

Enter Laughing

By JOSEPH STEIN
Adapted from the novel
By CARL REINER

Directed by
THOM JOHNSON

A2CT Downtown
November 2002

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March 19-22 · Grades pre-K-2

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April 29-May 4 · Grades K-5

Charlotte's Web is possibly the best loved of all American stories for children. Set in the rural Midwest, it tells the touching story of a rare friendship between a little pig, Wilbur, and Charlotte, a most uncommon spider.

Frog and Toad

June 26-28 · Grades pre-K-2

Two of Arnold Lobel's most beloved characters, Frog and Toad, show how good friends help each other through thick and thin, cheering each other through the hard times and celebrating life's joys.



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Opening Night November 7, 2002
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Downtown

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

ENTER LAUGHING

With

DAVID ANDREWS
JIMMY DEE ARNOLD
TOM BEVERLY
JON ELLIOTT

CARL HANNA
MARIHELEN HEMINGWAY
ANDY HOAG
NICK KITTLE
KIM PERLMAN

JAIME BETH PLATTE
DAN ROEHRIG
ELISE STEMPKY
RJ WHITE

Lighting Designer

THOM JOHNSON
Master Electrician
LARRY ALLEN

Set Designer

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Props
LUCKEY HASKINS
ADRIAN BLISSFIELD

Costume Designer

CHERYL BERTEEL
Sound Design
ZAC JOHNSON

Makeup and Hair

ROSEMARIE ROTHE
Graphics Design
LINDA LOCK
Program Design
RON BAUMANIS

Produced by

JOYCE CASALE

Assistant Director

MARTHA MONTOYE
Stage Manager
MICHELE LESHAN

Directed by **THOM JOHNSON**

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc, New York City

Cast (in order of appearance)

Mr. Foreman	Jon Elliott
David Kolowitz	Dan Roehrig
Marvin	R.J. White
Miss B.	Elise Stempky
Pike	Andy Hoag
Don Baxter	Nick Kittle
Don Darwin	Tom Beverly
Marlowe	David Andrews
Angela	Marihelen Hemingway
Mother	Kim Perlman
Father	Jimmy D. Arnold
Wanda	Jaime Beth Platte
Waiter	Nick Kittle
Roger	Carl Hanna
Lawyer	Tom Beverly

New York, The Mid-1930's
There will be one 15-minute intermission

The taking of photographs or the recording of this production in any fashion is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all digital media including cellular telephones and one-way or two-way paging systems.

Special Thanks to Cassie Mann and Suzi Peterson, the Saline Historical Society, and Harold Kirchen

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Director's Note

The play *Enter Laughing* has long had a place in my heart. It was the first show outside of High School in which I was cast. It was a Grand Rapids Civic Theater Production in 1966 under the direction of Paul Dreher. I played the role of Don Baxter and the waiter. I was so excited that by the time we opened, I had the entire play memorized, not only my lines, but everyone's. The magic of the first show you were ever in sticks with you even 35 years later. Even though it is set in the mid-1930's the themes are timeless: Children try to break away from their parents to find their own life; adults seeking the best for their children; and, of course, the irresistible mystique of the theater. We hope you enjoy your evening at the theater as we present our view of the theater in *Enter Laughing*. T.J.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW

David Andrews (*Marlowe*) David has performed in many plays throughout the Ann Arbor area and beyond. You might have seen him in one or more of these plays. If you have seen and enjoyed one of his performances, please discuss it with all the people sitting around you (during breaks in the performance, of course!). If you have seen him in a performance you did not enjoy, are you sure you're thinking of the same person?

Jimmy Dee Arnold (*Father*) Jimmy is happy to be working with TJ again. He played Carlton in *Light Up the Sky* (2000) and a "Cowpoke who gets gunned down in the Third act in *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch* (1993). Both of these were under TJ's direction. He was last on stage as the Watch in Perfnit's *Elizabeth Rex* (2002) and in last season's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Quince. Jimmy is a homecare service technician for the University of Michigan Health System's Home Med. Love to Linda and J.J. Hope you all enjoy the show.

Cheryl Berteel (*costumes*) Cheryl has costumed many Civic shows including *The Sound of Music*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Noises Off* and *Light Up the Sky* among many others. She is a past

president of A2CT and also works on plays for Redbud Productions. Her question of TJ, this play's director, is "How come some guy is always dropping his pants in your plays?"

Tom Beverly (*Don*) A veteran of the Kalamazoo theater scene, Tom is making his second A2CT appearance, having previously portrayed the Mayor in *The Front Page*. His first love is Shakespeare, having performed in *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Titus Andronicus*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* among others.

Joyce Casale (*producer*) Joyce has enjoyed watching A2CT shows for many years. She served a term on A2CT Board of Directors and has been producer for the last five shows TJ has directed. Joyce works for the Michigan Education Association and represents teachers in Livonia and Northville. She enjoys baseball and is already looking forward to spring training 2003.

Jon Elliott (*Mr. Foreman*) Jon returns to A2CT, having appeared in last year's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Bottom. In the interim, he directed and designed the Tappan Player production of *Footloose*. Favorite roles include Fagin in *Oliver* and Glenn

Cooper in *Rumors*. Kudos go to a great director and cast in this production and, as always, everlasting gratitude to a wonderfully supportive family – Melissa, Jennifer and Alexis. Ah, what the heck-I'll even thank my parole officer.

Carl Hanna (Roger) Carl was last seen as the Conte in *The Mistress of the Inn* with Michigan Classical Repertory theater. His A2CT credits are Hildy Johnson in *The Front Page*, Scoop Rosenbaum in *The Heidi Chronicles*, Ezekiel Cheever in *The Crucible*, John in *A Life In the Theater* and Eugene Gant in *Look Homeward Angel*. His other credits include Henry Sowerberry in *Oliver* with Chelsea Area Players, Silvius in *As You Like It* with Brass Tacks Ensemble, and Larry in *Parked* with Orpheus Productions. Enjoy the Show!

Marihelen Hemingway (Angela) Marihelen lives in Ann Arbor and is excited to be involved in another Civic Theatre production. It is wonderful to work with such a talented director, actors and crew. Special thanks to my family, Paul and Zachary for all your support and help during rehearsal.

Andy Hoag (Pike) Andy has performed, directed, produced, designed, and, yes, stage managed, chiefly with A2CT, The Saline and The Chelsea Area Players. He has been spotted about once a year on Civic's stage, first in 1993's *Biloxi Blues* and most recently in last summer's *Tommy*, for which he had to learn to play the harmonica. This is his second time under T.J.'s direction, the first being 2000's *Light Up the Sky*. Other favorite roles include Noah Curry in *The Rainmaker*, Charlie Davenport in *Annie Get Your Gun*, and Senex in *A Funny thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Despite his PhD in History, Andrew is employed (evidence furnished upon request).

Markus/Mark A. Johnson (set design/builder) This is Markus' second A2CT production. Previously, he was half of the running crew for *The Lucky Spot* (Thanks, Wendy!). *Enter Laughing* is his debut as set designer. (Many thanks, always, TJ!) While often tempted to audition for acting roles, Markus has always wanted to be more involved with set design and scenography. Thanks, all, for the sense of "being welcomed by family" into Civic. And especially to Lorna Colon....(or he might never have gotten involved with all you wonderful talented people in the first place...) Many thanks to all the folks at *Partners in Wine and Cheese* (in the Ker-rytown Shops) for their patience and encouragement – all those last minute schedule changes, and the use of their windows for show posters! Hiya! (and thanks) to all those great people at *Kitchen Port*. (You know who you are...) And Casey (Lorna's cat) for all his patience with his (!?) primates' weird schedules...I hope you love the show!

Thom Johnson (Director, Lighting Designer) TJ has been acting, directing and designing lights with A2CT for 20 years. Most recently he directed *Light Up the Sky*, *You Can't Take It With Your, Noises Off* and *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch*. TJ is proud of having directed shows in all four of A2CT's "homes" in the last 20 years and looks forward to directing in the fifth wherever it is. S.O.C.D.N.J.

Nick Kittle (Don) Nick has been a percussionist for eight years. He has tap danced for nine years (Randazzo Dance Studio in Ypsilanti) and has also studied for the past three years in NYC for two week intensive trainings. Nick has been the principle dancer for the last two years in the tap dance troop, "Sole Full of rhythm". On his hiatus from UM music school,(drum

set performance major) he is pursuing other acting and musical opportunities. He hopes to be a BLUE MAN someday.

Michele Leshan (Stage Manager) To celebrate her eighth show with A2CT, Michele penned the following haiku:
Comedy tonight!
Better than some prescriptions.
All: *Exit laughing*

Martha Montoyo (Assistant Director) Martha has been attending to various duties associated with the theatre for over 14 years ever since her sister Cassie, tricked her into becoming her assistant director for *Bigfoot Stole My Wife*. Coincidentally, that is when Martha met TJ and they are STILL friends.

Kim Perlman (Mother) Kim moved from New York City to Ann Arbor just a year ago. This is her first A2CT production. While in the "Big Apple", Kim directed such shows as *Collection* and *Betrayal* both by Harold Pinter and *Sleeping Beauty* or *Coma* by Charles Busch. She was assistant director to Kenneth Elliot on *Red Scare on Sunset* written by Charles Busch. Some of her acting roles include Marie in *Fiorello*, Rosalinde in *As You Like It*, Kate in *When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet* and Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* directed by Claire Bloom. Kim has studied acting with Bill Hickey, Sonia Moore, Uta Hagen and Claire Bloom. Kim holds a BA in Theatre and an MA in Drama Therapy from New York University. She is a member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Association. Her best role is that of a real Jewish mother to her son, Aryeh and daughter Naomi. She wishes to thank her husband Larry for his continued support in all that she does. Thanks to TJ and Joyce for turning a lark into a spark!

Jaime Beth Platte (Wanda) Originally from Petoskey, Jaime is a senior at EMU where she studies vocal music education. Recent favorite roles she has played include Alice in *You Can't Take It With You* and Brooke/Vicki in *Noises Off*. She was last on the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre stage in *The Sound of Music*.

Dan Roehrig (David) Born 3/14/83, Dan's first theatre experience came making movies when he was about 7 with his brother Mike, a former Civic Theatre member. Dan has held bit parts in two middle school musicals and joined the Huron Players at Ann Arbor Huron High School in his junior year, where he acted in six shows. This is Dan's first, but hopefully, not his last show with Civic Theatre.

Elise Stempky (Miss B) Elise has been involved in theater around the Ann Arbor area for over nine years and was most recently seen as Lacey Rollins in *The Lucky Spot*. She wishes to thank TJ for giving her the opportunity to participate in one of his shows, surprisingly for the first time, especially since she just got done kicking his butt in Fantasy Baseball. (Just Kidding) When she's not performing or working at WCC as an IT Analyst, she's either house hunting with her wonderful husband Matt, chasing their cats around, or fruitlessly yelling at the Cleveland Browns and Indians on their big screen TV.

RJ White (Marvin) RJ dedicates tonight's performance to himself, having tragically passed away before the play was performed. If he's watching from somewhere, and he thinks he is, remember-"It was a heck of a ride, 'O' Cold Cuts!" Also, Laura is the best thing ever.

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