

Starkville Community Theatre presents

Company

Book by George Furth

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Paula Mabry

October 30-November 2 and November 4-8, 2008

The Playhouse on Main





The Cast

Robert	Lyle Tate
Sarah	MJ Etua
Harry	Gabe Smith
Susan.....	Katherine Hardin*
Peter	Matt Crane**
Jenny.....	Anna Smith
David	Joe Evans
Amy	Markii Bout*
Paul.....	Thomas La Foe
Joanne	Terry Reese McDowell
Larry	Brian Hawkins
Marta.....	Debbie Dunaway
Kathy	Maggie Spann
April.....	Cindy Ruff**
Waitress	Connor Guyton

*SCT debut

**SCT Regular-Season debut

The Setting

Place

New York City

Time

Present

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

Production Crew

Director	Paula Mabry
Assistant Director/Stage Manager	Joby Prince
Accompanist	Zachary Bugg
Vocal Director	Dr. Tom Jenkins
Choreography	Debby Funderburk and Anthony Daniel
Fight Choreography/ Vocal Warmups.....	Joe Evans
Lighting/Sound Design.....	Thomas La Foe
Lighting/Sound Operator	Glen Bryant
Costume Design, Construction	Sue Snow
Page Turner.....	Caitlin Johnson
Hair Design.....	Jansen Fair
Poster Design.....	Martin Rendon
Prop Mistress	Connor Guyton
Props	Katherine Hardin, Joby Price, Lee Dempsey & Lyle Tate
Box Office	Bob Anderson & Marsha Williams
Reception Hosts	Lee Dempsey & Amanda Sims
Set Design.....	Christopher Walrath
Set Construction	Cast, Joby Prince, Paul Ruff, & Christopher Walrath

Special Thanks

Pattye Archer ■ Lee & Mylinda Dempsey ■ Edwin Ellis
Faye Fulgham ■ Madeline Golden ■ Tess Graham ■ Heather Hudson
Cary Huser ■ Mandy Kinney and SHS Theatre Department
Don Mabry ■ MSU High Performance Computing Collaboratory
Ariel Nactigal and *The Reflector* ■ Bonnie Oppenheimer
Shep's Dry Cleaning ■ Gwen Sisson and *Starkville Daily News*
The Commercial Dispatch ■ Tupelo Community Theatre
Krista Vowell ■ WCBI-Columbus ■ Brody Smith ■ Marc Measells
WTVA-Tupelo ■ Old Venice Pizza Company ■ Marsha Williams

Scenes & Musical Numbers

Act I

Scene 1: Robert's Apartment

"Overture" Husbands, Wives
"Company" Company

Scene 2: Sarah and Harry's Apartment

"The Little Things You Do Together" Joanne, Amy, Paul, Peter,
Susan, Jenny, David, Larry
"Sorry-Grateful" Harry, David, Larry

Scene 3: Peter and Susan's Terrace

Scene 4: Jenny and David's Den

"You Could Drive a Person Crazy" April, Marta, Kathy
"Have I Got a Girl for You" Husbands, Wives
"Someone is Waiting" Robert

Scene 5: A Park

"Another Hundred People" Marta

Scene 6: Amy and Paul's Kitchen

"Getting Married Today" April, Amy, Paul, Company

Finale Act I

"Marry Me a Little" Robert

Act II

"Entr'acte" Husbands, Wives

Scene 1: Robert's Apartment

"Side by Side by Side/
"What Would We Do Without You" Robert, Husbands, Wives

Scene 2: Robert's Apartment

"Poor Baby" Wives, Harry, David
"Barcelona" Robert, April

Scene 3: Peter and Susan's Terrace

Scene 4: Night Club

"The Ladies Who Lunch" Joanne
"Being Alive" Robert

Scene 5: Robert's Apartment

About the Cast

Markii Bout

Markii (“Amy”) is so happy and thankful to be performing on the SCT stage for the first time. Theatre has been a part of her life for three years and two months now, since her first show as “Peggy” from *Come Blow Your Horn* on the stage of Meridian Community College. Since then she has been in productions of *Fiddler on the Roof* (“Chava”), *The Madwoman of Chaillot* (“Waitress”), *The Jolly Mon* (“One-Eyed Rosy”), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (“Audrey”). This past summer, at the Riley Center in Meridian, she played “Sister Terry” in *Tony ‘n’ Tina’s Wedding* with some of the members of the New York cast. Next month she will be playing a stepsister in *Cinderella* on the McComas stage. She would like to thank her friends (especially her four wonderful, beautiful roommates!) and her family for their constant support. She would also like to thank everyone involved in the production of *Company* for making this such a wonderful experience!

Zachary Houston Bugg

A native of Horn Lake, MS, Zach (accompanist) graduated from the Mississippi School of Math and Science and is a senior at MSU majoring in civil engineering and mathematics. Zach is a Presidential Scholar and is in the front ensemble of MSU’s Famous Maroon Band. Zach also plays piano for the MSU Jazz Ensemble and leads worship services at Shiloh North United Methodist Church in Detroit, AL. “I would like to thank my mother, Barbara, for her support and for paying for the piano lessons!”

Matt Crane

Company marks the second time Matt (“Peter”) has appeared on the SCT stage. His SCT non-regular season debut came earlier this year in SCT’s 10th summer musical revue, *10 Out of 10: The Perfect Score*. Before coming to SCT, Matt was seen in Theatre MSU’s production of *The Little Shop of Horrors* as “The Plant.” Matt wants to thank this amazing cast for such a great experience. “Thanks, too, go to Joby, Paula, Walrath, and the the rest of the crew for putting in such hard work. I would like to thank my wonderful friends and family for all of their love and support and for always believing in me.”

About the Cast

Debbie Dunaway

Debbie (“Marta”) is honored to celebrate her 18th year with SCT and to be a part of the incredible cast and crew that make up *Company*. You may have seen her in some of her favorite past SCT shows including *Nunsense*, *Grace & Glorie*, *A ... My Name Will Always Be Alice* and the 2006-2008 SCT summer musical revues. She thanks Paula and Joby for the opportunity to be part of this fabulous production and for their amazing direction and patience. Debbie thanks the entire crew for all of the “little things they do together” that make this show so special. Thanks also go to Jansen for the always extraordinary hair, to Anthony for the “still keeping me young” moves, and a shout-out to her backstage “girlfriends,” Maggie and Cindy – “WE can Drive a Person Crazy!” Last, but certainly not least, Debbie sends a very special thank-you to her “Company,” Greg, for his love, encouragement, and support.

MJ Etua

MJ (“Sarah”) has been seen on the SCT stage for the last ten years in the annual summer musical revues and in the shows *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *Postmortem*; *Not Now, Darling*; and *Inspecting Carol*. She has also directed *The Mouse Trap*, *Smoke and Mirrors*, and *Communicating Doors*. MJ was honored with two Best Director awards at the 2008 The Mississippi Theatre Association annual festival, including one for “Art.” Collaborating with Theatre MSU, she has appeared in *Little Shop of Horrors*, directed *A Raisin in the Sun*, and has had three original plays produced including *A West African Cinderella*, part of this year’s children’s theatre. As the creative force behind Project P.L.A.Y., SCT’s summer children’s theatre, MJ has written and directed a number of shows including *The Storyteller*, *Sails and Tales*, *Bad Sam and the Devil*, *The B. E. A. T.*, *Akum’s Fortune*, and *Vinyltown*. Many, many, many years ago, MJ first appeared in *Company* at the University of Mississippi. “It’s really amazing doing this show again after all these years. I have such a different perspective now about life and love.”

Joe Evans

Joe (“David”) is glad to be once again on the stage of the Playhouse on Main. A long-time Starkville resident, Joe has been in a number of SCT productions over the years including *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *Last Night of Ballyhoo*; *Romance*; and *Damn Yankees*. Joe has also appeared in several Theatre MSU productions including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Disposal*, *The Boys Next Door*, and *South Pacific*. Joe would love to thank his beautiful wife, Leigh Ann, and his awesome son, Jonah, for all of their love and support, without which his participation in this production would have been impossible.

About the Cast

Connor Guyton

Connor (“Waitress” and props mistress) is a freshman at Mississippi State majoring in journalism. She graduated from Starkville Academy where she was president of the drama club and reporter for the thespian society. She has served as assistant director for several Starkville Academy productions including *Schoolhouse Rock Live!, Jr.*; *The Adventures of J.J. Moses*; *Oliver!*; and *Moony's Kid Don't Cry*.

Connor has also acted in and worked backstage for several other Starkville Academy productions. She played flute, saxophone, and kazoo in SCT's 2007 production of *A... My Name Will Always be Alice*. Conner offers special thanks to “Mr. Evans” for “always knowing exactly what I need the most.”

Katherine Hardin

As a late newcomer to Starkville, Katherine (“Susan”) is thrilled to be participating in her first SCT production. After graduating from MSU in 2006, Katherine and her husband lived in Virginia for two years. Needless to say, they’re glad to be back home! When she’s not on stage, you can find her on State’s campus where she works in the Department of Leadership Programs. She’d like to thank Ms. Mabry for the opportunity to participate in *Company* and her husband, Sam, for his patience during her long absences for practice.

Brian Hawkins

Brian (“Larry”) is making his 18th appearance on the SCT stage with his role in *Company* and couldn't think of a better show in which to "come of age" on stage. Brian's more recent appearances include playing “Smudge” in last season's hit run of *Forever Plaid* and in the recent summer musical revue, *10 Out of 10: The Perfect Score*.

Favorite roles include “Harry” in *Not Now, Darling*; “Phil” in *Inspecting Carol*; and “Will Masters” in *Bus Stop*. When not running amok on the SCT stage, Brian works as editor of the *Starkville Daily News* and is involved in numerous other community organizations and volunteer efforts. Brian thanks his on-stage wife, Terry, for helping make this show so much fun as well as the rest of the cast for all the laughs and hard work. Special shout-outs go to Paula, Joby, Debby, Tom, Zach, Christopher, and the crew for their hard work. "It's the little things you do together" that make stage relationships a joy!

About the Cast

Thomas La Foe

Thomas La Foe (“Paul”) is thrilled to be part of this awesome production of *Company*! As Gabe said one day, “Hey guys, we’re doing *Company*!” When not teching, singing, dancing, or causing trouble in the theatre, he works as an Instructional Technology Specialist at MSU Libraries, a title he now fully deserves after completing his Master’s in Instructional Technology in Spring ’08. In the last regular season musical, *Forever Plaid*, Thomas played the character of “Sparky” and has directed, acted, sung, and worked tech on many other shows for SCT. Thomas would like to thank all of his friends, musical and not, for their friendship and love and for making this theatre and this town his home.

Terry Reese McDowell

Terry (“Joanne”) has been an active member of SCT since 1984 and is currently serving on the Board of Directors. She was last seen on stage as “Kate Miller” in last season’s *The Cover of Life*. Terry would like to thank her friends for encouraging her to audition for the role of “Joanne” in *Company*, especially Debbie D.! Being on stage was a childhood dream of Terry’s, as she competed for attention with her six gregarious siblings. She is eternally grateful to all the SCT family (“those good and crazy people, her friends”) for allowing her to live her dreams here on this stage. She says, “This has been an amazing cast to work with. Lyle, you rock as ‘Robert.’ I want to thank especially Paula, Joby, Tom, Zack, Debby F., Jansen, Connor, and Sue for all the hard work. Also, as always, B.L. You are my heart.” Terry is proud to announce that she will officially become a grandmother in 2009!

Cindy Ruff

This show is an important first for Cindy (“April”). Although she has performed in five of SCT’s summer musical revues, *Company* marks her debut in a SCT regular-season production. Of course, Cindy is not new to this theatre; she has also put in countless hours over the years behind the scenes constructing sets, cleaning up, making costumes, and hosting parties. Cindy is also the current SCT secretary and serves on the social committee. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication – and for not laughing immediately when she fell. Thanks, as well, go to her children, Daniel, Craig, and Reagan, for their understanding and support. Cindy is most grateful to her husband, Paul, for his love and encouragement and for working so hard to make this work. “I Love You!!!”

About the Cast

Anna Smith

Anna (“Jenny”) is thrilled to be in her second SCT production. Her first was last season's *Laura*. At MSU, she's been seen in *The Jolly Mon* and *Scotland Road*. Back home in Alabama she's appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *The Diviners*; *The Good Doctor*; *Hello, Dolly!* and other shows. Love and thanks to this amazing cast and crew and to her teachers: Craft, Jan and Luz.

Gabe Smith

Gabe (“Harry”) is happy to be in another SCT production, especially with so many of his favorite people as co-conspirators. A resident of Starkville for nearly a decade, Gabe is an award-winning journalist, critic, and actor, with nearly 50 shows under his belt between SCT and Theatre MSU. Favorite roles include “Yvan” in “Art,” “Miles Gloriosus” in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and the voice of “Audrey II” in *The Little Shop of Horrors*. Next up for Gabe – directing SCT’s next regular-season production, *Doubt*. Special thanks on this one to Thomas, Maggie, Matt, Lyle, MJ – “all those good and crazy people, my friends.”

Maggie Spann

Maggie (“Kathy”) is a senior communication major at Mississippi State University and is happy to be graduating in December but won't be wandering too far! She has played on the SCT stage for several very wonderful summers in *Back to Broadway*, *The Power of 1*, and *10 out of 10: The Perfect Score* and is also involved with Theatre MSU, most recently appearing as “Crystal” in *Little Shop of Horrors* and “Myrna” in *The Mineola Twins*. She has loved “doo-doo-ing” with Cindy and Debbie as well as sharing her park with Lyle each night. To the entire cast and crew, “thanks for being the best Company a girl could ask for! Special thanks to my family, my awesome roomies (‘I hear they control the weather...’), our amazing musician, Zach- you're our hero! And thanks to Paula and Joby for bringing together so many fun people and being willing to tame us and bring out the best- we hope to make you ladies proud!”

Lyle Tate

Lyle (“Robert”) has been an actor, singer, and director for Starkville Community Theatre since the spring of 1999. Since then, he has worked with SCT and with other Mississippi theatre groups in close to 50 productions including *Forever Plaid*; *Noises Off*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; “Art;” *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and *The Complete History of America [Abridged]*. Lyle thanks Lee, his mom and dad, and all of his theatre family for continually reminding him how “being alive” truly feels.

From the Director

In the words of Thomas Aldrich, "A man is known by the company he keeps." The "company" that the cast and crew has been keeping is phenomenal. With a combination of four MSU students, three teachers, four MSU employees, two business men, and a full-time mother of three, the actors are transformed into five couples, three girlfriends and a very eligible bachelor. The magic of theatre abounds as these talented people are transported into high-rise apartments in New York City. Our accomplished and gifted pianist sits in the penthouse and plays the very challenging Stephen Sondheim score for our singers.

Company was first played on Broadway in 1970, but its content and message are still current; therefore, we placed the time in the present. Because of its complex nature, *Company* is seldom done by amateur theatres. That the Starkville Community Theatre is producing *Company* speaks volumes about its talent pool. Stephen Sondheim musicals are considered too difficult for average singers, but Starkville and MSU create above-average talent.

Beware that the music is extremely complicated and different. There are numerous key changes, time changes and difficult chords.

From the very first rehearsal with Tom Jenkins, the singers conquered the demanding music and made it come alive. As dance rehearsals with Debby Funderburk and Anthony Daniel were added, the challenges became greater. Each rehearsal brought forth new growth with the vignettes and songs. Each evening Sue Snow faithfully came with beautiful costumes for the cast. Sue's eye for detail makes my life as a director much easier. Our very able pianist, Zach Bugg, just happens to be an MSU Presidential Scholar majoring in engineering. Without all these extraordinarily gifted people working behind the scenes, the show would not have "gone on."

My personal thanks go to all of the cast and crew who gave many long hours of their time, through sickness and health. Joby Prince has been so steady and organized. Thank you, Joby, for a job well done. Christopher Walrath designed and built a perfect set for this show. Thomas La Foe has done so many of the details with the set and sound/lights. I greatly appreciate the ever-present positive support of my husband, Don Mabry. To Pattye, Krista, Marsha, and Bob, a big thank you for your help.

In conclusion, I would like to end with a quote from Stephen Sondheim, our lyricist/songwriter. "All the best performers bring to their roles something different than what the author put on paper. That's what makes theatre live. That is why it persists."

Paula Mabry, Director

UPCOMING AUDITIONS...

Catfish Moon

By Laddy Sartin

Monday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Directed by Kris Lee

For more information please check www.sct-online.org



Starkville Community Theatre and Starkville Reads

Present

Under Polaris

Cold, Gold, Songs, Sounds, and Silence

(A Reader's Theatre Production)

Friday and Saturday, November 21 and 22

7:00 p.m.

The Playhouse on Main

Please Join Us for Fourth Fridays

* Sometimes held on the first, second or third Friday of the month

November 14 - Fiction

Featuring works by the *Starkville Novel Writing Month Writers*

JOIN US FOR SCT'S 2008-2009 SEASON

The Importance of Being
EARNEST



By Oscar Wilde ~ September 11-20, 2008

COMPANY

By Stephen Sondheim ~ October 30--November 8, 2008

DOUBT

By John Patrick Shanley ~ February 19-28, 2009

Let's Murder
Marsha



By Monk Ferris ~ April 23-May 2, 2009

The 2008-2009 Season is sponsored by a grant in part from the Mississippi Arts Commission and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts.

