

# A Thousand Clowns

by Herb Gardner

Directed by Thom Johnson



"Like those little cars in the circus...suddenly  
its doors open and out come a thousand clowns,  
whooping and hollering and raising hell."

March 2-5, 2006  
Thursday - Saturday 8pm; Sunday at 2pm  
Towsley Auditorium at  
Washtenaw Community College



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with Samuel French, Inc.



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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre  
Opening night March 2, 2006  
Towsley Auditorium

# A THOUSAND CLOWNS

by Herb Gardner

Directed by  
**Thom Johnson**

Producer  
Joyce Casale

Assistant Director  
Michele Leshan

Stage Manager  
Andrew Hoag

Lighting Designer  
Nathaniel Madura

Set Designer  
Cathy Cassar

Set Dresser  
Martha Montoye

Co-Costume Designer  
Barb Wells

Properties Master  
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Co-Costume Designer  
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Set Construction Crew  
Scott Bartz  
Neal Kelley  
Brian Kelley  
Kent Klausner

Set Construction Crew  
David Lindholm  
Sadiq Hasoon  
Michele Flevotomas  
Torey Berneis  
Joyce Casale  
Caroline Hippler

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**06-07** season  
'fooling around'

**the full monty**

directed by wendy sleaff  
**sep 14-17**, 2006  
lydia mendelssohn theatre

fooling around with...STRIPPERS

*A group of down-and-out steelworkers stages a very revealing show to raise cash in this raucous musical comedy based on the smash-hit British movie.*

**tom jones**

directed by jimmy dee arnold  
**nov 9-12**, 2006  
towsley auditorium

fooling around with...WOMEN

*Infamous rake Tom Jones romances and swashbuckles his way through Eighteenth-century England in this bawdy, boisterous comedy.*

**sweet charity**

directed by edmond reynolds  
**jan 11-14**, 2007  
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fooling around with...THE WRONG GUYS

*Charity Hope Valentine, a dance hall hostess, dreams of love and marriage but can't seem to find the right candidate in this frothy musical comedy by Neil Simon.*

**the tempest**

directed by david andrews  
**mar 15-18**, 2007  
towsley auditorium

fooling around with...MAGIC

*An enchanted island, a magical ex-duke, and a pair of star-crossed lovers—Shakespeare is at his best in this delightful, romantic comedy.*

**cactus flower**

directed by cassie mann  
**apr 19-22**, 2007  
towsley auditorium

fooling around with...UNMARRIED MEN

*A confirmed bachelor dentist invents a wife and family to keep from committing to his girlfriend in this zany homage to free love and go-go boots.*

**hair**

directed by caitlin frankel  
**jun 7-10**, 2007  
lydia mendelssohn theatre

fooling around with...  
SEX, DRUGS and ROCK 'N' ROLL

*It is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius, where long-haired hippie-types clash with the establishment in this pro-love, anti-war musical of the late sixties.*

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## From the Director

I have always had *A Thousand Clowns* in the back of my head as a show I would like to do. First I was waiting for someone else to direct it so I could audition for it, but since that didn't happen I decided that I would have to direct it so it could be seen. It was a very popular show when it came out in the 60's, but it has not been widely produced in this area lately. Even though some of the dialog and the topics evoke the times when it was written, I think that the dilemma of Murray (the main character) is a timeless one. He has to decide between personal freedom and responsibility to others, in this case his nephew, Nick. Both of these issues were definitely brought under the microscope in the 60's with the counter culture trying to balance their desire for personal freedom with their feeling of responsibility for their fellow man and society in general. I have always thought of this play as kind of an anthem for those times.

There are a number of people I have to thank for getting this show up and running. On top are my production staff and my amazing cast (you can read their bios in a couple of pages), but there are some others that I also need to mention: Mike Goodale for his work on the poster and program design, Tom Steppe for photography and the Chuckles statue, Jeffrey Willets for composing the music for the Chuckles theme song and rounding up 47 5th graders to sing it, Wendy Raymond and Chris Hippler for audition help, Zac Johnson for music, and my producer, Joyce Casale, for keeping me mindful of the hundreds of things that needed my attention.

Enough from me, brush out your hair, put on that putty nose, inflate your shoes and get ready for *A Thousand Clowns*.

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# The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Murray Burns.....	Jimmy Dee Arnold
Nick Burns, Raphael Sabatini, Dr. Morris Fishbein, ..... Toulouse, Rover, King, Big Sam, Little Max, Snoopy, Chip, Rock, Rex, Mike, Marty, Lamont, Chevrolet, Wyatt, Yancy, Fred, Phil, Woodrow, Lefty, The Phantom	Neal Kelley
Albert Amundsen.....	Kent Klausner
Sandra Markowitz .....	Caroline Hippler
Arnold Burns .....	Jon Elliott
Leo Herman (Chuckles the Chipmonk).....	Scott Bartz

## The Program

### Act One

#### Scene 1

Murray Burns's apartment, Manhattan,  
eight-thirty in the morning, early April 1962.

#### Scene 2

Murray Burns's apartment, eight o'clock the following morning.

*There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts.*

### Act Two

#### Scene 1

Arnold Burns's office, later that afternoon.

#### Scene 2

Murray Burns's apartment, early that evening.

#### Scene 3

Murray Burns's apartment, half an hour later.

## The Cast

**Jimmy Dee Arnold** (Murray Burns) Jimmy Dee is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful cast and crew and honored to be working again under TJ's direction. *A Thousand Clowns* marks his 85th show, and the 34th for A2CT, of which he has been a member since 1989. He'd like to appear in 100 plays before his final curtain falls. Among his favorite roles: Fagin in *Oliver!* (A2CT, 1991), Chino in *West Side Story* (A2CT, 1994), the Stage Manager in *Our Town* (Port Huron Little Civic Theatre, 1987), Raul in *Extremities* (St. Clair County Community College, 1987), and Partridge in *Tom Jones* (Harrington Dinner Theatre, 1982). To support his theater habit, Jimmy works as a pharmacy technician for U of M Health Systems HomeMed. Jimmy sends his love to his most patient and wonderful wife, Linda, and sons Jimmy Joseph (age 22) and James Edward (age 1).

**Scott Bartz** (Leo Herman) This is Scott's first appearance with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. His acting experience includes a role in *The Sign of Jonah* and *Tony in Woman in Mind*. Scott teaches World Cultures at Wylie Elementary School in the Dexter Community Schools, where he instructs about 560 students throughout the course of a week. With the recent completion of his Masters in Education degree, Scott has found more time for his interests in yoga, theatre, swimming, vegan cooking and reading.

**Bubbles** (herself) was created by scenic designer/master carpenter Patrick McEvoy for the March, 2003, Monterey Peninsula College production of *A Thousand Clowns*. He found her in Beverly's Craft store alone, naked, and hairless. He brought her (and

her hair) back to the shop and added some champagne cork "enhancement" and also found her a grass skirt and built her pedestal. Master electrician Steve Retsky lovingly electrified her "enhancements" with the help of Radio Shack. Her performance got rave reviews in the Monterey press, and she stayed in the theater for over a year before someone inquired about her reprising her role in another theater. In the fall of 2004, she began a short international tour, appearing for three weeks in Newport Beach, CA, and then went directly on to an encore engagement in Toronto, Canada. She is excited to be appearing in Michigan, and thanks Ann Arbor Civic Theatre for another opportunity to travel and ply her trade.

**Jon Elliott** (Arnold Burns) marks his 15th A2CT production and 40th overall, in various roles as actor, director, stage crew, set crew, hunchback and fruit nut. Kudos to a fine cast and great crew (Yay, crew!), as well as to TJ's "Zen relaxation" directorial touch, and thanks to my supportive and loving family — Melissa, Jennifer, and Alexis. XOXO

**Caroline Hippler** (Sandra Markowitz) Caroline, born and raised in Ann Arbor, is a sophomore in the Residential College at the University of Michigan. She is majoring in film and video studies with a minor in French. This is Caroline's first show with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. Previous plays she has been in include *Play it Again, Sam* and *The Laramie Project* with RC Players, and over the summer she was a fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, performed in the Arb. She is very excited to be working with family friends TJ and Joyce. Thanks to her parents for telling her about the audition and to her whole family for being, well, amazing.



Neal Kelley (Nick Burns) Neal is very happy to be involved with this production. Neal has lived in Ann Arbor his entire life, and he has acted in many plays over the last eight years. This is Neal's second show with Civic. (He was in *Alice in Wonderland* in 2000.) He has also been involved in many productions with the Ann Arbor Young Actors Guild. He would like to thank everyone who has helped work on the show, his friends and family for their great support, and his sixth grade English teacher, Mrs. Wendy Raymond, who informed him about this production months prior to auditions.

Kent Klausner (Albert Amundson) Kent has been an active participant in A2CT for more than five years and has performed in nine productions, most recently as Frank Lubey in *All My Sons*. He will also be producing A2CT's Junior Theater production of *The Reluctant Dragon* this spring. He currently attends Eastern Michigan University, studying for a degree in secondary education. Kent would like to thank the talented cast and crew of *A Thousand Clowns*, his parents for their continued love and support, his best friend Kevin for keeping him entertained and motivated outside of rehearsal, and all the other important people who may not have been mentioned here.

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## The Production Staff

**Cheryl Berteel** (Co-Costume Designer) has costumed many, many shows including *The Sound of Music*, *Harvey*, and *My Favorite Year*. She has worked on many of TJ's shows and has one question for him; how come one of the men is always showing his boxer shorts? Cheryl also enjoys reading mysteries, needlework, and shopping.

**Joyce Casale** (Producer, House Manager) Joyce has been the exclusive show producer for TJ for many years. Her first producer role was *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch*. Joyce enjoys her role as producer because it allows her to be involved with every aspect of a production. Joyce is a Tiger season ticket holder and she is looking forward to spring and the beginning of baseball season. When not at the ballpark, Joyce can be found working in Livonia, where she is the MEA representative for the school employees in Livonia Public Schools.

**Cathy Cassar** (Set Designer and Builder) Miss Cassar is pleased to once again be lending her talents to an A2CT production. She was most recently not seen as the stage manager and co-set designer for A2CT's productions of *West Side Story*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* and as the technical director for *On the Town*. She is very grateful for the opportunity to work on another A2CT production. When not in a theater, you can find her designing roads throughout the state. She would like to thank her family, all of her friends, and especially her parents for their enduring support! Break a leg everyone.

**Andrew Hoag** (Stage Manager) comes full circle, having been a stage manager (1997's *A Little Night Music*), then played a stage manager (2002's *Enter Laughing*). When not stage managing, he has performed, directed, produced, and designed with A2CT, the Saline Area Players, and the Chelsea Area Players. Love to Alix.

**Thom (TJ) Johnson** (Director) TJ has been active with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre for 25 years as an actor, lighting designer, board member, stage manager, and director. His directing credits include *Enter Laughing*, *Noises Off*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Light Up the Sky*, *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch*, and *The Day the Whores Came Out to Play Tennis*, among others. He was most recently seen on stage as the Stage Manager in last season's *Our Town*. He owes much to JAC, his producer, for keeping him on track. Once the show is done you can find him either at the Tigers Games or in his lair communing with his TiVo.

**Michele Leshan** (Assistant Director) Michele appreciates laughter-inducing language and antics of all creatures, chipmunks or not, which help propel her through her second decade of theater. Michele tends to stay out of the footlights, preferring various backstage endeavors, including assistant directing and/or stage managing for A2CT, Chelsea Area Players, Comic Opera Guild, MorrisCo Art Theater, Redbud Productions, and UMGASS. Steve!

**Nathaniel Madura** (Lighting Designer) This is Nathaniel's third season with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. In his time with A2CT, he has designed lights for five shows. He is also active with A2CT's Junior Theater program, and has designed lights for their last five shows. Nathaniel will be designing lights for two additional shows this season, *The Nerd* and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and he hopes you will be able to attend those productions as well. During the day, Nathaniel is an engineer in research with the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, and he has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Virginia Tech.

**Martha Montoye** (Set Dresser) has been involved with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre for over 17 years, ever since her sister, Cassie, tricked her into becoming her assistant director for *Bigfoot Stole My Wife*. Since then, she has done anything to help during productions, from sweeping the floor to

stage managing. Martha is employed by Delux Drapery and Shade Company as a design consultant.

**Teresa Myers** (Properties Master) This is Teresa's fifth time working behind the scenes for Civic Theatre, but her first time doing props. She has produced *Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Inherit the Wind* and *Lysistrata*. Teresa wishes to thank TJ and Joyce for this opportunity to try something new.

**Barb Wells** (Co-Costume Designer) Barb has worked on numerous shows in her many years with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre: coordinating costumes, collecting props, and designing and building sets. She once again takes on the challenge of creating and coordinating costumes with cohort in crime Cheryl Berteel. Barb works at the University of Michigan and enjoys bargain hunting, reading, and doing crossword puzzles.

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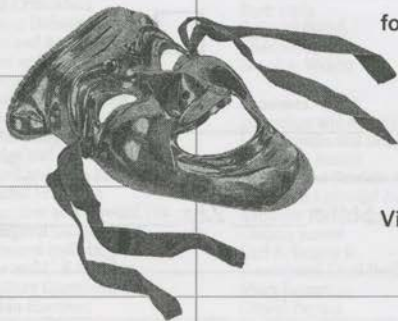
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Al Berteel      Tom Steppe      Kate Patterson

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And to anyone whom we may not have listed, or whom printing deadlines prevented us from listing, we apologize and...thank you!

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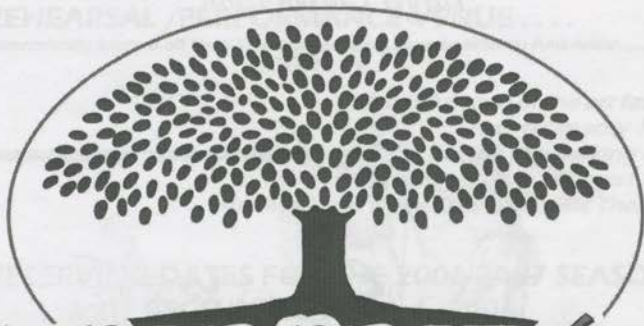
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