

SOAR & Starkville Community Theatre present

Ivan Menchell's

The Cemetery Club



Directed by SEAN DYESS

Sept. 15-17 & 20-24 • 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 18 • 2 p.m. matinee

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

The 2016-2017 season is funded in part by grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission
and the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Cast

IdaMarla Black *
Lucille MJ Etua
Doris.....Michele Crescenzo
Sam Warren Nybo
Mildred Terry Reese McDowell

* SCT Debut

The Setting

PLACE

The action of the play takes place in the living room of Ida's house and at the cemetery in Forest Hills, Queens.

TIME

Mid-Autumn. The present.

There will be a 10-minute intermission between acts.

www.sct-online.org

The Production Crew

Director	Sean Dyess
Assistant Director	Thomas La Foe
Stage Manager.....	Gabby Thomas
Set Design	Sean Dyes and Thomas La Foe
Lighting Design.....	Thomas La Foe
Costume Design	Sue Snow
Backstage Crew.....	Chase Anderson, Joanna Doyle & Samiyah Hollingshed
Lighting and Sound Operator.....	Derrell Staten
Custom Art Work	Isa Stratton Beaulieu
Poster Design	Stacy Clark
Photograph	Carrie Lepicier
House Manager Coordinator	Cindy Brown
Box Office	Cam McMillen & Marsha Williams
Opening Night Party	Angella Baker

The Construction Crew

Marla Black, Michele Crescenzo, Sean Dyess, MJ Etua,
Thomas La Foe, Paul Ruff, Gabe Smith, Gabby Thomas,
Tabitha Trembley and Derrell Staten,

Special Thanks

FlexSteel
Jansen Fair
Brian Hawkins
Bonnie Oppenheimer
Sue Snow
and Louisville High School Students
Olivia Carter and Janetria Norton for the custom wigs

About The Cast

MARLA BLACK

Marla is a first grade teacher at Victory Christian Academy hailing from St. Louis, MO. Although this is her SCT debut, she has taught theater and directed many productions including "Once On This Island", "Mayhem in Mayville", and the ever-popular "Annie." She is very excited to be a part of such a wonderful cast, and would like to thank Sean, Thomas, her husband, Tracy, and her daughter, Becca for the unconditional love and support!

MICHELE CRESCENZO

Michele debuted at SCT in 2013's A Catered Affair and then appeared in A Christmas Cabaret. She played Muriel in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels in 2015 and served as Assistant Director in last spring's Other Desert Cities. She teaches in the English department at MSU and lives in the pastoral paradise of Ezra Pond with her husband and some Dobermans who are named after classic film stars. The Dobermans, not the husband.

MJ ETUA

MJ has been involved with Starkville Community Theatre since 1995. Acting, singing, and directing are her great passions. She has appeared in numerous shows, including *Proposals*, *Deathtrap*, *Inspecting Carol*, *Not Now Darling*, *Doubt*, and *Rumors*. MJ is one of only two performers who have appeared in every SCT summer musical since 1998. She has also appeared in season musicals, including *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *A.....My Name Will Always Be Alice*, *Company*, *The Fantastiks* and *Nunsense*. Following *The Cemetery Club*, she will appear as "Little Becky Two Shoes" in *Urinetown: The Musical*. She also loves sitting in the director's chair, having directed *The Mousetrap*, *Smoke & Mirrors*, *Communicating Doors*, *Art*, and *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*. And MJ is the creative force behind Project P.L.A.Y. Every summer since 1998, she has produced an original shows for children.



TERRY REESE McDOWELL

No stranger to the SCT stage, Terry was last seen as "Silda" in SCT's spring production of *Other Desert Cities*. She is a lifelong resident of this area, hailing from the Sessums community. Terry is a part time Instructor at MSU, and enjoying teaching and her semi-retired life immensely. She wants to congratulate Sean on his directorial debut, and the cast for helping her to "jump on the track in the middle of the stream. I love you, BL!"

WARREN NYBO WARREN

Warren is so glad to be back in Starkville for his fifth SCT production after *Proposals*, *Beau Jest*, *The Fantasticks*, and *Almost Maine*. Since *Almost* he has also traveled to Tupelo to appear as two ghosts in *A Christmas Carole*, and to Vicksburg for a character part in the 80th annual anniversary production of *Gold in the Hills*. (Striking another line from his bucket list.) He loves coming back to SCT where he is always made to feel at home. He always enjoys the great casts, crews, and directorial staffs at SCT and especially the support that you (the SCT supporters) give us (the cast) for the thing we love to do for you! Thank YOU for your support.



Marla Black, Terry McDowell, Warren Nybo, MJ Etua and Michele Crescenzo

Get YOUR Season Ticket Today!

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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Get more involved with Starkville Community Theatre.
Attend a meeting, house manager, bring a dish for an
opening night party, come to work day or audition!

On Display in the Lobby

The shofar on display in the lobby, along with other typical Judaica seen on the set, are provided Bonnie Oppenheimer. Thank you, Bonnie.

A shofar is an instrument made from the horn of a ram or other kosher animal. It was used in ancient Israel to announce the New Moon (Rosh Chodesh) and call people together. It was also blown on Rosh Hashanah, marking the beginning of the New Year, signifying both need to wake up to the call to repentance, and in connection with the portion read on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, the Binding of Isaac (Genesis, chapter 22) in which Abraham sacrifices a ram in place of his son, Isaac.

Today, the shofar is featured most prominently in the Rosh Hashanah morning services. It is considered a commandment to hear the shofar blown.

According to Leo Rosten, “The bend in the shofar is supposed to represent how a human heart, in true repentance, bends before the Lord. The ram's horn serves to remind the pious how Abraham, offering his son Isaac in sacrifice, was reprieved when God decided that Abraham could sacrifice a ram instead. The man who blows the shofar is required to be of blameless character and conspicuous devotion; he must blow blasts of different timbre, some deep, some high, some quavering.”

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/shofar.html>



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