

The Ann Arbor Community Theatre
presents

Moon Over Buffalo

A comedy by Kenny Ludwig
Directed by Jon Elliott

March 6-9, 2008

The Arthur Miller Theatre
U-M North Campus



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre



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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
Opening night March 6, 2008
Arthur Miller Theatre

Moon Over Buffalo

by Ken Ludwig

Directed by
Jon Elliott

Assistant Director
Andrew Hoag

Sound Designer
Bob Skon

Costume Designer
Cheryl Berteel

Assistant Costume Designer
Anne Bauman

Costume Assistants
Susie Berneis
Marilyn Gouin
The Cast

Producer
Teresa Myers

Set Designer
Cathy Cassar

Set Builder
Brad Peters

Assistant Producer
Michele Leshan

Assistant Stage Manager
Brenda Casher

Set Assistant
Andrea Van Heerde

Stage Manager
Andrew Hoag

Lighting Designer
Melissa Elliott

Swordplay Choreographer
David Melcher

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Brenda Casher
Jon Elliott
Brad Peters

From the Director

Welcome to a new venue for the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, as we proudly become one of the first non-university companies to perform at the University of Michigan's Arthur Miller Theater. This meeting of the A2CT and the U-M is a continuance of a long-standing collaboration within this university city's history.

Moon Over Buffalo itself has instant appeal to me as a fast-paced farce, and the energy and good spirit with which everyone in this production has attacked it has been so impressive. Kudos especially go to this talented cast, who have been literally professional in their approach; to David Melcher, whose tireless patience and expertise has been incredible, for our fights and stunts; to Andy Hoag for his constant welcome presence and hard work in the always-under appreciated role as Asst. Director/Stage Manager; to Cathy Cassar and Brad Peters for their extra effort and good humor on the set work; to Bob Skon, for his continued excellence and professionalism in sound design; to Melissa Elliott, for her calm, thorough, imaginative and stress-free light design in a new venue; and to myriad others who gave of extra time and effort to ensure a strong production, with special thanks to Teresa Myers- very simply, she is the best Producer any show could have.

The most special gratitude goes to my family- Alexis, Melissa and Jennifer- for their constant support and just for being there. It is the best feeling a person can have- thank you.

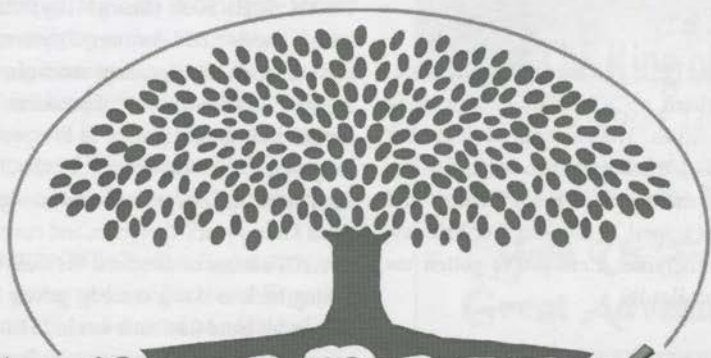
Lastly, in the true tradition of theater, the show must go on, but occasionally with remembrance for some of those we've lost along the way. Barb Wells was a long-time Civic Theatre veteran, known for her award-winning set design and costume design, but more for her enthusiasm, good humor and kindness. She was one of the first two people I asked to work on technical crew for this production and she accepted enthusiastically, but sadly, passed away in November, 2006. I hope you can understand how much we all truly miss her.

As for me, my mother, Bette Elliott, passed away in May, 2007, after an extended bout with Parkinson's Disease. It was her warmth, good humor and love throughout her life that continued through a trying illness that amazed all of us, and I can say honestly that, along with my father, John, they are the two genuinely nicest people I have known in my life, models for what a good marriage should be, and that if I have accomplished any good in my life, it is a direct credit to them and to my wife Alexis, and daughters Melissa and Jennifer. As I watch, I know that she and Barb, along with my family and friends, are laughing their heads off, and it's a great memory.

I hope each one of you laughs just as heartily as you enjoy the show. Thank you for supporting community theater!

Sincerely-

Jon Elliott, Director



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The Cast

MARK F. BATELL (Richard) The author describes Richard as "a lovable, good-looking man in his fifties." Well, one out of three ain't bad. (I'm 54.) What a treat to be cast in my third A2CT show with so many talented and experienced actors! To my daughter Brittany: "Here's another fine mess you've gotten me into." (Oliver Hardy)

SUSIE BERNEIS (Ethel) started her A2CT tour of duty with *Lend Me a Tenor*, also by Ken Ludwig and is thrilled to be back in the realm of slamming doors, near misses and misunderstandings. Late of A2CT's *The Music Man* (Mrs. Paroo, a role she long has coveted), Susie's plans for after *Moon Over Buffalo* include costuming A2CT's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, the final show of the '07-'08 season. "Break a Leg" to a fantastic cast and, as always, love and apologies to Paul for never being at home for dinner anymore.

GABE BROGARD (Soldier, Man in Audience) previously appeared in A2CT's *Rebel* as Cigarette Man. Hobbies include campanology and drinking pretentious wines with rat stew. Favorite experiences include the title roles in both *Waiting For Godot* and *Harvey*.

BRIAN HILLIGOSS (Howard) is glad to be working with such a fun and talented cast and crew. Getting beaten and tied up every night: what could be more fun?! Most recently he appeared as Harold Hill in A2CT's production of *The Music Man* and Lord Darlington in the MCRT production of *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Past credits include Macheath in *The Three-penny Opera*, Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Ed in *Entertaining Mr. Sloan*, and Slender in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. He wants to thank Dave for his amazing support.

THOM JOHNSON (George Hay) has been involved with A2CT for over 20 years. He has been an actor, director, stage manager, lighting designer, board member and president. He last appeared on the Civic stage as Prospero in *The Tempest*, he won best director for the 2006 production of *A Thousand Clowns*, designed the lights for last year's *Tom Jones*, and currently sits on A2CT's board of directors. He really had fun getting back to doing comedy, getting a sword back in his hand (last time was in *I Hate Hamlet* when he played the ghost of John Barrymore), and working with his old friends Jon and Wendy. Special thanks to JAC.

JOY RAFFERTY (Rosalind) is delighted to perform once more with A2CT. Past performances include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *On the Town* (Clare), and most recently, *The Nerd* (Tansy), where she was seen in a state of shock when proposed to during curtain call. Off stage, Joy spends her time teaching toddlers, selling baked goods, and avoiding school. She thanks her husband, Dann, for calmly watching her kiss other men on stage, and sends her family love for their constant support.

ROB ROY (Paul) has previously appeared with A2CT as Reed Hooker in *The Lucky Spot* and Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other area credits include Miss Julie and *The Game of Love and Chance* with MCRT. Rob holds advanced performance degrees from Wayne State and Southern Methodist Universities. Rob is the Director of Drama at Pinckney Community High School (shameless plug: *Urinetown: The Musical* April 11-19). Rob would like to thank Adele, Griffin, Lucie, and Muddy for putting up with his extended absence.

MARIA VERMEULEN (Eileen) is so excited to play Eileen in her second Ann Arbor Civic Theatre production. She is a senior at the University of Michigan majoring in Film and Video studies

and Psychology. Maria has also spent the last two summers studying at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York City. She would like to thank her family and friends for their ongoing support of her acting habit and she thanks them (in advance) for maintaining their support as she pursues a professional acting career.

WENDY WRIGHT (Charlotte Hay) recently realized that she has performed in almost 30 productions for A2CT (and directed an additional 15!). Most recently she was seen as Miss Mona in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* and Kate Keller in *All My Sons* (Best Actress 2005-6 Season). She is the current President of MCRT which will be producing *Shaw's Arms and the Man* in May. She can be heard every Sunday evening hosting "From Memphis to Motown" on 89.1 WEMU. She would like to thank Jon and a talented cast and crew for so much fun (especially TJ)! This one's for you, Jim.



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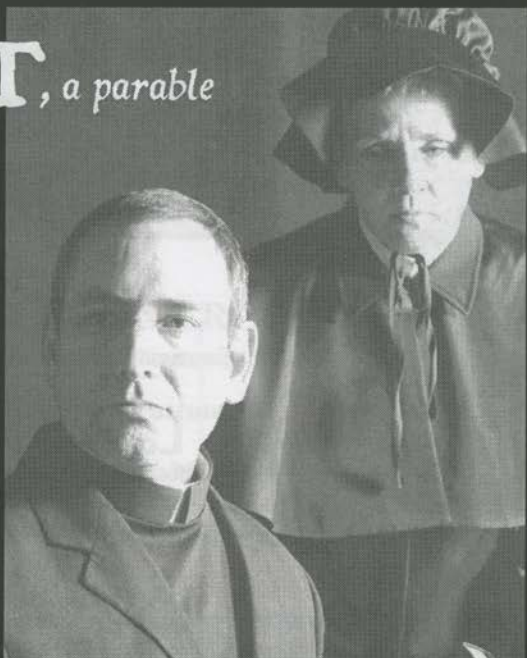


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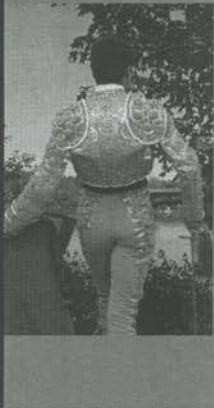


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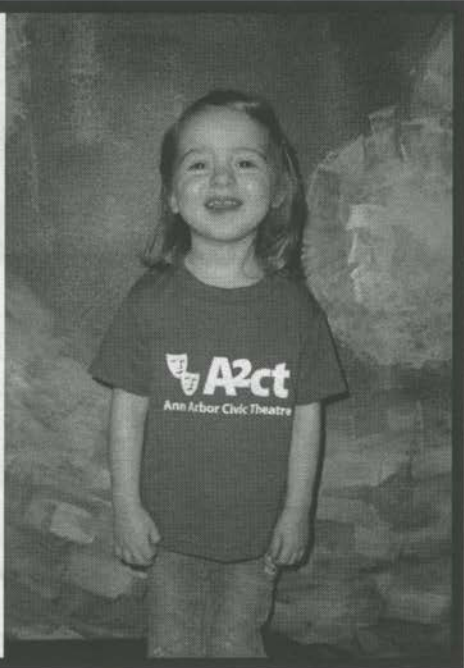
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The Cast

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Howard.....	Brian Hilligoss
George.....	Thom Johnson
Roz.....	Joy Rafferty
Paul.....	Rob Roy
Eileen.....	Maria Vermeulen
Charlotte.....	Wendy Wright

The Program

*On stage and backstage at the
Erlanger Theater, Buffalo, New York, 1953*

Act One

A mid-morning in June

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts.

Act Two

Scene One

Two hours later

Scene Two

Immediately following

Scene Three

Two hours later

The Production Staff

ANNE BAUMAN (Assistant Costume Designer) is delighted to be assisting Cheryl, Jon and the talented cast with costumes for *Moon Over Buffalo*. Anne has participated in several theater companies over the years, but this is her first stint working on costumes. Other areas of off-stage involvement have included work on the A2CT Board of Directors (focusing on marketing, board development and fund raising) and occasional work as producer, assistant director, stage manager, props manager, and set decorator. Recent acting credits include: Mrs Durant in *Cactus Flower* (A2CT), Norma Hubley in *Plaza Suite* (The Phoenix Players), Mrs. Coffman in *Come Back Little Sheba* (Redbud Productions), and Henrietta Angell in *The Unexpected Guest* (The Phoenix Players). Enjoy the show!

CHERYL BERTEEL (Costume Designer) has costumed many shows for Civic including *Harvey*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Full Monty* as well as many others. She is a past President of A2CT and works for the American Red Cross.

BRENDA CASHER (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be back in the theatrical world. This is her first A2CT experience and has put off her theater career for 30 years while focusing on a very unmagical career in nursing. She is very happy to have joined the crew and hopes that in the future she will bring excellence to Assistant Stage Management.

CATHY CASSAR (Set Designer) is pleased to be lending her talents to yet another A2CT production as Set Designer and is very grateful for the opportunity to work with such a talented group. While not in a theater Cathy is a Professional Civil Engineer working on a wide variety of roadway projects in the Midwest and Florida. She would like to thank her family for all their support and Brad for being such a great builder. Enjoy the show!

JON ELLIOTT (Director) has enjoyed over 45 productions in the Ann Arbor area as actor,

director, stage crew and author. Acting roles have included Gabe in *Dinner With Friends*, Fagin in *Oliver!*, Van Buren in *Damn Yankees*, Mr. Webb in *Our Town* and Tom Garrison in the acclaimed *I Never Sang For My Father*, and have included awards for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor. Directorial credits include *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Oliver!*, *Footloose* and A2CT's award-winning *Inherit The Wind*. He also authored *Heartland Tales*, winner of the 2007 Ann Arbor Civic Theater Original Play competition. His support for all these endeavors comes from his loving daughters, Jennifer and Melissa, and wife Alexis, whom he met during his first area production in 1975. Thanks to all of the "MOBsters" who have made this such a rewarding experience!

MELISSA ELLIOTT (Light Designer) is happy to be working on her 14th A2CT show since A2CT's *Enter Laughing* in 2002, Melissa is also currently attending her second year of college in the Ann Arbor area and would like to thank her parents and sister for putting up with all of the lighting things around the house and Alex for putting up with all of the lighting stuff otherwise.

ANDREW HOAG (Assistant Director, Stage Manager) is taking on a role he previously undertook for 1997's *A Little Night Music*, and twice that of 2006's *A Thousand Clowns*. He also played a stage manager in 2002's *Enter Laughing*. When not managing someone's stage, he has performed, produced, directed and designed, chiefly with Ann Arbor Civic and the Saline Area Players. Andrew also golfs (comically) and plays guitar (tragically). Then there's the new puppy...Love to Alix.

KIMBERLY JOHNSON (Graphic Designer) has been in the marketing arena for nearly 10 years. She currently works as the Classical Studies Public Relations Coordinator at the University of Michigan. When not glued to her computer screen, she enjoys time with her son Jordan and ministering in dance at her church, Christian Love Fellowship of Ypsilanti, MI.

MICHELE LESHAN (Assistant Producer) appreciates a good laugh, and this show is filled with them. If you laugh half as much as she does, you'll be well on your way to a great ab workout! This is Michele's 14th show with A2CT. Local credits also include shows with Blackbird Theatre, Chelsea Area Players, Comic Opera Guild, MorrisCo Art Theater, Redbud Productions, UMGASS, Wild Swan Theater, and the Ann Arbor Symphony's Broadway tribute to Judy Dow Rumelhart.

DAVID MELCHER (Swordplay Instructor, Choreographer) When David isn't overcoming his Pop Rocks and cola addiction (He's been clean almost two weeks!) or posing as a mild mannered computer programmer, he can be found bringing stunt safety and excitement to stage and film productions near and far! (Sometimes even dressed in a cape and mask.) David would like to thank everyone who has helped him work towards his life goal of becoming a billionaire philanthropist / caped vigilante.

TERESA MYERS (Producer) is pleased to be producing her 6th show with A2CT. This is her second time teaming up with Jon, last "seen" together doing *Inherit the Wind*. In her "spare" time she is the Vice-President of Lending and

Human Resources for MidWest Financial Credit Union, Wife to Thomas and Mother to Kathrynine, Thomas and Brutus. She is also a certified White-Belt NIA Instructor and teaches several classes in Ann Arbor.

BRAD PETERS (Set Builder) is happy to be working on his seventh A2CT production! Working with this great production staff has been a lot of fun! Past credits include production work on *Cactus Flower*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Bat Boy* with A2CT, and performances in *Pinocchio*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Fiddler on the Roof* with other organizations.

BOB SKON (Sound Designer) has been involved with A2CT for now his 8th season. He's been off stage designing and running sound and on stage as an ensemble member in *Evita*, *On the Town*, and *Cactus Flower* and had the role of John Utterson in *Jekyll and Hyde*.

ANDREA VAN HEERDE (Set Construction Help) is happy to be working behind the scenes with A2CT again. Past set work includes *On the Town* and past acting credits include *Rebel Without A Cause* and *Inherit the Wind*. She sends loving thanks to Troy, Shani, and Denease.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following for providing us with incredible gifts...time, support, items and more. We can't express our appreciation strongly enough!

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Jim and Barbara Krick
John and Margaret Laird
Dale Larson
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Kingsbury Marzolf
Kellen and Maggie McCoy
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Shirley Thornton
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Esther Warzynski
Carol W. Weber
Erin Webster
Mary A. Weir
Tracey Wentz and Chuck Blackmer
Sandy and Sarah Wiener
Betty and Bob Wurtz
Sheryl and Shekar Yengera
Catherine Zudak

PAUL SINGER (Company Manager; Understudy Victor, *Private Lives*; Understudy Christian, *Cyrano de Bergerac*; Understudy Claudio, *Much Ado About Nothing*; Understudy Nicola, *Arms and the Man*; Understudy Caliban, *The Tempest*; Understudy Astroff, *Uncle Vanya*; Understudy Horatio, *Hamlet*; Understudy Eben, *Desire Under the Elms*; Understudy Benvolio, *Romeo and Juliet*; Understudy Krogstad, *A Doll House*.) Paul is extremely excited to be working again with the Hays.

WHAT'SHISNAME (Soldier) That's what George has been calling me since I joined the company. He only puts me on stage whenever Webster quits. Ah, hell- I quit, too.

The Crew

DON PIKE (Stage Manager) got his start in professional theatre working with the late, great Harrison Marlowe in NYC. Moving to Buffalo in 1941 to avoid snowfall, Mr. Pike has filled the position of stage manager at the Erlanger Theatre for a dozen years now. He considers it an honor to work with a star of the magnitude of Mrs. Ethel Barry-Moore.

WHAT'SHISNAME (Director, Gaffer, Set Crew, etc.) Yeah, I do all that, too, and that muttonhead George STILL can't remember my damn name. I'm telling you- I quit, I quit, I quit!..... Yeah, all right, I'm ready for the next show....

Read the wonderful True Love Story of an Ann Arbor couple!

"Heidi and Bill" by Wilfred Kaplan

In 1936 Wilfred Kaplan had a traveling fellowship from Harvard University to pursue his career in mathematics. He enrolled at the Institute of Technology in Zurich and, on the first day of classes, found a seat next to the only girl in the class, Swiss-born Ida Roettinger (later nicknamed "Heidi"). A few weeks later he invited her to the grand student ball, which lasted from 9 p. m. till 5 a. m. During those eight hours they fell deeply in love, a love which was to last for over 68 years. It took almost two years for them to overcome the obstacles to getting married, for Heidi's parents were strongly opposed. The story is told almost wholly in letters between the two lovers (translated from German by Wilfred). In reading it, one is inevitably drawn into the life of the historic times, when Hitler was threatening the world.



Also Available:

"The 1960 Casals Master Classes in Berkeley" by Ida Roettinger Ph.D. Edited by her husband Wilfred Kaplan

In April 1960, Pablo Casals conducted master classes in cello at the University of California in Berkeley. Ida Roettinger Kaplan, nicknamed "Heidi," traveled from Ann Arbor, along with her cello teacher, Harry Dunscombe, to attend the classes as auditor. Harry was one of the students in the master class. Heidi wrote letters to her family, describing all her experiences. The present pamphlet reproduces those letters in edited form. They convey the spirit of the remarkable occasion and supplement the comments made in the appendix to Heidi's book *Head, Hand, and Heart* (published under her maiden name Ida Roettinger in 1970, distributed by Shar Music Co. in Ann Arbor). The 1960 Casals Master Classes in Berkeley is an Episode in the Lives of "Heidi and Bill".

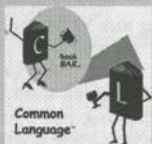
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The Cast

ETHEL BARRY-MOORE (Duenna, Lady Astor's Horse) denies all rumors that she is the black sheep of a famous theatrical family. A veteran of American theatre who has played all the great roles, Ethel is resigned to ending her brilliant career supporting her daughter, Charlotte (née Barry-Moore) Hay and her worthless spouse, what's-'is-name, as they conquer such fabulous cities as Poughkeepsie, Gloversville, and Buffalo. Pah!

HOWARD FAIRWEATHER is a native Buffalonian who loves to travel—his last big trip was to Rochester, and it was fantastic! Howard is proud to be living out his dream as the weatherman on the WBUF evening news and wishes to note that reporting the weather is harder than it looks. You have to be able to read maps and thermometers and stuff like that. He's really nervous about meeting Roz's parents and apologizes in advance for any distraction caused by the noise of his knocking knees.

CHARLOTTE HAY (Amanda, Roxanne) is a member of the legendary American theatrical Barry-Moore family. She made her New York debut as Ophelia opposite George Hay in *Hamlet* at the age of 16 and married him shortly after. Broadway credits include Raina in *Shaw's Arms and the Man*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, and Nina in *The Seagull* (among others). Soon Hollywood called and Ms. Hays starred in such memorable films as *Apache Woman* and *On Top of the World*. Finding life in Hollywood not to her liking, she soon followed her heart back to the stage when she and her husband created Hay Productions. They can now be seen throughout the United States and Canada, sharing their love of the theater with the little people.

GEORGE HAY (Cyrano, Elyot). Even though George was born and raised in the U.S. he received his theatrical training in England at the Dover Shakespeare Company under the renowned Shakespearean Actor Reginald McAlister. He returned to New York for a produc-

tion of *Hamlet* where he met and wed Charlotte Barry-Moore. Together they appeared on and off Broadway in, among others, *Taming of the Shrew*, *A Doll's House*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. After many successful Broadway productions they left for Hollywood and appeared in a number of feature films including *Sgt. Yukon*, *Star Spangled General*, and *On Top of the World*. Again feeling the pull of the stage they established their own touring company to perform such classics as *Private Lives*, *Cyrano*, and *Pygmalion*. Performances can be booked through Hay Productions, NY, NY.

ROSALIND HAY (Sybil) returns to the stage a final time after retiring last year to begin a very successful career in advertising. This evening's performance marks her one-hundred-and-eleventh time playing Sybil in *Private Lives*. After a lifetime of exhausting theatrics, she has found true happiness with her fiancé, Howard, and is thoroughly enjoying having a relationship with a man who is able to think about more than just acting.

RICHARD G. MAYNARD, ESQUIRE. Princeton class of '19. Harvard law '23 (fourth in graduating class). Lawyer, business manager, and confidante to the stars of stage and screen on both coasts. Desi Arnaz' character (Ricky Ricardo) on "I Love Lucy" was named for Mr. Maynard. Ranked one of New York's ten most eligible bachelors, Mr. Maynard lives in a penthouse suite in the theatre district with his cat, Big Bertha.

EILEEN POMEGRANATE (Sybil) was born and raised in Buffalo. Eileen is delighted to grace you all with her presence as Sybil in tonight's performance of *Private Lives*. Eileen is content with her career at the Hay's repertory theatre, and she knows that only bigger and better things are to come for her. Eileen would like to thank the talented and handsome George Hay for putting his faith in her, for making her feel like such a starlet, for always encouraging her maximum performance * . Thank you, George

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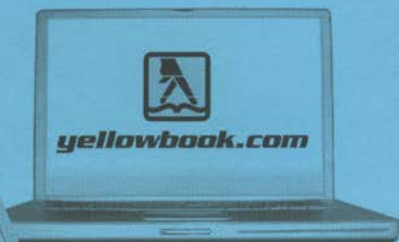
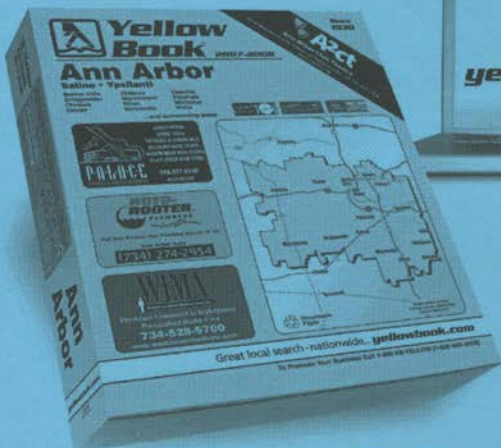
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