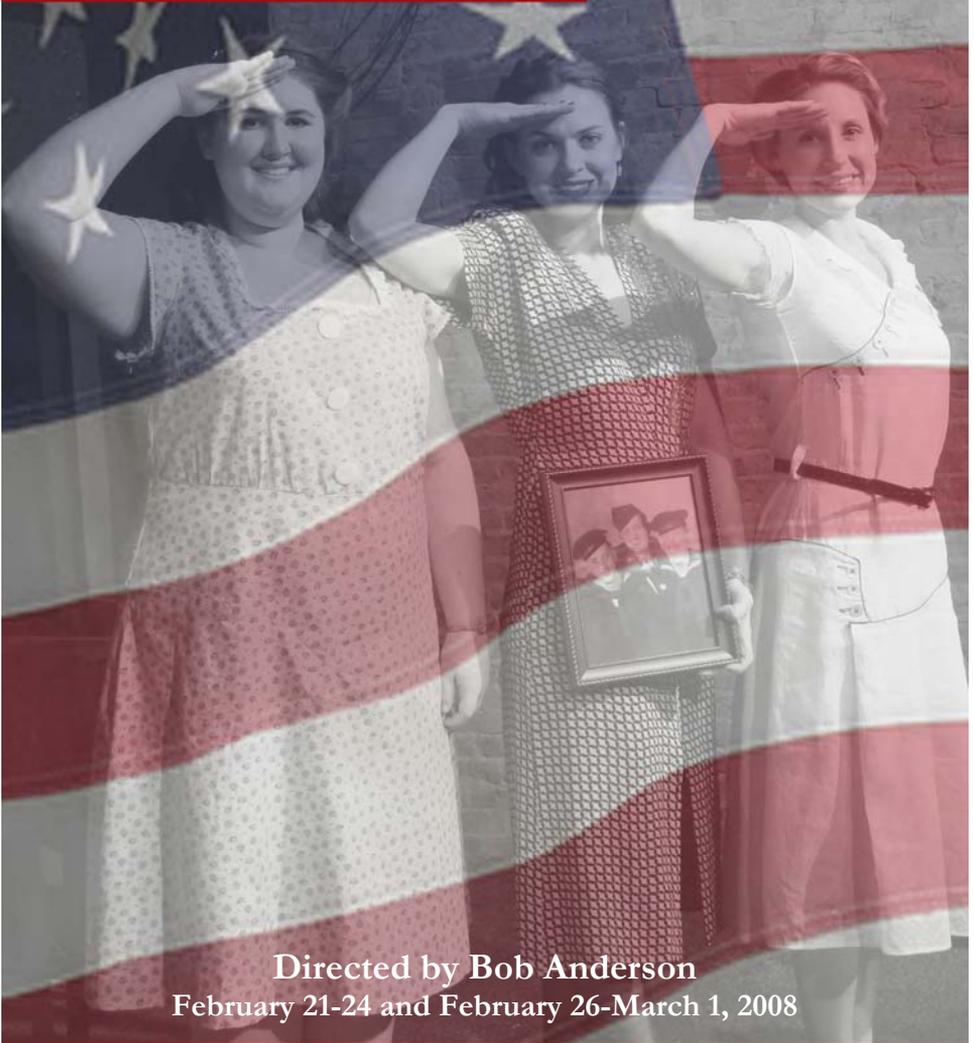


Starkville Community Theatre presents

# LIFE

*The Cover of*

By R. T. Robinson



Directed by **Bob Anderson**

February 21-24 and February 26-March 1, 2008

Sponsored by the  
Starkville Area Arts Council

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



# The Cover of LIFE

By R. T. Robinson

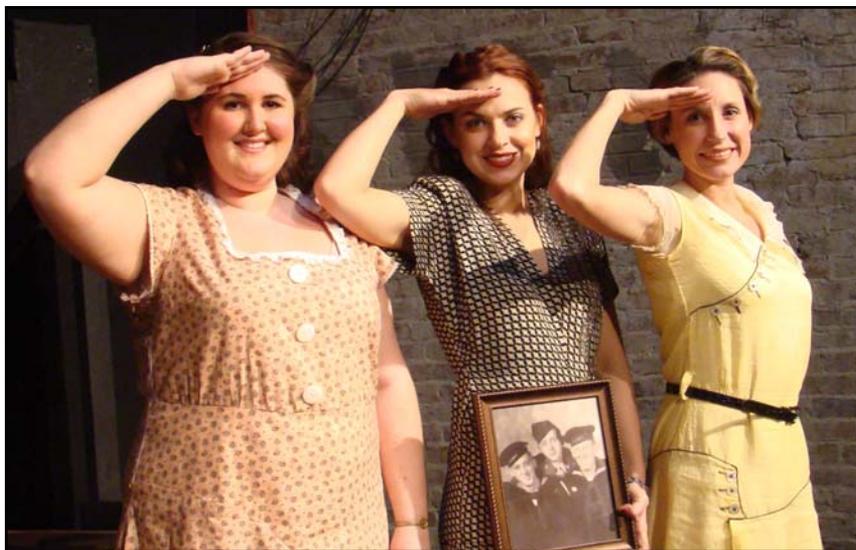
Bob Anderson, Director

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Kate Miller.....	Terry McDowell
Tood.....	Elizabeth Williams
Weetsie.....	Casey Leigh Heflin*
Aunt Ola.....	Marsha Williams
Sybil.....	Jillian Vedros*
Addie Mae .....	Marianne Ulmer
Tommy .....	Casey Rowe

*\*SCT acting debut*



# Setting & Scenes

The time is September, 1943.

The action of the play takes place in various locations over several weeks in Sterlington, Louisiana, a very small town.

## ACT 1

Scene 1 .....	Prologue/Addie Mae Interview
Scene 2 .....	Addie Mae and Kate/ Phone
Scene 3 .....	Dinner
Scene 4 .....	Letter Writing
Scene 5 .....	Mail/Phone call to Kate
Scene 6 .....	Tood and Tommy
Scene 7 .....	Kate's Arrival
Scene 8 .....	Beans
Scene 9 .....	Confrontation
Scene 10 .....	Sybil Letter
Scene 11 .....	Tood and Kate/Laundry

*There will be a fifteen minute intermission between acts.*

## ACT II

Scene 12 .....	Mer Rouge
Scene 13 .....	Sybil's Letter
Scene 14 .....	Photo Shoot
Scene 15 .....	Sybil Letter
Scene 16 .....	Pre-funeral/Kate to Harry
Scene 17 .....	On The Way To The Funeral
Scene 18 .....	Kate's Goodbye
Scene 19 .....	Tood and Tommy
Scene 20 .....	Epilogue

*Scene change music from the album*

**Carry On**

*By the award-winning local group*

**Nash Street!**

## *The Crew*

Director .....	Bob Anderson
Assistant Director/Stage Manager .....	Jay Cooper
Light and Sound Design/Operator.....	Edwin Ellis
Scene Design .....	Bob Anderson
Hair Design.....	Jansen Fair
Costumes.....	Sue Snow, Diane Ellis
Property Master.....	Debbie Dunaway
Box Office .....	Bob Anderson and Marsha Williams
House Manager Coordinator.....	Ron Palmer
Opening Night Party .....	Lyle Tate and the The Starkville Area Arts Council
Program.....	Patty Archer

## *Set Construction Crew*

Linda Lunsford, Nicholas Dinep-Schneider, Edwin Ellis, Bob Anderson, Marsha Williams, Jay Cooper, Casey Rowe, Clyde Williams, Don Mabry, Paula Mabry and John Greene



## *Director's Note*

In World War II, three brothers from Bastrop, Louisiana, enlisted in three separate branches of the armed forces. The three brothers, one of whom was our playwright's father, had their wives move in with their mother for the war's duration. Fifty years later, A. T. Robinson honored his family in this play.

Directing this play has been a challenge...While not old enough to enlist, I had an older brother who served with the Eighth Air Force in England, and I tell myself that I remember well the years of the war. Re-creating the era has been an interesting experience.

I was aided immeasurably in the work by our costumer, Sue Snow, who worked with the assistance of Diane Ellis. These ladies created miracles!

Our other miracle worker is Jansen Fair, who is responsible for re-creating the hair styles of the era...not an easy task!

Thanks to you for the extra effort required!

Bob Anderson, Director

## *Special Thanks*

Special Thanks to all those who contributed to the success of our production, including...

Bobbie Jo Beach

Joan Wilson

Keena Lockhart

Peppy Bidy and the MUW Theatre Department

Melanie Harris and Theatre MSU

Wayne Durst

John Wells

Marita Gootee

Keith Remy

Marianne Ulmer

Jamie's Salon

## About the Cast

### CASEY LEIGH "DOODLEBUG" HEFLIN

Casey is the daughter of Jeph and Patt Heflin of Pelahatchie, MS, where she graduated as valedictorian and Star Student of East Rankin Academy in 2005. Casey is now a senior communications major with an emphasis in theatre at Mississippi State and hopes to graduate in December 2008. She is now a member of the Lab Rats Comedy Troupe and Vice President of MSU's Drama Society, Blackfriars. After obtaining her degree, Casey hopes to travel, to enter a filmmaking/acting graduate program, and maybe start working in some aspect of the film industry. A few of her recent roles were in MSU productions as "The Emperor" in *The Emperor's Nightingale*, "The Doorman" in *The Madwoman of Chailot*, "Muse of Love and Poetry" in *Confessions of a Modern Day Muse*, and "Yolanda/Jamaya" in Jimmy Buffett's *The Jolly Mon*. (Casey has probably had more male than female roles in her career!) Besides theatre and watching movies, Casey enjoys eating sushi with friends, being with her dog, Lucy, designing and sewing clothes, reading, and playing Guitar Hero. If her future plans fall through, Casey plans to marry a rich, older man and move to Europe. Casey is so excited to be in her first SCT production and certainly hopes there are more to follow.

### TERRY MCDOWELL

Terry has been an active member of SCT since 1984 when she was cast in her first role in the production of *Close Ties* (with her buddy Marianne). Since then, she has appeared in numerous roles, most recently in *Aspirin and Elephants* and last summer's musical revue, *The Power of One*. She is extremely pleased to be sharing the stage with an incredibly talented cast - both "old" friends and new. Terry wishes to thank Bob and Jay for all their hard work and Jansen for "keeping us all looking good." To my husband, Ledge, she says, "Thank you for being you and for always being so supportive of me. I love you!" Terry wishes to dedicate this performance to the memory of her parents. Her father, Jack Reese, was a veteran of WWII, and her mother, Gloria, was one of the wives back home "sacrificing and waiting for our boys."

### CASEY ROWE

*The Cover of Life* is Casey's 4th time onstage at SCT. Past productions include *Terror by Gaslight*, *Back To Broadway*, and *Laura*. Throughout high school, Casey was actively involved in the drama department, serving as president of the Thespian Society. He won the North Mississippi High School Drama Festival Award for Best Actor during his senior year. Some of his favorite high school roles include "Sir Evelyn Oakley" in *Anything Goes*, "Ugly Duckling" in *Honk*, "Fagin" in *Oliver!*, and "Mooney" in *Mooney's Kid Don't Cry*. Casey is attending EMCC but plans to transfer to William Carey University in the fall to major in theatre. and minor in psychology. Casey is delighted to be sharing the stage with such a talented group of ladies tonight.

## About the Cast

### MARIANNE ULMER

Marianne is glad to be onstage again with favorite people and with new friends. Adding the title of “Director” for her “real” job on campus has severely limited her onstage time. She will be rehearsing two shows through the end of February. When *The Cover of Life* is over, she will devote all of her time to directing *Little Shop of Horrors* which will be performed at McComas Theatre on April 10, 11, and 12. “Please come see it!” she says. Many thanks to Sara Claire and Jonnette for keeping her MSU cast going when she cannot be there. As always, she sends many thanks to Allen for being patient with her hectic life.

### JILLIAN VEDROS

Jillian Vedros graduated from LSU with a BA in theatre performance in 2003. Since then she has tried her luck in Los Angeles, moved back to her hometown of Houma, and moved now to Starkville. She thanks her family for all their love and support of her wanderings. She also sends all her love to her Todd.

### ELIZABETH DAVIS WILLIAMS

Elizabeth Davis Williams is a native of Starkville and a veteran performer with Starkville Community Theatre. She has played roles in various season productions, summer music revues, and Mississippi Theatre Association Festival plays. Her most recent performance was as “Laura” in Tennessee Williams’ *Glass Menagerie*. Following that production, Elizabeth resigned from the stage for a brief intermission to focus on her new role as a mother. She especially wants to thank her husband, Stephen, for encouraging her to resume her interest in theatre. She also wants to send out hugs and kisses to her little girl, Mallory Ann, who is natural-born star! “I love you both so much. Thanks for your patience, encouragement, and assistance during the past couple of months. An especially loud applause of gratefulness goes out to you two!”

### MARSHA WILLIAMS

A BS and MS graduate of LSU, Marsha is a charter member and past president of SCT, where she has served in numerous other capacities, among them director, assistant director, actor, and box office chair. She shared a Mississippi Theatre Association Award for Best Supporting Actress as “Lil” in *The Octette Bridge Club*. Her favorite roles include “Melissa” in *Love Letters*, “Amanda” in *Glass Menagerie*, “Babs” in *Marriage to an Older Woman*, and “Eleanor” in *The Lion in Winter*. She is happily retired from MSU’s Social Science Research Center and is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild.

## *Of Time, Change, and Hope*

By September 19, 1943, when Life reporter Kate Miller's letter arrived at Aunt Ola Cliffert's home in Sterlington, LA, U. S. Military engagement in World War II neared its mid-point: Pearl Harbor almost 22 months earlier and V-J Day almost 23 months later.

By mid-September 1943, the outcome of World War II was hardly in doubt. In February, the Russians at Stalingrad defeated Nazi forces after a bitter four-month battle. On the other side of the world, also in February, U. S. Forces victoriously terminated a grueling six-month struggle against the Japanese at Guadalcanal.

In March, British and American soldiers under George Patton routed Axis forces in North Africa, invaded Sicily in July, and then began a long, bloody struggle in Italy. On September 8, 1943, Mussolini was arrested and imprisoned, later to be assassinated by Italian partisans.

By September, U. S. Naval operations in the Pacific drastically reduced Japanese supply of raw materials. By then, in the Atlantic, nearly 34,000 (of 39,000) Germany's submariners had been killed or captured.

Great changes occurred on the home front, especially for women; the Rosie the Riveters and Joans of Arc (welders) helped to double productions of aircraft, ships, and land vehicles between January and December of 1943. Enormous migration of women from towns and villages to cities where factories turned out war materiel 24 hours a day, every day, dramatically changed the American demography.

Life magazine chronicled many changes in American life. Many ads in Life noted War Production Board limitations of certain products, "including all fountain pens"; a rationing system sought to ensure equitable distribution of necessary products—gasoline, shoes, food (the latter leading to increased advertising—and sales—of vitamins).

Robinson's *The Cover of Life*, based in part on real experiences in his Louisiana home town (Bastrop), illustrates the tensions, frustrations, hopes, and illusions the war wrought for three young women and their mother-in-law. It also powerfully depicts an isolated rural world which, even in a dynamic time, limits their expectations. Only Tood has much chance to escape these limitations. That chance, perhaps a mixed blessing, and a vision of war's end together lend a sense of light at play's end.

Clyde V. Williams, Dramaturge (b. 1938)

Starkville Community Theatre presents

# Forever PLAID

## Auditions

Saturday, March 1 at 3:30 p.m.

## Production

April 24-27 and April 29-May 4, 2008

### *Upcoming Dates*

March 1.....	Auditions for <i>Forever Plaid</i>
February 26-March 1.....	<i>The Cover of Life</i>
March 1.....	Youth Theatre Guild, 9-noon
March 3.....	SCT General Meeting
March 21.....	Fourth Fridays
April 5.....	Youth Theatre Guild, 9-noon
April 7.....	SCT General Meeting
April 18.....	Fourth Fridays
April 24– 27.....	<i>Forever Plaid</i>
April 29– May 4.....	<i>Forever Plaid</i>
May 3.....	Youth Theatre Guild, 9-noon
May 5.....	SCT General Meeting
May 9-10.....	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> (kid's show)
May 23.....	Fourth Fridays

The 2007-2008 Season is sponsored by a grant in part from the Mississippi Arts Commission and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts.





## **The Mineola Twins by Paula Vogel**



**A comedy in 6 scenes and 4 dreams.**

**Follow the lives of two sisters who are as different as Wonderbread and Croissants in their viewpoints on politics, family values, and personal conduct.**

**Directed by Jo Durst**

**Wednesday-Friday, February 27-29 \$5**

**McComas Hall Lab Theatre**

### *Getting Involved*

The **C** in SCT stands for community, which means that there are lots of ways that you, as a member of our community, may help at SCT if you would like to do so. We are now seeking Actors and Directors, Ushers, Box Office Personnel, Backstage Managers and Stage Hands, Lighting, Prop and Costume Assistance, Set Constructors and Decorators, and Publicity Assistance. Indeed SCT is always looking for people to help with all aspects of theatre. Do you enjoy painting, hammering nails, building things? We have a place for you! How about sewing, decorating, etc.? We have the perfect place for you!

There's nothing like the feeling of satisfaction when watching an SCT performance and knowing that you had a part in making the show a success. Community theatre is not just about acting and directing; many people just like you help 'behind the scenes', and they are just as important to SCT as those on stage. And why do we do it? Because it's **fun**, and because it's a way of giving something back to our town.

Just as importantly, you can also help by:

- Making a donation (tax deductible)
- Buying a season ticket
- Bringing a friend or two to a show
- Putting up a poster for our next production
- Spreading the word

And of course you may do all of the above if you wish! The important thing is to just get involved, because we can't do this without you!

*Thank you for the first 30 years, Bob!*  
*Here 's to many more!*



- *6 Rms Riv Vu*  
by Bob Randall (1978)
- *Little Mary Sunshine*  
by Rick Besoyan (1979)
- *The Curious Savage*  
by John Patrick (1979)
- *Spoon River Anthology*  
by Edgar Lee Masters (1981)
- *Wait Until Dark* by Frederick Knott (1983)
- *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder (1984)
- *John Brown's Body*  
by Stephen Vincent Benet (1986)
- *Life With Father*  
by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse (1989)
- *Thurber Carnival*  
by James Thurber (1990)
- *Blithe Spirit*  
by Noel Coward (1996)
- *Grace and Glorie*  
by Tom Ziegler (1998)
- *Proposals* by Neil Simon (2000)
- *The Exact Center of the Universe*  
by Joan Vail Thorne (2001)
- *Marriage to an Older Woman*  
by John Fritz (2003)
- *Proof* by David Auburn (2004)
- *The Glass Menagerie*  
by Tennessee Williams (2004)
- *Seeing Stars in Dixie*  
by Ron Osborne (2005)
- *The Cover of Life* by R.T. Robinson (2008)

Charles Templeton

# Ragtime

Music Festival

March 28-30, 2008  
Starkville, Mississippi



Mimi Blais  
Marty Eggers  
Frederick Hodges  
Brian Holland  
David Jasen  
David Reffkin  
Bob Seeley  
Virginia Tichenor

Hosted by  
Mississippi State University Libraries and  
the Charles Templeton Sr. Music Museum

The Charles Templeton Ragtime Music Festival is comprised of a blend of major concerts, miniconcerts, seminars, interviews and tours of the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum

For more information visit <http://library.msstate.edu/templeton/festival>  
or contact Lyle Tate 662.325.2559 [ltate@library.msstate.edu](mailto:ltate@library.msstate.edu)

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