

STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS

Seeing Stars in Dixie



September 15-18 & 20-24, 2005

Seeing Stars in Dixie

A Play in Two Acts

Produced by Special Arrangements with Samuel French, Inc.

By RON OSBORNE

Directed by Bob Anderson

Cast

(In order of appearance)

GLEASE.....Edwin Ellis
TOOTIE.....Debbie Dunaway
CLEMMIE.....Marsha Williams
MARJORIE.....Madeline Golden
JO BETH.....Marianne Ulmer

Time

May 1956 during the filming of the movie *Raintree County* on
location in Natchez, Mississippi.

ACT I

Scene 1.....A weekday morning
Scene 2.....Early the next morning
Scene 3.....Later the same day
Scene 4.....The following afternoon

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts.

ACT II

Scene 1.....Early the following morning
Scene 2.....Early afternoon exactly one week later
Scene 3.....The next morning
Scene 4.....The following morning

Director's note:

The run of this play is dedicated to Lora DeFore in hopes
of a rapid and complete recovery!

Technical Staff

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Set Design..... | Bob Anderson |
| Sound Design | Edwin Ellis |
| View of Natchez..... | Diane Ellis |
| Assistant Director/Stage Manager..... | Maggie Corley |
| Set Decoration | Joan Wilson |
| Properties | Joan Wilson |
| Lighting and Sound Operator..... | Dave Patillo |
| Hair Design..... | Jansen Fair |
| First Night Celebration..... | Krista Vowell, chair |
| Lobby Decoration..... | Krista Vowell |
| Poster Design..... | Marcus Vowell |
| Programs..... | Pattye Archer |

Set Construction

Edwin Ellis, Bob Anderson, Don Mabry,
Melanie Morse, Paula Mabry, Debbie Dunaway,
Marsha Williams, Ron Palmer, Seth Oppenheimer,
Bonnie Oppenheimer, Marianne Ulmer, Ross Williams,
Maggie Corley, Wayne Durst & Sarah Morse

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of:

Paige Lawes and THREE GENERATIONS
Everlyn Johnson & THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE FABRIC CENTER
Theatre MSU and the MSU Department of Communication
THE AMZI LOVE – LINCOLN HOMES Bed and Breakfast
Mary Shelton, Annette Brown, Verna Ramsey,
Terry Reese, Linda Breazeale and
Cherri Golden and her amazing, personal vintage hat collection

For Lobby Decorations

Bettye Gentry, Ida Cunetto, Marianne Ulmer, Bonnie Oppenheimer,
Marsha Williams, Lyle Tate, Bob and Peggy Wolverton and Ann Bonner

And for the First Night Celebration

Khaki Ingels, Lyle Tate, Molly Watkins, Stephen Cunetto, A.C. Caldwell
Paula Mabry, Angel Ray and Cindy Ruff

Backstories and Dreams

Early in Ron Osborne's *Seeing Stars in Dixie*, Clemmie, a 59-year-old widow, tells us that she regularly reads the movie fan magazine Silver Screen, a respite from washing dishes and tending her Natchez tea room.

The backstory of *Seeing Stars* involves location shooting of MGM's Raintree County in and near Natchez during spring 1956. Based upon Ross Lockridge's thousand-page novel (1948), the MGM film (1957) drew mostly negative or indifferent reviews but garnered five Oscar nominations, including Elizabeth Taylor's first, and attracted enormous audiences.

The film adaptation badly mangled Lockridge's first novel but managed to retain a modest sense of the novel's exploring how people's dreams and memories inform their present realities and define their life's future directions. In the film's Raintree County theme, Nat "King" Cole assured us that in a land where a raintree blossomed in gold you and I could enfold ourselves in dreams – which, the song suggested, could come true.

In the real world, Montgomery Clift, rather than inhabiting a room at Marjorie's, languished in a Los Angeles hospital recovering from near fatal injuries resulting from a booze- and drug-induced auto crash. Liz Taylor, nearing the end of her marriage to Michael Wilding, had developed an inordinate fondness for expensive champagne, but not for the subsequent headaches. In fact, most of the film's location shoots occurred in Danville, Kentucky, not in Natchez or its environs, and the most prominent Mississippi location was at the ruins of Windsor, a post-bellum mansion off a backwater dirt road twenty miles north of Natchez.

Early, Clemmie, the avid reader of Silver Screen magazine, says of seeing screen stars: "When they're dead, they're still alive! . . . I mean up there . . . on the big screen . . . in color . . . talking, singing, dancing. They'll be there forever . . . Elizabeth Taylor, bless her heart, will never die!"

Near the end, she returns to movies and dreams: "I'm not going to live forever in Technicolor . . . What matters is I worked for a dream, and that makes me a winner!"

So, as the ending amply demonstrates, between the real and the dream, Clemmie and Osborne chose to "print the dream."

Good choice.

Edwin Warfield

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Buy your SCT Season Ticket today!

There are several benefits to being a season ticket holder. First, you save over the cost of tickets at the door. Second, you are able to make reservations before the general public. Reservations for season ticket holders open two weeks before opening night. And third, your season ticket makes you a voting member of SCT and gives you a voice in such decisions as play selection and officers.

Season Ticket \$40
Senior Ticket \$30

Get in the Act...

Join our Giving Production Team

Donations above the cost of a regular season ticket will earn you a spot on our Annual-Giving Production Team. Some donations earn bonus tickets, but every donation level will be listed in each program throughout the regular season.

Stage Crew
\$100 - \$249

Actor
\$250 - \$499

Assistant Director
\$500 - \$749

Director
\$750 - \$999

Producer:
\$1,000 or more

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Don't Miss a Single Show!



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Seeing Stars
IN DIXIE

SEPTEMBER 15-18 AND 20-24, 2005

The LION
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NOVEMBER 10-13 & 15-19, 2005



FEBRUARY 23-26 & FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 4, 2006

Smoke on the
MOUNTAIN

APRIL 27-30 & MAY 2-6, 2006



The 2005-2006 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.

AUDIENCE SURVEY

SCT officers and board are considering a system of designating seat assignments when tickets are purchased for each performance. Please help us to serve you better by completing this form and dropping it into the box in the lobby. There is no need to sign your name, but everyone should complete a form.

Should a system of designated seating be adopted, it would not go into effect until 2006. Thus this survey will not affect either SEEING STARS IN DIXIE nor THE LION IN WINTER. We will report the results of the survey and our decision to you at our second show of the 2005-06 season, THE LION IN WINTER.

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS (please check one)

_____ I would like to choose my seat when my reservation is confirmed.

_____ I prefer the current system and am willing to come early for a good seat.

NON-SEASON TICKET HOLDERS (please check one)

_____ I would prefer a system whereby I could pay for my seat in advance and select my seat at that time.

_____ I prefer the current system and am willing to come early for a good seat.