

The Summit Playhouse

The following program is from our 2012-2013 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...

S



JOAN ROSE THOMAS

1914–2012

Joan Rose Thomas passed away in August. She was the daughter of one of The Playhouse's founding families. Her father, John Manley Rose, a world-renowned artist, painted the mural in the front hall; in addition, he was responsible for donating the land on which our Playhouse sits. Joan, a gifted artist in her own right, painted the mural in the back of the auditorium as well as countless sets. She donated several of her father's paintings to The Playhouse, and they were sold to aid in our drive to air condition the auditorium. Joan's husband, Upton, was our Technical Director for many, many years. Joan and Upton were a "Playhouse" romance, along with my parents, Jack and Marianne Pyle. Joan painted a beautiful portrait of my dad when he played Major Joppolo in *A Bell for Adano*. During my 'growing up' years at The Playhouse, it was couples like Joan and Upton Thomas who worked on every play and in whatever capacity they were needed.

Thanks for the memories.
Susan Pyle Smith

LP

AVAILABLE AT DESK



As a courtesy to the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone

No photography or recording



The Summit Playhouse presents its
Three Hundred and Fourth Production



THE BEST MAN

by **Gore Vidal**

Set Design

Rhoda Roper

Stage Manager

Pamela Wilczynski

Costumes

Petra Krugel

Set Construction

J. Guerdon Mayfield

Producers

Sally Ponzio &
Pamela Wilczynski

Set Decoration

Risha Walden

Director

Frank Licato

October 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 8:00pm

October 28 at 2:00pm

November 2, 3 at 8:00pm

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

Cast

Secretary William Russell Michael King
Alice Russell Debbie Bernstein
Dick Jensen Frank Bläuer
Catherine Jessica Phelan
Senator Joseph Cantwell Rick Holloway
Mabel Cantwell Kathleen Campbell Jackson
Don Blades FJ DeRobertis
Ex-President Art Hockstader Hank Barre
Mrs. Sue-Ellen Gamadge Jean Kuras
Senator Clyde Carlin Arnold J. Buchiane
Dr. Artinian Dennis Conaway
Sheldon Marcus David Hoffman
Reporters & Delegates

Diana Chaves, Jeff Foote,
Steve Gabe, Ivette Hawthorne
& Rich Kessler

Setting

The scenes alternate between Secretary Russell's
and Senator Cantwell's hotel suites at the 1960
National Convention in Philadelphia

There will be one fifteen minute intermission.
Refreshments will be available downstairs in the lounge.

The benefit is for The League of Women Voters

Production Staff

Director.....	Frank Licato
Producers.....	Sally Ponzio & Pamela Wilczynski
Stage Manager	Pamela Wilczynski
Assisted by.....	Diana Chaves & Sonja Gabrielsen
Set Design	Rhoda Roper
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by.....	Darshan Arora, Julia Colicchio, T. Carter Hagaman, Frank Hawrusik, Ed Johnson & Petra Krugel
Set Decoration.....	Risha Walden
Set Painting.....	Julia Colicchio
Assisted by.....	Diana Chaves, Petra Krugel, Kristen Rotello & Tina White
Costumes	Petra Krugel
Assisted by.....	Ann Lowe
Properties	Ivette Hawthorne
Assisted by.....	Sonja Gabrielsen
Lighting.....	Bill Roome
Assisted by.....	Tammy Robinson
Sound Design.....	Donald Stark
Hair & Make-Up	Ivette Hawthorne
House Managers	Basak Gdenl & Kristen Rotello
Publicity	Jaclyn McCoy
Marketing.....	Justine Bailey
Poster & Graphics.....	Ed Walter
Playbill	Bill Roome
Tickets	Ann Lowe
Photography.....	Chase Newhart

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"May the best man win!" Isn't this what we hope for, wish for, in our political idealism that somehow the system we constructed will allow the best of us to come forward, "The best and the brightest?"

Of course it's what we want but no longer believe we can achieve. Money, polarization, special interests and the 24 hour news cycle, have changed the way politics is played out in our America.

"The Best Man" is not a nostalgic look at politics but an insider's look at what goes on behind the velvet curtain. This is a morality tale of political intrigue that still rings true with an uncanny prescience about the future of American politics; raising familiar questions about God in campaigning, sexual escapades, mudslinging and the often incompatible virtues of good statesmanship and good politics, and of public and private morals.

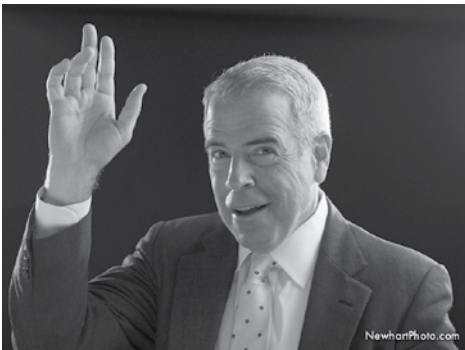
When an ambitious young senator who would soon be president first saw *The Best Man* 52 years ago, he was quick to point out to its author that the play's vision of politicians wasn't exactly authentic. "You know," John F. Kennedy is reported to have said to Gore Vidal, "in a campaign we don't have all that much time to talk about the meaning of it all."

Luckily for us we had Gore Vidal who had the time, wit and wisdom to not only talk about the meaning of it all but to do so with the biting humor, sharp observations and great heart that truly represent "the best and the brightest" of us.

"Since when has the truth been a deterrent at this convention?"

— William Russell from *The Best Man*.

Frank Licato



Who's Who

Hank Barre (Ex-President Art Hockstader) is pleased to work once again at the Summit Playhouse. He recently appeared here as Joe Keller in *All My Sons* and previously as Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. He is grateful to appear with this cast of talented actors with both old and new friends and for the dedicated support of the Playhouse staff and crew. His favorite roles have been Shakespeare's popular buffoons including Falstaff, Polonius, Sir Toby Belch and Nick Bottom and he has directed a variety of "the Bard's" plays as well. Hank has also enjoyed many other musical comedy and dramatic roles through the years with area companies including Chatham, Circle, Villagers, SVP, Black River, Brundage and Trilogy Repertory.

Debbie Bernstein (Alice Russell) is thrilled to be returning to Summit Playhouse after many years. She appeared most recently as Ma Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath* for the Chatham Community Players and received a best actress Perry nomination. Her other credits include three seasons of Jersey Voices at CCP, *Beau Jest*, *Belles*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Diner Plays* and *The Heiress*. Debbie trained at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in NYC. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support and for schlepping to all her shows. Special thanks to Frank Licato for giving her another opportunity to bring an interesting woman to life on stage!

Frank Bläuer (Dick Jensen) most recently appeared as an ensemble player in *The Slave Who Became A Man* for the NYC International Fringe Festival. Other recent roles include Floyd Knowles in *The Grapes Of Wrath* at Chatham Players, Gene Glimmer in *Side Man* at Nutley Little Theatre, Charles Condomine in *Blithe Spirit* and The Old Man in *Prelude to a Kiss*, (both at Studio Players in Montclair), and ensemble in *Almost, Maine* at Radburn Players in Fairlawn. Other favorite roles include Thomas Becket in *Becket*, Antonio in *The Tempest*, Ross in *The Elephant Man*, and Pale in *Burn This*.

Arnold J. Buchiane (Sen. Clyde Carlin) appeared last season as Frank in *Over The River*, and as Grandpa in *Meet Me In St. Louis*. He also played Grand Pa Joad in Frank Licato's award winning production of *Grapes of Wrath*. Previously at this theater Arnold has appeared in *Sylvia*, *Shadowlands*, *The Dining Room* & many other plays.

Diana Chaves (Reporter/Delegate & Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to mark her third collaboration with The Summit Playhouse with her debut on-stage. Diana has previously worked backstage for both Kaleidoscope Theatre for Youth's production of *The Wizard of Oz* and the main stage production of *Meet Me in St. Louis*. She has appeared onstage as the Narrator in *New Clothes for the Emperor* and will appear as Pinocchio and Mrs. Mouse in the upcoming *Cinderella Confidential*, both at Studio Playhouse in Montclair. Diana wishes to

Who's Who (continued)

thank her family for their support of her dreams, their patience with running lines, and their tolerance of all varieties of ridiculousness. To the cast and crew, break a leg y'all!

Dennis Conaway (Dr. Artinian) is thrilled to be in his first production of *The Best Man* at The Summit Playhouse. His previous credits at The Chatham Playhouse include *Mrs. Jaye* and *Coffee with God*. Other recent credits include *Ah Wilderness*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Our Town* and *The Exonerated*. Dennis would like to thank Joann Scanlon for her amazing support.

FJ DeRobertis (Don Blades) is happy to be returning to the Summit Playhouse. He was last seen on the Summit stage as Chris in *All My Sons*. Past credits include Hal in *Proof* with Circle Players, *You Can't Take it With You* (Tony), *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Charlie Brown), *Once On This Island* (Daniel), and *Crimes of the Heart* (Barnett). FJ graduated with a BA in Elementary Education and Theater from Kean University. He received acting training from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and recently received his masters in Literacy Specialization from Columbia University. When not acting FJ can be seen performing for his first grade students daily. Much thanks to his family and friends for their continued support!

Jeff Foote (Reporter/Delegate) is making his debut at Summit Playhouse. His previous credits include *The Man Who Came to Dinner* at Surflight Theater, *Wind in the Willows* at Garage Theater, *Six Degrees of Separation* at the Barn Theater, *The Good Doctor* at Dover Little Theater, Sammy Davis Jr in *A Tribute to the Rat Pack*, and many others. Jeffry was also in the short film, *Grey*, which was nominated at the First Run Film Festival. Special thanks to the cast and crew, and he hopes you enjoy the show.

Steve Gabe (Reporter/Delegate) is making his Summit Playhouse debut. He was in the Chatham Community Players Perry Award winning *The Grapes of Wrath* as Uncle John and the Guitar Player and was Will Roper in The Stony Hill Players *A Man for All Seasons*, both in 2012. He made his acting debut in *Shower* and *The Life of Juanita Castro* by Ronald Tavel in the NYC Ridicufest 2000. Past credits include Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the American Theater for Actors and playing the lead in *Ode to Jennifer* at The TSI/Playtime Series Theater on 46th Street. He does his standup comedy routine at Gotham Comedy Club and is a folk singer at the Folk Project in Morristown NJ.

Ivette Hawthorne (Reporter/Delegate, Props, Hair & Make-up) is excited to once again work on Hair and Make-up at the Summit Playhouse and for also having the opportunity to not only work on props but to be in the cast of *The Best Man*. Ivette debuted at the Playhouse as the makeup artist for *All My Sons* and has prior experience in numerous stage productions for the South African

State Theatre. Ivette currently works as a freelance makeup artist and fashion stylist out of her Millburn, NJ studio. Thanks to her family for all their support; Brian my liefling - jy is die beste!

David Hoffman (Sheldon Marcus) was last seen at the Playhouse in *All My Sons* as Jim Bayliss. Before that he was in *Sylvia* as Greg, and in *Brooklyn Boy* as Ira. He has also 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. Spiv-ey), *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*.

Rick Holloway (Sen. Joseph Cantwell) is pleased to return to Summit Playhouse. His past credits include *The Pillowman* (Katurian), *Angels in America* (Prior), *Proof* (Hal), *Deathtrap* (Cliff), *Taming of the Shrew* (Petruchio), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *Twelfth Night* (Orsino), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour) and *Joseph ... Dreamcoat* (Joseph). Thanks to fam/friends.

Kathleen Campbell Jackson (Mabel Cantwell) is so pleased to be returning to the Summit Playhouse, having last appeared as Constance in *The Constant Wife*. At Chester's Black River Playhouse, Kathleen has performed in *By Jeeves* (Stiffy Byng), *Nine* (Claudia), the staged reading of *The Women* (Crystal Allen), and as the cross dressing Princess Leonide in *Triumph of Love*. Plays in the Park credits include seven years of performing The Narrator in *Joseph...Dreamcoat* at the State Theater, *Seussical* (Gertrude McFuzz), *Ragtime* (Evelyn Nesbit), *Titanic* (Kate McGowan), *The Secret Garden* (Martha), and *Once Upon a Mattress* (Lady Larken). Other recent credits include *City of Angels* (Bobbi/Gabby) with the Chatham Players, and *Company* (Amy), for which she won the NJ Perry Award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical.

Rich Kessler (Reporter/Delegate) is excited to be making his Summit Playhouse debut in *The Best Man*. Richard developed a love for the performing arts while growing up singing and performing on stage for church events. He took an interest in community theatre after seeing a stellar performance of *The Grapes of Wrath* which was his inspiration for joining the cast of *The Best Man*. Richard gives special thanks to Pam Wilczynski and Petra Krugel for the opportunity to have a creative outlet and to vent his passion for the arts.

Michael King (Sec. William Russell) last appeared on the Playhouse stage as Grandpa in *You Can't Take It With You*. Recent appearances include Shelly Levene in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Tupolski in *The Pillowman*, Henry Drummond in *Inherit The Wind*, Harry Roat in *Wait Until Dark*, Nat Miller in *Ah, Wilderness!*, and King Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*. Additional credits include Harold Hill in Plays in the Park's *The Music Man*, Tevey in *Fiddler on the Roof* and roles in *My Fair Lady*,

Who's Who (continued)

Into the Woods, *A Grand Night for Singing*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Prelude to a Kiss*. As always, my love and thanks to Anne, Sarah, Tim, and now Matt.

Jean Kuras (Mrs. Sue-Ellen Gamadge) has previously appeared at the Summit Playhouse as Elizabeth Almond in *The Heiress*, Evelyn Ashford in *Wit*, Mrs. Tilford in *The Children's Hour*, and Edna in *A Delicate Balance*. Jean thanks the talented cast and the excellent stage crew of this beautiful theater and the special artistry of Frank Licato for making the past few weeks the best of times.

Jessica Phelan (Catherine) – Previous credits: *Jersey Voices*, *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (Mindy), *Almost, Maine* (Ensemble), *The Late Christopher Bean* (Ada), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Nurse Flinn) and *Savage in Limbo* (Linda). Love and thanks to her #1 fan, Mom.

STAFF

Frank Licato (Director) – Off-Broadway: Revival of Louis LaRusso's *Lamppost Reunion*, Gino Diorio and Nancy Bleemer's *Centennial Casting*, Rod Serling's *Requiem For A Heavyweight* (Best Director, Off-Broadway Review), Sam Shepard's *Seduced*, Cooper Square Workshop, *Sounds of a Better World Concert* at 92nd Street Y and the *Sexual Harassment Plays* at the Working Theatre. Off-Off Broadway: Steven Sater's *Asylum*, *Tannhauser* at Ohio Theatre, Odet's *Golden Boy* and *Rocket to the Moon* at Soho Rep, Robert Clem's *Fever* at NY Fringe Festival (Audience Choice Award), Gino Diorio's *White Noise*, Oren Safdie's *La Compagnie* at LaMama, *Columbus in the Age of Gold* by Paul Peditto, Kroetz's *The Nest*, Shepard's *Action at the Raw Space*, *The Tempest*, *Deep Dish* by Sean O'Donnell, Vincent Lambert's *Ghosts of Newstead Vault* and *The Necromancers* at 42nd Street Theaters. Regional: Benn Schulberg's *On the Waterfront* at Hudson Theatre Works, *Grapes of Wrath* at Chatham Playhouse (Perry Award Winner for Director, Best Production), *Talk Radio* and *A View From the Bridge* at the Italian American Rep, *Noises Off* at Montclair State, Neil Labute's *The Shape of Things* at Clark University, *The Late Christopher Bean* at Summit Playhouse, *Enigma Variations*, Pinter's *Ashes to Ashes* and Brian Friels *Afterplay* at the Garage Theatre, Neil Labute's *I Love This Game* (World Premiere) and *Fat Pig* at 12 Miles West Theatre, *Gluttony & Sloth* at NJ Rep, Richard Vetere's *Gangster Apparel* and *Rockaway Boulevard* at the Belmont Playhouse, *The Engagement* at the Hudson Theatre, Los Angeles, and *American Buffalo* at the Elyze Theater, Athens, Greece. Frank's production of Jean Genet's *The Balcony* is currently running at the Arclight Theatre in New York and his production of the New Jersey premiere of Deb Margolin's *Imagining Madoff* is currently running at the Garage Theatre Group in New Jersey. Frank also teaches acting and can be reached at www.franklicato.com.

Sally Ponzio (Producer) is the President of the Summit Playhouse. She has co-produced *The Late Christopher Bean*, *Murder in Green Meadow* and *Meet Me in*

St. Louis. 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 internet commercials for Olgilvy titled *Satisfied Switchers* and *We Want an ECHO Week 11: The Final Countdown* and a 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.

Pamela Wilczynski (Producer & Stage Manager) is an award-winning stage manager with other theatre companies for shows which have included *Rapunzel* and *Driving Miss Daisy*. She has previously worked at Summit Playhouse as the Stage Manager for *All My Sons* and Assistant Stage Manager for *Closer Than Ever*. She most recently was the Production Coordinator at Chatham Playhouse for *Cabaret*. A special thank you to Sally, Frank, Petra, and the “all-star” cast/crew for the laughs during rehearsals and all their hard work and dedication to make this a wonderful show!

Julia Colicchio (Set Painting) graduated from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University with a BFA in Visual Arts, concentration in Painting this past May. She recently discovered her interest in the scenic arts and is getting her start here at the Summit Playhouse. She can't wait to keep learning from the amazing people here and is honored to be a part of the Best Man crew!

Petra Krugel (Costumes) is thrilled to be part of the amazing cast and team of *The Best Man*. Special thanks to Ann Lowe and Ivette Hawthorne for all their assistance. Her previous experience with Summit Playhouse include stage manager on *Over the River and Through the Woods*, costumes on *All My Sons* and assisting with props on *Closer Than Ever*. In the UAE, Petra's experience included Costume Design on *Music Man* for Abu Dhabi Choral Group, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, both for ACS in Abu Dhabi; graphic design and set work on *Anything Goes* for Abu Dhabi Choral Group.

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Construction) — Well so begins my eighth season with the Playhouse with a political themed show that is far better than our upcoming election. After nearly 20 years of stage work I can no longer remember all the shows I have worked on. I am still active with hearing loss groups and trying to make theatre more enjoyable for people with hearing loss. I am available to provide information to anyone interested. Many thanks to the crews who help build our sets. If you are interested in learning how to build set I will be happy to provide lessons. All types of help is needed and welcomed.

Rhoda Roper (Set Design) has designed for the Playhouse for twenty years, beginning with *Foxfire* in 1992 and including last year's *Speed-The-Plow*. Over the years she has also designed for *The Bronx Opera Company*, *The Bickford Theater*, *Savory Singers G & S Company* and other theaters around the area.

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/

Who's Who (continued)

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 (Composer & Sound Designer) composes for theater, film, radio, TV, and concert hall. He recently designed sound for the ten short plays featured in Mile Square Theater's *7th Inning Stretch*, and is composing the score for One State Films' *The Passions of Miss Augusta*. Earlier this year, Donald scored original music and designed sound for the Italian American Repertory Company revival of *Talk Radio*. Last season, Donald designed sound for Garage Theatre Group's revival of *Table Manners*. Recently Donald composed theme music for a raucous revival of *Noises Off*, directed by Frank Licato, and sound-designed GTG's production of *Bald Soprano*. Two seasons back, Donald designed sound for Summit Playhouse's revival of *The Late Christopher Bean*, and he is delighted to be returning this season.

Risha Waldon (Set Decorator) is drawing upon her career as an Interior Designer. Having spent years growing up in the theater and television, working on stage and on camera, Risha is applying her design experience backstage in this production for the Summit Playhouse. The "Mad Men" inspired set has allowed her to draw from her wealth of resources to acquire pieces that hope to bring the audience back to the 60's. Risha lives and works in Summit with her three children.



Playhouse Contributors (2012–13 Season)

Special Angels (\$1000 and above)

Alice Levine & Bill Roome
Nancy Boucher

Benefactors (\$500—\$999)

Mike & Kathy Tatlow

Sponsors (\$250—\$499)

Ed & Joyce Johnson
Sondra & John Luckstone
Jim & Theresa Turner
Julianne & Robert Venezia

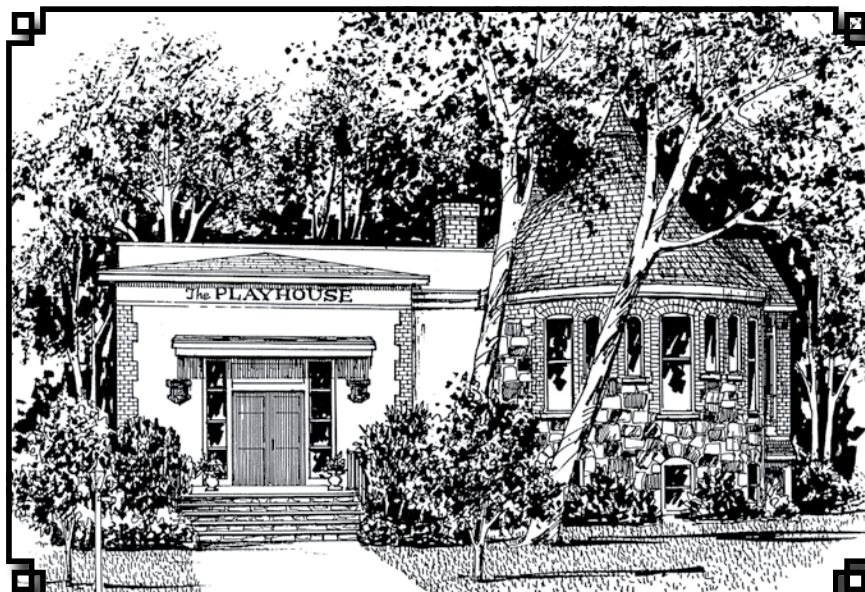
Friends (\$100—\$249)

T. Carter Hageman
Irene & Ken Hickman
Betty & Ed McColgan
Rose & Roy Pancirov
Dee & Marty Robertson
Greg & Barbara Sachs
Joan M. Thuebel



Board of Governors, 2012–2013

President	Sally Ponzio
Vice-President	Tina White
Secretary	Ann Lowe
Treasurer	Frank Hawrusik
Business Manager	Julia Frieri
Ticket Manager	Ann Lowe
Past President	Joann Scanlon
Producers	Justine Bailey, Pam Heller, Sally Ponzio, Joann Scanlon & Pamela Wilczynski
House & Grounds	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Technical Director	Bill Roome
Stage Manager Coordinator	Pamela Wilczynski
Publicity	Jaclyn McCoy
Marketing	Justine Bailey
Playreading Committee Chair	David Hoffman
Kaleidoscope	Abbe Maron
Volunteer Coordinator	Justine Bailey
Gifts & Benefits	Theresa Turner
Behind-The-Scenes	Rose Pancirov
Historian	PT Kizzia
Legal Advisor	Roger Mehner



Kaleidoscope In December



December 14 – 23

Does Santa Claus really exist? That's a question kids have been asking for generations. In 1897, one precocious girl named Virginia O'Hanlon was determined to find an answer. Her letter to The New York Sun prompted one of the most famous newspaper editorials of all time, and inspired future generations to believe in the holiday spirit.

Every year the beloved animated special based on Virginia's story touches new audiences. Now, this holiday classic has been adapted into a magical stage show written specifically for school children. New songs by Macy's Emmy Award-winning songwriters, a heartwarming story and an unforgettable cast of characters all come together in this new theatrical event.

For details and tickets, see www.SummitPlayhouse.org.

Audition Information

Yes, Virgina (A Kaleidoscope Theater for Youth musical):

Oct 26 & 27. We're looking for kids & teens, ages 5-18, who love to sing, dance and act. Auditions are by appointment; see www.SummitPlayhouse.org to schedule an appointment and view audition materials.

God Of Carnage:

Nov 14 & 15, 7:00pm. 2 men, 2 women, 40's & 50's. Open auditions; no appointment necessary. For more information, see the Audition page at www.SummitPlayhouse.org.



UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

God Of Carnage

By Yasmina Reza

Winner of the 2009 Tony Award. "...delivers the cathartic release of watching other people's marriages go boom. A study in the tension between civilized surface and savage instinct, this play is itself a satisfyingly primitive entertainment."—*NY Times*. "Elegant, acerbic and entertainingly fueled on pure bile. It's Reza's sharpest work since 'Art'."—*Variety*. "Brutally entertaining... in another of Christopher Hampton's exquisite translations, [Reza] cannily manipulates social observations that appeal to vast audiences and creates characters that bring out the best in actors."—*NY Newsday*. "Reza has established herself as a master [of] magnificently constructed plays."—*Entertainment Weekly*.

February 22 – March 9, 2013

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Music/Lyrics by William Finn

Book by Rachel Sheinkin

A hilarious tale of overachiever's angst chronicling the experience of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. The show's Tony Award winning creative team has created the unlikeliest of hit musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time. Six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser.

April 26 – May 11, 2013

For tickets, go to www.SummitPlayhouse.org