The Summít Playhouse Assocíatíon

The following program is from our 2009-2010 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 PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE

92nd Season Fall 2009

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

One can interpret the themes of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* on numerous levels: the destructive consequences that a repressed society can have on its politics and/or its culture; the powerful influence of an adult on a child; and, in conjunction, the lasting effect that labeling a child can have throughout that child's life. The Latin Motto above the photo of Stanley Baldwin in Miss MacKay's office translates into "Safety First." Jean Brodie says, "Safety does not come first. Goodness, Truth, and Beauty come first." Ideally, Miss Brodie's pronouncements should also flourish in a 'safe' environment. The strongest foundation a person can have is knowing he or she is loved. The love is eternally safe. To feel unlovable can assassinate (a favorite Brodie word) one's soul. These thoughts and more permeate many of the directorial choices I have made. I hope and trust you will find *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* as captivating as we have!

Kate Schlesinger









The Summit Playhouse is a member of the *TriCounty Community Theatre Association*.

See www.TriCountyCTA.org for listings of productions and audition notices.

The Summit Playhouse Association presents its Two Hundred Ninety Fifth Production

THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE

by Jay Presson Allen adapted from the novel by Muriel Spark

Set Design Kate Schlesinger

Set Construction J. Guerdon Mayfield Stage Manager Michael Schlesinger

Assistant Director Theresa Turner *Costume Design* Jennifer Larsen-Fernandez

Set Decor Sally Ponzio & Tina White

Producer Betty Kaus

Director Kate Schlesinger

November 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21 at 8:00pm Sunday Matinee, November 15 at 2:00pm The matinee is a signed performance

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French

The Playhouse Association 10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901 908-273-2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Sister Helena	Elise Jones
Mr. Perry	Scott Yellen
Jean Brodie	Liza Harris
Sandy	Audrey Atencio
Jenny	Isabella Nichol
Monica	Julia Cicchino
Mary	Megan Denholm
Miss Mackay	Jean Kuras
Gordon Lowther	John McCann
Teddy Lloyd	Michael Harvey
Girl Guides	Emma Coffey & Annabelle Jones
New Girls	Elizabeth Dickson, Sofia Lizza,
	Jordyn Mandelbaum, Lena Nazelli,
	Julia Tizzio & Amy Wesson

Setting

The Place: Edinburgh, Scotland

The Time: Act I: 1931 to 1933 Act II: 1933 to 1936 Act III: 1938

There will two intermissions. During the first, juice will be available downstairs in the lounge.

The Thursday benefit is for The Business And Professional Women of Summit.

Production Staff

Director	
Producer	Betty Kaus
Assistant Director	Theresa Turner
Stage Manager	Michael Schlesinger
Assisted by	Nick Armstrong & David Hoffman
Set Design	
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by	Brent Baab, George Doherty,
	T. Carter Hagaman, Frank Hawrusik,
	David Hoffman, Ed Johnson
	& Debra Olchick
Set Painting	Tina White
Assisted by	PT Kizzia, J. Guerdon Mayfield,
	Debra Olchick, Sally Ponzio
	& Kate Schlesinger
Set Decor	Sally Ponzio & Tina White
-	Jennifer Larsen-Fernandez
Assisted by	Diane Lotti
Properties	PT Klzzia & Pam Steiner
Lighting & Sound	Bill Roome
Assisted by	Frank Hawrusik & David Hoffman
Hair	. Allison Guzman of Nickel Street Salon
Signing	George Giousious
Publicity	Pam Heller & Joann Scanlon
Poster & Playbill	Bill Roome
Tickets	Cathy Hawrusik
Assisted by	. Ann Houpt, Ann Lowe & Kathy Tatlow
Photography	Chase Newhart
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

As a courtesy to the cast and the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone



No photography or recording

Who's Who

Audrey Atencio (Sandy) is a senior at Oak Knoll School in Summit. She has been in two other plays directed by Kate Schlesinger at The Summit Playhouse, playing Rosalie in *The Children's Hour* and Beatrice in *The Miracle Worker*. She has loved being a part of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and thanks the cast and crew, especially Kate Schlesinger — you are all really "the crème de la crème!"

Julia Cicchino (Monica) is sixteen years old and a sophomore at Kent Place School in Summit. She is excited to be in her first production at The Summit Playhouse in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Other credits: *High School Musical* (Martha), *The Jungle Book* (Baloo), *Smile* (Sandra Kay), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Margot), and numerous Kent Place productions. Julia has also participated in Teen Troupe at Playwrights Theater in Madison and performed at Interlochen Academy of the Arts and French Woods Festival. She would like to thank her mom and dad for driving her to every rehearsal. She hopes everyone will break a leg on all of their performances!

Emma Coffey (Girl Guide) is an eighth grader at the Peck School. She is ecstatic to be performing in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* along with a spectacular cast. In London she attended the Sylvia acting School. In 2002 she returned to America, and in 2005-2006 she was a clown in the Nutcracker at the Papermill Playhouse. Currently she is working on her eighth grade play. Emma would like to thank the cast for supporting her and teaching her a Scottish accent. She wishes her cast the best of luck in the shows to come.

Megan Denholm (Mary) is thrilled to be making her Summit Playhouse debut in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Having moved a couple years ago from the U.K., her parents are both from Edinburgh, Scotland and she has a thoroughly Scottish family. Megan has previously starred in school productions as Lucy in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Tinkerbell in *Peter Pan*, and as an ensemble member in *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*. She thanks her family for their continual support and to Ms. Kate Schlesinger for allowing her the opportunity to be a part of this great show.

Elizabeth Dickson (New Girl) is excited to be making her Summit Playhouse debut in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Elizabeth has performed in *Bye Bye Birdie, Little Orphan Annie* in the title role, *Honk* as the Evil Cat, *Alice in Wonderland* as Alice and most recently, as Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Elizabeth would like to thank her family for supporting her passion for the performing arts and to thank Mrs. Schlesinger and this cast and crew for a great experience.

Liza Harris (Jean Brodie) is a graduate of NYC's Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre and a Screen Actors Guild member. This marks her third Summit Playhouse appearance, having also performed in *The Children's Hour* (Martha) and *Crimes Of The Heart* (Meg). Other favorite performances include *Wit* (Dr. Vivian Bearing), *Streetcar Named Desire* (Blanche DuBois), *Accomplice* (Janet), *Blithe Spirit* (Ruth), *A Little Night Music* (Desiree Armfelt), *Angel Street* (Bella Manningham) and *The Graduate* (Mrs. Robinson). Many thanks to Kate and this outstanding cast & crew for sharing their talents with me, and to Bill and my children for their endless love and support!

Michael Harvey (Teddy Lloyd) is thrilled to return to The Summit Playhouse, following his community theatre debut as Bernard Kersal in last season's *The Constant Wife*. As a wee lad growing up in Australia, Mike attended Scotch College, a staid private school for boys, but wishes everyone to know that any other similarities to the character played here are ... purely coincidental. A student of the Brayton Elementary Dessert Show Academy of Drama (BEDSAD), Mike is venturing out of his traditional comedy genre in this role and could not have done so without a daily breakfast ritual of Haggis and Single Malt.

Annabelle Jones (Girl Guide) is excited to be making her first appearance at The Summit Playhouse. Developing an interest in the performing arts at an early age, she starred in a school play at the age of eleven and has learned Irish, jazz and ballet dancing since the age of eight. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* is the first large-scale production in which she has appeared.

Elise Jones (Sister Helena) is thrilled to be making her Summit Playhouse debut in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. She has appeared in roles such as Billie in *Haiku*, Frieda in *Clockwork*, and Dr. Krane in *Chiaroscuro* and she studied theater at the University of Alabama. Elise thanks Eric, Caroline, and Madeleine for their unwavering patience and understanding. Also many thanks to Kate, Betty and Scott for your support in my return to the stage.

Jean Kuras (Miss Mackay) is making her seventh appearance at The Summit Playhouse, having played Mrs. Culver in *The Constant Wife*. Jean thanks Theresa Turner, Betty Kaus, the wonderful cast and remarkable crew of this beautiful theater, and the special artistry of Kate Schlesinger for making the past few weeks Prime Time.

Sofia Lizza (New Girl) is making her Summit Playhouse debut in *The Prime* of *Miss Jean Brodie*. Sofia first became interested in theatre and acting in her middle school, where she played the role of Fruma Sarah in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She continued her acting education at the New Jersey School of Dramatic Arts and the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. Sofia thanks her parents for their support and the cast for this experience. Also, she would like to thank Mrs. Schlesinger for this memorable opportunity!

Who's Who (continued)

John B. McCann (Gordon Lowther) is thrilled to be performing for the first time at Summit Playhouse. He recently played Birdboot in a New Jersey School of Dramatic Arts production of *The Real Inspector Hound*. Having Scottish roots makes playing this role for John, that much more fun. John thanks his Mother Ann and his sisters Jackie and Catherine for their love and support. With such a great cast, a splendid time is guaranteed for all. Enjoy!

Lena Nazelli (New Girl) is a sixth grader from Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School, and is so happy to be a part of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. This is her second appearance at The Summit Playhouse, first appearing in *101 Dalmatians Kids* as the Nanny/Poodle. She was selected to be the vocalist from Brayton Elementary at the All-City Music Masters program in 2009. Additionally, she performed at Carnegie Hall with a church choir in 2007. She is proud to have written over 37 songs and written lyrics to the *Fifth Grade Finale* at Brayton Elementary. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love and support too. "I hope that everyone enjoys this wonderful show that we have worked so hard to put together!"

Isabella Nichol (Jenny) is a seventh grader at the Far Hills Country Day School. She is eager to make her debut at The Summit Playhouse in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. She has performed in *The Jungle Book* (Balco), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Rifka) and *The Tempest* (Miranda). Isabella attends acting classes at PeachCraft Studios with Kate Kennedy. She would like to thank her parents for driving her everywhere she needed to go, and her brother for putting up with it.

Julia Tizzio (New Girl) is a sixth grader at Far Brook School, in Short Hills, NJ and is thrilled to be back on stage in The Summit Playhouse for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Julia recently appeared in the PeachCraft Studios production of *Children Of Eden*, where she played the part of Aysha and a storyteller. She has also recently portrayed Alkamene, grandmother of Hercules in *Children of Herakles*. Julia studies acting at PeachCraft Studios with Kate Kennedy and ballet at the New Jersey School of Ballet. Julia has been involved in community theater since she was eight years old and has appeared as a primary dancer in The Cranford Dramatic Club performance of *Narnia* and as a school-child in the Stage Presence production of *School House Rock* as well as numerous school productions. When she is not on stage, Julia enjoys gymnastics and playing field hockey. Julia would like to thank her parents, sisters and friends for their support!

Amy Wesson (New Girl) is very excited to be in her second play at The Summit Playhouse. She had a great time last summer in *Beauty and the Beast*

Jr as a villager and a dancing fork. Amy also appeared in *Children of Eden* while attending the Peachcraft Voice Conservatory last summer. Amy will be in the upcoming production of *Once Upon a Mattress* at Kent Place School, where she is in seventh grade. She enjoys singing, ballet and photography. Amy thanks Kate Schlesinger for including her!

Scott Yellen (Mr. Perry) is making his first ever appearance on The Summit Playhouse stage. In fact, this is his first appearance in any production in nearly thirty years, and he is so thrilled to be back on stage. Scott appeared in plays throughout high school, as well as 'Plays in the Park' in Middlesex County and was a drama/music major at Rider College and FDU. His past performances have included the role of Sancho Panza in *Man of La Mancha*, along with parts in *Three Penny Opera, Peter Pan, Equus, West Side Story, A Streetcar Named Desire* and numerous other productions. He would like to thank Donna, along with his family and friends, for their support and encouragement.

STAFF

Kate Schlesinger (Director) has directed over twenty plays, notably *The Diary of Anne Frank, Prelude to a Kiss, The Heiress, The Children's Hour,* and *The Miracle Worker,* among others, at The Summit Playhouse. She has also directed at The Bickford Theatre, 12 Miles West, The Alliance Repertory Theatre, Aloha Camp, and The Chatham Players. The Star Ledger awarded Kate a nomination for Best Director in New Jersey for her production of Our Town at The Bickford. She is the Drama Teacher for The Peck School's seventh and eighth graders. Kate has acted in roughly 65 productions as well as in two daytime television dramas. She also holds an MA from New York University. She wishes to thank her dedicated, talented cast and crew for their hard work, giving a special kiss to her Stage Manager!

Betty Kaus (Producer) is President of the Playhouse, has been a member since 1950, has directed fifteen plays, has appeared in several, and is on the House and Grounds Committee.

George Giousious (Sign Language Interpreter) hails from Whippany, NJ and graduated from Bloomsburg University's Interpreter Training Program in 2005. His interpreting debut at Summit Playhouse was with *The Constant Wife* last May. He has also interpreted *Kiss Me, Kate!* at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. He has also performed as an actor in such productions as *Teddy & Alice, Sound of Music, L'il Abner* and *Fiddler on the Roof.* George is looking forward to working with The Summit Playhouse once again.

PT Kizzia (Props) joined the Playhouse in 1961 after moving to Summit. Having experienced the fun of being a techie while at Northwestern University, she has enjoyed all aspects of tech at the Playhouse through the years.

Who's Who (continued)

Jennifer Larsen-Fernandez (Costume Design) is very excited to be costuming her first show here at The Summit Playhouse. She has recently costumed a production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* for Fair Lawn High School and was nominated for a Paper Mill Playhouse award. Other past productions are *Annie Get Your Gun, Pippin, Les Miserables, Merrily We Roll Along, Grand Hotel, Cabaret, Will Roger's Follies, Steel Pier* and dozens more. Currently she is working on *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* with Fair Lawn High School.

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Construction) is now into his fifth season with the Playhouse. He is looking forward to presenting three different set styles this year. He got his start in theatre work thanks to his daughter Nancy who is currently on the staff of the Englert Theatre in Iowa City. Theatre makes for a wonderful retirement hobby and he invites all interested people to join him and the rest of the Playhouse in presenting wonderful shows. Special thanks to all the people who assisted in the construction of the set.

Sally Ponzio (Set Decor) has assisted at The Summit Playhouse with set decorations and props for *Baby, Doubt* and *The Constant Wife*. She will be producing the next play *Murder in Green Meadows*. Sally has appeared in a Sheryl Crow's music video, the new NBC mini-series *Kings* and the soon to be released feature film *Bitter Feast*. She has performed on stage at The Summit Playhouse in *Laramie, 10 Years Later*.

Michael Schlesinger (Stage Manager), after a forty year hiatus, is returning to stage managing at the behest of the Director. In addition to stagemanaging, Michael has directed and acted, most recently appearing as Larry Vauxhaul in our production of *Inspecting Carol*. His interest in theater began at the age of eight, when he played Captain Cook, the lead penguin in *Mr*. *Popper's Penguins* at the Cleveland Playhouse Children's Theater. He studied acting in Cleveland for ten years, and appeared in a dozen productions including *The Desperate Hours* and *Take Her She's Mine*, with James Cromwell. In college, he worked with John Lithgow and Tommy Lee Jones. More recently (although quite long ago), he appeared in *Streamers*, at the old Craig Theater, and *Twelfth Night* with Edward Hermann, Elizabeth McGovern and Laila Robbins at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, where he has been a Trustee for over twenty-five years.

Pam Steiner (Props) is delighted to be helping with props and having the opportunity to work with PT Kizzia. Pam wishes to say thank you to everyone at The Summit Playhouse who make it such a pleasure to work there.

Theresa Turner (Assistant Director) serves on the board of The Summit Playhouse, and teaches acting and musical theater at the New Providence Recreation Department. She began a musical theater workshop for middle schoolers two years ago and has directed three main stage productions as part of that program. In addition to the middle school musical theater workshop, she teaches third through sixth grade acting classes, and a summer musical theater workshop for 9–11 year-olds. Theresa, a longtime New Providence resident, has also taught classes as part of the Young Playwright's Program at Playwrights Theater of NJ, as well as acting classes at the New Providence Senior Center. Theresa is thrilled to be working with the brilliant Kate Schlesinger and the fabulous cast of *Jean Brodie*.

Tina White (Set Decor & Set Painting) lives in Summit with her husband, Ed Walter and her two daughters. She has been involved with The Summit Playhouse working on set decor for a couple of years. As an artist, she enjoys working in pastel paints but when at The Playhouse, she makes due with anything available!



Chase Newhart Photography

Remember These Shows?

2008–09: Baby Doubt The Constant Wife

2007–08: You Can't Take It With You Brooklyn Boy Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

2006–07: The Children's Hour Living Out A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

> 2005–06: The Miracle Worker The Lion In Winter The Sisters Rosensweig

2004–05: Fiorello! Inspecting Carol A Delicate Balance

2003–04: The Crucible The Imaginary Invalid Dinner With Friends

2002–03: Moon Over Buffalo Wit Is There Life After High School?

2001–02: Labor Day The Waverly Gallery Black Comedy & The Importance Of Being Earnest

> 2000–01: Bus Stop The Heiress Two By Two

1999–00: Arsenic And Old Lace Brighton Beach Memoirs Enchanted April

1998–99: It's Only A Play Dial M For Murder A Grand Night For Singing

1997–98: A Doll's House Crimes Of The Heart Don't Dress For Dinner

> **1996–97:** Lost In Yonkers Remembrance Gypsy

1995–96: Beau Jest Prelude To A Kiss Later Life

1994–95: Light Up The Sky Shadowlands Lettice And Lovage

1993–94: Nunsense Marvin's Room Murder By Misadventure

1992–93: Fox Fire I Hate Hamlet Death Of A Salesman

1991–92: To Grandmother's House We Go Summer And Smoke Lend Me A Tenor

1990–91: Murder In Mind Arms And The Man Side By Side By Sondheim

1989–90: Quartermain's Terms Monique The Boys Next Door

> **1988–89:** Children Play On The Dresser

1987–88: The Dining Room Man Of La Mancha Design For Murder

1986–87: Pack Of Lies The Diary Of Anne Frank See How They Run

1985–86: 1940's Radio Hour 84, Charing Cross Road The Silver Whistle

1984–85: The Girls In 509 Tribute The Hound Of The Baskervilles

> 1983–84: Death Trap Lunch Hour She Loves Me

1982–83: Morning's At Seven Chapter Two Night Watch

1981–82: Tight Spot On Golden Pond A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

> **1980–81:** Spider's Web The Country Girl Lo And Behold

1979–80: The Deadly Game Twigs Critics Choice

1978–79: Present Laughter The Price Riverwind

1977–78: The Sound Of Murder Outward Bound A Thousand Clowns

1976–77: Finishing Touches The Corn is Green Butterfiles Are Free

1975–76: Suddenly At Home The Right Honourable Gentleman Roar Like A Dove

> 1974–75: Nude With Violin The Crucible Someone Waiting

1973–74: The School For Wives The Curious Savage Barefoot In The Park

1972–73: Private Lives The Lion In Winter Forty Carets

1971–72: The Chalk Garden The Happy Time Plaza Suite

1970–71: The Show-off Mary Stuart Black Comedy & The Red Peppers **1969–70:** Mary, Mary High Ground She Stoops to Conquer

1968–69: Philadelphia, Here I Come! Amphitryon 39 A Shot In The Dark

1967–68: The Circle A Man For All Seasons The Odd Couple

1966–67: The Absence of a Cello The Glass Menagerie Barefoot in Athens

1965–66: Never Too Late The Cherry Orchard The Amorous Prawn

1964–65: Take Her, She's Mine The School for Scandal Speaking of Murder

> **1963–64:** First Love Laura A Majority of One

1962–63: Tea and Sympathy Separate Tables The Gazebo

1961–62: The Pleasure of His Company Point of No Return Rebecca

1960–61: The Teahouse of the August Moon The Taming of the Shrew The Desperate Hours

> 1959–60: The Moon Is Blue Anna Christie Inherit the Wind

1958–59: The Mousetrap Life With Father Gigi

1957–58: Witness for the Prosecution Lady Windermere's Fan The Reluctant Debutante

1956–57: Anastasia The Solid Gold Cadillac O Mistress Mine! **1955–56:** Dial M For Murder The Caine Mutiny Court Martial The Cradle Song

1954–55: My Three Angels The Marriage Proposal & The Browning Version Sabrina Fair

> **1953–54:** Bell, Book, and Candle A Bell for Adano The Late George Apley

1952–53: An Inspector Calls George Washington Slept Here The Heiress

1951–52: Heaven Can Wait The Barretts of Wimpole Street Blithe Spirit

> 1950–51: The First Year Romance Born Yesterday

1949–50: Make Way for Lucia The Trial of Mary Dugan The Man Who Came To Dinner Kiss and Tell

1948–49: John Loves Mary The Winslow Boy Tovarich The Pursuit of Happiness

1947–48: Angel Street Junior Miss The Green Goddess Arsenic and Old Lace

1946–47: My Sister Eileen The Hasty Heart Elizabeth the Queen Snafu

1945–46: Stage Door Laburnum Grove Seventh Heaven Ladies in Retirement

> **1944–45:** Escape Penny Wise Mrs. Moonlight

1943–44: Watch on the Rhine The Night Of January 16th **1942–43:** This Rock The Two Mrs. Carrolls

1941–42: The Last of Mrs. Cheyney Victoria the Queen Mr. and Mrs. North Village Green

1940–41: French Without Tears Pygmalion Double Door You Can't Take It With You

> 1939–40: Personal Appearance Libel! Liliom George and Margaret

1938–39: Ceiling Zero The Marquise The Far–Off Hills The Return of Peter Grimm

1937–38: Goodbye Again Pride and Prejudice Kind Lady What Every Woman Knows

1936–37: Dulcy Berkeley Square Beggar on Horseback Post Road

1935–36: Candlelight Journey's End Petticoat Influence Phantom Footsteps

1934–35: Another Language The Late Christopher Bean The Circle Bird In Hand

> 1933–34: The Perfect Alibi The Royal Family Defense Disraeli

1932–33: The First Mrs. Fraser As Husbands Go The Nightingale The Vinegar Tree

1918 to 1931: see SummitPlayhouse.org!

Board of Governors, 2009–2010

President	Betty Kaus
Vice-President	
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Producers	Betty Kaus, Sally Ponzio,
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Legal Advisor	Roger Mehner



Historic preservation work at this theater is funded by grants from the NJ Cultural Trust, the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust administered by the NJ Historic Trust, and a 2007 HEART grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Playhouse Contributors (2009-10 Season)

Angels (\$1000 and above)

Anonymous Frank J. Ponzio, Jr. Michael Q. & Kathy Tatlow

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MURDER IN GREEN MEADOWS

by Douglas Post directed by Sherrie Ahlin

February 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28* March 5, 6

Auditions: Monday, Dec. 7 & Wed, Dec. 9, at 7:00pm 2 Men, 2 Women: thirties or forties.

The setting is the model home of one of those fresh, spanking new neighborhoods that popped up in the nineties and sprawled across the Midwest with a promise of the good life. Enter two quirky, upscale couples whose instant friendship quickly morphs into a labyrinth of surprising twists and turns. The playwright relies on the character's complexities to serve up a "psychological thriller" that is as satisfying and entertaining as two of its own plot points: adultery and apple pie.

SYLVIA

by A. R. Gurney directed by Chase Newhart

April 23, 24, 29, 30 May 1, 2*, 7, 8

Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after twenty-two years of child-raising in Summit. Greg's career, as a derivative trader, has suddenly come to a halt, while Kate's career, as a public-school English teacher, is beginning to offer her more opportunities. Greg brings home a dog he found in Central Park—or that has found him—bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her nametag. Streetsmart, sassy and sarcastic: Sylvia is your typical "Labradoodle." And she quickly becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife. Sylvia offers Greg an escape from the frustrations of his job and the unknowns of middle age. To Kate, she becomes a rival for affection. Can the marriage be saved? Can a household pet actually be a person...?

* 2pm matinees. Other performances are at 8pm.

The Playhouse Association 10 New England Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901 (908) 273–2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org