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Life With Father
2013-2014 Season
Mainstage Production #569
March 27 – April 13, 2014

2013 | 2014

Seventy-Ninth Season

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July 19 - Aug. 4, 2013

XANADU

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Sept. 5 - 22, 2013

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Annual Gala Fundraiser
Sept. 28, 2013

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Mystery
Oct. 10 - 27, 2013

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Dramatic Comedy
Oct. 31 - Nov. 16, 2013

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Musical
Nov. 26 - Dec. 22, 2013

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UNCLE VANYA

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Jan. 9 - 25, 2014

RACE

Drama
Jan. 30 - Feb. 16, 2014

THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND

Drama
Feb. 28 - Mar. 16, 2014

Life With FATHER

Comedy
Mar. 27 - Apr. 13, 2014

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Comedy
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Mystery of the GOLD DOUBLOONS
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— John Hedges, Executive Director —

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A Brief History of Weatherovane Playhouse

From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley...

Weatherovane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members -- Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch -- and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works -- even opera -- with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They names their space "weatherovane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weatherovane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935, the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan, with the other founders, offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938, a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. This group is now the Volunteer Guild.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951, the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1474 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-1969 and from 1974-1992. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned.

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* arts on Weatherovane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75th season.

Weatherovane's Legacy Society

Your Legacy Gift to Weatherovane can be as simple as including the playhouse in your will, establishing a life insurance policy or trust, or making the theater a beneficiary of your retirement savings plan.

For more details contact John Hedges at 330-836-2626, ext. 13

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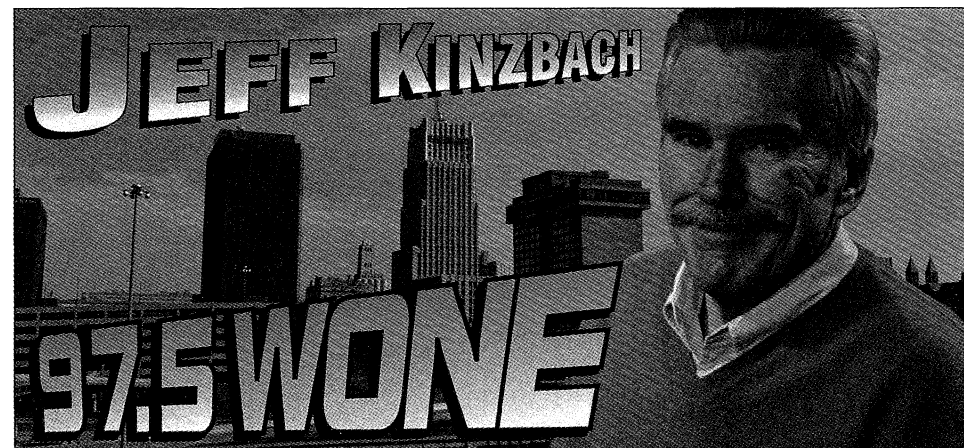


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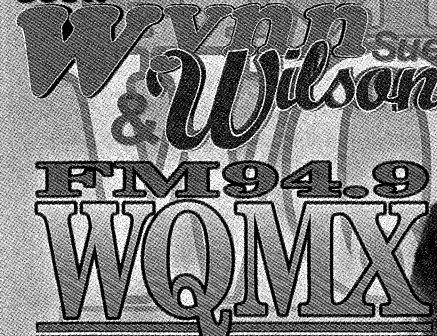
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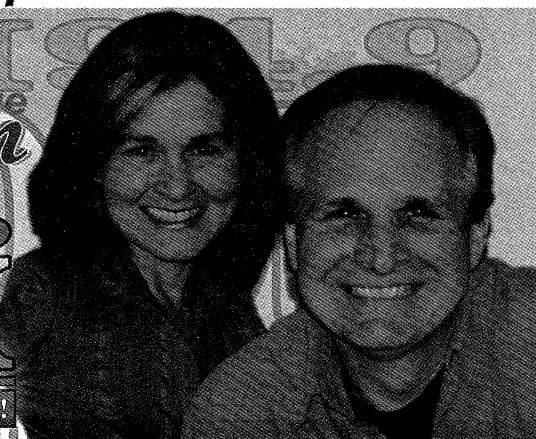
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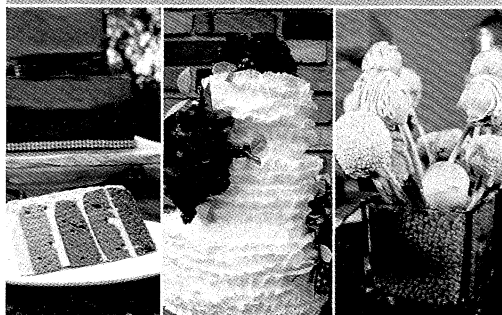
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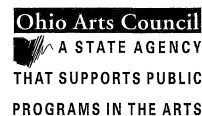
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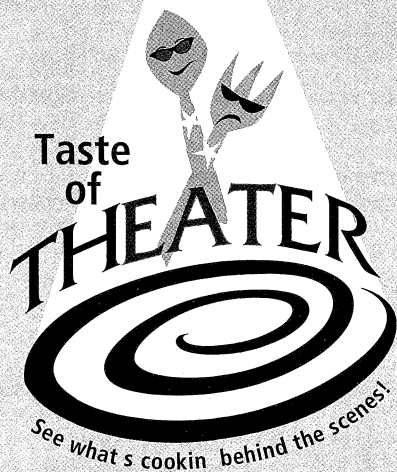


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From Our Executive Director

Why Should I Support Weather vane?

Why should anyone want to give their hard-earned money to Weather vane Playhouse in the form of a contribution? Or, put another way, what is the value Weather vane provides that is so important that I should provide financial support beyond buying a ticket?

One way of answering that question is by stating the fact that it is only through the donations we receive each year -- in excess of \$300,000 from a variety of sources -- that we can keep our ticket prices as low as they are and thus make our work accessible to a broad range of people in our community. Without contributed support, the cost of our tickets would literally have to double -- to as much as \$50 for some shows. The simple fact is, the only way the nonprofit arts are made accessible (and viable) in our country is through tax-deductible contributions.



Beyond that, the value that we bring to our community lies in the vision we have for our company: *Weather vane Playhouse aspires to be one of the foremost community-based theaters in the country that serves a region through theater by providing life-enhancing artistic experiences for people of all ages and to engender greater understanding, empathy and tolerance in our community.* Theater at its best is a place where we can come together to experience a shared sense of our own humanity -- in addition to being entertained. In an age where technology is driving us further apart, the simple act of coming together to reconnect with what makes us all more alike than different is an increasingly rare and important commodity -- and one that can reverberate throughout our community in extremely positive ways.

When I came to Weather vane nearly seven years ago I asked people to tell me their stories about the theater and what it meant to them. I received an overwhelming number of responses including this one:

"As I became more involved at Weather vane, the sense that something was missing from my life vanished. What I found wasn't just a great creative outlet, but truly a new extension of my family. Weather vane has amazing energy."

This, and countless other stories like it, are the reasons why Weather vane is worthy of your support -- because we are literally changing and improving lives every day.

For those of you who have contributed your personal funds to Weather vane in the past, everyone here joins me in sending out our heartfelt thanks to you! We vow to continue to put your money to good use and to always be worthy of your trust.

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director
jhedges@weathervaneplayhouse.com



Weather vane

— PLAYHOUSE —

79th Season -- 2013-2014

Mainstage Production #569

March 27 - April 13, 2014

*Dedicated to the memory of
Francia A. Albrecht*

— Life With — FATHER

Based on stories by Clarence Day

Dramatized by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

Directed by Sarah May

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SCOTT CRIM

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*Special thanks to April Deming and John Grafton
for their yeoman's help with properties for Life With Father.*

LIFE WITH FATHER is produced by special arrangement with
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Weather vane Community Playhouse, 1301 Weather vane Lane, Akron, OH 44313-5186
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About the Play, Playwright and Authors

About the Play

Life With Father "is a loving look at a boisterous American family that has no agenda except to make us smile and laugh at ourselves," says the show's director, Sarah May. A loveable curmudgeon stands at the center of this delightful comedy, which pokes gentle fun at the art of parenting.

A benevolent despot, Mr. Day is a man with high expectations -- and a short fuse! Undermined at every turn by his wife, children and a constantly changing cast of household servants, this headstrong ruler of the roost attempts to bring a stern, business-like approach to everyday household activities. Invariably, no one can match his rigid standards.

Meanwhile, Vinnie -- Mr. Day's tender-hearted "better half" -- struggles tirelessly to convince her stubborn husband to be baptized, else he'll never be able to enter the Kingdom of God!

The domestic squabbles between Father and Mother, over such things as household bills, charge accounts, social obligations, child rearing and visiting relatives, demonstrate clearly that some things never change (especially when it comes to family dynamics and the constant negotiations between men and women).

Life With Father is based on a series of stories written by Clarence Day, Jr., which were first published in *The New Yorker* magazine and then compiled for publication as a book in 1935. The humorous stories are the semi-autobiographical depictions of the writer's father, Clarence Day, Sr., and depict him as a benevolent despot who clashes with his family over all matters. The stories were adapted for the stage by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse (with Lindsay himself playing the role of "Father" in the original Broadway production). Opening in 1939, the play closed in 1947 after 3,224 performances which, to this very day, makes *Life with Father* the longest-running non-musical play in Broadway history. A popular 1947 film adaptation of the play starred William Powell as Clarence ("Father") and Irene Dunne as Vinnie ("Mother") and was nominated for four Academy Awards. In 1953, a television series based on the show premiered on CBS. With Leon Ames as Father and Lurene Tuttle as mother, the TV show ran until July 1955. Weatherlane Playhouse first staged *Life with Father* in October 1948 under the direction of Jesse Skrilitz.

(Sources: the Internet Broadway Database, Wikipedia and the Internet Movie Database)

About the Playwright and Original Author

The Lindsay and Crouse creative partnership stands today as one of the longest collaborations of any writers in theatrical history, lasting for more than 30 years. Their hits include *The Sound of Music*; *Anything Goes*; *Red, Hot and Blue*; *Call Me Madam*; the long-running play *Life With Father* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The State of the Union* and the book for the musical *Happy Hunting*. Their producing credits included *The Hasty Heart*, *Detective Story* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

HOWARD LINDSAY was born in Waterford, New York in 1889 and died in 1968. He became an actor at the age of 19 and in 1913 began a five-year stay with Margaret Anglin's acting troupe. After Infantry Service in World War I, his first big break was to act and direct in the George S. Kaufman hit *Dulcy* in 1921. Lindsay wrote many plays before teaming up with Russel Crouse on *Anything Goes* in 1934. (Trivia buffs will note that among his acting credits is the role of The King in the original television production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* in 1957.)

RUSSEL CROUSE was born in Findlay, Ohio, in 1893 and died in 1966. At the age of 17, he became a reporter for *The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune*. After serving in the Navy in World War I, he worked on several New York newspapers, gaining his first renown through a signed column in *The New York Post*. In 1932, he became head of the publicity department for the Theatre Guild and in 1933 wrote his first Broadway show, collaborating with Corey Ford on the musical comedy *Hold Your Horses*. From 1934 on, he wrote only with Lindsay.

(Source: The Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization)

CLARENCE SHEPARD DAY, JR. (Nov. 18, 1874 to Dec. 28, 1935) was an American author best known for his 1935 work *Life With Father*. Born in New York City, he attended St. Paul's School and graduated from Yale University in 1896. The following year, he joined the New York Stock Exchange, and became a partner in his father's Wall Street brokerage firm. Day enlisted in the Navy in 1898, but developed crippling arthritis and spent the remainder of his life as a semi-invalid. Day's most famous work is the autobiographical *Life With Father*. Scenes from the book, along with its 1932 predecessor, *God and My Father*, and its 1937 sequel, *Life With Mother*, published posthumously, were the basis for the 1939 play by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. Day was a vocal proponent of giving women the right to vote and contributed satirical cartoons for U.S. suffrage publications in the 1910s. Day died in New York City of pneumonia shortly after finishing *Life With Father*, and without ever getting to experience its success on Broadway or in Hollywood. (Source: Wikipedia)



Cast

Father, Clarence Day, Sr.	Jim Fippin
Mother, Vinnie Day	Tari Lyn Bergoine
Clarence Day, Jr.	Eric Lucas
John Day	Will Price
Whitney Day	Owen Desberg
Harlan Day	Spencer Desberg
Cousin Cora	Jenny Barrett
Mary Skinner	Erin Moore
Reverend Dr. Lloyd	Richard Worswick
Dr. Humphreys.....	Steve Boardman
Dr. Somers.....	John Grafton
Margaret	April Deming
Annie	Kay Caprez
Delia.....	Sasha Desberg
Nora.....	Madelyn E. Francis
Maggie.....	Jennifer Desberg

The place: The morning room of the Day house/Madison Avenue in New York City

The time: Early summer, 1889

Part One

Scene 1 -- Breakfast time. An early summer morning.

Scene 2 -- Tea time. Later the same day.

Scene 3 -- Sunday, after church. One week later.

15-minute Intermission

Part Two

Scene 1 -- Breakfast time. Two days later.

Brief Break

Scene 2 -- Mid-afternoon. One month later.

Scene 3 -- Breakfast time. The next morning.



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- ♦ If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please turn off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
- ♦ NO PHOTOS inside the theater or recording of the show in any way.
- ♦ Unwrap cough drops or mints before the performance begins.

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- ♦ NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.



About Our Director



SARAH MAY (Director) is thrilled to return to Weathervane, where she directed past productions of *Wait Until Dark* and *The Dinner Party*. Sarah's work is well known in the Cleveland area. Most recently she directed Moises Kaufman's 33 *Variations*, Lee Hall's *The Pitmen Painters* and David Mamet's *Race* at The Beck Center, and a revival of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* (winner of The Cleveland Critics Circle Award for Best Play and Best Director, 2012) for Ensemble Theatre. Some favorite past productions include *The History Boys*, *Wings* (starring Dorothy Silver) and *A Piece of My Heart* (Winner of the Northern Ohio Live Award of Achievement) (all at Beck Center), as well as the critically acclaimed Dobama/Karamu collaboration of Tony Kushner's *Caroline, or Change*; *Dividing the Estate*, *Robeson* and *Having Our Say* for Ensemble Theatre; *Six Degrees of Separation* for Charenton Theatre (Northern Ohio Live award winner and *Scene Magazine* Best Production of the Year); *A Soldier's Play* and *Mule Bone* at Karamu; *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Fires in the Mirror* for Dobama.

Sarah began her career with the Cleveland Play House. She spent 10 years in New York City performing, directing and developing educational theatre programs for Playwrights Horizons, The Henry Street Settlement, and The Roundabout Theatre. She returned to Cleveland to serve as Director of Education for Great Lakes Theatre Festival and was Artistic Director of Karamu Theatre from 1990 to 1997. She has taught acting for The Cleveland Play House and Tri-C Metro and been a guest artist at Baldwin Wallace University. She continues to work with children in the Cleveland schools and serves as Artistic Advisor to Ensemble Theatre.

"Thanks to John Hedges, the Weathervane team, and this wonderful cast and crew for making *Life With Father* such a delight!" says Sarah. "Hugs to beloved husband Park and daughter Joanna (last seen here in *The Last Five Years* and *Smokey Joe's Café*) for all their inspiration and support!"

Director's Notes

Turn off those smartphones and travel back in time with us to 1889, New York City! You may be relieved to find that some things never change no matter how "modern" we think we are.

New York City in 1889 provides a wonderful backdrop for this play. Horse-drawn carriages take people to work, a new bridge has opened connecting Manhattan to Brooklyn, Grover Cleveland is President, the city is recovering from Tammany Hall scandals, women are starting to demand the vote and the city is turning into a tourist mecca with famous new hotels, restaurants and department stores.

Imagine what it might have been like to live in those days -- no TV, computers, movies or radio! For a boy coming of age in 1889, his greatest entertainment was observing his own family -- their squabbles and jokes, dinner table conversations and parlor games. No wonder Clarence Day, Jr. became a success writing humorous portraits of his family in the early days at *The New Yorker*. His stories became the basis of this beloved play.

My first encounter with this play came 50 years ago when I dyed my hair red and played Mother in college. At the time, the play reminded me of my own parents and their daily exchanges. Since then the world has changed 10 times over, and 1889 seems like ancient history. I wondered what it would be like to revisit *Life With Father* in 2014. My biggest concern was that the character of Father, who ruled the roost in his 19th Century home, might be the kind of fellow women love to hate today. With that in mind we have worked hard on finding Father's soft spots, poked fun at him where we can, and shown that with "love and laughter" a tyrant can be tamed and family trumps all.

It has really been fun taking this journey with our wonderful multi-generational cast and crew. Together we have forged a new family, aged 7 to 70, to help each other learn to keep our elbows off the table, sit up straight, listen to each other and bring this story to life for you. This is truly the magic of theatre. Enjoy!

Sarah May



Cast Biographies



JIM FIPPIN (Father, Clarence Day, Sr.) has appeared on stage at Porthouse, Weathervane, Coach House, The Players Guild, Magical Theatre, and with Ohio Shakespeare Festival and The Largely Literary Theatre Company. His resume includes roles in *Uncle Vanya*, *August: Osage County*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Richard III*, *Lettice and Lovage*, *The Rainmaker*, *Custer*, *The Real Thing*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Hamlet*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Noises Off*, *Twelfth Night*, *Another Antigone*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *King Lear*. Jim served as Artistic Director at Coach House from 2000-2007. At Weathervane, he directed *Italian American Reconciliation*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. He earned his BFA degree in Theatre from Otterbein College, where he met his wife, Elaine. They live in Wadsworth with their daughter, Emelie, a sophomore at Our Lady of the Elms High School.



TARI LYN BERGOINE (Vinnie Day) is excited to be back on the Weathervane stage after performing as Barbara Fordham in last season's *August: Osage County*. She most recently appeared as Truvy in Aurora's production of *Steel Magnolias*. Tari was born and raised in Akron and earned a B.A. degree in drama from Marietta College. Some favorite roles include Kathy in *Vanities*, Chick Boyle in *Crimes of the Heart*, Crane Hammond in *Exit the Body and Comet in The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*. Tari works full time as a business analyst for Nestle and resides in Aurora with her husband John and their son Jesse. Out-of-town kids include daughters Sara and Halsey, son-in-law J.V. and grandson Leeland. "Thank-you Sarah May for letting me be a redhead!"



ERIC LUCAS (Clarence Day, Jr.) is very excited to make his first appearance at Weathervane Playhouse in this production of *Life With Father*. Eric is a recent graduate of Baldwin Wallace University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre and Studio Art. He thanks the cast and crew for making this production some of the most fun he has had in a show, and also thanks his family for being so supportive.



WILL PRICE (John Day), an 8th grader at Hudson Middle School, is thrilled to be making his Weathervane Playhouse debut as John Day in *Life With Father*. Will has acted in several shows at the

Young Actors Studio in Hudson, where he's undertaken such roles as Aladdin (*Aladdin*), The Artful Dodger (*Oliver!*) and Bert (*Mary Poppins*). He was also recently cast as The Bully in Weathervane's production of *The Roar of the Greasepaint -- The Smell of the Crowd*. Will is returning to Interlochen Center for the Arts, in Michigan, for a three-week Musical Theatre Workshop. He thanks his parents, his voice instructor, Ryan Bergeron, as well as Elyse Romano and the rest of his YAS family for fueling his passion. Special thanks to Director Sarah May for giving him this incredible opportunity.



OWEN DESBERG (Whitney Day), a 5th grader in Revere Schools, is thrilled to be making his acting debut at Weathervane! A dancer for many years, he is excited to be branching out into theatre. Owen has appeared in *The Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Wizard of Oz* with Ballet Theatre of Ohio, as well as performing around the area with the competitive dance team Dance Kraze. Currently a student at Ana Lobé Ballet Academy, he plans to continue studying dance and theatre, all while working towards his ultimate goal of playing for the Indians some day! Owen thanks Sarah May for believing in him and giving him this opportunity.



SPENCER DESBERG (Harlan), a 2nd grader in Revere schools and a life-long dancer, is excited to be making his acting debut at Weathervane. Having appeared in *The Nutcracker* with Ballet Theatre of Ohio and other local dance performances, he was bitten by the performing bug early. Currently studying at Ana Lobé Ballet Academy, he hopes to continue dancing, singing and acting his way all the way to Broadway someday! Spencer thanks everyone involved in the production for their support and guidance.



JENNY BARRETT (Cousin Cora) is thrilled to be making her first appearance at Weathervane Playhouse. She has previously been seen as Jeri Neal in *Dixie Swim Club*, Maureen in *Skin Deep*, Audrey in *Belles* and a mute Elf in *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*. She thanks everyone involved in this production, especially Sarah May, for being so fun. She dedicates these shows to Cinderella, for believing in her and being her biggest supporter. "I know you are here in spirit. Love to G,E,K and M!"



Cast Biographies continued



ERIN MOORE (Mary Skinner) is thrilled to be returning for her third show at Weathervane Playhouse. She appeared last season as Jean in *August: Osage County* and Amy in *Charley's Aunt*.

She was most recently seen on stage at the Ohio Shakespeare Festival last summer. A 2012 graduate of Malone University, some of her favorite roles while at Malone include Anne Page (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*), Catherine (*Proof*), Lydia (*Pride and Prejudice*), and Cecily (*The Importance of Being Earnest*). Erin thanks God, her family and friends, her teachers and mentors, and everyone involved in this production for all of their love and support.



RICHARD WORSWICK

(Reverend Dr. Lloyd) is always thrilled to be working with longtime friend and director Sarah May. They last worked together in the Ensemble Theatre production

of *The Normal Heart*. He's also enjoying being with fellow cast members of Weathervane's *August: Osage County*. Richard will next be performing in Weathervane's *Don't Dress for Dinner*. He has been in the casts of *Amadeus*; *Breaking the Code*; *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?*; *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*; *Love! Valour! Compassion!*; *The Chosen*; *The Laramie Project*; *Irma Vep* and *The Dinner Party*, among others. He's performed at Coach House Theatre; Ohio Shakespeare Company; none too fragile theatre, where he will be appearing in the September 2014 production of *Sunset Limited*; Dobama Theatre; Charenton Theatre Company; Bang and Clatter Theatre; The Cleveland Play House and the Playhouse Square Center. He is thrilled to be sharing the boards with his partner John Grafton.



STEVE BOARDMAN (Dr.

Humphreys) returns to Weathervane for the second time, his first time being in 1995 in the production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He considers

himself extremely fortunate to have had the experience of being surrounded by such talented players who have worked tirelessly throughout to bring to life an interpretation; one which is a true pleasure to watch. "Thank you, cast, for furthering my education in the theatre. We are never too old to learn of life, and such wonderful moments within it."



JOHN GRAFTON (Dr. Somers) has enjoyed volunteering in several positions at Weathervane since his retirement 11 years ago from The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. From props design

and working in the gift shop to being on the Board, John has relished spending time with the Weathervane family. John and his partner, Richard Worswick, live in Bath with their two Great Danes, Apollo and Bacchus.



APRIL DEMING (Margaret) This is April's second play with Weathervane. In 2012 she was lucky enough to be cast as Mattie Fae in *August: Osage County*. Her favorite acting credits include

Regina in *The Little Foxes*, Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias* and Zorah in *Inspecting Carol*. April served on the Board of Directors of both Evergreen Theatre (adult productions) and Next Door Children's Theatre in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Besides her work on stage she directed for both theatres for 30 years before moving to Ohio in 2011. She and husband Dave (who can also be found working around Weathervane) have four daughters and two grandsons.



KAY CAPREZ (Annie) is no stranger to the Weathervane stage and is thrilled to be making her Mainstage debut! She was most recently seen at Weathervane in the 2012 Young Actors Series

production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as Dan's Wife. Her other Weathervane credits include *Joseph* (2010 and 2011), *Cinderella* and *Seussical*. She has also made two appearances in the All-City Musical at the Akron Civic Theatre as Tracy in *Hairspray* and Emma Goldman in *Ragtime*. Some of her other onstage credits include *Little Women*, *All I Really...Learned In Kindergarten* and *Sahara Nights*. A freshman at Kent State University, Kay helps coach the Our Lady of the Elms speech and debate team and works at Build-A-Bear Workshop when she's not on stage.



SASHA DESBERG (Delia), a 7th grader in Revere schools, is delighted to be making her debut at Weathervane. An avid singer, Sasha enjoys performing with the Summit Choral

Society's Children's Concert Choir, most recently in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Akron Symphony. Sasha plays the French horn for her school band and is a member of the Academic Challenge team. She thanks all involved for making this a fun experience.



MADelyn E. FRANCIS (Nora) is making her debut at Weathervane Playhouse and is thrilled to be doing so. She is a senior at Woodridge High School and plans to attend school for



Cast Biographies continued

Massotherapy afterwards. She has been involved in her school's theater program for three years prior to this and has held positions of director, assistant director, stage manager, dancer and actress. She has also stage managed and acted for Western Reserve Playhouse. Madelyn was a member of Rhapsody Showchoir for two years. She thanks the cast and crew of *Life With Father* for making this show fun and enjoyable!



JENNIFER DESBERG (Maggie) is enjoying sharing the stage with all three of her children for the first time. After a decade-plus hiatus from performing while focusing on family, she is

delighted to tread the boards again! A life-long performer, she grew up doing plays and musicals, majoring in Theatre at, first, Bennington College and then Kent State. Jennifer is looking forward to Act II of her performing career! She thanks Sarah May for the opportunity, and her husband, Alex, for his support.



Creative Team Biographies



SCOTT CRIM (Stage Manager) is excited to continue his back stage work this season as the stage manager for *Life With Father*. His work was last seen with the spectacularly spooky lighting for *Night Must Fall*. He earned his degree in theatrical arts from Mount Union College in 1999. He designed the lights for past Weathervane productions of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Romeo and Juliet* as well as the Dietz theatre production of *The Goat or, Who Is Sylvia?* He was a previous scenic and lighting designer for Coach House Theatre. He also toured with the Illusion Factory children's theatre. He has also been on stage in various productions here at Weathervane and other theatres in the area.



MICHELLE CONNER (Sound Designer) has been involved at Weathervane Playhouse since 1998. Michelle was ASM for our production of *Night Must Fall* earlier this season and *August:*

Osage County last season. She stage managed *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*. She previously designed sound for *A View from the Bridge*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Perfect Wedding* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She was assistant stage manager for *See How They Run* and worked on sound crews for many other productions. Michelle is a graduate of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and The University of Akron.



JENNIFER MAXSON DRAHER (Properties Designer) won a Chanticleer Award for Best Technical Design for properties for our Dietz production of

Intimate Apparel and two more for her co-design of properties for *Rabbit Hole* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. She also served as properties co-designer for *The Nerd* and has been

volunteering backstage in other capacities since the very first *Joseph* run. Jennifer holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Ashland University and currently works as a Marketing Project Leader at Grabowski & Co. She sends lots of love to her husband, Jim, and son, Austin.



FRANK CASTORENA, JR.

(Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to be involved with the *Life With Father* production here at Weathervane. He has also

worked on other backstage productions including *Uncle Vanya* and *A View from the Bridge*. Most recently, Frank has performed in *The Music Man* and *August: Osage County*. In addition, he is on the executive board for the Weathervane Volunteer Guild. Frank is originally from Los Angeles, California, and now resides in the North Hill area of Akron. Frank holds his B.A. degree in Theater Arts from California State University Northridge.



JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the

Weathervane professional staff in August 2008. He's designed costumes for many Weathervane productions including *Children of Eden*, *Bloody Murder*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. His co-design credits include *Putting It Together* and *Man of La Mancha*, the latter of which earned him and his collaborator the Chanticleer Award for best costume design of the 2008-2009 season. He also won the 2009 Marquee Award for best costume design from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on Weathervane's *Children of Eden*. His other regional costume-design credits include Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera.



Creative Team Biographies continued



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic/Lighting Designer) began at Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 17th season as a

Weathervane staff member. Other design work includes Cuyahoga Falls High School, The Players Guild of Canton, Cleveland Signstage Theatre and Western Reserve Public Media (PBS-TV Channels 45/49). At Weathervane, Scott has earned seven Chanticleer Awards -

- one as the stage manager for *Fences*; one each for his lighting designs for *The Laramie Project*, *A Lesson Before Dying* and *Joseph* and one each for his co-lighting designs for *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Full Monty* and *Man of La Mancha*. In his spare time, Scott has written four one-act children's plays that tour local schools including this season's *The Mystery of the Gold Doubloons: Pirates on the Ohio and Erie Canal*. He was the recipient of the 2012 Trustees Award.



Production Team

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director

Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson
Tom Marshall
David Deming
Dale Gilbert
Kevin Ford
Mike Groom
Joe Hunter
John Tynan
David Otto

SOUND

Michelle Conner
Frank Castorena, Jr.
Anthony Kenney
Lois Bennett

LIGHTS

Alan Scott Ferrall
Stephen Moushey
Linda Hostetler
Sue Stout-Davis
Jack Steele

PROPERTIES

Jennifer Maxson Draher
Jessica Maxson George

COSTUMES

Jasen J. Smith
Naiya Moss
John S. Carlos
Pat Nichols
Diantha Seibert
Karen Edwards

Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

The following are the dedicated volunteers who have assisted us recently.

Jenny Banker
Stacy Bechtel
June Bretzin
Mary Campbell
Chris Capron
Gail Cheslock
Lauretta Cypher
Steve Davis
Jill Forster

Janis Gallagher
Charles Hass
Meg Hopp
Jim Horvath
Millie Keyser
Pam Lightner
Joanna Mack
Jo McMullen
Michele McNeal

Megan Nelson
Pat Nichols
Pat Obenour
John O'Neill
Marci Paolucci
Lucy Randles
Ruth Richardson
Christina Sanyo
Pearl Sentelik

Dorothy Shaffer
Debbie Shama-Davis
Sue Smith
Diane Thanasiu
Barbie Trotter
Verna Vander Kooi
Parents of the cast of *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*

JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

Mr. Hedges is currently in his seventh season as Executive Director of Weathervane Playhouse. He has enjoyed an award-winning career as both a producer and an actor. In 2012 he received a BroadwayWorld Regional Best Actor Award for his portrayal of Michael in the Cleveland premiere of *God of Carnage* at Dobama Theatre. Prior to coming to Weathervane, John spent ten years in the Resident Acting Company at the Barter Theatre in Virginia where he performed in more than 60 shows. Other acting credits include performances at Broadway's Town Hall, the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles, Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival and the American Stage Festival in New Hampshire, where he appeared opposite Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis in *The Cherry Orchard*. Film work includes *Freedom* (Best Supporting Actor, SA International Film Festival) as well as *The Crimson Fold*. 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 Pearl Theatre Company. Mr. Hedges is a member of Actors' Equity Association, has served on the Board of Directors of Boston's StageSource, been a Conference Panelist for the American Alliance for Theatre & Education, and written for American Theatre magazine. He studied at Indiana State University, 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. He is a graduate of Leadership Akron (Class XXV) and he and his wife, Cheryl, live in Munroe Falls.



In the Harris Family Gallery

Pressed Flower Art by LISA MERRICK

It is a pleasure to welcome back Lisa Merrick and her exquisite botanical designs. Her beautiful pressed flowers are the perfect complement to the current production, *Life With Father*, which is set in the late 1880's.

A longtime resident of Norton, Lisa has created her flower art for 39 years, working full time out of her home studio. She raises all her own plants, picks and presses them, and creates a full line of handcrafted items. She has an Associate's Degree in Natural Science from Wayne General & Technical College. Lisa has won many awards at area art shows, including Ohio Mart at Stan Hywet and the Yankee Peddler Festival.

In addition to the creation of her pressed flower art, Lisa hunts for arrowheads and collects antique stringed instruments and autographs. She is the Assistant Curator and newsletter writer for the Norton Historical Society/Biery House and Museum, and serves as Chairman of the Norton Parks and Cemetery Board. Lisa is also a contributor to the *Norton Post* newspaper and is in the process of writing a book on the City of Norton, which will be out in 2016.

Lisa has worked for several years to have one of her pressed flower works accepted as a design for a U.S. Postage Stamp. She has presented research papers and booklets with photographs of her work to the Citizen's Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. Lisa has support from various mayors, state representatives and senators. She hopes that the pressed flower art form will be honored with the creation of a stamp.

Lisa will also accept commissions to create personal pieces for special occasions with your flowers from a wedding, funeral or other event. She can be reached at flpress@yahoo.com. Her work can be viewed at [Facebook.com/pressedbotanicalsbylisa](https://www.facebook.com/pressedbotanicalsbylisa).

All of the work in this exhibit is for sale. Lisa has generously offered to donate a portion of the proceeds of all sales to Weathervane.

If you wish to make a purchase, please ask for assistance at the Gift Shop or the Box Office.

Marci Paolucci, Gallery Curator

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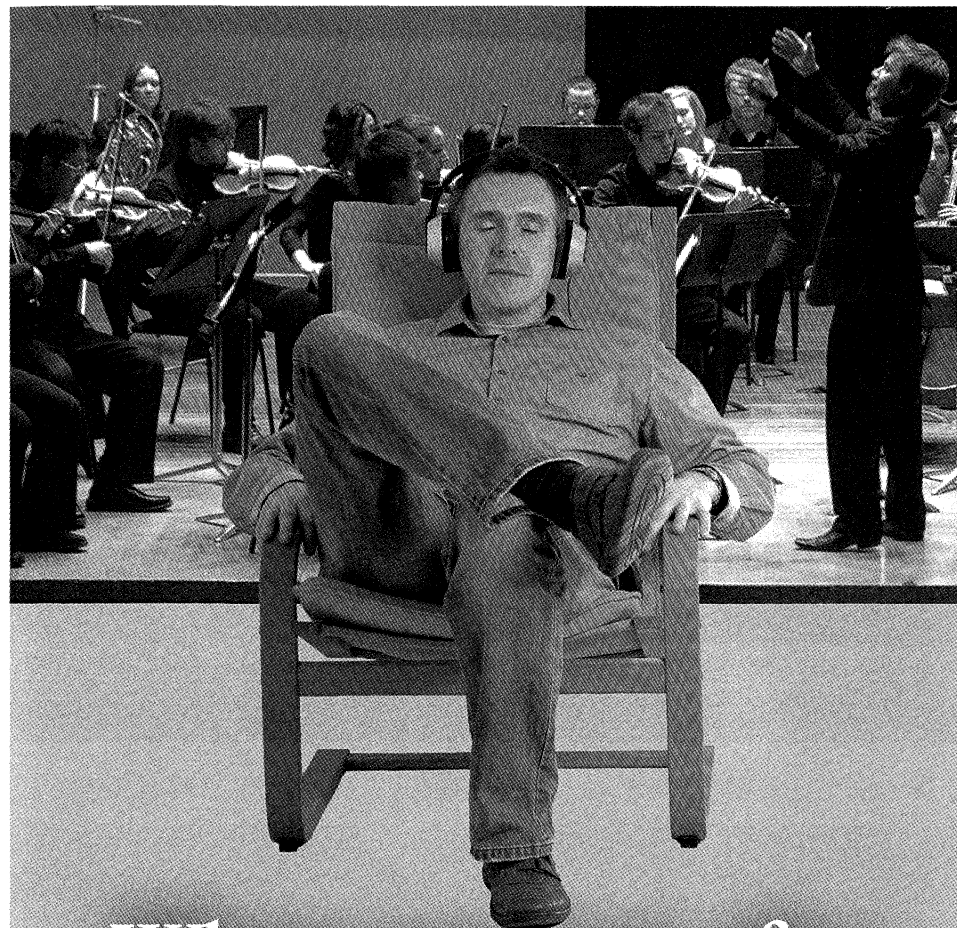
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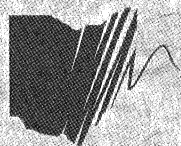
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