

# Ann Arbor Summer '85 Festival

## ANN ARBOR CIVIC THEATRE

presents

### The Robber Bridegroom

directed by Jim Posante

July 17, 18, 1985

Power Center 8:00 pm

adapted from the novella by Eudora Welty

book & lyrics  
Alfred Uhry

music  
Robert Waldman

#### CAST

Jamie Lockhart (a gentleman robber) .....	Rich Roselle
Clement Musgrove (a wealthy planter) .....	James Piper
Salome (his second wife) .....	Jane Hassinger
Rosamund (his daughter) .....	Susan Dawson
Little Harp (a robber) .....	James A. Newton
Big Harp (the head of a robber) .....	William D. Ling
A Raven .....	Teresa L. Casey
Goat (a simpleton) .....	David Renken
Goat's Ma .....	Marilyn Kennedy
Airee (Goat's sister) .....	Laurie Greig Atwood

#### THE RESIDENTS OF RODNEY

The Caller .....	Tim Christensen
Landlord .....	Glen Cooley
Townsperson .....	Geordie Vining
Townsperson .....	Sharon Sussman
Townsperson .....	Karl Sikkenga
Townsperson .....	Kathleen Harsen

The action takes place in and around Rodney, Mississippi

This is a two-act play. There will be one intermission — feel free to enjoy yourself at the Top of the Park

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A very special thank you to the people in the 1982 cast who could not be a part of this revival:

ROB NUISMER	MARK TUCKER
LYMAN CASEY	MEG GILBERT
BECKY BOEVE	PAM ROSELLE
PETER GUROBETZ	TOM (DAVE) DENNEHY
MARY L. PETTIT	BOBBY ROSENBERG

LINDA YOUNG

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

My first exposure to "The Robber Bridegroom" was in 1975, when The Acting Company premiered this production in Ann Arbor at the Power Center. The staging and cast were wondrous and magical. I was enthralled by this show, but wouldn't get another look at it until 1981, when the Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford asked me to direct and choreograph their fall production. I fell in love with the show once again and learned and developed my own "style" of direction along the way. I was therefore more than eager to perform the same service for AACT's 1982 Main Street Summer Season. The audience response told us how much our hard work in rehearsals had paid off. We had sold out 10 of 11 performances! And here we are, 10 years later with "The Robber Bridegroom" in the Power Center, as part of The Ann Arbor Summer Arts Festival and produced by AACT. My hope is that you will enjoy this production as much as I have for the past 10 years.

Jim Posante

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

SETTLERS FIDDLER TUNE	ORCHESTRA
SHOOT THE OWL	CALLER
ONCE UPON THE NATCHEZ TRACE	COMPANY
COLORED ARISTOCRACY	JAMIE
TWO HEADS	LITTLE AND BIG HARP
STEAL WITH STYLE	JAMIE
HELL AMONG THE YEARLINGS	SALOME
ROSAMUND'S DREAM	ROSAMUND & JAMIE
PRICKLE PEAR BLOOM	SALOME
BONAPARTE'S RETREAT	GOAT
AIN'T NOTHIN' UP	ROSAMUND & COMPANY
CLUCK OLD HEN	CLEMENT
DEEPER IN THE WOODS	COMPANY
MARRIAGE IS RICHES	JAMIE, CLEMENT & FAMILY
LITTLE PIECE OF SUGARCANE	JAMIE, ROSAMUND & COMPANY
LOVE STOLEN	JAMIE & COMPANY

### ACT TWO

LOVE STOLEN REPRISE	COMPANY
POOR TIED UP DARLIN'	LITTLE HARP & GOAT
KITCHEN GIRL	RAVEN & COMPANY
GOODBYE SALOME	LITTLE HARP, SALOME & CO.
WHERE, OH WHERE	JAMIE, CLEMENT, ROSAMUND
FINALE	COMPANY

## THE STAFF

**JAMES POSANTE** (*Director/Choreographer*) has directed a multitude of plays and musicals. Starting in 1974 with *H.M.S Pinafore* (for UMGASS), he has directed at least 5 shows a year. Most recently he was the director/choreographer for AACT's *Bells Are Ringing*. Jim directed the '82 production of *Bridegroom* for the AACT Main Street Summer Season.

**BRADLEY BLOOM** (*Musical Director*) has performed this same duty on *Anything Goes*, *Company*, *A Little Night Music*, *Once Upon A Mattress* and *Hello Dolly* for AACT. He is the Director of Choral Activities at Schoolcraft College and Music Director for Ann Arbor Cantata Singers.

**MELISSA FORSTNER** (*Asst. Director*) Melissa recently graduated with a degree in English from Northwestern University. There she co-directed, choreographed and danced for the Graffiti Dancers. She plans to attend U of M Law School in the fall.

**KATHLEEN HARSEN** (*Producer/Townsperson*) is a returning cast member from the 1982 AACT production of *The Robber Bridegroom*. Kathleen has also appeared in the AACT production of *The Sound Of Music* and the Gilbert & Sullivan Society's production of *Utopia Limited*. In addition to her performance abilities, Kathleen is the Publicity Chairperson for AACT. She has also produced numerous productions for AACT and when she

isn't spending time on a production, Kathleen is an account representative for WAAM Radio.

**CHARLIE SUTHERLAND** (*Set Designer*) designed the set for the Main Street Production of *The Robber Bridegroom*. He also did scenes for *The Late Inspector Hound*, *Bus Stop*, *The Rainmaker* and *Steambath* at AACT Main Street. Charlie also directed *The Late Christopher Bean* and appeared in *The Shadow Box*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Bells Are Ringing*. Charlie teaches third-grade in Detroit.

**GWEN PROEGLER** (*Costumer*) is a 1960 graduate of Carnegie Mellon's Theatre Design Department. This is her tenth show for AACT, having designed *Butterflies Are Free*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Hello Dolly* and *Bells Are Ringing*. This season Gwen won AACT's award for Best Costume Design for *Bells Are Ringing*.

**MARY COLE** (*Lighting Designer*) has a MFA in Lighting Design from the University of Michigan. Mary had designed lights for *H.M.S. Pinafore* for the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, the *Eastern Michigan University Dance Concert 1985* and *Dance Theatre II*. Her work with AACT includes lighting design for *How The Other Half Loves*, *The Late Christopher Bean* and *Bells Are Ringing*. Mary is currently doing freelance lighting designs while she is writing her thesis. Her newest hobby is star-gazing through her telescope.

**DAVID LAU** (*Audio Engineer*) owns and operates The Brookwood Studio, Inc., which does audio and video taping for local groups, advertising and industrial clients, and major record labels. He also teaches courses in audio recording techniques at Eastern Michigan University and Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He finds technical sound reinforcement enjoyable and challenging because the goal is usually for the show to sound "like it wasn't miked at all." Previous theatrical sound experience ranges from *Hello Dolly* also for AACT, to *Hair* to *Bells Are Ringing*. David volunteers as a board member and officer of the Michigan Theater Foundation which operates Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater.

**JOHN JARRETT** (*Accompanist*) just finished *Bells Are Ringing* for AACT as accompanist and orchestra member. Recently he also did the accompaniment for *The Appletree*, *Hello Dolly*, *Working*, and *Fiddler On The Roof*. John has accompanied for the Thurston Player productions and is a pianist at the Studio 1 School of Dance.

**ROBERTA RIZZARDI** (*Make-Up*) is again serving as Makeup Chair for AACT. She worked on her first performance *Fiorello!* in 1975. She has since worked and/or designed makeup for over thirty AACT shows, her latest being *Bells Are Ringing*. Roberta has done makeup for many University of Michigan Opera Theatre Productions, the Dexter Players and several area high schools. She is an art teacher in the Dexter Community School District.

**HONORAH MARTONE** (*Stage Manager*) Norah has stage managed many shows for AACT including *Bells Are Ringing*, *Working*, *Hello Dolly*, and *Cabaret*. She has also stage managed for the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Norah is a theatre production major at Boston University's School for the Arts.

## THE CAST

**RICH ROSELLE** (*Jamie Lockhart*) Although Rich has appeared in many AACT shows such as *Bedroom Farce*, *Camelot*, *See How They Run*, *How The Other Half Loves*, *Bells Are Ringing* and more, the most exciting theatre experience Rich says he's ever had is being able to play Jamie Lockhart in *The Robber Bridegroom* again.

**JAMES PIPER** (*Clement Musgrove*) recently appeared as Stephen Kodalay in the UM Muscial Society's production of *She Loves Me*. He held other leads in the AACT productions of *The Philadelphia Story*, *Harvey* and a previous production of *The Robber Bridegroom* when he also played Clement Musgrove.

**SUSAN DAWSON** (*Rosamund*) moved to Ann Arbor from Florida when she was awarded a PTP Fellowship in the UM Graduate Theatre Department. She loved Ann Arbor so much she stayed, and since then has been seen in numerous Civic productions including *Guys and Dolls*, for which she won the Best Actress Award. Susan also sings swing jazz with several local groups including *Misbehavin'* and The Howard White Trio. By day, she is Director of Administration and Advertising for Data Scan, a local firm.

**JANE HASSINGER** (*Salome*) This is Jane's second performance with AACT. The first was as Salome in our 1982 production of *The Robber Bridegroom*. Jane is the founding member of the musical group, *Misbehavin'*. While at U of M, Jane appeared in several UMGAS productions such as; *Oliver*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Jane works at U of M as a clinical social worker. Jane's latest production is her beautiful daughter.

**JAMES A. NEWTON** (*Little Harp*) James has done a variety of productions with various local theatre groups — in various roles. He has a variety of varied interests in which he dabbles at various times. He is employed as an engineering technician at a local company where he performs...various tasks.

**WILLIAM D. LING** (*Big Harp*) William has performed with both the Comic Opera Guild and U of M Gilbert and Sullivan Society in productions of *Les Brigands*, *Gondoliers*, *Iolanthe* and others. William loves to dance and has taken classes in jazz, tap, ballet and ballroom. He works as a Research Assistant in the Department of Physiology.

**DAVID RENKEN** (*Goat*) David is a graduate of Duke University (83) and is starting his second year of medical school this fall. He has appeared in two Civic productions: *Hello Dolly!* and *Working*. Dave enjoys running and marathoning in his spare time.

**MARILYN KENEDY** (*Goat's Ma*) Marilyn has been active in AACT for the past 7 years in several capacities including; actress, producer, set-dresser and poster/program designer. She also serves on the Board of Directors of both AACT and Comic Opera Guild. In "real" life she works in Graphics and Advertising with a local firm.

**LAURIE GREIG ATWOOD** (*Airie*) over the past few years has performed in *How the Other Loves*, *The Apple Tree*, *Lunch Hour*, and most recently, *Bells Are Ringing*. Laurie is Director/Owner of Schooner Cove Child Care Center. Laurie was just awarded "Best Supporting Actress" at the Civic's annual awards banquet for her outstanding performance in the role of Mary Detweiler in *How the Other Half Loves*.

**TERESA L. CASEY** (*Raven*) Teresa was in AACT's original *Bridegroom* in 1982 and has also performed with the Dexter Community Players (*Brigadoon*) and several Greenhills School plays and musicals. She is currently a Junior at U of M majoring in Philosophy.

## TOWNSPEOPLE

**TIM CHRISTENSEN** (*Caller*) has no prior experience as a caller but he square danced extensively in his grade school gym class. He has worked with theatre groups on and off all of his life, mostly as a piano player. Tim is an MBA student and financial aide officer at U of M.

**GLEN COOLEY** (*The Landlord*) was last seen in the chorus of U of M Gilbert and Sullivan Society's *Princess Ida* where he also served as Costume Designer. In addition to his extensive G&S work, Glen has also found time for performing with AACT in *Apple Tree*. When not up to his neck in theatre, he can be found with his feet firmly planted in English soil.

**SHARON SUSSMAN** has performed in several Civic productions, including *Uncommon Women and Others*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Bells Are Ringing*. She is also very involved in the G&S Society and, in her spare time, is a computer graphics consultant for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn.

**GEORDIE VINING** College bound, Geordie has no previous experience with AACT. This is his first show outside the walls of his alma mater; Greenhills School. While at Greenhills, he participated in three musicals under Director, Jim Posante as well as performed in other plays.

**KARL SIKKENG** a recent graduate of Greenhills School, Karl will be attending Wesleyan University to study theatre and psychology. This is Karl's AACT debut, although *Bridegroom* is his fourth musical under the direction of Jim Posante.

**KATHLEEN HARSEN** is also Producer of this show.

Names of Orchestra members were not available when program went to press