



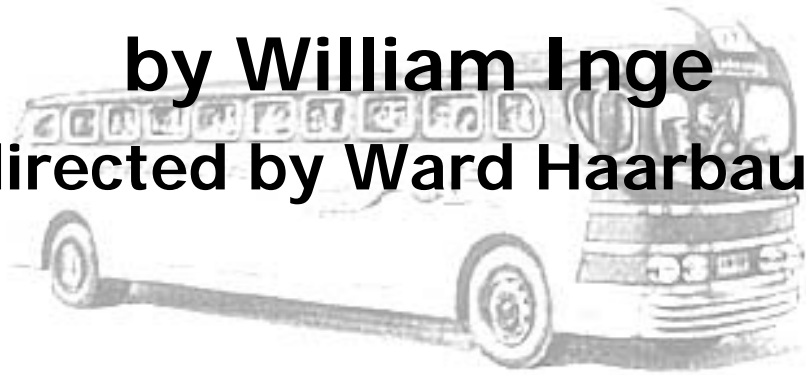
**Birmingham  
Festival  
Theatre**

presents

# **BUS STOP**

**by William Inge**

**directed by Ward Haarbauer**



**January 14 thru 30, 2010**

**Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays at 8:00  
2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 24**

for reservations, call **933-2383**

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.

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# BUS STOP

by William Inge

directed by Ward Haarbauer

**There will be one 12 minute intermission**

## **Grace's Diner, rural Kansas**

Elma Duckworth - Tavi Juarez  
Grace Hoylard - Mel Christian  
Will Masters - Mike Bratton  
Cherie - Holly Croney Dikeman  
Dr. Gerald Lyman - Gordon Pate  
Carl - Lee Fowler  
Virgil Blessing - Ron Bourdages  
Bo Decker - Brett Matthew Blaylock

Stage Manager - Lindsey Sherrill  
Assistant Stage Manager - William Brisky  
Set and Lighting Design - Sarah Jordan  
Costume Design - Amanda Mattes  
Set Construction - Lee Adlaf, Bill Camp, Nick Holdbrooks,  
Atom Bennett  
Set Painting - Elena Adlaf, Cliff Simon  
Light Operator - Tony Lovell  
Sound Operator - Lindsey Sherrill  
Production Co-ordinator - Edward C. Miller

“True Love,” Cherie’s song, was written for this production by Ron Bourdages.

## **Special thanks to**

Drs. Buck, Buck, McKay, and Rothman  
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## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

**Ward Haarbauer (director)** founded the Department of Theatre at UAB and remained on the faculty and in administration until retiring in 2007. For forty years he has been active in Birmingham theatre as a director, actor, consultant, and advocate. He is at BFT for the first time since *a variation on Macbeth* in 1982.

**Tavi Juarez (Elma)** is a graduate of the Alabama School of Fine Arts. She was most recently seen as Sissy (Then) in *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* at Theatre Downtown. She has also acted in *Tartuffe* (Dorine) and *Laundry and Bourbon* (Amy Lee). She is currently a student at the University of Montevallo and will next be seen as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* with Muse of Fire in May.

**Mel (Melissa) Christian (Grace)** is Program Manager for Theatre UAB, where she is in charge of grants, special events, and their mammoth statewide touring program. Mel also serves as secretary on the board for City Equity Theatre. She is a native of Northport, AL and holds an MFA in Drama and Communications from the University of New Orleans. Formerly, Mel served as Executive Director for The Alabama Conference of Theatre and Artistic Director of the MEL-O-DRAMA Children's Performing Arts Workshop. She has acted and/or directed for the University of New Orleans, UA Department of Theatre and Dance, Theatre Tuscaloosa's Second Stage, Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre, The Canebrake Players, Theatre UAB, Terrific New Theatre and Birmingham Festival Theatre. Next up she will appear as Dora Strang in *Equus* and direct *Twelve Angry Men* for Theatre Downtown.

**Mike Bratton (Will)** is in his third full production in the Birmingham theatre scene, his first with BFT. He first met an Alabama audience as Inspector Blore in Theatre Downtown's production *Ten Little Indians*, and delivered the milk (plus a sense of continuity) as Howie Newsome in South City Theatre's production of *Our Town*. An actor, voice talent, playwright, and drama instructor, Mike relocated here with his family in 2007 from Memphis, where he got his start on stage over fort... er, *many* years ago as a school-



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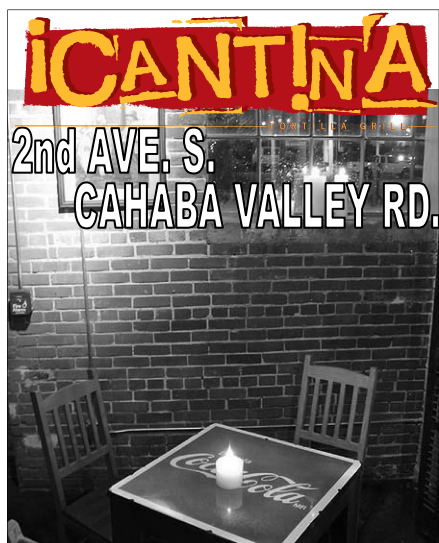
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## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

boy. In recent years, Mike has performed with Bartlett Community Theatre and served as a regular part of the music and drama ministry of Bellevue Baptist Church. From 1999 to 2007, Mike appeared in Bellevue's *Memphis Passion Play* and *Singing Christmas Tree* productions, among others--even traveling to South America to tour twice with *Passion Play* presentations. Currently, he serves in the music, performing arts, and video ministries at Hunter Street Baptist Church.

**Holly Croney Dikeman (Cherie)** was previously seen at BFT in *The Great Wrong Way* and *Miss Witherspoon*, and recently played the role of Effie in *The Spitfire Grill* at LJCC. She was also seen as Alice in *Alice's Even Bigger Tea Party* at the Alys Stephens Center. Favorite roles include Missy in *Winter Wonderettes* and Maria in *El Grande de Coca Cola*, both at the Terrific New Theatre; Doreen in *Lots of Life* at the LJCC; and Cinderella's stepsister, which she has played twice - once in *Cinderella* and once in *Into the Woods*, both at Virginia Samford Theatre.

**Gordon Pate (Dr. Lyman)** Back to back shows with Ward- *J.B.* (1970)...*Bus Stop* (2010)! Gordon returned to the stage in 2007 after a 35 year sabbatical to practice law. Since then he has appeared in *Henry V*, *Macbeth*, and *A Man for All Seasons*. He will be playing the Prince in *Romeo and Juliet* in May and can be seen this spring in a new film on Alabama Public Television about the Alabama Constitutional Convention of 1901.



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## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

**L**ee Fowler (**Carl**) is making his debut at Birmingham Festival Theatre in *Bus Stop*. Some of his favorite roles have been in *The Spitfire Grill* (The Visitor), *Taming of the Shrew* (Gremio), *Into the Woods* (Wolf), and *Cabaret* (Ernst).

**R**on Bourdages (**Virgil**) is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with an inter-departmental concentration in Anthropology, Psychology, and Music. He has studied acting at The Loft in Hollywood. He serves as the music director for original children's musicals at the Alys Stephens Center, working with Jerry Sims. During the day, he is a real estate broker with Coldwell Banker, in Mountain Brook. He wrote the original song "True Love," sung by Cherie, specifically for this production.

**B**rett Blaylock (**Bo**) is from Birmingham. He discovered theatre when he took a class to fulfill a core requirement. After being encouraged by his family to become a theatre major, Brett joined the Theatre Department at UAB. At UAB, Brett portrayed Ray Dooley in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Lloyd in *Mud*, and the Doctor in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He also played Charles Wykeham in Rosewater Theatre's production of *Charley's Aunt* in Roswell, GA. *Bus Stop* is Brett's first show with Birmingham Festival Theatre. He will next portray Valere in UAB's upcoming production of *The Miser*.

**L**indsey Sherrill (**Stage manager**) has been doing some form of theatre nearly since birth and after a nearly four year absence from the stage, appeared in *Our Town* this summer and was once again bitten by the bug! Past endeavors include *The Fantasticks* (Louisa) and *Oklahoma* (co-director) with the Greater Escambia Council for the Arts, *The Sisters Rosensweig* (asst. director) with Montevallo Main Street Players, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (stage manager) and *The Heidi Chronicles* (Fran) at South City Theatre, *Iphigenia and Other Daughters* (chorus) at the University of Montevallo, and four productions of *The Vagina Monologues*. She will next be stage managing for Muse

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## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

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of Fire's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. She is a graduate of the University of Montevallo with a Bachelor's in Theatre and Communication Studies. PV!!

**Sarah Jordan (Scenic and Lighting Designer)** Originally from Jacksonville, FL, Sarah is enjoying her fourth year in Birmingham. A graduate of UAB and now the Stage Electrics Coordinator for the Department of Theatre, she is excited to share her first experience at BFT with Ward Haarbauer and the wonderful cast of *Bus Stop*.

**Amanda Mattes (Costume Designer)** is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she obtained a degree, with honors, in Theatrical Design and Technology, emphasizing Costume Design. She has worked at Shakespeare and Company, Lenox, MA, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and the Alabama Ballet. This is her second show at BFT.

**William Brisky (Asst. Stage Manager)** was last seen at LJCC in *Broken Glass* as Stanton Case. Some of his favorite roles are Giles Ralston in *The Mousetrap*, Lucentio in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Jesus Consteula in *The Odd Couple* (Female Version). He has been in numerous plays within the last 5 years. This is his first time to work for BFT.



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