

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

April 2012

Dear TBTA Family,

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to the official start of our 2012 season. It is difficult to wrap my head around this being the “start” of our season when I have already experienced so many incredible nights of theatre here in 2012. We were honored to to have *Thou Shalt Not Dance* in our pre-season slot. Any of you that were here to share that incredible piece by Lynn McNeil know why we expect it to continue on for future audiences. That was followed by our first night of IMROV directed by Matt Austin. Don’t miss the next improv installment on June 2nd!

Most recently we were here for our annual Paddy Awards, an amazing night in celebration of EVERYONE that makes TBTA such a wonderful place to come together to share in community and the arts. I huge thank you goes out to our Paddy Players that created such a special event.

Congratulations also goes out to:

Andy Okell—2011 Volunteer of the Year

Carol Martino—winner of the 2011 President’s Award

Zach Jackson—2012 Scholarship Winner

Jenny Dear—2012 Scholarship Winner

We are all thrilled to have *Moonlight and Magnolias* in our first subscription season slot this year, not only because of the wonderful talent on stage but also because we have Tom Sheehan at the helm directing this production.

Please continue to spread the word as we strive to share the gift of our little theatre with an ever growing community. While monetary support is always welcomed, sharing our productions with your friends and family is the best donation we can receive.

We look forward to seeing you back here for:

HAIR—July 6th-28th

Into the Woods—Sept. 21st-Oct. 13th and

Dead Man’s Cell Phone—Nov. 16th-Dec. 1st

Enjoy the show!

Peace,

Michael Burnett

President

TBTA is a 501c non-profit organization dedicated to producing plays of the highest possible standards, offering instructional opportunities, and providing facilities for creative and cultural arts for our community.

Be A 2012 Season Supporter

Front Row Center \$2,500+

- a full page ad in all playbills
- TBTA Membership
- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo on our web site
- recognition on all posters and flyers
- recognition in all theatre advertising

Orchestra \$1,000-\$2,499

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- name recognition in all playbills
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- name recognition in all playbills
- TBTA Membership

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- name recognition in all playbills

Show Sponsor: Sponsor an individual show or special event for \$2,000

- full page ad in the playbill, "Show Sponsor" noted
- recognition, including your logo, in show playbills and web site
- recognition on posters and flyers
- recognition in all show advertising

TBTA Scholarship Fund

We are proud to award a scholarship annually to a graduating high school senior that has been part of the TBTA community.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

Sammy Panzarino 2010 • Billy Shields 2007 • Travis Moore 2006

Rob Sniffin 2005 • Andrew Wheelock 2004

If you would like to be part of this giving tradition, please specify "TBTA Scholarship Fun" on your check.

Please mail your tax deductible donation to:

**TBTA, P.O. Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-0023 • tbta@brookfieldtheatre.org**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

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Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor.

Moonlight & Magnolias

by **Ron Hutchinson**

directed by **Tom Sheehan**

Produced by **Andrew Okell & Joy Tagliavento**

CAST

David O. Selznick Tim Phillips
Ben Hecht Matt Austin
Victor Fleming Steve Yudelson
Miss Poppenguhl Paulette Layton
Voice Over Artists. Tom Sheehan, Bob Lane

Setting

Moonlight & Magnolias takes place over 5 days in 1939 in the office of David O. Selznick, Hollywood, California.

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, the taking of photos of any kind is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off **ALL** phones, pagers, computer games and other electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons who are unwilling to turn off electronic devices are welcome to leave the theatre and return to the box office for a refund.**

TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Michael Burnett, *President & Artistic Director* Meg Jones, *Vice-President*
 Jean Jackson, *Secretary* Carol Hoose, *Treasurer*

TBTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Brian Casella (*Technical Director*), Kristin Hoose, Sara Mariano, Gary Millar,
 Caitlin Nolan, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Joy Tagliavento, Kira E Wallace
 Zach Jackson, *Junior Board Member*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In recent rehearsals our actors have discussed, "So what is 'Moonlight and Magnolias' anyway? What does it mean?" As it happens, "Moonlight and Magnolia" is a phrase that refers to the romanticized ideal of the pre-Civil War South. Originally alluding to soft lighting and flower scents, the phrase now is used in a more ironic tone "in reference to a previous way of looking at life that is now considered unrealistic and sentimentally false."

"You can drop the 'Moonlight and Magnolia' Scarlett! So, things have been going well at Tara, have they?" —Rhett Butler

1939. Producer David O Selznick had earlier obtained the rights to a blockbuster book . . . one of the biggest of all time . . . and was trying to bring it to life as a motion picture. He was a relatively young producer for his day, but managed by talent and marriage to find himself as one of the more prominent of his kind. And he knew his role—it was his book, his studio and it was to be his movie.

But, there was a bit of a problem. The screenplay was awful, he was dissatisfied with his director and frustrated by his situation. So three weeks into filming he shut down production, fired his director, grabbed a new director off another set (it was just a little movie anyway), hauled in a screenwriter with the reputation of being "the Shakespeare of Hollywood" and set about to right the ship. The clock was ticking so the goal became "five days, one screenplay". He could do that, because he was . . . the boss!

Interesting times they were. The time of the absolute dictator producer was waning. New winds would begin to blow in Hollywood bringing with them new illusions. New winds were blowing in Europe as well—winds that were to forever change the world—and the lives of millions of Jews.

A new movie was to be launched, telling the story of very similar winds that swept away the "Ideal world" of the old south.

Playwright Ron Hutchinson based his story on true events. *Moonlight and Magnolias* is both funny and thought provoking. Bringing this wonderful work to life has been a true joy. Contemplate the parallels between the south of 1861, the illusions of Hollywood and the world in 1939, the challenges, the struggles and the perseverance it took to meet those challenges and come out alright.

Quite a story. One that continues to be relevant today.

We hope you enjoy our telling of *Moonlight and Magnolias*.

—Tom Sheehan

TBTA Membership

Membership is still only \$20.00. Benefits include: recognition in all programs and on our web site, 10% discount on opening night tickets, invitation to opening night parties and Members Only events, early seating at performances, and inclusion on our mailing list. Join us today?

TBTA Members 2012

Don Bergeron, Rosemary Bergeron, Michael Burnett, Mark Campbell, Brian Casella, Gail Cowser, Jeannie Hatcherson, Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose, Steve Hoose, Jean Jackson, Zach Jackson, Margaret Teed Jones, Donald Lombardo, Karlene Lombardo, Judy Mangin, Sara Mariano, Brenda Meola, Lou Meola, Gary Millar, Caitlin Nolan, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Adele Skarzenski, Richard Skarzenski, Joy Tagliavento, Kira E. Wallace, Steve Wright, David Yerkes

TBTA Lifetime Members

Bart Geissinger, Gloria Laposka, Barbara Locke, Wendell MacNeal, Imelda O'Gara Roth, Bill Possidento, Larry Stewart, David Tuttle

Season Subscribers

Subscribe now and get one ticket to each regular season show (Moonlight & Magnolias, HAIR, Into The Woods, and Dead Man's Cell Phone) for only \$60.00 (an \$80 value).

Thank you to our 2012 Season Subscribers

Susan Amlung, Don & Rosemary Bergeron, Jim & Margie Blansfield, Rebecca Brown, Maureen & Mike Burnett, Joan Bybee, Anna & Roy Chan, John & Vivien Cheeseman, George Couturier, Marlene Couturier, Annette & Brent Crozier, Deborah Forte, Janine & Jonathan Gibney, Jeannie Hatcherson, Steve Hoose, Denis & Judith Larkin, Donald & Karlene Lombardo, Judy Mangan, Marilyn Matern, Mary Matern, Sue McLean, Kevin & Margaret McLoone, Brenda & Lou Meola, Kevin & Pat Morgan, Sue Murray, Donald & Stephanie Naiman, Michael & Susan O'Brien, David Popper, Margaret Reynolds, Kathy Schilling, Connie Schoonmaker, Marianne Seeber, Jennifer Sheaffer, Bill & Georgeann Shields, Adele & Richard Skarzenski, Barbara Smith, Joseph & Polly Sorrentino, Jeannie & Bob Sweeney, Jim & Marie Sweeney, Diane & Richard Toth, Cliff & Marie Walker, Dale & Carol Walker, Fred & Joan Weisman, Lucille Wilk, John Wilk, Steve Wright, David Yerkes, Mark Zerbe

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.

Moonlight & Magnolias

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR	Tom Sheehan
PRODUCERS	Andrew Okell, Joy Tagliavento
SOUND & LIGHTING DESIGN	Brian Casella
SET DESIGN	Andrew Okell
STAGE MANAGER / PROPERTIES	Carol Martino
SET CONSTRUCTION	Bob Lane, Donald Lombardo, Andrew Okell, Emma Okell
SET PAINTING	Andrew Okell, Emma Okell, Lou Okell, Tom Sheehan
COSTUMER	Carolyn Onorato
SOUND EXECUTION	Dan Spring
LIGHTING EXECUTION	Emma Nissenbaum
BOX OFFICE	Carol Hoose
SRO/CONCESSIONS	Jean Jackson
OPENING NIGHT PARTY	Kristin Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS

Arketype Graphics & Printing
Brookfield High School Theatre Department
Mary & Steve Chiappalone • Crown Trophy
Savings Bank of Danbury • Warner Theatre • Frank Wargo

IN OUR LOBBY

Janet Iffland is known for her rural landscape paintings in oil and acrylic. She is drawn to the New England landscape and is fortunate to be surrounded by the pastures, farms, streams and valleys that all are part of her paintings. In her paintings, she hopes to bring to you the shadow and light of color reflected in nature. More information is available at www.janetifflandart.com.

BIOGRAPHIES



Matt Austin (BEN HECHT) is thrilled, excited, overjoyed and ecstatic about buying a new thesaurus. He is fresh off the Toronto run of his one man show *Knott the Time: a Tribute to Don Knotts*. Past fictional theatre credits include Biff in *Death of Salesman on Ice*; Candle in *Bell, Book and Candle* and Mrs. Garret in the Burt Reynolds' Dinner Theater stage adaptation of *The Facts of Life*. He earned a Cable Ace Award for his work on Lifetime's *Supermarket Sweep* and is a regular contributor to *Knitting Today* magazine.



Paulette Layton (MISS POPPENGUHL)—TBTA debut. Paulette is very grateful to Tom, an incredibly talented and generous director, for asking her to join this hilarious cast. She is most often found treading the boards at the Ridgefield Theater Barn where she was last seen in *Piano Bar* in March, a cabaret event which she also produced. A graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, her favorite past roles include Mary in *Memory of Water* (RTB), Bunny in *House of Blue Leaves* (RTB), Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa* (AADA), and Dominique DuMonaco in *Lucky Stiff* (RTB). She'd like to thank the guys for sharing their talent and cracking her up at every rehearsal, and the crew for always being there with whatever was needed—always with a smile (and sometimes wine!). As always, she'd like to thank her stellar friends and family for being, well...stellar.



Tim Phillips (DAVID O. SELZNICK)—TBTA debut. Tim is a 13-year veteran of the community theatre circuit in Connecticut, having performed in over a dozen different venues. Favorite roles include Dr. Franklin in *1776* at Thomaston Opera House (with Tom Sheehan), Cogsworth in *Beauty & The Beast* (TOH), Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown* (Goshen Players), Harold in *The Full Monty* (Montage Players), Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey* (The Rep, New Britain), and Fr. Farley in *Mass Appeal* (TOH). Tim lives in Naugatuck with his wife and soul mate, Laurie, and their three cats. A huge thank you to the good folks at TBTA, especially my stage-mates Matt, Steve & Paulette, also Joy, Carolyn, Carol & Andy, and especially my dear friend, Tom, for dropping me that email! It's been a blast! As God is my witness, I will never eat another banana again!



Steve Yudelson (VICTOR FLEMING) finds it hard to believe it's been six years since he performed at TBTA, having last appeared as Harry McAphee in *Bye Bye Birdie* (2006). Among more recent other roles include Sir Dinadan in *Camelot* (2009), Ernst Ludwig in *Cabaret* (2008) both at Ridgefield Theater Barn, Gaston in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (2011) at Newtown Town Players, and Harry Da Horse in *Guys and Dolls* (2012) at Center Stage Shelton. Steve is the owner of Bentley Cleaners in Newtown. And he wishes to state once and for all he is not related to Mitt Romney.

BIOGRAPHIES

Brian Casella (LIGHTING & SOUND DESIGN) has been the Technical Director at TBTA for the past 8 years. He is a freelance lighting designer and has designed theatrical performances and concerts in Connecticut and New York. In 2010 he was stage manager for *A Matter of Choice*, part of the Fringe Festival in New York City. He was an intern at *Live Design* in New York City, working at LDI 2010 in Las Vegas and the Broadway Master Classes of 2011 in New York City. He was a technician for Production Core for *School of Lies*, an off-Broadway production. In his spare time Brian also runs a mobile DJ and lighting specialty company named Vivid Events (www.yourvividevent.com). His lighting design credits are numerous, including many shows at TBTA and at other area theaters.

Carol Martino (STAGE MANAGER) is excited to return to TBTA as Stage Manager for *Moonlight & Magnolias*. Previous shows include *Cabaret*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Once on This Island*, *Wait Until Dark* and *The Book of Liz*. She also assisted with props for *Dog Sees God*, and backstage work for *Joseph...* She was given the 2011 President's Award for her many contributions to TBTA behind the scenes. Carol is so grateful for TBTA, and for all of the amazing people it has brought into her life. A very special thanks to her husband for all of his patience during rehearsals. To the cast, crew, Tom, Joy and Andy—you are inspiring! Enjoy!!

Bob Lane (VOICE OVER) is thrilled to be performing at TBTA where he was named 2010 Volunteer of the Year for the many hours he contributes behind the scenes. Bob is a sales manager by day but his true passion is baking cookies with the help of his wonderful nieces and nephews.

Andrew Okell (PRODUCER) thanks the very talented and dedicated cast and crew of *Moonlight & Magnolias*. Andy is a member of the Board and TBTA's 2011 Volunteer of the Year. Previous credits include producing *The Book of Liz* and set construction on most TBTA shows for the past 2½ years. In his spare time, he builds sets at HVRHS where his brilliant daughter will be graduating this June with the distinct honor of being both this year's Homecoming Queen and Valedictorian. Andy thanks his production teammate Joy, his set building teammates Bob & Don and his lifelong teammate Lou. Thanks also to Tom, the cast & crew.

Carolyn Onorato (COSTUMER) is very excited to be the lead costumer for her first show at TBTA. She has costumed shows for other local CT community theatres for the past several years now. Some of her favorites shows are *Anything Goes*, *Our Town* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Carolyn would like to thank Meg, Joy, Tom, and Andy for the opportunity to be part of this terrific show! Also she wants to send her love to her husband Bob and sons Kyle and Rob who made it possible through the years for her to be part of the magical and wonderful world of community theatre!

Tom Sheehan (DIRECTOR) is very happy to be returning to TBTA in his official directorial debut. His most recent appearance here was in the role of Herr Schultz in *Cabaret*. Other TBTA credits include a special production of *Love Letters* which he also directed, *Master Class* and *Man of La Mancha*. Favorite musical theater roles include Caldwell B. Cladwell in *Urinetown*, Frank Butler in *Annie Get your Gun*, and Billy Flynn in *Chicago*. Additionally, Tom has performed as Fred Graham/Petruchio in *Kiss Me Kate*, Jigger Craigin in *Carousel*, Sir Danvers in *Jekyll & Hyde*, Jud Fry in *Oklahoma* and Edward Rutledge in *1776*. Tom also delivered a memorable performance in a non-musical role as Uncle Peck in *How I learned to Drive*. Many thanks to Joy,

BIOGRAPHIES

Andy, Carol, Brian and his crew, Carolyn, "Bob the Builder", Michael and everyone at TBTA who have made this a very special experience. Thanks also to this amazing cast. Your talent, creativity, intelligence and sense of humor have brought this wonderful story to life far beyond my dreams. Thanks as well to my friends and especially my family, children and grandchildren. My deepest gratitude to my wife, Lynn, without whose support none of this would be possible. "Tha goal agam ort"

Joy Tagliavento (PRODUCER) is so happy to be working with the wonderfully talented & creative Tom during his directorial debut! Joy is a Board member and finds this theatre the absolute best place to be. Her theatre experience began in college where she had the incredible opportunity of working with the National Theatre of the Deaf and at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. Since then, she has performed in, co-directed, produced and stage managed many, many shows, including several at TBTA, and has worked professionally for the Chamber Opera Theatre of New York, the Actors Repertory Company of CT and the Candlewood Playhouse in New Fairfield. When she isn't at her job or at the theatre, you can find her tending to sick or orphaned animals in her capacity as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. All her thanks and love go to EVERYONE involved in this production including the amazing Tim, Matt, Steve and Paulette—and most especially to Andy, her producing partner in crime, and to Carol, our backstage backbone! This journey back to Tara has been wonderful.

Thank you to our TBTA 2012 Season Supporters

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Howard & Catherine Lasser

Fred & Joan Weisman

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Emilie & Tom Connor

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We apologize for any errors or omissions. The list is complete as of printer's deadline.