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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.

Ronald P. Baumanis

Ronald P. Baumanis
President, AACT Board of Directors



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Civic Playhouse
Opening Night January 21, 1999



The Rainmaker

A romantic play by N. Richard Nash

Directed by Wendy Wright

Assistant to the director
CHERYL BERTEEL

Costume Design
JOAN KORASTINSKY

Property Master
DANIEL KITOWSKI

Set Design
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Lighting Design
THOM JOHNSON

Original Song
DEBORAH HINDERER

Sound Design
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Program Design
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GLENN MASSEY

Running Crew
WENDY WRIGHT

Set Builders
BOB SEEMAN
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JOE MEDRANO
PAUL MISKA
JIM GLENN

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.

Cast
In order of appearance

HC Curry.....	Thom Johnson
Noah Curry.....	Andrew Hoag
Jim Curry.....	Robert Purcell
Lizzy Curry.....	Wendy Katz Hiller
File.....	Scott Hoye
Sheriff Thomas.....	David Keren
Bill Starbuck.....	Kevin Lee Branshaw

Act One — Day

Act Two — That Evening

Act Three — Later that same evening

The action takes place during the Dust Bowl of the 1930's on the Curry Family farm

There will be two 10-minute intermissions

Special thanks to: Glenn Bugala, Rebecca Groeb, Elise and Matt Stempky, Zack Johnson, Janet Chamberlain, Great Harvest Bread Company, and Banbury Cross Farm - Lisa and Matt.

Who's Who in the Cast and Crew

Kevin Lee Branshaw (Starbuck) returns to the AACT stage after appearing as the anxiety-ridden Tackaberry in HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING, and as Michael in DANCING AT LUGHNASA for which he won the AACT Best Actor Award. Kevin started acting at the age of eight and hasn't stopped since. During the day, Kevin works as a software engineer for Auto-Desk, the folks who brought you the Dancing Baby. He can also be seen up to his neck in debt in the current Capstone Mortgage television commercial.

Wendy Katz Hiller (Lizzie) last appeared on stage in the title role of MEDEA, for which she won Best Actress Awards both from AACT and The Ann Arbor News. Other favorite roles include Viola in TWELFTH NIGHT, Beth in A LIE OF THE MIND, M'Lynn in STEEL MAGNOLIAS, and Cecily in THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST. Trained in acting at New York's *National Shakespeare Conservatory*, Wendy is a "schoolmarm" in real life, teaching English at Howell High School. She would like to thank her husband, Steve, and daughters, Lydia and Madeleine, for their love and support.

Andrew Hoag (Noah) has directed, performed, designed, produced, stage-managed, and you-name-it, principally with AACT, Saline Area Players, and Chelsea Area Players. Most recently at AACT he was seen as Hortensio in 1997's TAMING OF THE SHREW. Favorite roles have included Joseph Wykowski in BILOXI BLUES, Tyler Moss in CROSSING DELANCY, and Charlie Davenport in ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. Andrew is employed locally by Bulldog Fabricating, where he does not utilize his Ph.D. As ever, he'd like to express his appreciation of Rebecca Groeb.

Scott Hoye (File) has been involved in Ann Arbor area theatre productions for several years. This has included MOBY DICK – REHEARSED with the Mercury Theatre Company, and 1997's THE BOR-

STAL BOY as Brendon Behan, for which The Ann Arbor News awarded him with Best Actor in a Musical. His work in film and video includes Pomoptic Film and Video's THE HOUND, which was shown at last year's HP Lovecraft Film Festival in Portland Oregon.

Thom Johnson (HC and Lighting Design) wears two hats in this production, on stage and off. The last time he both appeared on stage and designed lights was also in a Wendy production, THE SISTERS ROSENWEIG. Since then, he has designed lights for A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC and appeared as Father Jack in DANCING AT LUGHNASA. Outside the theatre, TJ works for a living, smokes an occasional cigar, and does not jog.

David Keren (Sheriff) has been a member of AACT for 20 years, and recently played Norman Thayer in ON GOLDEN POND to great acclaim. He has also appeared as Harry MacAfee in BYE BYE BIRDIE and Grandpa in YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. In his spare time, David runs a clinical reference laboratory for the Sisters of Mercy Health Corporation, and teaches pathology at UM.

Robert Purcell (Jim) started his involvement in theatre in high school, and has been doing it ever since. Bob has been in such productions as LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, and OLIVER! He was a student at EMU's theatre program and would like to thank his family for giving him that opportunity. He also sends a special thanks to integrity and his two "angels".

Wendy Wright (Director) can't believe that THE RAINMAKER marks her tenth show for AACT as director. And what an experience it has been! She would like to thank Glenn Bugala for getting a new job and leaving the reins of this show in her hands, and an exceptional cast for being both talented and good company. She wishes each of them a future including happiness, love and a monkey on a stick.

Cheryl Berteel (Assistant to the Director) not only does props, costumes and scene painting, but is on AACT's Board of Directors. She also enjoys reading, traveling, and playing banjo.

Deborah Hinderer (Original music) has been an AACT member since 1985. She has written many original songs for our productions including CRIMES OF THE HEART, BURN THIS, FOOL FOR LOVE, and MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. She has been in all of the AACT cabaret fundraisers, and will be appearing again in this February's cabaret.

Daniel Kitowski (Property manager) completed a successful run of HOW TO SUCCEED (H2\$) as Mr. Twimble and Womper. Dan is having fun working backstage for his friend, Wendy. His last venture into propland was AACT's BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS. Next time, he needs to work on a show without food.

Joan Korastinsky (Costume Design) has designed and built costumes for many production over the years at AACT, most recently BIG RIVER and A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC.

Joe Medrano (Co-set design) debuted with AACT in DARKNESS AT NOON onstage in 1960. Since then he has worked as scene designer, actor, set builder, lighting crew, usher, make-up, stage crew and props manager. Last season he co-designed his 15th production with Bob Seeman, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, and his work can also be seen in our lobby (the water wheel from ACCOMPLICE and the sleigh from THE SNOW QUEEN). Joe also serves in Kiwanis on local, state, and international levels. He enjoys line dancing, traveling on cruises, and motorcycling.

Bob Seeman (Co-set design) celebrates his 39th AACT season with this 16th set design collaboration with Joe Medrano. They designed last season's YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. While professing to be semi-retired, Bob works as a maintenance and grounds technician for Eagle Pointe Apartments, and as a part-time house technician and lobby supervisor for University Productions at UM. He also serves on the AACT Board of Directors and as archivist and custodian.

AACT Auditions – Spring Shows

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Directed by Ronald P. Baumanis

6 children that look 5 to 14 years old

2 young adults that look late teens

16 adult Women

7 adult Men

(Note: No children under 5 years please)

Children's auditions SAT FEB 6, Noon

Adults only SUN FEB 7, 7 pm

Adults only MON FEB 8, 7 pm

Call-Backs if needed TUES FEB 9, 8pm

Bring a prepared short song to sing.

Performance Dates April 8 – 25, 1999

THE TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL

Directed by Cassie Mann

3 adult women (including one strong older woman for lead role of Mrs. Watts)

6 adult men

SUN MARCH 28, 7pm

MON March 29, 7pm

Call-Backs if needed TUES MAR 30, 7pm

Performance Dates May 13 – 23, 1999

Neil Simon's RUMORS

Directed by Mark Bernstein

5 Adult Men

5 Adult Women

SUN APRIL 25, 7pm

MON APRIL 26, 7pm

Call-backs if needed TUES APR 27, 7pm

Performance Dates June 17 – 27, 1999

Call 971-0605 for additional information

Did you know?...

- **Mark Patrick** has joined AACT as the Executive Director. Please welcome him aboard. He can be found here during regular office hours, and you'll be seeing him around the theatre from now on!
- **The Sound of Music** is already selling so many tickets that we will be adding a third week of performances, April 22 – 25 in addition to the announced run April 8 – 18th, 1999. Our Saturday Matinees consistently have the best seats available.
- There is **additional parking** behind the theatre, as well as in the lot right next door. We encourage our cast and crew to use the back lot, to allow our patrons the very best parking spots, but should you find it difficult to find a place to park, pull around back!
- AACT has never had as **many sold-out performances** as it has had this season! Thank you to all of our subscribers and individual ticket-buyers. AACT is back with a bang!
- **Every ticket** for every show for each season is on sale every day throughout the season? You don't have to wait until just before show time to purchase your tickets.
- AACT's Ron Baumanis holds exclusive rights to perform Kander and Ebb's sparkling new musical **STEEL PIER** as it makes its Michigan debut? Set in a dance marathon in 1933, the show (nominated for 11 Tony awards in 1997) features non-stop swing and ballroom dancing and is a not-to-be-missed musical from the writers of **CABARET** and **CHICAGO**.

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