

40th Anniversary

In the spring of 1972, three young Birmingham thespians—Carl Stewart, Randy Marsh, and Vic Fichtner—began a venture they called Birmingham Festival Theatre. Now, more than 250 productions later, BFT is entering into its 40th season. We are committed to bringing audiences theatrical experiences that delight and challenge, and to offering artists opportunities to practice and expand their talents. You've already helped do that if you've attended or participated in a show at BFT. We hope you'll continue to support BFT. Most of all, we welcome you to the celebration of this festive anniversary.

About bft

For almost 40 years, BFT has been bringing local audiences theatrical experiences that touch the heart and stir the mind. Our all-volunteer Board of Directors works to involve the community's many talented directors, actors, designers and techies to produce the best in contemporary and classic theatre.

Tickets

Adult: \$20
Student: \$15 (with valid ID)
Groups of 10 or more: \$15 (reservation and prepayment required)

Shows run three weeks. Performances are at 8 PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and at 2:00 PM on the second Sunday.

Season Tickets

\$99 (a \$140 value)
Each season ticket package includes seven vouchers, each good for one ticket to any of our 6 shows. In addition, subscribers receive:

- Parking hangtag, which provides access to preferred parking for the first 250 season subscribers
- Preferred seating
- Letter from the director prior to each production
- Invitations to private events

BFT now offers PayPal as an option for season tickets! Please visit www.bftonline.org for more details. Or simply complete the enclosed order form or call BFT at 205.933.2383. Season ticket sales end October 21, 2011.

Production Sponsorship

Production sponsorships are available at \$3,000 per production. Sponsorship is acknowledged on our website and show posters, postcards and programs. For more information, call BFT at 205.933.2383.

Our mission

To create quality theatre that challenges and entertains our audiences and nurtures talent.

Reservations: 205.933.2383

BFT is a 501(c)(3) organization. BFT reserves the right to make scheduling and production changes based on ability to perform and availability of performance rights. ©2011 BFT. All rights reserved. Photos by Mitchell Sargent

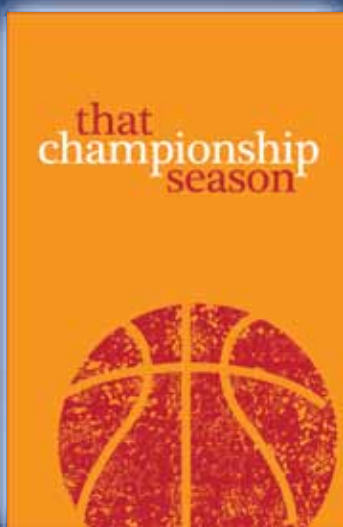


**birmingham
festival theatre**
2011-2012 **40th** anniversary season



birmingham festival theatre
1901½ 11th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205
205.933.2382
www.bftonline.org

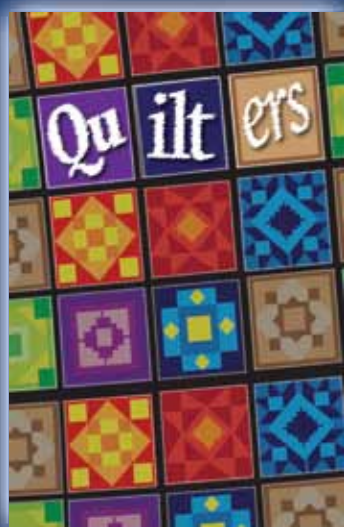
birmingham festival theatre



September 15-October 1, 2011

*Written by Jason Miller
Directed by Jonathan Goldstein*

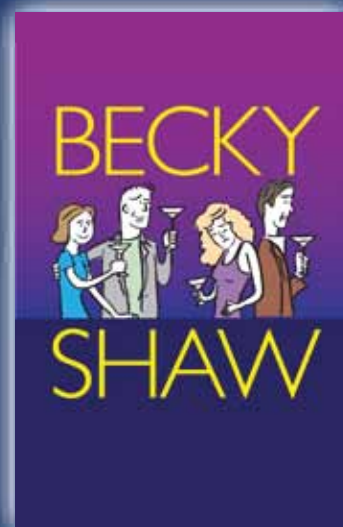
Five men who won the Pennsylvania state high school basketball championship 20 years ago get together for a reunion at the coach's house. It begins as a happy occasion, but the tensions among them have grown over time. What's happened to the "dream team" after all these years? Who's to blame for the way their lives have turned out? Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play in 1973, this play was originally brought to the BFT stage in 1979 to great acclaim.



November 3-19, 2011

*Written by Molly Newman and
Barbara Damashek,
Lyrics and music by Barbara Damashek
Directed by Sandra Taylor*

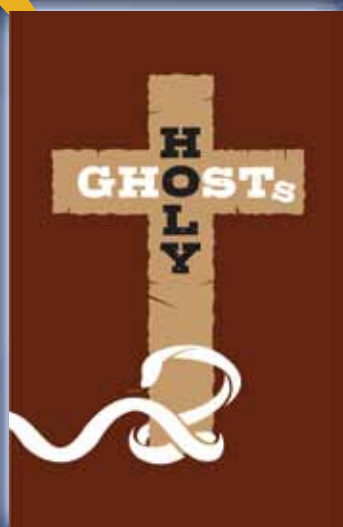
A series of short tales matched with musical numbers, the stories in *Quilters* present aspects of womanhood in frontier life—girlhood, marriage, childbirth, spinsterhood, twisters, fire, illness, and death. Each woman's story unfolds, literally, from a piece of quilting work whose design reflects her experiences. By the play's end, these story panels combine to make one huge quilt that the characters raise high as the flag of pioneer womanhood. Nominated for six Tony Awards in 1984, this play was first performed at BFT in 1987, directed by Sandra Taylor.



January 12-28, 2012

*Written by Gina Gionfriddo
Directed by Mel Christian*

In *Becky Shaw*, a newlywed couple fixes up two romantically challenged people: wife's best friend, meet husband's sexy and strange new co-worker. When an evening calculated to bring happiness takes a dark turn, crisis and comedy ensue. Gina Gionfriddo's comedy of bad manners, a tangled tale of love, sex and ethics among a quartet of men and women in their 30s, is as engrossing as it is ferociously funny, like a big box of fireworks fizzing and crackling across the stage from its first moments to its last. Penned by one of the writers for TV's *Law and Order*, *Becky Shaw* is a Pulitzer Prize-nominated new play, in keeping with our continuing effort to bring new theatre to Birmingham!



March 1-17, 2012

*Written by Romulus Linney
Directed by Beth Eusey*

Romulus Linney writes a moving and funny account of unsophisticated people in moral and emotional crisis in the Deep South. Nancy Shedman, in an effort to escape the drunken attentions of her husband Coleman, has moved in with a band of Pentecostal snake handlers and fallen in love with their leader, Rev. Obediah Buckhorn. The play blends humor and poignancy as it probes into the circumstances and stories of the various cult members. What happens when Coleman comes to claim his wife? In 1976, BFT was one of the first theatres in the country to stage the play. The Birmingham press hailed Linney as an author to be reckoned with "by every imaginable measuring stick" and the play as "an American gem cut out of the spirit of the mountain people—funny and deeply moving."



April 19-May 5, 2012

*Written by Noel Coward
Directed by Ellise Mayor*

No Anniversary Season would be complete without a good old-fashioned comedy! And *Hay Fever* fits the bill. Set in an English country house in the 1920s, the play features the four eccentric members of the Bliss family. *Real Housewives of New Jersey* has nothing on the over the top antics of the Bliss family and their weekend guests. This early Coward comedy is nothing to sneeze at! "It does not date... it is in the highest mood of fantastic comedy, it is deliciously heartless and therefore deliciously alive and fresh" -The Times

This play was first performed at BFT in 1980.



June 14-30, 2012

*Written by Randy Marsh
Directed by Edward C. Miller*

The novel by Vicki Covington was adapted for the stage by her brother Randy Marsh, a playwright and founding member of BFT. Set in Birmingham in 1961, when Freedom Riders were passing through the Deep South, the play centers around a hotel run by Dinah Fraley and her husband. They are visited frequently by the Birmingham Commissioner of Public Safety, Bull Connor, a known racist and bigot. Racial tensions run high in this powerful drama that was originally staged in 1996, and closes out our 40th Anniversary Season.

2011-2012 **40th** anniversary season