The Summít Playhouse Assocíatíon

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**



C

sel







by Maltby & Shire

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Though its songs were taken from a variety of origins, *Closer Than Ever* is a tightly focused musical revue. It explores the trials, tribulations and triumphs of maturing from young adulthood through middle age and explores the ways people adapt to the changes that come with that physical and emotional maturation. The revue format and Maltby and Shire's uncommon ability to tell little stories with such resonance make the show a rich exploration of the baby boomer zeit geist. The struggles range from romance to divorce and from childcare to the death of a parent, but the rewards can be plentiful. In fact, if we can just hold on, they can indeed bring us all "closer than ever."

Susan Speidel

Presented by special arrangement with Musical Theater International www.MTIShows.com



AVAILABLE AT DESK



The Playhouse Association 10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901 908-273-2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org The Summit Playhouse Association presents its Three Hundredth Production

Closer Than Ever

Lyrics by Music by **Richard Maltby, Jr. David Shire**

Conceived by Steven Scott Smith Originally Produced Off-Broadway by Janet Brenner, Michael Gill and Daryl Roth

> Stage Manager Justine Bailey

Set Design Travis McHale

Choreographer Kelly Mott-Sacks *Costumes* Beverly Wand

Set Construction J. Guerdon Mayfield

Producer Kate Middleton *Set Decor* Tina White

Musical Director Bill Houpt

Director Susan Speidel

April 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30 at 8:00pm May 6 & 7 at 8:00pm Sunday Matinee, May 1 at 2:00pm The matinee is a signed performance

Cast

Arlene Britt Jason Cesare Sean Finnerty Cara Heary Peter Jay Oliff Miriam Salerno

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

The Thursday benefit is for The Calvary Chorale.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the Chatham Players, for loaning us props & costumes.

Ground UP Productions.

As a courtesy to the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone



No photography or recording



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

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

Production Staff

Director	Susan Speidel
Musical Director/Piano	Bill Houpt
Choreographer	
Producer	
Assistant to the Director	Betty Kaus
Stage Manager	Justine Bailey
Assisted by	Jaci McCoy & Pamela Wilczynski
Percussion	Steve Weber
Bass	John Zimmermann
Set Design	Travis McHale
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by	George Doherty, Frank Hawrusik,
	Ed Johnson & Steven Ring
Set Decor	Tina White
Assisted by	Petra Krugel & Ann Lowe
Set Painting	Rhoda Roper
Assisted byBetty Ka	us, PT Kizzia & Kelly Mott-Sacks
Costumes	Beverly Wand
Assisted by	the entire cast
Properties	Geraldine Zoccoli
Assisted by	PT Kizzia
Lighting	Bill Roome
Assisted by	Jaci McCoy
Follow-Spot OperatorsJa	smine Burton, Benjamin Machlin
	& Daniel O'Hara
Signing	Dr. Carol Goodman, RID CI/CT
Publicity	Elise Jones
Poster & Graphics	Ed Walter
Playbill	Bill Roome
Tickets	Cathy Hawrusik
Assisted by Ann Houpt, R	oberto Luzuriaga & Kathy Tatlow
Photography	Jordan Popalis
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

Songs		
ACT I		
DOORS	Company	
SHE LOVES ME NOT	Sean, Miriam & Jason	
YOU WANT TO BE MY FRIEND?	Miriam	
WHAT AM I DOIN'?	Sean	
I'LL GET UP TOMORROW MORNING	Jason & Peter	
THE BEAR, THE TIGER	Miriam	
MISS BYRD	Cara	
THE SOUND OF MUZAK	Company	
ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS	Peter	
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT	Company	
LIFE STORY	Arlene	
NEXT TIME	Company	
ΑСТ ΙΙ		
THREE FRIENDS	Arlene, Cara & Miriam	
FANDANGO	Cara & Sean	
THERE	Miriam & Jason	
PATTERNS	Arlene	
Another wedding song*	Arlene & Peter	
IF I SING [†]	Jason	
BACK ON BASE*	Cara	
THE MARCH OF TIME	Company	
FATHERS OF FATHERS	Jason, Peter & Sean	
IT'S NEVER THAT EASY	Cara & Miriam	
CLOSER THAN EVER	Company	
* Lyrics by David Shire † Lyrics by R	* Lyrics by David Shire † Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr. & David Shire	











Photos by Bill Roome

Who's Who



Arlene Britt is thrilled to be making her Summit Playhouse debut with such a fabulous cast and staff. Recent credits include Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret* (Bucks County Playhouse), Mrs. Potts in *Beauty & the Beast* (JCC Metrowest), Mayor Matilda in *All Shook Up* (Plays in the Park), Mother in *A New Brain* (EVP), Rosie in *The Wedding Singer* (CDC & PIP), Mrs. Johnstone in *Blood Brothers* (George Street Playhouse), Aunt March in *Little Women* (Chatham Playhouse), Ethel in *Moon Over Buffalo* (CDC), Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella* (PIP), Mrs. Bob in *Mrs. Bob Crachit's Wild Christmas Binge* (EVP). Special thanks to Susie. Love to Marissa, Blase & Ron.

Jason Cesare is thrilled to be making his Summit Playhouse debut! He returned to the stage last year after a twelve year absence in CDC's *The Wedding Singer* as Sammy. Some past roles include Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Buddy Fiddler in *City of Angels*, Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods*, Fagin in *Oliver!*, Frank Butler in *Annie Get Your Gun*, and the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. Thank you to Susie, Bill and this sickeningly talented cast and crew. Jason would like to dedicate this performance to his amazing wife, Susan and the two lights of his life, his sons, Dylan and Evan.





Sean Finnerty is excited to be making his debut with the Summit Playhouse. Past roles include Roger in *Rent*, Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, Chris in *Miss Saigon*, and Bobby in *Urinetown*. He would like to thank Susie, Bill, and the cast for the hard work in putting this show together. Love and thanks to Michelle.

Cara Heary last appeared at the Summit Playhouse as Pam in *Baby*. Most recently she was seen as Mrs. Cratchit in Chatham Players *A Christmas Carol*. She has appeared at theatres across the country in roles such as Cinderella *(Into the Woods)*, Janice *(Italian American Reconciliation)*, Carrie *(Carousel)*, and Maggie *(A Chorus Line)*. Love and thanks to Bob, M and D.



Photos by Jordan Popalis



Peter Jay Oliff first performed with the Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Co., and later with the N.J. and State Repertory Opera Companies. Favorite roles include the Caliph in *Kismet* and George in *Sunday in the Park*.... He made his off-off-(off) Broadway debut in *Jacques Brel*..., and recently recorded his NYC cabaret act. Perhaps his most memorable is singing on the Joe Franklin TV Show on the set of *Romper Room* ("No, Joe, I never bill myself as 'The Singing Dentist'") and a Vatican Mass (not necessarily in that order). It's a joy to work again with Susie and Bill, and this remarkable cast. Peter dedicates *Another Wedding Song* to his very fortunate brother!

Miriam Salerno is thrilled to be performing with Summit Playhouse for the first time. A recent transplant from the Washington, DC area, Miriam has most recently performed with The Montgomery Playhouse and Kensington Arts Theater. She is thrilled to be back in NJ and grateful for the opportunity to perform with such an amazing cast and production crew. She would like to thank all her friends and family for their support, especially the HGECC crew for coming out in such big numbers! She would also like to give a special thank you to her husband, Don, for his constant love and support and willingness to rush home from work so she could to go rehearsal — I love you!



STAFF

Susan Speidel (Director) is a frequent soloist with the Key West Pops and appeared in *Chicago*, *All Shook Up!*, *Company*, *Nine*, *Gypsy*, *Mame*, and *Nunsense*. Her directing credits include *Hair*, *Me And My Girl*, *Man Of La Mancha*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *A Little Night Music*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, and *A Christmas Carol*. She served as Director of Education at Paper Mill Playhouse before being named Performing Arts Department Chair at Morristown-Beard School. She is also an adjunct in the Department of Fine and Visual Arts at Kean University.

Bill Houpt (Musical Director) started at the Summit Playhouse in 1982 as Musical Director for *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. Since then he has been Musical Director for ten other Playhouse productions. In addition, he has conducted or played for musicals and operas for other theaters in the area. For almost twenty years he has been Director of the Larks of the Junior League of Summit and has been teaching music at the Summit Speech School.

Kate Middleton (Producer) is thrilled to be part of the Summit Playhouse after hoping to get on board since marrying Summit-native Dan Wheeless five years ago! Founding Member and Producing Artistic Director of Ground UP Productions, a six-year-old non-profit theater company in NYC. Directing credits include: The new hit-southernmusical *The People vs. Mona, The Trestle At Pope Lick Creek, Letter From Algeria* and *T.S. Eliot And The Women* (NYU). She has also AD'd *Jack And Jill, Lobby Hero* and *Burn This* with Ground UP in NYC. As an actor, Kate has appeared Off-Broadway, regionally, and with Ground UP (soon to be Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Play-

Who's Who (continued)

house!), in addition to a recurring role on NBC's *Mercy*, *L&O*, and *L&O*: *SVU*. She also sells lots of things to you from your TV. Kate hopes that this is the first of many Summit Playhouse endeavors! Thank you to Dan, the Playhouse Board, Summit, Ground UP and family. <u>katemiddletonactress.com</u>

Justine Bailey (Stage Manager) has been a stage manager twice before for the Playhouse and has loved every minute of it! Thanks to everyone for their warm welcome. Justine graduated from Bucknell University where she majored in Management and minored in Theatre. While at school she worked on many productions including *Mud*, *bobraushenbergamerica*, and various other one acts. She also 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!

Betty Kaus (Assistant To The Director) has been a member of the Playhouse for sixty one years, has been President four times, has directed fifteen plays, has acted in ten plays, has produced many, and is presently on the House and Grounds Committee.

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Construction) is now in 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.

Jaci McCoy (Assistant Stage Manager) is working on her third production with the Summit Playhouse. She was an Assistant Stage Manager for *The Late Christopher Bean*, and flexed her muscles when moving furniture during the rapid scene changes on *Speed–The–Plow*! She is so excited to be working with such an amazing cast and crew and would like to thank everyone for their hard work on *Closer Than Ever*. When not at the Playhouse, she can be found lending a hand at St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center.

Travis McHale (Scenic Designer) is a New York City based lighting and scenic designer. Recent designs: *The Diary Of Anne Frank* (Westport Country Playhouse), *My Favorite Things* starring Shirley Jones (Colorado Festival of World Theatre), and Mozart & Berio's *Zaide* (Carnegie Hall). Travis has worked extensively Off Broadway, in regional theatre, and on national tours. He is a board member of New York's Ground UP Productions for which he has designed *Letter From Algeria, The People Vs. Mona* (NY Innovative Theatre Award nomination), and *The Optimist*, among others. Proud union member, United Scenic Artists. <u>www.travismchale.com</u> **Kelly Mott-Sacks (Choreographer)** is happy to be back at the Summit Playhouse, after having recently worked on *Sylvia* and *Baby*, as well as *Gypsy*. A past member of Kean Dance Theatre, The William Chaison Modern Dance Theatre, and NJ Tap Ensemble, she currently teaches at Dance Innovations. Proudly, Kelly has choreographed at Summit High School for the past ten years, as well as multiple plays at Franklin and the middle school. She enjoys the support of her students and the community and thanks her best friends at home, Paul, Ally, Cooper and Isabelle.

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.

Beverly Wand (Costumes) is honored to be working with the Summit Playhouse. She has designed costumes for Chatham Players, Madison Schools, and the Peddie School, in shows ranging from Shakespeare to *Seussical*.

Tina White (Set Decorator) is pleased to work under the direction of Travis McHale and has been assisted by Petra Krugel. She sends her thanks to everyone who helped bring in the treasures collected for this set. Her previous work at The Playhouse during this season included set design for *The Late Christopher Bean* and has contributed as set decorator during several previous seasons. Best of all, she is working with her husband, Ed Walter who designed the graphics for this show. Tina's work includes interior design, both commercial and residential along with her paintings both in studio and on-site. She is an Ohio transplant who lived and worked in NYC prior to moving to Summit in 1997. A special thank you goes out to her daughters, Rosemary and Autumn Walter for their love and support of her work away from the home.

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.

Pamela Wilczynski (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be stage managing her first show at Summit Playhouse. She has stage managed in other theatre companies for various shows, which have included *Rapunzel* and *Driving Miss Daisy*. She most recently worked at Chatham Community Players as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Thanks to everyone at Summit Playhouse, especially Justine and Jaci, for being so welcoming and helpful!!



Remember These Shows?

2009–10: The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie Murder In Green Meadows Sylvia

> 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!

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*Some Actors will appear courtesy of Actors Equity Association.

This Summer Kaleidoscope Theatre For Youth Presents



By L. Frank Baum Directed by Lindsay Maron

Performances: July 29—August 7

Auditions: May 23 & 24 See <u>http://www.SummitPlayhouse.org/auditions.html</u>