

Renasant Bank
and Starkville Community Theatre present

Sneden's Landing Society

SCT SEASON 37, SHOW 1

DIRECTOR BRENDA MAYO

SEPTEMBER 18-21 & 23-27, 2014

RUMORS

By Neil Simon

Starkville Community Theatre is pleased to opened its 37th season with Neil Simon's *Rumors*. A hilarious farce, *Rumors* features a talented cast of 10 thespians.

M. J. Etua, Madeline Golden, Marianne Ulmer, Heather Shaw and Thomas La Foe are all names you have heard many times before. Ben Hughes had his SCT debut last season and Sean Dyess made his debut in the summer musical. These seven are joined by newcomers Kate Melon, Jackson Atkins and Michael Dendy. Brenda Mayo directs, Shellee Aultman joins the

Suited for adult audiences, *Rumors* will run Thursday, September 18 through Saturday, September 20 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, September 21 at 2 p.m., and again Tuesday, September 23 through Saturday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Call to assist Sneden's Landing

Attorney Ken Gorman prepares for lawsuit

By Mary Bess

Local attorney, Ken Gorman, prepares to take on anti-gun control advocates in his largest case to date.

"We need stronger legislation. Most accidents happen in the home and many of those homes have firearms."

Gorman went on to say, "Guns don't shoot people. People shoot people with guns."



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"My wife, Cassie, and I look forward to serving you."

Paid for by the committee to elect Glen Cooper, State Senate
Harold Green president.

METER MAID OF THE MONTH



PHOTO BY CRYSTAL CANADY

Officer Ben Welch presents award to Rookie Connie Paduey. Veteran law official, Ben Welch, presented Comic Paduey with the coveted Meter Maid of the Month award last Tuesday. Welch then surprised Paduey with her promotion to the CSI division. "I thought I was on cloud nine when I received my award but I can hardly wait to tackle the big cases," Paduey said. Welch responded, "I am very excited to show my new partner the ropes."

The Food Network picks up local show Creative Cuisine with Cookie Cusack

By Lorraine Hughes

Local cable access celebrity chef goes nationwide!

Local culinary queen, Cookie Cusack, announced today that her highly rated program "Creative Cuisine with Cookie Cusack" has been picked up by The Food Network. Cusack is believed to be the first chef from Sneden's Landing to land a show on the popular food network.

Known for her clever wit and easy to understand recipes, Cusack is very excited to begin taping her new season. She said she wants to assure her local fans she will not change with all the new celebrity and attention.

When asked what recipe she will feature on her first national



Cookie Cusack

episode Cusack thoughtfully answered, "I believe I'll start with my lemon tart. They are my husband's favorite."



PHOTO BY NATASHA HASLAM

Ganz, Gorman Raise Money for Little-Known Charity
anz, Gorman Raise Money for Little-Known Charity
ommittee co-chairs, Claire Ganz and Chris Gorman, raised a little over \$100,000 for the charity, Ribbons Show You Care for Ribbons. "So many wonderful causes use ribbons to raise awareness and ribbons can be expensive for some people," Gorman said. Ganz agreed, "You cannot possibly show the proper support for a cause without a fashionable ribbon." he two will present a check to local ribbon maker, Carol Newman, next week. Ganz went on to say "We just want to help the little people. Everyone should have ribbon."



Produced by special arrangements with Samuel French, Inc.
The 2014-2015 season is funded in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Call 323-6855 to reserve a ticket!



RUMORS

By Neil Simon

Directed by Brenda Mayo

THE CAST

Chris Gorman Heather Shaw
Ken Gorman Michael A. Dendy *
Claire Ganz M. J. Etua
Lenny Ganz Thomas La Foe
Ernie Cusack Jack Atkins *
Cookie Cusack Madeline Golden
Glenn Cooper Sean Dyess
Cassie Cooper Marianne Ulmer
Officer Welch Ben Hughes
Officer Pudney Kate Mellen *

* SCT Debut

THE SETTING

PLACE

Sneden's Landing, New York, the Townhome of the Deputy Mayor

TIME

Present Day

ACT I

Around 8:30 on a pleasant evening in May

ACT II

One hour later

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

THE CREW

Director	Brenda Mayo
Assistant Director.....	Shellie Aultman
Stage Manager	Shellie Aultman
Backstage Crew & Makeup	Johnathan Johnson
Props	Haley Harper
Set Design	Thomas La Foe & Brenda Mayo
Set Consultant.....	Edwin Ellis
Costumes.....	Brenda Mayo & the Cast
Light Design	Thomas La Foe
Sound Design.....	Zak Mayo
Original Artwork.....	Shellie Aultman & Brenda Mayo
Lighting & Sound Operator	Lorraine Hughes
Box Office.....	Cam McMillen & Marsha Williams
House Manager Coordinators	Barry & Grace Ward
Set Construction.....	The Cast & Crew, Edwin Ellis, Isa Stratton-Beaulieu, Crystal Canady & Johnathan Johnson
Opening Night Party	Ann Bonner & Abigail Voller

SPECIAL THANKS

Forrest Blackburn
Crystal Canady
Debbie Dunaway
Natasha Haslam
Brian Hawkins
Lt. Kevin Keegan NYPD
Paula Mabry
Shane Box, Mathiston PD
Sue Snow

SCT's season performances are generally suitable for ages 12 and over. Children under the age of 6 are not admitted to SCT productions unless specifically noted otherwise in publicity for the show. Everyone who enters the theatre must have a ticket.

ABOUT THE CAST

Jackson Atkins

Jack is new to the Starkville Community Theatre family, but has made himself useful by his ability to lift heavy objects and use power tools. When he is not on the set, he works as a research chemist for the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory. Jack has lived in Starkville for the past eight years and one day decided to audition for a play. It was his good fortune to come across several friends who are deeply involved with the theatre and now his acting debut as begun. Being cast as a therapist in his first ever role is a bit of treat seeing as if he wasn't a chemist, Jack wanted to be a psychologist.



Michael A. Dendy

Michael is proud to be making his SCT debut in this fantastically funny Neil Simon piece. He is a graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. While at USM, he appeared on stage in such shows as *The Grapes of Wrath* (Noah), *Marat/Sade* (Orderly), *Red Light Winter* (Matt) and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Michael has also worked on various film projects over the last year including *22 Jump Street*, *Ravenswood*, *Star-Crossed*, *Lee Daniels' The Butler* and several others. He is currently teaching theatre at Starkville High School. He would like to thank his family, friends and Paula Mabry especially for believing in him and keeping him going.



Sean Dyess

This is Sean's second show with SCT, having previously performed in the summer fund raiser *Unexpected Song:*

Broadway Re-Revued. He is a software developer and father of two beautiful girls, Arianna and Zoë. Sean loves movies and music, and you can often find him spouting quotes or making pop-culture references in casual conversation. Some of his other interests include reading, disc golf, manga/anime, darts, collegiate sports (Hail State!), karaoke and dancing. "...I was thinking of the immortal words of Socrates, who said, 'I drank what?'" - Chris Knight, Real Genius



ABOUT THE CAST

M.J. Etua

MJ Etua has been involved with SCT since 1995. She has performed in *Dearly Departed*, *Death Trap*, *Proposals*, *Not Now, Darling*, *A My Name Will Always Be Alice*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Company*, *Doubt*, and *The Fantasticks*. MJ is also an award winning actress and director from the Mississippi Theatre Association. MJ's directing portfolio includes *The Mousetrap*, *Smoke and Mirrors*, and the award-winning *Art*. "Much love and thanks to all my SCT family, friends, and fans. We have so much fun don't we?"



Madeline Golden

Madeline is thrilled to share the stage with old and new friends and to add yet another name to her long list of stage husbands. She sends special thanks to Brenda for giving her the chance to play the kooky Cookie. Madeline has worked for MSU for 35 years and lives happily at home with her precious kitty cats.



Ben Hughes

After years in a supporting role for his acting wife and daughters, Ben had his very first acting experience in last year's SCT production of *A Catered Affair*. He discovered (to his surprise) "Hey, this is fun!" and "Maybe I can do this." Ben has enjoyed getting to know the *Rumors* director, AD, cast and crew and has much appreciation for their words of encouragement. "Thanks." Also special thanks go to Ben's daughters for helping him prepare for this role; he already has years of experience with lines such as "COULD YOU PLEASE SHUT THAT THING OFF!" and "May I ask who the owner of this house is?" Special thanks also go to Kevin Keegan, an actual NYC cop (and Ben's brother-in-law), for lending some of his NYC cop persona (and uniform) to Officer Welch. Ben wishes all of the best to the *Rumors* cast. "Break a Leg."



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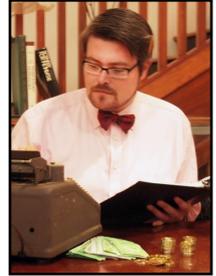
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ABOUT THE CAST

Thomas La Foe

Thomas has been involved in many SCT productions as director, technician and performer and is glad to be onstage once again. Most recently he was seen playing George (a.k.a. Flower) in *Don't Dress for Dinner* and wearing a dress in the summer musical revue *Unexpected Song*. Recent backstage work includes directing *Par for the Corpse*, designing lights for *A Catered Affair*, serving as assistant director for *Steel Magnolias*. Thomas works for MSU Libraries as an instructional technology specialist.



Kate Mellen

Although Kate and her husband Rob have been enjoying SCT performances from the audience for nearly six years, this is Kate's first time on the SCT stage. Kate has acted previously in church ensembles in Western Massachusetts. She has degrees (in accounting, not theater!) from both UMass-Amherst and Mississippi State. She wishes to thank the amazing cast and crew for their warm welcome into the SCT fold. Additionally, she extends her gratitude to her husband for his patience through the many hours of rehearsals and workdays that have ensued since being cast. The extra cooking, laundry, dishes, and child bedtime duties have not gone unappreciated. To her daughter Grace, "Mama is sorry about the rehearsal on your birthday, but she will make sure you have a great party!"

Heather Shaw

On the day Heather Shaw entered this world, a star was born. She has a lifelong love of the spotlight and posing for the camera. She performed for friends and neighbors whenever possible. Around 2005, Heather became a member of a new family, the Starkville Community Theatre, which she holds dear to her heart. Heather says that over the past 9 years her SCT family has helped her grow and become a stronger person. Heather hopes you will enjoy her performance and especially her innovative dance number in Act II (which is spectacular!) "I could never be what I am today without my friends, family and fans. You all have allowed me to



ABOUT THE CAST

live my dream. There is not enough praise in the world to be given to my castmates, our crew and our amazing director for this show. They have all worked so hard breathing life into this production.”

Marianne Ulmer

Marianne is glad to be back on stage with old and new friends. For almost 30 years she has enjoyed “playing” with SCT. Fifteen years ago Marianne played “Claire” in this same show, and she is glad to re-visit the “rumors” house one more time. Many thanks to everyone involved!



SOLD OUT!

Due to an overwhelming response to our annual season ticket sales, Starkville Community Theatre has - for the first time in history, we believe - sold out of season tickets. We have sold 700 for the 2014-2015 season and due to our limited seating (801 seats during a regular, nine-show run), the Board of Directors has determined that in order to have some seats available to the general public, we need to end the sale of 2014-2015 season tickets at this time.

This, of course, is a good problem to have. We do want to remind those of you who are season ticket holders that you **MUST** call and make a reservation for each show and if you wait too late, you could miss out. Thank you for your wonderful support!



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Rumors has always held a special place in my heart. Twenty-two years ago my late husband, Paul, played a police officer in the Greenwood Little Theater production. I was expecting and my son decided to make his entrance into the world during tech week. My husband called to explain why he couldn't be at rehearsal that evening and the cast and crew stopped rehearsal, got onstage and gave my son, Zak, his first toast and standing ovation.

When the call for directors came for SCT's new season and *Rumors* was announced it only seemed fitting that I put my name into the hat and here we are. It's even more exciting since my son designed the sound for this production. Now the entire family is full of *Rumors*.

I could not asked for a better cast and crew. When I asked my dear friend Shellie Aultman, to be my Assistant Director, she said that she hadn't done anything since high school but that she would give it her best. She definitely has and more. Lorraine Hughes quickly volunteered to run lights and sound. Haley Harper asked while we were still in production for the summer musical if she could be Props Mistress and of course I said yes. Everything fell into place.

My cast consists of wonderful mixture of veteran SCT players and newbies to the stage. Madeline Golden, Marianne Ulmer, Heather Shaw, MJ Etua, and Thomas La Foe all welcomed Ben Hughes, Michael Dendy, Sean Dyess, Jack Atkins, and Kate Mellen, with open arms. When everyone clicks things flow so smoothly. I thank them all and have enjoyed working with each and every one.

Pattye Archer and Paula Mabry, I thank you a thousand times over for listening and offering advice. I'm not sure I could have made it without you.

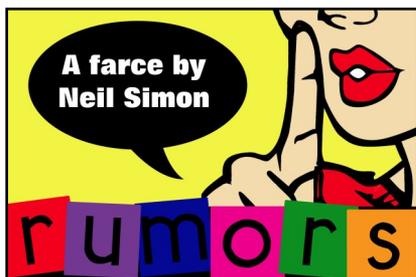
So here we are. After many late night rehearsals, Saturday work day laughter, (It's not white. It's icicle blue!) and very few tears, I am proud to present to you our rendition of Neil Simon's *Rumors*. I hope you enjoy it as much as we have. Now excuse me. I must put on my tiara and get on with the show.

Brenda

Join us for our 2014-2015 Season

By Neil Simon

September 18-21
and 23-27, 2014

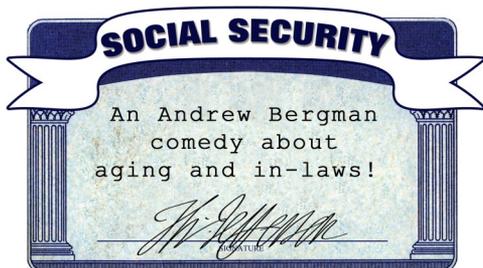


By Marcia Kash and
Douglas Hughes

November 13-16
and 18-22, 2014

Book by Jeffrey Lane
Music & Lyrics by David Yazbek

February 19-22
and 24-28, 2015



By Andrew Bergman

April 16-19 and
April 21-25, 2015

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