

# TBTA 2006 Season Supporters

## FOUNDERS

Howard & Catherine Lasser

## LEADERS

## BENEFACTORS

Jay & Matt Austin

Bart Geissinger & David J. Tuttle

## PARTNERS

Lori Mele

GAP, Inc.

## PACESETTERS

Mark Campbell

Klaus & Cathy Nielsen

Kurt Geissinger & Jeffrey Panozza

Lou & Andy Okell

Kristin Hoose

Bill Possidento & David Walker-Price

Mary Jonker

Bruce Shipman & Hans Stukenbrakker

Florence Maloney

Stephanie Skrok

## DAVID TUTTLE'S 40th CELEBRATION

Jean Gillum

Judy Martinez

Caitlin Keeler & Family

Sharon Murphy

Kurt Geissinger & Jeffrey Panozza

Bill Possidento & David Walker-Price

Carol & Steve Hoose

Bruce Shipman & Hans Stukenbrakker

Kristin Hoose

Benay & Tom Skogeland

Christa & John Jensen

Stephanie Skrok

### ***THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM:***

**Please use the form on the next page to send your check today. Thank you for supporting the arts in Brookfield!**

# The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

March 2007

Dear Friends,

The Golden Anniversary of this precious community theatre is upon us! Yes all, this is TBTA's 50<sup>th</sup> season—a round of applause please! Think about it this way: a half-century of incredible artistic offerings to our public. That includes all of you, your parents, your grandparents, and perhaps your children. What an amazing statement that is. I think looking at it from a generational perspective fortifies the legacy of TBTA here in Brookfield.

After recently being voted president of the board for a second term and knowing that this time was upon us, I have pondered what this year would be like and what 50 years as an artistic presence truly means to me, the theatre and our community. What would this town be like? What would your parents, grandparents and children be like had this special place not been here? Did it make a difference? I think so and I know so—from my own personal experience here at this magical place.

In the coming months you will be hearing about a fantastic event we have planned in the fall to celebrate this milestone. I hope you will join us often between now and then, and please make it a point to celebrate with us on that occasion—it will be very festive indeed! I ask you add your name to our mailing list, become a season subscriber or a member of our wonderful theatre, and that you recognize your commitment to TBTA now guarantees another 50 years in the making. Please cherish and revere this remarkable place and this remarkable milestone, and think how your participation in giving will sit along side many admirable stewards who saw the vision so many years ago. I cannot imagine Brookfield not having TBTA within its historic walls.

50 years as a community theatre is no easy task. It is a great achievement to say the least to operate such a fine theatre. It is through the collective abilities of many creative, artistic, brilliant and dedicated people that we sit here this evening. When I think of generations I think of those who passed the torch to the next, setting the vision and the path to not just the continued success of the theatre but to the integrity of this incredible establishment. I consider myself privileged to have had the torch passed to me, and I hope that in my actions I pay respect to those who have come before and prepare this institution, and I use that term specifically as it is a well established, polished and cultured institution in which you sit, for the next generation. YOU help make the difference here, and we need you more than ever. Please get involved, please give, and please share with us your talents. This theatre, your theatre, needs YOU to help us perpetuate the vision and to pass the torch to the next generation.

My sincerest & deepest thanks to you all,



David J. Tuttle  
TBTA President

# The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

March 2007

Dear friends of the theatre,

It is a pleasure to address you as Artistic Director in this our golden anniversary season. For 50 years, TBTA has been providing our community with quality arts programming. This is no easy task and everyone who has contributed to this success, from cast and crews, to founders and boards, to patrons and donors, should stand and take a bow.

In our time, little seems to survive fifty years, especially a not for profit theatre company staffed by volunteers. Our theatre company has always been clear about who and what we are. Regardless of our name; Country Players, Brookfield Playhouse or TBTA, our mission has remained consistent in providing a space for performers to practice their craft. For fifty years we have remained respected as one of the finest community theatres in the state.

Artistically, I am proud of our past and believe we are headed in the right direction for the future. From our early days, I believe we have succeeded in presenting season after season of well rounded theatre and performance for our audiences. Under my direction, I have strived to present seasons which entice local performers, entertain audiences, challenge our minds, and occasionally push the envelope. Additionally, I feel it is my responsibility to insure that our young people know and appreciate the early plays and musicals that led us to now. I remind them that without Rogers and Hammerstein there would be no Sondheim.

This place has a way of making you want to stay...I had the privilege as a young teen to work with co-founders Tillie Ciccala and Dot French in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. I have worked extensively with Wendell MacNeal, both on and off stage. One of our early directors has been known to review a show now and again. Larry Stewart, Barbara Locke and Bill Possidento remain actively involved; the longevity of our members speaks volumes. The stories are amazing, from a young unknown Edward Albee having his *Zoo Story* read at TBTA, to Tommy the ghost, to the many people who have gone on to have careers in stage, film and dance. People come and go, but TBTA remains a safe place to let down our inner walls, expand creatively, take chances, and perhaps even be a star.

Our golden anniversary has something for everyone. Dramas that make us think, musicals that make us ooh and aah and comedies that make us laugh. Each show of this season is about believing, whether in miracles or underdogs, cats in hats or in ourselves. Dreams do come true...just look around.

Happy 50th Anniversary and hats off to TBTA! May we continue to work together to provide a magic place for our children and their children. See you at the 100th!

Bart Geissinger  
*Artistic Director*

## Production Staff

Director	Alicia Dempster
Co-Producers	Ed O'Lena, Diane & Gary Millar
Stage Manager	Diane Millar
Set Design	Alicia Dempster
Set Construction	Ryan Ackell, Brian Casella
Costumes	Lori Mele, Susan Gabrielle
Properties	Diane Millar & Ed O'Lena
Sound Design	Jay Austin
Sound Execution	Ed O'Lena
Lighting Design	Stephen Cihanek
Lighting Execution	Molly O'Lena
Box Office Manager	Carol Hoose
Poster & Program Design	Arkettype
Opening Night Party	Victoria Hooten

## Special Thanks

Bike Express for the generous loan of the vintage Schwinn bicycle.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

David J. Tuttle, <i>President</i>	Lori Mele, <i>Secretary</i>
Bill Possidento, <i>Vice-President</i>	
Howard Lasser, <i>Treasurer</i>	Bart Geissinger, <i>Artistic Director</i>

---

### DIRECTORS:

Matt Austin, Kristin Hoose, Dr. Barbara Kessler, Catherine Lasser,  
Diane Millar, Gary Millar, Megan O'Lena, Stephanie Skrok  
Jay Austin & Brian Casella, *Technical Directors*

## Biographies, cont'd.

**Ed O'Lena** (PRODUCER) Ed is thrilled to be co-producing his first show, *The Diviners* with such a talented cast and crew. He has worked on the sets of *The Food Chain*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Assassins* and *I Think I Can*. Recently, Ed has taken on the position of the head of Building and Grounds here at TBTA. Ed has sung in several choirs over the past 20+ years and in 1995 toured Italy with his church choir and performed for an audience with Pope John Paul II. Ed would like to thank his kiddies, Megz, Brendan and Molly for their support, Clare for her believing in me and Gary, Diane and Alicia for teaching me the ropes.

**Ben Rosenbaum** (BUDDY LAYMAN) This is Ben's first production at TBTA, and he is overjoyed to be a part of *The Diviners*. Some of Ben's previous credits include *Bye Bye Birdie* (Albert Peterson), *The Laramie Project* (Various), *Ten Little Indians* (Captain Lombard), and *The Crucible* (Rev. Parris). In May, he will be playing the role of Radames in Bethel High School's production of *Aida*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support, as well as the wonderful cast and crew for making *The Diviners* a memorable experience.

**Tim Walsh** (C.C. SHOWERS) Tim is excited to be making his debut here in Brookfield. He has most recently been seen in Naugatuck in the Maritime Ministry Players' production of *The Last Supper, a Musical Enactment*. He is also a performer at the New York Renaissance Faire in Tuxedo, New York, where he has had the chance to explore his new interest in the world of puppetry.

**Joan Wyner** (LUELLA BENNETT) Joan is very excited to be back at the TBTA after a wonderful and fulfilling experience participating in *Bye Bye Birdie*. She has performed at her Synagogue in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Murder Mystery* and *My Big Fat Jewish Wedding*. She is a psychotherapist in private practice, who lives in Brookfield with her daughter Emily, a sophomore in high school and her son Zac, a freshman at Northwestern University. She thanks them both very much for their support and encouragement during her adult re-entry into the theatre.

### EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the EXIT sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. Should an emergency arise, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

# THE DIVINERS

Written by JIM LEONARD, JR.

*The entire action of the play takes place in the small town of Zion, Indiana during the Great Depression.*

*There will be one fifteen minute intermission.*

## CAST

*in order of appearance*

Gladys Bennett ..... Alicia Dempster  
Dewey Maples ..... Brian Casella  
Buddy Layman ..... Ben Rosenbaum  
Melvin Wilder ..... Matt Heller  
Luella Bennett ..... Joan Wyner  
Jennie Mae Layman ..... Hilary Currie  
CC Showers ..... Tim Walsh  
Ferris Layman ..... Gary Millar  
Norma Henshaw ..... Maureen Kelly  
Goldie Short ..... Pat Denson  
Darlene Henshaw ..... Kristianna George

*Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., New York, NY*

**For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons the use of flash photography is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off all phones, pagers, computer games, and other distractions. Please unwrap candies before the show begins and respect each other. This is live theatre.**

## Biographies

**Brian Casella** (DEWEY MAPLES) Is thrilled to be making his TBTA stage debut with *The Diviners*. Brian has been the lighting technical director at TBTA for the past 3 years and is excited to be performing on stage at TBTA. His past stage role experiences have been *Charley's Aunt* as well as *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Brian spends most of his time off stage and has designed lighting and sound for over 22 theatrical productions at TBTA as well as Brookfield High School and now his new home Western Connecticut State University where he is currently working as a lighting electrician on *Romeo and Juliet*. Brian would like to thank the cast and crew for creating this wonderful experience along with his loving family for their constant support and encouragement.

**Hilary Currie** (JENNIE MAE LAYMAN) Hilary is thrilled to be performing once again on the TBTA stage. This will be Hilary's third show at TBTA and she hopes there will be many more to come. Hilary is a home-schooled student finishing up her junior year of high school. Many thanks to Alicia, Diane, Ed, and Gary for this great experience. Hilary would also like to thank her family, Baylz, and Caitlin for always being there for her.

**Alicia P. Dempster** (DIRECTOR, GLADYS BENNETT) returns to the director's chair after ending a 10-year performance hiatus with TBTA's recent production of *Assassins*. A "jack-of-all-trades," Alicia's theatre career spans directing, choreography, design, stage management and performance, with a bit of backstage work thrown in for good measure. This marks Alicia's second time directing *The Diviners* and she's thrilled to be returning to the comfort of Zion and Jim Leonard's endearing characters with such a great cast and crew. Other directing credits include: *When Pigs Fly* (Triangle Community Center), *How I Learned to Drive* (TheatreWorks), *A Few Good Men* (Sherman Playhouse), *Life with Father* (Wilton Playshop) and *Pippin* (ONU). A lover of both stage and screen, Alicia has authored the feature film, *Harvest Home*, currently in development with Woolgathering Films LLC. She would like to thank the wonderful people at TBTA for this opportunity and her favorite cast of characters, Billy, Sabine, Isabelle and Delaney, for their continued love, patience and support.

**Pat Denson** (GOLDIE SHORT) Pat is thrilled to be making her acting debut on the TBTA stage. A well known singer, Pat began her singing career with her church choir, and has performed with a variety of bands and clubs around the state, and is a vocalist with the Roadhouse Cat Blues Band. She is often invited to sing for private parties and weddings, and was requested to perform at a large concert in Southport, CT. Pat also sang the National Anthem at the Sikorsky Aircraft televised event for the former president of the company, J. Buckley's retirement which included

## Biographies, cont'd.

a crowd of 6000 viewers. Pat lives by her philosophy that kindness is its' own reward, and would like to dedicate her performance to her family, who have always been so supportive of all her endeavors.

**Kristianna George** (DARLENE HENSHAW) is a sophomore at Brookfield High. She's very excited about appearing in her first dramatic play here at TBTA. She's been in numerous musical productions in the local area. Some of her favorites include: *I Think I Can* (Betty) TBTA; *Bye Bye Birdie* (Ursula) TBTA; *Phantom* Richter; *Joseph* BHS. Kristianna performs with the Jazz for Juniors band as the lead vocalist in the greater Danbury area. She has also participated in various recitals throughout the years. She hopes that everyone enjoys the show! This has definitely been an inspiring experience and thanks everyone for the opportunity.

**Matt Heller** (MELVIN WILDER) is happy to be a part of his third production here at TBTA. He loves this theatre and plans on doing more here in the future. He thanks God for the passion to act and the opportunity to do so.

**Maureen Kelly** (NORMA HENSHAW) Maureen's life long avocation has been theatre and music. Locally, she has appeared as Martha in *Arsenic and Old Lace* in Brewster, NY and in *The Art of Dining* and *Laura* with the Newtown Players. This is Maureen's debut with TBTA and she thanks them for the opportunity.

**Diane Millar** (PRODUCER) is honored to be working with such a talented cast and crew! This is her fifth year as a member of the board of directors at TBTA, and her third production endeavor here with her husband, Gary. It has been wonderful to watch the efforts of this group take shape. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to bringing this amusing and poignant story to the community!

**Gary Millar** (FERRIS LAYMAN/PRODUCER) Gary is thrilled to be on TBTA's stage once again. He was last seen here in *Outward Bound*. He has also appeared here in *Man of LaMancha*, *The Food Chain*, *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and *Godspell*. Gary enjoys so much working with the folks here at The Brookfield Theater for the Arts. He is especially thrilled to be working under the direction of Alicia and would like to thank her for sharing her wonderful talents with us! Gary would also like to thank a very talented cast and crew...you guys are awesome! Special thanks go to his wife, Diane, for her support, encouragement, and love!