

Starkville Community Theatre Presents

*Directed by*  
*Paula Mabry*

**Mary-Kay Belant**  
Assistant Director

**Alice P. Bennett**  
Assistant Stage Manager



Ken Ludwig's  
*Leading Ladies*

September 10-13 & 15-19, 2009

**Featuring**

Grant Alexander  
Madeline Golden  
Mandy Kinney  
Kris Lee  
Angie Marquez  
Brad Moreland  
Gabe Smith  
Christopher Walrath



Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.



## *The Production Team*

Director .....	Paula Mabry
Assistant Director .....	Mary-Kay Belant
Stage Manager .....	Mary-Kay Belant
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Alice Bennett
Set Design .....	Christopher Walrath
Lighting and Sound Design .....	Edwin Ellis
Assistant Sound Design .....	Brad Moreland
Costumes.....	Sue Snow and Sue Helms
Set Dressing .....	Ann Bonner and Joan Wilson
Properties .....	Maureen Hughes, Sue Snow, Brad Moreland, J'sette Belant and Alice Bennett
Stage Crew .....	J'sette Belant, Lauren Hughes, Rick Jordan and Collin Whitten
Choreography .....	Angie Marquez
Hair Design.....	Jansen Fair, Madeline Golden, Angie Marquez, Brad Moreland
Box Office .....	Bob Anderson
Opening Night Party .....	The SCT Social Committee

## *Set Construction*

Grant Alexander, Claire Belant, J'sette Belant, Mary-Kay W. Belant, Ann Bonner, Frank Bonner, James Comans, Matt Crane, Nelle Elam, Edwin Ellis, Zack Ford, Madeline Golden, Maureen Hughes, Mandy Kinney, Kris Lee, Paula Mabry, Gabe Smith, Sue Snow, Amanda Taylor, Kelly Truax, Christopher Walrath and Joan Wilson

## *Special Thanks*

Pattye Archer, Thomas La Foe, Don Mabry, Bob Anderson, Diane and Edwin Ellis, Krista Vowell, Cherri Golden, Dr. Robert Collins, Stuart Herring, Kim's Hallmark and Gina Gentry and Cindy Williams, Starkville High Theatre Department, Bell's Lumber Company, Starkville Daily News and Gwen Sisson and Brian Hawkins, The Columbus Commercial Dispatch, Theatre MSU, Costume Party, The Chalet and Mark Wood, WCBI Television, Tupelo Community Theatre, Copy Cow, and Palmer Home and Dennis Tedford

# About the Cast

## **Grant Alexander**

*Leading Ladies* marks Grant's SCT regular season debut, although he appeared in the 2007 musical revue *Ten Out of Ten: The Perfect Score*. A veteran of the Starkville High School Theatre department, under the expert direction of fellow cast member Mandy Kinney, Grant has appeared in numerous SHS productions, including *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!* ("Linus") and *Beauty and the Beast* ("Cogsworth"). Grant has also made appearances in several Theatre MSU productions, including, most recently, the French farce *Anything To Declare?* as the spurned lover "La Baule" and as the curmudgeonly "Mr. Mushnik" in *Little Shop of Horrors* (directed by the SCT veteran Marianne Ulmer). Grant would like to thank Mrs. Paula Mabry for assembling and directing an exceptionally talented and welcoming cast, and to his fellow cast members, "You are all wonderfully versatile performers and working with each and every one of you has been a joy. Break legs!"

## **Madeline Golden**

Madeline is happy to begin another season with SCT. Madeline first appeared on the SCT stage in 1983 in *I Remember Mama*. Since then, she has appeared in over 60 productions and has worked backstage on many others. Favorite productions include *Queen of Bingo*, *The Foreigner*, and *Smoke on the Mountain*. Madeline sends a special thank you to Paula for her direction and kind support. When Madeline is not at the Playhouse on Main, you can find her at home with her cats and dog or at work on the MSU campus in the Office of Agricultural Communications.

## **Mandy Kinney**

Mandy is excited to return to the SCT stage for the third time! She was last seen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Noises Off!* During the day and for the rest of the year, Mandy teaches theatre arts at Starkville High School and directs the after school productions. Originally from Michigan, she is proud to call Mississippi home and thanks her parents for another trip to Starkville to see a play. "Thank you for loving me and my hobby." Mandy would also like to thank Paula, Mary-Kay, the cast and crew, and Alice for this fun opportunity; Laura, Emily, Nan, and ND for their encouragement; Kris for "Being my Rock"; and her students for their patience and support.

# About the Cast

## **Kris Lee**

Kris is an award-winning member of the Dramatists Guild of America and the Society for Stage Directors and Choreographers; he is also a former recipient of the Gertrude C. Ford Fellowship for playwriting. As an actor, he has debuted two roles for the American stage, and is a seasoned cabaret artist with pianist James Lesniak, whose affiliations include the Santa Fe, Pittsburgh, and New York City Operas as well the National Opera, with Placido Domingo. Currently, Kris is Director of Theatre at East Mississippi Community College-Scooba.

## **Angie Marquez**

Angie Marquez is back from a two-and-a-half-year hiatus to one of her favorite places, the stage at SCT. She realized recently that she was in desperate need of some attention and laughter, and she can always find both here! She is thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and crew, and is very excited to finally be working with Paula after all these years. She would like to thank everyone involved with the show for getting her through some tough times during the rehearsal process, their understanding and humor have saved her sanity (what little there was to begin with, anyway)!!! Special thanks to Thomas, who puts up with her eccentricities daily and ALWAYS makes her laugh. She dedicates her performance to Del, who she forever hopes is still watching; to Lora, for being an inspiration to us all and for making her want to perform better than ever; and to her mom, who throughout it all, has never missed a show . . . “If I could do anything in the whole world . . . all I’d ever want to do is be an actress.” Well said, Meg, well said.

## **Brad Moreland**

*Leading Ladies* marks Brad Moreland's SCT debut. Brad is no stranger to the stage; he has been traveling the country for nearly 18 years singing his own unique brand of gospel music. Brad's previous experience on the theatrical stage has been in Children's Theatre. He has starred in stage productions of *The Hobbit*, *The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *Charlotte's Web*. Brad would like to thank Paula Mabry and the entire cast and crew for welcoming him to the SCT family. For more information on Brad Moreland please visit [www.bradmoreland.com](http://www.bradmoreland.com)

## About the Cast

### Gabe Smith

Gabe Smith is happy as always to be in another SCT show. Fresh from directing last season's production of "Doubt" and a co-starring role in "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged]," Gabe was also thrilled to be a part of the nationally-awarded competition show "Catfish Moon," of which he is still very proud. When he's not hanging out at the theater, he's an award-winning critic and journalist, currently searching for his dream job, and fortune and glory, in general. Previous roles at SCT include Harry in "Company," Yvan in "Art," Mark McPherson in "Laura," Arnie in "Aspirins and Elephants," and half a dozen more. Thanks to... this time, thanks to pretty much everybody.

### Christopher Walrath

Christopher has just one thing to say: "I have been reduced to putting on a dress for your entertainment yet again!!"

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#### ***Same Day Service:***

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

## *From the Director*

*Leading Ladies* has provided me a delightful opportunity to work with a playscript that borrows plot devices from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and the 1959 movie, *Some Like It Hot*. The playwright, Ken Ludwig, (*Lend Me a Tenor*, *Postmortem*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, and the musical *Crazy for You*), was actually born in York, PA and builds tonight's play around his many childhood memories. Although Ludwig earned a law degree at Harvard, he also studied music under Leonard Bernstein. Throughout his education, he was heavily exposed to Shakespeare and became a founding member of The Shakespeare Theatre Company. The physical comedy, women of wit and intelligence, quick entrances and exits, increasingly wild absurdity, and happy endings are aspects that mark the similarities of *Leading Ladies* to Shakespeare's comedies.

The cast members who play the characters in *Leading Ladies* are all amazingly talented, intelligent, and creative. Although they have demanding "day jobs," the actors come to rehearsals each night with enthusiasm and joy. Each is a perfectionist and wants to do the very best job on stage. These actors give freely of their time and energy to bring a production to the stage. I appreciate all eight actors for their professional attitudes and excellence: Mandy, Madeline, Angie, Gabe, Kris, Brad, Christopher and Grant, you are the very best!

Without an outstanding crew to back up the players, the show would NOT go on. Christopher had double roles as the set designer and as a "leading lady." He and Edwin have worked tirelessly to build a 1958 living room. Edwin continues meticulously operating the lights and sound each night. Mary-Kay and Alice are outstanding leaders. My job is over and their jobs continue backstage. What lovely, dependable people they are! The two Sues are the most awesome costumers I've ever known. Nothing escapes their attention to detail. Not only are they excellent seamstresses, but also paint and make hats! Our stage hands, Rick, J'sette, Lauren and Collin keep the play running smoothly with the set changes. My dear friends, Ann and Joan, have decorated the set in high style. With Bob in the box office attending to reservations, we wrap up our winning team. Community theatre brings people together as they work toward a goal.

My husband, Don, deserves recognition for not only cooking nightly meals at home, but also clearing out the garbage and changing the paper towels at the theatre. He provides the stability to my life that keeps me going.

A comedy is to be enjoyed. Laugh and relax and enjoy the antics in the play. You will feel better! I promise that you will fall for Max and Steve!

*Paula Crockett Mabry*

# 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 information at [www.sct-online.org](http://www.sct-online.org).



## September 25th - Poetry

October 23rd - Short Fiction / Monologues

Fourth Friday events will start at 7:00 p.m. Whether you come as readers or as audience members, bring your enthusiasm and join us in encouraging innovative writing here in Starkville. For more information on Fourth Fridays please email us at [fourthfridays@yahoo.com](mailto:fourthfridays@yahoo.com).

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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.





# Upcoming AUDITIONS



## *Plaid Tidings*

Sunday and Monday, September 27 and 28 at 7 p.m.

Four men, various ages, all must sing

Director Molly Watkins, [mwatkins@aoce.msstate.edu](mailto:mwatkins@aoce.msstate.edu)

The Plaids are reappearing, and this time, they come back from their heavenly abode to do their Christmas Special. The show features four males aged 18-40 who can sing, dance, and act. Auditions are September 27 and 28 at 7:00 upstairs at the Playhouse on Main. Auditions will involve cold readings of the script and singing excerpts from three different songs in the show. To obtain a copy of the three musical selections, contact Molly Watkins at [mjw12@msstate.edu](mailto:mjw12@msstate.edu).

## *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](mailto: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 will be available beginning Monday, October 5, via the Playhouse lobby and/or email at [ltate@library.msstate.edu](mailto:ltate@library.msstate.edu), and full scripts will be available beginning that same date via email or phone (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.”

Don't Miss a Moment...

*Leading*  
**LADIES**



By Ken Ludwig  
Directed by Paula Mabry  
September 10-13 and 15-19, 2009



By Tom Griffin  
Directed by Marcus Vowell  
October 29-November 1,  
and November 3-7, 2009



By Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten  
Directed by Lyle Tate  
February 11-14 and February 16-20, 2010

# Buy Your Season Ticket Today....



Book by Jim Geoghan, Music by Rick Rhodes,  
Lyrics by Jim Geoghan, Vivian Rhodes and Rick Rhodes  
Directed by Christopher Walrath  
April 8-11 and April 13-17, 2010

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## And Check Out Our Season Extras....

### *Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings*

Book by Stuart Ross  
December 3-12, 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.

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The New York Times

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The New York Times