

RENASANT BANK *and*
STARKVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENT

John Bishop's

The MUSICAL COMEDY
MURDERS
of 1940

Directed by
Michele
CRESCENZO

FEBRUARY 4-6 *and*
FEBRUARY 10-12, 2022
7:30pm NIGHTLY,
2:00pm MATINEE *on* SUNDAY

Assistant Director
Vernell
ALLEN



The MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS *of 1940*

The Cast

In Order of Appearance

HELSA	Bonnie Thornton
ELSA VON GROSSENKNUETEN.....	Regan Plunkett*
MICHAEL KELLY	Ross Williams
PATRICK O'REILLY	Sean Dyess
KEN DE LA MAIZE.....	Larry Graves
NIKKI CRANDALL	Mia Craig*
EDDIE McCUEN	Louie P. Gallo
MARJORIE BAVERSTOCK.....	Sara Wade*
ROGER HOPEWELL	Thomas La Foe
BERNICE ROTH	MJ Etua

**SCT debut*

The Setting

The action of the play takes place in a mansion in Chappaqua, New York. The time is December 1940.

When the play opens, it is midnight. . . naturally.

There will be a ten-minute intermission between acts.

Produced on Broadway by Bill Wildin.

Originally produced by the Circle Rep Repertory Company, New York City.

Produced by special arrangement with the Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

The Production Team

Director Michele Crescenzo
Assistant Director Vernell Allen
Stage Manager Vernell Allen
Set Design Thomas La Foe
Costumes Connie Willsey and Michele Crescenzo
Original Music Haley Harper Todd
Props Jessica Jolly
Lighting Design Thomas La Foe
Lighting and Sound Operator Serena Liles
Fight Choreography Vernell Allen
Crew Jessi Cole, Jessica Jolly, Kimberly Smith
Photography Dianna Lane Janus
House Manager Coordinator Gabe Smith
Box Office Gabe Smith

Set Construction

Vernell Allen	Jessica Jolly
Mia Craig	Thomas La Foe
Michele Crescenzo	Regan Plunkett
Wayne Durst	Presley Ravencraft
Zoë Dyess	Sara Wade
MJ Etua	Jesse Wade
Louie P. Gallo	Bonnie Thornton

Special Thanks

Denise Adair	Dianna Janus
Pattye Archer	Liz Largent
Wayne Durst	Thomas La Foe

Sullivan's Office Supply
Connie Willsey and The Costume Party

About the Cast

MIA CRAIG (Nikki Crandall)

Mia is a lively young woman who is excited to be making her official SCT debut. Growing up with an affinity for the arts, she has always loved expressing herself in any way she can, whether that be through painting, poetry, or acting. Moving to Starkville two years ago to pursue her master's degree, she found herself stuck in a rut. For a while, she felt herself unmotivated in her creative pursuits. Seeking more outlets of inspiration, she decided to revisit her love for the theatre. Thus, she made her way to SCT's stage. She is happy to be on this journey and grateful for the warm welcome. She would also like to thank the entire SCT organization and its supporters for this amazing opportunity.

SEAN DYESS (Patrick O'Reilly)

Sean is thrilled to return to the Starkville Community Theatre. He has acted in previous shows such as *Urinetown*, *Moonlight and Magnolias* and *Almost, Maine*. He has also directed shows such as *The Cemetery Club*, Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *Harvey*, and looks forward to the opportunity to direct on this stage again. Sean would like to thank his parents, Jan and Art, and his daughters Arianna and Zoë for being such a wonderful and supportive family.

MJ ETUA (Bernice Roth)

MJ has been involved with Starkville Community Theatre since 1995. She has appeared in numerous shows including *Proposals*; *Deathtrap*; *Not Now, Darling*; *Doubt*; *Rumors*; *It's A Wonderful Life*; *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*; *Permanent Collection*; and *The Cemetery Club*. She has also appeared in numerous musicals, including *A....My Name Will Always Be Alice*, *Company*, *The Fantastiks*, *Nunsense*, *Urinetown*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *The Addams Family*, and every summer musical since 1999. Besides performing, MJ loves sitting in the director's chair, having directed *The Mousetrap*, *Smoke & Mirrors*, *Communicating Doors*, *Art*, and *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*. Since 1998 she has directed Project P.L.A.Y., SCT's children's summer theatre program.

About the Cast

LOUIE P. GALLO (Eddie McCuen)

Louie is grateful to be back on the SCT stage playing the role he was born for: a struggling comedian. Louie joined SCT as a volunteer in the Spring of 2019. He has since had onstage and backstage roles in *Harvey*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Blame it on Beckett*, *War of the Worlds*, and *Queen of Bingo*. He also served as the Assistant Director of this season's *Smoke on the Mountain*. Recently, he appeared on an episode of *Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman* on The History Channel.

LARRY GRAVES (Ken De La Maize)

Larry is making his third appearance with the Starkville Community Theatre with his role as Ken De La Maize in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Larry's previous roles include the bombastic preacher of the Westboro Baptist Church in *The Laramie Project* and Judge Gaffney in *Harvey*. When he is not acting with SCT, Larry is the Transit Services Manager for the Starkville/MSU Area Rapid Transit bus system in Starkville. He is the proud father of two sons who attend Mississippi State University, and is married to Robin, who works at MSU in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

THOMAS LA FOE (Roger Hopewell)

Thomas is happy to be returning to the stage since his last role in *The Laramie Project*. Before that he has been seen in *Forever Plaid* as Sparky, *Arsenic and Old Lace* as Mortimer, and *Strange Snow* as Megs. His paying job is as an Instructional Technology Specialist at the MSU Libraries. "Thanks to everyone for all their hard work on this show, I hope we leave the audience in suspense and stitches!"

REGAN PLUNKETT (Elsa Von Grossenknueten)

Regan is thrilled to be debuting in her first SCT show. She has performed previously with Pied Piper Players and Tupelo Community Theatre in shows such as *Lizzy*, *Darcy*, and *Jane*; *Egad! The Woman in White*; and *Richard III*, to name a few. She has also acted as Assistant Director for *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *The Jungle Book Jr*. She would like to thank her family and friends for being so supportive and always taking phone calls after late rehearsals.

BONNIE THORNTON (Helsa)

Bonnie is excited to join her first in-person production with Starkville Community Theatre! Bonnie is a Midwestern transplant who believes art is essential for communities to thrive. Bonnie would like to thank her family for their support, and her pets for tolerating her absences from home during rehearsal.

SARA WADE (Marjorie Baverstock)

This will be Sara's first time on stage at Starkville Community Theatre and she couldn't be more excited! Recently relocating to Starkville, Sara felt it important to get involved in the community so when she saw auditions for this production announced, she couldn't pass that up. Although this is Sara's first production at SCT, she has done many shows before. Abigail in *The Crucible*, Cecily Cardew in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and the nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, to name a few. Sara has also recently accepted the theatre teacher position at Armstrong Junior High School and directed their winter production *A Snowy Day*. This is Sara's first time back on stage in a while and she is so happy it is at SCT. Sara would like to thank her husband, Jesse Wade, for all his support.

ROSS HAIRSTON WILLIAMS (Michael Kelly)

Since joining SCT in 1984, Ross has been involved with sixteen productions, starting with *Our Town* and ending with *It's a Wonderful Life* in 2020. In five of those productions he portrayed some form of law enforcement and they included *The Philadelphia Story*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Trifles*, *The Moving of Lilla Barton*, and *The Night of January 16th*. The former school attendance officer comes out of character "retirement" for tonight's performance.

Enjoy a cold bottled water in your seat!

Available in the lobby
during intermission
- only \$1 per bottle.

Auditions - *The Legend of Georgia McBride*

Wednesday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m.

onstage at The Playhouse on Main

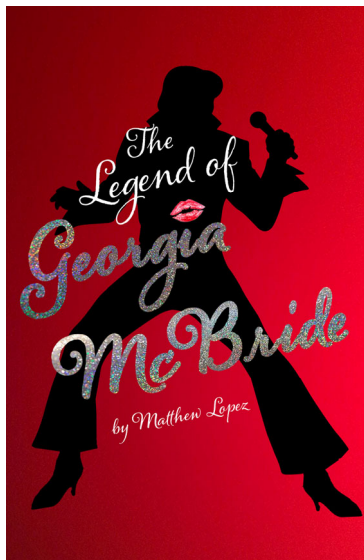
Show runs May 17 through May 21, 2022

This show was originally scheduled for May 2020 and was postponed due to the pandemic. The delay created conflicts with some cast members, and three roles need to be replaced.

“He’s young, he’s broke, his landlord’s knocking at the door, and he’s just found out his wife is having a baby. To make matters even more desperate, Casey is fired from his gig as an Elvis impersonator in a run-down, small-town Florida bar. When the bar owner brings in a B-level drag show to replace his act, Casey finds that he has a lot to learn about show business - and himself.”

Available roles:

Casey/Georgia, Remy, and Eddie



To be considered for a role, anyone auditioning **MUST** be able to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, either at the audition or by the director's request before casting is decided and announced.

For a perusal copy of the script, please contact SCT's Executive Director Gabe Smith at exec@sct-online.org.

CASEY/GEORGIA: Male 20-30

Casey: Charismatic and good-looking Elvis impersonator. Georgia: A wholly original drag queen with Elvis, country and rock 'n' roll roots. **NOTE:** Role requires dancing in heels, lip syncing, singing, and playing guitar.

REMY: Male 22-Mid 30s

Fabulously fierce and feisty sharp-tongued queen with a dark past; a trashy gal who fancies herself the most sophisticated in the room. **NOTE:** Role requires dancing in heels, lip syncing.

EDDIE: Male 45-75

Easily flustered and financially desperate owner of a struggling dive bar; rough around the edges, but a huge heart; he doesn't take naturally to the stage as an emcee--but eventually becomes an amateur showman who loves the spotlight.

If possible, those auditioning for Casey/Georgia or Remy should bring heels.

UP NEXT...

9 to 5 The Musical!

Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and book by Patricia Resnick

Directed by Paula Mabry

March 31 through April 9, 2022

Three unlikely friends take control of their office and learn there is nothing they can't do, even in a man's world.

Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy – giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains “otherwise engaged,” the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't she?



ON THE HORIZON

Look for information in the coming weeks about what is on the horizon, including summer programming and next season's exciting list of shows. If you would like more information about SCT and how to be involved or how to stay plugged into news on upcoming events, please contact SCT's Executive Director Gabe Smith at exec@sct-online.org.



The Musical Comedy Murders of the 1940s
Photos by Dianna Lane Janus



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Paul Williams

*Denotes contributors to the Bob and Mary Eleanor Anderson Scholarship Fund. Donor names are transcribed from your most recent season ticket order forms. If you would like to update or add a listing, please email exec@sct-online.org and we will make the change before our next production. Thank you!

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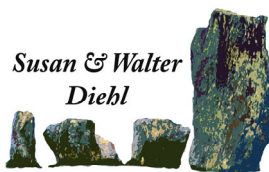
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Barbara Coats, FICF
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HISTORIC
STARKVILLE
MISSISSIPPI'S COLLEGE TOWN



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