TICKET PRICE and WHERE TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED.**

² St. Thomas University Official Forum. Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada