

**Starkville Community Theatre Presents**



**By Ken Ludwig**

**November 9-12  
and 14-18, 2006**

Haley Agnew  
Scott Brinkley  
MJ Etua  
Cherri Golden  
Thomas La Foe  
Bonnie Oppenheimer  
Benjamin P. Sherwood  
Christopher Walrath

# Postmortem

By Ken Ludwig

Directed by Paula Mabry

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Macready .....	Benjamin P. Sherwood *
Bobby Carlyle .....	Thomas La Foe
May Dison.....	Haley Agnew *
Marion Barrett.....	Cherri Golden
Leo Barrett .....	Christopher Walrath
Lilly Warner .....	Bonnie Oppenheimer
William Gillette.....	Scott Brinkley *
Louise Parradine.....	MJ Etua

*\*SCT debut*

## Synopsis of Scenes

The action takes place in the living room of the “Gillette Castle,” home of William Gillette, in southern Connecticut.

### Act I

Scene 1 .....	A Saturday night in April, 1922, about 11:30 p.m.
Scene 2 .....	An hour later
Scene 3 .....	A half-hour later

*Intermission 15 minutes*

### Act II

Scene 1 .....	The following evening, about 6:15 p.m.
Scene 2 .....	That same night, about 10:00 p.m.

## *Crew*

Director .....	Paula Mabry
Assistant Director .....	Gabe Smith
Acting Consultant .....	Dominic J. Cunetto, Sr.
Set Design .....	Bob Anderson & Christopher Walrath
Stage Managers.....	Gabe Smith & Marsha Williams
Lighting & Sound Operator .....	Edwin Ellis
Hair & Makeup .....	Jansen Fair
Fight Scene Instructor .....	Christopher Walrath
Dramaturg .....	Edwin Ellis
Specialty Prop Work .....	Riley Moore
Set Decoration.....	Pattye Archer, Paula Mabry, Cherri Golden, Amanda Powers, Kris Lee, Mary Ann Woolworth, Lyle Tate & Thomas La Foe
Properties.....	Kris Lee & Amanda Powers
Costumes.....	Amanda Powers, Cherri Golden, Bonnie Oppenheimer, Kris Lee, Mary Ann Woolworth, MJ Etua, Thomas La Foe, Scott Brinkley, Diane Ellis & Marianne Ulmer
Box Office Managers .....	Bob Anderson & Marsha Williams
House Manager Coordinator .....	Ron Palmer
Publicity .....	Paige Hunt & Krista Vowell
Lobby Decoration .....	Lyle Tate
Opening Night Party .....	Diane Ellis
Poster and Program Cover .....	Jason Williams

## *Construction Crew*

Christopher Walrath,  
Haley Agnew , Bob Anderson, Scott Brinkley, Edwin Ellis, , MJ Etua,  
Cherri Golden, Tess Graham, Cary Huser, Thomas La Foe, Kris Lee,  
Evelyn Lowery, Don Mabry, Paula Mabry, Bonnie Oppenheimer,  
Seth Oppenheimer, Ron Palmer, Benjamin P. Sherwood, Gabe Smith,  
Lyle Tate, Clyde Williams & Marsha Williams



## About the Cast

### HALEY AGNEW

Haley, a junior at Mississippi State University majoring in music education, is making her first appearance to the SCT stage with *Postmortem*. A native of Tupelo, MS, she has been involved from a young age with groups such as Pied Piper Playhouse, Tupelo Community Theatre, Tupelo High School Theatre and the International Thespian Society. Recently, she has been involved with MSU Theatre, serving as props mistress for *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way to the Forum* and acting in *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, which was featured in this year's Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. She was also in last year's student-directed one-acts, and is currently a member of MSU's Lab Rats Comedy improv troupe.

### SCOTT BRINKLEY

Scott is making his SCT debut, though he has been in many productions since he started performing with Tyler Junior College (Tyler, Texas) in 1989; at the age of 8, he played Macduff's son in *Macbeth*. He has worked with many companies since then, including Professional Summer Stock at North Idaho College and the Missoula Children's Theatre in Spokane, WA. He has trained with Mississippi School of the Arts, the Merrystreet Players, Birmingham Summerfest, Meridian Community College, and Virginia Commonwealth University. Recent roles at MSU include "David" in *Two Bottles of Relish*, "El Gallo" in *The Fantasticks*, and "Senex" in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

### MJ ETUA

You may have seen MJ on the SCT stage in the annual summer musical revues and in the show *Not Now, Darling!*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *Deathtrap*; and *Inspecting Carol*. She has also directed *The Mouse Trap*, *Smoke and Mirrors*, and *Communicating Doors*. In the spring, MJ had the opportunity to appear in *Crowns* at the New Stage Theatre in Jackson. Also a playwright, she has written and directed numerous shows for Project P.L.A.Y., SCT's summer children's theatre. MJ teaches Theatre Arts and Oral Communication at Louisville High School and was the recipient of the 2006 Thad Cochran Educator of the Year in Theatre Arts award. She also serves as president of the Mississippi Theatre Association and as a member of several Southeastern Theatre Conference committees.

## About the Cast

### CHERRI GOLDEN

Cherri is thrilled to once again appear on the SCT stage. She made her dramatic debut in last season's *Terror By Gaslight* and displayed her musical talents the past two years in SCT's annual musical revue. Cherri is grateful for the chance to learn more about theater and sends special thanks to Paula for giving her the opportunity to play Marion. Thanks, too, to Dominic Cunetto for his coaching and support. Cherri works for USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services and resides in Columbus with her two big goofy dogs and herd of bed-hogging kitties.

### THOMAS LA FOE

Thomas is excited (and, admittedly, a little nervous) to be appearing ONstage in this production. He just completed directing his 3rd show at SCT, this season's opener, *Not Now, Darling!* Having become accustomed to backstage work for the last couple of years, minus his appearances in the summer musicals, actually having to memorize the lines again has brought back memories of past shows like *Over the River* and *Through the Woods* and *The Foreigner*. To make all of this fun possible, Thomas works as an Instructional Technology Specialist for the MSU Libraries where he teaches workshops on graphics design and web development software. "A big thank you to Amanda, Kris, Pattye, and Gabe for being my ever-present and ever-needed sounding boards; to the cast and crew for all of the work done on this show; and of course to my parents for their love, support, and encouragement throughout the years!"

### BONNIE OPPENHEIMER

Bonnie is a professor of mathematics at Mississippi University for Women. She plays with the Starkville/MSU Symphony Orchestra, and is much more likely to be found in a pit than on stage. Singing in the chorus for "25", "Welcome to the 60s!" and "SCT Goes to the Movies", Dr. Oppenheimer ventured onstage as Mrs. Culp in last season's "Terror by Gaslight", and then went back to the pit for "Back to Broadway". Performing as Lilly in tonight's production, she's very grateful for the fact that she can wear sensible shoes the rest of the day! "I stand in awe of the other cast members, and we've all worked hard so that you can relax and enjoy the show!" ("Oh, and thanks to the family, who had to put up with hearing my lines several times every day!")



# About the Cast

## BENJAMIN P. SHERWOOD

Ben is pleased to be making his debut at SCT just three months after arriving in Starkville. Currently studying anthropology at Mississippi State, Ben is on his sixth major and fourth university in three years - but who is counting? Ben didn't start acting until his second university, preferring instead to spend his time on the football field (before a career-ending injury). Since discovering the stage he has had roles in *Moon Over Buffalo* and *Pompadours*. "I want to thank everyone at SCT for making me feel welcome! If my grades improve, I think I will stick around a while."

## CHRISTOPHER WALRATH

This is Christopher's third performance with SCT. A Chicago native and Starkville High and USM graduate, Christopher is glad to be back on stage at the Playhouse on Main, after helping SCT kick off the season in *Not Now, Darling!* Before returning to Starkville last year, he has been working professionally in theatre, most recently off-Broadway in *Strozek: the Ballad of Bruno*, *Snow Dome*, and *In the Comfort of the Womb*. He also served as director and lighting designer for the independent Brooklyn production company, One Arm Red. He is completing work on two plays which he expects to produce in Austin, TX, next year. Christopher would just like to thank Mrs. Mabry for the chance to work with her yet again. "It has been very therapeutic for me to be able to come to the theatre and build the set, and see this show come to life."

## PAULA MABRY

Paula has directed several SCT shows, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!*, *Lion in Winter*, and *Deadline Dawn*, the 2004 MTA festival entry which won Best Ensemble, Best Actress, and Best Director. Mabry was the Starkville High School theatre director for many years. During the summer, she directs the MSU Summer Scholars' On Stage camp production for gifted and talented students. In September of this year, Mabry directed *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* for the Tennessee Williams Tribute in Columbus. Paula is on the Board of Directors for Starkville Area Arts Council and the Executive Board for Mississippi Alliance in Arts Education. As soon as this show is over, Paula and her husband, Don, will be going to London to see....you guessed it....theatre!

## From the Director

*Postmortem* has been especially fun to direct because the play is about a real actor, William Gillette, who played Sherlock Holmes on stage over 1,300 times. He was one of the best-loved American actors of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He collaborated with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on several Sherlock Holmes plays. Gillette is the first actor to use the deerstalker hat as well as the meerschaum pipe.

His home, the eccentric castle in which our play takes place, is now a tourist attraction in Connecticut. It was this castle where Gillette brought home the cast of his latest New York show for a weekend of leisure and good food.

The *Postmortem* cast and crew have been a fantastic group. Everyone has pitched in to get things done. I appreciate the hard work done on the set by Christopher Walrath with help from so many other people.

I want to thank my husband, Don Mabry, for taking pictures of each phase of the play process.

*Paula Mabry, Director*



## *Special Thanks*

Mandy Kinney, Starkville High School Theatre

Melanie Harris, TheatreMSU

Don Mabry, photographs

Boardtown Trading

Emily Jones, *Starkville Daily News*

Krista Vowell

June Garner

Jean Snyder

The Abbey

Scott Morris, *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*

Peggy Wilttrout

Sam Agnew

Dave Pitalo

Messiah Presbyterian Church

Albert Oppenheimer, composer

Wanda Thorne





# *Annual Production Giving Team*

Contributions above the costs of a regular season subscription are tax-deductible and enable SCT to maintain high quality productions and reasonable ticket prices. SCT appreciates and acknowledges individual and organization donors.

## **PRODUCER (\$1000 PLUS)**

Nona and Bryan Baker  
Leota Cardwell (designated for sound equipment)

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (\$500-\$999)**

Pam and Bob Collins  
Ann and Frank Bonner

## **ACTOR (\$250-\$499)**

Mary Green  
Judy and Wayne Tubb  
Peggy and Bob Wolverton

## **STAGE HAND (\$100-\$249)**

Lynn Adams  
Max and Kirk Arnett  
John Robert Arnold ———  
Ed Clynch  
Ray and Leonard Brandon  
Barbara Crawford  
Sara Crow  
Rodney and Rosalind Foil  
Nancy Lindley  
Danya and Tyrone O'Bannon  
Alice King Parker  
Helen Sue and Bill Parrish  
Marty and Charles Sparrow  
Imogene and Glover Triplett  
Suzy and Jim Turner  
Martha Wells  
Sara and Estel Wilson

## Auditions for Next Show

Auditions for SCT's next production, *A... My Name Will Always be Alice*, will be held at the Playhouse on Sunday, November 12 and Monday, November 13 at 6.30 each night. Directed by Lyle Tate, the musical revue's cast is comprised of 5 women. The show will run February 8-11 & 13-17, 2007.

*A... My Name Will Always be Alice's* 5 actresses portray over 50 different characters during the 2-act revue with songs such as "Trash," "Watching All the Pretty Young Men," "Painted Ladies," "At My Age," "Lifelines," and more.

Auditions are open to any and all and will consist of a cold reading of a monologue from the script, the singing of pre-selected bars of "All Girl Band," and the option of singing one of two other pre-selected cuttings of songs from the production, "Wheels" and "Painted Ladies." In addition, ladies wishing to audition may bring 16- to 24-bars of a song they've prepared, as well.

Anyone interested in finding out more about auditions, the monologues, the sheet music, or the songs is encouraged to contact Lyle Tate at [ltate@library.msstate.edu](mailto:ltate@library.msstate.edu) or Pattye Archer at [parcher@library.msstate.edu](mailto:parcher@library.msstate.edu).

## SCT to revive *Smoke on the Mountain*

**Auditions will be held for role of Stanley on Wednesday, Nov. 15**

Starkville Community Theatre will send a cut version of last season's hit, *Smoke on the Mountain*, to the 2007 Mississippi Theatre Association Festival. Set for January 12-14, the festival - which features high school and community theatre competitions, workshops, meetings and more - will be held in Oxford.

The show will feature six of the original cast members, including Madeline Golden, Bruce Lesley, Kary Rogers, Paul Ruff, Krista Vowell and Molly Watkins. But the role of *Stanley* must be recast. Auditions for *Stanley* will be held Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m., upstairs at the Playhouse on Main. Any one is welcome to audition, but the role calls for someone who can play guitar and sing bass.

Those wishing to audition should come prepared to sing one of three songs, "I Fly Away," "Washed in the Blood," or "Amazing Grace." Each man will also read dialog from the script and will be able to perform a song of his choosing on the guitar (if he plays). If you have questions please contact Pattye Archer [parcher@library.msstate.edu](mailto:parcher@library.msstate.edu).

## *Board of Directors*

### **2006 - 2009**

Maxine Arnett  
Milo Burnham  
Paige Hunt  
Evelyn Lowery

### **2005-2008**

Ross Williams  
Kaki Ingles  
Joan Mylroie

### **2004 - 2007**

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Vice President for Play Selection – Molly Watkins  
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## *SCT Christmas Party Planned*

Starkville Community Theatre will hold its annual Christmas Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, December 5. Social hour will start at 6 and dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

“I'm very excited about this year's Christmas party. This is traditionally the time of year for family and friends to gather and we certainly don't want to leave our SCT family out of those gatherings,” said hostess Krista Vowell. “Potlucks are always fun and this one will include food, decorations, a Christmas tree decorated with lots of ornaments from SCT family members plus a few surprises.”

Everyone is invited to bring a dish and celebrate the season with SCT.



SCT's 2006-2007 Season

# Not Now, Darling!

September 21-30, 2006

November 9-18, 2006

# Postmortem



# A...My name will always be Alice

February 8-17, 2007

# Aspirin & Elephants

April 12-21, 2007



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.

