

Starkville Community Theatre presents

Trying

A Season Extra

by Joanna McClelland Glass

May 20-23, 2010
The Playhouse on Main

Evening performances at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Directed by Bob Anderson
Featuring Edwin Ellis & Krista Vowell

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



Trying

By Joanna McClelland Glass

Directed by Bob Anderson

The Cast

Judge Francis Biddle Edwin Ellis

Sarah Schorr..... Krista Vowell

Time & Place

The play is set in Judge Francis Biddle's office above the garage at his home in Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Act One

- Scene One—Second week of November, 1967
- Scene Two—9:00 a.m. the following day
- Scene Three—9:00 a.m. two weeks later

Act Two

- Scene One—Early January, 1968
- Scene Two—mid-April, 1968
- Scene Three—9:30 a.m., the third week of June, 1968

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

About the Cast

EDWIN ELLIS

From working on the set of SCT's second show in 1978, Edwin moved on to work in lighting and sound design. His first SCT on-stage role was as "Bob" in *Mary, Mary* (1980). Since then he has had roles in *A Thousand Clowns*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Marriage to an Older Woman*, *Seeing Stars in Dixie*, and *Laura* among others. Over the years he has worked on set construction, lighting design, and sound design. He is a MSU professor emeritus of Computer Science and Physics.

KRISTA VOWELL

Krista is currently serving her last few months as SCT President and is thankful for the opportunity to play the role of "Sarah with an H" Schorr. Her last role for SCT, that of "Betty" in *Catfish Moon*, garnered awards on the state and national level, and she received an M.A. degree in Political Science in May. She's a proud wife and mom and thanks her family for their never ending support and love, and thanks the SCT audiences and volunteers for making this organization so successful.

About the Characters

FRANCIS BIDDLE

Francis Biddle, 81 at the time of *Trying*, characterizes himself as "old and ailing and cranky." Beset by FDR scholars seeking information about the late President, Biddle has fallen behind in completing his memoirs.

For *Trying*, two factors especially explain Joanna Glass's perception of Francis Biddle. First, Biddle (like Roosevelt) was thoroughly Eastern Establishment. From English Quaker background, the Biddles settled in 17th century Philadelphia and bought thousands of acres in New Jersey and Delaware. One ancestor, Nicholas Biddle, founded the Athenaeum Society library in Philadelphia and was president of the Second Bank of the United States. Francis prepped at Groton (as did FDR) and graduated Harvard College and Harvard Law. Other Biddles rang up a range of Ivy League degrees (Penn, Princeton, Yale). "Right schools" and "right family lineage" inform much of Biddle's understanding of himself.

Second, after a comfortable legal career, Biddle became FDR's Solicitor General in 1940; then he served as Attorney General for the remainder of FDR's administration. After Pearl Harbor Biddle initially opposed, strongly, internment of Japanese Americans in detention camps before acquiescing to FDR's and the War Department's decisions. President Truman appointed Biddle in 1945 as Chief American Judge of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Biddle worked at the center of significant national and international events at a critical moment in U.S. history. A widely- and deeply- read man in the classics, history, and literature, he was the author of several books on public and legal policies and a two-volume autobiography/memoir.

SARAH SCHORR

Sarah Schorr, 25, at time of the play's action, and Biddle's new secretary, displays much of playwright Joanna McClelland Glass's personal experience as Biddle's real-life secretary/assistant.

Sarah's character demonstrates Glass's life experiences growing up in Saskatchewan, where one would "lace the skates and hit the ice," meaning, of course, "get down to work and ignore impediments." Tenacious, determined, competent, by turn patient and stubborn, Sarah, though "the most trying individual (Biddle) has ever had the misfortune to know," becomes indispensable to the octogenarian as he enters his final year.

Glass arrived in Washington in 1965 and worked as an advertising copy writer and secretary to a sculptor before responding to an advertisement about a part-time position as Biddle's secretary. Glass was 31, married, and the mother of three children at this time. Her experience with Biddle led her to write a 40-minute one-act documentary play, which had a brief New York run in 1969, the year after Biddle's death. Glass's successful writing career includes To Grandmother's We Go (1980) and Play Memory (1984). One of her novels, Woman Wanted, had a 1998 film adaptation directed by Kiefer Sutherland.

Following the death of her second husband in 2000, Glass returned to the one-act play of 1968. The result: the full-length show that you are seeing tonight. *Trying's* world premiere, at Chicago's Victory Gardens, in summer 2004 was followed by professional productions in New York, Toronto, Vancouver, Portland, St. Paul, Burbank, and San Diego, among others. Its London premiere was in Spring 2009.

Starkville Community Theatre's production of Trying is one of the very first by a non-professional theatre company.

SCT is proud to announce

Unnecessary Farce By Paul Slade Smith

Directed by Thomas La Foe

September 9-18, 2010

Comedy featuring 3 females, 4 males

Two cops. Three crooks. Eight doors. Go. In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor is supposed to meet with his female accountant, while in the room next-door, two undercover cops wait to catch the meeting on videotape. But there's some confusion as to who's in which room, who's being videotaped, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man, and why the accountant keeps taking off her clothes.

Strange Snow By Stephen Metcalfe

Directed by Paula Mabry

October 28-November 6, 2010

Drama featuring 1 female, 2 males

It is 5 a.m. on the first day of the fishing season and Megs is determined to get his buddy up, but David has a terrible hangover that is not entirely from last night's drinking. Megs and David served together in Vietnam, and David still blames himself for the death of their pal Bobby. David lives with his sister Martha, a high school teacher who is enjoying a budding romance with the delightful Megs. Together, they endeavor to convince David he has to get past the war and get on with life.



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its 2010-2011 Season!!!

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music and Lyrics by William Finn, Book by Rachel Sheinkin

Directed by Paul Ruff

February 10-19, 2011

Musical Comedy featuring 4 females, 5 Males

Six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. *Spelling Bee* is a hilarious tale of overachievers' angst chronicling the experience of adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship. This show contains language and or situations that some might find offensive.

Feeding on Mulberry Leaves by Lucinda McDermott

Directed by Mary-Kay Belant

April 7-16, 2011

Comedy featuring 3 females, 5 males

Winky Flint is looking forward to his son Jeb taking over the register at his convenience store. But 17-year-old Jeb is busy trying to get into the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC. As they two wrestle over Jeb's direction in life, Jeb's mother is preoccupied with finishing her G.E.D., his sister is just trying to get Winky's attention, and his brother is doing his best to avoid detection as he sells pot at the air pump. With some colorful locals and wacky tourists thrown in, there's never a dull moment.

Sullivan's Office Supply

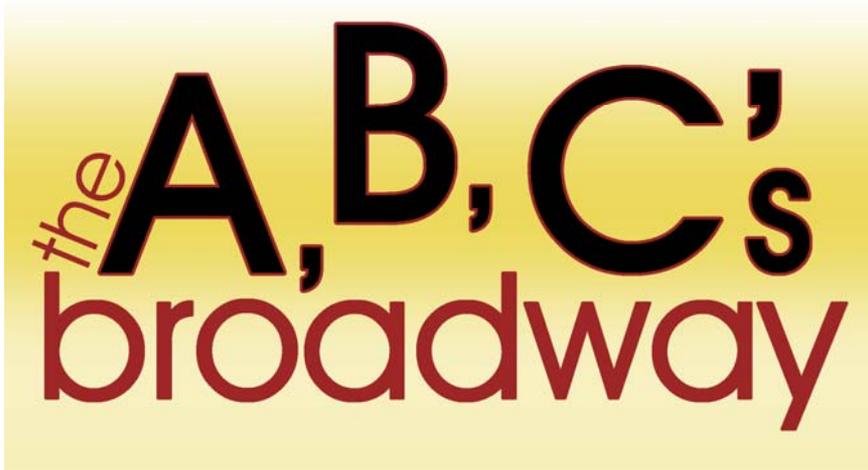
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SCT would like to thank Sullivan's for their continued support!

Auditions May 24 and 25!



Starkville Community Theatre is holding its annual fundraiser at the end of July, and it is time for auditions! Auditions are Monday, May 24th and Tuesday, May 25th at 7 p.m. at the Playhouse on Main.

Anyone wishing to audition should prepare a musical selection 60-90 seconds in length. You may select any type of song, and be sure to bring the sheet music for the audition.

The musical revue dates are July 22, 23, 24 and July 29, 30, 31. The theme for this year is *The A, B, C's of Broadway*. In order to make this happen, we are looking for some help from some talented individuals - you! We hope to see you there!

If you are interested or if you have any questions, contact director Alison Stamps at als11@msstate.edu.



In Memoriam

On May 9, SCT lost one of its best friends and long-time supporters when Verna Ramsey passed away here in Starkville. Audiences will remember her as "Miss Maude," a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in SCT's productions of *Smoke on the Mountain*. Always with a smile and abundant compliments, Verna encouraged performers and every SCT activity. She brightened our evenings at the Playhouse on Main. All of us will miss her.