

AN UPLIFTING MUSICAL FOR A TROUBLED TIME

When *The Spitfire Grill* opened off-Broadway in September, 2001, Americans were reeling from the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. That was especially true for New Yorkers, who lived with daily reminders of the tragedy: smoke still rising from the trade center ruins; signs pasted on walls and light poles seeking information about lost loved ones; banks of flowers outside stations where firefighters had posted photos of fallen comrades. *The Spitfire Grill*, with its reaffirmation of American values and its message of hope, held out a bit of comfort during a most troubled time.

"It is not often that material moves me to tears, but this was one of those occasions," critic John Simon said in *New York Magazine*. "*The Spitfire Grill* has the heart and soul that your *Producers* and *Full Montys* cannot begin to approach. What even in normal times would be a joy is, in these troubled ones, sheer nourishment."

In *Talkin Broadway*, Matthew Murray wrote: "If after the events of recent weeks you need any reason at all to embrace life again, the musical you've been waiting for has arrived. *The Spitfire Grill* is one of the most heartfelt musicals of recent years, its homespun charms as inviting as a warm winter blanket."

And *The Wall Street Journal's* Amy Gamerman said the musical "feels as if it has been transplanted to Times Square directly from an obscure patch of the American heartland. The longing for a place like Gilead, well removed from the big, troublesome world, is real enough – perhaps now more than ever. The show's creators tap into that longing with unembarrassed directness."

In its own small way, *The Spitfire Grill* brought a bit of hope to those New Yorkers who spent an evening with the citizens of Gilead. Its message of hope and redemption is just as important a decade later as it was in 2001.

COMING UP AT COLONIAL PLAYERS

- ★ Between now and summer, we will be wrapping up our 2011-12 year of quality theater with an engrossing drama, a madcap comedy and a smorgasbord of short plays that will make up our biennial summer One-Act Play Festival.
- ★ Information about *Going to St. Ives*, our May production, can be found elsewhere in this program. In June, we will wrap up the subscription season with *Moonlight and Magnolias*, a zany comedy about the writing of *Gone with the Wind*. With shooting about to begin, producer David O. Selznick abandons his script and brings in legendary author Ben Hecht to write a new one. Undaunted by the fact that Hecht hasn't read the book, Selznick and director Victor Fleming act it out scene by scene while Hecht produces one of the greatest movie scripts of all time.
- ★ Plan to join us in July for something a little different, two evenings of short plays that will make you laugh, think and, perhaps, even ponder important and not-so-important questions about humanity.





THE COLONIAL PLAYERS, INC.

108 East Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Box Office Telephone: 410-268-7373

Lobby Telephone: 410-263-0533

www.thecolonialplayers.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corporate Officers:

President..... Terry Averill
Vice President Tom Stuckey
Treasurer Herb Elkin
Secretary Kaelynn Miller

Directors:

Artistic..... Carol Youmans
Education & Special Projects..... Fred Hallett
Human Relations..... Marguerite Jahns
Marketing Beverly Hill van Joolen
Operations Wes Bedsworth
Production Beth Terranova

CP SPECIAL EVENTS

Season Sneak Peek
Summer One Act Festival
Promising Playwright Contest
Post Show Talk Back
Scholarship Award
Season Celebration
Beth Whaley Series

For information on these events, contact:

info@thecolonialplayers.org

FRONT OF HOUSE

Box Office..... Carol Youmans
Subscriptions..... Lynda Cunningham
Mary Beth Yablonski
Ushers Jeannie Mincher
News & Cues Editor..... Beth Terranova
Webmasters Richard Atha-Nicholls
Wes Bedsworth

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How appropriate that the musical you are about to experience takes as its basic premise the notion that all of us, no matter what our past, deserve a home to find peace and happiness. No matter what mistakes we may or may not have made, what misfortunes we have undergone, all of us search out a home, a community, a place where we are not judged, where we can experience peace, happiness and security. In our play, this safe haven is Gilead. Though it is not without its defects and aberrant cruelties, it is a place in which its citizens can learn to accept each other.

Annapolis, we might all agree, is very much like Gilead. And more so since our governor signed into law marriage rights for all consenting individuals. Maryland is becoming a more enlightened place, guaranteeing our government's respect for every individual's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our home is becoming a more tolerant and therefore more loving place where people are not judged for their particular way of finding happiness and fulfillment. Where love rather than hate are the operative words. We are a community where equality and fairness thrive, a place of safety and security for all.

Our home, this theater, is such a place where tolerance, forgiveness, understanding and encouragement are the order of the day. Let us all be thankful for such a place and hope that throughout the world places like our own little Gilead may grow and thrive.

~ Terry

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Joan Townshend
Producer.....Mary Beth Yablonski
Musical Director.....Anita O'Connor
Assistant Musical Director / Pianist.....Emily Sergo
Choreographers.....Nancy Dall, Joan Townshend
Stage Manager.....Andy McLendon
Assistant Stage Manager.....Charlotte Robinson
Set and Floor Designer.....Beth Terranova
Set Engineering.....Dick Whaley
Scenic Artist.....Jennifer Goldman
Set and Floor Painting.....Jennifer Goldman, JoAnn Gidos, Beth Terranova
Set Dressing / Decoration.....Lois Banscher, Christina McAlpine,
Laurie Nolan, Beth Terranova, Dick Whaley
Lead Carpenter.....Dick Whaley
Carpenters.....Lee Craft, Norm James, Bob Mumfer, Jim Robinson, Ted Yablonski
Costume Designer.....Jeannie Beall
Lighting Designer.....Harvey Hack
Lighting Assistants.....Dan Caughran, Andrea Elward, Michael Forgetta,
Shirley Panek, Heather Quinn, Tom Stuckey, Bob Walker, Dona Weingarten
Sound Designer.....Richard Atha-Nicholls
Lighting / Sound Technicians.....Tom Stuckey, Dona Weingarten
Sound Engineering.....Richard Atha-Nicholls
Properties Designers.....Lois Banscher, JoAnn Gidos
Orchestra.....Piano, Emily Sergo; Violin, Erin Kelly; Guitar, Joe Thompson;
Cello, Bryan Barrett, Buzz Stillinger
Play Consultant.....Darice Clewell
Production Liaison.....Charlotte Robinson
Assistant to the Director.....Dona Weingarten
Rehearsal Assistant.....Angie Dey
Program / Poster Design.....Jim Gallagher
Photography.....Colburn Images
Program Editor.....Tom Stuckey

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Telegraph Herald, Dubuque, IA
The Sun, Osceola, WI
Doug Dawson • Rolph Townshend
Treasurers Hospice of the Chesapeake
Wisconsin State Journal
Dignity Players

DID YOU KNOW?

- ☛ The floor of the Spitfire Grill is made from sheets of luan plywood, cut into strips and stained to give it an old, worn look. Hannah's porch is constructed from 25 board feet of reclaimed wood.
- ☛ Colonial Players is a 100% volunteer organization. The reward for our actors, technical staff, box office workers, ushers, set builders, costumers and the many other volunteers required to keep the theater operating is the joy and satisfaction that comes from creating an entertaining and rewarding theatrical experience for our patrons. We invite you to join our theater community and become part of one of Maryland's oldest community theaters.
- ☛ Colonial Players is an active participant in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County civic affairs. For more than 15 years we have donated at least \$3,000 a year and often more from proceeds of our Christmas productions to a local nonprofit organization. CP's patrons have donated hundreds of presents to brighten the holidays for poor children through our giving tree. CP awards an annual \$2,000 college scholarship to a student who has demonstrated a commitment to Colonial Players and to community theater. We donate tickets for fundraisers for nonprofit organizations and loan costumes and props for productions at schools and other community theaters.
- ☛ Colonial Players has won numerous awards for the quality of our productions in competition with community theater groups in Maryland and the Washington region. CP has won first place honors in the state one-act play festival and has been honored 18 times by the Ruby Griffith Award competition for Washington-area theaters.
- ☛ Colonial Players won The Capital Readers Choice Award as the Annapolis area's Best Theater in 2010 and 2011.
- ☛ In our 63-year history we have produced more than 300 regular season productions plus numerous one-act plays, children's shows, Christmas musicals and other special presentations. Colonial Players was founded in 1949 and performed its first shows at the Annapolis Recreation Center on Compromise Street. The first production was *The Male Animal* by James Thurber and Elliot Nugent. Six years later, CP purchased an old car repair building on East Street and turned it into a theater-in-the-round, a format even rarer than now. The entire theater building consisted of the area now taken up by the stage and four sections of seating. CP was lucky enough to be able to buy a house next door and build today's lobby, dressing rooms and upstairs Green Room. In 1989, two condominium units were purchased at Renard Court for rehearsal space, costume and scenery shops and a meeting room.
- ☛ In addition to our subscription season and holiday, CP sponsors a variety of other activities that includes workshops, talk-back discussions after selected performances, a biennial one-act play festival (scheduled for this summer) and a biennial new playwrights contest open to writers in Washington, D.C. and the 13 original colonies.
- ☛ Colonial Players is enormously grateful for the loyal support of our patrons that has enabled us to provide quality theater to Annapolis and the surrounding area for six decades. You can learn more about us by visiting our web site, thecolonialplayers.org

Thank You!

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

How often do we get a second chance in life? Percy Talbott, newly out of prison, took a risk and went to a town she didn't know (based on a picture in a magazine), and there found love, forgiveness and redemption. And through her indomitable spirit, she and the townspeople were changed. I loved this play from the first time I read it for its gentleness, spunkiness, its beautiful music and a story which tells us that we can all have a chance at a new life if we are able to love and are willing to take risks.

The characters were a delight to create: crusty old Hannah; sweet, shy Shelby; the busybody postmistress Effy; rough, frustrated Caleb, who wonders what is happening to the world he was always so sure of; Joe, so eager to leave Gilead; Percy, finding her way in a new place and upsetting the town's norms; and, of course, The Visitor, the one whose presence is felt in Gilead without his being there. I was privileged to work with such a talented cast that brought these characters to life. They stayed focused, committed and positive through a long rehearsal period, even with a taskmaster-director. And I am proud to say that we had fun!

The artistic design team was amazing: Harvey Hack created a most challenging lighting design and kept his good spirits throughout; JoAnn and Lois on props; Richard, sound; Jeannie, costumes; Beth, the set and the idea for the wooden floor; Nancy, dance; all made the play doable and fun. There are so many people to thank: Andy McLendon, our excellent stage manager; Dona Weingarten, who assisted me in every task possible; and Darice Clewell, my play consultant. And we could not have made the Grill so interesting without the work of Dick Whaley and his crew.

Although I had been in musicals my whole life, I had never directed one. It was a pleasure and a relief to work with Musical Director Anita O'Connor. Well known to Annapolitans, but new to Colonial Players, she brought musical expertise, lots of experience and laughter to the process.

I found the Colonial Players community to be totally supportive in every step in bringing this play to life. Thank you, everyone!

Now sit back, and meet the folks of Gilead!

~ Joan

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Joan Townshend's interest in theater began when she was six and went to the ten-cent Saturday afternoon movies with her sister. There was always a talent show at intermission. Joan boldly went up on stage and sang "Oh Johnny, oh Johnny, how you can love!" Her mother, ironing at home, heard her young budding songstress on the radio!! Joan's interest in theater continued through high school, college and in every community in which she has lived. She has been active both on stage and backstage. She has performed with Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Anne Arundel Community College Opera, Colonial Players, Dignity Players and Baltimore's Metropolitan Musicals (performances were held then at the Lyric Theater and the old Memorial Stadium). Favorite roles are Lady Thiang in *The King and I*, Miss Preen in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Ethel P. Savage in *The Curious Savage* and Praskowia in *The Merry Widow*. She has worked backstage as stage manager, production manager, sound designer

and light and sound technician. Directing credits include *Grab and Grace* by Charles Williams, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* by Alfred Uhry, *Trifles* by Susan Glasspool and *Over My Dead Body* by Anthony Singleton and Michael Sutton. She has sung with the Annapolis Chorale and the Baltimore Symphony Chorus and was the co-host for ten years of Capital City Profiles, a public service television interview show. She has served on the Colonial Players board as president, play selection chairperson, and vice president, during which time she headed the task force that reorganized the Colonial Players structure. Important learning times for her include courses at Studio Theater in acting and with the Shaw Festival in directing. In her daily life, she works part time as an organization consultant and enjoys cooking and gardening. The mother of five children and seven grandchildren, her time in the theater is only possible because of the support of Rolph Townshend, her talented and terrific husband.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene I:

Taycheedah Prison / Trailways Bus stop / Town of Gilead, February.

Scene II:

The Grill, next morning.

Scene III:

The Grill, 11 days later.

Scene IV:

The Grill, a week later.

Scene V:

Gilead, a montage of scenes moving from early March to mid- and late March and into early April.

Scene VI:

The Grill, three weeks later.

Scene VII:

The Grill and outside, early May.

Scene VIII:

The Grill, after closing, mid-May.

Scene IX:

The Grill, passage of time from late May to late June.

ACT TWO

Scene I:

The Grill and in Gilead, passage of time from late July to September.

Scene II:

Behind the Grill, October.

Scene III:

The Grill, later that night.

Scene IV:

Behind the Grill, before dawn the next morning.

Scene V:

Outside the grill, later that morning.

Scene VI:

The Grill, later that day.

Scene VII:

The Grill, several days later.

PATRONS

Jennifer Abner

Barbara E. Aisley

Meredith Allison

Joseph Ball

Jim & Judy Barrowman

Nancy C. Brosnihan

Pat & Karen Brown

Elizabeth Burch

Pat & Bill Cameron

Lois Green Carr

Alice G. Chambers

Joan & Richard Clinch

Cathy & Joe Coble

Dianne Crews

Al & Pat Crosby

Willie Crisman

Robin Davidov & Christopher Lerbs

Charles & Marcia Davis

Frances M. Dryer

Lois & Bart Evans

Carol & Joe Friend

Bob Gavazzi

Adele Wolpelt Greil

Alice Riley Hall

Ron & Kate Hausner

Dr. Ross & Patricia Heisman

Dr. & Mrs. Charles O. Heller

Elizabeth Hepler

Elia & John Howser

Helena & Bill Hunter

Betty & Robert Hyers

The Honorable Dean & Sally Johnson

Emily Joyce

Eugenia Conlin Judge

Bernard & Hannah Kaufman

Sally Laing

Lynn Landon

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Liddick

Shirley G. Lieberman

Neal & Vickie Love

Jane Lunney

Patricia Ann Lynch

Susan Millman

Bill & Priscilla Mitchell

Powell & Anna Marie Musterman

Sue Norris

Ed & Jeanne Paglee

Jack & Vesta Phiel

Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Placido

Linda & Hank Preiser

Richard & Mary Rea

David & Diane Rey

Norman & Judith Shackleton

Dennis & Maureen Sullivan

S. Tomasello

Joanne Trepp

Stephen & Patricia Troy

Norma Underwood

Joan & Bill Weingartner

Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Wells

Brian & Susan Whaley

Dr. & Mrs. James H. Wise

Carvel & Margaret Wolfe

Francis D. Wright

John & Judith Youngblood

Leila Youngren

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Colonial Players shall be to provide facilities, education, training and encouragement to all members of the community who are interested in participating in the dramatic arts and further to educate the community to the appreciation of the dramatic arts by providing a variety of dramatic entertainment.

TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you for your support. Your generous gifts help us to continue to provide educational and training programs, encouragement and entertainment to all who are interested in dramatic arts.

HONORARY MEMBERS

The Hon. & Mrs. Martin J. O'Malley	Christopher B. Nelson
The Hon. & Mrs. Joshua J. Cohen	VADM & Mrs. Michael H. Miller

LIFE MEMBERS

Cdr. William R. Curtis	Frank McLane Hyde	Col. USMC (Ret.) and Mrs.
Fred & Paula Fishback	Judi Hilton-Hyde	Richard W. Smith
Robert Giddings	Irene E. Norton	Allan Starkey
Bill & Peggy Griswold	Ronald Powell	Mrs. Benjamin B. Wills, Jr.
Daniel G. Higgs	Dr. & Mrs. James W. Ross	

PRODUCERS

Kristen Abbey	Alice Kurs	Sandy & Phil Ourisson
Fred & Donna Arquilla	Linda & Roger Lark	Sandra Palmer
Richard Atha-Nicholls	ADM Charles R. & Sally Larson	Gynette & Henry Parker
Dr. James & Carol Ann Babcock	Helen Leitch	Thea Pinskey
Wes Bedsworth	Michael & Nicole Loney	Tom & Betty Tilghman
Art & Bern Chomas	Dan & Nancy Long	D. Romaine Towers
Edward Cohee	Philip & Deborah Maiese	Dr. & Mrs. Stephan Tymkiw
Tim Dangel	Lynne Malley	Victoria Waidner
Donald & Julia Erickson	Nancy P. Morgan	Mary Walker
George L. Helwig	John H. McLeod & Eleanor M.	Dick Whaley
Linda & Edward Hortick	Perfetto	Karen Whaley
Meg Hosmer	Lois & Noel Milan	John & Judi Wobensmith
Michael J. Keller	Michael & Sage Mumma	
Dr. Stephen & Christine Killian	David & Patricia Mutschler	

SPONSORS

William & Susan Allen	H. Hunter & Shirley Kennard	Grace Shapiro
Heinz Alsberg	Purple Nancy & Joe McMullin	Robert Sherer
Don & Lucy Arthur	Joyce C. Miller	Joyce Shut
Art Things, Inc.	Mr. & Mrs. Henry L. Mortimer	Wayne Singley
Dr. Michael & Ellen Berger	The Para & Miller Families	Art & Angela Smookler
Martin Berger	The Perritts	South Arundel Veterinary Hospital
Janet & Nick Berry	Donald & Sharron Reed	Barbara & Bob Stern
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Cheevers	Carolyn Rhoads	Sandra Sundeen
Louise J. Chrissos	William & Mary Ada Ritchie	Mel & Joanne Sykes
Robert & Janet Downey	Constance & John Robinson	Joan & Rolph Townshend
Frank & Verna Galloway	Jim & Charlotte Robinson	Sharie Lacey Valerio
Evan Guilford-Blake	Marcia Sandground	Chris & Virginia White
Frederick & Anne Hallett	Michele & Earl Schaffer	Elizabeth L. Wilson
Duncan & Dianne Hood	Ed & Sue Senasack	Mary Beth & Ted Yablonski

MUSIC SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

Scene I:
A Ring Around the Moon.....Percy

Scene II:
Something's Cooking at the Spitfire GrillThe Company

Scene III:
Out of the Frying Pan.....Percy and Effy

Scene IV:
When Hope Goes.....Shelby

Scene V:
Ice and Snow.....Caleb, Joe and Effy
The Colors of Paradise.....Percy and Shelby

Scene VI:
Digging Stone.....Caleb

Scene VII:
This Wide Woods.....Joe and Percy

Scene VIII:
Forgotten Lullaby.....Hannah

Scene IX:
Shoot the Moon.....The Company

ACT TWO

Scene I:
Come Alive Again.....Hannah and Company

Scene II:
Forest for the Trees.....Joe
Wild Bird.....Shelby

Scene IV:
Shine.....Percy

Scene VI:
Way Back Home.....Hannah

Scene VII:
Finale.....The Company

THE CAST

Jean Berard (*Effy Krayneck*) - Jean is delighted to be back in another Colonial Players production. She last appeared as Miss Bennett in the season's opening show, Agatha Christie's *The Unexpected Guest*. Other theater credits include *The Miracle Worker*, *Daddy's Dyin'*, *Who's Got the Will?* and *Prelude to a Kiss*. She currently teaches Spanish at Severn School in Severna Park, is the head of the foreign language department and lives in the area with her husband, Mr. Wonderful (who sends her a rose every Monday). It has been a while since she has appeared in a musical, however, so she would like patrons to know that earplugs will be available upon request during intermission.

Jill Sharpe Compton (*Hannah Ferguson*) - Jill is happy to be back in Annapolis and back at Colonial Players after 13 years in New York. While in New York, she performed in local and regional theater and two national tours. Jill directed *Something's Afoot* at Webb Institute, the first ever musical for the small, elite engineering college of naval architecture. In Annapolis, Jill served as music director and performed frequently at area theaters. At CP, Jill and her husband, Roger, participated in *A Christmas Carol* for 15 years. Other favorite shows at CP were *Closer Than Ever*, *A Little Night Music*, *Something's Afoot*, *Baby and Red*, *Hot and Cole*. In real life, Jill has been a physical therapist for many years.

Lawrence Griffin (*Caleb Thorpe*) - Lawrence appeared most recently at Colonial Players last June in *the shape of things*, which is a 2011 Washington Area Theatre Community Honors nominee for best play. He also portrayed Victor in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*, which opened the 2010-11 season. Other shows at Colonial Players include *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Incorruptible* and some one act plays. Elsewhere, Lawrence has been involved in experimental theater and independent film in the Baltimore area, appearing in a leading role in a horror film, *The Midnight Disease*. He also portrayed the husband in *The Problem* by A. R. Gurney.

Karen Grim (*Percy Talbott*) - Karen is excited to be on the stage again at Colonial Players. You may have seen her as Older Amy March in

the musical version of *Little Women* earlier this season. Some of her favorite past roles include: Evelyn in *the shape of things*, Peter in *Peter Pan*, Shelley in *Bat Boy*, Henriette in *The Learned Ladies* and JoJo in *Seussical the Musical*. She graduated with a BFA in Performance Theatre in 2007 from High Point University in High Point, NC. "I'd like to thank Joan for allowing me the chance to bring Percy to life. There have been very few parts that I feel so connected to, and this is definitely one of them. Being Percy is like tapping into a part of me I knew existed but was afraid to embrace. Thanks to the cast and crew for all their hard work. Special thanks to my family and friends, especially my mom and my roommates, Laurel and Kaelynn, for your love and support. And to Jim, for your strength and stability that is needed for this Wild Bird."

Eric Hufford (*Sheriff Joe Sutter*) - Eric is thrilled to be part of his first Colonial Players production! Eric moved to Maryland two years ago after getting his degree in Computer Science in Wisconsin. He was involved in theater during high school up through his freshman year of college, where he played Tom in *School House Rock Live!* He reconnected with his love for theater last summer as Pharaoh in Drama Learning Center's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Following that, he played Daniel Beauxhomme in Red Branch Theatre's production of *Once on This Island* last October. Eric would like to thank his friend Diana for pushing him off the couch and into the audition room. Enjoy the show!

Sandra Rardon (*Shelby Thorpe*) - Sandra is happy to appear in her first Colonial Players production! Some of her favorite previous credits include Diana in *Lend Me A Tenor* (2011) with Pasadena Theater Company, *Songs For A New World* (2011) with Dignity Players, Miss Sandra in *All Shook Up* (2009), Vi Moore in *Footloose* (2009), Maria in *The Sound of Music* (2006), and Marty in *Grease* (2006) with Timonium Dinner Theater. Sandra also appeared in the U.S. premiere of *Girlfriends* by Howard Goodall (2003). Her voice may also be heard on the Music Man Jr. soundtrack, produced by Music Theatre International, and on the original U.S. cast recording of *Girlfriends*. Sandra would like

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHTS

James Valcq and **Fred Alley** became friends at a high school music camp in 1980, but it wasn't until 1994 that they collaborated on a play for Alley's American Folklore Theater in Wisconsin. Looking to create a follow-up piece of populist theater with elements of myth and folk tale, they found their inspiration in the movie *The Spitfire Grill*. Valcq wrote the music and Alley the lyrics and they co-wrote the book for the musical, which premiered Off-Broadway in 2001 at the Playwrights Horizons theater. The small-scale musical opened to rave reviews and won the Richard Rodgers Production Award

presented by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In addition to writing musicals, Valcq is an accomplished singer and Broadway conductor. Alley was a playwright, singer and actor who appeared in many shows at his theater in Wisconsin. Tragically, he died of a previously undiscovered heart ailment just one week before workshop rehearsals began on *The Spitfire Grill* and two weeks before his and Valcq's new collaboration won the Richard Rodgers award. Alley was jogging near his home in Wisconsin when he collapsed and died.

ABOUT OUR NEXT PLAY

Lee Blessing's *Going to St. Ives* is a powerful, engrossing drama about two women from backgrounds worlds apart whose lives are indelibly entwined as they confront a difficult moral dilemma. May N'Kame, the mother of a brutal African dictator, comes to England to undergo delicate and difficult eye surgery by Dr. Cora Gage. Both women have an agenda that extends beyond medical care. Cora wants May to use her influence on her son to secure the release of doctors who have been imprisoned for refusing to engage in torture. May has a more startling request, one with the greatest

moral implications for both women. First in England, then in Africa, these two strong-willed women confront the implications of May's request and deal with the results of their actions. In his review in *New York Magazine*, John Simon praised *Going to St. Ives* as a play that is "both serious and amusing, diverting and dramatic. It is concerned with numerous moral and political matters touching on issues as urgent as they are universal." *Going to St. Ives* opens May 4 and runs through May 19. Tickets are available at thecolonialplayers.org or by calling 410-268-7373.

YOU ARE OUR BEST PR

*If you enjoyed the show,
please recommend it to your friends.*



Colonial Players is a proud member of ACT, the Annapolis Consortium of Theaters.

THE STAFF (continued)

Andy McLendon (*Stage Manager*) - Andy has been associated with Colonial Players since the 1970s, most likely wearing the stage manager's hat. Memorable productions include *Closer Than Ever*, *Robber Bridegroom*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *Enter the Guardsman* and *Cabaret*. Recently, she has stage managed for Dignity Players for *Doubt* and *Sordid Lives*. "Thanks to *The Spitfire Grill* staff and cast for another fun experience.

Anita O'Connor (*Music Director*) - Anita is thrilled to be music directing at Colonial Players for the first time and working with such a wonderful group of actors. Anita also has enjoyed working with Joan and wants to thank Emily for all her hard work with the musicians and the cast! Anita has music directed in the Annapolis area for many years, working at the Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Children's Theatre of Annapolis, The Bay Theatre and The Chesapeake Music Hall. Anita also loves to perform, and some of her favorite roles include Annie in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl* and Sonja in *They're Playing our Song*. By day, Anita is an elementary music teacher at Indian Creek School and also teaches private lessons. Thanks so much to her wonderful husband, Maurie, and her beautiful daughters for their love and for being so flexible. Enjoy the show!

Emily L. Sergo (*Assistant Music Director / Pianist*) - Emily is so happy to be back with Colonial Players, though playing piano this time! She recently was musical director for *Seussical, Jr.* at Folger McKinsey Elementary School. Earlier this season, she appeared on the CP stage as Jo March in *Little Women*. Over the summer, she was in Drama Learning Center's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as a wife and the dance captain, and she also played lead piano for Dignity Players' production of Jason Robert Brown's *Songs For A New World*. Favorite roles include Little Becky Two-Shoes (*Urinetown*), Babe Williams (*The Pajama Game*) and Madame de la Grande

Bouche (*Beauty and the Beast*), to name a few. Though she is taking a brief hiatus from school, she sings with the Chamber Singers at Anne Arundel Community College under the direction of Doug Byerly. Emily would like to thank Joan, Anita and the wonderful musicians who made *Spitfire* come alive. She sends love to her mom, who supports her in everything she does.

Beth Terranova (*Set Designer*) - Though better known for her costume designs, Beth is no stranger to set design and has thoroughly enjoyed creating "The Grill" and its surroundings in Gilead, WI. Previous set design credits include *She Loves Me*, *Hauptmann* and *Fin and Euba* at Colonial Players, as well as *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Dignity Players and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre. Most recently at Colonial Players, Beth produced *Chapter Two* and garnered critical acclaim for designing the quirky fairy tale costumes for *Cinderella Waltz* and for her portrayal of Aunt March in *Little Women*. Other work behind the scenes at CP includes director, stage manager, play consultant, production consultant, sound board operator and stage crew. She is an award-winning director (*Hauptmann*) and an award-nominated actor (*Two Rooms*). Beth currently serves on the CP Board of Directors as Production Director. In addition, she produces the *News and Cues* newsletter and serves as a CP Costume Consultant/Wardrobe Curator, Bylaws Committee Member and CP WATCH judge. Amazingly, she still manages to keep her day job as a program analyst for the Navy's Enterprise Resource Planning Program here in Annapolis.

Mary Beth Yablonski (*Producer*) - Mary Beth has worked behind the scenes at Colonial Players for many years. She has served as treasurer, stage manager, producer and usher and is co-chairman of the CP Subscription Committee. Mary Beth has appeared in the chorus for the Young Victorian Theatre Company and sings with the Annapolis Chorale and Chamber Chorus.

THE CAST (continued)

to thank Joan, Anita and Emily for this wonderful opportunity, the cast for such a phenomenal production and her husband for his constant love and support. To the cast: "Break legs, but not literally!" To the audience: "Enjoy!"

Robert Wright (*The Visitor*) - Robert is really excited to be back at Colonial Players, 40 years after he appeared on the CP stage as the lawyer

in *Generation*. He has been a member of the Annapolis Chorale since 1999. Robert performed in plays and musicals with several Annapolis area groups, including Children's Theatre of Annapolis, Tom Thumb Players, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Annapolis Dinner Theatre, Spotlighters and 2nd Star Productions. Since 2002, he has worked as a Maryland Certified Residential Appraiser.

THE STAFF

Richard Atha-Nicholls (*Sound Designer/ Engineering*) - Richard is delighted to be back designing and engineering sound at Colonial Players. He directed Colonial Players' season opener, *The Unexpected Guest* (and tweaked the sound a little). It was behind the sound board that Richard first worked at Colonial Players. He feels very at home here. His next big production will be the North American Discworld Convention 2013, which he is chairing (nadwcon.org). Love to C&A.

Lois Banscher (*Properties Designer*) - Lois' first play (2000) was on a team with Joan Townshend, who played Mrs. Savage in *The Curious Savage*. Once again a very creative team has joined together to bring *The Spitfire Grill* to life. This is Lois' seventh play. and she enjoys her silent role. She recently worked behind the scenes on *Little Women*. When not "shopping," "eSurfing" or "begging" for prop pieces, Lois can be found assisting other CP folks with projects, learning something new about set, design, space, color. There's always something new to learn and do - special projects, lobby attention, opening night party prep, CP Gala, changing the filtered water bottle! "What a fun time with fun folks. All for the love of it, as they say!"

Jeannie Beall (*Costume Designer*) - Jeannie's first show at Colonial Players was *Generation* quite a few seasons ago. Since then, she has worked in all theatrical production areas at CP except for sound design. She has held three positions on the Board of Directors and is currently a Costume Consultant/Wardrobe Curator. Most recently, she designed costumes for *Frozen*, *The Violet Hour* and *The Christmas Doll*. Jeannie has also worked with the town

crier of Annapolis, Fred Taylor, creating period attire for him.

Nancy Dall (*Choreographer*) - *The Spitfire Grill* is the fourth show in which Nancy has been involved at CP as a choreographer. Her debut as a choreographer came at CP with Mitzi's solo in *Fiorello!* back in 1995, when she was cast as that character. She has been an actor over the past 21 years, is currently involved with a Salsa Performance Team and has revived her interest in jazz piano.

JoAnn Gidos (*Properties Designer*) - JoAnn has been working on properties at CP for over 20 years. In addition to the current show, she will be working on *Moonlight and Magnolias* later this season. So far this year, she has worked on *Wit* and *Becky's New Car* at Bay Theatre, *Lost in Yonkers* and *The Miracle Worker* at the Compass Rose Theater and *Almost Maine* at Dignity Players.

Harvey Hack (*Lighting Designer*) - Harvey has been running the lighting board and designing lights since 1973, primarily at Colonial Players. His lighting credits have included *Finian's Rainbow*, *Carnival*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *A Christmas Carol* (twice), *Dearly Departed*, *Romantic Comedy*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *The Violet Hour*, *Over My Dead Body*, *Two Rooms*, *Private Lives* and, most recently, *Mrs. California*. He has served several times as CP's Lighting Consultant. Harvey appeared on stage once as a Gentleman in *A Christmas Carol*. An Arnold resident, he works as a metallurgist doing corrosion engineering for Northrop Grumman Corporation in Annapolis.

THE COLONIAL PLAYERS, INC.
presents



Music and Book by
JAMES VALCQ

Lyrics and Book by
FRED ALLEY

Based on the film by
LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF

Directed by
JOAN TOWNSHEND

Music Direction by
ANITA O'CONNOR

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Percy Talbott.....Karen Grim
Sheriff Joe Sutter.....Eric Hufford
Hannah Ferguson.....Jill Sharpe Compton
Caleb Thorpe.....Lawrence Griffin
Effy Krayneck.....Jean Berard
Shelby Thorpe.....Sandra Rardon
The Visitor.....Robert Wright

TIME

1988, February through October

PLACE

Gilead, a small town in rural Wisconsin

Playwrights Horizons, New York City, produced the New York premiere of *The Spitfire Grill* Off-Broadway in 2001

The Spitfire Grill received its world premiere production by the George Street Playhouse on Nov. 5, 2000
David Saint, Artistic Director / Michael Stotts, Managing Director

THERE WILL BE ONE 10-MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACT I AND ACT II.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Taking photographs and using any recording devices are strictly prohibited. Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.

The Colonial Players, Inc. is funded in part by an operating grant from the Maryland State Arts Council,
an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive.