

Our Remaining 2007-2008 Season

The Girl's Room

directed by Ian Tubman

Shows: Feb. 15 & 16, 2008

VTG's entry in the Mississippi Theatre Festival

Four girls meet throughout the school year in the girls bathroom, in the mornings when it is off-limits to students. It's their secret. **Advisory:** This play includes dialog about date rape among teens. It is intended for teens, not young children.

Southern Discomfort

directed by Jeff Hensley & Beth Martin

Shows: Mar. 7-9 & 14-16, 2008

Twelve short scenes and monologues create a vivid emotional tapestry, with scenes ranging from gentle comedy to intense drama. We see the entire human experience through the unique perspective of America's southern states.

Gold in the Hills 2008

an 1890's melodrama produced by Mike Calnan & Walter Johnston

Auditions: Jan. 27 & 20, 2008

Shows: Mar. 28, 29 & Apr. 4, 5, 11, 12; Jul. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 2008

Gold in the Hills, the Guinness Book of World Records longest-running melodrama, has shown since 1936. It is set in the 1890s and features a relentless hero, a winsome heroine, a ruthless villain, and the wilder side of city life in the infamous New York Bowery.

The Importance of Being Earnest

directed by Jim Miller

Auditions: Feb. 16 & 17, 2008

Shows: May 9-11 & 16-18, 2008

To avoid social obligation, Jack Worthing invents the irresponsible Earnest, whom he pretends to be when he is out of town. Jack falls in love with a young lady who loves the name Earnest, and he must contend with his deception.

Fairy Tale Theatre 2008

Youth theatre produced by Jo Beth Britt & Richard Van Den Akker

Auditions: Apr. 12 & 13, 2008

Shows: Jun. 26-29, 2008

Fairy Tale Theatre is open to actors and actresses ages seven through eighteen. Children gain experience in theatre skills such as acting, learning lines, costumes, set construction, and backstage tech.

2007-2008 — Our 72nd Season
Vicksburg Theatre Guild presents...

God's Favorite

a comedy by Neil Simon

directed by Garrett Wallace



January 25-27 & February 1-3, 2008

Parkside Playhouse
Vicksburg, Mississippi

Produced by special arrangement with SAMUAL FRENCH, INC.

Visit us on the web at

www.e-vtg.com  www.vicksburg.com/~gold

or call 601-636-0471

From the Director

This February marks the 13th (Ooo) anniversary of my directorial debut here at VTG, coincidentally also a Neil Simon play, *The Odd Couple*. The preceding November I played several roles in our production of *Hamlet* and a year earlier I was “Uncle Barnaby” in *Babes in Toyland*. These two events are what propelled me into directing and 13 (Uh Oh) plays later the reason remains as true as ever: I have a real problem remembering lines. Don’t get me wrong, I can act. (Ask any cast member about strutting, rubbing, or being in touch with your feminine side.) I just can’t regurgitate lines that have to be in any specific order. Far from being a disadvantage, it has given me a great respect for the actor and their ability to bring to life the Director’s vision of the playwright’s words. Without them, the stage would be an empty space. Is that profound or what?

One thing that hasn’t changed over the years is the need for volunteers to help with getting a production up on the stage. It can be as simple as taking posters to various locations around town, or slapping paint on the set one Saturday, or learning how to set and run lights. Your involvement can be as much or as little as you desire but your involvement is vitally important to the success of a production and, by extension, the continued viability of your Community Theatre. Hey, it can be a lot of fun and always is an adventure.

That being said I have to give profuse thanks to my construction crew Jack Burns, Jeff Hensley, and Richard Van Den Akker (primarily). They have stepped up to the plate during a very hectic few weeks in my life; any credit for the set goes to them, any blame rests squarely on my shoulders.

Well that’s pretty much it. Now sit back, enjoy the show, and laugh heartily and often. You’ll live longer.

Garrett A. Wallace, Director

January 25, 2008



Miller Electric, Inc.

601-636-2985

“Quality that won’t test your faith!”

2007-2008 Mid-Season Membership Rates		
Type	Full-Season	Mid-Season
Regular Memberships		
Child (age 12 & under) (1 ticket*)	\$15	\$13
Student (age 13 through college) (1 ticket*)	\$20	\$17
Associate (no tickets)	\$20	\$20
Senior Citizen (55 & over) (1 ticket*)	\$30	\$25
Individual (1 ticket*)	\$35	\$28
Family (tickets* for parents & children in immediate family)	\$80	\$65
Special Memberships		
Patron (2 tickets*)	\$100	\$80
Angel (3 tickets*)	\$125	\$100
Family Angel (tickets* for parents & children in immediate family)	\$160	\$130
Benefactor (6 tickets*)	\$250	\$200
Capital Patron (12 tickets*)	\$500	\$400
Business Memberships		
Small Business (6 tickets*)	\$250	\$200
Business (10 tickets*)	\$400	\$320
Corporate (20 tickets*)	\$800	\$640
Sponsor (40 tickets for sponsored show, full-page program ad)	\$2,000	\$2,000

* A ticket entitles each member to attend 1 performance of each main stage play, and 1 *Gold in the Hills* performance during each of the Spring and Summer runs.

Thanks to **Ameristar**, our newest Corporate Member, for providing tickets to those who would otherwise not be able to attend our shows.



Coming Soon...

Mid-Season membership: still a good value! We still have three exciting shows remaining plus a full season of *Gold in the Hills*. Regular mid-season memberships are about half the cost of tickets for three main stage plays and two *Gold in the Hills* performances. If you are already a member, a gift membership would be a nice way to share the excitement of live theatre. Members also receive a \$20 per child discount for Fairy Tale Theatre registration.

Our 2008-2009 Season

We are planning our 2008-2009 season. Play proposal forms are available by calling 601-636-0471 or at www.e-vtg.com. Play proposals are due to President Terry Welch by February 15, 2008.

2008-2009 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 8. If you want to volunteer for the Board, recommend someone, or assist (in areas such as costumes or membership), contact President Terry Welch at terry.vtg@gmail.com. Nominations are due in writing by May 25.

Business members receive:

- one ad, in a program of choice,
- additional ads at a reduced price,
- a listing in all main stage programs, and
- tickets for each play.

Parkside Playhouse
101 Iowa Avenue
(at the intersection with North Frontage Road)
P.O. Box 821472
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39182-1472

We are saddened by the death of former VTG President and Life Member Gloria Dudding on January 15, 2008. Gloria led the fundraising drive for the construction of our Parkside Playhouse.

SPECIAL MEMBERS

VTG Life, Special, and Business members make an extra financial contribution beyond the cost of basic membership. We are deeply grateful for their support, and for the confidence they have placed in us.

Capital Patron

Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Karen Calnan

Doctors Michael & Clarissa Davis

Benefactor

Mr. Jack Burns

Mr. & Mrs. Jason & Andrea Fairchild

Mr. & Mrs. Dan & Ann Claire Fordice

Dr. Walter Johnston

Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Sharon Miller

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Dr. Mark Jourdan

Mrs. Earlene McCleave

Ms. Dorothy McInnis

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Mr. & Mrs. Larry & Donna Barnard

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Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Kat Hilderbrand

Mr. & Mrs. Ellis Koury

Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Sherry Lambiotte

Dani & Colin McAneny

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Life Members

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Allen

Dr. Paul E. Ballard

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Mrs. E.F. Burris

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Mrs. Norma Habeeb

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Mrs. A.L. Mathews

Mr. William Mathews

Dr. Lamar McMillin

Ms. Janie Metzen

Mr. Don Miller

Mr. Lewis Miller

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Mr. Maurice Seay

Mrs. Leslie Silver

Mrs. Joe Varner

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Small Business

Frank J. Fisher Funeral Home

God's Favorite

a comedy by Neil Simon
directed by Garrett Wallace

THE SCENE

The action takes place in the Benjamin mansion on the North Shore of Long Island.

ACT I

SCENE ONE Midnight.

SCENE TWO Two weeks later.

ACT II

The Holocaust after.

CAST

Joe Benjamin Richard Van Den Akker
Ben Benjamin Ian Tubman
Sarah Benjamin Brandi Pittman
Rose Benjamin Beth Martin
David Benjamin Jason Fairchild
Mady Shannon Bell
Morris Roy Bailey
Sidney Lipton Jeff Hensley

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Garrett Wallace
Assistant Director Jeff Hensley
Stage Manager Jack Burns
Lights Jo Beth Britt, Ashley Johnson
Sound Wes Johnson
Tech Kim Stokes, Courtney Sanders
Set Construction Jack Burns, Jeff Hensley,
Richard Van Den Akker, Garrett Wallace

Cast & Staff Biographies (in alphabetical order)

Roy Bailey (Morris). Roy has spent a lifetime acting, directing, and writing. Performing in *Gold in the Hills* in the 1960's, he was seen in and directed numerous VTG productions. Retired from Hinds Community College, he has authored three novels, "Far in the Hills," "My Love and I," and "Lorena." Bailey holds degrees from LSU and the University of Mississippi. He appeared with his late wife, Glenda, in two movies "O, Brother Where Art Thou" and "The Ponder Heart."

Cast & Staff Biographies (continued)

Shannon Bell (Mady). Shannon was inspired to audition for her first play after her daughters became involved in Fairy Tale Theatre. Previous VTG experience includes *Annie*, *Fools*, *Gold in the Hills*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Life With Father*. This is the second time Shannon has been cast as a housekeeper, to the amusement of her family.

Jason Fairchild (David Benjamin) has directed several VTG productions, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Nerd*, and *Steel Magnolias*. Jason works for the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers where he spends most of his time recycling electrons. He enjoys reading, composing music for imaginary films, taking pictures of his exceedingly tolerant friends and family, and snoozing.

Jeff Hensley (Sidney Lipton) was an angel as a child. At least his mother said he was an angel, or she wanted him to be an angel. Now he plays a messenger of God — that's like an angel. It's probably not what his mother had in mind, though. He really enjoys playing zany roles like this — especially since people are nice and don't tell him he's just looney.

Beth Martin (Rose Benjamin) has over twenty years experience. She has appeared in such productions as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Our Town*, *Oklahoma*, *Harvey*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Ten Little Indians*, and three different productions of *Godspell*. In real life, Beth is a mother, a teacher, and a Taurus. She does believe in fairies.

Brandi Pittman (Sarah Benjamin). Brandi has worked with Brookhaven Little Theatre and Monticello Community Theatre. Prior plays include *The Good Doctor*, *Oliver!*, *Rumors*, *Sundays in the Park with George*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Dearly Departed*. This is her first play with Vicksburg Theatre Guild.

Ian Tubman (Ben Benjamin). Ian first appeared on VTG's stage in *The Hobbit* during Fairy Tale Theatre in High School. Since then he has appeared in *Hamlet*, *1776*, and *Mid Summer Night's Dream* here at VTG. He minored in Theatre at Mississippi State where he appeared in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Wiley and the Hairy Man*. He also directed VTG's 2008 Mississippi Theatre Festival entry, *The Girls' Room*.

Richard Van Den Akker (Joe Benjamin) has been involved with community theater since 2001 and has appeared in several plays. Active in the Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America, he is also an amateur playwright.

Garrett Wallace (Director). Garrett first appeared onstage at VTG in 1993 as "Uncle Barnaby" in *Babes in Toyland*. He has since appeared in *Hamlet*, *1776*, *Peter Pan*, and *Oliver!*, and has directed over a dozen plays, including writing and directing an original adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. He has two daughters, Shannon Hollingsworth and Molleigh Wallace, and three grandchildren, Ty, Kayleigh, and Tanner.