



They're Playing Our Song

September 9 - 26, 2010

Breaking the Code

October 7 - 24, 2010

Quilters

February 3 - 20, 2011

A View from the Bridge

March 24 - April 10, 2011

The Nerd

April 28 - May 15, 2011

Pippin

June 2 - 26, 2011



Long Day's Journey Into Night

October 28 - November 13, 2010

Crumbs from the Table of Joy

January 13 - 29, 2011



Seussical: The Musical

July 30 - August 15, 2010

Joseph...Technicolor Dreamcoat

November 23 - December 19, 2010

Sherlock Holmes

March 3 - 13, 2011



A Tuna Christmas

December 2 - 18, 2010

Seventy-Sixth Season

"CRUMBS FROM THE
TABLE OF JOY"



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— PLAYHOUSE —

John Hedges, Executive Director

2010-2011 Season

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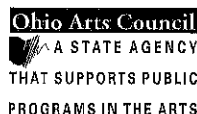
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Weatherlane's "Thank You Dollar" Program

If you've enjoyed your experience at Weatherlane, we ask that you please consider giving a "Thank You Dollar" as you exit the theater. (You'll see contribution boxes near the lobby's exit doors.)

As you probably know, earned income accounts for only 65% of our total expenses. The plain fact is, if each Weatherlane patron gave just \$1 extra after each show, we would be able to meet our goal for Individual Contributions! Won't you show your appreciation of this performance with a "Thank You Dollar" after the show?

And now, your "Thank You Dollars" go even further. For every dollar you give, the H. Peter Burg Fund of Akron Community Foundation will match it one to one, thus doubling your contribution!

Guide:	Thank You	\$1
	Applause!	\$2
	Cheer!!	\$3
	Bravo!!!	\$4 AND MORE!

On behalf of all of us here at Weatherlane, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

John Hedges, Executive Director

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From Our Executive Director

You Be The Critic

You've heard the expression that "a review is only one person's opinion." Well, we would like to see a whole lot more of those opinions about our productions than just the few that appear in our area newspapers. Here's where you come in.

Sometime after the show I invite you to take a few moments to send us your thoughts and reaction to the production you're seeing in writing. We have established a special email address specifically to receive your input. You may be as detailed or as general as you wish, commenting on any aspect of the production or anything about your experience at Weather vane that you think we should know about. Any and all feedback will be appreciated.

Here's the email address: review@weathervaneplayhouse.com
(You may also send your reviews via regular mail to: Weather vane Playhouse, 1301 Weather vane Lane, Akron, OH 44313, Attention: REVIEW)

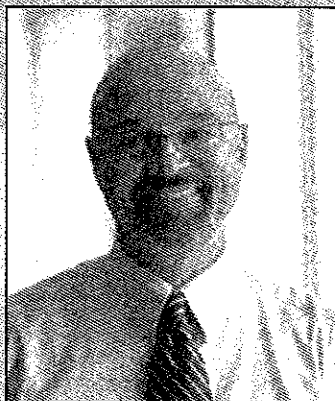
Here's a few other ideas for your consideration:

1. If you liked the show and have written positive comments, forward them to your network of personal email addresses. Word of mouth is still our strongest source of publicity.
2. If you use social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) as a way of staying in touch with your friends, post something on them about the show.
3. Send positive statements about the show or Weather vane Playhouse to area newspapers as Letters to the Editor.
4. Recommend Weather vane when talking with family, friends and co-workers.

We want to know what you think and how our work is affecting your lives – either in a positive or a negative way – with the intention of always improving our services and becoming more relevant to you, our valued patrons. Thank you in advance for taking the time to assist us and for your continued patronage of Weather vane Playhouse!

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director



Weather vane — PLAYHOUSE —

76th Season -- 2010 - 2011 -- Dietz Production #14
January 13 - 29, 2011

CRUMBS

from the Table of Joy

by **Lynn Nottage**
Directed by **Yvonne Oliver**

Stage Manager
JOHN S. CATLOS

Sound Designer
DAVID RUGGLES

Properties Designer
JOEL KIRK

Lighting Designer
BOB SCHAEFER

Costume Co-Designers
JASEN J. SMITH
SUSANNE ABERNATHY

Scenic Designer
ALAN SCOTT FERRALL

Dialect Coach
KATHERINE BURKE

Productions in the John L. Dietz Theater are generously underwritten
by Margaret J. Dietz.

Crums from the Table of Joy is produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, 400 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Weather vane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weather vane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186
Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 • Fax: 330-873-2150 • weathervaneplayhouse.com



About the Play and Playwright

About the Play's Production History

Crumbs from the Table of Joy received its world premiere at Second Stage Theatre in New York City, where it opened on May 9, 1995 and played through July 1, 1995. It was directed by Joe Morton. The show received its West Coast premiere at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, California, in a production that opened Sept. 17, 1996, under the direction of Seret Scott. Since then, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* has been staged by dozens of regional theaters as well as many colleges and amateur-theater organizations.

About the Playwright

Lynn Nottage was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1964. She began writing plays as a child and furthered her education by attending Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in Harlem, from which she graduated in 1982. She spent her undergraduate years at Brown University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1986, and went on to earn an M.F.A. in playwriting in 1989 from the Yale School of Drama. Her first job after completing her pursuit of higher education was in the press office of Amnesty International, where she worked for nearly four years. After her stint with the human-rights organization, Nottage then turned to playwriting as a full-time pursuit. In addition to *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, her plays include *Poof*; *Mud, River, Stone*; *Por'Knockers*; *Las Meninas*; *Intimate Apparel* (which Weathervane Playhouse staged in 2009) and *Fabulation, or the Re-Education of Undine*. In 2009, she received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play *Ruined*, which examines the impact of the crimes of rape and violence against women in the civil war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo in central Africa. Among her other awards, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2005, the National Black Theatre Festival's August Wilson Playwriting Award, the 2004 PEN/Laura Pels Award for Drama and a MacArthur Fellowship (commonly known as a "Genius Award") in 2007. Her next play – *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* – will receive its world premiere at Second Stage Theatre in New York City in April.



Crumbs from the Table of Joy -- Cast

Ernestine.....Victoria G. Carthorn
ErminaShamara Costa
Lily.....Gina Glenn, M.D.
Godfrey.....Michael Lawrence Head
Gerte.....Robyn Cooper

INTERMISSION – 15 minutes
between the Acts

Fun Facts:

Average Costs in 1950
Car: \$1,750
Gasoline: \$.27/gallon
House: \$14,500
Bread: \$.14/loaf

Milk: \$.82/gallon
Average Annual Salary: \$3,800
Minimum Wage: \$.75/hour
Postage Stamp: \$.03

For Your Safety...

- We request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
- The use of cameras, recording equipment and laser pointers is forbidden during this performance.
- As a courtesy to fellow audience members, please make sure that cell phones and pagers are turned off during the performance.
- Please do not bring refreshments into the auditorium. However, if you have candy, please remove wrappers before the performance begins.
- NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.



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Weathervane
—PLAYHOUSE—



About Our Director



Yvonne Oliver (Director) is directing her first production at Weatherlane Playhouse. Yvonne's directorial debut was a stage reading at Karamu Theatre in Cleveland of *Just Passing Thru* by Akron artist and playwright Miller Horns. She has worked as an actor previously appearing in *The Great White Hope*, *Jar the Floor* and *Wearing Rainbows*, infomercials, films and television. She is a graduate of The University of Akron and Kent State University. Yvonne lives in Akron with husband Nathan. They have two sons and two grand-daughters.

Director's Notes

Crumbs From The Table of Joy, set in the 1950s, holds a special place for me. During this past year, I experienced the loss of both my parents within a six-month period. Upon my initial review of Lynn Nottage's work, I thought *Crumbs* was about death and that I would gain some great insight into my own grieving process.

Instead this play provided the lens for me to gain a crisp view of the world through my parents' lives and what it was like for the Crump family, and other African American families in the 1950s.

The 1950s was a time of unprecedented prosperity in America. Many southerners believed that the north held great promise for a better life through jobs and improved educational opportunities. The Crump family was influenced by Father Divine and the Peace Mission. He was one of many religious leaders who gave hope to those seeking relief from poverty, hopelessness and racial despair by becoming a part of his spiritual family.

Crumbs From the Table of Joy, as the title suggests, demonstrates that no matter how hard some families worked nothing more than the "crumbs" was gained.

The deeper issues posed by Nottage's work examine the culture of '50s and how it was different from previous decades. The status quo was being questioned and challenged. The introduction of television allowed America a format to define itself and establish social norms and values.

The politics of McCarthyism, the Korean War and Civil Rights carried with it a deep-seated paranoia and a fueling of racial tension and hostility. And in the midst of all of this, the music was changing, ushering a new sound known as be-bop and rock and roll. America would never be the same.

In the final analysis, *Crumbs From The Table of Joy* has been about humor, hope, faith and religion, race relations, adolescence and love. Its relevance is timeless and perhaps even more significant today. Where does America stand on these age-old issues and how has the dialogue been advanced over these past 60 years?

It has been a great pleasure to work with John Hedges, and the incredible staff, crew and volunteers of Weatherlane. My sincere appreciation is shared with the amazing cast of *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*. Thank you to my husband, Nathan Oliver, who provided the production dramaturgy.

John Catlos, Katherine Burke and Alan Scott Ferrall have been invaluable through this process, thank you. My gratitude is also extended to Terrence Spivey, Michael Oatman, Dr. Francis Dorsey and Tony Sias for their leadership and support. Enjoy!

~ Yvonne Oliver



Cast Biographies



VICTORIA G. CARTHORN (Ernestine) is a student at Manchester High School in Akron and recently received a Superior Rating at the International Thespian Conference. Some of the shows she has appeared in are *The Lion King* (Nala), *The Cow Tippers* and *African American Leaders of the Past*.



SHAMARA COSTA (Ermina) is a senior at Firestone High School in Akron. At Firestone, she appeared in *The Piano Lesson*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Sweeney Todd*. She also played Joanne in *Rent* at North Canton Playhouse and *Bloody Mary* in *South Pacific* at Hoban High School.



GINA GLENN, M.D. (Lily) is making her theatrical debut at Weatherlane Playhouse. She was born in Cleveland and is a Physician for the Summa Health System. She resides in Fairlawn and has four children.



MICHAEL LAWRENCE HEAD (Godfrey) is a math instructor at The University of Akron. His interests include stand-up comedy and he has performed at various local clubs. He has also appeared in *Ceremonies for 1958* and *Blooz for an Early Autumn*. Michael has two children and resides in Cuyahoga Falls.



ROBYN COOPER (Gerte) is very excited to be making her stage debut in the Dietz Theater here at Weatherlane. She is the proud mother of two sons, Randy and K-San, who tolerate her love for all theater-related things. Robyn is a part of the PNR Improv group based out of Cuyahoga Falls and TBD – a fully improvised musical. She is a partner at Innovative Title and Escrow Services for all of your real estate needs. Robyn thanks her Weatherlane family as well as her partner, Joel, for the opportunity to live her dreams.

Creative Team Biographies



JOHN S. CATLOS (Stage Manager) received honors as top volunteer for the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 seasons. He stage managed *Madeline* and *the Gypsies* and *The Great White Hope* and designed costumes for last season's *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* and *The Sum of Us*. He also designed costumes for *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for which he won a Chanticleer award for Best Technical Element, Young Actor Series. He has appeared both on and off the stage as a singer, costume designer and stage manager for numerous productions at The University of Akron and local community theaters. He worked at Carousel Dinner Theatre as its wardrobe supervisor and as a substitute on its stage crew.



JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Co-Designer) joined the Weatherlane staff in August of 2008. Since joining the staff he has designed *Children of Eden*, *Joseph*, *Bloody Murder*, *The Great White Hope* and *Pride and Prejudice* and co-designed *Man of La Mancha* (for which he won a Chanticleer), *Putting It Together* and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. Jasen also won the 2009 YACTA Marquee award for Best Costume Design for *Children of Eden*. Other regional designs include Porthouse Theater: *The Odd Couple*; Case Western Reserve University: *The Philadelphia Story*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Stage Door*; Ohio Light Opera: *Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *Robin Hood* and *The Merry Widow*. Jasen is also a Lecturer of Costume Design at Case Western Reserve University.



Creative Team Biographies



SUSANNE ABERNATHY (Costume Co-Designer) began working at Weathervane in November 2008 under the placement of Mature Services, Inc. Since that time, in her position in the costume shop as Firsthand/Stitcher, she has

sewn and stitched hundreds of costume pieces for dozens of our productions. Susanne was born in Newport, Rhode Island, but grew up in Akron before leaving eventually for Texas, where she resided for more than three decades. She was educated at such institutions as St. Edward's University (Austin, Texas), the University of Texas at Austin, and Westwood College. Her primary education and work background is in the field of computer science (specifically, software design and development). She is the proud mother of one son and one daughter, and the doting grandmother to one grandson.



DAVID RUGGLES (Sound Designer) most recently designed sound for our season opener *They're Playing Our Song*. Last season, he designed sound for our Dietz production of *The Sum of Us*. He has won Chanticleers for

lighting *Italian American Reconciliation* and sound for *Man of La Mancha*. David designed lighting for other productions including *Perfect Wedding* and the 2006 production of *Joseph*. David also designed lighting for Cuyahoga Falls High School productions including *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Outsiders* and *How To Succeed in Business without Really Trying*. He attends Kent State University.



BOB SCHAEFER (Lighting Designer) returns to Weathervane to light another show after designing lights for *Bloody Murder* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. His design work was recently seen at Coach House Theatre,

where he designed the set for *Gin Game* and lights for *Present Laughter*. He lives in Cuyahoga Falls with his Wife (to whom he sends his love) and his dog, Pepper (to whom he promises more walks soon).



JOEL KIRK (Properties Designer) is an active member of Point of No Return Improv and TBD Musical Improv. Previous to PNR, Joel performed with Asylum Improv in San Francisco, CA. Joel has numerous stage

credits including *Willy Wonka* (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*), *Pinocchio* and *Herman* (*Sweet Charity*). Most recently, he was seen at True North as Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Joel is planning to get involved in more Ohio community theater. He has performed with Burlingame Community Theater (Burlingame, CA) and Pacifica Players (Pacifica, CA). He wishes his girlfriend, Robyn Cooper (Gerte), a great run.



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer) began with Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 14th season as a Weathervane staff member. Previously, he worked at

Cuyahoga Falls High School and has designed sets for the Players Guild of Canton, Cleveland Signstage Theatre and Western Reserve Public Media (PBS-TV Channels 45/49). Scott has earned six Chanticleer Awards – one as stage manager for *Fences*; lighting designs for *The Laramie Project* and *A Lesson Before Dying*; and co-lighting designs for *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Full Monty* and *Man of La Mancha*.



KATHERINE BURKE (Dialect Coach) returns to Weathervane after having served as Dialect Coach for *The Sum of Us* and *Breaking the Code*. She teaches in the theater department at Kent State University. Prior to

coming to Kent, she taught at Purdue University for more than a decade. She has appeared at Porthouse Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Chicago's Candelight Forum Theatre and North Carolina's Waterside Theatre. Directing credits include *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Blue Window*, *The Music Man*, *Urinetown* and *Under Milk Wood*.



Production Team

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Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

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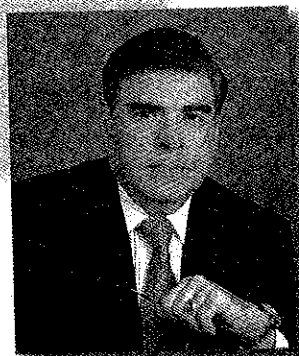
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Connie Bowen	Dave Hinebaugh	Marci Paolucci	Jacqui Sukie
Ken Carder	Judy Holder	Parents and Friends of the	Barbie Trotter
John Catlos	Tori Hopson	"Joseph" cast	Pete Ulrich
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JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

Mr. Hedges has an extensive background in theatre as both an actor and a producer. Prior to coming to Weathervane, John spent ten years in the acting company at the Barter Theatre in Virginia, where he performed in over 60 shows. Other acting credits include performances at Town Hall in New York and the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles. Regionally he has worked at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville and the American Stage Festival, where he appeared opposite Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis in *The Cherry Orchard*. John has been Managing Director of First Stage Milwaukee, Associate Producer of North Shore Music Theatre, Business Director of Gloucester Stage Company and General Manager of New York's award-winning Pearl Theatre Company. Mr. Hedges is a member of Actors' Equity Association, served on the Board of Directors of Boston's StageSource and chaired its Strategic Planning Committee, been a Conference Panelist for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education and written for *American Theatre* magazine. He studied at Indiana State University and the Professional Theatre Training Program at the University of Delaware, is a graduate of the National Shakespeare Conservatory and holds an honorary MFA degree in theatre from Stafford University. A 2009 graduate of Leadership Akron (Class XXV), John lives in Akron.

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