

The Summit Playhouse Association

The following program is from our 2010-2011 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

93

Ninety-third
SEASON
2010 - 2011

**THE SUMMIT
PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS**

The Late

*Christopher
Bean*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Relevance.

In "The Late Christopher Bean" 1933 New England looks old fashioned. The clothes, language and manner are the sort of human sentiment considered quaintly naïve today.

We meet characters that are immediately recognizable, as though they had walked out of a Norman Rockwell painting or an Andy Hardy movie in which the most difficult questions are how to carve the turkey or put up that darn play!

Sidney Howard, however, is after a deeper, psychological human texture. He reveals this slowly so that what we observe is gradually becoming not what it seems.

There is relevance, startling at times, to the economic conditions in the play which takes place during the Great Depression. Money is scarce and people are losing their jobs and adjusting to a new financial reality. Sound familiar?

This becomes more specific as questions of art are raised. How do we put value on something? What was once used to plug a hole in the barn could now buy the entire farm! For Dr. and Mrs. Haggett this value changes how they behave and influences their core beliefs. For Abby the value is personal and reflected in how she views the world around her and herself in it.

These psychological and economic questions are timeless. How do decent, everyday people deal with the pressures of financial realities? In the play, we spend a single day in the life of an average American family that becomes increasingly infected by the possibility of becoming rich. Greed, family, class and status — what makes this play particularly timely is the way it exposes the vulnerability of even the most seemingly decent among us.

So the relevance is startling because really what we laugh at and recognize is ourselves.

Frank Licato

LP

AVAILABLE AT DESK



The Summit Playhouse Association presents its
Two Hundred Ninety Eighth Production

The Late Christopher Bean

by **Sidney Howard**

Stage Manager

Justine Bailey

Scenic Design

Tina White

Assistant to the Director

Betty Kaus

Costumes

Ann Lowe

Set Construction

J. Guerdon Mayfield

Set Decor

Ingrid Heil

Producers

Sally Ponzio & Diane Lotti

Director

Frank Licato

November 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20 at 8:00pm

Sunday Matinee, November 14 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)

Dr. Haggett.....	Clinton Scott
Susan Haggett.....	Sistina Giordano
Abby	Molly Gilman
Mrs. Haggett.....	Jeslyn Wheelless
Ada Haggett.....	Jessica Phelan
Warren Creamer	Peter Curley
Tallant	Jeff Maschi
Rosen	Tom Jeszeck
Maxwell Davenport.....	Arnold Buchiane

Setting

The Place:

The dining room of the Haggetts' house,
not far from Boston

The Time:

The 1930's

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

The Thursday benefit is for The Concord Singers.

Acknowledgments

Ingridable Design at Blackrose, South Mall, Allentown, PA,
for the loan of chairs and other furnishings.

Dieter Heil for furniture moving, painting
and overall support of the play.

Production Staff

Director..... Frank Licato
Producers.....Sally Ponzio & Diane Lotti
Assistant to the Director.....Betty Kaus
Stage ManagerJustine Bailey
Assisted by.....Jaci McCoy, Roberta Jasper
 & Roberto Luzuriaga
Set DesignTina White
Set Construction.....J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by.....Darshan Arora, George Doherty,
 T. Carter Hagaman, Frank Hawrusik,
 David Hoffman, Ed Johnson,
 Debra Olchick & Roy Pancirov
Set Decor..... Ingrid Heil
Costumes Ann Lowe
Properties PT Kizzia & Pam Steiner
Assisted by..... Mary Lou Mayfield & Joanne Wilson
Lighting..... Bill Roome
Assisted by.....Dieter Heil & Debra Olchick
Sound Designer.....Donald Stark
SigningDr. Carol Goodman, RID CI/CT
PublicityKaty Briggs & Pam Heller
PosterEd Walters
PlaybillBill Roome
TicketsCathy Hawrusik
Assisted by.....Ann Houpt, Ann Lowe & Kathy Tatlow
Photography.....Chase Newhart
Usher CoordinatorBetty Kaus



As a courtesy to the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone

No photography or recording



Who's Who

Arnold Buchiane (Maxwell Davenport) is making his fifteenth appearance as an actor at the Playhouse. His first was as Toy the Chinese houseboy in *The Pleasure of His Company* in 1961. Other appearances that are memorable—at least to him—are Actor #1 in *The Dining Room*, C.S. Lewis in *Shadowlands* and Tom, Phyllis & Leslie in last season's *Sylvia*. He has also directed eight productions here, starting with 1984's *Girls In 509*. He won a Bigbee award for direction of 1994's *Marvin's Room*. Arnold has also served as President, Vice-President and many time Producer at this jewel of a theater.



Peter Curley (Warren Creamer) is pleased to be back on stage with the Summit Playhouse after last appearing with them in the 2005 production of *The Miracle Worker*. His recent theater credits include Rolfe in *Judgment at Nuremberg*, Axel in *Don't Drink the Water*, Tony Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You*, Dexter in *Philadelphia Story*, Biff Loman in *Death of a Salesman*, and Lennox in *Macbeth*. He would like to thank Frank, Sally, Betty, and a terrific cast and crew. Break a Leg!



Molly Gilman (Abby) is making her Summit Playhouse debut! Graduated Vassar College, B.A. Classics: Ancient Societies. Originated the role of Dr. Wink/Alison in the Off-Broadway musical *Pinkalicious*, now playing at the Bleecker Street Theater. Favorite past roles: Ariel in *The Tempest* (CAGE), Katherina in *Taming of the Shrew* (HSC), K-Mart in *Happy Hour* (MCTC), Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Little Sally in *Urinetown*, and was a Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Award nominee for playing Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*. Thanks and admiration to whole "Bean" team for making this such a professional and joyful experience! Web site: www.mollygilman.com



Sistina Giordano (Susan Haggett) is a graduate of Syracuse University, and hails from Sault Ste. Marie in Ontario Canada. She was last seen as Mar-nie in Alliance Rep Theatre's production of *The Drunken City*. Her other credits include Catherine in the Italian American Rep Company's *A View From The Bridge*, directed by Frank Licato, *Nocturne* (Sister) Luna Stage, *The Front Page* (Molly Malloy) and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (Georgeanne) to name a few. Many thanks to Frank for this opportunity. Love and unending thanks to family and friends, especially Mum, Dad and Andrew, for all your love and support! For more about Sistina, go to www.sistinagiordano.com.



Tom Jeszeck (Rosen) of West Orange makes his Summit Playhouse debut. With The Players Guild of Leonia he played Wilding in *Enchanted April* and Henry in *The Fantasticks*. With The Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company Tom has played Alexis in *The Sorcerer*, Robin in *Ruddigore* and Samuel in *Pirates of Penzance*. Other credits include *Paper Candles*, *I Love My Wife*, *Anything Goes*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Boys in the Band*. Tom earned his BM from Westminster

Choir College and for the last 20 years has worked as a Wall Street Financial Consultant. He thanks wife Jill and sons Philip & Andrew for letting "me come out to play." And he is grateful to be part of this wonderful cast. Thank you Frank!

Jeff Maschi (Tallant) has acted on countless stages throughout the Metropolitan area. Some of his previous roles include Sharkey in *The Seafarer*, Pale in *Burn This*, Eddie in *A View From the Bridge*, Marc in *Art*, and Don in *Rounding Third*. Here at the Summit Playhouse, he has portrayed John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Tom in *Dinner with Friends*, and most recently Father Flynn in last winter's production of *Doubt*.



Jessica Phelan (Ada Haggett) is pleased to be making her Summit



Playhouse debut with such a talented, fun cast and director. Her previous credits include The Barn Theater's Solstice Showcase One Act Festival, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Nurse Flinn), *Eurydice* (Little Stone), *Savage in Limbo* (Linda Rotunda), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Katherine) and *Arms and the Man* (Louka). Jessica holds her BA in acting from Ramapo College of New Jersey and currently is a hairstylist in Chester. Much love and thanks to her family and friends, especially Mom for her unending love, support and understanding.

Clinton Scott (Dr. Haggett) is honored by the Production Staff of Summit Players to be given such a wonderful opportunity to play such a 'complex' person as Dr. Haggett for his first production here at Summit. He has been honored with two NJ ACT Perry Award Nominations; for Best Supporting Lead in a Drama as Richard The Lionheart in *The Lion In Winter* (Carnival Prods., Rahway), and as Best Male Ensemble Player as Larry in *Company* (Cranford Dramatic Club). Other favorite roles in his 35+ year stage career include Ernie Cusack in *Rumors* (The Barn Playhouse), Don Quixote in *Man Of LaMancha* (Radburn Players), and Fred/Pettruccio in *Kiss Me Kate* (Weathervane Theatre, NH). Thanks always to Mom and 'The Boys' Castor and Pollux; his biggest supporters.



Jeslyn Wheeless (Mrs. Haggett) is delighted to be part of this production of *The Late Christopher Bean*, especially since her daughter-in-law, Kate Middleton, played Ada in an off Broadway production of the play last year. Other shows Jeslyn has done at the Summit Playhouse are *Is There Life After High School?*, *Fiorello!*, *Baby*, and *You Can't Take It With You*. She has previously appeared in *Into the Woods*, *The Perfect Hostess* (Jersey Voices), and *Oliver!* with the Chatham Community Players, and in *Iolanthe* with the Stony Hill Players. As a storyteller and folksinger, Jeslyn recorded her CD, *Hoot Owl Blues*, which was an American Library Association Notable Children's Recording.



STAFF

Frank Licato (Director) recently staged *On the Waterfront* in Hoboken. This production has been made into an award winning documentary called *Waiting for Budd*. Before that he directed the Off-Broadway production of *Lamppost Reunion* with Vincent

Who's Who (continued)

Pastore to a completely sold out run in New York. New Jersey productions include: *A View from the Bridge* at the Italian American Rep, Harold Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes*, Brian Friel's *Afterplay*, *Reginald Filbert Calls It Quits* and *Enigma Variations* at the Garage Theater. The World Premiere of Neil Labute's *I Love This Game* for Mile Square Theatre, the New Jersey premiere of Mr. Labute's *Fat Pig* and *My Italy Story* at 12 Miles West Theater, *Sloth* and *Called Out* at NJ Rep, and *Jag* at Premiere Stages. New York shows: Off-B'way: *Centennial Casting*, *Requiem For A Heavyweight*, Sam Shepard's *Seduced*, Clifford Odet's *Rocket to the Moon* and *Golden Boy*. Off-Off B'way: *Tannhauser: The Play*, *Sounds of a Better World* concert at the 92nd Street Y, *Rockaway Boulevard*, *La Compagnie*, *Asylum* by Steven Sater, who wrote the Broadway hit *Spring Awakening*, *The Nest* and Sam Shepard's *Action*. Others: *The Engagement* in Los Angeles, David Mamet's *American Buffalo* which had a five month run at the Elyze Theater in Athens, Greece and Neil Labute's *The Shape of Things* which was nominated for the Kennedy Center award. Mr. Licato also teaches acting: www.franklicato.com.

Sally Ponzio (Co-Producer) is the Vice President at the Summit Playhouse. She has co-produced *Murder in Green Meadows*. She has assisted with set decorations and props for *Baby*, *Doubt*, *The Constant Wife* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Sally has appeared in the NBC mini-series *Kings*, the short film *Different Colours*, a commercial *Satisfied Switchers* and soon to be released short film *The Art of Theatrical Ushery*. She has performed on stage at the Summit Playhouse in *Laramie*, *10 Years Later* and in Chatham Jersey Voices summer 2010. Thanks to Diane, the backstage team, the actors and the director for making this play a true success.

Diane Lotti (Co-Producer) has been a proud member of the Summit Playhouse team for almost a year, having worked on costumes for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, as the Stage Manager for *Murder in Green Meadows* and now as Co-Producer of *The Late Christopher Bean*. Thanks to all the wonderful people who contribute to making these productions so great!

Justine Bailey (Stage Manager) Justine graduated from Bucknell University in May where she majored in Management and minored in Theatre. While at Bucknell she stage managed a production of *Mud* and operated the sound board for *bobrashenberger-america*. Justine also directed and choreographed dance numbers and one acts for various productions and student groups. Most recently, she appeared as Jessica Cranshaw/Arlene Barucca in Bucknell's production of *Curtains*. Currently, Justine works as Project Manager at AT&T.

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!

Ingrid Heil (Set Décor) is thrilled to be back after helping with the decor for *Murder in Green Meadows*, and she hopes to be involved in many more productions. Special thanks to Tina, PT and Sally for their guidance, patience and kindness.

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

PT Kizzia (Props) joined the Playhouse in 1960 after moving from Chicago. Having experienced the fun of being a techie while majoring in theater and radio at Northwestern University, she has enjoyed the people and all aspects of tech at the Playhouse through the years. This 1930's Depression era production has been a special props challenge. She hopes you enjoy the show.

Ann Lowe (Costumes) is making her Costume Design debut at the Summit Playhouse. She worked on last season's production of *Murder in Green Meadows* and *Sylvia* as Set Decorator. Ann's previous experience includes Costume Design for New Providence High School's last three fall plays and last four spring musicals. Thanks to Karin for technical advice and to her husband Matt for supporting her efforts at every turn.

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Construction) is now starting his sixth season with the Playhouse. 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.

Bill Roome (Lighting) was last seen on-stage as the elusive butler, Bentley, in our 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.

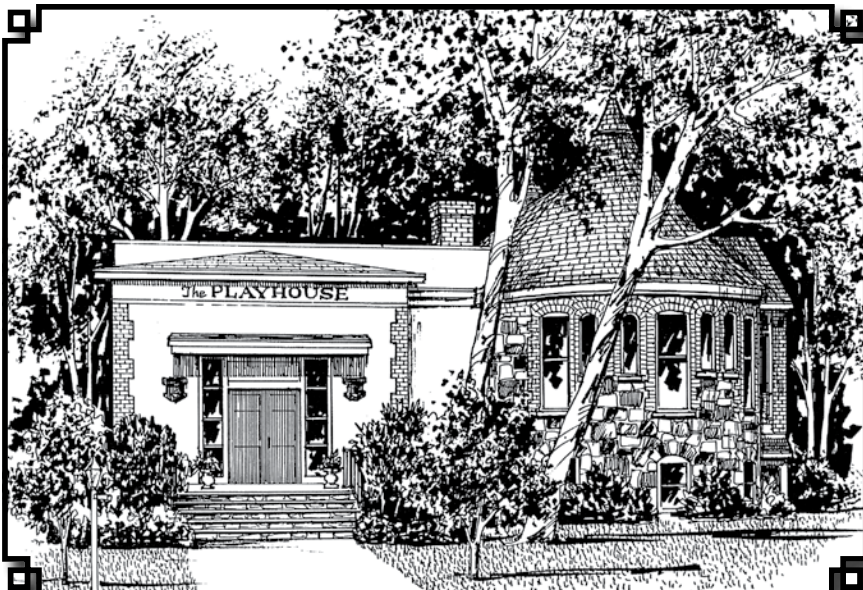
Donald Stark (Sound Designer) has composed prolifically for stage, film, radio, TV, and the concert hall. This past year, he designed sound and composed for Garage Theatre's productions of *Doubt* and *Enigma Variations* and composed underscore for What Exit's staging of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* original radio scripts. Donald also composed for Hudson Film Group's award-winning documentary *Waiting for Budd* and designed sound for Frank Licato's mounting of Budd Schulberg's stage version of *On the Waterfront*.

Pam Steiner (Props) is delighted to be helping with props and having the opportunity to work with so many talented people. Thank you to all who make working at the Summit Playhouse so enjoyable.

Tina White (Set Design) is pleased to participate in her fifth show at The Summit Playhouse. Her prior work at The Playhouse has included décor work on the sets of *You Can't Take It With You*, *Baby*, *Doubt*, *The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie* & *Murder In Green Meadows*. Tina does interior design as well as pastel paintings. Her work can be viewed online via www.Whitepastel.com. Tina is an Ohio transplant who lived and worked in NYC for many years before moving to Summit with family. Thank you to the wonderful construction and decorating crew that made this set design such a pleasure to work on. A special thank you to her husband for his loving support.

Board of Governors, 2010–2011

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Upcoming Productions

SPEED THE PLOW

by David Mamet
directed by Trey Compton

February 18 — March 5, 2011

Auditions: December 6 & 7
www.SummitPlayhouse.org/auditions.html

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 taut plotting the seemingly superficial depiction of two Hollywood producers looking for a big break finds deep meaning.

*Speed The Plow contains adult language,
and is recommended for mature audiences.*

CLOSER THAN EVER

by Maltby & Shire
directed by Susie Speidel
musical direction by Bill Houpt

April 22 — May 7, 2011

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!

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