

Starkville Community Theatre Presents

The Dixie Swim Club

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

directed by Lyle Tate

assistant directed by Lee Dempsey

featuring

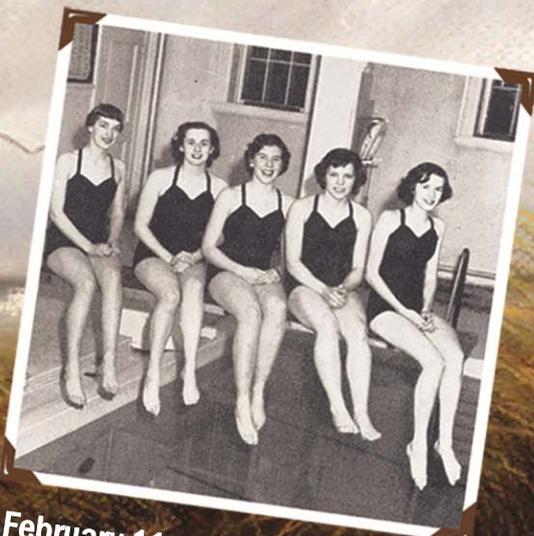
Debbie Dunaway

Madeline Golden

Terry Reese McDowell

Cindy Ruff

Marianne Ulmer



February 11-14 and 16-21, 2010

Sponsored by the
Starkville Area Arts Council



The Dixie Swim Club

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

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Cast

in order of appearance

Sheree Debbie Dunaway
Lexie Marianne Ulmer
Dinah Terry McDowell
Vernadette Madeline Golden
Jeri Neal Cindy Ruff

Place

a beach cottage on the Outer Banks of North Carolina

Time / Scenes

Act I – Scene i August, late 1970s
Act I – Scene ii August, 5 years later

Act II – Scene i August, 5 years later
Act II – Scene ii August, 23 years later

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

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.



Production Team

Director Lyle Tate
Assistant Director / Stage Manager.....Lee Dempsey
Lighting & Sound.....Thomas La Foe
Properties..... Bonnie Oppenheimer & Lee Dempsey
CrewWade Cosby & Eric East
Set Design Lyle Tate & Paul Ruff
Set Construction Paul Ruff, Wade Cosby,
Lee Dempsey, Debbie Dunaway,
Eric East, Edwin Ellis, Luke Fowler,
Madeline Golden, Thomas La Foe, Kris Lee,
Terry McDowell, Brad Moreland,
Cindy Ruff, Craig Ruff, Lyle Tate,
Marianne Ulmer, Christopher Walrath
Costuming Sue Helms & Sue Snow
Hair.....Jansen Fair
Box Office.....Bob Anderson & Marsha Williams
Poster DesignJim Tomlinson
Program Design.....Patty Archer
Opening Night Party Paula Mabry
& the Starkville Area Arts Council

Special Thanks

Patty Archer, Matt Crane, Walter and Susan Diehl,
Diversified Health, Debra Fairbrother,
Melanie Harris, Sue Helms,
Paula & Don Mabry, Riley Moore, Brad Moreland,
Sue Snow, Carole Sorenson, Maggie Spann, Alison Stamps,
Starkville Area Arts Council, Nan Tate,
Tupelo Community Theatre, Krista Vowell,
Marcus Vowell, Christopher Walrath, Nancy Walsh

About the Cast

Debbie Dunaway (“Sheree”) is proud to celebrate her 20th season with SCT. Audiences may have seen her in previous SCT productions of *Nunsense*, *Grace & Glorie*, *Marriage to an Older Woman*, *A... My Name Will Always Be Alice*, the 2006 – 2009 summer musical revues, and more. Debbie thanks Lyle and Lee for finding (i.e. recognizing) and coaching the “Sheree” within her and giving her the opportunity to be a part of this truly special show. Her thanks also go to Jansen for trying his best to keep her young, both inside and out, and to the crew for all of the many details required to run a production. Debbie has especially loved sharing the stage with four amazing, talented and colorful women (both on- and off-stage) whom she is proud to call her friends. Debbie sends special thanks to her children, Meghan and Matthew, for making her smile; to her husband, Greg, for supporting her play dates with her girlfriends; and to Bob Anderson for casting her in her first SCT production, *Thurber Carnival*, all those many years ago. “Haven’t we had fun?”

Madeline Golden (“Vernadette”) is thrilled to be a member of *The Dixie Swim Club* and to be working with this cast and crew. "We have had the BEST time, and I am so thankful to Lyle for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this experience. It has been a dream!" Madeline also sends thanks to Lee and the rest of the crew for their expertise in handling all the backstage mayhem. "I'm pretty sure this show and the experience of working with such talented people who just happen to be some of my best friends in the world will remain at the top of the list of my favorite times at SCT for a long time to come." Madeline pays the bills by working on the MSU campus in the Office of Agricultural Communications, and she lives at home with her kitty cats and big ol' yard dog.

Terry Reese McDowell (“Dinah”) was last seen on stage in last year's musical production of *Company*. She has been actively involved with SCT since 1984 when she was cast in her first production, *Close Ties*, and since that time she has been involved with one or two productions each year and currently serves on the Board of Directors. Terry says working on this production can only be described as pure joy: "How many times does a show come around that is about friendship, and everyone cast in it happens to be really close friends in real life? Not many! I hope the audience feels the love as much as we did while rehearsing for this production." Terry wishes to thank Lee for all his hard work, as well as Jansen, Bonnie, Thomas, Eric, Wade and the two Sues. She sends out a very special thank-you to Lyle for his heart-felt direction and for being such a dear friend. She also thanks her fabulous husband, Ledge, for being so supportive of her addiction to theatre at SCT. When not playing on the boards here at the Playhouse, Terry is a second grade teacher at Church Hill Elementary in West Point.

About the Cast

Cindy Ruff (“Jeri Neal”) is thrilled to return to the stage and take a swim in her first non-musical production at SCT, after appearing in last season’s *Company* as well as in six musical revues over the years, including this past summer’s *Let Freedom Sing!* Off-stage, Cindy serves as the SCT secretary and has been an active member for over ten years, assisting with costumes, sets, parties and props. Most recently, she managed props for SCT’s award-winning production of *Catfish Moon* and this season’s production of *The Boys Next Door*. Cindy raises her glass to her fellow teammates for their outstanding performances, support and encouragement of each other, and for being the “Wonder Women” they truly are. She thanks Lyle and Lee for giving her the opportunity to be in The Club and for all the wonderful moments on- and off-stage. Cindy’s thanks also go to Bonnie, Jansen, Thomas, Wade and Eric for their help backstage and to her kids – Daniel, Craig, and Reagan – for their love and patience (with a special thanks to Craig for helping build the set and for always giving up his free time to run lines with mom!) Cindy saves her most heart-felt thank-you for her husband, Paul, not only for his tireless work on the team’s beloved cottage but also for taking on the role of “Mr. Mom” on top of all his other roles: physician and chief-of-staff, father, adoring husband, award-winning actor, and set builder extraordinaire. “You never cease to amaze me.” – *Jeri Neal*



Marianne Ulmer (“Lexie”) became a part of Starkville Community Theatre in 1984. Her first show was appropriately named *Close Ties*. She and Terry McDowell met in that production and they immediately formed “close ties.” Now, over 25 productions and 25 years later, many “close ties” have been formed. After Terry came Madeline, Debbie, Paul, Lyle, Cindy, Jansen, Bonnie, Lee and many, many others not directly involved with THIS production. “All of our bonding together to form these ‘close ties’ makes Starkville Community Theatre what it is.” Marianne shares special thanks to the four ladies with whom she shares the stage tonight. “We definitely have formed ‘close ties!’”

From the Director

For a performer, the sense of home can be found in many places – on the stage of a theatre, the set of a film, wherever one finds that magic which makes us all come to life. Sometimes you find it in a song, or in the words you're saying, or in another actor's eyes."– Angela Lansbury

SCT is definitely a *home* for me, and these past weeks spent with this amazing company have been, to quote Jeri Neal, some of the “best times of my life.” I have great appreciation for the people in my SCT family who gave of their time and talents for this production.

Paul, as always, you are invaluable to me. You created the sixth character in *The Dixie Swim Club* for us, our perfect beach-side cottage, and I never even had to ask; you just set to work. I am so grateful for all you and your family mean to me and Lee.

To this amazing crew I say a major thank-you. I appreciate you and your hours of behind-the-scenes work so very much.

Mom and Dad, theatre brings me such joy, and a great deal of my enjoyment comes from creating a production that you will enjoy and that will make you as proud of me and my work as I am proud to have you here and seeing it. Thank you for your constant support and interest in my theatre and in my life. I am so lucky.

Leebo, thank you for taking on this project with me. The *Club* means even more to me because you and I got to create it together. Thank you for always supporting and encouraging me in everything I do.

And Cindy, Debbie, Maddy, Marianne and Terry – You *are* the Jeri Neal, Sheree, Vern, Lex and Dinah I dreamed about. I could not have asked for more. Thank you for your commitment, your laughs, your work, your tears, your trust, your creativity and your friendship. Of them all, the last is most valuable to me. It's in your words and in your eyes that our audiences will find *home* tonight. I've been there for weeks.

“Haven't we had fun?”

“Nothing's meant more than this.”

“Best times of my life.”

“Ditto. Let's eat.”

- Lyle Tate, February 2010

el·ee·mos·y·nar·y

by Lee Blessing



Benefit Performance - ONE NIGHT ONLY

Monday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.~ McComas Hall Auditorium

Directed by Paula Mabry

Tickets to the benefit are a \$15 minimum donation.

SORTA *Love Songs*

March 19 & 20 at 7:30 p.m. ~ McComas Hall Auditorium
SCT will co-sponsor the cabaret show *Sorta Love Songs*
with the MSU Department of Communication.

All proceeds will benefit the Lora J. DeFore Scholarship Fund.



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

April 8-11 and 13-17, 2010 ~ SCT Playhouse on Main

Charles Templeton

Starkville, Mississippi

Ragtime Jazz Festival

March
26 & 27
2010



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

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Frederick Hodges



David Jasen



Carl Sonny Leyland



Adam Swanson



Terry Waldo



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