

Starkville Community Theatre presents

# I Love You

Books & Lyrics by Joe DiPietro ■ Music by Jimmy Rogers

# You're Perfect

Directed by Paula Mabry

# Now Change

February 10-13 and  
February 15-19, 2005

Underwritten by a grant from the  
Starkville Area Arts Council



# I *Love* You, *You're* Perfect, Now Change

Books & Lyrics by Joe DiPietro ■ Music by Jimmy Rogers

Directed by Paula Mabry

## *The Cast*

MJ Etua

Joe Evans

Madeline Golden

Cristina Kinney

Thomas La Foe

Lyle Tate

Marianne Ulmer

Krista Vowell

Molly Watkins



## *The Musicians*

Carole Ramsey ..... Keyboard

James Nail..... Bass

## *The Crew*

Director ..... Paula Mabry

Assistant Director ..... Pattye Archer

Vocal Coach ..... Chesney McKinley

Set Design ..... Cristina Kinney

Lighting Design..... Thomas La Foe

Costume Coordinator ..... Ellen McGuffey

Lighting Operator..... Andrew Watkins

Technical Advisor..... Ty Phillips

Backstage Crew..... Ellen Triggs & Terry McDowell

Choreography Consultant..... Debby Funderburk

Hair Design ..... Jansen "Jasper" Fair

Opening Night Party..... Starkville Area Arts Council

Costumes..... Ellen McGuffey, Joan Wilson,  
Everlyn Johnson & Linda Clark



## Act 1

"Cantata for a First Date"  
Not Tonight, I'm Busy, Busy, Busy  
"A Stud and a Babe"  
"Single Man Drought"  
"Why? 'Cause I'm a Guy"  
"Tear Jerk"  
The Lasagna Incident  
"I Will be Loved Tonight"  
"Hey There, Single Gal/Guy"  
I'll Call You Soon (Yeah, Right)  
"He Called Me"  
Scared Straight  
"Cantata Reprise 1"  
"Wedding Vows"



## Act 2

"Cantata Reprise 2"  
"Always a Bridesmaid"  
Whatever Happened to Baby's Parents?  
"The Baby Song"  
Sex and the Married Couple  
"Marriage Tango"  
The Family that Drives Together...  
"On the Highway of Love"  
Waiting  
"Waiting Trio"  
"Cantata Reprise 3"  
"Shouldn't I be Less in Love with You?"  
The Very First Dating Video of Rose Ritz  
Funerals Are For Dating  
"I Can Live with That"  
"Finale: I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"





## *Special Thanks*

Mike and Nan Tate  
Messiah Presbyterian Church

Kerry Ellis  
WLZA and Glenn James  
WTVA

WMSV and Krista Vowell  
Mississippi State University Department of Communication  
& Wayne Durst

Mississippi State University Department of Music Education  
& Mike Brown

Mississippi State University Department of English  
Starkville High School Theatre Department  
Dr. Bob Wolverton

Chad Allgood  
Golden Triangle Fabric Center  
Peyton and Meghan Wolf

Starkville High School Theatre Department  
Oktibbeha County Sheriff's Department & Eddie Young  
Dr. Regan Ford

Ann Bonner  
Christy Cater & The Sundial  
Ty Phillips

Mike McGuffey  
Bob Anderson  
Marsha Williams  
Edwin Ellis

## *Set Construction*

Paula Mabry, MJ Etua, Joe Evans, Lyle Tate, Madeline Golden,  
Cristina Kinney, Thomas La Foe, Ty Phillips, Krista Vowell,  
Marcus Vowell, Ron Palmer, Molly Watkins, Andrew Watkins,  
Patty Archer, Marianne Ulmer, Don Mabry, Marsha Williams  
& Bob Anderson



## *From the Director...*

"What a delightful group of people! This cast and crew have been focused from the very beginning of the production. Their amazing talents have made rehearsals go smoothly. Thanks to Carole, who travels from Columbus each day to play for us, and to Pattye, whose creativity and good attitude never cease. Working with Chesney McKinley and Ellen McGuffey was a special treat; both have ties from my Starkville High days. Without everyone's working hard to make this musical work, we would not have succeeded. I especially thank the play selection committee for choosing *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and wish to remember Dr. Ann Wiltrout, whose untimely death came as we began auditions. Ann was a member of the play selection committee for a year and a half. Thanks to my husband, Don, and to Duffy, our little dog, for their love and support of me in the things that I do."



## *Opening Night Party & Art Exhibit*

The opening night party for *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* is hosted by the Starkville Area Arts Council's Board of Directors. If you are here for opening night, please join us upstairs following the show to help celebrate the event. If you are here on a night other than opening night, we hope you will consider joining us for an opening in the near future.

The Starkville Community Theatre and Starkville Area Arts Council invite you upstairs following the opening night performance and at intermission during all subsequent performances to view a sample of art work created by Lucy Rhodes. Refreshments will be served during the 10-minute intermission.



## Act 1



### Scene 1:

Prologue ..... The Company

"Cantata for a First Date" ..... The Company

### Scene 2:

Not Tonight, I'm Busy, Busy, Busy ..... Krista & Lyle

### Scene 3:

"A Stud and a Babe" ..... Cristina & Thomas

### Scene 4:

"Single Man Drought" ..... Marianne & MJ with Lyle & Joe

"Why? 'Cause I'm a Guy" ..... Lyle & Joe

### Scene 5:

"Tear Jerk" ..... Thomas & Krista

### Scene 6:

The Lasagna Incident ..... Molly & Lyle

"I Will be Loved Tonight" ..... Molly

### Scene 7:

And Now the Parents... ..... Lyle, Madeline, Thomas & Cristina

"Hey There, Single Gal/Guy" ..... Lyle & Madeline

### Scene 8:

I'll Call You Soon (Yeah, Right) ..... Marianne

"He Called Me" ..... Marianne with Joe, Lyle & Molly

### Scene 9:

Scared Straight ..... Madeline, Thomas, Lyle & Cristina

### Scene 10:

"Cantata Reprise 1" ..... MJ, Lyle, Molly, Joe, Krista & Thomas

"Wedding Vows" ..... MJ, Lyle, Molly, Joe, Krista & Thomas



## Act 2

### Scene 1:

"Cantata Reprise 2" ..... Molly & Joe  
"Always a Bridesmaid" ..... Krista

### Scene 2:

Whatever Happened to Baby's Parents? ..... Lyle, Marianne & Joe  
"The Baby Song" ..... Lyle

### Scene 3:

Sex and the Married Couple ..... Joe & Madeline  
"Marriage Tango" ..... Joe & Madeline  
with Thomas & Lyle

### Scene 4:

The Family that Drives Together ..... Molly & Thomas  
"On the Highway of Love" ..... Thomas, Molly, Lyle & Cristina

### Scene 5:

Waiting ..... Marianne & Joe  
"Waiting Trio" ..... Lyle, MJ & Marianne

### Scene 6:

"Cantata Reprise 3" ..... Molly, Joe, Krista, Thomas,  
Cristina & Lyle  
"Shouldn't I be Less in Love with You?" ..... Joe

### Scene 7:

The Very First Dating Video of Rose Ritz ..... Madeline with Lyle

### Scene 8:

Funerals Are For Dating ..... Thomas & MJ  
"I Can Live with That" ..... Thomas & MJ

### Scene 9:

Epilogue ..... The Company  
"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" ..... The Company





## About the Cast....



### MJ Etua

You may have seen MJ on the Playhouse stage in SCT's annual summer musical revues as well as other productions including *Proposals*, *The Night of January 16th*, *Deathtrap*, and *Inspecting Carol*. She also directed SCT's productions of *The Mouse Trap* and *Smoke and Mirrors*. Among her numerous talents is her proficiency at playwriting. She has written and directed a number of productions for Project P.L.A.Y., SCT's summer children's theatre, including *The Storyteller*, *Sails and Tales*, *Bad Sam and the Devil*, and *The B. E. A. T.* She is currently working on a musical and an urban poetry play. In another life, MJ teaches Theatre Arts and Oral Communication at Louisville High School. During her "off-time," she serves as the president of the Mississippi Theatre Association and as a member of several Southeastern Theatre Conference committees. To family Etua: "*Bia ve akeva a su nvolan. Papa, akeva a su pullover. A yane nvoi!*"

### Joe C. Evans

After a five-year absence from the SCT stage, Joe is happy to be back again. Joe has appeared in several productions for Starkville Community Theatre over the years including *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Romance/Romance*, and *Damn Yankees*. Over his extended stay at Mississippi State, Joe was also very involved in Theatre MSU, performing in shows such as *Boys Next Door*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Disposal*, *Pippin*, and *Man of La Mancha*. Most recently, Joe played "Congas" in an original performance art piece called *Joe Jackson's Night and Day*. Joe works as a mild-mannered reporter for the Starkville Daily News during the day when he's not busy fighting crime. "This one is for you, Leigh Ann."

### Madeline Golden

Madeline begins her 22nd season of performing with SCT and is excited to be involved in another musical endeavor. Past SCT musicals in which Madeline has performed include *Tintypes*, *Nunsense*, and *Romance/Romance*.

"Musicals are so much fun . . . and a little more stressful than your average play. Not only do you have to hope to remain healthy enough to project spoken lines, you have to pray that when you open your mouth to sing, actual melodic sounds are emitted!" When forced to leave the theater, Madeline spends time at work on the MSU campus in the Office of Agricultural Communications and at her new little house with her brood of animals.



### Cristina Kinney

Cristina is making her SCT debut with *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. She has enjoyed this experience and hopes to be involved with SCT more in the future. She is a theatre major at Mississippi State University, and some of her favorite roles with Theatre MSU include "Desdemona" in *Desdemona, a Play about a Handkerchief*, "Frosine" in *The Miser*, and "Yolande" in *The Lark*. She would like to thank her parents and especially her brother, Brian, for all of their support throughout the years.

### Thomas La Foe

Thomas is glad to be in another main stage show at SCT and is extremely pleased that it is a musical! He got involved in theatre through Delta Center Stage's summer youth musicals and has continued here in Starkville as a member of the past three summer musical revues. In those few moments that he is not doing theatre, he managed to graduate from MSU with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies and is now working toward a master's degree in Instructional Technology. "Special thanks to Pattye for helping me find the right paths, to my parents for supporting me in whatever I [eventually] do, and to all my friends for being there through thick and thin."



### Lyle Tate

Lyle is pleased to be in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* tonight, marking his 20th onstage production at the Playhouse on Main since joining SCT in 1999. Lyle's favorite roles with SCT include playing "Ken" in *Rumors*, "Cliff" in *Deathtrap*, "David Lee" in *The Foreigner*, "Daddy" in *Daddy's Dyin' (Who's Got the Will?)*, and various characters in *The Complete History of America [Abridged]*. Other highlights include playing "Brick" in TCT's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and "Schroeder" in FUMC's *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Lyle, as always, thanks his mom & dad for their constant support, not only of him but of SCT. Finger kisses to Marianne and cheers to Paul & Cindy, with whom he saw *I Love You...* at the Westside Upstairs just under a year ago ("It's our turn now... Hopefully no one will move our teddy bear!). In the years since his first production, Lyle has been privileged to work alongside many of the people you see onstage tonight, people who are not only talented actors but also his closest and dearest friends. "I thank the Lord for the people I have found." ~ Taupin



## Marianne Ulmer

Marianne is an instructor in the Department of Communication at MSU. She has been an active member of Starkville Community Theatre for over 20 years and currently serves on the Board of Directors. Marianne was last seen in the summer production *Welcome to the 60's!*. "I fell in love with the characters in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* when I saw the show in New York last year. These people are real; they are funny; they are life; they are us! Thanks to all of the people in my life who make it real and funny!"



## Krista Vowell

Krista considers herself very fortunate to have been a part of the SCT family for years. *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Sentimental Journey*, *Bus Stop*, and *Proof* are some of the shows on which she's worked with SCT, and she has also worked with Theatre MSU, Greenwood Little Theatre, and Louisville Community Theatre. In real life, Krista is News Director for WMSV radio in Starkville. Krista has enjoyed lots of roles on stage, but her favorite role is that of wife and mother. "Thank you to Peyton and Meghan for making me so proud and for all of your support and hugs and kisses. Thank you to the cast and crew for loving me and for putting up with my craziness! And finally, a very special thanks to Marcus; with you in my corner, I feel like I can do anything. I love you more than peanut butter!"

## Molly Watkins

Molly has been involved in SCT for the last five years. In that time, she has directed, acted, stage managed, run lights, sewed costumes, built sets, and served as an officer. Most recently, she directed this season's opener *Moon Over Buffalo*. Molly wants to dedicate this show to her family—all experiencing different stages of love. To her parents, Dave and Becky, who celebrated their 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this week; to her brother, DJ, who recently became engaged to a great woman, Dawn; to her youngest brother, Tyler, who is in the midst of the dating experience; and to her husband of ten years, Andrew. May they all continue to love, strive for perfection, and, of course, change.

## Patty Archer

Patty has been involved with SCT since her friend Stephen talked her into serving on the Board. A few years later Stephen pulled her in deeper when he asked her to decorate the set for a show he was directing. She has directed the summer musical revue since 2000 and also directed *Queen of Bingo* and *Inspecting Carol*. "Thank you, Paula, for allowing me to work with you on this show! To the cast - you know how I feel. To dad, thank you for giving me the love of theatre, especially musical theatre! And to Stephen, remember you are the one who started all this! ILY!"



## Paula Mabry

Paula, retired Starkville High School Theatre teacher, is no stranger to the musical stage. During her years at SHS, she directed many musicals and many award-winning competition plays. Since 1984, she directs the summer stage production for MSU's Summer Scholars' On Stage musical production. Last year for SCT she assistant-directed *Deathtrap* and directed *Deadline Dawn*, SCT's entry to the Mississippi Theatre Association Festival, receiving the award for Best Director in the Community Theatre Division.

## James Nail

James has been performing on string bass for 14 years and on electric bass for 11 years. He is currently enrolled at MSU as a double major in both physics and music (with emphasis in guitar). He plans on continuing his education in both fields at the graduate level, specializing in acoustics and composition. Recent performances on bass include performances with the MSU Jazz Band, the MSU Concert Choir, and FUMC's production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.



## Carole Ramsey

Carole is employed with the law firm of Gholson, Hicks & Nichols in Columbus as a legal assistant. She is also the organist and chancel choir accompanist at First United Methodist Church in Starkville. She has served as organist for both the Spring and Fall commencement exercises at Mississippi State University; as accompanist for the University Music Department's 2003 production of *The Fantasticks*, SCT's 2003 production of *25*, and FUMC's 2004 production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and as an actress in SCT's *Inspecting Carol*. "Many thanks to Paula, Pattye, and this amazing cast for allowing me to be a part of such an awesome show. Although the hours have been long and the rehearsals tiring, I have never felt more energized as I have these last few days. Your commitment to this project has been incredible! How fortunate I am to have been afforded the opportunity to serve as your accompanist. Paula and Pattye, I can't thank you enough for saying 'yes' when I asked to serve as your 'orchestra' for this show. I have shared the stage tonight with my dearest and most treasured friends, and once again you have proven how unbelievable you are! In order to describe you accurately, I would have to steal a line from one of my favorite songs: 'Here's to us. Who's like us? Damn few!' I love you, you're perfect, don't ever change."



## *Auditions for our Next Show...*

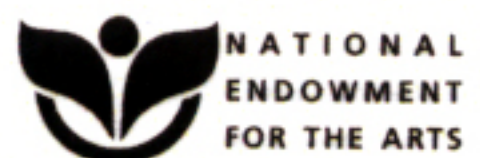
Auditions for SCT's fourth and final production of the 2004-2005 season, *Communicating Doors*, will be held Saturday, February 12 at 11 a.m. and Sunday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m., at the Playhouse on Main. Directed by SCT veteran MJ Etua, the show includes a cast of three men and three women. For *Communicating Doors*, a comic time-traveling thriller by Alan Ayckbourn, Etua is looking for actors of varying ages. Because the show centers of time-travel, she said, some actors will be asked to play the same character at different ages. For more information on the show or auditions please contact the theatre at 323-6855 and leave a message for MJ Etua.

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