

U H OH



MJ & BRIAN

Based on
the books by
Robert Fulghum
Adapted
by Ernest Zulia
& David Caldwell



MERRY CHRISTMAS

DIRECTIONS

Dec. 8-10 at 7:30 p.m.
& Dec. 11 at 2:00 p.m.

PREP TIME COOK TIME SERVES



HERE COMES CHRISTMAS

All I Want for Christmas is ...

Marianne Ulmer
director

Terry McDowell
assistant director

Matt Crane
MJ Etua
Madeline Golden
Brian Hawkins
Gabe Smith

music by
Bruce Lesley

cuddlin' with cocoa

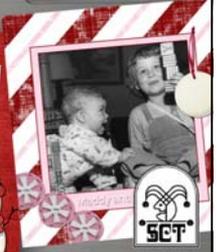
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UH OH, HERE COMES CHRISTMAS

Based on the books by Robert Fulghum

Adapted by Ernest Zulia & David Caldwell

Directed by Marianne Ulmer

THE 'UH OH' CAST

Matt Crane

MJ Etua

Madeline Golden

Brian Hawkins

Terry McDowell

Gabe Smith

Marianne Ulmer

Uh Oh, Here Comes Christmas is a collection of holiday stories from the international best-selling author of *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, Robert Fulghum. The show manages to be funny, heartwarming and often poignant as it takes audiences on a journey to find the spirit of the holidays amid the avalanche of commercialism, stress and chaos that crashes down every December. Among the many stories audiences will hear is one about a small immigrant child who comes trick-or-treating in a cheap Santa mask a few days before Christmas, inadvertently delivering the true meaning of the season to a grownup with a case of "Scroogitis;" hilarious musings about a love/hate relationship with the vibrant poinsettia that arrives in most homes every December and hangs on and on and on, long after the holidays have ended; and a beautiful, deeply moving tribute to the winter solstice, celebrating nature's precious annual gift of rebirth.



This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission.

THE 'UH OH' CREW

Director Marianne Ulmer
Assistant Director Terry McDowell
Set Design and Construction Edwin Ellis
Light Design Thomas La Foe
Set Decorator Brian Hawkins
Stage Manager Pattye Archer
Set Crew Janis Ross and KaDeen Ross
Light Operator Angel Baker
Costumes Sue Snow & Sue Helms
Props The Cast and Crew
Poster Design Pattye Archer
Lobby Decorations Brian Hawkins, Alison Stamps,
Cindy Ruff and Angel Baker
House Manager Coordinators Barry & Grace Ward
Photographer Lisa B. McReynolds
Box Office Bob Anderson and Marsha Williams
Opening Night Party Angel Baker, Debbie Dunaway,
Cindy Ruff and Alison Stamps

SET CONSTRUCTION CREW

Edwin Ellis
The cast and crew of She Loves Me
Marianne Ulmer
Matt Crane

SET EMBELLISHERS

Brian Hawkins
Pattye Archer
Matt Crane
MJ Etua

Madeline Golden
Thomas La Foe
Terry McDowell
Gabe Smith and Marianne Ulmer

THE 'UH OH' SCENES

Act I

Uh Oh.....	Cast
Trick or Treat.....	MJ
The Christmas Pageant	Matt with MJ, Madeline, Brian and Gabe
Item #7	Madeline and Gabe
Poinsetta #1.....	Madeline
Wind-up Toys	Gabe with MJ
Poinsetta #2.....	Madeline and Brian
The Good Stuff	Gabe
Poinsetta #3.....	Madeline with Brian
Glitter.....	Terry
A Holiday Wedding.....	MJ with Matt, Madeline, Brian and Gabe

Act II

The Salvation Army.....	Brian with Gabe and Matt
Ponder.....	Marianne
Poinsetta #4.....	Madeline
The Valentine Tree	Matt
The Refrigerator and Confessions	Gabe with Matt, MJ, Madeline and Brian
A Midnight Clear.....	Matt with Madeline
The Juggler	MJ with Matt, Madeline, Brian, Gabe, Terry and Marianne

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

ABOUT THE 'UH OH' CAST

Marianne Ulmer, Director

Marianne is excited to be directing for SCT again, and is also happy to get to share the stage with some of her dear friends. Marianne became a part of Starkville Community Theatre in 1984 in the cast of *Close Ties*. She and Terry McDowell met in that production and over 25 productions and 25 years later, she has formed many “close ties.” Marianne's favorite Christmas memory happened when she was about 10-years-old and lived in Germany. “Christmas there was like a storybook: Snow, Sleigh rides, ice skating etc., but that is not the story....the story is not pretty! We got a large package from our Aunt Sis. It contained lots of presents for the whole family. I was very good at unwrapping presents and wrapping them back. My little sister (Lisa) did not want to participate, but I unwrapped her's too and told her what they all were. I'm not sure where my older brother Tommy was, but he was supposed to be watching us, so it really was all his fault! To this day, I never have anything under the tree till the last minute, because nobody trusts me! P.S. I was always good at acting surprised!”

Terry Reese McDowell, Assistant Director

Terry is thankful for the opportunity to have served as assistant director for *Uh-Oh*. “Robert Fulgham is a master story-teller, and with this talented cast telling the stories, what could be more perfect?” Terry 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, including the award-winning *Dixie Swim Club*. She currently serves as Vice President for Play Selection. “One of my favorite Christmas memories is the year that I was ten. I wanted a new bicycle more than anything. My younger brother David wanted one too. I was told that Santa could not afford to get two bicycles, and since David was younger, he should get one and not me. I was crushed, but was going to be nice about it. My brother David was told that since I was the oldest of us two, that I was going to get the bike. I think we were civil to each other on the days leading up to Christmas, but I was harboring some jealousy. When Christmas morning arrived, I will never forget the elation I felt when I rushed into the living room and saw TWO full sized Schwinn bikes sitting side by side. One was pink and purple and one was blue. I will also always remember fondly the many midnight masses we attended at St. Joseph's, sitting next to my grandmother, Mammy, and hearing my mother sing Ave Maria.”



ABOUT THE 'UH OH' CaST

Matt Crane

Matt is proud to be back on the SCT stage in Uh Oh. You may have seen Matt during the last four summer musicals, or last year's hit Spelling Bee! Matt, a recent graduate of MSU with a degree in communication and theatre, is working at City Bagel while waiting in his big break (anyone want to offer him a job?). His favorite Christmas memory involves the fluffy white stuff. "I can't remember the year, but I do remember the first time I ever woke up to snow on Christmas morning. There was just something about being inside with the tree lit and the fire going, and looking outside at the ground covered in snow. *Actual* snow. It looked and felt like Christmas does in the movies. It was awesome. Merry Christmas, and love, to: this amazing cast, our crew, Marianne and Terry, everyone who helped put this show together, my family, my friends, and my roommates."

M. J. Etua

Since 1995, M. J. has been part of the SCT family. She continues to serve as the creative force behind Project P.L.A.Y., SCT's summer children's theatre and the 2011

production, *Magnolia Grimm*, was one of the many original plays she has written for children. In addition to the children's show, M. J. has directed numerous shows at SCT and been onstage in all 13 summer musicals and such SCT favorites as Unnecessary Farce, Doubt and Company. M. J.'s Christmas memories have a familiar ring to them. "I have ridden in a sleigh, roasted chestnuts, and harked an angel. All have been fun! But nothing quite compares with spending time creating magic on stage with some of my most favorite SCT folks. During this holiday season, I wish you all great health, great times, and great friends and family with whom to share it all. God bless!"



ABOUT THE 'UH OH' CAST

Madeline Golden

Madeline has been entertaining audiences for nearly 30 years. She has performed in countless shows including all 13 of the summer musicals, *She How They Run* earlier this season, last season's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and the award-winning *Dixie Swim Club*. She is having fun making happy holiday memories on the SCT stage this year. Sadly, one of her most vivid Christmas memories is not so joyous. "One year when I was a little girl, Santa was especially good to me and brought me the walking doll I was dying to have. She was almost as tall as I was and she was beautiful. She had an adorable flipped up hairdo. Her dress was red and white and she wore little white socks and Mary Jane shoes. She was perfect. Until . . . on Christmas morning she fell over and landed on the heater. Her lovely hair singed and melted. My mother had to give her a haircut to remove as much of the damage as possible. This left her with an unattractive bob up to her ears that stuck straight out in a most unfortunate way. I was devastated. (I still am.) I did grow to love her, imperfections and all. So . . . Merry Christmas!"

Brian Hawkins

Brian loves everything about celebrating Christmas – the decorations, the traditions, the music and the meaning – so performing in a show that celebrates his favorite holiday is just pure joy. Being able to share the stage and collaborate with good friends while doing so just makes the entire experience one of the best Christmas gifts he could receive. *Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas* mark's Brian's 22nd appearance at the Playhouse on Main, having most recently been seen in the 2011 summer musical revue, *Liner Notes: From Tin Pan Alley to Today*. Favorite SCT roles include "Will Masters" in *Bus Stop*, "Phil" in *Inspecting Carol*, "Harry McMichael" in *It Runs in the Family* and "Smudge" in both *Forever Plaid* and *Plaid Tidings*. Offstage, Brian works in invoicing and order processing at Aspen Bay Candle Co. and part-time at Buffalo Wild Wings while also finding time to be involved with the Oktibbeha County Relay for Life, Oktibbeha-Starkville Emergency Response Volunteer Services and First United Methodist Church. He thanks Marianne, Terry, cast and crew for hard work and a LOT of laughs and hopes audiences will be filled with the spirit of Christmas after seeing the show. Joy to the World!



ABOUT THE 'UH OH' CAST

Gabe Smith

This is Gabe's 22nd production at Starkville Community Theater since 2001, if you count backstage work, directing, and Mississippi Theater Festival submissions (which he does!). By day, he's Guest Service Manager at Comfort Suites, and it's nice to be home at SCT after a year's absence, with good friends in a show close to his heart. Favorite roles from shows past include: "Yvan" in *Art*, "Jack" in *The Boys Next Door*, and "Curley" in the award-winning *Catfish Moon*. For a detailed list of what he'd like you to buy him for Christmas, he'll provide you with suggestions following this performance. Gabe's Christmas memory starts with his sense of smell! "For me, Christmas

is all in the smell of pine needles. I remember the first year I was old enough to become more than a passive participant in setting up the family Christmas tree. Mom got most of the ornament-placing duties (they had to be juuust riight), and Dad had the apoplexy-inducing job of stringing the lights, then expressing his artistic side by dousing the finished tree in about five layers of plastic

"icicles." My jobs were limited at first - plug in the lights, water the tree, and not open the presents before late on Christmas Eve (this got bumped up from the usual Christmas morning due to many tantrums, I'm sure, when I came of speaking age). Whether I completed all these tasks successfully or not, I don't recall, but I know at watered the tree at least once. Shimmying under the base on belly, I poured it in the green plastic bowl around the trunk, then laid flat on my back, looking up through the branches. I remember the lights and shadows and the few untouched pockets missed by mother and father, where no ornament or icicle had found a home. It was like looking at a starry night, a personal one, a swirl of color and the smell of pine needles, some even falling at my face as I gazed up. Peace on earth, and all the time in the world to enjoy it."



SPECIAL THANKS



Thomas La Foe
Alison Stamps
Lisa B. McReynolds
“The Sues”

Everyone who made goodies for the opening night party!
All the elves behind the scenes who make every show happen!

Theatre MSU
The Starkville Area Salvation Army



The Salvation Army ~ Doing the Most Good

If you would like to contribute to the Salvation Army and help them help those in our community who need it most, please feel free to drop your spare change or whatever you have to donate in the red kettle in the lobby after the show! Thank you!

Good food, good friends, good times!

SCT Potluck Dinner, December 1, 2011



Fourth Fridays

Fourth Fridays returns to the Playhouse on Main on Friday, January 27, 2012 with the popular Flash Fiction (1,000 words or less). Fourth Fridays is an open forum for area playwrights and other writers who want to have their works read and discussed on the mainstage at SCT. The events are open to the public and happen on the fourth Friday of each month. We would love you to join us – either as a contributor, a reader or an audience member. If you are interested in reading or contributing, please email us at fourthfridays@yahoo.com.

Call for Extra Season Shows and Summer Fundraiser Proposals

SCT is accepting directors' proposals for the 2012-2013 extra seasonal shows. If you are interested in submitting a show to direct outside of the regular season shows, please contact Alison Stamps at als11@msstate.edu. Directors must submit ideas no later than January 15th for the 2012-2013 season.

SCT is also accepting directors' proposals for the 2012 summer fundraiser. If you are interested in directing this July's fundraiser, a proposal must be submitted no later than January 15th. Please contact Alison Stamps at als11@msstate.edu with any questions or proposals.

Giving Thanks

Where you sit for this performance of *Uh Oh, Here Comes Christmas* is safer because of the newly-installed sprinkler system in the Playhouse.

The new system, partially funded by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission's Building Fund for the Arts, was completed in late September and marks the first phase of a two-step project to upgrade and restore the 115-year-old structure.

SCT thanks the scores of individual patrons who have contributed to the theatre during the past three years. The City of Starkville (and especially the Public Works Department), the Starkville Kiwanis Club, Starkville Rotary Club, Starkville Area Arts Council, and the Northeast Mississippi Industrial Development Foundation have also been generous with their support, both financial and physical. Local support for the project has enabled SCT to over-match the \$42,200 MAC grant. Thanks to all of you.

Alison Stamps
SCT President

Clyde Williams
Project director

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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.

The entertainment continues at Starkville Community Theatre...



The 2011-2012 Season Also Includes:



Beau Jest

(Comedy)

February 9-12 and 14-18

Second Samuel

(Drama/Comedy)

April 12-15 and 17-21



And Don't Miss Our MTA Competition Show!



Cabin 12

(Drama)

MTA - January 13-15, 2012

Directed by Kris Lee

Featuring...

HAROLD - Paul Ruff

BOB - Ben Lang

BOY - Rick Jordan

GIRL - Jessica Taylor

There will be a public performance of Cabin 12 in early January.

Please watch the list serv and website for more information.