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Weathervane
— PLAYHOUSE —

John Hedges, Executive Director

The stories of Your Life

2012|2013

Seventy-Eighth Season

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY
2012-2013 Season
Mainstage Production #558
September 6 - 23, 2012

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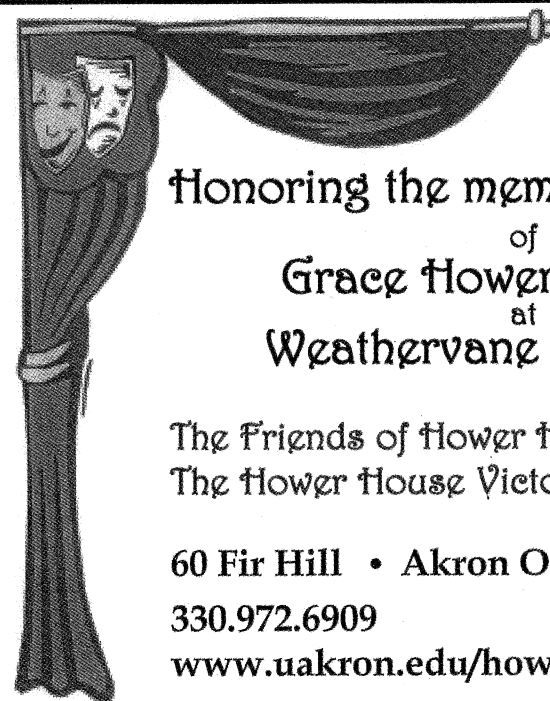


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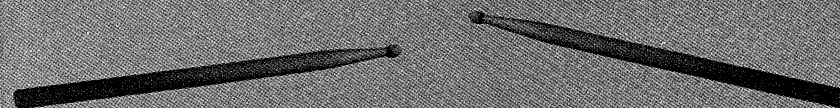


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A Brief History of Weatherwane Playhouse

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

Weatherwane 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 named their space "Weatherwane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weatherwane 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. It, too, continues to this day.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1471 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 1961-69 and from 1974-92. 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* here on Weatherwane 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 just completed for the opening of the 75th season.

Weatherwane's Legacy Society

Your Legacy Gift to Weatherwane 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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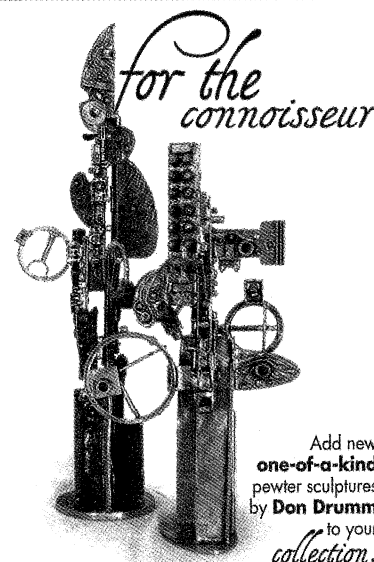
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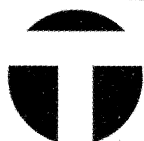
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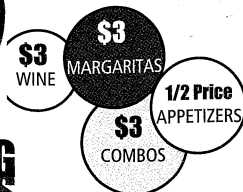
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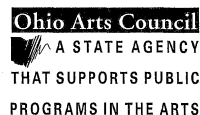
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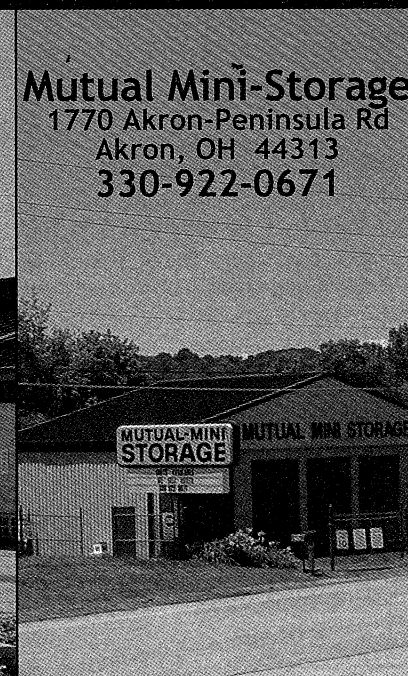
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Vienna Boys Choir
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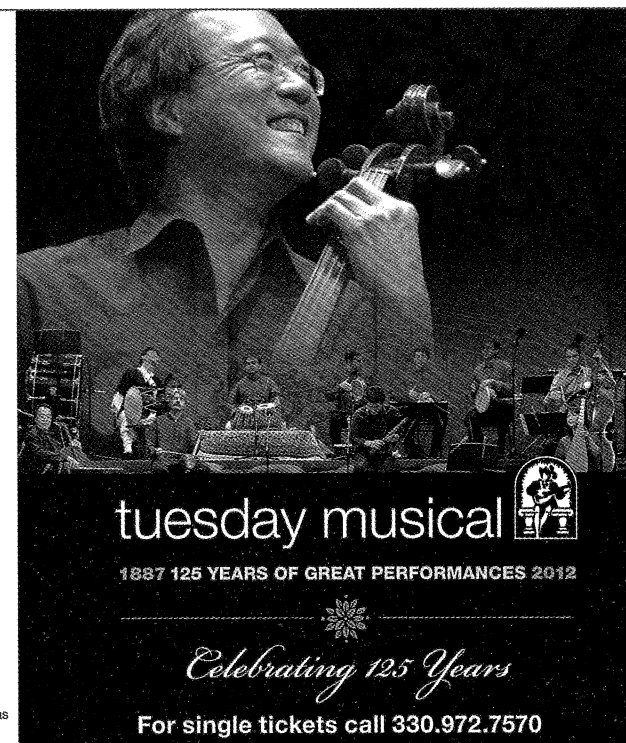
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If you've enjoyed your experience at Weathervane, we ask that you please consider giving a "Thank You Dollar" as you exit the theater. (You'll see a contribution box near the lobby's exit doors.)

As you probably know, earned income accounts for only 65% of our total expenses. The plain fact is, if each Weathervane 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?

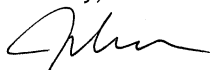
And now, your "Thank You Dollars" go even further. For every dollar you give, the **H. Peter Burg Fund of Akron Community Foundation** will match it one to one, thus doubling your contribution!

Guide:

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

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

Sincerely,



John Hedges, Executive Director

I ♥ WP

**WEATHERVANE'S
ANNUAL GALA**

Patron Party
Dinner
Dessert
Silent Auction
Oral Auction

Saturday, September 29, 2012

Honorary Chair
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OSAGE COUNTY



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Johnna Monevata
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Sheriff Deon Gilbeau
Sheriff
Michael Cranston



From Our Executive Director

Welcome to our 2012-2013 Season: The Stories of Your Life

We're subtitled this season "The Stories of Your Life" because the scope and breadth of the work we'll be doing is intended to speak to a wide cross section of our community.

We are proud to open our adult season with this production of the winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play, *August: Osage County*. We hope you enjoy this major new theatrical work that unflinchingly exposes the dark side of the Midwestern American family. We follow this dynamic opener next month with the rousing interactive musical whodunit *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* in October followed by the bittersweet romantic comedy *Shooting Star* in our Dietz Theater in November. During the holidays we are excited to produce that classic story of Scrooge's redemption (only this time told from Marley's point of view) in *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*. We'll begin the New Year in our Dietz Theater with *Next Fall*, a witty and provocative look at faith, commitment and unconditional love, followed by *Flyin' West*, a terrific play about four African American women forging a life for themselves in post-Civil War Kansas. Spring will see the hilarious comedy *Charley's Aunt* come to our Founders Theater followed by a madcap and highly theatrical take on the Alfred Hitchcock masterpiece, *The 39 Steps*, in May. We cap off our 78th Season with the quintessential American musical about a fast-talking salesman who falls in love with the wholesome librarian in *The Music Man*.

Our Young Actor Series will present *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in December, and then arguably one of the greatest plays ever written, *Our Town*, in March 2013.

These theatrical works represent a few of the stories of our lives. From all of us here at Weatherovane, I look forward to welcoming you back to share what they have to say about our collective human experience.

Sincerely,

John Hedges
Executive Director

P.S. Subscribing is the best way to enjoy our shows at the best possible prices. It's not too late - turn in your ticket stub and SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



Weatherovane

— PLAYHOUSE —

78th Season -- 2012-2013 -- Production #558
September 6 - 23, 2012

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

By Tracy Letts

Directed by Jacqi Loewy

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Assistant Stage Manager
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Ticket Office: 330-836-2626 • Fax: 330-873-2150 • weatherovaneplayhouse.com



About the Play and Playwright

August: Osage County is about a father who vanishes...a pill-popping mother caught in the grip of addiction...three sisters with all kinds of secrets...a Midwestern American family approaching a total meltdown, confronting unspoken truths and revealing dark secrets. One of the most bracing and critically acclaimed plays in recent Broadway history, *August: Osage County* is a blistering portrait of the modern dysfunctional American family at its finest -- and absolute worst.

Beverly Weston is the hard-drinking patriarch of the Weston clan who disappears one hot summer night. Unsure whether he is dead or just missing, his extended family reunites at the rural Oklahoma homestead, where long-held secrets are unflinchingly and uproariously revealed.

The fractured, multi-generational Weston clan must also deal with the deeply unstable Violet Weston, the sharp-tongued, drug-addicted matriarch who stands at the center of this domestic storm.

Grand, gripping, blisteringly honest, biting funny -- and yet sensationally entertaining -- *August: Osage County* reveals a family full of unforgettable characters who are forced to lock horns with uncomfortable truths.

August: Osage County originated at Chicago's famed Steppenwolf Theatre Company, where playwright Tracey Letts is a member of the theatre's artistic ensemble. Following the show's highly successful 2007 premiere at Steppenwolf, the show transferred later that year to Broadway, where it ran for 648 performances before closing on June 28, 2009. Among its many awards, *August: Osage County* won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the 2008 Tony Award for Best Play and the 2008 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play. The play also enjoyed a successful run at London's National Theatre and a 40-week tour across the United States (with Oscar-winner Estelle Parsons commanding the stage as Violet Weston). A motion-picture adaptation of *August: Osage County* is slated to begin filming this month (on location in Oklahoma) with a cast featuring Meryl Streep as Violet and Julia Roberts as Barbara.

About the Playwright

TRACY LETTS is an actor and playwright who has been a member of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company artistic ensemble since 2002, where he has acted in such productions as *Betrayal*, *The Pillowman*, *Last of the Boys*, *The Pain and the Itch*, *The Dresser*, *Homebody/Kabul*, *The Dazzle*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (which also traveled to Dublin and Toronto), *Three Days of Rain*, *Road to Nirvana*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

In addition to his Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning *August: Osage County*, his other plays include *Man From Nebraska* (Pulitzer Prize finalist), *Bug*, *Killer Joe* and *Superior Donuts*. Most recently, he wrote a new adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, which Steppenwolf produced this summer. His screenplay credits include *Bug*, *Killer Joe* and the forthcoming movie adaptation of *August: Osage County*.

As an actor, his television credits include roles on *Prison Break* and *The District* (CBS), *Profiler* (NBC), *The Drew Carey Show* (ABC), *Seinfeld* (NBC) and *Home Improvement* (ABC). His film credits include *Guinevere*, *Chicago Cab*, *U.S. Marshals*, *Straight Talk* and *Paramedics*.

For his next project, Letts and his fellow Steppenwolf ensemble member Amy Morton will this fall headline the new Broadway revival of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* The two performers starred in the same show at Steppenwolf in 2010 and 2011.



Cast

Beverly Weston	Alex Cikra
Violet Weston	Harriet DeVeto
Barbara Fordham	Tari Lyn Bergoigne
Bill Fordham	Jim Fippin
Jean Fordham	Erin Moore
Ivy Weston	Laura Stitt
Karen Weston	Mary Mahoney
Mattie Fae Aiken	April Deming
Charlie Aiken	Tom Stephan
Little Charles Aiken	Frank Castorena
Johnna Monevata	Tina Thompkins
Steve Heidebrecht	Richard Worswick
Sheriff Deon Gilbeau	Michael Cranston

The place:

A large country home outside Pawhuska, OK, 60 miles northwest of Tulsa.

The time:

August 2007

August: Osage County is performed with TWO 10-minute intermissions.



PLEASE...

- Turn OFF your cell phone/BlackBerry because even silenced calls and text messages interfere with the sound system backstage, on stage and throughout the theater.
- Be sure your cell phone/BlackBerry is turned off again after intermission when appropriate.
- If you are using an Assistive Listening headset, please turn off your hearing aids to avoid feedback.
- NO PHOTOS inside the theater.
- Unwrap cough drops or mints before the performance begins.

For Your Safety...

- We request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
- 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 ~ Jacqi Lowey



Jacqi Lowey is thrilled to be back at WeatherVane for her 11th show, having directed *Proof*, *The Last Five Years*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *I Do! I Do!*, *Man of La Mancha*, *They're Playing Our Song* and the Chanticleer Award-winning *The Laramie Project*, *The Full Monty*, *The Fantasticks* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. She was also on stage at WCP in *Six Degrees of Separation* and *Prelude to a Kiss*. Jacqi is full-time faculty/Director of Theatre at Notre Dame College, Cleveland directing credits include The Cleveland Play House, Cleveland Public Theatre, PlayhouseSquare, Ensemble, Dobama, True North, Solon Center for the Arts, Charenton and Case-Western Reserve University. Onstage, she has appeared regionally, nationally, internationally and on Broadway.

A member of SAG, AFTRA and AEA, Jacqi has done commercials and feature films, most notably Robert Redford's *The Clearing* with Helen Mirren. A recently unearthed talent for writing has garnered her commissions as a playwright (*Ten Cents a Dance* for True North Cultural Arts and *Legally Addicted*, a touring piece on prescription drug abuse for Fairmount Center for the Arts). She is Creative Director for BOTH SIDES NOW, touring plays about interfaith relationships. Jacqi is grateful for a life filled with work she loves and feels especially blessed to be working on *August: Osage County* with this VERY special group of talented actors, designers and stage managers.

Director's Notes

I love the idea that live theatre enables us to view one another with curiosity, generosity and wonder. To watch people in situations and, without realizing what is happening, identify or take note of behavior that may be having a direct impact on our lives.

We are all on journeys.

Some are easier than others.

On my favorite coffee mug it says, "It's Official! I have become my mother."

The raw humanity layered into these characters touches us on many different levels. Your response to *August: Osage County* will not be bland, I can promise you that! You may be disgusted by the language, elated by the spirit of hope, drawn into empathizing by the challenges or just amazed at how quickly the time passes between this moment and the curtain call.

I believe that if you leave a theatre talking or thinking about what you just witnessed (and by your presence, participated in), we have done our job well. It has been such a huge pleasure to work with these actors on this project. How lucky you are, here at WeatherVane, to have actors willing to share their time and talent with you in this way. This is not an easy play, but everyone has risen to the occasion and we are all honored that you have chosen to spend this time with us.

It's good to be home.



In the Harris Family Gallery - Valerie Evans & Claire Heldman

In the current production of *August: Osage County*, there is a character named Johnna Monevata who is a Native American. She is one of the more calm and rational people in this play. Because of her presence in this production, artwork by two local Native American women is being exhibited in The Harris Family Gallery.

Valerie Evans, whose portrait subjects are a reflection of her Native American heritage (Delaware/Six Nations) has been interested in drawing and painting since her childhood. She began experimenting with colored pencil when her children were young as it was a medium that allowed her to "drop whatever I was doing at a moment's notice to attend to their immediate needs." Valerie says, "The same painterly effects of oil painting can be achieved through burnishing and applying multiple layers of pencil." In her work she tries to achieve an underlying effect of quiet reverence and dignity.

Valerie, who works for the American Indian Education Center in Parma, had the unique opportunity of exhibiting and selling her work at the Cleveland Museum of Art in the gift shop, during the "Art of the Americas" exhibit in 2010. In November of 2011, the same Native portraits were exhibited at Cleveland State University. She will also do commissioned portraits.

Claire Heldman ('Oyate Wakkan Wia'-The People See Her Woman) is a member of the Lakota from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of Eagle Butte, South Dakota. She is past President of the North American Indian Cultural Center (Akron). Claire has been working in the arts for more than 20 years and has exhibited extensively in Northeast Ohio, South Dakota, New Mexico, Colorado, Louisiana and Florida.

In 1997, she was one of 100 artists (from a group of 500) selected by the Mattie Kelly Foundation of the Fine Arts to exhibit in the Fine Arts Festival in Destin, Florida. In 2004, Claire received a nomination for "Artist of the Year" from the Ohio Arts Council. One of her pieces hangs in its Multi-Cultural Gallery in Columbus.

Currently, Claire is working with The University of Akron's Myers School of Art and the Department of Anthropology & Classic Studies. She is a consultant helping to identify artifacts from 600 AD thru the early 1900s as to the locations and dates made. There is a two part exhibition, "Native American Ethnographic Exhibition from The Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Collection," currently on display until Oct. 14 at UA's Center for the History of Psychology. This exhibit featured the Southwestern and Alaskan tribes. A second exhibit is planned for 2013 that will focus on Great Northern Plains Natives with an opening and reception at the Perkins Mansion.

Much of her work employs a variety of media incorporating slate, horsehide, driftwood, feathers, horse hair and canvas into visions of her heritage. Much of her work is visualized through meditation and prayer. "I endeavor to bridge cultures through art with the hope of bringing a better understanding of individuality among all races," says Claire.

The work by both these artists is for sale. PLEASE INQUIRE AT THE BOX OFFICE IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A PURCHASE. Both artists will donate a portion of the sale proceeds to WeatherVane.

Marci Paolucci, Gallery Curator

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Chanticleer Awards, August 2013

Keep track of your favorites! If you see all six mainstage shows, OR the Dietz and Holiday shows OR all three Young Actor productions, you will be able to cast your vote at the end of the season in the following categories:

Sound Design, Lighting Design, Properties Design, Lead Actor -- play & musical,
Supporting Actor -- play & musical, Lead Actress -- play & musical,
Supporting Actress -- play & musical, Best Production, Youth production
Technical Element, Dietz and Holiday production Technical element,
Actor & Actress performances in Dietz & Holiday production.



Cast Biographies



ALEX CIKRA (Beverly Weston) appeared as Antonio Salieri in last season's production of *Amadeus* and as "Dilly" Knox in the season prior to that in *Breaking the Code*, both at Weathervane, and in other plays in seasons prior to those seasons stretching back 35 years.



HARRIET DEVETO (Violet Weston) This is Harriet's 14th show at Weathervane Playhouse. A former Equity actress for 13 years, Harriet now returns to community theater where it all began many years ago. She has performed from New York to California and is glad to be back on home stages.



TARI LYN BERGOINE (Barbara Fordham) is beyond excited to be making her Weathervane debut in this amazing play with such an outstanding director, cast and crew. She was last seen as Lexie in *Dixie Swim Club* at Western Reserve Playhouse. Tari holds a BA degree in Drama from Marietta College where she performed in *Night Must Fall*, *The Shadow Box* and *Little Women* among others. Some favorite roles at area theatres include Emma/Countess in *Bloody Murder*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Chick Boyle in *Crimes of the Heart*, Kathy in *Vanities* and Crane Hammond in *Exit the Body*. Tari would like to give a shout out to her real-life sister, Karen, who never misses a show and to her husband of 27 years, John, and their three children Jesse, Sara and Halsey.



JIM FIPPIN (Bill Fordham) has appeared at Porthouse, Weathervane, Coach House, The Players Guild, Magical Theatre, and with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival and The Largely Literary Theater Company. His resume includes roles in *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *Richard III*, *Lettice and Lovage*, *The Rainmaker*, *Custer*, *The Real Thing*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Hamlet*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Noises Off*, *Twelfth Night*, *Another Antigone* and *King Lear*. As Artistic Director at Coach House Theatre (2000-2007), Jim staged *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Educating Rita*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Betrayal* and *Chapter Two*. At Weathervane, he staged *Italian American Reconciliation*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. Jim earned a BFA degree in Theatre Performance from Otterbein College, where he met his wife, Elaine. They live in

Wadsworth with their daughter, Emelie.



ERIN MOORE (Jean Fordham) is very excited to be in her first show at Weathervane Playhouse. She is a 2012 graduate from Malone University with a Bachelor's degree in Communications, concentrating in Theater. Her past credits at Malone include Anne Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Catherine in *Proof*, Lydia Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*, Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Sarah in *God's Favorite* and Cindy in *A Toby Show*. While at Malone, Erin was a member of Chancel Players for three years, and she was actively involved in Alpha Psi Omega. Erin thanks God, her family and friends, teachers and mentors, and everyone involved in this production for all of their love and support.



LAURA STITT (Ivy Weston) is thrilled to return to Weathervane after her performance last year in *The Nerd*. She is delighted to be working again with director Jacqi Loewy; she appeared as Helena in *Look Back in Anger*. Laura's theater experience includes performing in Chicago, Vermont and touring the country. She has also been seen on the stages of Actors' Summit, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Cleveland Play House, Dobama, Cleveland Shakespeare Company and Ensemble Theatre. Some of Laura's favorite roles include Lady Macbeth, Blanche DuBois, Harper in *Angels in America*, Varya in *The Cherry Orchard* and Rose in *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Laura holds a BFA degree in theater from Otterbein College and an MFA degree in acting from Case Western Reserve University. Laura currently teaches at Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Akron.



MARY MAHONEY (Karen Weston) is honored to be back at Weathervane for this dys*FUN*ctional show with this cast/crew. She has enjoyed performing in theatre for over 25 years. Some of Mary's favorite roles are Doris in *Same Time Next Year*, Sally in David Selby's *Final Assault*, Lenny in *Crimes of the Heart*, Rosemary in *Picnic* and the Witch/Lucy in *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*. She started directing, too (*The Sunshine Boys*) and found that to be a blast. Mary has been working professionally in industrials, commercials and voice-overs for over 15 years. You may recognize her as Isaly's current Chipped Chop Ham Lady on TV. XOXO to hubby Mark.



Cast Biographies ~ continued



APRIL DEMING (Mattie Fae Aiken) This is April's first play with Weathervane. She just moved to Ohio from Green Bay, WI, where she has been active on both sides of the curtain for 32 years. Her acting credits include Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, Regina in *The Little Foxes*, Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias* and Zorah in *Inspecting Carol*. A few of her favorite directing credits include *Fools*, *Visiting Mr. Green*, *The Drawer Boy* and *A Few Good Men*. April served on the Board of Directors of both Evergreen Theatre and Next Door Children's Theatre for years. She and husband Dave have four daughters and two grandsons. She is thankful that her first "Ohio" theatre experience includes such a talented group of people.



TOM STEPHAN (Charlie Aiken) is happy to return to the Weathervane stage after appearing in last season's *Shakespeare in Hollywood* and *See How They Run*. He is a member of The Largely Literary Theater Company; Mysteries by Moushey; is now in his 43rd year with Stow Players; and The Ohio Shakespeare Festival. A six-time Chanticleer Award winner, Tom recently added film work to his resume, spending several weeks this summer playing a featured role in the upcoming movie, *Underdogs*. He has served on the boards of Weathervane and Stow Players, and is now on the boards of a number of community and civic groups. He serves as the President of the Board of The GriefCare Place. He balances diverse community involvement with voice-over, commercial, and industrial video work.



FRANK CASTORENA (Little Charles Aiken) is very excited to be working in *August: Osage County*. Most recently he appeared as Prince Vladimir in Weathervane's touring show of *Two Swords, a Bag of Marbles* and a PB & J, written by our own Alan Scott Ferrall. Also on the Weathervane stage, Frank appeared in *Man of La Mancha* (also directed by Jacqi Loewy) playing Pedro. Originally from Los Angeles, California, Frank has worked on numerous projects in film, television and stage. You might remember him as a caveman in *The Flintstones*, *Viva Rock Vegas* ("Don't blink your eyes, you might miss me!"). In addition, he is also very active in educational theater and most recently has taught for the Akron after school program and Weathervane Playhouse. Frank holds his BA degree in

Theatre Arts from California State University, Northridge.



TINA THOMPCKINS (Johnna Monevata) is happy to be returning to Weathervane. She was last seen performing at Western Reserve Playhouse in *Dixie Swim Club*. Other performances include, CSF's *A Winter's Tale* and *Antony and Cleopatra*, BNC's production of *The Late Henry Moss*, Karamu's production of *Johnny Taylor's Gone*, at the Edinburgh, Scotland Fringe Festival in *Intensive Care*, Weathervane's production of *A Lesson Before Dying*, and Strongsville Playhouse's production of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. A few of her favorite shows were *The Piano Lesson*, *Seven Guitars*, *A Raisin In The Sun* and *Ragtime*. Thank you for your support. Peace, Love, Soul.



RICHARD WORSWICK (Steve Heidebrecht) is happy to be working with Jacqi Loewy again and this wonderfully talented cast. He was last seen on Weathervane Playhouse's stage in *Amadeus* as Count Orsini Rosenberg. Some of the previous Weathervane productions Richard has appeared in are *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*, *The Dinner Party*, *Noises Off*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* and *The Sisters Rosensweig*. Other theatres he has performed at are Coach House Theatre, Ohio Shakespeare Company, none too fragile theatre, Bang and Clatter Theatre, Dobama Theatre, Charenton Theatre Company, The Cleveland Play House and PlayhouseSquare Center. Immediately following the production of *August: Osage County*, he can be seen in *The Normal Heart* at The Ensemble Theatre in Cleveland Heights. Richard lives in Bath with his partner John Grafton (co-props designer) and Great Danes -- Apollo and Bacchus.



MICHAEL CRANSTON (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau) hails from Wadsworth and is thrilled to be acting at Weathervane with this tremendously talented company of performers and crew. His stage credits include Yvonne Kolobko & Duncan Trask in *Book of Liz*, Roy in *The Trip to Bountiful* (Stow Players). Multiple characters in *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The History of Richard III* and *King Lear* (Ohio Shakespeare Festival), Mr. Poole & Spider in *Jekyll and Hyde the Musical*, Dub Dubberly in *Christmas Belles* (Medina County Show Biz Company), Carter in *Witness for the Prosecution* (Coach House Theatre) and



Cast Biographies ~ continued

Little Charles in a production of *August: Osage County* earlier this year (North Canton Playhouse). Other favorite roles include Garson in *Norman, Is That You?* and Doodie in *Grease* (Ft. Stewart Army Performing Arts



Creative Team Biographies



SCOTT CUSTER (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back in the production booth after a seven-year hiatus traveling the world as an IT consultant. The Chanticleer Award-winning stage manager has been a part of Weathervane for nearly 17 years and has been the lighting designer, props designer and stage manager for several productions at Weathervane including *Noises Off* and *The Dinner Party*. Scott is also the photographer for Coach House Theatre, Ohio Shakespeare Festival and the Weathervane Young Actor productions. Scott is an IT Manager at Sherwin Williams in downtown Cleveland and lives in Wadsworth with his lovely wife Holly Humes. He thanks Holly for her support while he stage manages his first show in nearly a decade and Jacqi for this opportunity!



MICHAEL JAMES (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of this production of *August: Osage County*, his first with Weathervane. He has performed with Ohio Shakespeare Festival in *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Richard III* and *The History of King Lear*. Other local credits include *And Then There Were None* (Narracott), stage crew of *Sleuth*, Co-Stage Manager *The Unexpected Guest* and appeared as a tourist in *Lettice and Loveage* all at Coach House Theatre. His favorite shows have included *Jekyll and Hyde* (the musical) (General Lord Glossop, Wig Master Assistant Costumer) *Big River* (Silas/Schoolteacher/Leif) *The Book of Liz* and *Scapino!* (Geronte). He has also been seen in productions of *Gyps and Dolls*, *Godspell*, *The Sound of Music*, and two productions of *A Thurbur Carnival*.



MICHELLE ADELINA CONNER (Sound Designer) designed sound for our productions of *A View from the Bridge*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Perfect Wedding* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. She worked on sound crews for *A Doll's House*; *Blithe Spirit*; *The Goat or, Who Is Sylvia?*; *The Sum of Us*; *Long Day's Journey into Night*; *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* and others. She was also our assistant stage manager for *See How They*

Center, Hinesville, Georgia). His backstage credits include hair, makeup and sound design, costumes, props, and stage managing for various local theatres. 143.

Run. Michelle is a graduate of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School and The University of Akron.



ERIN KATZ FORD (Lighting Designer) is a dedicated and longtime Weathervane volunteer who can be found in our scene shop many evenings after work. By day, she is a Director of Synagogue Education and Programming at Beth-El Congregation. Erin co-designed properties for *The Wedding Singer* and *Rabbit Hole* and the lighting for *Man of La Mancha* (for which she won a Chanticleer for her co-design), *The Lion in Winter*, *The Sum of Us*, *Three Tall Women* and *My Way*.



JOHN GRAFTON (Properties Co-Designer) is a retired marketing manager from The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. He was awarded a Chanticleer for designing props for *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?* John also designed props for *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, worked crew for *Man of La Mancha*, *The Rainmaker*, *Irma Vep* and *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, and was Assistant Stage Manager for *Shine!* John recently appeared on stage at Weathervane as Majordomo and Kapellmeister Bonno in *Amadeus*. He is a new member of the Weathervane Board, has served on several Gala committees, and has enjoyed meeting many of the Weathervane community. John thanks his partner, Richard, for his tolerance and coaching. They live in Bath with their two Great Danes, Apollo and Bacchus.



BARBIE TROTTER (Properties Co-Designer) began volunteering with Weathervane Playhouse in 2000, working backstage on props crews. She designed costumes for the Mainstage productions of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Proof*, both in 2003, and for *The Nerd* in 2011. She designed lighting for the 2007 Dietz Theater production *String of Pearls*, and was the Stage Manager for *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (2008), the Dietz theater production *Intimate Apparel* and the Mainstage *Putting It Together*, both in 2009. Barbie has been pleased to



Creative Team Biographies ~ continued

appear on the Weathervane Stage as Nat in *Rabbit Hole* (2010) and Mrs. Lipari in *A View from the Bridge* (2011). In addition to being on Weathervane's staff as Coordinator of Volunteers, Barbie teaches speech communication at The University of Akron.



JASEN J. SMITH (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008 as its Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. Since then, he has designed costumes for the Playhouse's productions of *Children of Eden*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Bloody Murder*, *Intimate Apparel* and *Pride and Prejudice* among others. His co-costuming credits include *Putting It Together* (with Adam Thatcher) and *Man of La Mancha* (with Hedy Jones), the latter of which earned him and his collaborator the Chanticleer Award for best costume design. Jasen also won the 2009 Marquee Award for Best Costume Design from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on *Children of Eden*. His other regional costume-design credits include Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and the Ohio Light Opera (*Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *Robin Hood* and *The Merry Widow*).



ALAN SCOTT FERRALL (Scenic Designer) began at Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 16th 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 the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; 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 three one-act children's play that tour local schools: *Two Swords*, *a Bag of Marbles* and *a PB & J*, *The Mystery of the Missing Robot* and *How the Bee Learned to Spell: A Fable*. He also takes great pleasure in writing the end-of-the-season revue for the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players, who appear at Weathervane's annual Chanticleer Awards banquet. He was the recipient of the 2012 Trustees Award.



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Erin Katz Ford
Kevin Ford
Joe Hunter
John Tynan
David Deming
Steve Schwan

PROPERTIES

John Grafton
Barbie Trotter
Karen Burridge
Mary Kate Clancy
Anthony Kenney
John Tynan

SOUND

Michelle Conner
Stephen Moushey
Kevin Jones
Lois Bennett

LIGHTS

Erin Katz Ford
Kevin Ford
Anthony Kenney
Jason Bryan Maurer
Sue Stout Davis

COSTUMES

Jasen J. Smith
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Darlene Salupo
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Acknowledgements

The Odd Corner
Sand Run Pharmacy
Charles Korecki

Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

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

Phyllis Bernel
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The Parents of the
"Annie" Cast

JOHN HEDGES, Executive Director

Mr. Hedges is currently in his sixth season as Executive Director of Weathervane Playhouse. He has enjoyed an award-winning career as both a producer and an actor. In the spring of 2012, John received critical acclaim 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 historic Barter Theatre in Virginia where he performed in over sixty shows. Other acting credits include performances at Broadway's Town Hall, the Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles, the Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville and the American Stage Festival in New Hampshire where he appeared opposite Academy Award-winner Olympia Dukakis in *The Cherry Orchard*. Film work: *Freedom* (Best Supporting Actor, SA International Film Festival). 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, 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 in theatre from Stafford University. He is a graduate of Leadership Akron (Class XXV).

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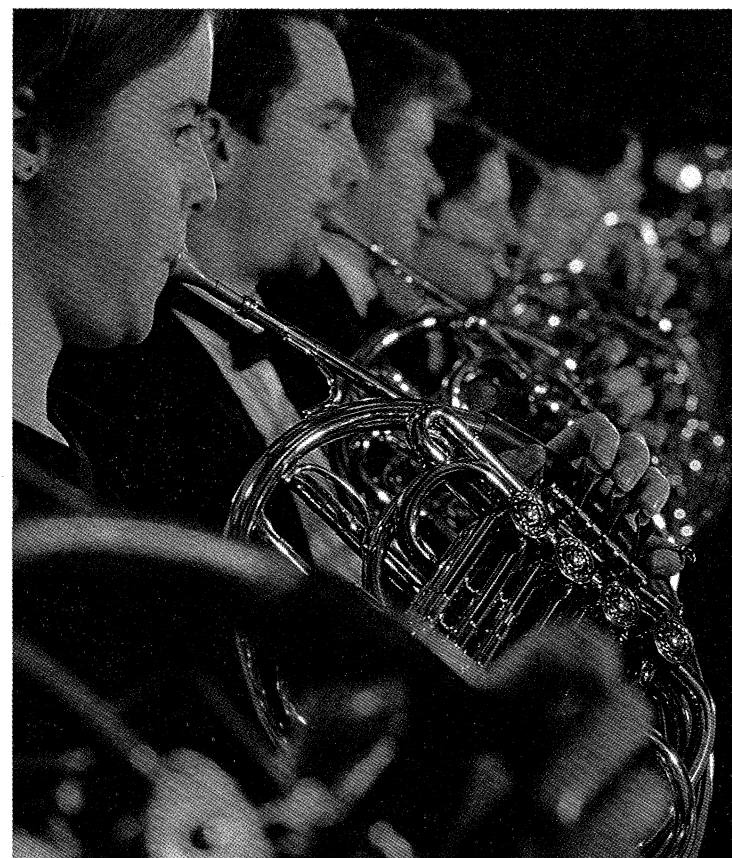
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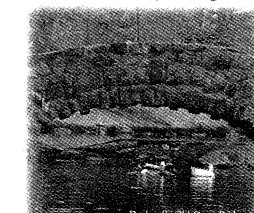
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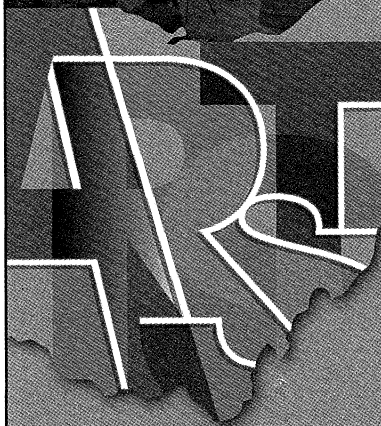
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