



# Backstage

WITH THE NAPLES PLAYERS

TNP Newsletter • Issue 121 • September/October 2013

## THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL

by David Nehls and Betsy Kelso

In Blackburn Hall

October 9 – November 2, 2013

**T**he Great American Trailer Park Musical follows three very southern characters residing in Armadillo Acres Trailer Park, the other side of the tracks in Starke, Florida. Meet Norbert, a tollbooth collector, Jeannie, his agoraphobic wife and Pippi, a stripper, all caught in a love triangle narrated by a trashy trio acting as the show's Greek chorus. Belting out catchy tunes, dripping with dysfunction, the girls invite the audience into a world full of Astroturf, road kill, spray cheese and pure, unadulterated fun. The musical serves as an entertaining twist of tasteless humor and sly stereotypes on American culture.

Directed by Dawn Lebrecht Fornara, *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* includes Jenna Canfield as Pippi, Debi Guthery as Betty, Lisa Federico as Lin, Greg Jensen as Duke, Randall Kenneth Jones as Norbert, Alyssa Lee as Pickles, and Laura Needle as Jeannie.

The show will be performed Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$10 for students 21 and under.

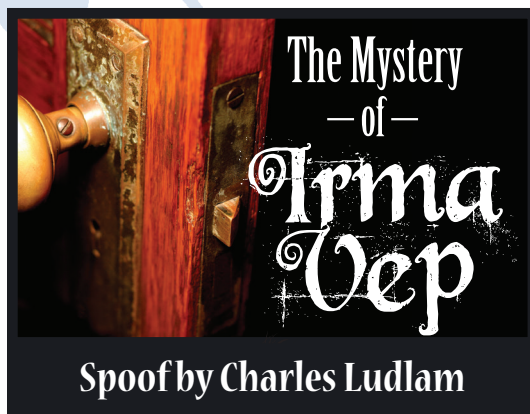


*This play contains strong language and adult content and may not be suitable for young children.*

## THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP

by Charles Ludlam

October 30 – November 23, 2013



## Coming to The Tobye Studio

**T**wo actors, Mike Santos and Mark Vanagas, tackle seven characters in this sidesplitting gothic spoof that leaves no stone unturned when it comes to satirizing the melodramatic likes of *Dracula*, *Rebecca*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The Wolfman*, *The Mummy's Curse* and many more. When Lord Edgar Hillcrest and his new wife Lady Enid embark on a journey to find out what happened to Irma Vep, they are taken from their estate in England, all the way to Egypt with enough plot twists and costume changes to give you whiplash. This gender-bending tour-de-force has werewolves, vampires and mummies, and has been voted one of the best plays of the year by *Time Magazine* and the *New York Times*. The show will be performed Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students 21 and under.

BOX OFFICE: 239-263-7990 [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org)



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**Backstage**

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September/October 2013

### What's With the TBA?

By Jessica Walck,

*Asst. to Artistic Director of The Naples Players*

You may have noticed that when we announced this season there was a conspicuous TBA in the January Blackburn time slot. Now we've heard all the jokes, "Wow, I love TBA (pronounced ti-bah)," "Didn't TBA win the TONY?" But seriously, why are shows some times To Be Announced?

When the Naples Players decide to produce a particular show that is just the beginning of the process. Like any artist, a playwright protects his or her work through copyrighting and therefore we must apply for the rights to perform a certain show. Now, there are many factors that go into the decision making process of whether we are granted those rights or not. Certain shows may have restricted rights which means a number of things: (1) the play may be running on or Off-Broadway or perhaps enjoying a national tour, (2) a professional theatre in our area has already secured the



Jessica Walck

rights to perform the same show or (3) the author has put his or her own limitations on which locations can produce the show or the amount of productions that can occur at the same time.

For the most part this is a seamless process. However, there are those times when the rights are denied and we have to either reapply at a specified

time or abandon the show for that particular season. In the hope that we will receive the rights for that season, there are times when we will delay the announcement of a specific show until our application has been accepted. Still, there is no guarantee that we will receive the rights and therefore we may have to choose alternate material.

So with that being said, we are happy to announce that A.R. Gurney's endearing comedy, *Black Tie*, has been chosen for our January Blackburn show.

So remember, the next time you see a TBA in our season just know we are anxiously awaiting the rights to an exciting show.



## Volunteers with the Right Stuff

By Becky Troop,

Director of Volunteer Services

It is my privilege to once again recognize The Naples Players' volunteers who have generously contributed their time and talent this past fiscal year, May 1, 2012-April 30, 2013. These individuals represent all facets of theatre production—actors, set builders, ushers, costumers, painters, stage managers, singers, props teams, stage hands, dancers, light and sound technicians, committee and board members. All these volunteers freely give of their time for the simple enjoyment of being part of the creative force that drives a play or musical from auditions, rehearsals and performances, through the final strike and laundry. Acknowledgment, with a few words of thanks spoken or on the printed page, is the only expectation.

The following volunteers reached or exceeded the levels of 250 or 500 volunteer hours. These levels are noteworthy because it takes participation in more than a single play to reach 250 hours. Or, put another way, it takes at least five or ten hours of volunteer work for fifty weeks of the year. These are certainly achievable goals, but only the volunteers with the right stuff make it.



Becky Troop

### 250+ Volunteer Hours

Karen Attanasio	Denny Hoover	Selwyn Mills
Len Becker	Asia Johnson	John Moga
Leonard Berringer	Randall Jones	Yehudit Newman
James Bollinger	Evelyn Kasper	Sue Rapanos
Dede Brownlee	Sandy Keeler	Dianna Rehla
JamieLynn Bucci	Bonnie Knapp	Sydney Richards
Patti Caroli	Joan Laughlin	Kathy Rogers
Paige Castro	Clive Laycock	Sepp Ronay
Andrew Ciliberto	Hansjoerg Litscher	Dick Rosa
Carol Clarke	James Little	Austin Sabb
Alex Cole	Joseph Loiacono	Mitzi Scott
Ellen Cooper	Russel Loyet	Laura Spell
James Corsica	Jill Maetzold	Kathleen Tindle
Victoria Diebler	Raymond Marasco	Erica Wagner
Katherine Ebaugh	Elizabeth Marcantonio	Mary Wallace
Carole Fenstermacher	Harry McCartney	Mitchell Winfield
Dolores Feters	Paula Mercer	

### 500+ Volunteer Hours

Joyce Austin	Bob Hill	Carol Smith
Jacob Carbary	Mary Jones	Jeff Smith
Frank Cardone	Alyssa Lee	Winifred Smyth
Roger Clark	William Morrison	Delores Sorey
Jack Cole	Laura Needle	Michael Troop
Sidney Davis	Danna Paglino	Sharon True
Louise Eliot	Annie Rosemond	Mark Vanagas
Joseph Femia	Megan Ruhl	Jack Weld
Tony Fernandez	Paul Sagherian	
Jacob Hartman	Claire Skinner	

## Kidz Actions

By Megan McCombs,

KidzAct Artistic Director

From its modest beginning as an after school program, KidzAct now reaches thousands of children, families and members of the community with multiple productions, showcases, and outreach programs in area schools. Committed to never turning away a student for want of funds, KidzAct gives way more than \$30,000 a year in scholarships.

For our younger students, we offer six levels of skill/showcase classes which include instruction in singing, dancing, and acting, as well as theatre etiquette. A gifted and talented program challenges our teens to expand their horizons in song, dance and acting. KidzAct production classes present six full productions for our more advanced students, ranging from theatre for young audiences to teen musicals to "Shakespeare on the Plaza."



Megan McCombs

*The Nutcracker Goes Pop!* (for the fifth time!) begins our production season this year. This unique, original piece has been a great success in past years and promises to be even better this year when we perform it in our very own Tobye Studio! For those of you who missed it, it is a modern telling of the cherished holiday classic in a musical theatre style. This year's dates are:

- Wednesday, Dec. 4 – Sunday, Dec. 8
  - Thurs., Dec. 12 – Sunday, Dec. 15
  - Thursday, Dec. 19 – Saturday, Dec 21.
- Times:** Wed. - Fri. at 5:00 pm, Saturdays at 2:00 pm, Sundays at 6:00 pm

We hope to see you all there!

# KidzAct



## ETC... Spotlights Six Nights To Remember

Naples Players' ETC...Readers' Theatre will present six new evenings of staged play readings in its 2013-2014 season. The mix of drama and comedy in ETC...s 12th season includes:

- **November 3, Sunday**, theatrically themed "You Call This Love???: *Sorry* by Timothy Mason, *The Wedding Story* by Julianne Homokay, *Rain* by Garry Williams and *Present Tense* by John McNamara.
- **December 6 & 7, Friday & Saturday**, "An Evening of New Plays." The winning plays in ETC...s tenth annual contest for original short plays by Southwest Florida playwrights will be presented, followed by a reception for the audience, casts, directors and winners on Dec. 6.
- **February 16, Sunday**, themed "Mixed Nuts": *How To Speak Man* by Sharyn Rothstein, *Charity Begins...* by Bettine Manktelow and *The Whole Shebang* by Rich Orloff.
- **April 6, Sunday**, themed "Love Hurts": *A Young Lady of Property* by Horton Foote, *Brazilian Wax Eloquent* and *Berlin Promotion*, both by Rich Orloff.
- **May 4, Sunday**: Classic full-length drama *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov, directed by John Herr.

Tickets for the staged readings in Tobye Studio are \$10 each at the Box Office 30 days prior to each program; phone 239-263-7990.

## THE USHERS' CORNER

By Lynn Cole, *House Manager*

### A Tribute to Dorothy Bednar

Dorothy Bednar passed away in July and we would like to remember her many contributions to The Naples Players. Shortly after hurricane Andrew in 1992, Dorothy moved from Miami to Naples. She was a recent widow, a retired realtor and former teacher, when she began to usher at the old Playhouse on Goodlette-Frank Road.

By the mid-90s, Dorothy was an active member of the Theatre Guild, created to support the fundraising efforts of the future Sugden Community Theatre. When the doors opened in 1998, Dorothy, along with Gloria Ingleman and the late Joan LeGrand, organized the usher program as the next Guild project.

She was a Naples Players member for nearly twenty years, logging over 3000 volunteer hours. She was tireless as an usher, Guild member, and Guild President serving on TNP's Board of Directors. In 2008, Dorothy Bednar received The Naples Players' highest recognition, Life Member, an award well deserved.

## & Mark Your Calendar For tickets, call the Box Office: 263-7990, or online: [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org)

### AUDITIONS

**BLACK TIE:** 2 pm Saturday October 26  
The father of the groom simply wants to make a memorable toast, but he must first defend the time-honored ways of his past, including his attire.  
No Appointment Necessary  
Show Dates: Jan. 15 - Feb. 8, 2014

**GOOD PEOPLE:** 2 pm November 16  
A humor filled drama that serves as a snapshot of the great American divide between the haves and have-nots.  
No Appointment Necessary  
Show Dates: Feb. 5 - Mar. 1, 2014

**THE DROWSY CHAPERONE:** 7:30 pm Monday, December 9 and 6:00 pm Tuesday, December 10  
This show-within-a-show is complete with comic vaudeville gangsters, mistaken identities, rousing anthems, dream sequences and whole lot of spit-takes. Call for appointment 239-434-7340 X10  
Show Dates: Mar. 5 - Apr. 5, 2014

### EVENTS

**THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL:** Delightfully tacky tale of three adults engulfed in a trashy love triangle.  
Performances: Weds. - Sats. 8 pm, Oct. 9 - Nov. 2, 2013, Sundays, 2 pm, Oct. 13, 20, 27

**THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP:** Two actors tackle seven characters in this sidesplitting gothic spoof.  
Oct. 30 - Nov. 23, 2013  
Performances: Weds. - Sats. 8 pm, Oct. 30 - Nov. 23, 2013, Sundays at 2 pm, Nov. 3, 10, 17

**OUR TOWN:** This Pulitzer Prize winning play explores the beauty of love, marriage, family and the everyday precious moments that may be taken for granted.  
Nov. 27 - Dec. 21, 2013  
Performances: Weds. - Sats. 8 pm, Nov. 27 - Dec. 21, Tues. Dec. 3, 2013, (no performance Thanksgiving, Nov. 28) Sundays 2 pm, Dec. 1, 8, 15

## MARKETING MINUTE

By Mary Shallies

Please join me in welcoming Andrea White as the new social media director for The Naples Players. Andrea will be responsible for maintaining all social media outlets. This will include taking photos of shows and rehearsals, creating and distributing e-blasts, and press reels.

Andrea is a graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University with a degree in communications with an emphasis in public relations.



Andrea White



The Clockmaker's Window by Elsie Upham  
Donated by Olga Hirshhorn

The KidzAct Scholarship Program and KidzAct, Youth Theatre of The Naples Players, serves more than 650 kids annually with roughly 20% receiving financial assistance. Consider making a donation to the KidzAct scholarship fund. Your donation can make the difference whether another young thespian gets that start toward a great future. Call 434-7340, ext. 10 or 39.