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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

**Welcome!** I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Civic Playhouse for another season of outstanding classic favorite plays and musicals. All eight of our regular productions have at last found their way home to our own Playhouse this year, and we couldn't be more excited!

We're in the process of sprucing up the theatre with new seats (thanks to our Chair Campaign donors!), a new look for our exterior (keep your eyes open for exciting design changes!), and a few other surprises.

For the past two seasons, AACT has presented more award-winning productions than any other theatre in the Ann Arbor area, with audience and critical raves alike. This season promises no less. We're proud to present: the classic plays On Golden Pond and Romeo and Juliet; the locally written Off-Broadway produced musical The Snow Queen; the sublime drama of The Trip to Bountiful and The Rainmaker; the hilarious one-liners of Neil Simon's Rumors; the Pulitzer-Prize winning musical How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying; and the time-honored heart-tugging The Sound of Music. This promises to be a season of favorites long to come.

Enjoy your evening at AACT. I thank you for joining us in celebrating productions that local critics have hailed as "eye-popping and perky", "magical", "magnificent", and "can't be topped." That was last season. There's more to come! It's no wonder that the single most common phrase heard around the box office this year has been "I'm coming back to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre." Welcome home. As usual, if you enjoy the show, please tell your friends.

Lorald P. Baumanis

Ronald P. Baumanis President, AACT Board of Directors



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The Board of Directors would like to thank the many individuals and business donors whose gifts ensure the financial success of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Each year, ticket revenue covers only a portion of the Civic Theatre's operating costs. Generous contributions from dedicated patrons help maintain the wonderful Playhouse on Platt road and support an artistic program of high quality theatrical productions. The following gifts were received between September 1, 1997 and August 31, 1998. Gifts received after this date will be acknowledged in next season's program. We regret any errors or omissions and would appreciate corrections. Call (734) 971-0605.

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## THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL

Written by
HORTON FOOTE

Directed by CASSIE MANN

Assistant Director
CHRIS STARKEY

Co-Producer SUZI PETERSON Stage Manager
MARTHA MONTOYE

Set and Lighting Design JASON MILLER Costume Design
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#### Cast

(In order of appearance)

Carrie Watts	Phyllis Wright
Ludie Watts	Tim Grimes
Jessie Mae Watts	Loretta Grimes
Ticket Man (Melvin)	Chris Starkey
Thelma.	Jamie Coogan
Traveler (Chip)	Bill Teppo
Ticket Man (Earl)	Al Golden
Ticket Man (Roy)	Al Golden
The Sheriff	Ernie Terry

#### Setting

Houston and Bountiful Texas and the road in-between, early 1950's

#### Synopis of Scenes

Act I - Scene 1: A Houston Apartment, late evening

Scene 2: The next morning

Act II - Scene 1: A Houston bus station, later that day

Scene 2: On the road, that evening

Scene 3: A rural bus station later that evening

Scene 4: The next morning

Scene 5: Bountiful, later that morning

There will be one 15-minute intermission



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash is strictly prohibited.



Personal pagers should be set to vibrate, and all cellular or digital telephones turned off inside the theatre.

#### Running Crew

Suzi Peterson, David Wright, Bill Teppo, Chris Starkey, Bob Farra, Martha Montoye

#### Thank You:

Mark Patrick, Diane Khumayyis & the AAPS Transportation Department, Rachel Francisco Bob Farra, Barb Wells, Cheryl Berteel, Kay Huntzicker, Weaver's Marathon, Tom Steppe Helen Mann Andrews, Jean Steppe, Lara Thomas, Suzi Peterson, Martha Montoye, Emma & Anika Steppe

#### Who's Who in the Cast and Crew

Phyllis Wright (Carrie Watts) has been active in local performing arts groups for 50 years — Arts Theatre Club, Dramatic Arts Center, Peninsula Productions, Morrisco Art Theatre. Her first role for AACT was Elizabeth Barrett in The Barretts of Wimpole Street in 1947. Since that time, she's enjoyed roles in Janus, Major Barbara, Plaza Suite, Mornings at Seven, The Royal Family, The Gin Game, and most recently On Golden Pond. She's grateful to family and friends for support and encouragement.

Tim Grimes (Ludie Watts) is happy to , once again, be in a show with his wife Loretta. He was last seen as Bill Ray in AACT's On Golden Pond. He also appeared in last season's You Can't Take it With You and Lost in Yonkers. Tim is originally from New England where he appeared in many summer stock, regional and community theatre productions.

Loretta Grimes (Jessie Mae Watts) was last seen as Penny Sycamore in AACT's You Can't Take it With You. She is currently directing Our Town for Young People's Theatre. Loretta may also be seen doing makeup for many other AACT shows, most recently The Sound of Music. She studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where she met her husband in acting class. Loretta is delighted to be working on this show with many good friends.

Chris Starkey (Ticket Man Melvin, Assistant Director) is happy to be back at AACT where he has appeared in You Can't Take it With You (Donald), Medea (Aegeus), Jeffrey (Darius) and My Favorite Year (Ensemble). He has appeared in several PTD productions and last season in Arcadia (Valentine) with the MorrisCo Arts Theatre. Chris has directed for The Ypsilanti Players and the Ypsilanti Recreation Department. By day, Chris is employed by the State of Michigan as a children's services Program Manager.

Jami Coogan (Thelma) moved to Ann Arbor last fall from Fayetteville, NC and is happy to have survived her first winter up north. She has a MA in Health Promotion from California Polytechnic State University, and is currently putting her husband through UM's MBA program. She feels lucky to have been involved with AACT, first in Romeo & Juliet, and now in The Trip to Bountiful. She thanks Cassie Mann for giving her the opportunity to work with such a great cast and crew.

**Bill Teppo** (Traveler Chip) last spent his time on stage in a cold but magical fairy tale land in *The Snow Queen*, but is glad to be able to spend some time each evening traveling from Houston to Leighton. He is pleased to announce that he will be a proud uncle come September!

Al Golden (Ticket Men Earl and Ray) is appearing in his third production at AACT, including *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Six Degrees of Separation*. He's thrilled to be working with such a great cast, director, and crew. Along the way, he has also appeared in shows for Ypsilanti Players and Orpheus Productions includ-

ing Plaza Suite, Little Shop of Horrors, and The Front Page. He works as an administrator for the Washtenaw County Health Department and really is there to help!

Ernie Terry (The Sheriff) is enjoying his third performance with AACT, especially with so many dear friends in the cast. His previous appearances include *You Can't Take it With You* (Kohlenkov), and *On Golden Pond* (Charlie). Heartfelt appreciation to Cassie for this opportunity! Ernie is thankful for the bountiful life he has been given. He serves as the "sheriff" of Nankin Mills Elementary School in Livonia.

\*\*\*\*

Cassie Mann (Director) has been an AACT member since 1976. Her "civic" duties include acting, directing, and being a member of the Production Committee. Cassie was last seen onstage in Lost in Yonkers and her directorial efforts include Six Degrees of Separation and The Diary of Anne Frank for AACT and The Music Man for Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. She has also explored playwriting, most recently for MorrisCo's Bye Bye Love. When not at the theatre, Cassie is an editorial assistant for a medical journal and a devoted soccer mom to daughters Emma and Anika. She wishes to thank her husband, Tom, for his tireless support.

Martha Montoye (Stage Manager) has been an assistant director and stage manager for numerous AACT productions including Six Degrees of Separation, Noises Off, Jeffrey, and Bye, Bye Birdie. Her eelectic theatre talents include creating Bigfoot's feet, fashioning Brick's cast, and schlepping to Howell for fresh deer hide. Now a window treatment consultant in Mt. Pleasant, Martha is commuting to Ann Arbor for this production as a huge favor to her sister, Cassie.

Mary Maddox (Costume design) spent years designing Halloween costumes for her three children until she branched out to help with high school plays including All City Players' Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Grease, Fame and Pioneer High's production of The Music Man. She has enjoyed each step along the way that brought her to The Trip to Bountiful, and aspires to her dream job of costuming "Mystery Science Theatre 3000" or PBS's "Wishbone".

Jason Miller (Set and Lighting design) designs Bountiful as his farewell show at AACT. After designing lights and sets and even appearing onstage this and last season, Jason is off to NYC. His lighting credits at Civic include The Sound of Music and Jesus Christ Superstar, for which he won the award for outstanding lighting design. His set designs include the "steps, steps and more steps" of Romeo & Juliet earlier this season. Jason dedicates this show to all of the wonderful Civic volunteers that make this place great. He only asks that he will be welcomed back if he starves too much in NYC.

Suzi Peterson (Co-producer, properties, running crew) has previously worked as stage crew and "human furniture" for Six Degrees of Separation at AACT. She also produces and stage manages Jesse Richards' productions at performance Network. She is dedicated to her family — Sasha, Jeremy and Lawrence, and is grateful that she's an F.O.C.

#### Did You Know?

- Neil Simon's Rumors (June 17 27) will be our final show of the season, and that tickets are selling very rapidly?
- Next season's A Chorus Line will be presented just as it is celebrating it's 25th anniversary?
- The Sound of Music sold out every single performance, including all standing room, for every single regularly scheduled performance, as well as 6 additional added performances?

#### The Trip to Bountiful

Additional crew and acknowledgements:

Lighting Board Operator: Kim Ryder

Thanks to: Richard Williams from the AAPS Bus
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- 6. Already served time as a child.
- 5. One word: Hypocrites!
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