

ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE
presents

OKLAHOMA!

May 12, 13, 14, and 15 at 8:00 p.m.
added performances:
Saturday, May 15 at 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.

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President's Message



Good evening and welcome to the final production of the 1975-76 season for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. We sincerely hope we have entertained you during this season. You have made it one of our most successful at the box office and one which we as members had great joy in preparing and presenting for you. Each production during the season had its own special flavor: be it the conniving sisters in *Arsenic and Old Lace*; the young man caught in his own web in *Promises, Promises*; a glimpse of history in *The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail*; the ruthlessness of the family in *The Little Foxes*; or the familiarity of the music in *Oklahoma*.

Community theatre is somewhat different from professional or educational theatre. The most obvious differences are: no payment to those appearing on stage (or no formal credit); and, in the case of AACT, no stage of our own. So why then do we join in and work with a "civic theatre"? I guess I speak for most when I say, "because we love it." A community theatre offers its members the opportunity to do almost anything from acting to zinging a screw into sets. Our members come from all walks of life; most work days, so Civic comes alive evenings and weekends. If you are interested in joining our group call us, we're in the book.

A word or two about next season: we are very excited about the playbill. You will find a coupon with the dates and plays listed on the handbill inserted in each program. We look forward to your continued support.

On behalf of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, I wish to Thank You for coming to the productions this season, and for the support of the business patrons without whom we could not have had these lovely programs or the special ads in the newspapers.

P.S. We will be mailing nomination letters and ballots for our annual awards next week to those season ticket holders who last fall indicated they would like to participate. If you do not receive the mailing and wish to participate, please call me at 761-2247 (evenings).

Carol Deniston
President

schlanderer

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*there is this one
grouch, however.



Artistic Director and Choreographer

JAMES POSANTE

Jim Posante will need no introduction to those among you who regularly attend the productions of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre or the U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. He has been active in both organizations for several years as an actor, director and choreographer. For G & S, Jim choreographed *The Grand Duke* and directed and choreographed *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *Pirates of Penzance* as well as appearing in several other shows. Among others for AACT, Jim was in the cast of *The Most Happy Fella* and appeared as the Musician in *Thieves' Carnival*, a performance which earned him our annual Cameo Award.

Musical Director

DILL MURRELL

Dill Murrell, a physicist with NASA and now a staff engineer with EPA, has been a dance band organizer, composer/arranger and soloist. He has performed in numerous Saline Community Chorus and Saline Area Players' productions, and is a past president of the Players. He has also been involved in Musket and the U-M Players' productions as an actor, musician, and musical director. For Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Dill appeared last year in *Fiorello* and served as assistant musical director for our production last December of *Promises, Promises*.



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THE STAFF

Carol Deniston (Co-Producer) joined AACT ten years ago and has participated in almost every area of the theatre from poster distribution to presidency. *Oklahoma* is the eighth show she has produced for us. For six years she has been a member of the AACT Board of Directors and is now serving her 4th term as president of our group. Carol is also a member of the theatre advisory panel for the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Mindy Oddy (Co-Producer) has been active for several years as a stage manager for Musket, the School of Music and AACT. During the past season she stage managed *The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail* for AACT and the School of Music's production of *Carmen*. Mindy is a 4th grade teacher in the Hamburg Elementary School and a part-time graduate student at the U-M.

Sylvia Marie Llewellyn (Assistant Director), a very active member since joining AACT last summer, was the assistant director for our studio production of *Under Milkwood*. She crewed the Summer Season '75 shows as well as *Arsenic and Old Lace*. For *The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail* Sylvia was chairman of props and appeared in the cast as a townsman.

John Ford (Stage Manager), an active member of AACT since 1961, has served as producer, technical director, stage manager and lighting designer for many shows, most recently as producer of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. *Oklahoma* marks his 33rd production - and his 10th musical - for AACT. He is also serving this season as historian, chairman of stage managers and program editor. John is a past member of AACT's Board of Directors.

Alice B. Crawford, U.S.A.A. (Set Designer) has designed over 30 sets for AACT, most recently *Fiorello* and *Tartuffe* last season. In this year she also designed *Don Giovanni* and *La Boheme* for the U-M School of Music, and *Hello Dolly* for Musket. She is an art teacher at Huron High School and a member of the United Scenic Artists union, local 350. Alice's paintings are frequently shown in local and state exhibitions.

Seth Orbach (Lighting Designer), a senior at Community High School, began his career with the Junior Light Opera. He has served as lighting designer for productions by the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, the School of Music and AACT, and last year designed a special presentation for President Ford in Washington, D.C. Most recently Seth designed *The Looking Glass* dinner theatre.

Denise A. Dreher (Costume Designer) is designing her first major production for AACT. She has worked on costume crews at Eastern Michigan University where she is a Dramatic Arts student, and for the Ypsilanti Players children's show *Livin' de' Life*. Denise will be wardrobe mistress for the University of Illinois summer festival and will move on in the fall to study at the University of Minnesota.

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THE CAST

Martha Krehbiel (Aunt Eller) returned to the stage after a long absence to appear in AACT's December production of *Promises, Promises*. A graduate of Wheaton College, Illinois, where she was a speech major, Martha taught elementary school before starting her family and moving to Ann Arbor.

Bryant Frank (Curly), a junior at the U-M, has appeared in the Soph Show production of *Celebration* and Musket's *Hello Dolly*. Bryant has sung for two years with aMaizn' Blue and will appear this summer in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Once In A Lifetime* for Michigan Repertory '76.

Gail Williams (Laurey) recently appeared as Abigail Adams in *Ye Bloody Rebels* at Pioneer High School where she is a senior. Gail has also had roles in *The King and I* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the high school.

Bob Vincent (Ike Skidmore) was last seen on stage over a decade ago when he appeared in *South Pacific* and *Die Fliedermaus* at Louisiana Tech. University. Bob is a geophysicist and the president of Geospectra Corp.

Stanley Selden (Fred), most recently seen in the chorus of G & S's *Pirates of Penzance*, has also appeared in *Eugene Onegin* and *Oedipus Rex* for the U-M School of Music. Stan is an art student at the U-M and sang for one year in the Men's Glee Club.

Robert G. Pace (Slim) usually contributes his talents on the technical side of our productions. Serving as master carpenter, he built the set for *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Bob has appeared this year in two studio productions, *Mr. Pim* and *Scanerelle*.

Ray Nieto (Will Parker) has appeared in several roles for AACT, including Capt. Bluntschli in *Arms and the Man* for which he earned the best actor of the year award. Ray is also a talented dancer and choreographed both *Ernest In Love* and *Fiorello* for AACT.

Bill Vander Yacht (Jud) played the role of Jud once before: for the Saline Area Players, of which he is a charter member. He has appeared in several other SAP productions and has stage managed two shows. Bill is an obstetrician and gynecologist.

Connie Marie Cicone (Ado Annie), most recently seen in Musket's *Hello Dolly*, has appeared in several shows for the Saline Area Players, U-M Speech Dept. and AACT (including *Tartuffe*). Connie is a graduate student in theatre and speech at the U-M.

Ed Glazier (Ali Hakim) has appeared for AACT in *Ernest In Love* and several summer season productions. His background also includes eight shows for G & S, most recently *Pirates of Penzance*. Ed is a librarian and served two years as chairman of AACT's playreading committee.

Mina A. Sonda (Gertie) was active in theatre at the University of Denver before coming to Ann Arbor. Her only appearance here was in AACT's production last year of *Ten Little Indians*. Mina's field is physical education and she hopes to be teaching come September.

Liz Jellinek (Ellen), a veteran member, has appeared on stage for AACT in numerous shows over the years. She is also a talented costume designer and director - having directed *Promises, Promises* for us last December and *Hogan's Goat* two years ago.

Dayton Benjamin (Andrew Carnes) has an extensive background in theatre, including six years in the Fairbanks (Alaska) Light Opera Theatre. He was seen last year in our productions of *Ten Little Indians* and *Fiorello*, and, more recently, as Mr. Witherspoon in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

John Roth (Cord Elam) is making his debut as an actor. John is a contracts manager for Bendix Aerospace Systems.

Dick Phillips (Jess) appeared as Dobitch in AACT's December production of *Promises, Promises* and in the studio production of *Crawling Arnold*. Dick is a professor of Aerospace Engineering and of Computer, Information and Control Engineering at the U-M.

Andy Silverman (Junior), seen in AACT's productions of *The Most Happy Fella* and *Riders to the Sea*, has also appeared in *Alice In Wonderland* for JLO. Andy is a 6th grader at Stone School.

TeDee A. Theofil (Dream Laurey and Dancer) is appearing for the first time with AACT. She is co-director of the Ann Arbor Civic Ballet and director of Studio 1 school of dance.

Mikell Pinkney (Dream Curly and Dancer), appearing in his first role for AACT, has an extensive background in acting, directing and choreography. Mikell is a graduate student and teaching fellow in theatre at the U-M where he will appear this summer in two Michigan Repertory '76 productions.

Todd Jamieson (Dream Jud and Dancer) is a graduate student at the U-M. He directed *Spoon River Anthology* as an undergraduate in Sarasota, Fla., and has appeared for the U-M in *Infernal Machine* and *Camino Real* among others. This is his first show for AACT.

Kathryn L. App (Chorus) has appeared for AACT in *The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail* and the studio production of *Separate Tables*, and has worked on costume and prop crews for several shows. Kathy is personnel director at University Cellar bookstore.

Sue Beutler (Chorus) has played the parts of Miss Campbell in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, an Indian in *Annie Get Your Gun* and Nina in *Fiorello*. A member of Civic Theatre for 9 years, she and her husband Fred (also in tonight's cast) have been responsible for most of our lobby displays over the past four years.

Fred Beutler (Chorus) lists his credits as "seen (briefly) in *Barefoot In The Park*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *Fiorello*, and (even more briefly) in *Man of La Mancha*." A professor at the U-M, Fred is AACT's official photographer.

Carolyn Epstein (Chorus) has appeared for Civic Theatre in *Fiddler On The Roof*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Fiorello* and *Promises, Promises*, and served on the prop crew for *Annie Get Your Gun*. Carolyn is a free-lance interior designer.

Donald Hartwig (Chorus) had been active with JLO for four years, appearing in several productions, including *Oklahoma*. He appeared as a dancer in AACT's 1974 production of *Annie Get Your Gun*. Don is a senior at Pioneer High School.

Julia Haverty (Chorus) is a new resident of Ann Arbor. Her credits include performances for The Drama Group in Chicago Heights and The Birmingham (Ala.) Civic Theatre. Julia is a "full-time mom," with graduate studies "to be continued."

John Jarrett (Chorus) is returning to the stage for the first time since his college days at Notre Dame College, Cleveland, Ohio, in the early sixties. John is a research associate at the U-M and a member of the University Choral Union.

Cornelia Schoor Landes (Chorus) has appeared in one previous musical, *Girl Crazy*, for the Waterford Players. Cornelia is a piano teacher and has accompanied several G & S productions and the last two shows for the Comic Opera Guild.

Carolyn J. Lewis (Chorus) has performed for AACT in the studio production of *Crawling Arnold*, as a vocalist in our December production of *Promises, Promises* and as Callie in *The Little Foxes*. Carolyn is a psychiatric social worker.

Paul R. Lichter (Chorus) will be remembered for his two hilarious performances for AACT as the less-than-brilliant cop, Floyd, in *Fiorello*, and as Dr. Dreyfuss in *Promises, Promises*. Paul is an associate professor of ophthalmology at the U-M Medical School.

Ruth Lorenz (Chorus) joined AACT last year for our production of *Fiorello* and has since performed in *Promises, Promises* and the studio production of Menotti's *The Medium*. Ruth is executive secretary at Thermofil Inc. in Brighton.

Dorothy Milne (Chorus) is a newcomer to Civic Theatre. A freshman at EMU majoring in vocal performance, Dorothy has appeared in the Comic Opera Guild's *La Belle Helene* last February, as well as several productions at Pioneer High School.

Geraldine Powers-Steen (Chorus) is new to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, but certainly not to the stage. Her credits include numerous performances for the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre and the University of Nebraska, among others. Geraldine is currently a salesperson for Real Estate One.

David Reynolds (Chorus) is making his stage debut for AACT. He has previously performed as a pianist for *Promises, Promises* and *Thurber Carnival*. When not busy as a musician and composer, Dave is an economics major at the U-M.

Judy Robison (Chorus) performed for AACT as an orchestra voice in last December's production of *Promises, Promises*. Her other credits include performances in *Guys and Dolls* and *Promises, Promises* for the State College Community Theatre, Penn. State University. Judy works as a dental assistant.

Jonathon Robison (Chorus), a sixth grader at Mitchell Elementary School, is making his stage debut tonight.

Jane Wilcox (Chorus), another newcomer to AACT, appeared in the chorus of *Gypsy* for the Macomb County Community Summer Theatre. Jane is a graduate student at the U-M and a vocal music teacher.

Alan Wineman (Chorus) made his stage debut last spring in the role of Zappatella in *Fiorello* and has since appeared in our Summer Season '75 production of *Separate Tables*. Alan is a professor of Applied Mechanics in the College of Engineering.

Greg Yank (Chorus), has an extensive resume of performances outside of Michigan. He made his Ann Arbor debut in our studio production of *Under Milkwood* last winter. Greg is an assistant director at the U-M Hospital and a member of the Washtenaw County Council on Alcoholism.

Loretta Anderson (Dancer) choreographed *The Mikado*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *Demon Rum* for Brandeis University before coming to Ann Arbor. Loretta earned a graduate degree in Russian and is currently building director at Bursley Hall for the U-M.

Bridget Connors (Dancer) is a student at Clague Junior High School where she has appeared in several plays.

(continued)

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Aunt Eller	MARTHA KREHBIEL
Curly	BRYANT FRANK
Laurey	GAIL WILLIAMS
Ike Skidmore	BOB VINCENT
Fred	STANLEY SELDEN
Slim	ROBERT G. PACE
Will Parker	RAY NIETO
Jud Fry	BILL VANDER YACHT
Ado Annie Carnes	CONNIE MARIE CICONE
Ali Hakim	ED GLAZIER
Gertie Cummings	MINA A. SONDA
Ellen	LIZ JELINEK
Andrew Carnes	DAYTON BENJAMIN
Cord Elam	JOHN ROTH
Jess	DICK PHILLIPS
Junior	ANDY SILVERMAN

DREAM BALLET danced by RAY NIETO, STAN SELDEN, TEDEE THEOFIL
as Laurey, MIKELL PINKNEY as Curly, and TODD
JAMIESON as Jud

CHORUS KATHRYN L. APP, SUE BEUTLER, FRED BEUTLER, CAROLYNE
EPSTEIN, DONALD HARTWIG, JULIA HAVERTY, JOHN JARRETT,
CORNELIA SCHOOR LANDES, CAROLYN J. LEWIS, PAUL R. LICHTER,
RUTH LORENZ, DOROTHY MILNE, GERALDINE POWERS-STEEN,
DAVID REYNOLDS, JUDY ROBISON, JONATHON ROBISON, JANE
WILCOX, ALAN WINEMAN, GREG YANK

DANCERS LORETTA ANDERSON, BRIDGET CONNORS, SUSAN CRIPPEN,
KATHY DWYER, EDDY GALLOWAY, RANDY HERBERTSON, JOEL
JARVIS, ROBERTA OTTEN, CAROL SHULMAN, BETH WOODWARD

OKLAHOMA! was first produced by *The Theatre Guild* on April 1st, 1943,
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CAST NOTES (continued)

Susan Crippen (Dancer), most recently seen in the chorus of Musket's *Hello Dolly*, will also be remembered for her performance as Flipote in AACT's *Tartuffe*. Sue is a senior at the U-M, graduating in speech and theatre, and may be seen this summer in Michigan Repertory '76.

Kathy Dwyer (Dancer) is a newcomer to AACT and making her Ann Arbor debut. She has previously appeared as a dancer in *Funny Girl* and *Showboat*. Kathy is a graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee and works as a dental hygienist.

Eddy Galloway (Dancer) has a masters degree in theatre from the U-M where he has performed in *L'Histoire du Soldat*, *As You Like It*, *El Hajj Malik* and *No Place To Be Somebody*.

Randy Herbertson (Dancer) is a student at Huron High School where he has appeared in *Wonderful Town* and *A Little Night Music*. Randy also performed in the Green Hills production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Joel Jarvis (Dancer) is a graduate student in psychology and working part-time as a therapist. Joel is an opera buff and a lover of the theatre, dance and music of all kinds.

Roberta Otten (Dancer) has appeared in several dance performances at Northern Illinois University and for AACT as a townspeople in *The Night Thoreau Spent In Jail*. Roberta works as a part-time dance and gymnastics instructor at the Ann Arbor "Y".

Carol Shulman (Dancer) has appeared for Junior Theatre and the Ann Arbor Recreation Dept. as well as in the chorus of AACT's *The Brass and Grass Forever*. She was most recently seen in the Residential College Summer Players production of *Zazuzoo Review*.

Beth Woodward (Dancer) has appeared for Huron High School in *Wonderful Town* and choreographed *A Little Night Music*. A student of dance for 15 years, Beth also performed in the U-M School of Music Opera *Eugene Onegin*. Among other hobbies, she enjoys riding her antique high wheeler in parades.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Director wishes to thank TeDee Theofil and Mikell Pinkney for their choreographic assistance.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene I. The Front of Laurey's Farmhouse

Scene II. The Smoke House

Scene III. A Grove on Laurey's Farm

ACT TWO

Scene I. The Skidmore Ranch

Scene II. Skidmore's Cook House

Scene III. The Back of Laurey's Farmhouse

TIME: Just after the turn of the century.

PLACE: Indian Territory (Now Oklahoma)

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

Overture

"Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" CURLY
"The Surrey with the Fringe on Top" CURLY, LAUREY, AUNT ELLER
"Kansas City" WILL, AUNT ELLER, the BOYS and DANCERS
"I Cain't Say No" ADO ANNIE
"Many a New Day" LAUREY and the GIRLS and DANCERS
"People Will Say We're in Love" CURLY and LAUREY
"Pore Jud" CURLY and JUD
"Lonely Room" JUD
"Out of My Dreams" LAUREY and the GIRLS
Dream Ballet DREAM LAUREY, CURLY, JUD and DANCERS

ACT TWO

Entr'acte

"The Farmer and the Cowman" ENSEMBLE
"All er Nuthin'" ADO ANNIE, WILL and DANCING GIRLS
"People Will Say We're in Love" (reprise) CURLY and LAUREY
"Oklahoma" CURLY and ENSEMBLE
Finale ENTIRE COMPANY

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Velma Van Ark*
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Neel French
Anna Alimpich
Gael Johnson
Don Hayworth

Bass:

Greg Powell

Flute/Piccolo:

Ellie Pacetti

Harp:

Mia Axon

Tuba/Elec. Bass:

Dana Wiegand

Rehearsal Accompanists: . . . Roberta Munn, Richard Swain,
(* concertmistress) Mark Feldheusen, Judy Brown,
Ed Aluk

Viola:

Phoebe Duff
Ruth Hoffman
Rebecca Gerhart

Cello:

Joanna Taylor
Kerry Gilligan
Ervin Holland-Moritz

Clarinet:

Ralph Katz
Malcolm Danforth
Tamar Seeman

Guitar/Banjo:

Paul McIntire

Oboe/English Horn:

Barb McCann

Bassoon:

Joyce Klein

Trumpet:

Dave Wolter
Bill Hershey

Horn:

Dave Goldberg
Sally Weaver

Trombone:

Jon Holtfretter
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Percussion:

Brian Murrell
Erin Currier

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Jacobson's

PRODUCTION CREWS

Master Carpenter	Jim Fisher
Set Construction	Fred Reilly, Larry Hill, Paul Sisson, Mark Murphy, Michael Housefield, Vince Crispino, Jackie Gatz, Doug Logan, Ted Toth, Ed Lesher, Rose Carol Toth, Susan Brock
Lighting Crew	.....	Susan Morris, Jody Paffenbarger, Dave Mohler, Ricki DeMars, Roy Schwartz, Darlene Hartford, Mark Bowles
Props	.....	Claudia Kerfoot, chairman; Barbara Heston, Cindy Deeks, Susan Hainline, Nance Preis, Joan Scheffler, Bobbi Heminger, Sue Brock, Barbara Warnick, Denise Tanguay, Diane Wroblewski, Chris Schwartz
Costume Crew	.....	Sherry Mayfield, Becky Taylor, Ann Mueller, Marie Murrell, Birdie O'Connor, Mary Ann Smith, Pat Reilly, Cindy Deeks, Peter Greenquist, Carmen Miller, Natalie Sentz, Debby MacVey, Diane Wroblewski, Barbara Fidler
Makeup	.....	Sophie Farah, chairman; Amy Vuolo, Carolyn Lewis, Barbara Fidler, Pauline Teachout
Sound	.....	Christine Schwartz, chairman; Harriett Kirk
Stage Crew	.....	Jim Fisher, Larry Hill, Mark Murphy, Mike Alexander

Special thanks to all those who worked on the show but whose names are not included here.

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