



The following program is from our 2014-2015 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

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When I first read *Five Women* I was struck by several things: Alan Ball is a wonderful playwright, so why hasn't he written more plays? The play looks like the contemporary South (I lived in Atlanta for many years in the late 90's.) The lines sound Southern and every interaction is purely Southern, but it is definitely not 2015.

Alan Ball wrote *Five Women* in 1993, and it was produced first at the Manhattan Class Company. Shortly after the play opened he was hired to write for *Cybill*, a pretty successful network TV sitcom. Ball had faced the bane of American playwrighting since the late 40's: how does a playwright make a living? Regional theatre, where serious drama and comedy live, can't support writers, and Broadway certainly doesn't. He made the only practical choice: write for TV and/or film. After *Cybill* was cancelled he wrote *American Beauty* for which he won an Oscar in 1999. Then came *6 Feet Under* for Showtime, one of the first cable TV series to receive critical acclaim and have a decent run. At the time this was a nice footnote, but now it is the model for some of the wonderful TV we get to see today. Thus the Theater's loss was Film and TV's gain and fortunately for Alan Ball a real living.

Now what about 1993? Here are some facts: Bill Clinton was President, the World Trade Center was bombed, South Africa officially started dismantling Apartheid and the Eastern US was hit with record breaking snowfall. So much for change... Couple of fun facts: the Dow closed at 3,642 and gas was \$1.16/gallon.

One way to get a sense of a time period is to look at popular culture: At the Oscars the Best Picture was Clint Eastwood's *Unforgiven* and the best song was *A Whole New World* from *Aladdin*; *Angels in America* won the Tony and *Seinfeld* won the Emmy for best comedy series.

But what was a really really different in 1993? The answer is pretty simple: There were no iPhones, Mark Zuckerberg was eleven, no Twitter, no eBay, no PayPal. Amazon wasn't founded until 1994. The Internet had not taken over our lives; the technology and social media that profoundly shape and define every minute of our everyday lives barely existed. And that is different.

So we decided to treat our production as a period piece, which still cracks me up. As far as being a Southern play, we have all learned that Knoxville is much less cosmopolitan than Atlanta and more authentically Southern, but it is not full of yokels. So turn your cell phones off, forget about that gismo on its way from Amazon and slow down put your eyes to the keyhole of this Knoxville wedding circa 1993.

Jim Peskin

The Summit Playhouse presents its
Three Hundred and Twelfth Production

Five Women Wearing The Same Dress

by **Alan Ball**

***Set Design
& Construction***

Roy Pancirov

Set Decor

Risha Waldon

Stage Manager

Brad Carrington

Producers

Joann Lopresti Scanlon
& Arnold J. Buchiane

Costume Design

Ann Lowe

***Lighting
& Sound***

Wendy Roome

Director

Jim Peskin

May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 at 8:00pm

May 3 & 17 at 2:00pm

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

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Frances Jackie Jacobi
Meredith..... Wendy Schibener
Trisha Elaine D'Addezio
Georgeanne.....Leslie Gayle Williams
Mindy Cara Heary
Tripp Daniel DeGuzman

Setting

The play takes place in a stylish old-money suburb of Knoxville, Tennessee. The year is 1993, and the time is shortly after noon on a day in summer.

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

The benefit is for The Concord Singers.

LP

AVAILABLE AT DESK



As a courtesy to the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone

No photography or recording



Production Staff

Director	Jim Peskin
Co-Producers	Joann Lopresti Scanlon & Arnold J. Buchiane
Stage Manager	Brad Carrington
Set Design	Roy Pancirov
Set Construction	Roy Pancirov
Assisted by	Steve Eisenberg & Saul Ziv
Set Decoration	Risha Waldon
Costume Design	Ann Lowe
Hat Design	Sherri Williamson
Hairstyles	Vincent Esoldi
Properties	Sam Nissen
Assisted by	Kevin O'Brien
Lighting & Sound	Wendy Roome
House Manager	Ezgi Koktenn
Publicity	Melissa Lowver, Rob Nissen & Joann Scanlon
Poster & Graphics	Ed Walter
Playbill	Wendy Roome
Tickets	Bob Velasquez & Ann Lowe
Photography	Sam Nissen

Acknowledgments

The Bickford Theater
Chatham Community Players

Who's Who



Elaine D'Addezio (Trisha) is thrilled to be part of this Summit Playhouse production with such a talented group of cast and crew. Some of her past favorite roles include Gabriella in *Boeing Boeing* (Dover Little Theater), Diana in *Lend Me a Tenor* (Montclair Studio Players), Adriana in Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* (Turning Leaf Theater), Lee Anne in *Pieces of My Heart* (Circle Players), and Sister James in *Doubt* (ACT IV Productions). Special thanks to our director Jim for his inspired guidance... to the generous actors Leslie, Wendy, Cara, Jackie, and Dan with whom I shared the stage... and to friends and family for their support.

Daniel DeGuzman (Tripp) is thrilled to be returning to the stage at the Summit Playhouse having appeared long ago in productions of *Marvin's Room* (Hank), *Light Up the Sky*, *Murder by Misadventure*, and *Death of a Salesman*. Other fun roles include RC in *Jerry Springer is God* with the Semi-Circle Company in Basel, Switzerland, Boyfriend in *Turnstile*, the 1999 Sundance Channel short film contest award winner, and several one-act plays as part of the Black Box series at the Gallery Players in Brooklyn. He hopes to pass his love of theater on to his most impressionable audience, Sophie and Luc. Heart to Stephanie.



Cara Heary (Mindy) is excited to be appearing again on the Summit playhouse stage, having been seen here in *Living Out*, *Baby*, *Brooklyn Boy* and *Closer Than Ever*. Other local appearances include Jersey Voices and *Christmas Carol* with Chatham Players as well as roles at various other theaters around the country. She has a BFA in Musical Theater from Syracuse University. Love and thanks to Bob and the kids for their support and flexibility.

Jackie Jacobi (Frances) is honored to be back on Summit's stage after appearing in last season's *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* (Lala) and *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae). Other favorite credits include Chester's *Steel Magnolias* (Annelle), Grex Group's off-off B'way production of Eugene O'Neill's *Thirst* (The Dancer), as well as NYC productions of: *Hamlet* (Ophelia), *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna), *Urinetown* (Hope), and *Godspell* ("By My Side") among others. Jackie



holds degrees from NYU and The New School (MFA-fiction). As always, love and gratitude to beautiful cast, artistic & production teams, her husband Adam, and (very) new baby Kaitlyn.



Wendy Schibener (Meredith) is thrilled to be performing again at The Summit Playhouse. She appeared previously at Summit in *Over the River and Through the Woods* back in 2012. Wendy is a professional theatre artist, performing all over New York, New Jersey and internationally in Theatre and Film. She is a proud alumni of Bucknell University and is currently finishing her Masters of Fine Arts in Theatre at Sarah Lawrence College this May. She would like to thank the *Five Women* cast of lovely ladies, Jim, the Crew — and a special shoutout to Mom, Hank and Will for their love and support. Break legs, ya'll!

Leslie Gayle Williams (Georgeanne) is excited to be back on the Summit stage, having previously appeared in the short play *Mr. Company* as part of the 2013 Gala. She is surprised and delighted to be working with her former boss from PTNJ, Jim Peskin. Leslie last appeared as Dr. Emma Brookner in the Cranford and Chatham productions of *The Normal Heart*. She appeared in the last two seasons of Summer Shorts, with Café Theatre.



Other recent credits include *The Vagina Monologues* (The Vagina Workshop) at inteACT, *Christmas Cards* at Chatham Players, a reading of *Medea Redux* from Neil Labute's *Bash: The Latter Day Plays*, and a reading of *Special Snowflakes* by Michael McGoldrick, with StrangeDog Theatre. She is a proud member of Alliance Repertory Theatre Company and VP of Chatham Players. Thank you to the talented production team and to the amazing women with whom she shares the stage. For Ernestine.

STAFF

Jim Peskin (Director) is an educator, an arts administrator and a director. Most recently he was the Interim Executive Director of the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance. He and his wife have returned to New Jersey and Jim is thrilled to directing at the Summit Playhouse. Prior to his adventure in Vancouver, he was the Executive Director of the Montclair Arts Council, and was the founding Managing Director of Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey. Jim has worked in regional theater throughout the Northeast. He was resident director for What Exit? Theatre in Maplewood. A.R Gurney's *Sylvia* and *David Ives' All in the Timing* are two his favorite shows there. He has directed at Playwrights Theatre of NJ (*Tears of God*), the Cafe Theatre, South Jersey

Who's Who (continued)

Regional Theatre (*The Good Doctor* and *Mass Appeal*) and, Walnut Street Theatre (*A Lunacy of Moons*). As an educator and artist in residence he has taught at Drew University, Northview High School (Duluth GA,) PaperMill Playhouse (Millburn, NJ) and NJPAC (Newark, NJ). Jim has spent many years working with emerging playwrights, first at the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, then at the Philadelphia Festival Theater For New Plays.

Joann Lopresti Scanlon (Co-Producer) — After working in theater for 45 years I still I love it in all its forms. *Five Women* makes me laugh and shed a tear. It's been fun watching this fabulous cast work so hard at finding these wonderful women and bringing them to life for you. And the costumes! Have a life of their own in this show, peach color everywhere. It's a joy working on one of Roy's fabulous set designs so beautifully decorated by Risha. Thank you to the wonderful crew without whom ...

Arnold J. Buchiane (Co-Producer) has been with the Summit Playhouse for a number of years and has served as producer, Vice President, President, set decorator, stage hand and multi-time director and actor. Most recently he appeared as Dr. Chumley in last season's production of *Harvey*. His favorite roles have been in *Shadowlands* and *The Dining Room*. His favorite directing experiences have been the New Jersey premier of *Angels In America* for Open Spaces, *Crimes of the Heart* for Foothill Playhouse and *A Lovely Sunday For Creve Coer* for Stony Hill.

Brad Carrington (Stage Manager) is stage managing for the first time, and although he is an aspiring actor, he really enjoyed getting to work from the other side of the production. The only theater experience he has had thus far was acting in two high school plays, *Terra Nova* and *A Thurber Carnival*, as well as attending the Yale Summer conservatory for actors. He is currently looking at acting programs to attend in the fall, but he hopes to do more work in the future for the summit playhouse, whether it be stage managing, or acting. Overall, this has been a great experience, and he is so lucky to have gotten the opportunity to work with such a great director and talented group of actors.

Ann Lowe (Costumes) has costumed several shows at the Summit Playhouse including *The Late Christopher Bean* (Perry Award nomination), *Meet Me In St. Louis*, *God of Carnage*, *The Game's Afoot* (Perry Award nomination) and *Good People*. She is involved with Hudson Theatre Works, a professional theatre based in Weehawken, costuming *Of Mice and Men* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Ann was Costume Designer for New Providence High School's

productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *Seussical*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Crazy for You*, and *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

Sam Nissen (Properties) is very happy to be working as prop master on this production. Other work with the Summit Playhouse includes costume design for several Kaleidoscope productions including *Shrek The Musical*; *Camp Rock: The Musical*; *The Hundred Dresses*; and Kaleidoscope's upcoming production and world premiere of *Children of Eden, Junior*; as well as headshots and production shots for numerous Summit Playhouse productions.

Wendy Roome (Lighting & Sound) has appeared in a number of minor roles over the last twenty years, although it will take a sharp eye to spot her in the cast pictures downstairs in the lounge. Off-stage, she has designed sound and/or lighting for many of our recent shows, and she is the Playhouse's Technical Director, Webmaster and Performance Photographer. Off-off-stage, she lives in Berkeley Heights with her wife, where they are owned by several cats.

Risha Walden (Set Decor) is marking the fourth production for which she has volunteered for set décor at the Summit Playhouse. She is an Interior Designer living and working in Summit and is thrilled to bring her ideas to the stage. Risha has grown up on stage and studied technical theater at university. She performed both in amateur and professional theater as well as on television. She is excited about the Summit Playhouse and loves being part of this community theater. Special thanks to Exceptional Flooring in Cedar Knolls for their generous donation.





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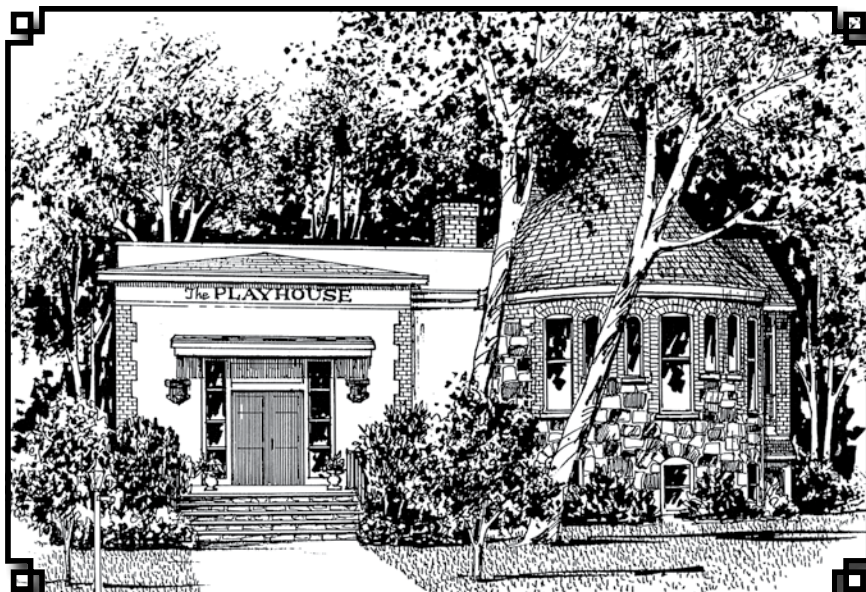
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THEATRE FOR YOUTH



*Camp Rock, summer 2014
Photo by Wendy Roome*

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