

Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau
and Starkville Community Theatre present

Other Desert Cities

→ by Jon Robin Baitz

May 24-28, 2016 ←

Directed by Jo Durst

Featuring
Michael Dendy
Kent Gravett
Terry McDowell
Justine Moser
Marsha Williams

Warning: This show contains language, content and situations that some people may find offensive.

Produced by special arrangements with Dramatists Play, Inc.



www.sct-online.org

Other Desert Cities



by Jon Robin Baitz

Directed by Jo Durst



The Cast

In order of appearance:

Polly Wyeth Marsha Williams
Brooke Wyeth Justine Moser
Lyman Wyeth Kent Gravett *
Trip Wyeth Michael Dendy
Silda Grauman Terry Reese McDowell

* SCT Debut

The Setting

PLACE

The Wyeth house in Palm Springs, California

Christmas Eve morning, 2004

ACT I, SCENE I - Christmas Eve morning, 2004

ACT I, SCENE II - Late afternoon, Christmas Eve, 2004

ACT II, SCENE I - Same day, some hours have passed

ACT II, SCENE II - Seattle, March 2010

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

The Production Crew

Director	Jo Durst
Assistant Director	Michele Crescenzo
Set Design	Wayne Durst
Lighting Design.....	Edwin Ellis
Sound Design	Michele Crescenzo
Costume Design	Jo Durst
Stage Manager.....	Michele Crescenzo
Backstage Crew.....	Samiyah Hollingshed
Lighting and Sound Operator.....	Edwin Ellis
Original Artwork	Jo Durst
Poster Design	Pattye Archer
Photograph	Marcus Vowell
House Manager Coordinators	Barry & Grace Ward
Box Office	Cam McMillen & Marsha Williams
Opening Night Party	Paula and Don Mabry, and Sue and Marco Nicovich

The Construction Crew

Wayne Durst

Michele Crescenzo, Edwin Ellis, Kent Gravett, Marty Haug,
Kris Lee, Terry Reese McDowell, Justine Moser, Tyler Schartel,
Gabe Smith, Sue Snow and Marsha Williams

Special Thanks

Pattye Archer
Thomas La Foe
East Mississippi Lumber Co.
FlexSteel
Fleur-de-lis
Starkville High Drama Department
Theatre MSU and Cody Stockstill

About The Cast

Michael A. Dendy (Trip Wyeth)

Michael is proud to be returning to the SCT stage in this poignant piece of theatre. He was previously seen on the SCT Stage in *Rumors* (“Ken”) and *Almost, Maine* (“Phil”). He is a graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. While at USM, he appeared on stage in such shows as *The Grapes of Wrath* (“Noah”), *Marat/Sade* (“Orderly”), *Red Light Winter* (“Matt”) and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Michael just completed a very successful year at Starkville High School with his productions of *Cinderella* and *Eurydice* which earned him a Best Director award and a trip to SETC with his students. He wishes to thank everyone who got him here and continues to support him.

Kent Gravett (Lyman Wyeth)

Kent relocated to Mississippi from California where he was a Professor of Theatre with the Claremont Colleges, where his adaptation of Kafka’s *The Trial* won an award from The American Theatre Association. He has worked professionally in New York City and for theatres elsewhere. Kent holds a BS in Theatre from Northwestern University, an MA in Directing from The University of Iowa, and a PhD in Theatre History, Theory and Criticism from New York University. A veteran of close to 200 productions as an actor and director (including opera), he is happy to be back on stage. Other fond memories include a Fulbright Grant to teach and work at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Cambodia and being able to stand on Mt. Everest. A Kentucky native, Kent currently resides in Louisville in semi-retirement with his wife, Rebecca. They share a hound, a bulldog, one very spoiled cat, and a lovely garden. “I am honored to become a part of SCT with such a moving drama and wonderful cast.”

Terry Reese McDowell (Silda Grauman)

Terry has been a member of SCT since 1984 after being cast in her first show, *Close Ties*. Since then, she has been actively involved, both in acting and in officer positions, as well as serving on numerous committees. Terry was last seen on our stage playing Trudy in *Social Security*. She admits “It is unusual for me to be drawn to a drama, but this one had me interested the first time I read it.” She wishes to thank Jo, Michele and Dur for all their hard work, time and dedication to this show. Also, this cast has been great to work with! Terry is mostly retired but is a part-time instructor at MSU. As always, she wishes to thank her husband, Ledge (aka B.L.) for supporting her habit here at SCT, and especially for turning her new chicken coop into Fort Knox.

Justine Moser (Brooke Wyeth)

Justine is thrilled be back on stage for her fourth SCT show. She has had a busy year teaching English and Theatre at Columbus High School and has greatly welcomed the chance to be involved in this phenomenal play. Originally from the Midwest, Justine has made Mississippi her home for the last eight years having moved to Starkville from the Mississippi Delta a few years ago. Theatre has always been a big part of Justine's life and career having acted, directed, and taught in and out of classrooms and on and off stages of all kinds and that's not stopping anytime soon! She would like to thank the talented cast and crew that has helped create such a powerful show. Lastly she would like to thank her Tyler for his support and love, always!

Marsha Williams (Polly Wyeth)

A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Marsha has lived in Starkville for 47 years and is a charter member of SCT. Over the years with SCT, she has done just about everything except use power tools. She has acted, directed, been assistant director, run props, been president, and most recently and for the longest period of time has worked in the box office. She is happily retired from Mississippi State University and thoroughly enjoys her three children and two grandchildren. Favorite roles include “Amanda Wingfield” in *Glass Menagerie*, “Clairee” in *Steel Magnolias*, “Lily” in *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, “Eleanor” in *Lion in Winter*, “Grace” in *Grace and Glorie*, “Suzy” in *Wait Until Dark*, “Melissa” in *Love Letters*, “Babs” in *Marriage to an Older Woman*, and, most recently and for the second time, “Sophie” in *Social Security*.

Jon Robin Baitz’s *Other Desert Cities* had its world premiere at Lincoln Center Theater (Andre Bishop, artistic director; Bernard Gersten, executive producer) at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater in New York City, opening January 13, 2011. It was directed by Joe Mantello; the set design was by John Lee Beatty; the costume design was by David Zinn; the lighting design was by Kenneth Posner; the sound design was by Jill BC Du Boff; and the original music was composed by Justin Ellington. The cast was as follows:

Brooke Wyeth	Elizabeth Marvel
Polly Wyeth.....	Stockard Channing
Lyman Wyeth.....	Stacey Keach
Silda Grauman.....	Linda Lavin
Trip Wyeth	Thomas Sadoski

Other Desert Cities had it Broadway premiere at Booth Theatre, opening on November 3, 2011 with the same creative team and most of the original cast. Two cast changes included:

Brooke Wyeth	Rachel Griffiths
Silda Grauman.....	Judith Light

Introducing our 39th Season

The Cemetery Club by Ivan Menchell

Cast: 1 male, 4 females

Show dates – September 15-18 and September 20-24, 2016

Three Jewish widows meet once a month for tea before going to visit their husband's graves. Ida is sweet tempered and ready to begin a new life, Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun, and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene. He meets the widows while visiting his wife's grave. Doris and Lucille squash the budding romance between Sam and Ida. They are guilt stricken when this nearly breaks Ida's heart.

Urinetown by Mark Hollmann and Greg Kotis

Cast: 14-plus, Flexible, Ensemble

Show dates – November 10-13 and November 15-19, 2016

Winner of three Tony Awards, *Urinetown* is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics and musical theatre itself! In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides he's had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!

Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson

Cast: 1 male, 4 females

Show dates – February 9-12 and February 14-18, 2017

When Henrietta Leavitt begins work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s, she isn't allowed to touch a telescope or express an original idea. Instead, she joins a group of women "computers," charting the stars for a renowned astronomer who calculates projects in "girl hours" and has no time for the women's probing theories. As Henrietta attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, she must also take measure of her life on Earth, trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love. The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them.

Incorruptible by Michael Hollinger

Cast: 5 males, 3 females

Show dates – April 6-9 and April 11-15, 2017

Welcome to Priseaux, France, c. 1250 A.D.: The river flooded again last week. The chandler's shop just burned to the ground. Nobody's heard of the wheelbarrow yet. And Ste. Foy, the patron of the local monastery, hasn't worked a miracle in 13 years. In other words, the Dark Ages still look pretty dark. All eyes turn to the Pope, whose promised visit will surely encourage other pilgrims to make the trek and restore the abbey to its former glory. That is, until a rival church claims to possess the relics of Ste. Foy – and “their” bones are working miracles. All seems lost until the destitute monks take a lesson from a larcenous one-eyed minstrel, who teaches them an outrageous new way to pay old debts.

Fools by Neil Simon – **Season Extra**

Cast: 7 males, 3 females

Show dates – May 23-27, 2017

Leon Tolchinsky is ecstatic. He's landed a terrific teaching job in an idyllic Russian hamlet. When he arrives he finds people sweeping dust from the stoops back into their houses and people milking cows upside down to get more cream. The town has been cursed with Chronic Stupidity for 200 years and Leon's job is to break the curse. No one tells him that if he stays over 24 hours and fails to break the curse, he too becomes Stupid. But, he has fallen in love with a girl so Stupid that she has only recently learned how to sit down.

Tabor Management

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Starkville, MS 39759

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www.tabormangement.com



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SCT End of the Year Dinner & Social



Saturday, June 4
Arrive at 4 p.m.
Dinner served at 4:30 p.m.



Hosted by Susan & Walter Diehl

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of great food, fellowship, and fun! Walter and Susan Diehl have once again graciously invited us to their home for our end of the year dinner and social. There will be pulled pork and chicken (provided by the Diehls), and the rest will be potluck.

Bring your favorite side-dish, salad, appetizer or dessert to share. There will be soft drinks, iced tea, and a limited selection of beer, wine, etc, so feel free to BYOB!

PROJECT PLAY

June 27-July 2, 2016

Written & Directed by
M. J. Etua



Shep's Cleaners

Highway 12 &
South Jackson Street
Starkville, MS 39759

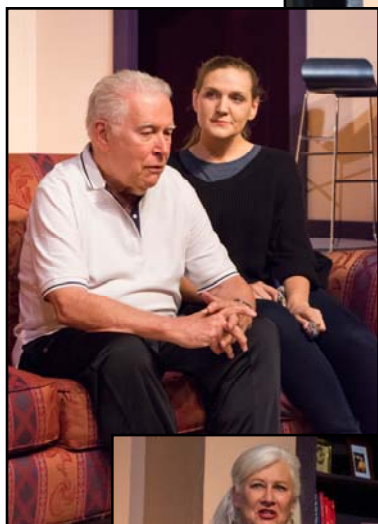
We strive to keep you looking your best!

Hours of Operation:

7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (Monday-Friday)
and 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon (Saturday)

Same-Day Service:

Tuesday-Friday: in by 8:00 a.m. - out by 4:00 p.m.



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