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1997-1998



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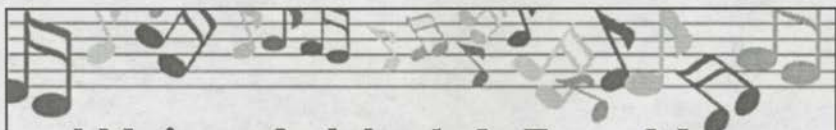
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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

2275 Platt Road

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

313 971-0605

Welcome!

Another exciting season at the Ann Arbor Civic Theater is underway, and I welcome each one of you to this performance. AACT exists because of its members, subscribers, and individual ticket buyers, and it brings together an eclectic group of performers, technicians, volunteers and audiences in appreciation of the theater arts.

Christopher Potter, in the Ann Arbor News, called the 1996-1997 AACT season "the most ambitious in recent memory." If so, then we have great plans to surpass that ambition this year as we explore the world of award winning plays and musicals. Each show this season has received multiple awards: Tonys, Obies, Drama Desk Awards, Grammy Awards and other prizes.

The performers and technicians who give their valuable time and energy to bring you each performance are all unpaid volunteers here at Civic Theater. People share their strengths, their skills and their love of theater to produce exciting, challenging and entertaining works for the community. Over the years, AACT has brought you the biggest, newest Broadway fare, as well as lesser-known but highly deserving works. This season promises no less.

We celebrate the new season as we "grow into" our own home, the lovely Civic Playhouse. During the course of the year you will see some changes, additions and improvements to make your theater-going experience at our Platt Road playhouse enjoyable and more comfortable. Let us know what we can do to make it more enjoyable for you! It is the rare community theatre that owns its own space—and Ann Arbor can be truly proud of its playhouse.

I look forward to meeting many of you during the course of the season. Here's to a season of award-winning shows, at an award-winning playhouse, with an award-winning troupe of players! We cannot do any of this without our award-winning audiences!

Sincerely,

Ronald P. Baumanis

Ronald P. Baumanis

President, AACT Board of Directors

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

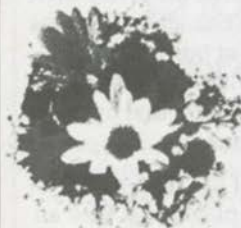
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We would like to give special thanks to those supporters who have joined our new "Friends" program. By making multiple-year pledges, these donors have guaranteed funding into the future for a portion of AACT's annual operating budget. If you would like to join this distinguished list of donors, please contact Managing Director Jay Pekala at 313 971-0605. Our heartfelt thanks to the "Friends" below:

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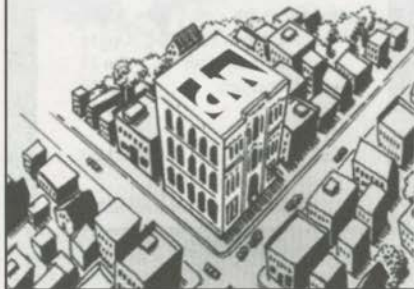
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A Little Night Music
September 21-22

Farnsdale... X-Mas Carol
October 20-21

You Can't Take It With You
November 23-24

Big River
January 4-5

Cabaret Benefit
January 18-19

Merchant of Venice
February 1-2

Jesus Christ Superstar
March 15-16

Dancing at Lughnasa
April 26-27



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre presents an award-winning playwright...
an award-winning director... an award-winning play.

LOST IN YONKERS



by Neil Simon

Directed by Joy Baker Dennis
September 18-21, 1997

Thursday-Saturday at 8 pm • Sunday matinee 2 pm
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, Michigan League
Tickets: (313) 971-AACT

Produced under special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
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Poster Design ©1997, Erik Olsen

LOST IN YONKERS

by Neil Simon

Cast (in order of appearance)

Jay	John Campbell
Arty	Matt Grimes
Eddie	Tim Grimes
Bella	Karen Foran
Grandma Kurnitz	Lisa Putman
Louie	Mick Orr
Aunt Gert	Cassie Mann

Place: The apartment above Kurnitz's Kandy Store

Yonkers, New York, 1942

Production Staff

Director	Joy Baker Dennis
Assistant Director	Jeff Zupan
Production Coordinator ...	Deborah Mahoney
Set Designer/Builder	Chuck Griffin
Costume Designer	Kathy Frazier
Lighting Designer	Scott Mancha
Stage Manager	Jeff Zupan
Sound Designer	Jeff Zupan
Makeup	Loretta Grimes
Properties	Michael Mahoney
Publicity	Darla Miller
Graphic Design	Erik Olsen
Program Coordinator	Rosemarie Rothe
Set Construction ...	Pat Dennis, Darla Miller Glenn Massey, Bob Seeman

ABOUT THE CAST

John Campbell (Jay) John attends Saline Middle School. He has performed in several Ypsilanti Players productions, including *Tom Sawyer* as Tom, *Harlequin* as Harlequin, *Really Rosie* and *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* Other credits include the Saline Area Players production of *Oliver!* as a member of Fagin's gang and several school plays. John sings with the Ann Arbor Boys Choir and enjoys soccer, basketball, swimming and computers. This is John's debut with AACT.

Karen M. Foran (Bella) Karen has recently returned to Michigan after a fourteen year stay in Chicago, where she acted and sang professionally. She spent a year and a half touring the east, south and midwest with *Mr. Wizard's Science Challenges* and *Supermarket Science*. Most recently, she appeared in *Lend Me A Tenor* for Livonia/

ACT I

Scene 1	6:30 pm, a hot August day
Scene 2	A few days later, late at night
Scene 3	Sunday afternoon, weeks later
Scene 4	One week later, midnight

ACT II

Scene 1	Late morning a few days later
Scene 2	That evening
Scene 3	The following Sunday, midday
Scene 4	Nine months later

Special Thanks

...to Daniel and Nicholas Miller for posing for the photography.

...to Paesano's for cooking up the scrumptious "Yonkers Dish" for the run of the show.

...to the Main Street Area Association for their cooperation in hanging a banner in honor of AACT Week.



We regret any omissions of names and acknowledgments due to printing deadlines.

Redford's Theatre Guild and *Merry Wives* with Warren Civic Theatre. This is Karen's debut with AACT.

Matt Grimes (Arty) Matt was last seen as the eldest son in AACT's *Medea*. He has appeared with Donny Osmond and Sam Harris in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. He has appeared with the Young People's Theatre in *Wonderful Town*, *Persophone Underground*, *Peter Pan* and *Anne of Green Gables*. Matt is also a member of the Young People's Theatre Troubadors.

Tim Grimes (Eddie) Tim is Associate Director of Public Relations of the Ann Arbor District Library. He attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York (where he met his wife Loretta) and has performed in many regional and summer stock productions in New England. He was

last seen in AACT's *Hamlet*. He is proud to be sharing the stage with his son Matt.

Cassie Mann (Gert) Cassie was last seen on stage as eight women in AACT's *Jeffrey*. In addition to acting, Cassie also directs; her most recent production being last season's *Six Degrees of Separation*. She serves on a seemingly infinite number of AACT committees.

Michael W. "Mick" Orr (Louie) Father, lawyer and Deputy U. S. Marshal, acting has been Mick's hobby for the last three decades. He is pleased to be part of the AACT scene.

Lisa Putman (Grandma Kurnitz) From Frankenstein's mother to Frankenstein's grandmother, from professional dance to nutritional supplement distribution, Lisa is a busy woman. Mother of two teenage sons who also act, and a husband who treads the boards, this is truly an acting family. This performance is dedicated with great love to Lisa's grandmothers Sussel and Hannah, may they rest in peace.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF

Joy Baker Dennis (Director) Joy is pleased to be directing *Lost in Yonkers*, her third play for AACT. Active also in technical theater, last season she designed the set for *Six Degrees of Separation* and the properties for *Hamlet*. When not working in the theater she enjoys her gardens and traveling. Because *Lost in Yonkers* is a play about giving and receiving love, Joy would like to dedicate her work on the production to Pat, her husband for 28 years.

Kathy Frazier (Costume Designer) This is Kathy's first venture with AACT. It is said that Kathy is doing costumes again and losing it. She has costumed *Oliver!* and *The Wizard of Oz* for Young People's Theatre. She hopes to be on the stage herself soon.

Chuck Griffin (Set Designer/Builder) This is Chuck's fourth season with AACT. Along with being involved with many AACT shows, he ran concessions at the Playhouse and was

co-chair of the Production Committee during the 1996-1997 season. He is on the Play Selection Committee and is the editor of the Spotlight newsletter.

Loretta Grimes (Makeup) This production marks Loretta's return to AACT after a long absence. Loretta attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. She has been involved with many theatrical productions both on and behind the scenes in New England, New York and Michigan.

Deborah Mahoney (Production Coordinator) Debbie is no stranger to AACT. She was last seen in AACT's *Medea*. This time around she is wearing the hat of Production Coordinator, a hat she fills nicely. AACT welcomes Debbie to the technical staff.

Michael Mahoney (Properties) Michael has been in two AACT productions, as Colin in *The Secret Garden* and Randolph MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*. This time he is behind the curtain doing props. AACT is very happy to have Michael as the youngest member of the technical staff.

Scott Mancha (Lighting Designer) Scott is AACT "Resident Lighting Designer". He has lit more shows than he cares to remember. AACT appreciates his time and expertise.

Darla Miller (Publicity) Darla was the woman you saw running from store to store hanging posters-350 of them, to be exact! She has also worked as co-chair of the Membership Committee, and has been in charge of the properties room. This year she will work as properties room assistant while "volunteering" as needed in other areas.

Jeff Zupan (Assistant Director/Stage Manager/Sound Designer) Jeff gets to wear three of his many hats in this production. In his ten-or-so years with AACT and other theater groups, he has directed, acted and designed lights and sets. Since community theater doesn't pay, he's forced to maintain a dull, boring day job. In his spare time, he's an amateur zymurgist.

FREE READERS THEATRE WORKSHOP: Like to read aloud? Want to perform without memorizing a part? Intrigued by the idea of developing and directing a script from your favorite prose or poetry? Affirmative answers to one or more of these questions suggest you should come to the Readers Theatre Workshop sponsored by AACT. Most Sundays from September 28-December 7, 7:00-9:00 at the Civic Playhouse, 2275 Platt Road. Call Lois at 332-0927 for more information and to register; only the first two meetings will be drop-in.

A Note from the Director

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and four Tony™ Awards, including Best Play, Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers* has been described as "laughter on the brink of tears". Acknowledging that laughter is born from the ache of real life, this is a mature Simon at his funniest and most poignant. Blessed as I am in this production with a talented and loving cast, working with this wonderful script has been a real treat for me.

For thirty years I've laughed with the rest of the world at the newlyweds in *Barefoot in the Park*, Oscar and Felix in *The Odd Couple*, the aging comics in *The Sunshine Boys* and all the other memorable characters Simon has created. However, I believe that we shall remember the Kurnitz family of Yonkers not because they make us laugh, but because they make us hope.

Thank you for sharing the evening with us and enjoy!



PROCLAMATION ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE WEEK

September 15-21, 1997

In recognition of their 68th season

WHEREAS, The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre has been dedicated to providing opportunities for creative growth, accomplishment, and recognition to a diverse community of people brought together by an appreciation of and a commitment to the advancement of the theatre arts; and

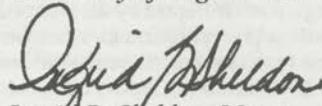
WHEREAS, The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre has been committed to the performance of quality plays and musicals, meeting the highest standards of excellence in our community; and

WHEREAS, The Ann Arbor Civic Theatre this week embarks on its 68th season of the betterment of this community through its year-round performances, countless volunteer opportunities, interest-based workshops, youth theatre programs, and community outreach programs which are designed to entertain, inspire and educate the widest possible audience; and

WHEREAS, such efforts in behalf of the greater Ann Arbor community should be publicly recognized and lauded.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ingrid B. Sheldon, Mayor of Ann Arbor, Michigan, do hereby proclaim September 15-21, 1997 as "Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Week" and urge citizens to recognize and appreciate the outstanding contributions made to our community by the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.

*I hereby set my hand and seal
this 1st day of August, 1997.*



Ingrid B. Sheldon, Mayor





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There is no smoking allowed in the auditorium, foyer, restrooms or outer lobby.

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The box office at the Civic Playhouse is open Monday through Friday, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. During events at the Civic Playhouse, the box office is also open from 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm.

During events at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, the box office in the Michigan League is open Thursday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 8:15 pm, and on Sunday from 12:00 noon to 2:15 pm.

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Admission

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THE 1997-1998 SEASON

Lost in Yonkers

WRITTEN BY NEIL SIMON • DIRECTED BY JOY BAKER DENNIS
September 18-21, 1997, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

The Baltimore Waltz

WRITTEN BY PAULA VOGEL • DIRECTED BY AMY KULLENBERG
October 16-26, 1997, Civic Theatre Playhouse

A Little Night Music

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM • BOOK BY HUGH WHEELER
DIRECTED BY GLENN BUGALA
November 13-23, 1997, with Saturday matinees, Civic Theatre Playhouse

Junior Theatre—Stuart Little

WRITTEN BY E. B. WHITE • DRAMATIZED BY JOSEPH ROBINETTE
December 4-7, 1997, Civic Theatre Playhouse

The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Society's Production of A Christmas Carol

WRITTEN BY DAVID MCGILLIVRAY AND WALTER ZERLIN JR.
DIRECTED BY JAN KOENGETER
December 18-21, 1997, Civic Theatre Playhouse

You Can't Take It With You

WRITTEN BY MOSS HART & GEORGE S. KAUFMAN • DIRECTED BY THOM JOHNSON
January 22-February 1, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

An Evening of Cabaret

February 13 & 14, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

Big River

BOOK BY WILLIAM HAUPTMAN • MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ROGER MILLER
DIRECTED BY MELISSA RYAN
March 5-15, 1998, with Saturday matinees, Civic Theatre Playhouse

Junior Theatre—Heidi

WRITTEN BY JOHANNA SPYRI • DRAMATIZED BY JUNE WALKER ROGERS
March 26-29, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

The Merchant of Venice

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE • DIRECTED BY NATALIE HOLBROOK
April 16-26, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

Jesus Christ Superstar

LYRICS BY TIM RICE • MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
DIRECTION, CHOREOGRAPHY AND CONCERT STAGING BY RONALD P. BAUMANIS
May 14-17, 1998, with Saturday matinee, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

Dancing at Lughnasa

WRITTEN BY BRIAN FRIEL • DIRECTED BY JOY BAKER DENNIS
June 11-21, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

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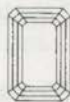
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