

Starkville Community Theatre presents

A Heavenly Holiday Musical

# PLAID

# Tidings

By Stuart Ross

December 10-13 & 15-19, 2009

Not part of the regular season. Tickets \$12, \$10 and \$7  
Call 662-323-6855 to reserve your seat!

Featuring  
Brian Hawkins, Brad Moreland,  
Rick Rogers and Lyle Tate

Directed by  
Molly Watkins

With Musical Director Carole Sorenson  
and Assistant Director Alison Stamps



This production is supported in part by a grant from the  
Mississippi Arts Commission & the National Endowment for the Arts





By Stuart Ross

## The Cast

Francis .....Brad Moreland  
Jinx .....Lyle Tate  
Smudge .....Brian Hawkins  
Sparky .....Rick Rogers \*  
Pianist .....Carole Sorenson  
Voice Over.....Marcus Vowell

*\*SCT acting debut*

## Setting

*Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings is set in the present time.*

*The show is performed in two acts. 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.

# The Crew

Director.....	Molly Watkins
Assistant Director .....	Alison Stamps
Musical Director .....	Carole Sorenson
Choreographers.....	Molly Watkins & Pattye Archer and The Plaids
Light Design .....	Thomas La Foe
Set Design .....	Molly Watkins & Alison Stamps
Light/Sound.....	Tess Graham
Stage Manager .....	Alison Stamps
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Madeline Golden
Costumers .....	Sue Snow & Dennis Williams
Set Dressing.....	Molly Watkins & Alison Stamps
Opening Night Party.....	Pattye Archer, Lee Dempsey Cary Huser & Christopher Walrath
Box Office .....	Bob Anderson & Marsha Williams
House Managers Coordinator .....	Ann Bonner
Set and Props .....	Pattye Archer, J'Sette Belant, Patricia Cox, Lee Dempsey, Edwin Ellis, June Garner, Madeline Golden, Brian Hawkins, Marleisha Kyles, Brad Moreland, Paul Murray, Rick Rogers, Paul Ruff, Cindy Ruff, Carole Sorenson, Sue Snow, Alison Stamps, Ann Stamps, Lyle Tate, Krista Vowell, Christopher Walrath, Nancy Walsh, Molly Watkins, Andrew Watkins & Sophie Watkins

# Special Thanks

Pattye Archer, Becky Burns,  
Edwin Ellis, Duct Tape,  
Jean Walrath Ferguson, Thomas La Foe,  
MSU's Academic Outreach and Continuing Education,  
MSU's Distance MBA Program,  
MSU's Instructional Media Center,  
Mike Tate, Marianne Ulmer,  
Christopher Walrath, John Wells and Josh Wiener



# Musical Numbers

## Act 1

Opening Fanfare  
Deus Ex Plaid  
Strangers in Paradise  
Holiday for Plaids  
Sh-Boom  
A Psycho Christmas  
The Most Wonderful Time/Merry Christmas  
Besame Mucho/Kiss of Fire  
Mambo Italiano  
Hey There  
Fever  
The Christmas Song  
Holiday Catering Drill  
Christmas Calypso

## Act 2

Holiday Talk/Cool Yule  
‘Twuz the Nite B4  
Let It Snow  
Carol of the Bells  
Joy to the World  
Mr. Santa  
Mambo in a Winter Wonderland  
It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas  
I’ll Be Home for Christmas  
Merry Christmas/The Wassail Song  
Home for the Holidays  
Jingle Bells  
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

# From the Director

I am very fortunate that I once again got to work with an amazing cast and crew on Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings. Rehearsals started in October, and the Plaids have been working tirelessly for weeks to bring you this holiday show. We made it through numerous schedule conflicts, challenging music, and an array of complicated props to bring you this production. I am thankful to everyone involved.

These four guys who make up the Plaids are incredibly talented, and I know that you will be wowed by their vocal performances. Carole, as always, has provided wonderful music, excellent suggestions, and a lot of fun to the rehearsal process. I am so glad that she is able to do this show with us. Madeline Golden and Tess Graham, who make up the crew, are wonderful to work with. Thank you both for everything you do.

One of the great elements of live performance is the hidden moments that occur backstage and in the booth that make the show seem effortless. This show would not be possible without Alison Stamps, who has outdone herself with her work on the set and props and her organization backstage. SCT is very lucky to have her, and I am very fortunate that she agreed to take on this show again. I can't thank her enough.

And, of course, I couldn't end this note without a special thanks to Andrew and Sophie, who have put up with my being gone many nights. I love you both, and I'll be home soon (though Sophie will certainly miss climbing the spiral staircase backstage and getting a sucker!).

I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season. The Plaids and I are proud to share this show with you, and we wish the best for you and your families. So here's to those who are no longer with us—we miss you terribly—and to those who have yet to come!

Goodnight . . . Happy Holidays . . . And Please . . . Drive Safely!

*Molly Watkins*

# About the Cast

## **Brian Hawkins**

Everyone who knows Brian Hawkins knows that Christmas is his favorite holiday, so performing in a show like *Plaid Tidings* is pure bliss for him. Most recently seen as "Larry" in *Company* and in the musical revue *Let Freedom Sing* during the 2008-2009 season, Brian is making his 20th on-stage appearance at the Playhouse on Main with his performance as "Smudge" in *Plaid Tidings* and is realizing his "uber-dream" in revisiting a character he loved portraying in *Forever Plaid* in 2008. When not "dancing in the snow" on the SCT stage, Brian works as editor at the *Starkville Daily News* and is involved in a host of other community activities, including Relay for Life and the American Red Cross. Brian thanks Carole, Alison, Madeline, and Tess for their friendship and hard work in making this show happen; Molly for her friendship, creative vision, and desire to make the best show possible; Rick and Brad for joining the Plaid family and for sharing their incredible talent with us; and Lyle for another great experience to add the treasure chest of those shared over a more-than-10-year friendship. Brian dedicates this performance to the memory of his grandmother, Pearl, and his friend, Lora, who both have been responsible for so many great Christmas memories over the years and are celebrating the holiday this year in the most wondrous place imaginable. "To the audience members who watch this show: may each of you know the true joy, peace, and love that only Christmas can bring. May God bless every one of you."

## **Brad Moreland**

*Plaid Tidings* marks Brad Moreland's second production with SCT. Brad is a native of Starkville and since his teens has been traveling and singing across the U.S. Brad has recorded two solo albums and has recorded with numerous groups, as well. Although he has spent the majority of his life performing in front of an audience, this is Brad's first-ever musical theatre production. "It was always something I wanted to try," he says, "but for some reason just never got around to pursuing. The veteran performers of SCT have been so welcoming and have taken me under their wings in friendship. Starkville really does have something to be proud of in its community theatre." To Brad, the most enjoyable aspect of singing on stage is the relationship with the audience. "In a hectic world that seems focused on bad news, it's such a great thing to give an audience a few moments of rest from it all. To make someone laugh is one of the greatest gifts you can give, and *Plaid Tidings* is just what the doctor ordered this holiday season." Brad thanks his amazingly talented cast mates for making his SCT musical debut such an enjoyable experience. He also thanks Molly, Alison, Carol, Madeline, and the rest of those in front as well as behind the scenes for their tireless work in pulling off such an outstanding show.

Rick Rogers

# About the Cast

## **Rick Rogers**

Rick, an engineer with Tronox, Inc., in Hamilton, MS, is making his second appearance on the SCT stage after this summer's revue, *Let Freedom Sing*. As a resident of Columbus for the past two years, Rick has thoroughly enjoyed this SCT experience. He thanks Molly for her direction, Alison for her hard work and great personality, Madeline for her smile and support backstage, Tess for shedding a little light on the matter, and the Plaids for all the additional fun times. He would also like to thank Pattye for her choreographics and for being his "Debut Director!!!" Rick hopes that his mom (Sandra Rogers) doesn't shake her head too much while watching the show or while reading this bio. Finally, Rick hopes that the audience has a Plaid-filled time!!! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!

## **Lyle Tate**

Lyle Tate is plaidly thrilled to be reprising the role of "Jinx" tonight in *Plaid Tidings*. Lyle's latest work with SCT includes his roles as "Norman" in *The Boys Next Door*, as "Bobby" in *Company*, and as "Serge" in "Art" (for which he received a 2008 MTA All-Star Cast award). Earlier this year with Theatre MSU, Lyle played the role of "Barney" in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. His immense appreciation and love (even more love than he has for Perry Comol) go to the Plaidettes (Molly, Carole, Alison, Madeline, and Tess); to Lee, his biggest supporter and cheerleader; to his mom and dad, always; and, of course, to Brian, Rick, Brad, James, and Thomas, his "Forever" brothers-in-plaid-arms. "*Como si fuera esta noche la ultima.*"

## **Carole Sorenson**

Carole Sorenson is employed with the law firm of Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC in Columbus. Carole has accompanied several SCT productions, including *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change, A... My Name Will Always Be Alice*, and SCT summer revues *25*; *The Power of One*, and, most recently, *Let Freedom Sing*. Carole has also served as accompanist for the Starkville First United Methodist Church production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, for the MSU Department of Music's production of *The Fantasticks*, and for the MSU Women's Chorus production of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*. "My heartfelt thanks go to Molly and Alison for their many hours of unselfish work on this production and for their continued encouragement and confidence in me as musical director. It has been my honor and privilege to accompany the Plaids once again. Jinx, Sparky, Smudge, and Frankie, you brought the holiday season alive for me with your talents. Thank you for making me a honorary Plaid. Finally, an enormous 'thank you' goes to my husband, David, who has endured weeks of rehearsals and bad food. I promise I haven't forgotten how to use the oven. Tonight, I dedicate this show to the memory of my daddy, whom we lost 11 years ago on Christmas Eve night. He was my biggest fan, and Christmas has never been the same without him. So, Daddy, this one's for you."

# Simply Plaid-tastic



Photos courtesy of Gwen Sisson, *Starkville Daily News*



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## el·ee·mo·sy·nary

Pronunciation: \,e-li-'mä-sə-,ner-ē, -'mō-; -'mä-zə-\

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Medieval Latin *eleemosynarius*, from Late Latin *eleemosyna* alms

Date: circa 1616

: of, relating to, or supported by charity

Starkville Community Theatre will perform Lee Blessing's three-woman show *Eleemosynary* during the 2010 Mississippi Theatre Association Festival in Tupelo in January.

The show will be directed by Paula C. Mabry and will feature SCT veteran Marsha Williams and newcomers Mark-Kay Belant and Claudia Bennett. Thomas La Foe will serve as assistant director and Edwin Ellis will run lights and sound. Maureen Hughes, J'Sette Belant and Claire Belant will round out the crew.

*Eleemosynary* focuses on the lives of three Westbrook women: seventy-five-year-old Dorothea, played by Williams; her middle-aged daughter, Artie, played by Belant; and Artie's sixteen-year-old daughter, Echo, played by Bennett.

Dorothea, an admitted New Age eccentric, has complicated the lives of the two other Westbrook women by imposing her thwarted dreams on them, which has alienated Artie not only from Dorothea but from Echo as well. As the play begins, Echo is caring for Dorothea, who has just had a stroke. During the course of the play, Echo tries to bring the three women together.

Blessing presents fragmented vignettes of the lives of the three women as they struggle to define themselves both as individuals and as part of a family unit. In this poignant and mature study of familial relationships, Blessing highlights the human need for connection and forgiveness.

SCT has a long history with the Mississippi Theatre Association. The theatre's 2009 entry into the MTA Festival, *Catfish Moon*, earned top honors before advancing all the way to the national competition. Three years ago, SCT's production of *Smoke on the Mountain* was named Best Production and advanced to the Southeastern Theatre Convention.

The 2010 Festival will be held in Tupelo, January 14-17, 2010! The weekend festival will include 10 high school productions, including Starkville High School, eight community theatre production, staged readings of two new plays, workshops, and more. For more information on the festival, visit the MTA website at <http://www.mta-online.org/>

# Upcoming AUDITIONS



## *Ug: The Caveman Musical*

Sunday and Monday, February 14 and 15 at 6 p.m.

Seven men, two women, various ages

All must sing!

Director Christopher Walrath, [clw\\_73@yahoo.com](mailto:clw_73@yahoo.com)

Those wishing to audition for *Ug* should come prepared with a monologue and a song. Each person will have two minutes to audition, and he/she must choose how best to use his/her time. For example, one may perform 90 seconds of the monologue and 30 seconds of the song. An accompanist will be present, so auditioners are encouraged to bring sheet music. Use of a recording is also fine.

## *Trying*

Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14 at 7 p.m.

One older man, one younger woman

Director Bob Anderson, [robertganderson@bellsouth.net](mailto:robertganderson@bellsouth.net)

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## Mark Your Calendar ....

# Trying

## *Trying*

By Joanna McClelland Glass

May 20-23, 2010

*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



*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