



**Birmingham
Festival
Theatre**

presents

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

BY
A. R. GURNEY

DIRECTED BY
JOHN BATSON

OCTOBER 29 THROUGH NOVEMBER 14, 2009
THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, & SATURDAYS AT 8:00
2:30 P.M. ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

2008-2009 Philanthropist

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David and Ann Fraley Jo Ann Mullins
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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	John Falkenberry	Leah McCraney
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Janelle Cochrane		Mindy Wester

THE COCKTAIL HOUR

BY A. R. GURNEY

DIRECTED BY JOHN BATSON

EARLY FALL
EARLY EVENING



MID-SEVENTIES
UPSTATE NEW YORK

THERE WILL BE ONE 12 MINUTE INTERMISSION

BRADLEY - SAM CHALKER
ANN - LINDA NELSON
JOHN - DOUGLAS O'NEIL, JR.
NINA - HOLLY HAMM

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR - SANDRA TAYLOR
STAGE MANAGER - LINDA BARNES
SET & LIGHTING DESIGN - MINDY WESTER
SOUND DESIGN - JUSTIN WALLACE
LIGHT/SOUND OPERATOR - JUSTIN WALLACE
COSTUME DESIGN - BARBARA SLOAN
SET DECORATION - JIM GORDY

Special thanks to

Drs. Buck, Buck, McKay, and Rothman
St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands

Edward Miller
Pier 1 Imports

Cain Dove of Sanctuary Salon, Homewood

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN BATSON (DIRECTOR) directing credits include *I'm not Rappaport*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Touch of the Poet*, *A Delicate Balance*, *The Subject Was Roses*, *Tuesdays With Morrie* (BFT); *Oklahoma*, *Anything Goes*, *Li'l Abner*, *Once Upon A Mattress* (Leeds Arts Council); *Nunsense* (Carnegie Dinner Theatre), *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *God's Trombones* (Wenonah High School). Most memorable acting credits at BFT include: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe*, *Seascape*, *Happy Birthday Wanda June*, *Cloud Nine*, and *Glen-garry Glen Ross*.

SAM CHALKER (BRADLEY) has been active in community theatre in the Birmingham area for nearly sixty years, appearing in major roles and scores of productions with Birmingham Festival Theatre, Town and Gown, Virginia Samford Theatre, Birmingham Children's Theatre and others. Sam began his community theatre career in 1951 with a walk-on role in *Dark Victory* with Bill Ozier's Actors Theatre, the forerunner of BFT. His last performance at BFT was *Tuesdays with Morrie* where he was cast as Morrie Schwartz. That production, like *The Cocktail Hour*, was the opener for the season.

LINDA NELSON (ANN) is delighted to be playing again at Festival Theatre after a 20-year absence from the stage. She began her local career with Town & Gown, doing several musicals at Clark Theatre and having a wonderful time doing them. Beginning at Festival in 1974 with *The Night of the Iguana*, she was fortunate to play many good roles here and participate in the rich life of this theatre. She also worked happily at Terrific New Theatre for several seasons. She is gratified that John Batson's experience under her riding skirt in *Cloud Nine* didn't make him averse to casting her in *The Cocktail Hour*, where she considers herself in the best possible company.

DOUGLAS O'NEIL, JR. (JOHN) has been performing for Birmingham audiences for over a decade. 2009 has seen him doing everything from the musical *Camelot* (Virginia Samford Theatre) to Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Muse of Fire) to outrageous improvised comedy. BFT audiences may remember him as Mitch Albom in last year's smash hit *Tuesdays with Morrie*. While Douglas is adept at drama, he's best known as the Chairman and founder of Extemporaneous Theatre Company Birmingham's own professional improv comedy troupe. ETC was named Best On-The-Spot Theatre by Birmingham Magazine in September, 2009, and continues to perform regularly right here at BFT.

HOLLY HAMM (NINA) is happily returning to the BFT stage after an absence of a few years. She was last seen here in *Collected Stories* and *Voice of Good Hope*, and prior to that, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Despite a love of the theater, stuff gets in the way, and for the last several years Holly has been focused on teaching the youth of America—at least a few of them anyway. When Holly is not teaching, reading or acting, she can probably be found sitting

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

at home petting a cat and staring into space, probably thinking about food.

SANDRA TAYLOR (ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR) since retiring from Hoover High School in 2005 has directed *Collected Stories*, *Voice of Good Hope*, *The White Rose*, and was seen in 2007's *The Children's Hour*, all at BFT. To quote Sandra, "I love getting the opportunity to work with members of the talented Birmingham theatre community as we bring to life this compelling story "

LINDA BARNES (STAGE MANAGER) was bitten by the acting bug when she was cast as Little Red Riding Hood in Kindergarten. Her interest in the art of performing never left and in 2003 she became more serious about hitting the boards. She was cast in *The Laramie Project* (BFT) and since that time has performed in or stage managed several productions. She thanks BFT for producing this incredible play and John, Sandra, the cast and tech folks for an unforgettable experience.

MINDY WESTER (SET & LIGHTING DESIGN) has lost count of how many shows she has worked on here at her home away from home. (But what a great excuse to look at all the posters in the lobby and see how many times you can find my name!) She is pleased to be adding a new hat, that of producer, to her collection. It's always great to be surrounded by tremendously talented people, especially when those people are also good friends! Thanks for including me in *The Cocktail Hour*. Who's pouring the next drink?

JUSTIN WALLACE (SOUND DESIGN, LIGHT/SOUND OPERATION) is a sound designer, performer, and student. He works with the Birmingham Festival Theatre by providing sound design for numerous productions. As a performer, he regularly performs around Birmingham with several groups and other outfits as a musician for hire. He joined Abram and Sarah in May of 2009. He often drums with John Scalici at drum circles, festivals, and other various venues. Justin also plays the vibraphone with the Aaron Branson Group. At UAB, Justin is a Music Technology major and is a regular member of the Percussion Ensemble and the Computer Music Ensemble.

BARBARA SLOAN (COSTUME DESIGN) is the Executive Director of The Seasoned Performers, Alabama's only senior adult theatre. As assistant professor, she taught theatre and was staff costumer for Samford University for twenty-five years before becoming the Program/Creative Director for The American Village from 2001 to 2007. This production is the third costume design she has created for BFT, having also assisted with *Intimate Apparel* and *Kindertransport*. She is enjoying her newest role as grandmother to Emmeline Violet Glenn.

Got a laptop computer you would like to donate to your favorite 501(c)(3) Birmingham theatre? We need one! Please tell us about it.



BUY 2009-2010 SEASON TICKETS TODAY!

We'll be selling them in the lobby (or during intermission if you just can't wait). Look over a brochure. There's a great season ahead. Be sure you see all the shows. Support the unique theatre you find only at BFT. Make your purchase today while you're here at the theatre. Season tickets are available through the run of *The Cocktail Hour* and then they're gone for another year.



Season tickets are still only \$99!

Benefits:

- A director's letter and advance information about each production
- Preferred seating for all productions
- Invitations to parties, open houses, other events
- Parking decals for church's and dentists' lots during performances
- A 21% discount off the regular price; plus one extra ticket so you can bring a friend

DONATE TO HELP MAKE BFT A NICER PLACE TO SEE A SHOW!

What we'd like to get done as soon as possible...

- Improved/repaired stage lighting
 - New dimmer packs
 - New instruments
- Better signage (let folks know we're here)
 - Marquee on 19th Street (what's playing now or coming soon)
 - Better lighting on existing signage
- A courtyard fence and lighting
- Upgrades to HVAC systems
- Plumbing repair and modernization
- Handrails in the auditorium
- New seats and carpet in the auditorium
- Sound system enhancements



Art in the lobby by Carolyn Goldsmith
is provided by

Monty Stabler
G A L L E R I E S

The Carolyn Goldsmith show is November 5 - 24.

* Opening reception is November 5, 5 - 8 pm

Ask in the
box office
for prices

1811 29th Avenue South - Homewood, AL 35209
www.montystablergalleries.com

(205) 879-9888

* raffle for Goldsmith painting at reception

Coming Very Soon

November 19, 20 & 21, 2009 at 8pm

extemporaneous theatre company
and BFT present

etc.
extemporaneous
theatre company

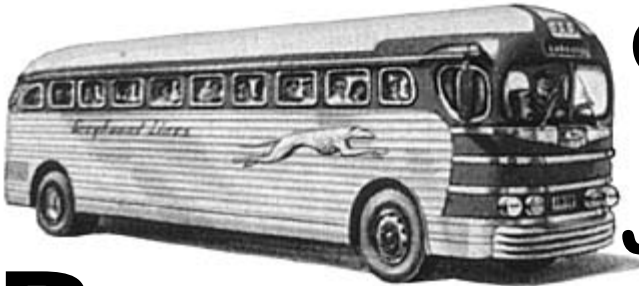
Thanksgiving on Trailer Park Ave.



A holiday tradition of turkey and dressing is turned on its ear when this wacky family comes together. All the kin folks gather round, and find themselves squaring off against irritating neighbors, a riches-to-rags landlord, and the most challenging thing of all – themselves. Don't miss this hilarious send-up of the traditional holiday of gluttony!

Buy your admission in advance and save a few bucks!

extemporaneoustheatre.com --- 205-687-5233 (205-OUR-LAFF)



Coming In January

Bus Stop

William Inge's
1955 classic

Directed by: Ward Haarbauer

Featuring:

Tavi Juarez	Mel Christian
Mike Bratton	Holly Dikeman
Gordon Pate	Ron Bourdages
Brett Blaylock	Lee Fowler