

**STARKVILLE  
COMMUNITY  
THEATRE  
PRESENTS**



*Laura*

A PLAY BY VERA CASPARY & GEORGE SKLAR

OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 2, 2007

The Playhouse on Main ■ Starkville, Mississippi

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Services, Inc.



by Vera Caspary & George Sklar

DIRECTED BY THOMAS LA FOE

## *The Cast*

Mark McPherson ..... Gabe Smith  
Danny Dorgan..... Casey Rowe  
Waldo Lydecker ..... Edwin Ellis  
Shelby Carpenter ..... Thomas John Crane\*  
Bessie Clary ..... Heather Box  
Mrs. Dorgan.....Bonnie Oppenheimer  
A Girl ..... Anna Smith\*  
Olsen ..... Cary Huser\*

*\*SCT main stage debut*

## *Time & Place*

The living room of Laura Hunt's apartment on the third floor of a remodeled house on the Upper East Side of New York.

### **Act I, Scene i**

An evening in August, 1945.

### **Act I, Scene ii**

The next morning.

### **Act II**

Later that evening.

Run time for Act I is 90 minutes. Run time for Act II is 35 minutes.  
There will be a 10-minute intermission between the two acts.

## *The Crew*

Director .....	Thomas La Foe
Assistant Director .....	Lyle Tate
Lighting/Sound Designer.....	Christopher Tyer & Thomas La Foe
Stage Manager .....	Lyle Tate
Property Mistress .....	Kate Oppenheimer
Light/Sound Operator .....	Kayla Buskirk
Costumes .....	Diane Ellis
Hair/Make Up .....	Jansen Fair
Set Design.....	Thomas La Foe
Set Dressing .....	Pattye Archer & Lyle Tate
Box Office .....	Bob Anderson & Marsha Williams
Opening Night Party Hosts.....	Joby Prince & Cary Huser
Poster Design.....	Jim Tomlinson
House Manager Coordinator.....	Ron Palmer
Music .....	Gabe Smith

## *Set Construction & Floor Design*

Heather Box, Kayla Buskirk, T.J. Crane, Edwin Ellis,  
Cary Huser, Thomas La Foe, Bonnie Oppenheimer,  
Ron Palmer, Casey Rowe, Gabe Smith and Lyle Tate

## *Special Thanks*

Pattye Archer, Ann & Frank Bonner, Lora DeFore, Lee Dempsey,  
Wayne Durst, Diane Ellis, Melanie Harris and Theatre MSU,  
Kathi Hester, Bobbie Huddleston, Paula Mabry,  
Emmett Smitherman & FlexSteel Industries, Christopher Tyer,  
Marianne Ulmer, Marcus & Krista Vowell, Christopher Walrath,  
Molly Watkins and Bob Wolverton

## *Please Note*

The cigarettes used in our production of *Laura* are herbal,  
non-nicotine, non-tobacco cigarettes.

## About the Cast

### Heather Box

This is Heather Box's third time having the wonderful opportunity to perform onstage at SCT, and she is ecstatic! (To answer the question of "Who is she?," Heather Box is the former Heather Shaw after becoming hitched on 7-7-07!) She has previously portrayed "Dr. Marilyn Norton" in the thriller *Terror by Gaslight*, the busty "Sue Lawson" in the hilarious *Not Now, Darling* (both at SCT) and also "Shelby" in *Steel Magnolias* at the BLY Arts Theatre in Eupora. Heather is excited to be onstage once again tonight as the housekeeper "Bessie Clary" and wishes to thank Thomas and Lyle for everything. She also wants to send out a big thank you to her husband, Shane, for being so supportive through all the rehearsals and time away from home just so she can play on stage; her sons, Mitch and Tucker, who help her run lines and obviously love theatre as much as she does; and a big hug to the cast and crew of this excellent production - "You are all my second family!" When not at the theatre, Heather's grown-up jobs are acting as a Fraud Investigator for the Mississippi Department of Human Services and as a dispatcher/jailer for the Webster County Sheriff's Office.



### Thomas John Crane

T.J. is incredibly excited to be making his onstage debut at SCT. A senior in business information systems at MSU, T.J. previously appeared as "Protean" in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, "Willy" in *Two Bottles of Relish*, and "Zeke" in *Red (Is the Rose on her Coffin Door)*. For MSU's Lab Rats Comedy, T.J. is a previous performer and is now serving as the director of Longform Improv. "Thank you so much to Thomas and Lyle for giving me the opportunity once again to be involved with SCT. Also, so much thanks to everyone who helped build the set while listening to 80's music – haha! – and to a phenomenal cast who has kept me rolling on the floor throughout. This one's for you Lyle... Holler!"



## Edwin Ellis

Once again Edwin walks upon the stage at The Playhouse on Main. His last sojourn to this place was in *Seeing Stars in Dixie* as the “Gleaze,” where he was seen waltzing with “Clemmie” while the band played “Dixie.” Prior to that he appeared as the very confused (some would say crazy) professor of mathematics in *Proof* and as “Carl,” the young husband, in *Marriage to an Older Woman*. The first production in The Playhouse on Main was *The Sisters Rosensweig* in 1996, and Edwin acted the part of “Geoffrey,” who was special in that funny sort of way, to an audience that sat in metal folding chairs with blankets in their laps because of the lack of heat. He hopes that you enjoy his portrayal of “Waldo” as you sit in this modern, climate-controlled theatre with better seats. Edwin would like to thank the other members of the cast for “putting up” with his stumbling over lines and wandering aimlessly about the stage and to say that it has been a joy to work with all of you.



## Cary Huser

Cary Huser is phrenetically hyped to play “Olsen” in Starkville Community Theatre’s production of *Laura*. With much adoration he wishes to thank Thomas and Lyle for bestowing him the opportunity of playing the role and of getting his feet wet on the SCT stage. Thanks to the cast, set crew, and everyone who made this production possible. Thanks also to Old Venice...the bartenders, cooks, and wait staff who made the experience savory...“Huh? Oh, yeah!”.. Thanks again to the bartenders. “Saluto!”



## Bonnie Oppenheimer

Bonnie Oppenheimer is a professor of mathematics at Mississippi University for Women. She would like to thank everyone in the cast for putting up with her backstage behavior (grading papers, of course!). In the chorus for *25, Welcome to the 60s!, Now Showing... SCT Goes to the Movies*, and *The Power of One*, and in the pit for *Back to Broadway*, Dr. Oppenheimer has had on-stage roles in *Terror by Gaslight* and *Postmortem*. If you recall, Bonnie’s character killed Andrew Watkins’ character in *Terror by Gaslight*, so she claims she is being typecast in this show. Is it because she gets to commit another on-stage murder?...Well, let’s not give away the plot!



## Casey Rowe

Casey appears tonight in his sixth production with SCT, previously working onstage and off in productions of *Terror by Gaslight*, *Smoke on the Mountain*, *A... My Name Will Always be Alice*, *Back to Broadway*, and *Noises Off*. Casey's most recent onstage role was as "Fagin" in Starkville Academy's *Oliver!* Winner of the Mississippi High School Drama Festival's award for Best Actor, Casey is the son of Lance & Carol Rowe and is a student at EMCC with plans to transfer to William Carey University to major in theatre and minor in speech communication. "It has been a blast working with such a talented cast. I'd like to thank my girlfriend, Ciara, for sharing me with SCT these past 4 weeks. I love you."



## Anna Smith

Anna Smith is delighted to be making her SCT debut in such a wonderful show. She's not from around here, so you've probably never seen any of the shows she's been in, but she promises she's not a hack. Theatre lowlights include the left foot of the Griffin in *Alice in Wonderland* and the Algonquin with the robin mask in *Pocahontas*. Some of her favorite roles are "Norma" in *The Diviners*, "Cobweb" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and "Wife" in the seduction scene of *The Good Doctor*. She'd like to thank her instructor, Mr. Craft, for teaching her how to stand on a stage and giving her so many opportunities in the past. Much appreciation goes to the directors, cast and crew for being so fantastic.



## Gabe Smith

Gabe is happy to make the boards creak once again on the SCT stage in his first leading man role in many a moon. He's previously enjoyed SCT roles in *Aspirin and Elephants*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Bus Stop* and others. He also performed in too many Theatre MSU productions to keep track of, with favorite roles including "Mitch" in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and "Miles Gloriosus" in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He's the sketch coach for MSU's Lab Rats Comedy troupe, and, for a day job, he's a news reporter at *The Commercial Dispatch* in Columbus. Thanks to the cast and crew, especially... Anna, for stepping in like she owned the place and making the rest of us have to kick up our professionalism a few notches; Casey, for the laughs; Lyle, for support backstage, in front of the stage and through text message; Thomas, for letting me play with a gun and for believing in me enough to think I could pass for "lean" and "lithe;" and my parents, for support and belief, always.



## *From the Director*

Directing *Laura* has been a great experience for me. It was a chance that I could really try my hand at directing something other than a wacky farce, and I've loved it. When I first read the script I could immediately see it being played, could get a good feel for the characters, and, of course, loved the fact that it all takes place in one room! The show had gotten battered around several seasons and never quite made the list. When I heard that it finally did, I jumped at the chance to direct. I'm very thrilled that SCT decided to do it, and I'm even more thrilled that you are here to see it.

I am also pleased to see that you are here to witness all of the hard work that has gone into making this show great. The cast as a whole has done a terrific job adjusting to the characters and sinking into the world of the play. I would like to thank each of them for all of their efforts (and for bearing with me!) during the rehearsal process and for letting me share in the development of their characters. It has been incredible to see how these people have made the jump from the script to the stage, and the actors should take pride in what they have done. I hope they have gotten as much enjoyment out of this process as I have!

To my production crew, I can't say thanks enough. I would like to thank Chris for teaching me that color is not bad and Kayla for agreeing to run the lights and sound for the show. Diane, the work and research you put into the costumes was beyond anything I expected (especially with me being someone who couldn't even begin to put a costume plot together!). Jansen, thank you for all the research you pulled together and for making my cast look beautifully Forties each night. And thanks Kate for being Lyle's backstage runner and one of the hardest working stage hands in the biz! All of the knick-knacks you see on stage have been meticulously placed by my wonderful friend, Pattye Archer (since you're the president of SCT, does that mean you were my boss in two places at once?). And the set itself would not be possible, and would not be standing, if it were not for the selfless efforts of Edwin Ellis. And yes, Edwin, I am sorry for letting them cover up your beautiful window...but the curtains are pretty, too!

Finally I would like to thank my AD (and JC), Lyle Tate. Ladies and gentlemen, this entire production would be a no-go if my friend Lyle did not agree to assist me on this. He has kept me on task, on point, and focused from the beginning, and I know that this show is in the most capable of hands with him in charge, as that torch has officially been passed. Lyle I cannot thank you enough, and words cannot express how grateful I am, for all that you have done. You have been wonderful to work with and I owe you one (or two, or three, or eight)!



## Christmas Potluck Dinner

**Monday,  
December 3rd  
6:00 p.m.**

Join your SCT family on Monday, December 3rd upstairs at the Playhouse on Main for our annual Christmas potluck dinner! Bring a dish, and come at 6:00 p.m. for a glass of wine with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Come celebrate the holidays at SCT as we continue to toast our 30th anniversary season!

## *Upcoming Dates*

October 28 and 29 .....	Auditions for <i>The Cover of Life</i>
October 30-November 2 .....	<i>Laura</i>
November 3.....	Youth Theatre Guild Meeting
November 5.....	SCT General Meeting
December 1 .....	Youth Theatre Guild Meeting
December 3 .....	SCT Christmas Potluck Dinner
December 6-9.....	<i>Sanders Family Christmas</i>
December 11-16.....	<i>Sanders Family Christmas</i>
February 21-24.....	<i>The Cover of Life</i>
February 24-25.....	Auditions for <i>Forever Plaid</i>
February 26-March 1 .....	<i>The Cover of Life</i>
April 17- 20.....	<i>Forever Plaid</i>
April 22- 26.....	<i>Forever Plaid</i>

## YOUTH THEATRE GUILD

Starkville Community Theatre's Youth Theatre Guild meets the first Saturday of each month and is a great way for children ages 5 to 18 to learn about all aspects of theatre!

The Guild's next meeting is Saturday, November 3 from 9 a.m.-noon. Dues for the year are \$10. If you have questions, please contact SCT President Pattye Archer at [parcher@library.msstate.edu](mailto:parcher@library.msstate.edu).

## FOURTH FRIDAYS

Write plays?  
Know someone who does?

We're looking for 10-minute, one-act or full-length plays for November's Fourth Friday event (11/16/07). Contact us at [fourthfridays@yahoo.com](mailto:fourthfridays@yahoo.com).

SCT is offering an exciting series of workshops to the public called Fourth Fridays. Fourth Fridays is an open forum for area writers who want to have their plays, poetry, monologues or short fiction read and discussed on the main stage at the Playhouse on Main. These are unrehearsed, script-in-hand readings meant to serve as a useful tool for writers who would benefit by hearing their works read out loud. We encourage audience feedback, and there is an open discussion with the author immediately following the reading.



### Make Plans to Attend

The next Fourth Fridays event is coming up on **Friday, November 16** at 7 p.m. at The Playhouse on Main! Everyone is invited. Please let us know if you are interested in reading or have material to submit by emailing us at [fourthfridays@yahoo.com](mailto:fourthfridays@yahoo.com).

## MSU Presents Children's Musical

### *Jolly Mon*

A play adapted by Tonya Hayes from the book written by Jimmy Buffet

Directed by SCT's own Marianne Ulmer

A show about a man, a magic guitar, pirates and princesses,  
and a magic dolphin! Everything a children's show needs!

Tuesday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m.  
McComas Hall Theatre

# *Board of Directors*

## **2005-2008**

Kaki Ingles  
Joan Mylroie  
Ross Williams

## **2006 - 2009**

Maxine Arnett  
Milo Burnham  
Evelyn Lowery

## **2007-2010**

Terry Reese McDowell  
Chip Templeton,  
Clyde Williams

# *Officers*

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Past President – Ann Bonner

# *November Meeting*

Please make plans to attend the November meeting of the general membership, Monday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m. at the Playhouse on Main. Anyone interested in getting more involved with SCT is encouraged to attend.

## *MTA Festival . . . Director Needed*

SCT will send the play *Art* to the 2008 Mississippi Theatre Association Festival in January. Directors for the show are now being sought.

Written by Yasmina Reza, *Art* is the winner of the 1998 Tony for Best Play.

The story centers on – art! How much would you pay for a white painting? Would it matter who the painter was? Would it be art? One of Marc's best friends, Serge, has just bought a very expensive painting. It's about five feet by four, all white with white diagonal lines. To Marc, the painting is a joke, but Serge insists Marc doesn't have the proper standard to judge the work. Another friend, Ivan, though burdened by his own problems, allows himself to be pulled into this disagreement.

If you are interested in directing, please contact Molly Watkins [mjw12@msstate.edu](mailto:mjw12@msstate.edu) or Pattye Archer [parcher@library.msstate.edu](mailto:parcher@library.msstate.edu) by November 2, 2007. Scripts can be checked out from the theatre.

## *Sanders Family is Coming Home!*

This December the Sanders family is coming home to the Playhouse on Main, or rather to the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Mount Pleasant, NC, home of the Mount Pleasant Pickle Factory.

It's Christmas Eve, 1941. Reverend Oglethorpe has invited the Sanders back to the Baptist Church to sing and witness. With close harmony and heart-felt testimony, the Sanders are determined to create some down home holiday spirit before the boys, including their very own Dennis, are shipped off to World War II.

Featuring more than two dozen Christmas carols, many of them vintage hymns, and hilarious yuletide stories from the more (and less) devoted Sanders family will keep you laughing, clapping and singing along. Richly entertaining, this wildly infectious musical brings cheer to audiences eager to see how their friends from *Smoke on the Mountain* have been getting along.

Tickets for Sanders Family Christmas go on sale Monday, November 12. Please note, this show is NOT included in your season ticket. This is a fifth show and you must purchase a ticket specifically for this show. Ticket prices are \$12, \$10 for seniors and \$7 for students.

# Presenting Starkville Community Theatre's 30th Anniversary Season

**NOISES  
OFF!**

September 6-9  
and 11-16, 2007



October 25-28 and October 30-November 2, 2007



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

April 24-27 and  
April 29-May 3, 2008

**Forever  
PLAID**



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