

Starkville Community Theatre presents

Aspirin & Elephants

by Jerry Mayer

directed by Kris Lee



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Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Directed by Kris Lee

CAST

Honey Frank	Terry McDowell
Steven Frank Jr. ("Junior").....	Christopher Walrath
Stephanie Gale.....	Angie Marquez
Scott Gale	Paul Hartsell*
Liz Nathan	Georgia Graham*
Arnie Nathan	Gabe Smith

**SCT main stage debut*



TIME & PLACE

The play takes place in present day aboard the luxury cruise ship "Royal Norway" as it sails through the Baltics, with stops in Copenhagen and St. Petersburg.

ACT I

The "Royal Norway" is set to sail from Copenhagen as passengers continue to board.

ACT II

The "Royal Norway" is underway, cruising from Oslo to St. Petersburg via the Gulf of Finland.



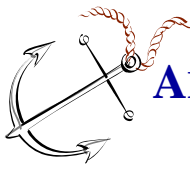
CREW

Director	Kris Lee
Assistant Director	Amanda Clay Powers
Lighting/Sound	Thomas La Foe
Set Construction	Christopher Walrath
Stage Manager	Amanda Clay Powers
Assistant Stage Manager	Scott Brinkley
Box Office	Marsha Williams & Bob Anderson
Opening Night Party Hosts.....	Cindy & Paul Ruff
Poster Design	Jim Tomlinson
House Manager Coordinator	Ron Palmer
Publicity	Paula Mabry

SPECIAL THANKS

Bob Anderson, Pattye Archer, Suzanne Baga,
Days Inn, Dom Cunetto, Ida Cunetto,
Debbie Dunaway, Edwin Ellis, Jansen Fair,
Hampton Inn, Melanie Harris, Brian Hawkins,
Homes Hogue, Cary Huser, Evelyn Lowrey, Don Mabry,
Paula Mabry, Theatre MSU, The Myrna Colley Lee Collection,
Bonnie Oppenheimer, Ron Palmer, Joby Price, Carol Ramsey,
Cindy Ruff, Paul Ruff, Lyle Tate, Jim Tomlinson,
Abigail Voller, Jean Walrath, Andrew Watkins, Molly Watkins
and Marsha Williams





ABOUT THE CAST



GEORGIA GRAHAM

Georgia is so excited to be performing again!! Although very active in theatre during high school and college, it has been four years since she has stepped foot on stage! Her last performance was in 2003 in SCT's production of *27 Wagons Full of Cotton* for the Tennessee Williams' Festival. Georgia teaches at Emerson Family School, Starkville School District's preschool program. She is excited to have her friends and family here, especially her wonderful husband Lee!



PAUL HARTSELL

Paul is a Senior Industrial Technology major at MSU and is very excited to be appearing in his first show with SCT. He appeared in MSU's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* last Spring and is an active member of Lab Rats Comedy. Paul would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support throughout this production.



ANGIE MARQUEZ

Angie is thrilled to be back onstage at SCT for *Aspirin and Elephants*. Angie has been seen on this stage before in *Rumors*, *Daddy's Dyin-Who's Got the Will?* and *Moon Over Buffalo*, as well as *Big Time* and *Back to Broadway*. Angie spends her time offstage working as a stylist for Tokro's Salon (conveniently located right next door). Angie would like to thank her mom, friends and coworkers for all their support and good wishes. And last but not least, Angie would like to send lots of love to her dear friend Kris Lee, the director, for showing her yet another side of his immeasurable talent...to Amanda, for putting up with all the crap and still showing up every day and never getting nearly enough thanks...and to the cast, old friends and new, with whom Angie is very happy to have shared this lovely and insane experience.

TERRY REESE MCDOWELL

Terry has been an active member of SCT for over twenty years. She was last seen on stage in *Back to Broadway* and *Terror by Gaslight*. She is thrilled to be sharing the stage with such a talented group, old friends and new alike. She sends a special shout out to Georgia's dad, Bill, who (whom?) is an old classmate from SHS. A special thank you goes to Kris for his vision and direction and always being a friend. "Your passion for theatre and the creative process is a joy to behold. It's been an honor to work with you on this production." Also, a heartfelt thank you to Amanda for her organization, help, and friendship. In real life, Terry is a veteran second grade teacher, who frequently entertains her students by acting out the spelling words. She is the proud mother of three grown sons, Ledge, Sy and Matt. As always, she wishes to acknowledge her wonderful husband, Ledge, for being so supportive and understanding when she is playing at the theatre. "I love you, B.L."



GABE SMITH

Gabe is happy to be back on the SCT stage with the opportunity to mix it up with such a great cast and strong production team. The cockroach of the Theatre MSU and Starkville area stage circle (he just keeps coming back!), Gabe has been in over 25 local productions since arriving at MSU in 199*cough*. Favorite roles include Miles Gloriosus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Macon in *Loose Hog in the House of God* (for which he won the Mississippi Theatre Association's Best Actor prize at the 2005 state festival), and everyone from George Washington to Ricky Ricardo in *The Complete History of America [abridged]*.



CHRISTOPHER WALRATH

Walrath is back for his fourth time on the sct stage, and is glad to be working with Kris Lee again. He has finally gotten a job "YIPPIE", but is still in search of a sugar momma! Christopher plans to move to L.A. by the summer of 2008.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'll be honest. I wasn't sure, at first.

I mean, I'd directed before, in other places, with other people. But here, with *these* people? Never.

These people were different, special. *These* people were...well...family. And I've never directed family. Too afraid of the critical feedback.

Plus, I thought I'd have more time to settle into the role of director, you know? Thought I'd have enough time to ease into it. But, despite all the planning that went into the process before auditions were held, or even thought about being held – when it happened, it *happened*. That quickly, that suddenly. There I was, scripts in hand, having the first read-through, nursing doubts about my ability to cultivate a vision with the talented cast I'd picked, worried I'd overdo it, that I'd micromanage, give too many line readings, question my trust and instincts.

Then, rehearsals started.

And that's exactly what happened: I overdid it, I micromanaged, gave too many line readings (even one is too many, right?), **but** my trust, my instincts held.

And, in the end, the cast, the crew, it all felt effortless. That's the real beauty of theatre, you know, that what you see before you, in every way it can, seems effortless, an escape. That's the real compliment, the real gift we strive to give an audience.

I remember a small incident that occurred during a reception after Sartre's *The Flies* in which I played the Tutor that might prove this point a little better. I was at the reception with the other actors and the director, and a few of the theatre patrons were milling around, complimenting us, asking us questions about the production when one woman remarked on how timeless the show had felt, that she'd forgotten where she was, for a moment, that it all worked together so well, and she congratulated each *actor* for doing that for her. As she walked away, I turned to the director and said, "Well, she really ought to have told you that." But she shook her head, "A good director fades away...a good director becomes invisible."

At first, I didn't like what she said; I didn't understand it. And, certainly, I'm not trying to say I'm that "good" (except maybe to Uncle Larry), but her point has resonated with me ever since. A good show, like this one, ought to seem to have always existed.

Each movement, each line, each cue, all of it should seem natural, not a moment to be credited to a director. This cast has entirely made that a reality – a pure, joyous, and believable reality.

And now, before I neglect the tradition of the Director's Note, let me finish by giving a few kudos, because there is no way on earth I could have done this alone: **Amanda**, your determination to make success an attainable veracity for this show has impressed me. You never hesitated to say, "We can do it." Those four words are perhaps the most important to any director; **Thomas**, no matter what task I seem to bring you, no matter the obstacles, you never cease to amaze me with the end result. You are a true master of your craft. I have benefited greatly from it, and more importantly, from your friendship; **Paula**, before I even knew you were onboard, you had already secured interviews and other press for this show. You are driven, ageless, and I will always, always be eternally grateful that you were my "first" introduction to the world of theatre; **Scott**, thank you so much for bringing your enthusiasm and attention to detail into this production. You were a great right-hand man, and much appreciated; **Angie**, I believe we've now come full circle, haven't we? You've been my Maggie, my Martha... what's left after that except my Muse? You are sheer pleasure to watch on stage; **Georgia**, I've told you a hundred times, and I'll say it again, so make it one hundred and one – It's about damn time you got back on stage. Your trust in me as a director was a great privilege and for that I fully say, thank you; **Walrath**, over fourteen years and still counting. You always show no fear, and have no doubt, and I've appreciated having that more than you know, truly; **Paul**, you have a boundless ability for the stage, and I have enjoyed playing a small part in that. I hope you'll share it again in the future; **Gabe**, such a small name for a man with such enormous talent. You didn't miss a beat, and that's quite nearly the nicest thing one could ever say about a comedic performance; **Terry**, what a joy it was to watch you come into the role of Honey. Your depth and willingness to go where she needed to go, every rehearsal, was a delight to witness.

And lastly, I thank you, the patron, the Uncle Larry, the Nana, the friend, whoever you may be, for coming and for trusting us to accompany you on this escape. Without you, no magic could ever happen here. And, with the world we live in today, I think we need magic more than ever. So, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Now...get onboard the Royal Norway, relax, sit back, enjoy the ride. And don't forget, there'll be drinks on the upper deck when you're done!

Bon Voyage,
Kris Lee



ABOUT THE VOICES

CAPTAIN'S VOICE:

Dr. Svein Saebo is a Professor and Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in the Chemistry Department at Mississippi State University. Educated in Oslo and Tromsø, Norway, Professor Saebo is a fellow in the American Institute of Chemists. Dr. Saebo has presented at more than 80 regional, national and international meetings, but this is his SCT stage debut.

FEMALE INTOURIST GUIDE'S VOICE

Dr. Dagmar Radin (Dasha) is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Mississippi State University. Her areas of specialization include comparative politics, political economy, Central and Eastern Europe and its health care reform. She holds an MA and PhD in political science from the University of North Texas. She is pleased to make her first appearance in an SCT production.



ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Artwork by Alaina Prentice

The artwork featured on stage was created by Alaina Prentice.

If you are interested in purchasing any of the pieces, please leave your name in the box office or speak with the director after the show.

Fire - \$175

Rain - \$75

Storm - \$75





The cast, including Gabe Smith, Georgia Graham, Christopher Walrath, Terry McDowell, Paul Hartsell and Angie Marquez, spent the past seven weeks preparing for tonight's performance. Enjoy!

FOURTH FRIDAYS

SCT is offering an exciting series of workshops called Fourth Fridays. Fourth Fridays is an open forum for area playwrights and other writers who want to have their works read and discussed on the main stage at the Playhouse on Main. The events are open to the public and happen on the fourth Friday of each month. These are unrehearsed, script-in-hand readings meant to serve as a useful tool for writers who would benefit by hearing their works read out loud. We encourage audience feedback, and there will be an open discussion with the playwright immediately following the reading.

The next Fourth Fridays event is coming up on April 27th at 7pm on the Main Stage at SCT! We currently looking for three women and three men to be readers for "Sunnymeadow." an original play by Brian Anderson. Please let us know if you are interested by emailing us at fourthfridays@yahoo.com.

SCT ANNOUNCES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Noises Off

By Michael Frayn

September 6-9 and 11-15, 2007



In his plot for *Noises Off*, Frayn utilizes the concept of a play within a play, in this case a purposely dreadful sex comedy entitled "Nothing On" - the type of play in which young girls run about in their underwear, old men drop their trousers, and many doors continually open and shut. Act One focuses on the dress rehearsal, with the cast still fumbling with entrances and exits, missed cues, misspoken lines, and bothersome props (notably, a plate of sardines). Act Two portrays the opening night, at the (fictional) Grand Theatre in Weston-super-Mare; but it is seen from backstage, providing a view that reveals the deteriorating personal relationships among the cast that have led to offstage shenanigans and onstage bedlam. In Act Three, we see a performance well into the run, when everyone is bored and anxious to be done with it, and the actors attempt to cover a series of mishaps by making up the play as they go along. Much of the comedy emerges from the subtle variations in each version as off-stage chaos affects on-stage performance, with a great deal of slapstick.



Laura

By Vera Caspary

October 25-28 and October 30-November 3, 2007

When Mark McPherson first falls in love with Laura, he knows he's in love with a phantom—for Laura is dead, and he's in charge of her murder investigation. From her portrait, her letters, her personal effects, and from his contacts with the three men who loved her, Mark has created an image of a woman tantalizingly alive and real. As things become revealed throughout the play, Mark struggles to balance his love for Laura and his investigation. To say anything else, would give the story away.

SCT ANNOUNCES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



Cover of Life

By R. T. Robinson

February 21-24 and February 26-March 1, 2008

Tood, Weetsie and Sybill are brides in rural Louisiana in 1943. Each married a Cliffert brother. The men are off to war and a local news story about these young wives keeping the home fires burning intrigues Henry Luce. He decides that they belong on the cover Life Magazine and assigns Kate Miller to the story. She has been covering the war in Europe and, though she views doing a "women's piece" as a career set back, she accepts because it will be her first cover story. Kate spends a week with the Cliffert women and her haughty urban attitude gives way to sympathy as she begins to understand them while coming face to face with her own powerlessness in a man's world. Filled with charm and fun, *The Cover of Life* is a deeply affecting story about the struggle for self worth.

Forever Plaid

By Stuart Ross

April 24-27 and

April 29-May 3, 2008



One of the most popular and successful musicals in recent memory,

this deliciously goofy revue centers on four young, eager male singers killed in a car crash in the 1950s on the way to their first big concert, and now miraculously revived for the posthumous chance to fulfill their dreams and perform the show that never was. Singing in the closest of harmony, squabbling boyishly over the smallest intonations and executing their charmingly outlandish choreography with over-zealous precision, the "Plaids" are a guaranteed smash, with a program of beloved songs and delightful patter that keeps audiences rolling in the aisles when they're not humming along to some of the great nostalgic pop hits of the '50s.

Join us for the 2007 Summer Musical Revue

Auditions

Monday, May 14 and

Tuesday, May 15

7:00 p.m. at the
Playhouse on Main

Please come prepared to
audition with the accompanist.
You may bring your own sheet
music or choose from a
collection available at auditions.

No pre-recorded music please.

Show Dates

Thursday-Saturday,
July 19-21

and

Thursday-Saturday,
July 26-28, 2007

You won't want to miss this
year's show! We will have
something for everyone as
we take on number one
songs from many eras
and many genres!

Will your favorite
make the show???

*for
2007
the power of*



The 2006-2007 Season is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts.