



**Birmingham  
Festival  
Theatre**

presents

# Rabbit Hole

**by David Lindsay-Abaire**

directed by  
Janelle Cochrane

Performances are 8:00 p.m.  
Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays  
October 23 - November 8, 2008

Sunday matinee is November 2 at 2:30 p.m.

for reservations, call **933-2383**  
or go online at **www. BFTonline.org**

Founded in 1972, Birmingham Festival Theatre is the city's oldest theatre producing contemporary and classic fare for adults. It is managed by an all-volunteer, working board of directors. BFT has staged more than 200 productions — involving more than 50 directors, 1000 actors, and 500 crew people — attended by almost 10,000 audience members.

# **We Gratefully Acknowledge**

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## **2008-2009 Friend**

Carole Armistead    Jimmie Hess  
Janelle Cochrane & Jerry Sims    Betty Loeb  
Jan and Robert Collins    Sue Michalek  
David and Ann Fraley    Jo Ann Mullins  
Pat Fresk    Martha M. Sykes  
Bob and Bobbie Glaze    Dr. Nancy Whitt  
David Herring

## **The Generous Gift by**

**The George B. and Willa Mae Whatley Charitable Trust**

## **And, most importantly, we appreciate**

all the wonderful actors and volunteers who, over the years, have donated time and talent to create this magical place called BFT!

## **2008-2009 BFT Board of Directors**

Jason Adams  
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# Rabbit Hole

by **David Lindsay-Abaire**

directed by **Janelle Cochran**

TIME: the present

**Featuring** (in order of appearance)

**BECCA** - Charla Cochran

**IZZY** - Leslie Reagan Brown

**HOWIE** - Howard Green

**NAT** - Carole Armistead

**JASON** - Michael T. Walters

**there will be one 12 minute intermission**

**Stage Manager** - Leah McCraney

**Set Design** - Mindy Wester

**Lighting Design** - Mindy Wester

**Sound Design** - Justin Wallace

**Light Operator** - Mindy Wester

**Sound Operator** - Laurie Burch

**Props** - Entire cast and crew

**Production coordinator** - John Falkenberry

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## **BFT YouTube Video**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URf83hPCSiU>

Rebecca Schiffman & Janelle Cochran

Ethan Britt

Howard Green

Charla Cochran

Sherman the Dog

Introducing: Tofu, the Rabbit

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## **Special thanks to**

Publix Bakery - Montclair Road

Sherry Graves

Ethan Britt

Hunter Street Baptist Church

Hayden Marsh

Alison Britt

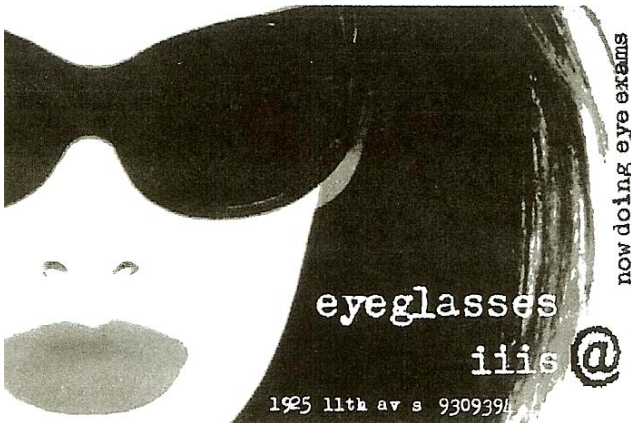
Chris Burch

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES



**Charla Cochran (Becca)** is thrilled to be playing the role of Becca in this amazing play! She is also ecstatic to be returning to the stage after 10 long years. During this acting hiatus, Charla has been busy with the following: teaching and managing programs at Children's Dance Foundation, starting and directing a new venture with CDF - the StageDoor Youth Theatre Company, as well as teaching as an adjunct at BSC, directing youth shows, raising a beautiful teenage daughter, Cassidy, and working on a happy, healthy marriage with her husband, Chris. Charla has been lucky enough to work in the theatre field for the last 20 years. As a director, her recent favorites have been *Still Life with Iris* and *Ramona Quimby*. The last time she was seen was ON stage in BFT's production of *The Ladies of Tennessee*. Charla would like to thank her family for "going it alone" while she was busy working on this show. At times, she feels like the luckiest person in the world!!

**Leslie Regan Brown (Izzy)** was last seen on the BFT stage as Tracy in *Elegies for Angels, Punks and Ragging Queens*. Recent credits include *Psycho Beach Party* (Dee Dee) with Theatre Downtown and *Reefer Madness* (The Placard Girl) at Terrific New Theatre. Leslie is a proud graduate of Birmingham Southern College. Her performance is dedicated to Connor, her biggest cheerleader. She would like to thank



## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

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Janelle for her guidance and her distaste for the color brown.



**Howard Green (Howie)** is thrilled to return to BFT after having so much fun in last summer's hit *Fuddy Meers* and to have the opportunity to work for Janelle Cochran again. He was most recently seen as the god Vulcan in RMTTC's *Miss Vulcan 1939*, in conjunction with Vulcan Park Association. Other favorites include the VST production of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, MCAT's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, RMTTC's *Sisters of Swing*, *Simple Gifts* and *The Music Man*, in conjunction with the Alabama Symphony. Howard is employed with Birmingham Southern Railroad Company, where he works on "it" all the livelong day. Great is the glory of the Lord!

**Carole Armistead (Nat)** BFT audiences last saw Carole in the 2007 production of *The Children's Hour*. The same year saw her star in The Seasoned Performers' staged reading of *Blithe Spirit* and in CenterStage's production of *Cabaret* as Fraulein Schneider. In the spring of 2008 she played Ouiser in Magic City Actors Theatre's production of *Steel Magnolias*, followed by CenterStage's production of *Music Man* (Widow Paroo). But, she is delighted to be back in this special space at BFT and delighted to be directed by her friend Janelle. Carole's main role, however, is wife to Jack and grandmother to Danielle, Daryl, Nora, Jack Riley, and Amanda!



**Michael T. Walters (Jason)** thanks BFT for the opportunity of his first community theatre production with a great cast and script. He is very happy to be a part of it. He is a recent graduate of Chelsea High School, where his love of theatre began. He was in several productions there including; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Long Christmas Dinner*, *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* and *The Flying Doctor*, which went to Trumbauer Theatre Competition and won best in show. Michael was also awarded All Star Cast. He is currently attending Jefferson State Community College and hopes to continue participat-

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

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ing in Birmingham theatre as long as possible.



**Janelle Cochrane (director)** is happy, to not only be directing once again at BFT, but another David Lindsay-Abaire play. She was privileged in 2007 to direct his wonderful script *Fuddy Meers* for BFT. With *Rabbit Hole*, she feels blessed for the opportunity to work on this Pulitzer Prize play. She has acted and directed in regional theatre throughout the east, with long stints at Flat

Rock Playhouse, the State Theatre of North Carolina. Some of her favorite directing stints include: *No Time for Sergeants*, *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter*, *Rumors*, *Morning's At Seven*, *Foxfire* and many, many farces. Janelle also appeared as Clairee in *Steele Magnolias* this past February for MCAT along with the lovely Carole Armistead. She thanks her husband, Jerry Sims for his patience and ability to still make her laugh.

**Leah McCraney (stage manager)** graduated from ASFA; worked at BFT with Randy Marsh and Carl Stewart; performed at Birmingham Children's Theatre; and emceed at Celebrity Dinner Theatre. Currently the English coordinator at UAB's TRIO Academic Services, writer/researcher at Bidez and Associates, and author of college textbooks, she is delighted to return to BFT after far too long an absence.

**Justin Wallace (Sound design)** is a music technology major at the UAB with a specialization in percussion. He is involved with the UAB Percussion Ensemble, Steel Band, Jazz Combo, and Jazz Ensemble and can be seen performing in Birmingham playing the vibraphone, as well as world percussion with John Scalici and his Get Rhythm! programs.

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# Remaining in the 2008-2009 Season

December 4 - 20, 2008

## **The Little Dog Laughed**

written by Douglas Carter Beane

directed by Stephen French

The heart-throb actor is just about to get the role of a lifetime when rumors begin to circulate hinting at his homosexuality. His distraught agent, concerned about her percentage, begins damage control related to this “slight recurring case of homosexuality.” And the laughs continue with the aid of the “rent boy” who’s looking for love and the “girlfriend” who’s looking for a home.

January 29 - February 14, 2009

## **Kindertransport**

written by Diane Samuels

directed by Sue Ellen Gerrells

In 1938 and 1939, nearly 10,000 unaccompanied Jewish children escaped from Germany on trains headed for the freedom of Britain. Few ever saw their parents again. *Kindertransport* tells the story of Evelyn, a British woman in her fifties, and Eva, the nine year old German child she used to be. The nature of family is plumbed when Evelyn’s daughter, Faith, discovers for the first time her German ancestry.

BFT wants you to be a part of our 38th season. Whether you have theatre experience (no matter how long ago) or have none, come share the joy of Birmingham’s premier community theatre. Tell us how to get in touch with you and what areas of involvement interest you. Speak to us in the lobby, call us, or leave a message on our website. You may be an actor, a director, a designer, a technician, a publicist, a fund-raiser, a cheerleader, or lots of other things. There’s bound to be something unique and valuable you can bring to BFT. Please join us.

March 19 - April 4, 2009

## Miss Witherspoon

written by Christopher Durang

Reincarnation just isn't Veronica's cup of tea. And she fights all efforts to send her back to earthly life. But, how're you gonna' beat cosmic (or is that karmic?) city hall? The ever prolific social satirist delivers again with a cast of familiars from the "other side."

April 30 - May 16, 2009

## Sunset Limited

written by Cormac McCarthy

directed by Quinton Cockrell

Two men on a train platform. One stops the other from jumping in front of the train. But he's not saved yet. An enigmatic relationship develops as can only be envisioned and told by the author of *No Country for Old Men* and *The Road*.

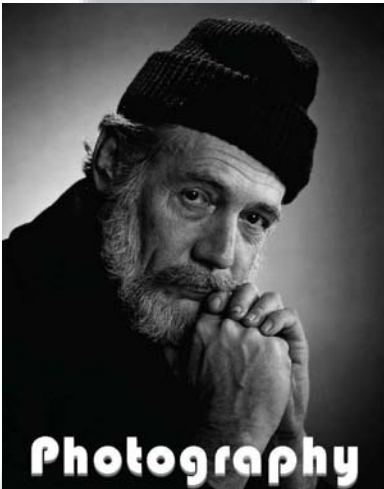
June 11 - 27, 2009

## Screwups

written by Justin Warner

directed by Ellise Mayor

Oops! Salome's much-milder-than-Herod's-interpretation request. Or the library book that appears to make things happen to those who read in it. Or the more persistent than can be imagined telemarketer. You'll encounter these and more in this collection of one-acts subtitled "little plays about big mistakes" which will tickle your off-the-beaten-path funny bone.



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