

RENASANT BANK & STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE  
PRESENT

# FOOLS

by NEIL SIMON

Directed by KAREN THEAD

MAY 23-27, 2017

SHOWS NIGHTLY at 7:30P.M.



This show is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



# The Cast

In Order of Appearance

Leon Tolchinsky .....	Bucky Clements
Snetsky .....	Jacob Phillips *
Magistrate .....	Brenda Mayo
Slovitch .....	Nick Bell
Mishkin .....	Barnes Locke
Yenchna .....	Shellie L. Aultman *
Dr. Zubritsky .....	Sean Dyess
Lenya Zubritsky .....	Madi Wooldridge *
Sophia Zubritsky .....	Shelby Poindexter *
Gregor Yousekevitch .....	Ben Lang

\* SCT Debut

# The Setting

## PLACE

Around 1890 in Kulyenchikov, a remote Ukrainian village.

## SCENES

Act I, Scene I - Outside the village

Act I, Scene II - The town square

Act I, Scene III - The Zubritsky home

Act I, Scene IV - Outside the Zubritsky home

Act II, Scene I - The town square and the Zubritsky home

Act II, Scene II - The town square

*There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.*

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

*Fools* was first presented by Emanuel Azenberg on April 6, 1981, at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre in New York City.

# THE PRODUCTION CREW

Director .....Karen Thead  
Assistant Director .....MJ Etua  
Stage Manager.....MJ Etua  
Set Design .....Karen Thead  
Lighting Design..... Thomas La Foe  
Sound Design ..... Thomas La Foe  
Costume Design ..... Karen Thead and MJ Etua  
Props.....Michele Crescenzo  
Light and Sound Operator ..... Thomas La Foe  
Poster Design .....Karen Thead  
Photographs.....Dianna Janus-Design & Photography  
House Manager Coordinator .....Cindy Brown  
Box Office ..... Cam McMillen & Marsha Williams  
Opening Night Party .....Mary Sue and Marco Nicovich

# THE CONSTRUCTION CREW

Bucky Clements, Sean Dyess, MJ Etua, Thomas La Foe, Ben Lang,  
Jonathan Reeves and family, Barnes Locke, Grant Peterson,  
Jacob Phillips, Shelby Poindexter, Gabe Smith, and Karen Thead

# SCENIC PAINTING

Shellie L. Aultman, Alisyn Hatch, Deanna Thead,  
Karen Thead, Lauren Thead, Sheila Thead, and Alyssa Willardson

# PROP CONSTRUCTION

Michele Crescenzo, MJ Etua and the  
Louisville High School Drama Students

# SPECIAL THANKS

Bonnie Oppenheimer and Book Mart & Café

# About The Cast

## Shellie L. Aultman

Shellie is a seeker of adventure and has found many while with the Starkville Community Theatre since the Fall of 2014. She has been the assistant director, stage manager, and assistant set designer for *Rumors* and *Incorruptible*. *Fools* is her first stage appearance at SCT and she loves the cast she is working with. Shellie has worked at MSU for 20 years, teaches the LDS Institute Class at MSU, enjoys creating art, loves to cook, and dabbles as a DJ for fun.

## Nick Bell

Nick is back for his 5th SCT show, most recently appearing in the 2016 musical *Urinetown*. He is delighted to be working with so many talented actors. He finds it ironic to be playing Kulyenchikov's butcher because he hasn't had meat in over 20 years. When he isn't on stage, you may find him reading or writing in one of Starkville's fine coffee establishments, doing photography, leading bible studies, or trying to figure out the answer to one of life's biggest questions: what is the plural word for Bigfoot? Bigfeet? Bigfoots? Bigfooti?

## Bucky Clements

Bucky is excited to be making his return to the SCT stage in the role of "Leon Steponovich Tolchinsky." He holds a BA in Theatre from the University of Alabama, and has been involved with several theatre companies in Tuscaloosa, both onstage and backstage. Other credits over the past year include "Peter Shaw" in *Silent Sky* with SCT, "Jim" in *The Glass Menagerie* and "Young Scrooge" in *A Christmas Carol* with Theatre Tuscaloosa, and "Lucentio" in *Taming of the Shrew* and "Messenger" in *Love's Labours Lost* with the Rude Mechanicals.

## Sean DyeSS

Sean is excited to be back at SCT again for *Fools*. He has appeared on stage in past productions including *Urinetown*, *Fox on the Fairway* and *Almost, Maine*. He also directed *The Cemetery Club*, and will be directing again for next season's production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Predictability is the step-son of ingenuity.—Guy Friesch

# About The Cast

## **BEN Lang**

Ben is an attorney and actor performing daily at various courthouses and occasionally the Playhouse on Main. A native of Starkville, he graduated from Starkville High School and set off to Los Angeles in pursuit of a career in film and television. His most memorable moments include guest starring appearances on *ER* and *The West Wing*, along with his beloved (for you Jack) portrayal in the cult classic *Boyschick*. He is most proud of his involvement with Starkville Community Theatre. Ben is a former member of the SCT Board of Directors and currently serves as V.P. for Membership. At his law practice, Vollor & Lang, P.A., he and his law partner Austin Vollor have had the privilege to be production sponsors for the past productions of *Fox on the Fairway* (2015-16), *A Party to Murder* (2014-15), and *Incorruptible* (2016-17). Ben is thankful for his graceful wife Lauren, and his charming daughter. As “Count Yousekevitch,” he is thrilled you have come. He is sure after his performance you will most certainly, and finally like him. Please pay the others no mind. They are all Fools.

## **BARNES Locke**

Barnes has been performing on stage for as long as he can remember - from simple elementary school shows to Summer Scholars programs such as *2011: A Space Oddity*; from SHS shows such as *Legally Blonde* to college performances like *Jekyll and Hyde*. Happily returning to Starkville Community Theatre (where he previously performed in *Urinetown*), Barnes is more than ready to take on another role and create a great story. “To the audience, I hope you enjoy the show! To my peers on stage, break a leg!”

## **Brenda Mayo**

Brenda is very excited to be back onstage. Some of her past roles include “Hope” in *Almost Maine*, “Mary” in *Octette Bridge Club*, and singing in SCT's summer musicals, just to name a few. She recently directed *Incorruptible*, and designed and crafted masks for Armstrong Middle School's performance of *Lion King Jr.* Brenda would like to thank Karen and MJ for their understanding, her son Zak for his encouragement, and to her Aunt Scottie for taking care of her so she can do what makes her happy.

# About The Cast

## Jacob PHILLIPS

Jacob was born at a very young age and grew up just outside of Starkville. He graduated from Mississippi State in 2007, joined the Army, and accidentally became interested in theatre while abroad. Fast forward several years to 2017 and he has finally worked up the nerve to try performing in his first stage play. He would like to leave you with an inspirational quote that he learned in the Army, and that he heard almost every time he went parachuting... "Medic! I've broken a leg!"

## Shelby POINDEXTER

Shelby is a student at Mississippi State University majoring in Public Relations. This is her first performance with Starkville Community Theatre. She was involved in theatre for seven years at Starkville Academy, where she acted in several productions, including *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Footloose*. After a three-year hiatus, Shelby is very excited to be back onstage.

## Madi WOOLDRIDGE

Madi, a junior at Mississippi State University, has been involved with the Starkville Community Theater for an astounding six weeks. She has no prior theater experience; however, she has acted in numerous roles separate from SCT, including "Friend's Girlfriend" in *A Defense Against Creepy Males at Parties* and Interested in many productions of *Conversations About Sports*. She has also won mashed-potato eating competitions with family and friends in multiple states, including Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, and now Mississippi. "I would like to thank Sean for randomly approaching me about this play on the street and also for not being a kidnapper. I hope you all enjoy the show!"



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

# About The Director

## Karen Alexandra Thead

Although Karen is definitely not a stranger at Starkville Community Theatre, this is her first time actually directing a show.

Early this year, she was hired to choreograph MUW Theatre Department's production of *The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. She was last seen on the SCT stage in *Urinetown: The Musical!* and, prior to that, she was the AD/SM for SCT's *The Fox on the Fairway*. She also graced the stage during the production, filling in as the character "Pamela" for three of the performances.

In addition to work in Mississippi, Karen has worked for professional theatres in North Carolina and Oklahoma and has done some film work, appearing as an extra in the 2014 biopic *Get On Up*.

A graduate of Mississippi University for Women with a BA in Theatre and a Minor in Music, she intends to start applying for directing graduate programs in the near future.

"I was still in college last year when I put my name in for consideration to direct a show at SCT. At the time, I was taking the final class requirement for my major, which incidentally was a directing class. I remember at that time my professor telling me to go for it. I honestly didn't think I had much of a chance to be picked since I knew I would be fresh out of school and had never directed a full-length play before. I am truly honored that SCT gave me this opportunity and extremely thankful that my professor, Peppy, convinced me to put my name in.

"This show has been a learning experience for me, and I'm incredibly grateful for my organized and inspiring assistant director, MJ, for all her advice. She has been such a help and I couldn't have done it without her. I'd also like to thank Michele, Thomas, and my cast for bringing *Fools* to life. Your help and professionalism has made my job easier, and I really appreciate it. I cannot go without thanking my family for putting up with my crazy schedule and spending hours and hours at the theatre helping me paint my set. I'm grateful that I have a loving and artistic family. Lastly, I want to thank my boyfriend, Evan, for believing in me and helping me keep everything in perspective. You always brighten my day! I'd like to offer you all a warm welcome to the village of Kulyenchikov and hope you enjoy the show!"



# Upcoming Events

## Year End Celebration

Please join us for SCT's End of the Year Celebration, which will be Thursday, June 1st at the home of Walter and Susan Diehl. (Their address is 1289 Southgate Drive in Starkville.) All SCT supporters are invited.

The social hour will begin at 6 p.m. with entertainment from members of both the SCT Acting Troupe and the Summer Fundraiser, *SCT: Unplugged 3*, directed by Carole Sorenson.

Please bring a potluck side dish to accompany the main course, which SCT will provide. Some wine will be provided along with non-alcoholic beverages, but please feel free to BYOB.

## Project P.L.A.Y.

Join us for this year's Project P.L.A.Y.. Performances will run each evening Monday, June 26 through Friday, June 30, with a matinee on Saturday, July 1. Open to children of all ages, this theatre workshop and performance allows area youth to learn the various aspects of theatre including acting, costuming, technical work and set construction. Come see the future of SCT! Project P.L.A.Y. is directed by MJ Etua.

## *SCT: Unplugged 3*

We are proud to bring the popular "Unplugged" musical revue back to the Playhouse on Main. Again directed by Carole Sorenson, *SCT: Unplugged 3* will feature 15 performers and nine musicians. Join us for this enjoyable fundraiser, Thursday-Friday, July 20-22 and July 27-29.

## *Our 40th Season*

Be on the look out for information on the 2017-2018 season, which will be our 40th. We are planning a wonderful slate of shows that we think you will love. So plan to join us next year for another great season of entertainment.





The cast of Fools (from left) Madi Wooldridge, Shellie Aultman, Ben Lang, Barnes Locke, Jacob Phillips, Brenda Mayo, Sean Dyess, Nick Bell, Bucky Clements, and Shelby Poindexter.

(Photo by Dianna Janus-Design & Photography)

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# Tabor Management

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