



**The Brookfield Theatre
for the Arts**

proudly presents

**GOLDEN
CABARET**

**celebrating our
50th year of
Musical Theatre**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Joanne F. Archibald

PERFORMED BY

**Matt Berry Susan Chapin
Catherine J. Crocetto Richard Damaso
Bart Geissinger Zachary Jackson
Bill McGee Lori Mele Sara Vokes**

PERFORMANCE DATES: **Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 7, 8**

Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

All performances at the Playhouse, Rte. 25 behind the Brookfield Library.

ALL SEATS General Admission **\$20⁰⁰**

RESERVATIONS: **203-775-0023**

Please visit our website: www.brookfieldplayhouse.org

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

From Our President

December 2007

Dear Patron of the Arts,

What a delightful way to conclude our 50th season at TBTA, with a cabaret celebrating music from shows performed over the years in this very theatre—kudos to Bart, Lori, Stephanie, Joanne, and the cast for creating such a magical and memorable experience.

The theatre will be dark until we open the “Odd Couple” in early 2008. However this does not mean we close up shop! This beautiful and historic building still requires care and attention, not to mention heat during the long months of winter. Though we have no performances, we are busy as ever. There is much to do in preparation for 2008 and many important decisions still to make. This is where you can help!

By becoming a member, subscriber (or both), you give us the community support needed to make serious financial decisions. It is one of the best things you can do for your community theatre. This commitment says you believe in our mission.

Without this support it is increasingly difficult to produce quality performances. The hard facts are that things simply cost more money. Heating, production costs, and the general bottom-line expenses are not covered by ticket sales alone. To continue for another 50 years, TBTA will be counting on each and every one of you to contribute not only your time and talent, but also, your treasure. Yes folks that means your checkbook. Please give generously, and when you are completing that form of membership or writing that donation check, think very hard about what TBTA has given to you, your children, possibly your parents, and to the community at large for the past 50 years! It may also help to know that by giving you ensure we remain. Yes simply said, “That we will remain.”

In a time when the world is seemingly at war and the focus of youth shifts from art to digitized mediums, we need your financial support more than ever. The arts help shape a peaceful and tolerant world, give solace to difficult times, and provide respite from the digital age of electronics. TBTA must remain.

To remain we must look to change. If you recall not too long ago we were called The Country Players of Brookfield until we realized we were more than just performance theatre but a venue that celebrated all art forms, thus the name change. As a community we must recognize change as a positive step forward. TBTA will change and we will do so without compromising our mission or the integrity of our work. Your support, paired with the board’s dedication, will guarantee that TBTA will remain, and remain, and remain.

Fondly and respectfully,

David J. Tuttle
TBTA President

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

From The Artistic Director

July 2007

Dear Friends of the Theatre,

It is a pleasure to address you as Artistic Director in this our golden anniversary season. For fifty 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 that 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

GOLDEN CABARET

celebrating our 50th year of Musical Theatre

Performed By

Matt Berry, Susan Chapin,
Catherine J. Crocetto, Richard Damaso,
Bart Geissinger, Zachary Jackson,
Bill McGee, Lori Mele,
Sara Vokes, James Walker

Production Staff

Directors. Bart Geissinger, Lori Mele
Producer. Stephanie Skrok
Musical Director. Joanne F. Archibald
Technical Director. Brian Cassella
Stage Manager Sammy Panzarino
Percussion James Walker
Opening Night Party. The Dempster Family

Special Thanks

to the Jackson Family
for their assistance with the production.

Musical Numbers

ACT I

SONG	SHOW	SINGERS
Try To Remember	<i>The Fantasticks</i>	Bill
Somethin's Comin'	<i>West Side Story</i>	Rich
So In Love	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>	Sara
Stepsisters' Lament	<i>Cinderella</i>	Cat, Susan
Shy	<i>Once Upon A Mattress</i>	Lori
Alone in the Universe	<i>Seussical</i>	Matt, Zach
Fanette	<i>Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris</i>	Bart
Maybe This Time	<i>Cabaret</i>	Cat
Oh What a Beautiful Morning	<i>Oklahoma</i>	Rich
Bosom Buddies	<i>Mame</i>	Sara, Susan
The Impossible Dream	<i>Man of La Mancha</i>	Bart
Don't Tell Mama	<i>Cabaret</i>	Lori
Fugue for Tinhorns	<i>Guys & Dolls</i>	Bill, Bart, Rich
Where Is Love?	<i>Oliver</i>	Zach
You'll Never Walk Alone	<i>Carousel</i>	Sara
We Kiss in a Shadow	<i>The King and I</i>	Rich
Grand Night Medley	<i>It's A Grand Night For Singing</i>	Bart, Lori, Rich, Sara and Company

ACT II

The New World	<i>Songs for a New World</i>	Bart, Cat, Lori, Rich
Bewitched, Bothered & Bewildered	<i>Pal Joey</i>	Susan
Anything You Can Do	<i>Annie Get Your Gun</i>	Cat, Matt
How are Things in Glocca Mora?	<i>Finian's Rainbow</i>	Lori
All for the Best	<i>Godspell</i>	Bart, Rich
The Colors of My Life	<i>Barnum</i>	Bill
Losing My Mind	<i>Side By Side by Sondheim</i>	Cat
Before the Parade Passes By	<i>Hello Dolly</i>	Susan
On the Street Where You Live	<i>My Fair Lady</i>	Matt
Surabaya Santa	<i>Songs for a New World</i>	Lori
Corner of the Sky	<i>Pippin</i>	Rich
Mira	<i>Carnival</i>	Sara
I Remember	<i>Side By Side by Sondheim</i>	Bart
Some People	<i>Gypsy</i>	Cat
Getting Married Today	<i>Company</i>	Bart, Lori, Sara
Happiness	<i>You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown</i>	Zach
Being Alive	<i>Putting it Together</i>	Bart, Lori, Cat, Rich, Sara

Biographies

Joanne F. Archibald has been involved with TBTA since the late '70's. Her first stint at the theater was as piano accompanist for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* under the musical direction of Nancy (Beazley) Bowers. Joanne fondly remembers working with Larry Stewart, Barbara Locke, Bill Possidento, Imelda Roth and Nancy during those years. After receiving a B.S. in Music Education from WCSU in 1977, Joanne continued to play piano for many musicals, taught piano, organ, guitar, flute and keyboard, and accompanied choruses at area high schools. She was also the organist at the Danbury United Methodist Church and the New Fairfield UMC during this time period. Joanne took some time off when her son Daniel was born in 1987 and her daughter Heather, in 1990. Returning to the theater in the late '90's, Joanne continued to enjoy meeting new people. Working with Bart, Bill, Marla, Eric and Wendell as directors gave Joanne new insight into theater production. After the 2002 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Joanne once again took some time off but returned in the fall of 2006 as Music Director for *Assassins*. Since then she has Music Directed for *Carnival* and *Seussical* under the direction of Maureen Trotto and Michael Burnett respectively. Joanne would like to thank John Pokorny, drummer/percussionist, Mark Campbell, bassist and Susan McKenzie, keyboardist for their musical additions to many shows in the past. Joanne continues to teach piano, organ and keyboard privately, work as Director of Music/Organist at St. James' Episcopal Church in Danbury and as piano accompanist/music director throughout CT and NY. She would like to thank all those with whom she has worked throughout the years for their encouragement and friendship.

Matt Berry is thrilled to be making his debut at the Brookfield Theatre for the Arts. He has studied voice at NVCC, and is now studying voice at Western Connecticut State University. His favorite previous roles include: Judas in "*Godspell*", Bill Sykes in "*Oliver*", Roger in "*Grease*", Papegeno in "*The Magic Flute*", and Grinder in "*The Zoo*". In his spare time he enjoys rock climbing and skiing.

Susan Chapin is a software engineer at Pitney Bowes in Danbury. She lives in Sandy Hook with her three sons and her partner Paul. Favorite roles include Rosie in "*Bye-Bye Birdie*", Rizzo in "*Grease*", Dorothy Brock in "*42nd Street*", and Rachel in "*Two By Two*". Susan's first experience performing at the Brookfield Theatre was back in the early 1980's in the show "*Carousel*". Susan is dedicating this evening's performance to her father Norman Terry who has graced the stage at the Brookfield Theatre many times over the past 50 years.

Catherine J. Crocetto is very excited to be working with such a talented and fun cast. She recently moved here from Michigan where she was a musical theatre and dance major at Western Michigan University. Catherine was recently seen on the Warner Theatre stage as a dancer in "*Chicago*". She has been in over 20 shows, including Mama Noah in "*Children of Eden*", Madame Thernardier in "*Les Miserables*", and Roberta in the one act "*Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*". Catherine would like to thank her family, her sisters, and everyone who supports the arts... thank you for letting me do what I love! A&J, you're my heroes...love you!

Biographies, cont'd.

Richard Damaso Recent roles here in Connecticut and New York have included Ali Hakim in “*Oklahoma!*” (Thomaston Opera House), “*Songs for a New World*” (Brookfield Theater for the Arts), Spider in “*Jekyll and Hyde*” (Thomaston Opera House), the Engineer understudy and Thuy in “*Miss Saigon*” (Middletown Paramount Theater), Officer Barrel in “*Urinetown*” (Theatreworks), the Balladeer and Lee Harvey Oswald in “*Assassins*” (Brookfield Theater for the Arts), Nicely-Nicely Johnson in “*Guys and Dolls*” (Warner Theater), Rodrigue in “*Take Me Out*” (Capital Repertory Theater—professional debut), and Berger in “*Hair*” (Warner Theater). He is a proud member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology class of 1995 where he earned bachelors degrees in both mechanical engineering and music.

Bart Geissinger is excited to be celebrating TBTA’s 50th anniversary with this Golden Cabaret. Thanks to Lori, Skrok and Joanne for working with him to create this celebration. Bart has been involved in every aspect of theatre, and has been performing since the age of nine, with more than 50 shows to his credit. His TBTA presidency saw the name change from Country Players to The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, and the renovation of the theatre, addition of the new annex, office and the stage right wings. “When I announced our Capital Campaign in 2000, people thought I was nuts. My anniversary wish for TBTA is that those who steward this space will believe in dreams, follow the mission—no matter how hard it seems at times, and remain an inclusive, integral part of the artistic community. One more thing: Dylan, daddy loves you to the moon and back!”

Zachary Jackson resides in Danbury with his Mom, Dad, and sister Courtney. He attends Rogers Park Middle School, and looks forward to attending Danbury High School next year where he hopes to participate in theatre and musical activities. His previous credits include *Seussical* as Jojo at Danbury High School in 2005, and here at TBTA this past summer. Zachary also appeared as Little Guido in “*Nine*” at WCSU, as Winthrop in Danbury High’s performance of “*The Music Man*,” and Musicals at Richter’s “*King and I*”. Zachary wishes to recognize all of his teachers, coaches, previous cast-mates, friends, and family members for their continuous love and support.

Bill McGee first performed in the TBTA production of “*The Owl and the Pussycat*” in 1974. He has appeared in Playhouse productions of “*Company*”, “*South Pacific*”, “*How to Succeed*”, “*Side By Side By Sondheim*” and “*Miracle Worker*” under the direction of Larry Stewart & Barbara Locke. His other theater credits include “*1776*” and “*Stalag 17*”. He has lived in Brookfield for 30 years with the “*Color of his life*”, his wife Maryanne.

Lori Mele Previous credits at TBTA include: *Seussical* (Mrs. Mayor), *Carnival* (Rosalie), *Assassins* (Sarah Jane Moore), *Master Class* (Sharon Graham) and *Bye-Bye Birdie*. Lori is a Spanish teacher at Westover School in Middlebury, CT and is very grateful to her students and colleagues for their support of her theatrical pursuits. She would also like to thank her parents and brother for their encouragement and involvement with this part of her life.

Biographies, cont'd.

Stephanie Skrok (Producer) has enjoyed her behind the scenes work at TBTA. Past productions include *Assassins* (stage manager), *Carnival* (stage manager, producer), and *Seussical* (producer). She sends the cast and theater best wishes in this 50th season!

Sara Vokes has performed leading roles with numerous opera companies and has won several vocal competitions throughout the United States. Although she no longer sings opera as a career, she continues to keep busy as a soloist, clinician and teacher. She and her husband, James Walker, percussionist, perform as The Vokes-Walker Duo. Their concert repertoire ranges from transcriptions of Baroque and Classical pieces, to classic American song. They recently premiered a new piece for voice and marimba, composed especially for the Duo by composer Charles Bubeck. A member of the First Congregational Church of New Milford, Sara serves as soloist for special services, and is director of and performer with “a cappella” quartet. Sara is on the faculty of The Music Learning Center in Danbury and has been teaching for over 17 years.

James Walker has been working as a professional musician for over twenty years, with a diverse background including jazz vibraphone, Caribbean steel pan music, drum set, and symphonic performances. James also collaborates with Sara Vokes, performing classical and jazz pieces as a member of the Vokes-Walker Duo (voice and percussion). He currently freelances throughout Southern New England, and performs with several regional symphony orchestras. Also active as an educator, James has taught percussion at Ithaca College and Northern Illinois University, and currently maintains a busy schedule as a clinician and private instructor.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

DIRECTORS:

Kristin Hoose, Diane Millar,
Gary Millar, Stephanie Skrok

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.

TBTA Members 2007

Joanne F Archibald, Jay Austin, Matt Austin, Mark Campbell,
Brian Casella, Susan L Chapin, Paul Mayer, Hilary Currie,
Richard Damaso, Tammey Dickerson, Richard B Fisher DDS,
Denise Fitzsimmons, Susan Gabriele, Emily Gallagher,
Bart Geissinger, Elena C Goletz, Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose,
Steve Hoose, Jean & Victor Jackson, Jimmy Johnson,
Mary Jonker, Caitlin Keeler, Matthew Kelly, Jackie Kettunen,
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Kerry Manion, Florence Mahoney, William Martin, Judy Martinez,
Lori Mele, Diane Millar, Gary Millar, James & Christine Mitchell,
Barbara Moissonnier, Emma Okell, Ed O'Lena, Joni Park,
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Lynn Sheehan, Thomas Sheehan, Billy Shields,
Georgeann Shields, William Shields, Stephanie Skrok,
Robert Sniffin, Marie Solazzo, Gary Spring, Stephanie Trolle,
David Tuttle, Alexis M Vournazos, David Walker-Price,
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TBTA Lifetime Members

Gloria Laposka, Barbara Locke,
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A Brief History of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

The building that houses The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts was originally a gymnasium for The Curtis School for Boys.

First established in 1875 in Bethlehem, Connecticut by Frederick S. Curtis, the school was moved to Long Meadow Hill in 1883 and then to the present site that was the former Goodsell Estate in 1886.

In 1906 the price for one school year was six hundred dollars. This included "tuition, board, a seat in church, lighting and worming, the care and mending of clothing, and the use of school books."

In the 1920s, girls were allowed to enroll as day students.

This is the second gymnasium for the Curtis School. The first was destroyed by fire in 1906. The present stone building was built in 1907.

The Curtis School closed its doors in 1943.

The gymnasium was purchased by the Brookfield Country Players in 1959 and, since then, has been used as a theatre/playhouse for year-round plays and musicals.

ANNOUNCING OUR 2008 SEASON:

BUY A SUBSCRIPTION NOW & SAVE!

Please visit the box office for more information.

The Odd Couple

April 25–May 10

Peter Pan

July 4–19

Spoon River Anthologies

September 5–20

The World Goes 'Round

An evening of Kander and Ebb

November 7–22

*Also in 2008, watch for our Children's Musical Theatre Workshop
Dates to be announced.*

Please Note: All schedule information is subject to change.

TBTA 2007 Golden Anniversary Donors

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Howard & Catherine Lasser

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Bart Geissinger & David J. Tuttle

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**Yes! I want to be a vital part of the next 50 years
of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts!**

**TBTA 50th Anniversary!
2008 Season Supporters**

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The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

P.O. Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804

(203) 775-0023

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***Have you remembered the
The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.
in your estate planning?***

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please provide us with a phone number and best time to reach you. Also tell us what you would be interested in doing.
