

# *The Summit Playhouse Association*

The following program is from our 2003-2004 season.

For information on our current production,  
and on other shows we have presented,  
please visit our web site at

**<http://SummitPlayhouse.org>**

The Summit Playhouse Association  
Established 1918  
10 New England Ave  
Summit, NJ 07974  
**908-273-2192**

*The* Molière's  
*Imaginary*  
*Invalid*



## *Director's Notes*

Why *The Imaginary Invalid* you may ask. You certainly would not be the first within earshot to ask that question. The explanation becomes simple after knowing a few facts. Molière is considered the father of modern comedy. In fact, he created comedy as we know it today. Without a doubt, the formula for many a Broadway or Hollywood comedy can be traced back to Molière, not Shakespeare or Aristophanes. Also an accomplished actor, his plays contain all the elements of great farce. He knew all the tricks: the cumulative effect of repetition, the echo-dialogue, the change of pace, the double take, the pratfall, the funny walk, and so on. But more than that, he was able to incorporate these devices into farces which commented on contemporary society in Paris of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Many of these themes still echo for today's audiences.

*Le Malade Imaginaire, The Imaginary Invalid*, was Molière's last comedy. Ironically, on February 17, 1673, during the first week of the play's original run, as Molière was playing the leading role, he was taken ill onstage and died a few hours later. Whether his refusal to submit to the "treatments" of the doctors of the time was the actual cause of his demise can be debated at length, but it was certainly one of the greatest exits in theatrical history.

I would like to thank all of the wonderful people whose talent, assistance and support have helped bring this show to life especially the following: The Summit Area Public Foundation for their generous grant which has underwritten our costumes; Rhoda Roper for the long hours and creativity in designing and painting our beautiful set, Ed Johnson for assembling it, and Bill Roome for lighting it; Nancy Boucher for her help and moral support throughout the last eight weeks; Lori Balzano for her energy and patience overseeing all aspects of this production; and of course the entire cast, especially Frank Malvesi and Beth Painter whose energy, talent and professionalism have inspired the entire company.

Vincent J. Balzano

*The Summit Playhouse Association presents its  
Two Hundred Seventy-Eighth Production*

# *The Molière's Imaginary Invalid*

*an Adaptation by Miles Malleson*

*Set Design*

*Rhoda Roper*

*Stage Manager*

*Amy Liu*

*Lighting*

*Bill Roome*

*Set Construction*

*Ed Johnson*

*Assistant to the Director*

*Nancy Boucher*

*Properties*

*Geraldine Zoccoli*

*Producer*

*Lori Balzano*

*Director*

*Vincent J. Balzano*

*February 27, 28,*

*March 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 at 8:00pm*

*Sunday Matinee, March 7 at 2:00pm*

*The Playhouse Association*

*10 New England Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901*

*(908) 273-2192 [www.SummitPlayhouse.org](http://www.SummitPlayhouse.org)*

*Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.*

*This production made possible through a generous grant  
from the Summit Area Public Foundation*

## Cast

*(In order of appearance)*

<i>Molière</i> .....	<i>as Himself</i>
<i>Monsieur Argan</i> .....	<i>Frank Mahvasi</i>
<i>Toinette, the maid and nurse</i> .....	<i>Beth Painter</i>
<i>Angelica, Argan's elder daughter</i> .....	<i>Joanna Maulbeck</i>
<i>Béline, Argan's wife</i> .....	<i>Jessica Lorin Sully</i>
<i>Monsieur Bonnefoy, a lawyer</i> .....	<i>Scott Avery</i>
<i>Cléante, in love with Angelica</i> .....	<i>Brian Blakely</i>
<i>Dr. Diaforus</i> .....	<i>David Claypoole</i>
<i>Dr. Thomas Diaforus, his son</i> .....	<i>Dan Pence</i>
<i>Louise, Argan's younger daughter</i> .....	<i>Emily Balzano</i>
<i>Monsieur Béralde, Argan's brother</i> .....	<i>David Claypoole</i>
<i>Monsieur Flourant, The Apothecary</i> .....	<i>Michael Marcus</i>
<i>Dr. Purgon, Argan's Doctor</i> .....	<i>John Bauer</i>

## Scenes

### *Prologue*

### *Act I*

*The sitting room of Monsieur Argan's house in Paris, 1674.*

### *Act II*

*The same. Immediately following.*

### *Act III*

*The same. A little later.*

*There will be a 10 minute intermission between Acts II and III,  
during which refreshments will be served in the lounge downstairs.*

---

*The Thursday benefit performance is for  
The Concorde Singers.*

## *Production Staff*

<i>Director.....</i>	<i>Vincent J. Balzano</i>
<i>Assistant to the Director.....</i>	<i>Nancy Boucher</i>
<i>Producer.....</i>	<i>Lori Balzano</i>
<i>Assistant Producer.....</i>	<i>Joanne Wilson</i>
<i>Stage Manager.....</i>	<i>Amy Liu</i>
<i>Set Concept.....</i>	<i>Vincent J. Balzano</i>
<i>Set Design .....</i>	<i>Rhoda Roper</i>
<i>Set Construction.....</i>	<i>Ed Johnson</i>
<i>Assisted by .....</i>	<i>John Becker, George Doherty, John Gurley, Frank Haruwsik, Roy Pancirov &amp; Mike Tatlow</i>
<i>Set Painting .....</i>	<i>Rhoda Roper</i>
<i>Assisted by .....</i>	<i>Moo Schaffer, Moreen Jacobs, Nancy Gurley &amp; Lori Balzano</i>
<i>Set Décor .....</i>	<i>Jami Claypoole</i>
<i>Costume Coordinator .....</i>	<i>Lori Balzano</i>
<i>Assisted by .....</i>	<i>Joanne Wilson &amp; Bruce Wilson</i>
<i>Lighting &amp; Sound.....</i>	<i>Bill Roome</i>
<i>Assisted by .....</i>	<i>Brent Baab</i>
<i>Properties.....</i>	<i>Geraldine Zoccoli</i>
<i>Assisted by .....</i>	<i>Nancy Boucher &amp; Nancy Gurley</i>
<i>Make-up.....</i>	<i>Lori Balzano</i>
<i>Assisted by .....</i>	<i>Pam Heller</i>
<i>Poster &amp; Program.....</i>	<i>Bill Roome</i>
<i>Publicity.....</i>	<i>Alan Danzis</i>
<i>Tickets.....</i>	<i>P. T. Kizzia</i>
<i>Usher Coordinator .....</i>	<i>Betty Kaus</i>

## *Acknowledgments*

*The director wishes to give special thanks to the following for their assistance:*

*Lois Hageman*

*Anne Poyner & Summit High School*

*Noel Warner & Central Presbyterian Church*

*and most especially*

*The Summit Area Public Foundation*

## Who's Who

**Scott Avery (Monsieur Bonnefoy)** studied performance improvisation with Rex Knowles and Sherry Landrum at the New Actors Workshop in NYC. Scott has performed in many plays throughout the NY, NJ and Boston areas and was last seen as Timber Tucker in the Circle Player's production of *An American Daughter*. Some previous roles include Capt Philip Lombard in *Ten Little Indians*, Frederick Arbuthnot in *Enchanted April* and Oliver in *As You Like It*. Scott originated the role of Dr Barker in *Tabula Rasa* with Vital Forces Productions in New York. He was in *Chop Chop*, the 1st US martial arts documentary, produced by Paramount Pictures. Scott lives and works in NJ's best town, Califon, NJ.

**Emily Balzano (Louise)** is a veteran of the Summit Playhouse having previously appeared in its children's wing, Kaleidoscope, productions of *Free To Be... You And Me*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Narnia* and *Charlotte's Web* and is thrilled to be crossing over to the "main stage" especially since she is working with her favorite director. Most recently Emily appeared on the main stage of The Paper Mill Playhouse in *New Voices 2003* and looks forward this May to playing the title role of *Annie* at her school. When not acting Emily can usually be found engaging in one of her other passions, tap dancing or shopping for shoes.

**John Bauer (Dr. Purgon)** is making his second appearance on the stage of the Summit Playhouse. His first was in the musical portion of the accessibility benefit *An Evening With Christopher Durang*. John was recently the "talking head" of Lord Capulet in the high tech *Romeo and Juliet* at Kean University, where he previously played Emile de Becque in *South Pacific*. Other roles in community theater include Danforth in *The Crucible* and Thomas à Beckett in *Murder in the Cathedral*. As Development Officer at the Playhouse, John thanks his many friends who have become supporters of our theater.

**Brian Blakely (Cléante)** having performed in academic theater at multiple schools for over six years, Brian is no stranger to the stage. However, this is his first appearance at the Playhouse and he could not be more honored to be playing the role of Cléante. He would like to thank his family for their interest in what is ever-expanding from a simple love for stage into a lifestyle of its own. Brian would also like to welcome any friends in attendance to the Playhouse and wishes a fun evening for all.

**David Claypoole (Monsieur Béalde, Dr. Diaforus)** recently moved to Summit from Staten Island where he was a mainstay of the island theatre scene for 15 years appearing in roles ranging from Amos Hart in *Chicago* to Frank Butler in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Some favorite roles include Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (with Vince Balzano), Buddy in *Follies*, Man #1 in *Jacque Brel...*, Lancelot in *Camelot*, and El Gallo in *The Fantastiks*. In real life, David is a husband, father, legal recruiter and Elvis impersonator. *Is There Life After High School?* marked his debut with the Summit Playhouse.

**Frank Malvasi (Monsieur Argan)** is thrilled to be making his Summit Playhouse debut under the direction of the talented Mr. Balzano. For many years New Jersey audiences have seen him in numerous productions with both the Attic Ensemble and the Civic Theater of Hudson County. In 2001, Frank directed the Attic's R.E.C.T. award winning production of *No More Sundays*. He most recently appeared in their world premiere production of *The Four Doctors Huxley*. Frank also appeared in last season's production of *Rumors* with the Chatham Players. His New York, Off-Off-Broadway credits include productions of *Ice In April*, *They Came To A City*, and *Heaven Can Wait* (Spotlight award nomination). Many thanks to both Vince and Beth for their encouragement and support during this theatrical adventure. To my Nipper, we've only just begun...

**Michael Marcus (Monsieur Flourant)** appeared as Richard in our last season's production of *Moon Over Buffalo*. He has acted in a number of productions at the Cranford Dramatic Club, including: *My Fair Lady*, *On Golden Pond*, *Sly Fox*, *Cabaret*, *Murder at the Vicarage* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. At Plays in the Park in Edison, Mike was seen in *Gypsy*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *She Loves Me*.

**Joanna Maulbeck (Angelica)** is overjoyed to be back on the Summit Playhouse stage, having previously performed in five Kaleidoscope productions. She has most recently been seen at Summit High School playing Poppy in *Noises Off* as well as in *Footloose* and *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. Joanna would like to thank the cast and director for being a joy to work with, her friends, the SHS Drama Club, Mrs. Poyner, her mom and the rest of the family for all their love and support.

**Beth Painter (Toinette)** is pleased to return to the Summit Playhouse, where she played the role of Roz in last season's *Moon Over Buffalo*. NYC credits include *Crimes of the Heart* (Lenny), *Hamlet* (Gertrude), *Snow White* (Queen) and *Counselor At Law* (Cora). Other favorites include *Rumors* (Chris), *Annie* (Ms. Hannigan), *Nuts* (Claudia), *How To Succeed ...* (Hedy LaRue) and acting in Murder Mysteries in and around the NYC area. She has worked as a Drama Therapist for senior citizens and taught early childhood education. Beth would like to thank her amazing family for their support of her passion for the theater.

**Dan Pence (Dr. Thomas Diaforus)** is the bass player and singer for the punk rock band Convict Orange. This is his community theater debut.

**Jessica Lorin Sully (Béline)** is making her debut at the Summit Playhouse, although she's no stranger to the stage. Stating at the age of 11, she has performed in community theaters all over New Jersey. A recent graduate from Loyola College, Jessica has starred as Jenny Diver in *Three Penny Opera*, Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, Isaac Newton in *The Physicists* and Bobby/Gabby in *City of Angels*. She has performed as a featured vocalist for David Haas and Marty Haugen and most recently has starred as Jennifer Sharp in the independent film *The Last Picasso*. Jessica looks forward to continuously broadening her theatrical horizons.

## STAFF

**Vincent J. Balzano (Director)** has appeared and disappeared many times. Most recently he directed *Black Comedy* at the Summit Playhouse in a joint venture which he conceived on the same bill with students from Summit H.S. performing *The Important of Being Earnest* which was directed by Anne Poyner. As an actor, he recently appeared at the Chatham Playhouse as Lenny Ganz in Neil Simon's *Rumors*. On the Summit stage he has performed in *It's Only a Play* and *Two By Two* and last season almost appeared in *Is There Life After H.S.* with Susan McDaniel. He was privileged to perform the title role in *George M!* for the Summit Centennial Celebration and has directed *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* for the Playhouse's Kaleidoscope Theater for Youth. In a previous life, Vince has directed and/or acted in scores of regional, summer stock and local NYC showcase productions. Vince is a past president of the Summit Playhouse.

**Lori Balzano (Producer)** has been a member of the Playhouse since 1998 when she appeared as Martha Arable in *Charlotte's Web*. That stage appearance was followed by the role of Lady Caroline in *Enchanted April* in 2000 after which she retired from the stage to pursue producing and other backstage tasks; a decision she has been questioning ever since. Producing credits include *Narnia*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Free To Be... You And Me*, *Black Comedy* and *Moon Over Buffalo*. However, the productions of which she is most proud are her children, Vincent and Emily.



## Who's Who (cont)

**Nancy Boucher (Assistant to the Director)** is delighted to be assisting Vince Balzano and this fine cast in *The Imaginary Invalid*. Nancy has directed scores of plays at Lincoln School in Summit and has assisted directors at the Playhouse for many other productions. She has served on the Board of Governors in most capacities, including President, and is presently the Ticket Chair Person. She has recently raised \$160,000 for our Accessibility Project.

**Jami Claypoole (Set Décor)** makes her first foray into the theatre with *The Imaginary Invalid*. An experienced designer, she has previously only shared her talents with clients of her interior design business. Jami recently relocated from Mountain Home, Arkansas where she owned and operated a home decor/interior design store. As you might have guessed, Jami is married to actor, David Claypoole, one of this evening's performers. They live in Summit with their three children.

**Alan Danzis (Publicity)** is a recent graduate from Loyola College in Maryland and now works as an Assistant Account Executive at Spector and Associates, a PR-firm in NYC. As an aspiring writer, his short stories have appeared in print and in over seven online e-zines. He has also had letters to the editor published in The Daily News, The Chicago Tribune, The New York Post, Newsday, and Stuff Magazine. He wishes all the best to the cast: "it has been a pleasure telling the whole community about the wonderful production I've had the pleasure of seeing grow."

**Amy Liu (Stage Manager)** has most recently been involved with Ridge Light Opera, Florham Park Players, and Trilogy Repertory. In college, Amy was involved with the Cornell University Program Board and the Cornell Concert Commission, and got to watch Kevin Smith, Dave Chappelle, No Doubt, Stone Temple Pilots, and other great speakers/bands from the general backstage area. Thanks to the cast and crew for making this a great show.

**Ed Johnson (Set Construction)** is an indispensable member of the rotating set construction crew at the Playhouse, and leads the crew for this production. One of Ed's favorite sets was *I Hate Hamlet* where he got to work with his son and made the NY Times. Ed serves on the Playhouse board as Business Manager.

**Bill Roome (Lighting)** was last seen on-stage in our fall production of *The Crucible*. His previous on-stage appearances include *It's Only A Play*, *Beau Jest*, *Play On*, and *Man Of La Mancha*. Off-stage, he has done lighting and/or sound for many of our recent productions. Off-off-stage, he is owned by four cats, who have still not forgiven him for purchasing a laptop computer.

**Rhoda Roper (Set Design)** has designed sets for various theaters in New Jersey and across the river. She has worked at the Playhouse since *Foxfire* in 1992. Her favorite sets are those which required a lot of painted effects such as *I Hate Hamlet*, *Enchanted April*, *Remembrance* and of course the present set.

**Joanne Wilson (Assistant Producer)** has been an active Playhouse member since 1986. She has worked backstage on several productions and has been an assistant producer. Joanne has also served on the Board of Governors and has appeared on stage in *The Boys Next Door*, *Lettice And Lovage*, and *Enchanted April*.

**Geraldine Zoccoli (Properties)** is called by some the "Queen of Props." She has been doing props for a long time and finds the challenge beyond compare. Some of the other hats she has worn are set decoration, ushering, costumes and even producing *Arsenic and Old Lace* and debuting on the playhouse stage in *Charlotte's Web*. Gerry would like to thank Maureen, John, Dawn and her grandsons for all their support.

## Playhouse Board of Governors, 2003—2004

President .....	Fran Harrison
Vice-President .....	Frank Hawrusik
Secretary .....	George Doherty
Treasurer .....	Nina Deutz
Business Manager .....	Ed Johnson
Tickets .....	Nancy Boucher
Production Committee .....	Lori Balzano, Maya Daniels, Betty Kaus
House and Grounds .....	Deryk Harrison
Technical Director .....	Roy Pancirov
Development .....	John Bauer
Fundraising .....	Richard Nowel
Past President .....	Vincent J. Balzano
Gifts and Benefits .....	Joan Mehner
Playreading Committee Chair .....	Frank Haruwsik
Nominating Committee Chair .....	Pam Heller
Entertainment .....	Nancy Gurley
Newsletter .....	Geraldine Zoccoli
Historian .....	P. T. Kizzia
Legal Advisor .....	Gilbert E. Owen

## Playhouse Information

If you are interested in active membership, subscriptions, or additional tickets, call (908) 273-2192 and leave a message. We will respond accordingly. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please sign our guest book in the lobby. For more information about The Playhouse, including a complete list of all our productions and pictures of the recent ones, please visit our web site, [www.SummitPlayhouse.org](http://www.SummitPlayhouse.org).

## Next Production

### **Dinner With Friends**

by Donald Margulies

**May 7—22, 2004**

Directed by Kate Schlesinger

Auditions: March 14 & 15, at 7:30 pm

*Dinner with Friends*, a Pulitzer Prize winning play, is a contemporary adult dramatic comedy about the relationship between two married couples who have been best friends for many years. The story explores both the interactions between the couples and between partners when one couple decides to separate. The play provides a lot of insight into human nature. (*Contains adult language*)

## Active Members

Brent Baab  
Lori Balzano  
Vincent J. Balzano  
John Bauer  
John Becker  
Nancy Boucher  
Robbi Curtis  
Maya Daniels  
Nina Deutz  
Ted Deutz  
George Doherty  
Sandy Fornuff  
Judy Fraser  
Myrna Goeller  
John Gurley  
Nancy Gurley  
Lois Hageman  
Deryk Harrison  
Frances Harrison  
Art Hausker  
Beverley Hausker  
Cathy Hawrusik  
Frank Hawrusik  
Rebecca Hawrusik  
Thomas Hawrusik  
Pam Heller  
Ann Houpt  
Bill Houpt  
Morrene Jacobs  
Ed Johnson  
Betty Kaus

Patricia Kenworthy  
Myung Kim-Bondy  
Anne King  
Michael King  
Tracy King  
Joyce Kitson  
Malcom Kitson  
Chris Kolmodin  
Alice Kosowski  
Stow Lovejoy  
Joan Ludwig  
Tom Lyttle  
Lyn Mackie  
Janet Maulbeck  
Caitlin Mehner  
Joan Mehner  
Roger Mehner  
Chris Messineo  
Elizabeth Messineo  
Richard Nowel  
Kelly Mott-Sacks  
Tamara Nedjar  
Beth Painter  
Rose Pancirov  
Roy Pancirov  
David Rappaport  
Josephine Ray  
Dee Robertson  
Sandy Robertson  
Bill Roome  
Rhoda Roper

Robert Roper  
Nancy Lee Ryan  
Paul Sacks  
Kyle San Giovanni  
Kate Schlesinger  
Candace Selwyn  
Moo Shaffer  
Ken Smith  
Linn Smith  
Sue Smith  
Sherri Strauss-Williams  
Kathy Tatlow  
Michael Tatlow  
Chris Tolles  
Harriett Trangucci  
John Vicich  
Jeslyn Wheelless  
Rick Wheelless  
Christopher Williams  
Joanne Wilson  
Katherine Winter  
Marguerite Wurtz  
Geraldine Zoccoli

## Retired Active Members

Jeanne Brinkmann  
Arnold Buchiane  
Marjorie Bultman  
Bill Campbell  
Bud Dawson  
Liz Dawson  
Tom Dwyer  
Conover English \*\*  
Vince Esolti  
Stephanie Fisk

Lee Franklin  
Bill Garmany  
Maggi Kelly  
Joe Kizzia  
P. T. Kizzia  
Gil Leigh \*\*  
John Luckstone  
Sondra Luckstone  
Ed Mahler  
Norma McGough

Robert W. Parsons Jr.  
George Redgate  
Joann Scanlon  
Joan Rose Thomas \*\*  
Lovey Trucksess \*\*  
Liz Van Deusen  
Rosalie Cox Volkening

\*\* Honorary Member

# Playhouse Contributors

## Angels (\$1000 and above)

---

Union County Community Development Block Grant  
Johnson & Johnson Foundation  
Nancy Boucher  
Bill Roome  
Kathy & Mike Tatlow

## Benefactors (\$500—\$999)

---

Joan Rush Jones  
Jane & Chandler Coddington, Jr.

## Sponsors (\$250—\$499)

---

Robbi Curtis & George Doherty  
Ed & Joyce Johnson  
Betty Kaus  
Helena & Robert Moseman  
Donna & Jack Walcott

## Friends (\$100—\$249)

---

The Exxon Mobil Foundation	Arlene Jonach
Johnson & Johnson	Maggi Kelly
Anthony & Mary Balistrieri	Joyce & Malcom Kitson
John Bauer	P.T. & Joe Kizzia
John Becker	Laura Korfman
Rene R. Bertrand	Mr. & Mrs. E. Anthony Lamb, Jr.
Ed & Joan Borneman	Maryann & Carl Lyon
Richard Callaghan	John & Sondra Luckstone
Bill & Mary Campbell	Kathryn Lynch
Gerald Campbell	Lyn Mackie
Cele & Frank Cheston	Laurie O'Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Conover English	Betsy Potter
Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. Fedore	Josephine & Sal Ray
Myrna Goeller	Dee & Marty Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. William Gural	Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Sachs
John & Nancy Gurley	Linn & Sue Smith
Deryk & Frances Harrison	Nancy Twaskas
Cathy & Frank Hawrusik	Julianne & Robert Venezia
Morrene Hubbard Jacobs	Jan Clare Viehman

## *The Summit Area Public Foundation*

The Summit Area Public Foundation is an organization dedicated to the needs of those who seek to make a difference in our community. Its mission is to gather funds and administer them as permanent endowments for philanthropy in our area. From academic scholarships to community improvement projects, to cultural affairs, Summit Area Public Foundation grants have enhanced the quality of life for hundreds of local citizens since 1972.

Thanks to their support of the arts The Summit Playhouse was able to bring *The Imaginary Invalid* to the stage of the Summit Playhouse in all its 17th century glory. Productions of this magnitude are not often possible at the community theater level. Costumes of the scale, beauty and detail which you will enjoy this evening are an expensive proposition often impossible for the meager resources of small theaters.

The Summit Playhouse approached The Summit Area Public Foundation with a vision. That vision was to bring classic theater to audiences at the community theater level. To expose local audiences to a kind of theater infrequently seen, to educate them that classic theater doesn't have to be sleep inducing, and to give them an authentic quality of experience that they might otherwise have to go to Broadway to see. The Summit Area Public Foundation saw the validity of this vision and embraced it. They demonstrated their enthusiasm and support of it with a very generous grant to underwrite the costumes. The result of this cooperative vision is before you this evening.

The Summit Playhouse and The Summit Area Public Foundation invite you to sit back and enjoy your evening.