

The Summit Playhouse Association

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
Summit
Playhouse
Presents*

Sylvia

**92nd Season
Spring 2010**

MY BEST FRIEND(S)

It's always difficult — every time we say goodbye.

But particularly the first time...

We had shared everything together. I think we both were crying when the time finally came. That dreaded day arrived. Somehow I summoned all my courage and left... for elementary school. His name was "Skippy," and I missed him for most of the day, or at least until lunch. But I never, ever, forgot him: my first dog.

Except for periods of mourning, I would never go without a dog for the rest of my life. For fellow dog lovers in the audience, the question of whether or not a dog is really a person is no question at all! The fancy word for the attribution of human characteristics to non-humans is anthropomorphism. It's really a deeply embedded human impulse — that is growing as our society continues to interact in a non-personal digital world. It's not coincidental that dogs are known as "man's best friend." As James Serpell, the Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for the Interaction of Animals and Society says, "As we lose social support, as our relations become fragmented, we are using dogs to fill the gap."

And for those of you who might leave the theater tonight thinking about acquiring a dog — where will this most important creature in your life come from, and what process will you use to choose your canine companion? Before we all enjoy the comedy that is about to unfold, consider this statistic: over 56% of dogs and puppies entering shelters are killed because there are not enough people to adopt them (National Counsel on Pet Population Study). Sylvia's fear of the pound — her mention of their "time limits" — is an actual reality, particularly in NYC. Fortunately, for the last 70 years, we have had a marvelous resource nearby — St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in Madison, NJ (973-377-2295). At St. Hubert's there is no time limit — all animals are kept until they are adopted! If you haven't stopped by in a while, you might enjoy a visit — a new large expansion is already under way. The adoption hours are Tuesday–Sunday, 12–4. And just one more point, regarding the "otherwise" you might be considering: All dogs in pet stores are from puppy mills. Jackie Fahey, St. Hubert's Director of Animal Welfare, tells me that even though you may be presented with some official looking paperwork, no trust worthy breeder sells animals through pet stores.

And now — back to the jokes. Mr. Gurney wrote *Sylvia* in 1995, and had fun at that time with current political humor. I have attempted to update some of the material to reflect our 2010 society — and I hope you'll all know we only want to make you laugh, at a culture we couldn't possibly make up. Enjoy!

Chase Newhart

The Summit Playhouse Association presents its
Two Hundred Ninety Seventh Production

Sylvia

by **A. R. GURNEY**

Scenic Design

Rhoda Roper

Set Construction

J. Guerdon Mayfield

Stage Manager

George Doherty

Choreographer

Kelly Mott-Sacks

Assistant Director

Nina Deutz

Costume Design

Fran Harrison

Set Decor

Ann Lowe

Producers

Frank Hawrusik & PT Kizzia

Director

Chase Newhart

April 23, 24, 29, 30 and May 1, 7, 8 at 8:00pm

Sunday Matinee, May 2 at 2:00pm

The matinee is a signed performance

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The Playhouse Association

10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901

908-273-2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Sylvia Esther Cohen
Greg David Hoffman
Kate..... Liz Royce
Dancers..... Katherine Briggs & Elise Jones
Tom, Phyllis & Leslie..... Arnold Buchiane

Setting

The Place:

Greg & Kate's apartment in Manhattan,
and various NYC locations

The Time:

The present

There will be one fifteen minute intermission,
during which juice will be available downstairs in the lounge.

The Thursday benefit is for The Summit Rotary.

Acknowledgments

Chatham Players and Bickford Theater, for loans of set pieces.

LP

AVAILABLE AT DESK



As a courtesy to the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone

No photography or recording



Production Staff

Director.....	Chase Newhart
Producers.....	Frank Hawrusik & PT Kizzia
Assistant Director	Nina Deutz
Assisted by.....	Robbi Curtis, Betty Kaus & PT Kizzia
Choreographer.....	Kelly Mott-Sacks
Stage Manager	George Doherty
Dramaturge.....	Robbi Curtis
Set Design	Rhoda Roper
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by.....	George Doherty, T. Carter Hagaman, Frank Hawrusik & Ed Johnson
Set Painting.....	Rhoda Roper
Assisted by.....	Frank Hawrusik & PT Kizzia
Set Decor.....	Ann Lowe
Costume Design	Fran Harrison
Dresser.....	Joanne Wilson
Properties	Geraldine Zoccoli
Assisted by.....	Frank Hawrusik & PT Kizzia
Make-up.....	Jessica Lynn
Hair.....	Allison Guzman
Lighting & Sound.....	Bill Roome
Assisted by.....	Frank Hawrusik
Image Consultant for Mr. Buchiane	Ellen Weirich
Signing	Dr. Carol Goodman, RID CI/CT
Publicity	Pam Heller
Poster & Playbill.....	Bill Roome
Tickets	Cathy Hawrusik
Assisted by.....	Ann Houpt, Ann Lowe & Kathy Tatlow
Photography.....	Chase Newhart
Assisted by.....	Will Bronson
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

Who's Who

Esther Cohen (Sylvia) thanks this brilliant cast and production team for making her Summit Playhouse debut wonderful! Her most recent role was Joan in *Dames at Sea*. Her Off-Broadway roles include Gigi in *Another Life?* and Dominique Deveraux in *Go Back and Get G-d*. Her professional debut was in 1993, with the Hangar Theatre Lab Company. Notable roles include Anna in *The King and I*, Lucy Harris in *Jekyll & Hyde*, and a hellacious furball in *Sincerity Forever*. But her favorite role is Mommy to daughter Sigal and best co-production to date! Special thanks to Avner & Sigal for letting me play, to Comet and Madigan for the inspiration, and to all who pitched in with baby-sitting.



Arnold Buchiane (Tom, Phyllis & Leslie) is thrilled to be back on the Playhouse stage and to be returning to a piece by Gurney. He previously appeared in Gurney's *The Dining Room*, directed by the legendary Betty Kaus. He also directed *Children* by A. R. Gurney and appeared in a special fund-raising production of *Love Letters* with Joann Scanlon. His first appearance at the Playhouse was in *The Pleasure of His Company*.



David Hoffman (Greg) was last seen at the Playhouse in *Brooklyn Boy* as Ira. Since then, he has appeared in *Sisters Rosensweig* (Geoffrey), *A Few Good Men* (Commander Stone), *Sideman* (Ziggy), and numerous readings with The Theatre Project. Other favorite roles include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Dr. Spivey), *A Doll's House* (Dr. Rank), and *Little Foxes* (Ben). David is a proud member of Alliance Repertory Theatre and 12 Miles West Theatre. Besides acting, David produces with Cafe Theatre, a company dedicated to presenting ten-minute play festivals. Recent shows include *Hot Chocolates*, *Sticks and Bones*, and *Summer Shorts 2*. David would like to thank Chase, Nina, Betty, Bill, Frank, and the entire production staff at The Summit Playhouse for always making theatre a pleasure!



Liz Royce (Kate) is delighted to be appearing for the first time at the Summit Playhouse. Liz was recently seen playing Ben's mother in *The Graduate* at the Chatham Playhouse. Liz's favorite roles include Dale Arden in *Flash Gordon* and Vera in the female version of *The Odd Couple*. A theatre major at Syracuse University, Liz also studied with Uta Hagen in NYC.



Katherine Briggs (Dancer) is pleased to be working with the Summit Playhouse Theater for the second time this year. Before being cast as a “Dancing Dog,” she studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Theater Institute in Manhattan and studied dance at the Millbrook School’s Performing Arts Center. Ms. Briggs was a dancer with the American Dance Festival and has acted in several community plays in Boston and NY, including *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *The Madwoman of Chaillot* and *Suppressed Desires*.



Elise Jones (Dancer) is excited to return to the Summit Playhouse in Sylvia. She has appeared in roles such as Helen Sherman in the *Seven Year Itch*, Sister Helena in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (Summit Playhouse), Billie in *Haiku*, and Frieda Dunwoody in *Clockwork*. Elise thanks Eric, Caroline, and Madeleine for their unwavering patience and support. She also thinks the “dancing dog” collaboration with Kelly, Katy, Chase & Gershwin was pure merriment.



STAFF

Chase Newhart (Director) is pleased to be returning to the Summit Playhouse, having staged *Doubt* last season. Mr. Newhart is a member of the Director’s Guild of America, Actors’ Equity Association, the Writer’s Guild of America, the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Director: Plays, Musicals, Films, Off-Broadway, and Episodic Location Television. Favorites: *The Knack and How to Get It*, *Galileo*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Lysistrata*, *Bartholomew Fair*, *Oliver!*, *The Music Man*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Mikado*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Annie Get Your Gun* with Christopher Durang and Nick Wyman. Producer/Director: Metropolitan Musical Theater. Original Director: Overlook Musical Theater and Penny Lane Players (Summit Playhouse). He assisted the legendary Joe Hayes both at Surfflight Summer Theatre and at various Northern New Jersey High Schools, and toured the country stage managing a Claudette Colbert national tour (*A Community of Two* by Jerome Chodorov). Actors Studio: Directing, with Arthur Penn. N.Y.U.: B.F.A. & M.P.S. Still Photography: See the Lobby, this program, and his web site: NewhartPhoto.com. This one is for Freddy, who passed last fall.

Frank Hawrusik (Producer) has produced several other plays including *Is There Life after High School?* and *A Delicate Balance*, but this is his first with a dog. (The last dog to appear on the Playhouse stage was his terrier, Two-Up, in *Gypsy*.) In addition, he is the Playhouse’s Treasurer.

Who's Who (continued)

PT Kizzia (Producer) joined the Playhouse in 1961 after moving from Chicago to NJ. 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. She has enjoyed co-producing with Frank and for Chase and this great cast and crew.

Robbi Curtis (Dramaturge), a Playhouse member since 1984, has appeared in *Doubt* (Sister Aloysius) and many other productions. She has directed *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Remembrance*, *A Grand Night for Singing*, and several benefits for the Playhouse. Off stage, she is married to George Doherty, our Stage Manager, and they spend a much time as they can with their wonderful kids and their four grandchildren. You may ask; "What's a Dramaturge?" A dramaturge assists the Director with historical context and textual changes. She answers questions about the text, the language, the period, the manners and mores of the characters, the clothing and the customs. Any more questions?

Nina Deutz (Assistant Director) has been involved in regional and community theatre for over forty years and has covered many roles – actor, director, producer, stage manager, treasurer to name a few. Her favorite on stage roles include Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*, Yente in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Alice in *I Never Sang for My Father* and all those singing and dancing parts in musicals. When not in a theatre somewhere, she can be found on the tennis court, in a choir room or hanging out with her grandchildren.

George Doherty (Stage Manager) has been Stage Manager most recently for *You Can't Take It With You*, *Brooklyn Boy* and *Doubt*, and has worked on many other productions at the Summit Playhouse.

Dr. Carol Goodman, RID CI/CT (Sign Language Interpreter) is a nationally renowned ASL-English Interpreter and former teacher of the Deaf. Currently she is the Coordinator of the undergraduate program in Speech and Hearing Sciences at Kean University. Dr. Goodman has been with Summit Playhouse since we broadened our offerings to audience members with special needs. She enjoys interpreting our performances as much as the performers do performing them!

Fran Harrison (Costume Design) has costumed a number of shows, the most recent being *The Graduate* directed by Bob Pridham for the Chatham Players and *The Perfect Wedding* directed by Eric Hafen for the Bickford Theatre. This year she received a Perry Nomination for her work on *Christmas Carol* with Bob Cline. Thanks always to Deryk for keeping her fairly close to sanity.

Ann Lowe (Set Decor) is pleased to return to the Summit Playhouse as Set Decorator. She worked on the Playhouse's production of *Murder in Green Meadows* in that capacity and is happy to be working with Rhody again. Ann's previous experience includes being in charge of Costume Design for New Providence High Schools' fall productions of *It's A Wonderful Life*, *The Radio Play* and *The Murder Comedy Mystery of 1940*. She also held that position for NPHS's spring musical productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Kiss Me Kate* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Thanks to her husband Matt for supporting her efforts at every turn.

Jessica Lynn (Make-up) has been beautifying faces since she could pick up an angled brush. She is entering the field as a make-up artist with a career-driven mindset. After completing coursework in Esthetics, she completed courses in bridal make-up, airbrush makeup, and advanced theatrical special effects make-up. With certification in these courses, she realized her true passion is special effects and character make-up. Her present goals are perfecting her craft, networking, and establishing name recognition in the industry. She sincerely thanks the Summit Playhouse for the opportunity to be make-up artist in this production.

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Construction) is now finishing his fifth season with the Playhouse. He has enjoyed 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. He is active with Deaf/HOH organizations and is working to establish programs so they can enjoy live theatre also. 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.

Kelly Mott-Sacks (Choreographer) has been the choreographer at Summit High School for the past ten years. Having just completed a stellar production of *The Producers*, she is happy to work again with the Summit Playhouse. She previously choreographed *Gypsy* in 1994 and *Baby* in 2009 at the Playhouse. Kelly has been a member of Kean Dance Theatre and The William Chaison Modern Dance Theatre as well as The New Jersey Tap Ensemble. She has really enjoyed her fun rehearsals with Katy, Elise and our wonderful director, Chase Newhart. And thanks her family for their constant LOVE and support.

Rhoda Roper (Set Design & Painting) has designed for the Playhouse for about eighteen years, beginning with *Foxfire* in 1992 and including our last production, *Murder In Green Meadows*. She has also designed for The Bronx Opera Company, The Bickford Theater, Savory Singers G & S Company and other theaters around the area. Designing the set for *Sylvia* has been a welcome challenge.

Who's Who (continued)

Bill Roome (Sound & Lighting) was last seen on-stage as the elusive butler, Bentley, in last spring's production of *The Constant Wife*. Off-stage, he has designed sound and/or lighting for many of our recent shows, and he is the Playhouse's Technical Director and Webmaster. Off-off-stage, he lives in Berkeley Heights, where he is owned by several cats. His cats have (grudgingly) given him permission to work on a show about a *dog*.

Ellen Weirich (Image Consultant for Mr. Buchiane) is the owner of Le Femme Finishing School in Piscataway, NJ. She teaches crossdressers, transgender girls and women how to look, act and feel more feminine. She offers lessons in make-up, walking in high heels and deportment as well as fashion and image consulting, beauty makeovers and glamour photos. For more information, see her web site, www.XdressNJ.com.

Geraldine Zoccoli (Props) has been doing props for a long time and finds the challenge beyond compare. Other hats she has worn are set decoration, ushering, costumes, producer for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and debuting on the Playhouse stage in *Charlotte's Web*. She would like to thank Maureen, John, Dawn and all her grandsons for all their support.

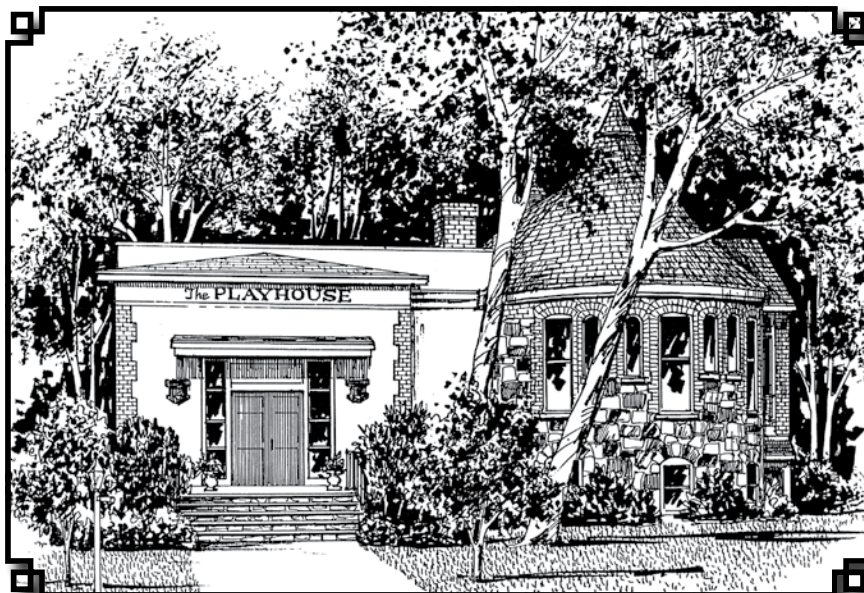




Corps de Chiens Dansants

Board of Governors, 2009–2010

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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

Benefactors (\$500—\$999)

Meritta Lim

Sponsors (\$250—\$499)

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Miss Althea Weeks

July

RENT SCHOOL EDITION

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

Directed by Renee Palermo

Performances: July 22 — 25 \$15 (On Sale July 1)

This Pulitzer-prize winning Broadway musical is based loosely on Puccini's opera *La Bohème*. It follows a year in the lives of seven friends living the disappearing Bohemian lifestyle in New York's East Village. AIDS and both its physical and emotional complications pervade the lives of Roger, Mimi, Tom, and Angel; Maureen deals with her chronic infidelity through performance art; her partner, Joanne, wonders if their relationship is worth the trouble; Benjamin has sold out his Bohemian ideals in exchange for a hefty income and is on the outs with his former friends; and Mark, an aspiring filmmaker, feels like an outsider to life in general, always behind the camera recording the events but never playing a part.

August

SEUSSICAL JUNIOR

Book by Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Co-Conceived by Eric Idle

Based on the works of Dr. Seuss

Directed by Lindsay Maron

Performances: August 6 — 12 \$15 (On Sale July 15)

A delight for children to perform, *Seussical* is now one of the most-performed shows in America! In this fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza, Tony winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (*Ragtime*, *Once On This Island*) have lovingly brought to life all of our favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Mayzie and a little boy with a big imagination—Jojo. "Oh, The Things You Can Think" captures the show's spirit of imagination, as the colorful characters transport us from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus to the invisible world of the Whos.

In the next few months, Kaleidoscope Theatre For Youth is pleased to present three, count them, three productions:

May



Book by Thomas Meehan
Music by Charles Strouse
Lyrics by Martin Charnin
Directed by Lindsay Maron

May 21 — 26 \$15

Annie is a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents, who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and finds a new family and home in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

Audition Information

Auditions for Rent & Seussical will be held on June 2–5, by appointment (Annie has already been cast). Sign ups for auditions will begin in May. Please check www.SummitPlayhouse.org for more detailed audition information and to schedule an appointment.

RENT: Seeking singers, actors and dancers ages 14–21. Rehearsals will be Sunday through Wednesday evenings beginning June 13.

SEUSSICAL: Seeking singers, actors and dancers ages 6–18. Rehearsals will be weekday afternoons beginning July 6.

Playhouse 2010–2011 Season

CLOSER THAN EVER

by Maltby & Shire
November 5 — 20, 2010

This two act musical revue features self-contained songs which deal with such diverse topics as security, aging, mid-life crisis, second marriages, working couples, and unrequited love. Maltby and Shire based many of the songs on the real-life experiences of their friends!

SPEED THE PLOW

by David Mamet
February 18 — March 5, 2011

Speed the Plow is one of several successful plays Mamet has written about the business world. Filled with his trademark, rapid-fire dialogue, it focuses on the ruthless nature of Hollywood and the movie industry. With Mamet's superb use of dialogue and taught plotting the seemingly superficial depiction of two Hollywood producers looking for a big break finds deep meaning.

THE LATE CHRISTOPHER BEAN

by Sidney Howard
April 22 — May 7, 2011

Yankee practicality collides with New York's sophisticated art world in this sly 1930s comedy. All hell breaks loose when a celebrated painter's early works are traced to the humble home of a country doctor. Both a biting satire on the destructive power of greed and a touching view of a family in turmoil, this feisty comedy will have you cheering for the most unlikely of heroines.

**For our Spring and Summer
Kaleidoscope productions, see inside!**

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