

January 31, February 1,2,3, 1996

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

AACT CenterStage Productions
presents

BLITHE SPIRIT

by

Noel Coward

directed by

Wendy Wright

Starring

Kyle Marie Glenn Bugala Katherine Hinchey
Suzanne Keith Colón David Andrews Gabrielle Dota
and
Nancy Heusel

Scenic Design by
James Barnes

Costume Design by
Diane Branczeisz

Lighting Design by
Thom Johnson

Assistant Director
Elise Diels

Properties by
Chuck Griffin

Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

BLITHE SPIRIT is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Cast

In order of appearance

Edith	Gabrielle Dota
Ruth	Kyle Marie
Charles	Glenn Bugala
Dr. Bradman	David Andrews
Violet Bradman	Suzanne Keith Colón
Madame Arcati	Nancy Heusel
Elvira	Katherine Hinchey

Scene Synopsis

The action takes place in the living room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent, 1945.

ACT I

Scene 1 - Before dinner on a summer evening

Scene 2 - After dinner

ACT II

Scene 1 - The next morning

Scene 2 - Late the following afternoon

Scene 3 - A few days later, early evening

ACT III

Scene 1 - A few days later, after dinner

Scene 2 - Several hours later

There will be two 10-minute intermissions.

Production Staff

Director	Wendy Wright
Assistant Director	Elise Diels
Producers	Cheryl Berteel, Bob Seeman
Stage Manager	Thom Johnson
Set Designer	Jim Barnes
Lighting Designer	Thom Johnson
Costume Designer	Diane Branczeisz
Properties	Chuck Griffin
Make-up and Hair Design	Rosemarie Rothe
Special Effects	Scott Mancha
Sound Designer	Wendy Wright
Program Designer	Ronald P. Baumanis
Poster Designer	David Zinn

The University Of Michigan forbids smoking in any part of the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre.

The use of photographic or audio equipment is strictly prohibited.

About the Staff

Jim Barnes (Set designer & builder) was born and schooled in Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, and is a retired faculty member of EMU where he taught physics. Jim has been an ardent participant for the UM Gilbert and Sullivan Society where he built props and sets for many productions. He became so caught up in the swirl of theatrical activities that one day, while making a wrong turn, he found himself in the clutches of AACT. Since that fateful day, Jim has designed the sets for *Candide* and *Bitoxi Blues*, and was the principal set builder for last season's *Blood Wedding*, *The Piano Lesson*, and *New Voices Bijou*. He is a past member of the AACT Board of Directors, and is currently the scene shop manager.

Cheryl Berteel (Co-producer) returned to AACT last season to help work on costumes for *South Pacific* and hasn't left the building since. She assisted on costumes for *The Piano Lesson* and *M. Butterfly*, and also was part of the set construction cadre for *Accomplice* earlier this season. She plans to costume AACT's last show of the season, *Noises Off*.

Diane Branczeisz (Costume designer) was the Assistant Director for last season's *Picnic*, where she also served on the costume crew. She will be designing the costumes for next season's *My Favorite Year*.

Elise Diels (Assistant Director) notes that since first appearing in *On the Twentieth Century* in May 1993, this will be her 8th show with AACT. She was in the casts of *Oklahoma*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Annie*, and most recently *As You Like It*. In her 'spare' time she works full-time as an information systems analyst at Creative Solutions, Inc.

Chuck Griffin (Properties, Set Dressing) migrated to Ann Arbor from Belleville where he first became smitten with theatre while singing, dancing and constructing sets for several high school productions. AACT certainly exploited his technical expertise as set builder for the recent productions of *Private Lives* and this season's *Jeffrey*. He turned to properties management as a change of pace and appreciates the assistance everyone has given him. He will be involved with AACT's forthcoming *R.U.R.* and the Performance Network's *The Maids*.

Thom Johnson (Lighting Designer/Stage Manager) is AACT's premiere lighting designer (i.e. he does it a lot), already having *As You Like It* and *M. Butterfly* as credits this season, in addition to lighting *Oliver!* For Young People's Theatre. Last season he designed lights for *Deathtrap*, *Blood Wedding*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and the AAP/AACT joint venture *New Voices Bijou*. The last time he wore his stage manager's hard hat was for AACT's *The Nerd* two seasons ago. He will be directing the season's final production *Noises Off* (mark your calendars now!)

Scott Mancha (Special Effects) modestly admits to being with AACT for only one year during which time he only served as sound designer and technician for *The Miracle Worker*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *New Voices Bijou*. He also designed the lights for *Picnic*, *Accomplice*, and *Jeffrey*. Scott is also attending the theatre program at EMU. When not at AACT or school, Scott can be found with sword in hand battling it out with other members of The Ring of Steel, a local stage combat group which has performed nationally.

Rosemarie Rothe (Make-up and Hair Designer), better known as the "Make-Up Wizard", enjoys making people look younger, older, glamorous, or gruesome. She is often asked, "How did you get involved in doing make-up for AACT?" Her answer — "I showed up at the theatre 13 years ago and said I wanted to get involved, and here I am still involved enjoying (almost) every minute of it!"

Bob Seeman (Co-producer) is taking a breather to start the new year right. Since September he co-designed the set for *Accomplice*, and designed *As You Like It* (AACT), *Oliver!* (Young People's Theatre), and *Snow and Mistletoe* (Gabriel Richard H.S.). He is expected to resume his normal pace later this season when he will design *Brigadoon* for Gabriel Richard H.S. and build the set for *Noises Off*.

Wendy Wright (Director) marks her seventh directing stint for AACT, which includes *Laundry and Bourbon*, *Lone Star*, *Twelfth Night*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, and *Picnic*. She has been seen frequently on stage including performances in recent productions of *As You Like It*, *Annie*, and *The Miracle Worker*. Her goal with *Blithe Spirit* was to relax and have a good time and she wishes to express her gratitude to a cast that made her dreams come true. She would also like to take this opportunity to thank the subscribers and membership of AACT for all their support as she ends her professional association as Administrative Manager with the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.

The Crew

Scenery	Costumes
Jim Barnes	Cheryl Bertel
Cheryl Bertel	Kathi Genik
Patrick Dennis	Properties
Carrie Faivre	Glenn Massey
Lisa Mavek	Kathi Genik
Bob Seeman	Stage
Barbara Wells	Dwight Smith

Acknowledgments

Make-up and Hair	Art Van Furniture
Monica Ladd	Clarabelle & Thelma Griffin
	Joanna Woodcock
Lighting	Glenny Merriflot
Karen Schnatterly	Hans Friedrichs
Paul Taylor	\aut \BAR
Mike Limmer	The Flame Bar
	Troy Sittl

About the Cast

David Andrews (Dr. Bradman) upon his return to the Ann Arbor area has plunged head-long into the local theatre scene. Ann Arbor audiences recently saw him in multiple roles (before becoming the fatal victim) in AACT's production of *Accomplice*. Before that he acquired a long list of stage credits in other locales during his eight years sojourn from Ann Arbor.

Glenn Bugala (Charles Condomine) makes his AACT debut upon returning to his native Michigan after a ten-year hiatus. In the past six years he pursued a professional non-Equity acting career in the Chicago area. He appeared in the Chicago premiere of *On the Waterfront* and had principal roles in productions of *Under Milk Wood*, *12 Angry Men*, *Coriolanus* and *Bouncers* (winner of 5 Joseph Jefferson citations). This past summer he appeared in *Wait Until Dark* with the St. Sebastian Players of Chicago. His return to Michigan brings him back in contact with his family, which means a great deal to him.

Suzanne Keith Colón (Violet Bradman) was last seen as Rosalind in AACT's production of *As You Like It*. Among other things, she is studying Latin at U of M in preparation for a Master's Degree in Comparative Religion. She wishes to thank her husband, Matt, for sparing her the time for theatrical pursuits, and her niece, Aisling for the lessons in spontaneous creativity and melodrama.

Gabrielle Dota (Edith) departed Catholic University in 1994 and came to Ann Arbor to seek her fame and fortune. She is still waiting for the fame part, and notes that the fortune portion still has not kicked in much. She would like to thank her parents and her fiancé for their support, and her three house rabbits for giving her the inspiration for the character of Edith.

Nancy Heusel (Madame Arcati) considers herself fortunate to live in an active arts community where she has performed and directed for almost 40 years. In addition to AACT, she has worked locally with the University Professional Theatre Program, Ann Arbor Drama Season, Arts Theatre Club, and Saline Mill Summer Theatre, among others. Nancy reprises the role of Madame Arcati which she performed in the 1971 AACT production. She has had many leading and memorable roles at AACT — *Tea and Sympathy*, *Joan of Lorraine*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *The Little Foxes*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *On Golden Pond*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Foxfire* — and earned Best Actress awards for many of them. She is co-producer, with husband Ted, of the Saint Andrews Players (whose next production will be *A Man For All Seasons* in February) and recently directed *Cyrano de Bergerac* at Greenhills School where she teaches dramatic arts.

Katherine Hinchey (Elvira) is a recent graduate of N.Y.U.'s Tisch School of the Arts. She appeared in AACT's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Picnic*, and recently as Harley/Melinda in *Accomplice* at the beginning of the season. She directed *A Little Princess* for the Young Actor's Guild, and also pursues flamenco dancing, ice fishing, and sky-diving when time permits.

Kyle Marie (Ruth) is another newcomer to AACT making her debut in the role of Ruth, but not any stranger to community theatre. She is a 20-year veteran of acting, choreographing and working in many behind-the-scenes roles, mostly with the Hartland Players, and recently with the Saline Area Players. Keenan, Kendall, and Kamber (no, not a law firm) are her son and 2 daughters. Her hobbies include dancing with husband Jay, rollerblading, and walking with her dog Briley.

AACT Operational Gifts

As of January 9, 1996

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Cliff & Ingrid Sheldon
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Max & Sue Supica
Ronna & Kent Talcott
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Nancy Urquiola
Betsy Valvo
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