

TBTA

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

proudly presents a Special Event:



*Tea At
Five*

By Matthew Lombardo
Directed by Jane Farnol
Produced by Alicia Dempster

***a one woman show
featuring Noël Desiato***

All proceeds from this production will fund our much needed lighting & sound upgrade. *This upgrade will not only improve the quality of lighting and sound but will also be more energy efficient. Thank you for supporting this much needed capital improvement.*

performance dates

fri. & sat. at 8 p.m.

March 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21

sunday matinee at 2 p.m. **March 15**

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Curtain time 8:00 p.m. Matinee at 2:00 p.m. Doors open 1 hour before curtain.

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

RESERVATIONS: **203-775-0023**

www.BrookfieldTheatre.org

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

March 2009

Greetings and welcome to **The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts!** We are very pleased to re-open the playhouse this year with this very special presentation of **Tea At Five** with Noel Desiato. This production was originally produced by Theatreworks New Milford in January 2008 and has played to rave reviews throughout Litchfield County.

The proceeds from this event will go toward funding our much needed lighting and sound upgrade. These improvements will not only improve our quality but will also make us more energy efficient.

The arts are invaluable, important part of every community. TBTA is committed to continue to bring quality programming and arts education to our community at affordable prices. This would not be possible without the generosity and commitment of our members, subscribers, and donors. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all those whose lives have been enriched and enhanced by their involvement at TBTA, we ask for your support.

We are excited about our 2009 season which begins May 1st with **Harvey** directed by Gene Golaszewski. Now is the time to subscribe to our upcoming season to support our theatre and save on season tickets too! Visit our newly updated web site for more information or see our season brochure in the lobby.

We thank you for your support and wish you a wonderful evening of theatre! Our upcoming season promises to be entertaining and enriching whether you are in the audience, on stage, or behind the scenes. Won't you join us?

All the best,

Stephanie Skrok
President, TBTA

Alicia Dempster
Vice-President, TBTA

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.



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Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Cast

Katharine Hepburn Noël Desiato

Setting

Fenwick, Old Saybrook, Connecticut

Act I

September 21, 1938

Act II

February 14, 1983

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

This production was first produced at TheatreWorks New Milford in January 2008.

Production Staff

Co-Directors Jane Farnol, Joseph Russo
Producer Alicia Dempster
Stage Manager Laura Gilbert
Master Carpenter Bill Gilbert
Set Construction Jan Desiato, Laura Gilbert, Rob Kennedy
Set & Sound Design Joseph Russo
Set Dressing, Costume Design & Logo Art Bill Hughes
Hair & Makeup Design Joseph Russo
Photo Credits Rich Pettibone

Special Thanks

Arnold Daley, The Sherman Playhouse
and Noël's horse, Willie, for his understanding ear

Biographies

Noël Desiato (KATHARINE HEPBURN) is thrilled to make her debut at The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts and would like to give a special thank you to Alicia Dempster and the entire Board of the theatre for such a warm welcome. Noël has previously performed *Tea at Five* at The Sherman Playhouse, Tri-Arts and at TheatreWorks, where the production originated. Other credits include *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Medea*, *The Laramie Project*, *Holiday Memories*, *Love Letters*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Terra Nova* and *The Rainmaker* in Rock Island, IL. Film and television credits include a short called *Man's Best Friend* (HBO), *On Thin Ice* (which was shown at The Thaila Theatre in NYC), *Splatter University* (directed by Richard W. Haines), *Getting Personal* (opposite John Shea) and a mini-series for Chinese National Television entitled *Our Children Abroad*. Noël is a graduate of The Stella Adler Conservatory and was a member of Michael Moriarty's Potters Field Theatre Company in NYC.

"I personally would like to dedicate this production to all our friends who can't make it out here anymore. A huge thank you to my director Jane Farnol for her tremendous insight and generosity. Also thanks to Joseph Russo and Bill Hughes, whose contribution is invaluable, and to Laura and Bill for their continued support. And thank you to Matthew Lombardo, for without you this would not be possible. And finally to Katharine Hepburn—Thank you, Kate."

Jane Farnol (DIRECTOR) is delighted to return to The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts after having directed *The Importance of Being Earnest* here in 1996 and *Twelfth Night* in 1997. Jane, who currently resides in Kent, was born in England and trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Her New York acting credits include Brendan Behan's *The Hostage* at the Sheridan Square Playhouse, the chorus in *The Trojan Women* at Circle in the Square, and Ann in the Broadway production of *Hail Scrawdyke!* directed by Alan Arkin. At the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre in Connecticut, her roles ranged from Titania to Lady Macbeth. On television, Jane had recurring roles on *The Guiding Light* and *As The World Turns*. Jane's movie, *The Colonial Naturalist*, is shown as a permanent feature at Colonial Williamsburg. She was also Dave Garroway's assistant at WCBS Radio and the Executive Director of Lee Theodore's *American Dance Machine*. Regional directing credits: *An Ideal Husband*, *Arms and the Man*, *Stepping Out*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Lady's Not for Burning*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Hay Fever*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Gross Indecency*, *As You Like It*, *Holiday Memories*, *The Laramie Project*, *Medea*, *The Elephant Man*, *Ghost of a Chance*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *The Philadelphia Story* and *Pygmalion*.

Joseph Russo (CO-DIRECTOR) most recently appeared as Freddy Eynsford-Hill in *Pygmalion*. Last year, Joseph directed *Suddenly Last Summer* at TheatreWorks. He is very pleased to have the opportunity to work again with Jane Farnol, having co-directed *The Philadelphia Story* with her at TheatreWorks in 2007. Stage credits include Beethoven in TheatreWorks' production of *Dog Sees God*, Sir Peter Lelly in *Compleat Female Stage Beauty* and Bob Cratchit in *Ghost of a Chance*. Joseph is currently furthering his training in Theatre and English at Western Connecticut

Biographies, cont'd.

State University. A member of the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences since 2007 and a playwright, Joseph's award-winning works have been seen at The Hartford Stage Company and the HBO Studios in New York City. Special thanks to his parents, Barbara, Jane, Bill, Noël and Katharine.

Laura Gilbert (STAGE MANAGER) is delighted to be working on *Tea At Five* once more, having stage managed its previous incarnations at Tri-Arts and The Sherman Playhouse. In addition to *Tea At Five*, Laura has stage managed productions of *Pygmalion*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* for Jane. Most recently, Laura stage managed *A Little Night Music* at TheatreWorks.

Matthew Lombardo (PLAYWRIGHT) is the recipient of the IRNE Award for Best Solo Play for *Tea At Five*. The production premiered at Hartford Stage and moved to Off-Broadway at The Promenade Theatre. Mr. Lombardo's other Off-Broadway credits include directing the hit comedy *End of the World Party* at the 47th Street Theatre, *Mother and Child* at the McGinn/Cazale Theatre (with Tony Award winning actress Ann Wedgeworth) and *Guilty Innocence* with the Actor's Playhouse, serving the latter two productions as both playwright and director. Having written the television series *Another World*, Mr. Lombardo garnered a Writer's Guild Award nomination for Outstanding Achievement. His most recent collaboration with friend and mentor John Tillinger, a project about the life of Tallulah Bankhead entitled *Looped*, had its World Premiere at the Pasadena Playhouse featuring Valerie Harper. He dedicates *Tea At Five* to his mother, Julia, without whom there would be no words.

HEPBURN-ISMS:

- She was nominated for 12 Academy Awards in her lifetime and won four Best Actress Oscars, the greatest number in the Award's history.
- Despite her success at the Oscars, she never attended an Academy Awards ceremony as a nominee. Her only appearance was at the 1974 awards to present the Irving Thalberg Award to her friend Lawrence Weingarten. When she went onstage to a standing ovation, she said "I'm living proof that a person can wait forty-one years to be unselfish."
- She stole the script for *Morning Glory* off a producer's desk, convinced the role was written for her. She succeeded in convincing the producers as well and went on to win her first Oscar.
- A leading contender for Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind* (1939), she later served as Maid of Honor at the wedding of Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier.
- She was obsessed with having fresh flowers in every room.
- She took numerous showers every day which fueled the legend that she refused to rent a house before trying the shower.
- If she lost a button, she replaced it with a large safety-pin.

- She did all her own stunts because the stunt woman never stood up straight enough.
- She refused to sign photographs, but would reply to fan mail.
- Her customary after-dinner position was sprawled out on her stomach—“helps the digestion.”
- She began jogging at the age of 71 with Greta Garbo - then 73.

QUOTES FROM KATE THE GREAT:

[When asked what star quality is] “It’s either some kind of electricity or some kind of energy. I don’t know what it is, but whatever it is, I’ve got it.”

“I have loved and been in love. There is a big difference.”

“If you always do what interests you, at least one person is pleased.”

“If you want to give up the admiration of many men for the criticism of one, go ahead, get married.”

“Isn’t it fun getting older” is really a terrible fallacy. That’s like saying, “I prefer driving an old car with a flat tire.”

“Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything.”

“People have grown fond of me, like some old building.”

“Sometimes I wonder if men and women really suit each other. Perhaps they should live next door and just visit now and then.”

“To keep your character intact you cannot stoop to filthy acts. It makes it easier to stoop the next time.”

“We are taught you must blame your father, your sisters, your brothers, the school, the teachers - but never blame yourself. It’s never your fault. But it’s always your fault, because if you wanted to change you’re the one who has got to change.”

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:

Billy Shields 2007

Travis Moore 2006

Rob Sniffin 2005

Andrew Wheelock 2004

If you would like to be part of this giving tradition, please send your donation to **TBTA—Scholarship Fund**, P.O. Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804.

TBTA Membership

TBTA Membership is still only \$20.00 and is a great way to show your support of our theatre. 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, preferred seating at performances, ability to vote for our annual Paddy Awards and inclusion on our mailing list. *Why not join us today?*

TBTA Members 2009

Michael Burnett, Alicia Dempster, Billy Dempster,
Courtney Jackson, Jean Jackson, Vic Jackson,
Zach Jackson, Meg Jones, Larry Kinnear,
Suzanne Kinnear, Andy Okell, Emma Okell, Lou Okell,
Stephanie Skrok, Steve A. Wright (2)

TBTA Lifetime Members

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

Season Subscribers

Thank you to our 2009 Season Subscribers

Cliff & Marie Walker, Mr. & Mrs. James Sweeney,
Judith Mangan, Jennifer Sheaffer, Steve A. Wright (2),
Calvin & Susan York, The Dempster Family,
Marilyn A. Matern (2)

Now Showing In Our Lobby

Meg Jones, featured artist, began painting eight years ago after taking an adult education class. She studied twice a year with Ann DeLorian von Hoorn. Meg's choice of subject matter comes from her love of nature and the ocean. She often paints scenes from Maine, Martha's Vineyard and Candlewood Lake. She aspires to some day write and illustrate a children's book.

TBTA 2009 Season Supporters

FRONT ROW CENTER \$2,500+

PLATINUM \$500-\$999

GOLD \$250-\$499

SILVER \$50-\$249

Suzanne & Larry Kinnear

BRONZE up to 49

Davis & Hoyt Hensal Realty

Marilyn A. Matern

Calvin & Susan York

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Stephanie Skrok, *President* Alicia Dempster, *Vice-President & Managing Director*
Diane Millar, *Secretary* Peter Mele, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Michael Burnett, Kristin Hoose, Jean Jackson,
Meg Jones, Gary Millar, Andrew Okell, Louisa Okell

Michael Burnett, *Artistic Director*

Brian Casella, *Technical Director*

Sammy Panzarino, *Junior Board Member*

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.

Yes! I want to help TBTA keep the Arts alive in Brookfield!

TBTA 2009 Season Supporters

- Front Row Center: \$2,500.00+
includes full page ad in all programs, company logo on all posters,
company logo on web site, recognition in all press releases
- Orchestra: \$1,000-\$2,499
includes full page ad in all programs & company logo on web site
- Platinum: \$500-\$999
includes recognition in all programs and your logo on our web site
- Gold: \$250-\$499
includes recognition in all programs and on our web site
- Silver: \$100-\$249
includes recognition in all programs
- Bronze: \$25-\$99
includes recognition in all programs

Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

P.O. Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804

(203) 775-0023 • tbta@brookfieldtheatre.org

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Want to be part of the FUN?

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. Or talk to a member of our Board and introduce yourself.

TBTA Young Performers Series—Spring 2009

Do you have a child who is a performer at heart? Are you interested in providing them with an introduction to the fundamentals of theatre in a professional and nurturing environment? The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts is excited to once again offer our Young Performers Series for school-aged actors and actresses between the ages of 5 and 18.

This tuition-based program provides the opportunity for *everyone* to perform while at the same time teaching the basics of putting a production together. From auditions to rehearsals to performance, students will learn about the entire process.

TBTA understands the impact today's economic climate has when parents are making "pay-to-play" choices for their children. In order to make arts education more available to our community, TBTA has reduced the Young Performers Series tuition fee for 2009.



Directed by Bill & Alicia Dempster

It's Princess Aurora's 16th birthday and Flora, Fauna and Merryweather must use their fairy magic to save her from the spell of evil sorceress Maleficent! Songs from the beloved film, including "Once Upon a Dream," accompany fun new songs like "Maleficent!" and "A Little Magic Now" to bring a fresh telling of the story to a new generation of kids and families.

Program Cost: Tuition \$200 / Sibling \$175 (*additional registrant from the same household*)

Program Dates: April 28 – May 31, 2009

Rehearsals: Tues. & Thurs. 4:30–6:00 pm and Sat. 9:30 am–12:00 noon

Performances: May 30, 2009 at 7:00 pm & May 31, 2009 at 2:00 pm

Tickets are only \$10.00—Reserve your seats today!

To register, please complete the form below and mail by **April 21, 2009**.

STUDENT NAME: _____

GENDER: M F AGE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PRIMARY TELEPHONE: _____

Please complete one form for each student. Sibling rate applies only to each additional student from the same household.

Mail form and payment to: **TBTA—YPS**, P.O. Box 528, Brookfield CT 06804.

JOIN US FOR OUR 2009 SEASON!

Harvey

May 1-16, 2009



Pippin

July 17-Aug. 1, 2009

Macbeth

Sept. 18-Oct. 3, 2009

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Nov. 6-21, 2009

(203) 775-0023 • www.BrookfieldTheatre.org