



2009

Starkville Community Theatre
presents

Mary-Kay Belant James Comans Drew Dieckmann
Robbie Henry Rick Jordan Joe Tom Mosley Gabe Smith
Lyle Tate Ross Williams
in



2009



the
Boys
Next
Door
by
Tom Griffin

directed by Marcus Vowell
assisted by Paul Ruff

October 29th - November 1st & November 3rd - 7th, 2009

Performances start at 7:30, Sunday at 2:00

Call 323-6855 for reservations



This show may have language, content, or situations that some people find offensive.
This production is supported by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts





Tom Griffin's
The Boys
Next Door

The Cast

(In Order of Appearance)

Arnold	Rick Jordan *
Lucien	Ross Williams
Jack	Gabe Smith
Norman	Lyle Tate
Barry	Drew Dieckmann
Mr. Hedges/Mr. Corbin/Senator Clarke	James Comans
Mrs. Fremus/Ms. Warren/Clara	Mary-Kay Belant *
Sheila	Robbie Henry
Mr. Klemper	Joe Tom Mosley

* SCT Debut

The Setting

A small apartment and various other locales in New England.
Present day

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.



The Production Team

Director	Marcus Vowell
Assistant Director.....	Paul Ruff
Stage Manager	Paul Ruff
Costume Designer	Krista Vowell
Properties	Cindy Ruff
Set Design	Paul Ruff & Marcus Vowell
Lighting Design	Christopher Walrath & Marcus Vowell
Lighting Operator.....	Marcus Vowell
Sound Design	Marcus Vowell
Sound Operator	Simone Cottrel
Backstage Crew.....	Lee Dempsey, Diane Godwin, Brenda Mayo & Maureen Hughes
Poster Design	Marcus Vowell
Hair Design	Jansen Fair
Box Office.....	Bob Anderson & Marsha Williams

Set Construction

Paul Ruff, Marcus Vowell,
Claire Belant, Mary-Kay Belant, Jerry Belant, Simone Cottrell,
Drew Dieckmann, James Comans, Robbie Henry, Rick Jordan,
Joe Tom Mosley, Cindy Ruff, Reagan Ruff, Gabe Smith, Lyle Tate,
Ross Williams and Alexie Williams

Special Thanks

Bob Anderson, Pattye Archer, Bailey Barksdale, Bob and Lisa Bond
Scott Buntin – Starkville Country Club,
Cathy Curtis – Project AIM, Ward-Stewart Elementary,
Wayne Durst – Theatre MSU, Melanie Harris,
Virginia Holtcamp – Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library
Everlyn Johnson – Golden Triangle Fabrics, Don Mabry,
Sonny and Kim Mattox, Audrey McBride – Prudential Starkville Properties,
Oktibbeha County Hospital, Seth Oppenheimer,
Amanda Clay Powers - MSU Libraries,
Bettye Shinn, Shipley’s Doughnuts, Starkville Kroger, Kevin Tate,
Marianne Ulmer, Rhonda Underwood – Personally Yours,
Christopher Walrath, and Marsha Williams

About the Cast

Mary-Kay Belant

Mary-Kay W. Belant graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts in 1984 and acted at American Players Theater from 1987-8. She is happy to be dipping her big toe back into the ocean of theater after many years away from the stage. *The Boys Next Door* is Mary-Kay's first performance with SCT. She thanks Marcus and Paul for casting her; Jerry, J'sette and Claire for being so encouraging and for making the crazy job/rehearsal/life schedule work; and the rest of the *Boys Next Door* cast for being such a treat to work with.

James Comans

James Comans is excited to be featured in another SCT show. He is most known in SCT circles for his role as “Frankie” in *Forever Plaid* but has also been in numerous Theatre MSU productions, including *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In his off time, James enjoys cooking, curling up with a good book, and going on long walks on the banks of the Tombigbee River. James would like to thank the entire SCT family for their love and support of both him and the arts.

Drew Dieckmann

After his SCT debut as “Rev. Oglethorpe” in *Sander's Family Christmas*, Drew returns to the stage as “Barry Klemper.” Drew says of his castmates, “It has really been a privilege to work with such a talented and dedicated group of actors. I've learned a ton from all of you!” Drew would like to thank his wife, Karen, and son, Thomas, for “putting up with my being gone so much for rehearsals! Love you guys!” When he's not onstage at SCT, you can catch Drew on various other "stages" in his real life role as local musician, songwriter, and guitar instructor.

GET INVOLVED!

Please join us for our next general meeting on Monday, November 2 at 6 p.m., and find out how you can get involved!

About the Cast

Robbie Henry

Robbie Henry is a sophomore communication major at Mississippi State University where she is a member of Lab Rats Improv Comedy Troupe and the Blackfriars Drama Society. This is her second production with Starkville Community Theatre, starring as "Louise" in *Let's Murder Marsha* last spring. She has had such a wonderful time with the cast of *The Boys Next Door* and feels so lucky to work with such a supportive and talented group of people. This has been, she repeats, one of the best experiences of her theatre career so far.

Rick Jordan

Rick has been backstage for the last two SCT shows and is excited finally to be on stage. This is his debut on the SCT stage. You might've seen him in *Beauty and The Beast*, *South Pacific*, and *You Can't Take It With You* all on the Starkville High stage. He also appeared in the SCT jr. production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, as "Tevye." He has also been a part of the Summer Scholars OnStage Camp for the past three years. Rick is currently a student at MUW studying to become a Choral Music Teacher. He enjoys reading The Godfather and singing in his car. Rick would like to thank Marcus and Paul for giving him his chance to be on the SCT stage, the rest of the cast for their hard work and support, his family for their support, and his biggest fan who has supported him since the beginning.

Joe Tom Mosley

Joe returns to Starkville Community Theatre after an absence of eight years. In 2001, he appeared as "Sheriff Leroy Lumpkin" in *Smoke and Mirrors* alongside Marcus Vowell and with Lyle Tate as assistant director. Now Marcus is the director and Lyle is an actor, and both are excellent in their roles. Joe's MSU appearances include *Inherit the Wind* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He has also appeared on television on "Country Inn Cooking with Gail Greco" and co-starred with his late wife Margaret at the "Cedars Plantation" at Churchill out from Natchez "I cannot name all who have put so much work into this production. Director, Assistant Director, cast and crew, I thank each and every one of them for the opportunity to work with them. The effort that goes into these productions is unreal. The past few weeks have been an experience I cherish with all my heart. An empty house can be lonesome, but the theatre is always exciting."

About the Cast

Gabe Smith

Gabe is an award-winning actor and writer, proud to be making his umpteenth appearance on the SCT stage in a production graced with incredible brothers-in-arms onstage, offstage, and backstage. Thanks to “everybody being everywhere: who supports him at work and play, giving him the time, resources, and personal fire to be able to create and cut loose with his SCT family on a regular basis.” Recent roles include “Duncan” in *Leading Ladies*, “Curley” in *Catfish Moon*, and himself (and over a dozen of the Bard's timeless characters) in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged]*, and Gabe made his directorial debut with February's production of *Doubt*.

Lyle Tate

Lyle is celebrating ten years with Starkville Community Theatre. Since 1999, Lyle has worked on-and offstage with forty-five SCT productions in addition to his work with other area theaters. In December Lyle will reprise his nose-bleeding role of “Jinx” in *Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings* and will direct, in February, SCT's next regular season production, *The Dixie Swim Club*. Lyle's many thanks and much appreciation go to Marcus, Paul, and this excellent *Boys Next Door* cast and crew, and he especially thanks Lee for his ever-present support and encouragement.

Ross Williams

This is Ross' first dramatic role since appearing in the opening of the 2000-01 season in *Proposals*. An SCT veteran of 25 years, he began as a stagehand in *Our Town* and a night watchman in *The Philadelphia Story* in the 1984-85 season. He started his adventures with “rabbits” in the 1987 production of *Harvey*. Ross, school attendance officer with Starkville schools, seemed to be typecast in later roles of law enforcement in the productions of *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Trifles/The Neighbors*, *The Moving of Lilla Barton*, and *The Night of January 16th*. Ross also appeared with AD Paul Ruff in the 1992 production of *Ten Little Indians* and served as AD himself in the 1997 production of *Lost in Yonkers*. He also appeared in the 2003 musical revue 25. Until this production, his most challenging role was God's messenger in the 1988 production of *God's Favorite*. Ross would like to thank his wife, Diana, for assisting with costumes, and his daughter, Allexie Rose, for assisting with lines and painting.

From the Assistant Director

I must say that I am grateful for this opportunity. I now have a greater appreciation for all the time and work that it takes to actually bring one of our productions to the stage. Although this experience has shown me that I'd rather be ONstage than BACKstage, I do think that all of our performers should try assistant directing at some point. It really makes you understand why punctuality, workday contributions, and being quiet backstage are so important.

I am also grateful to have worked with such a wonderful director. Marcus is a great friend and a passionate thespian. Helping him to achieve his vision for this show has been very rewarding. Thanks for letting me help, brother.

I would like to thank the cast and crew for their patience and dedication and for sharing their talents. This theatre is so very important to me. Its members are like my family, and the hugs and tears we share are an example of how emotionally attached we are to the pursuit of theatrical excellence in Starkville.

Finally, thanks to Cindy. You are absolutely the "best most beautiful present I ever got." Love you!!!

Paul Ruff



We strive to keep you looking your best!

Shep's Cleaners

Highway 12 & South
Jackson Street
Starkville, MS 39759
662-323-5852

Hours of Operation:

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday)
and 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon (Saturday)

Same Day Service:

Tuesday-Friday; in by 8:00 a.m. - out by 4:00 p.m.



Visit us online for the latest in what is happening at SCT!

www.sct-online.org



From the Director

One of Murphy's Laws of Combat states "No battle plan survives first contact with the enemy." I found this true with directing a show, as well. I, like Paul, have a much greater appreciation of the effort and burden that directing a regular-season show for SCT can be. That is why, when the reality of it all set in, I am humbled by the support and hard work done by the wonderful people who made this happen with me (and oftentimes in spite of me).

Paul – You have been this show's biggest cheerleader and mine as well. When I wanted to crawl under the theater due to all the work that still had to be done, you gave me the theater version of the inspiring coach speech from any sports movie. It would only have been more effective if there had been an orchestra playing stirring music behind it. But, what has been the most valuable to *BND* has been the tireless work you have put into the set. This set would still be a formless pile of wood were it not for you, and for this, for all of this, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Above all, I thank you for your friendship and your faith in me and in this show.

Cast – When each of you got up and read at auditions, I saw you in the roles you ended up getting offered. But, what you have done since then defies anything I could have possibly predicted. I have seen each of you put more work and more heart into the roles you are playing tonight than I have ever seen before, and I could not possibly be more proud.

Krista and Cindy – If I'm the brain (as insane as it may be) and Paul's the heart and the cast is the body, you guys were definitely the skeleton. Without you, this show would not have been able to stand and be the wonderful thing it has become. On top of all of the other responsibilities you both had to deal with, you found the time, energy, and will to put in herculean effort to make this show truly great. Thank you deeply!

Krista – My dear, my love, my own. Thanks for keeping me on track. Your organizational skills are nothing short of twisted and insane, but that's precisely what a project like this needs, and it has been so important to this show. Thank you so much for your love and continued support. I couldn't have done any of what I did without you. I love you, sweetheart!

And last, but not least, thank you, the audience. Thank you for taking some time and letting us share a truly beautiful story with you. I sincerely hope you enjoy it. I think you will.

Marcus Vowell

Upcoming AUDITIONS



The Dixie Swim Club

Sunday and Monday, November 1 and 2 at 7 p.m.

Five women, any age (college-aged and above) and ethnicity

Director Lyle Tate, LTate@library.msstate.edu

Auditions will be held upstairs at the Playhouse and will consist of cold readings from the script. Chosen sides and character descriptions are available in the Playhouse lobby and/or by emailing the director at ltate@library.msstate.edu, and full scripts are available by emailing Lyle or phoning (662-312-3610).

“Five Southern women, whose friendships began years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, kids, and jobs, these women meet at the same North Carolina beach cottage to catch up, laugh, and meddle in each other's lives. The play focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of thirty-three years. As the years pass, these friends increasingly rely on one another to get through life's challenges (men, sex, marriage, parenting, divorce, aging), and when fate throws a wrench into one of their lives they rally around each other with strength and love.”

SCT Rising Stars Youth Workshops

October 2009 - May 2010

First Saturdays, 9 a.m. to noon

The Playhouse on Main



Monthly workshops led by local theatrical amateurs and professionals, geared to foster development of performance and technical theater knowledge and skills among area youth, ages 8-17. Please check the SCT website for more

Rolling Hills Center



Rolling Hills Center, Starkville, is happy to support *The Boys Next Door*. The Center provides residential and training supports to 140 persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, including two group homes much like the one portrayed in this play.

Thank you for allowing our residents this opportunity to experience normalization. As this play portrays, we are all more alike than different!

The 2009-2010 Season is sponsored by a grant in part from the Mississippi Arts Commission and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts.



And Check Out Our Season Extras....

This season, in addition to our four great regular season shows, SCT is offering two additional productions on the mainstage! In December the sounds of those plaid-ful favorites will deck the halls during *Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings*! Sparking, Smudge, Jinx and Frankie are back on earth just in time to save Christmas - and you will not want to miss their musical Christmas card! Remember this is a limited run so make your reservations early! And in May, join us for *Trying*, and watch history unfold before your eyes in the moving story of Judge Francis Biddle as he looks back at his life and place in history, while facing what he know is the end.

Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings

Book by Stuart Ross

December 3-6 and 8-12, 2009

(not included in season ticket)



Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings is a brand-new show that offers the best of *Forever Plaid* tied-up in a nifty package with a big Christmas bow on top! Filled with Christmas standards that have all been “Plaid-erized,” our boys are back to do their Christmas Special. At first they aren’t sure why they’ve returned, but a phone call from the heavenly Rosemary Clooney lets them know that they’re needed to put a little harmony into a discordant world.

Trying

Trying

By Joanna McClelland Glass

May 20-23, 2010

(not included in season ticket)

Trying is a two-character play based on the author’s experience during 1967-1968 when she worked for Francis Biddle at his home in Washington, D.C. Judge Biddle had been Attorney General of the United States under Franklin Roosevelt. After the war, President Truman named him Chief Judge of the American Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. The play is about a young Canadian girl and an old, Philadelphia aristocrat, “trying” to understand each other in what Biddle knows is the final year of his life.



Starkville Community Theatre
presents its 2009-2010 Season



Ken Ludwig's
Leading
LADIES



September 10-13 and 15-19, 2009



By Tom Griffin

October 29-November 1
and November 3-7, 2009



The Dixie Swim Club

By Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

February 11-14 and 16-20, 2010



Book by Jim Geoghan, Music by Rick Rhodes,
Lyrics by Jim Geoghan, Vivian Rhodes and Rick Rhodes

April 8-11 and 13-17, 2010