

*The
Summit
Playhouse
Association*

The following program is from our 2007-2008 season.

For information on our current production,
and on other shows we have presented,
please visit our web site at

<http://SummitPlayhouse.org>

The Summit Playhouse Association
Established 1918
10 New England Ave
Summit, NJ 07974
908-273-2192

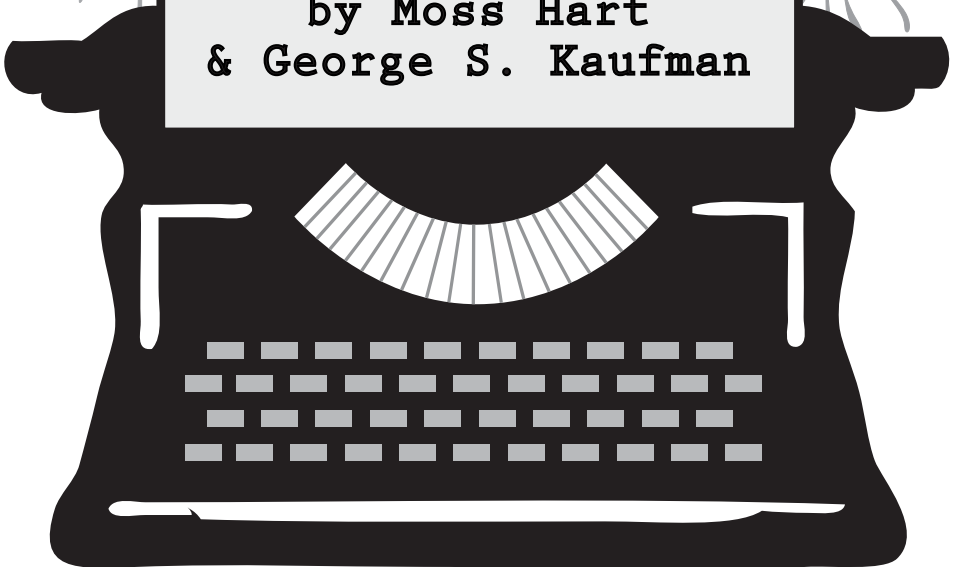


90th Season
Fall 2007

The Summit Playhouse
Presents

**YOU CAN'T
TAKE IT
WITH YOU**

by Moss Hart
& George S. Kaufman



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"...But men labor under a mistake. The better part of a man is soon plowed into the soil for compost. By a seeming fate, commonly called necessity, they are employed, as it says in an old book, laying up treasures which moth and rust will corrupt and thieves break through and steal. It is a fool's life, as they will find when they get to the end of it, if not before."

One might imagine Kaufman and Hart at dinner one night, mulling over their successes in the theatre world of the 1930's, a copy of *Walden* propped between them on the table, opened to the first chapter, "Economy," frantically searching for the next premise for a hit play that would resonate in a beleaguered audience in the Great Depression, letting their eyes cast down upon the above words by Henry David Thoreau and instantly becoming inspired to write tonight's offering. Maybe. At any rate, it was an instant success with that audience, and the truth of Thoreau's theme of simplicity, magnanimity and trust as the highest level of human accomplishment comes through in the gentle humor and lovable characters that are the center of the play. In these days of contrast of liberal and conservative values to which we can lose all sense of proportion and objectivity, it is ever so refreshing to reflect on a philosophy that has remained a part of the American Dream through centuries of turmoil—and ultimately come to realize that we *can* take something with us—our dignity, compassion, tolerance, and respect for that which is seemingly crazy, but ultimately visionary. If we can do it through laughter and comedy, so much the better, for, as another great writer, Christopher Fry quipped, "...laughter is surely the surest touch of genius in creation...an irrelevancy which almost amounts to a revelation." We hope tonight's performance inspires that same laughter!

— Mitch Ruf



The Summit Playhouse is a member of the *TriCounty Community Theatre Association*.

See www.TriCountyCTA.org for listings of up-coming productions and audition notices.

The Playhouse Association

10 New England Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org

The Summit Playhouse Association presents its
Two Hundred Eighty Ninth Production



YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU



by **Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman**

***Set Design
& Construction***

J. Guerdon Mayfield

Lighting & Sound

Bill Roome

Set Décor

Tina White

Stage Manager

George Doherty

Assistant Director

Nancy LaShure

Producer

Betty Kaus

Director

Mitch Ruf

Properties

Tina Casey

Costumes

Sallie Ridgway



October 26, 27, November 1, 2, 3, 9, 10 at 8:00pm

Sunday Matinee, November 4 at 2:00pm

The matinee is a signed performance

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Penelope Sycamore	<i>Anne King</i>
Essie.....	<i>Stephanie Lyn Warkulwiz</i>
Rheba	<i>Rebecca Holmes</i>
Paul Sycamore.....	<i>Nick Thomas</i>
Mr. De Pina	<i>Art Seif</i>
Ed.....	<i>Chaz Turner</i>
Donald	<i>Dylan Manigian</i>
Martin Vanderhof	<i>Michael King</i>
Alice	<i>Claire Bochenek</i>
Henderson.....	<i>Joe Reina</i>
Tony Kirby.....	<i>Adrian Hatley</i>
Boris Kolenkhov.....	<i>Bud Dawson</i>
Gay Wellington	<i>Liz Dawson</i>
Mr. Kirby.....	<i>T. Carter Hagaman</i>
Mrs. Kirby.....	<i>Jeslyn Wheelless</i>
G-Men	<i>Bob Olsen, George Doherty & Bruce Wilson</i>
Olga Katrina	<i>Marguerite Wurtz</i>

Setting

The home of Martin Vanderhof, New York, in 1936

Act I: A Wednesday evening

Act II: A week later

Act III: The next day

There will be two ten minute intermissions.

During the first, juice will be served in the lounge downstairs.

The Thursday benefit is for the Reeves-Reed Arboretum.



As a courtesy to the cast and the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone

No photography or recording



Production Staff

Director.....	Mitch Ruf
Producer	Betty Kaus
Assistant Director	Nancy LaShure
Stage Manager.....	George Doherty
Set Design	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by.....	Brent Baab, Ted Deutz, George Doherty, Frank Hawrusik, David Hoffman, Ed Johnson & Bob Olsen
Set Painting.....	Betty Kaus
Assisted by.....	George Doherty, Ann & Bill Houpt, Jim Mayfield, Kathy & Mike Tatlow
Costumes	Sallie Ridgway
Assisted by.....	Bruce & Joanne Wilson
Properties	Tina Casey
Assisted by.....	Devon Moore & Geraldine Zoccoli
Set Décor.....	Tina White
Assisted by.....	Rose Pancirov
Lighting & Sound.....	Bill Roome
Assisted by.....	Brent Baab & David Hoffman
Signing	Simon V. Martinez, Jr.
Publicity	Nina Deutz
Poster & Playbill.....	Bill Roome
Tickets	Stephanie Fisk
Photography.....	Anita Choubey
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

The Access Matinee for this production has been
underwritten by the Summit Lions Club

Who's Who

Claire Bochenek (Alice) makes her debut at The Summit Playhouse in the role of Alice. Claire's previous theater credits include Alais in a *A Lion in Winter* and Mrs. Kirby in *You Can't Take It with You*. She is a competitive ballroom dancer, has attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, and plans on pursuing a career in the performing arts. She sends love to her family and friends.

Bud Dawson (Boris Kolenkhov) remembers his debut in *Riverwind*, the Playhouse's first musical. Other playhouse productions spanning forty years include *Fiorello!* (The Quartet), *On Golden Pond* (The Dentist), *Critics Choice* (The Lead), *Twigs* (The Drunk), 1940's Radio Hour (Johnny Cantone) and *Side by Side by Sondheim*. In other New Jersey venues, he has appeared in *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Buffalo Bill), *The Dining Room* (four roles), *The Boy Friend* (the lead) and *Bells Are Ringing*. In Florida, he's had leading roles in *Barefoot in the Park*, *Pippin*, *Damn Yankees* (Old Joe Hardy) and *The Odd Couple*. He looks forward to working with Mitch and the gang.

Liz Dawson (Gay Wellington) performed in her first Playhouse show, *The Curious Savage*, in 1974. Since then she's had roles in forty of our productions, including *Riverwind* (first musical), *Twigs*, and *Pack of Lies*. She is a retired member of Actor's Equity. She has also appeared at Plays in the Park (Edison), Chatham Players, Barn Theater (Boonton), Westfield Players, Florham Park Players and theaters in Ohio, Florida, New York and California. Her TV appearances include *To Tell The Truth* and *Family Feud*. Thanks to Mitch and all the wonderful back stage support.

George Doherty (G-Man & Stage Manager) returns to the stage after a 35 year hiatus. He is usually found backstage, having served as Stage Manager of many productions at the Playhouse, including *The Heiress*, *Waverly Gallery*, *Wit* and *Is There Life After High School?* He lives in Chatham with his wife, Robbi Curtis.

T. Carter Hagaman (Mr. Kirby) is a long time resident of Maplewood, where he has performed for many years in various productions of the now-defunct Maplewood Music Theater and, subsequently, The Strollers. This is his first appearance with The Summit Playhouse, reprising the role of Mr. Kirby which he played over twenty years ago. His recent roles have included Judge Randolph in *A Few Good Men* and Lord High Underling in *The Wiz*. When not on stage, he is an active builder of set pieces.

Adrian Hatley (Tony Kirby) would like to thank Stephanie and Chaz (Ed & Essie) for their faith and encouragement in pursuing this role, as well as friends and family for their love and support in making it all happen. Adrian hails from Randolph, New Jersey, and this is his premiere performance at The Summit Playhouse. Adrian has been involved in various productions including Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and *Twelfth Night*, *Oedipus the King*, *Dark of the Moon*, various bit roles in one-act plays, Fashion Show MC, DJ for party events, and an Intern on the Late Night w/ Conan O'Brien Show.

Rebecca Holmes (Reba) is very excited to be performing at The Summit Playhouse for the first time. She recently performed in this summer's Jersey Voices at the Chatham Playhouse as Jen in *Destinations*. Rebecca received her B.A. in Drama from Vassar College. At Vassar, she performed such roles as Celia in *As You Like It*, Babe in *Crimes of the Heart*, and Holly in *Uncommon Women and Others*.

Anne King (Penelope Sycamore) says her most recent appearances on the Playhouse stage were in *A Grand Night for Singing* and *Remembrance*. She was also part of the wonderful cast of Follies at The Chester Theatre Group. A lifelong resident of Union County, Anne has performed in and directed community and young people's theater in New Providence, Scotch Plains, Summit and Westfield. Fitting comfortably into Penny

Sycamore's shoes, Anne would like to credit her family for divine inspiration — the family into which she was born, the one she helped create, and the one whose members came to deliver the ice and just stayed.

Michael King (Martin Vanderhof) last appeared at the Playhouse as King Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*. For the Playhouse he also co-hosted the *Evening with Christopher Durang...* fundraiser and performed in *A Grand Night for Singing*, *Prelude to a Kiss* and *Murder in Mind*. He created multiple roles this summer for 'Jersey Voices', Chatham Players' annual festival of original plays. Additional stage credits include Harold Hill in Plays in the Park's *The Music Man*, Tevye in Chatham's *Fiddler on the Roof* and roles in *Into the Woods* and *Sweeney Todd*. Thanks to Anne, who makes all things possible, and Sarah and Tim, who help make it worthwhile.

Dylan Manigian (Donald) is delighted to make his Summit Playhouse debut. He was last seen on stage as the Mayor/Troll in the puppet filled *Larry The Remarkable Pig* at 12 Miles West. His directing credits include *She Bop* and *Heartstrings* by John Pizzuto for the Turnip Theater Company's 15 Minute Play Festival in New York. When not on stage, Dylan works behind the scenes in theater, film, and television. You can see his handy work if you look at the astroturf on the set of *Death of a Salesman* currently running at Luna Stage. Special thanks to mom and dad for all their love and support.

Bob Olsen (G-Man) is a New York grown, Westfield resident of thirty years. The founding director & producer of "Torn Curtain" Productions (a Theatrical Company based in Scotch Plains, New Jersey), Bob is a veteran of many productions, including *Forum* (Miles Gloriosus), *Joy Comes In The Morning* (Judas Iscariot), *Pilgrims Progress* (Giant of Despair), *One Voice* (Nicodemus-lead), and both TCPs' and Vernon Theatrical Development Groups' touring version of *Two From Galilee* (Joachim-lead). This is Bob's second time performing at The Summit Playhouse! Thanks for the push, Punk!

Joe Reina (Henderson) is excited to be making his Summit Playhouse debut! Joe has been busy lately, appearing in local productions of *Peter Pan*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Camelot*, *Rumors* and *Kiss Me Kate*, in addition to being elected Cornell Class President (and much to eager to tell us all about it). Joe sends a loud "Thank You" to Mitch, Betty, our Talented Cast and Dedicated Crew. He had a blast getting to know everyone and says that the cast outings were priceless. Finally, Joe dedicates his performance to Joey, Katie and his Alice - Carol. xo

Art Seif (Mr. De Pinna) is pleased to be in his first Summit Playhouse production — "It's been so long." He previously appeared as odd characters in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Chatham), *The Boys Next Door* (Strollers — Maplewood) and *Our Town* (Plainfield) among other plays. He's glad that he now appears in a down-to-earth, well, down-to-cellar role. He thanks Mitch and Nancy big-time, and the other actors and backstage crew, for their considerable assistance and bonhomie, including assuring that he comes through the right stage door each time he appears.

Nick Thomas (Paul Sycamore) is appearing for the first time at The Summit Playhouse. He wants to thank #1 (Nancy) for the sweets and Mitch for being a great director. He thanks the crew for all their hard work to get the show up. He dedicates this show to the cast for the best theatre experience of a lifetime. Carpe Diem.

Chaz Turner (Ed) returns to Summit where he last played the title role in *Fiorello!* At Dover Little Theater he was the Inspector in Agatha Christie's *The Hollow*. And before that he dominated as Miles Gloriosus in *...Forum* at Nutley Little Theater. In this show, Chaz likes the contrast of playing the meek and self-absorbed Ed. When not playing xylophone or imagining how people's faces would look as masks, Chaz enjoys life with his spouse, Stephanie (Essie Carmichael). He recently finished his basement into a

Who's Who (continued)

home movie theater, having done the construction himself. He charges admission, but even the cheap seats are good ones.

Stephanie Lyn Warkulwiz (Essie) is happy to be making her third appearance at The Summit Playhouse, after having appeared in *Forum* as Vibrata and in *Fiorello!* as Mitzie Travers. Stephanie has studied dance with Phil Grassia, Alvin Ailey and the Martha Graham Conservatory. Stephanie's choreography has been recognized by the Papermill Playhouse for *Footloose*. When not choreographing, Steph also loves to perform. Her theater credits include *Pippin* (Fastrada), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Blanche Dubois), *Hello Dolly* (Ermengarde) and *The Hollow* (Veronica Craye). Her TV and film credits include *All My Children*, *Godzilla* and *One True Thing* with Merle Streep. She would like to thank Mitch, the cast & crew, friends & family and her hubby Chaz for his wonderful love and support.

Jeslyn Wheeless (Mrs. Kirby) is enjoying her third show, and first non-musical, at The Summit Playhouse, having appeared in *Is There Life After High School?* and *Fiorello!* previously. She also did *Into the Woods* with the Chatham Community Players. Jeslyn is a storyteller and folksinger in schools, libraries, churches, etc., and has an award winning CD, *Hoot Owl Blues*, recorded with her son Ben. Thanks to Mitch, Nancy, Betty, cast and crew for a really fun time doing YCTIWY.

Bruce Wilson (G-Man) is making his stage debut at the Summit Playhouse. In addition to working on costumes for this production, he has worked in the same capacity in Playhouse productions of *I Hate Hamlet*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Fiorello!* and most recently *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their help and especially his wife Joanne for putting up with him for all these years.

Marguerite Wurtz (Olga Katrina) continues having fun on our stage this year having appeared as Zoila in *Living Out* and in our first staged reading as the lead character Rosie in *L.I.N.T.* as well as previously in *Moon Over Buffalo* (Charlotte), *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Suzette, the cook), *Gypsy* (Mazeppa), *Bus Stop* and *The Heiress*, among others. She recently portrayed Maria Callas in *Master Class*. Her other local credits include *And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little* (Catherine), *Six Degrees of Separation* (Ouisa), *The Sisters Rosensweig* (Gorgeous), *Jake's Women* (Perry nominee), *Fuddy Meers*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Ladies At The Alamo* and *Comic Potential*.

STAFF

Mitch Ruf (Director) has recently become involved again with community theatre after a teaching career that has spanned over thirty years in N.J. Education, the last 25 of which have been spent teaching at Lenape Valley Regional High School in Stanhope (recently recognized by the NJ Arts Education Census Project as among the top 10 percent in the state for its performing arts programs). In those three decades he has produced, designed and directed over 100 shows (including *You Can't Take it With You*—twice!). As a performer, favorite shows in which he has assumed leading roles have been *Camelot*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Student Prince*, *George M.*, *Company*, *1776*, *Jaques Brel*, *Damn Yankees*, and (in younger days), *Tony* in *West Side Story* and *Tony* in *You Can't Take It With You*. He was seen on the Summit stage this past spring as Senex in *Forum*, and was therein privileged to have the opportunity to perform with his two greatest productions—his daughter Maggie and son Matthew! Mitch is delighted to have the opportunity to work again with the theatre, its staff

and talented pool of performers. Technical credits over the past year have featured lighting design for the reinvigorated Edison Valley Playhouse and voiceover work in film and DVD production. He resides in Edison with his wife Eileen and their rescued cocker spaniel "Cossette."

Betty Kaus (Producer) is Vice-President of the Playhouse, has been a member since 1950, President three times, directed fifteen plays, appeared in several, and is on the House and Grounds Committee.

Nancy LaShure (Assistant Director) says that theater has always been a part of her life in one way or another since she was a little girl—when she was 7 years old she staged a play in her backyard, got all the neighborhood kids to attend—and charged admission! A 1992 graduate of Slippery Rock University with a degree in Theater Design & Tech, Nancy has been involved in numerous productions, both as a performer and director. Favorite roles include Mabel Stanley in *The Pirates Of Penzance* and Marion Paroo in *The Music Man*. Nancy also writes and co-directs for her company's annual Holiday Video. Thanks to Mitch—her mentor and friend—for the opportunity (25 years later—EGADS!) to reprise her role as his Assistant Director, to the Summit Playhouse & Cast, for welcoming her so warmly and as always, to her beloved husband Joe, for always cheering her on—from the safety of the audience!

Simon V. Martinez, Jr. (Signer) is the fourth youngest of five children of Deaf parents (CODA), a Viet Nam Veteran and has worked as a freelance Interpreter Consultant nationally since 1977. He interprets International Travel Tours for the Deaf by the Deaf specializing in Western Civilization and World War II History as well as Religion/Art of the Renaissance Period.

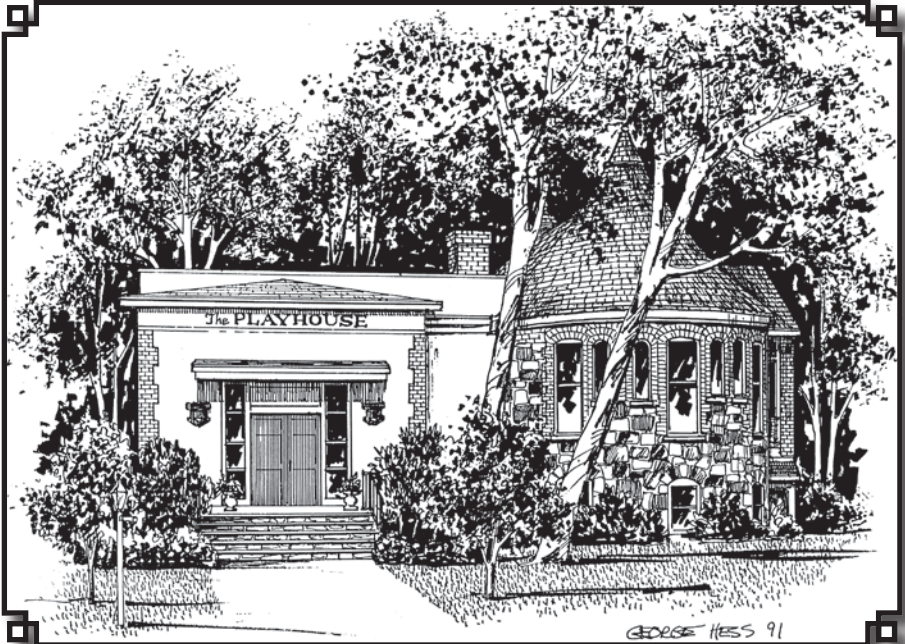
J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Design & Construction) has built sets for our last season and for Kaleidoscope, and is now into his third season with the Playhouse. This is the first he has designed, and he wants to bring new things to future shows. In addition to activities here he continues to help with UHSPAC and occasionally at Wilkins Theatre at Kean University. He continues his assistance to the deaf and hard of hearing community. He thanks the crew for their assistance and guidance. Anyone interested in scenery is urged to join the crew. No experience necessary — just ready and willing hands.

Sally Ridgway (Costumes) is a Costumer from Westover, MD. She has a B.S. degree in theatre with a minor in dance and she is a former high school teacher. She has performed in *Horn in the West*, which is a North Carolina Outdoor Drama. She was a Costume Helper at The Lost Colony North Carolina and New Jersey Community Theatre. Her favorite roles are Ado Annie in *Oklahoma*, Lola in *Damn Yankees*, and Bonnie in *Anything Goes*. Ms. Ridgway has been a Costumer for more than 25 years and she has also choreographed and directed.

Tina White (Set Décor) is a local talent who is pleased to be participating in The Summit Playhouse for the first time. Tina is demonstrating her design and artistic talents as the set decorator. She is currently involved in local stage productions for children – directing the children's show *JONAH* at Christ Church as well as co-producing the local elementary school's Variety Show, *Brayton Idol*. For the past three years, she has participated in the *Dessert Show* (an adult only production) at the Brayton School as the choreographer. Tina is a pastel artist and her landscape work has been last exhibited in partnership with other artists at the Community Theatre in Morristown, NJ and The Visual Art Center of New Jersey. Tina is an Ohio transplant who lived and worked in NYC for many years before moving to Summit with her husband and two daughters ten years ago.

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The historic preservation work at this theater is funded by New Jersey Cultural Trust grants, a grant from the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust administered by The New Jersey Historic Trust, and a 2007 HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Playhouse Contributors

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Playhouse 2007–2008 Season

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

directed by Mitch Ruf

October 26, 27 November 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10

Mr. Vanderhof, "Grandpa," is the head of a household of unusual personalities whom we might call a "crazy family." Neither the 1936 world in turmoil nor the depression interfere with their happiness. Enter into this, the family of Tony Kirby Jr., who is in love with Martin Vanderhof's granddaughter. The planned meeting date of these remarkably opposite clans has been somehow mistaken, so the Kirbys arrive one night early to find the household at the height of doing its own thing, which includes living room ballet, snake-charming, Roman discus throwing, fireworks experimentation and the like—ingredients of classic comedy!

BROOKLYN BOY

by Donald Margulies

directed by Sherrie Ahlin

February 22, 23, 28, 29 March 1, 2, 7, 8

What happens to a writer when his novel hits the bestseller list? *Brooklyn Boy* is an insightful and witty look at the career of Eric Weiss whose success comes at a time when his life is beginning to unravel. His wife has left him, his father is in the hospital and his childhood friend thinks he has sold himself to the devil. Pulitzer Prize winning author Donald Margulies investigates all this with a dramatic but laugh-out-loud comedy that combines the vintage themes of "returning to ethnic roots" with mid-life crisis and redemption.

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

by Tennessee Williams

directed by Joann Scanlon

April 25, 26 May 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10

Atkinson in the NY Times called it "a stunning drama... It is the basic truth. In a plantation house, the family is celebrating the sixty-fifth birthday of Big Daddy, as they sentimentally dub him. The tone is gay. But the mood is somber. For a number of old evils poison the gaiety—sins of the past, greedy hopes for the future, a desperate eagerness not to believe in the truths that surround them... The truth invariably terrifies them. As the expression of a brooding point of view about life, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* is limpid and effortless. As theatre, it is superb."

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$50 Adults / \$30 Students (18 & under)

SINGLE TICKETS: \$20/\$15