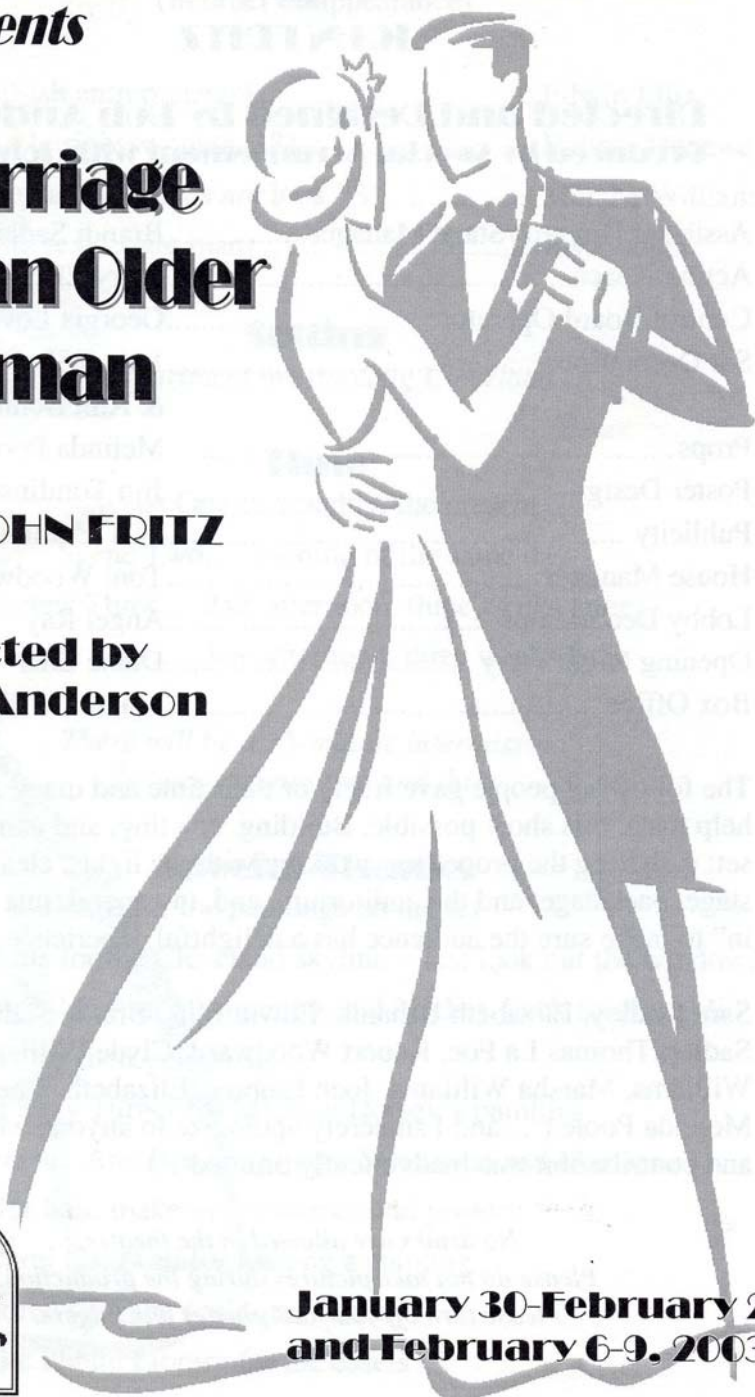


**STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE**  
*presents*

# **Marriage to an Older Woman**

**By JOHN FRITZ**

**Directed by  
Bob Anderson**



**January 30-February 2  
and February 6-9, 2003**

# **Marriage to An Older Woman**

**By  
JOHN FRITZ**

**Directed and Designed by Bob Anderson**

**Produced by Special Arrangement with John Fritz**

Assistant Director/Stage Manager.....	Brandi Sadler
Acting Coach .....	Mary Eleanor Anderson
Control Board Operator .....	Georgia Love
Set Decorations .....	Joan Wilson & Ann Bonner
Props .....	Melinda Poole
Poster Design .....	Jim Tomlinson
Publicity .....	SCT Committee
House Manager .....	Toni Woodward
Lobby Decorations.....	Angel Ray
Opening Night Party .....	Diane Ellis
Box Office .....	Marsha Williams

The following people gave freely of their time and many talents to help make this show possible. Building, erecting, and painting the set; gathering the properties, working with the lights, cleaning the stage, backstage, and the auditorium, and, in general, just “pitching in” to make sure the audience has a delightful experience.

Sam Dudley, Elizabeth Urbanik, Edwin Ellis, Brandi Sadler, Spencer Sadler, Thomas La Foe, Robert Woodward, Clyde Williams, Kyle Williams, Marsha Williams, Joan Embree, Elizabeth Wheatley, and Melinda Poole ( ...and I sincerely apologize to anyone whose name and contribution was inadvertently omitted...)

*No drinks are allowed in the theatre.*

*Please do not take pictures during the production.*

*Please turn off your cell phones and pagers.*

## **Cast of Characters**

(In order of appearance)

CARL (a 60-ish entrepreneur).....	Edwin Ellis
FREDDY (a businesswoman, 38) .....	Debbie Dunaway
BABS (a woman who does <i>not</i> look 73) .....	Marsha Williams
HOWARD (a real-estate man) .....	Jay Cooper

## **Setting**

*An apartment overlooking Cleveland*

## **Time**

Scene One.....roughly, the present

Scene Two.....evening of the same day

Scene Three.....late afternoon, three weeks later

Scene Four.....late afternoon, three weeks later

*There will be a 15-minute intermission  
between scenes two and three.*

## **Special Thanks**

- Rowan Williams for the paintings on the set
- Diane Ellis for the Cleveland skyline ~ just look out the window!
- Playwrights' Forum of Memphis and Mickey Luck for Renaldo
- Flexsteel for their generosity
- Jim and Suzy Turner for Michael Dorsey's painting
- Jane Persian, Ann Bonner, Ginger Stevenson and Marianne Ulmer for hair, make-up, costumes and jewelry
- Alice Carol Caldwell for loaning a painting
- Bill Andrews for the sculpture, Janus
- Starkville Public Library for the easels



## Meet the Cast



**Jay Freeman Cooper** grew up in the rural mountain, coal-mining town of Williamson, West Virginia. He made his stage debut early - playing Jesus in his church's nativity presentation. By age 4, he was performing vocally in his church and the community. Jay continued to perform throughout high school and college, including shows like *Dial M for Murder*,

*Doctor of Lonesome Folk*, and *Asylum*. He played the lead in *A Christmas Carol* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and as "Shep" in *Bell, Book and Candle*, directed by Frances Heller. He stayed active in theatre while attending Wood Junior College and Mississippi State University but worked mostly behind the scenes while living in Nashville and Pensacola. He is glad to be back in Starkville and back on stage.



**Debbie Haynes Dunaway** is a native of Gallatin, Tennessee. She moved to Starkville in 1990 from Cincinnati and has been involved with Starkville Community Theatre ever since. In fact, she first appeared in the SCT production *Thurber Carnival* the year she moved to town. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Debbie works for Stark Law Office as a

legal assistant. Her husband, Greg, a professor at MSU, daughter Meghan, 13, and son Matthew, 10, are her biggest fans. She is glad to be back on stage in *Marriage...* after past performances in *A Christmas Carol*, *The Wake of Jamie Foster*, *Ten Little Indians*, *Nunsense*, *Morning's at Seven*, *Dearly Departed*, and *Grace and Glorie*.

## Meet the Cast



**Edwin Ellis** is happy to be back on stage at the Playhouse on Main. After attending the first show ever presented by SCT, Edwin got involved - helping with construction of the theatre's second show, *You Can't Take it With You*. He has been involved ever since. His first on-stage appearance occurred in *Mary Mary*, directed by John Graef. Edwin has been involved with set construction and

light design numerous times during the 25-year history of SCT. Appearances in such shows as *A Thousand Clowns*, *Ten Little Indians*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *The Moving of Lilla Barton*, *Mousetrap*, and *All Through the Night* have added to his love of working with the theatre. Now retired from MSU, Edwin spends some of his time working part-time for First United Methodist Church. He also enjoys tracing his family roots and spending time with his wife, Diane, and their three loving grandchildren.



**Marsha Williams** spends much of her time with Starkville Community Theatre. In addition to her role as "Babs" in tonight's production of *Marriage to An Older Woman*, Marsha serves as president of SCT. She is also the box office manager - and chances are if someone called you to confirm your reservation for tonight, it was Marsha! When she is not dancing around stage or sculpting

nude men, she works for the Social Science Research Center. Her involvement with SCT spans many years and includes work as an actor, director (*Lend Me a Tenor* and others) and all sorts of behind-the-scene jobs. Her first on-stage experience came in *Wait Until Dark* during the 1982-83 season. Other favorite shows include *Grace and Glorie*, *Akhmatova*, *Love Letters*, *Nunsense*, *Tintypes*, *Octette Bridge Club* and *The Exact Center of the Universe*.

## **A Note from the Director.....**

I was privileged to direct the first SCT production, “6 Rms Riv Vu” in the summer of 1978. We presented the play in the ballroom of what was then the Ramada Inn. We built the stage and the scenery wherever we could find an available space and rehearsed in the parish hall of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. We moved all the scenery and the stage platforms into the ballroom, lighted the set with spotlights borrowed from the MSU student union, and presented three nights of dinner theatre.

In the twenty-five years since then, I have been fortunate to work with hundreds of dedicated people doing their best to provide quality theatrical entertainment to the audiences of Starkville. And to all of you, I dedicate this show as a part of our silver celebration.

### **Opening Night Party**

Part of the magic of Starkville Community Theatre comes from experiencing the fun that goes along with live theatre. One of the greatest traditions at SCT is our Opening Night Parties. If you are with us on the first Thursday of this performance, the cast and crew would like to invite you to join them in a celebration upstairs. This party, which features wonderful hors d'oeuvres and champagne, is open to everyone attending the show. It is a tradition designed to celebrate the opening of a new show and to give the cast and people behind the scenes a chance to celebrate with their first audience. If you are here on a night other than opening night, we hope you make plans to attend an opening night show and celebration in the future.



## **The Artwork**

Starkville is blessed with some wonderfully talented people. SCT benefits year after year from talented actors, but the talent in this community runs much deeper. On stage tonight you will see some wonderful artwork. It was all created by local artists. The pieces you see include:

- Bill Andrews ~ *Janus*
- Michael Dorsey ~ *Northern Morning*
- Linda Morrison ~ *Mother and Child*
- Rowan Williams ~ *Meagh*
- Rowan Williams ~ *Erin*
- Rowan Williams ~ *Figure*
- Rowan Williams ~ *Nude with Ginkgo Leaves*
- Helen Stahl ~ *New Orleans*

## **Art Show**

Starkville Community Theatre, in conjunction with the Starkville Arts Council, is sponsoring an art exhibit in the upstairs meeting room of the Playhouse on Main. We would like to invite you to join us upstairs during intermission or after each night after the show to view the works on display. These pieces were all created by local artists and students from the MSU Art Department. SCT is proud to work with the local arts council to help promote another wonderful art form. We hope you enjoy!

## About the Playwright

John Fritz's plays have been seen and/or read at Abingdon Theatre Company and Playformers in New York, as well as theatres from Midland to Annapolis, Carmel to Princeton, and Memphis to Syracuse. His play, *Marriage to an Older Woman*, won first place in the 2000 McLaren Comedy Play Writing Competition in Midland, Texas, and won third place in the 2000 Beverly Hills Theatre Guild/Julie Harris Playwright Competition.

## AUDITIONS

Auditions for SCT's next performance, *The Queen of Bingo*, will be held Monday and Tuesday, February 3 and 4, at 7 p.m. here at the Playhouse on Main. The cast of the comedy, written by Jeanne Michels and Phyllis Murphy and directed by Pattye Archer, includes **two women** and **two men**. The show features two sisters (on the other side of fifty) who add a little zest, fun and excitement to their lives by playing BINGO! Join Sis, Babe, Father Mac and our Bingo caller at St. Joseph's for a night of fun you won't soon forget. For information on the show or to request a script, please call our box office at 323-6855 and leave a message or email Pattye at [parcher@library.mstate.edu](mailto:parcher@library.mstate.edu).

The 2002-2003 Starkville Community Theatre Season is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

