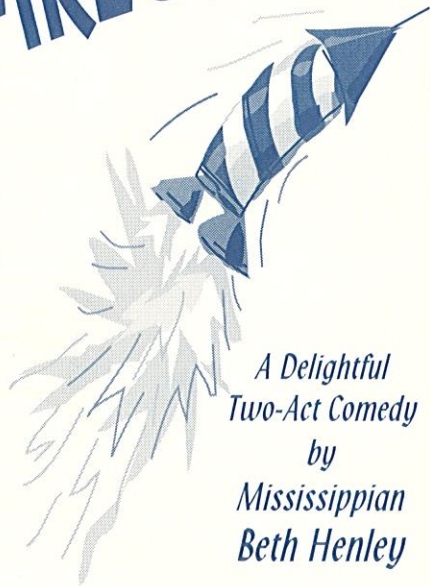


MID-DELTA ARTS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

**THE MISS FIRECRACKER
CONTEST**



*A Delightful
Two-Act Comedy
by
Mississippian
Beth Henley*

November 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6, 1999

MID-DELTA ARTS THEATER

Main Street

INDIANOLA, MISSISSIPPI

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service

**Mid-Delta
Arts Association**
P.O. Box 126
Indianola, MS 38751

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to serve as President of Mid-Delta Arts Association. Having celebrated our 20th anniversary, we are looking forward to the journey into the 21st Century.

Putting together a new season is a gratifying endeavor filled with excitement and challenge. We believe this season will entertain and delight you.

Your generous contributions made it possible for us to make impressive improvements in many areas. We could not have done any of this without the full, enthusiastic, and appreciative support of a splendid audience.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy this performance, and please plan to join us for the other great productions this season.

Thank you for letting us entertain you.

Cordially,
Ernie Baker, President



**INDIANOLA
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

The Indianola Chamber of Commerce is proud to salute the Mid-Delta Arts Association and their tradition of excellence in bringing live theater to the Mississippi Delta.

Indianola Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 151
Indianola, MS 38751
601-887-4454

A Special Thanks to Our 1999/2000 Mid Delta Arts Association Patrons

Since its inaugural season in 1977-78, Mid-Delta Arts Association has cast 71 plays, musicals, and revues with local talent. By conservative estimate, well over 50,000 theater-goers have attended MDAA performances. In addition to its own offerings, Mid-Delta Arts Association has provided a venue for many other musical and theatrical productions.

Live theater can only exist in Indianola through the generous and continued support of our many patrons. We hope you take pride in your participation in the activities and growth of Mid-Delta Arts Association. MDAA has patrons from Clarksdale to Yazoo City, from Greenwood to Greenville - quite literally the length and breadth of the Mississippi Delta. There are also patrons from distant states who support the arts in their native Delta although they are unable to attend most productions.

On the following pages is a list of our patrons. We would be more than happy to add your name to the list. MDAA is a non-profit organization, and your contribution is tax deductible. All memberships received by printing deadline for this playbill have been included.

MDAA is grateful to its patrons for their support and encouragement of the arts in Indianola and the surrounding area. We are proud of our past accomplishments and ambitious about the future prospects of Mid-Delta Arts Association.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Single Patron	(1 ticket per performance)	\$40
Double Patron	(2 tickets per performance)	\$80
Sponsor	(4 tickets per performance)	\$200
Benefactor	(6 tickets per performance)	\$300
Friend of the Arts	(8 tickets per performance)	\$500
Golden Plus	(12 tickets per performance)	\$1000

GOLDEN PLUS

JOHN & MARY RUTH BRINDLEY **BILL & ANN GRESHAM**
COMMUNITY BANK **MAXWELL COTTON CO.**
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MID-DELTA ARTS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST



*A Delightful
Two-Act Comedy
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Beth Henley*

November 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6, 1999

MID-DELTA ARTS THEATER

Main Street

INDIANOLA, MISSISSIPPI

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service

DIRECTOR - CAMERON ABEL

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

CARNELLE Christi Alford
POPEYE Mary Wilson
ELAINE..... Trish Berry
DELMOUNT Michael Carley
MAC SAM Philip Lawes
TESSIE..... Leigh Ann Carley

PRODUCTION CREW

SET DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION. . . Buddy Hendricks, Robert May
Waite Spraggins, Billy Williams,
John Ammons, John Brindley
COSTUMES..... The Cast
PROPERTIES..... Emily Shater
Nancy McElmurray & Dorothy Baker
LIGHTS/SOUND Robert May & Sharon Armstrong

ACT ONE

Scene One - 5:00 on a hot Monday in June in the
living room of Ronelle Williams'
house in Brookhaven, MS

Scene Two - 8:00 the same evening

intermission – 15 minute

ACT TWO

Scene One - 3:00 in the afternoon on July 4th at
the carnival grounds

Scene Two - Several minutes later

Scene Three - Later the same evening

SPECIAL THANKS

John Brindley, Chris Pope
1919 Antiques, Deborah Powell, Emily Shafer
Indianola Floral Designs, Sue Labovitz

Cameron Abel

Cameron is making his debut as a stage director. A member of the Greenwood Little Theatre Board of Directors, he has appeared in six MDAA productions including Mordred in *Camelot*, and Howard in *Moon Over Buffalo*. Other favorite roles include Danny Zuko in *Grease* and The Duke in *Man of La Mancha*. He is slated to direct the adult farce *Don't Dress for Dinner* in Greenwood next July.

Christi Alford

This is Christi's first appearance on the MDAA stage. She has portrayed Rizzo in *Grease* and Dolly Levi in *Hello Dolly* at Greenwood's Little Theatre. She has also had roles in *Sweeny Todd*, *Who's on First*, *MASH*, and *The Second Time Around*.

Trish Berry

A native of Vicksburg, Trish was active in the Vicksburg Little Theatre. She is a veteran of many MDAA productions including Lucy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Reverend Mother in *Nunsense* (also presented in Greenwood), Penny Sycamore in *You Can't Take It With You*, Myrtle Mae in *Harvey*, Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods*, and the MDAA 20 Year Reunion.

Leigh Ann Carley

Leigh Ann first performed in *Annie* in 1991. She has since performed in *Into the Woods*, *The Trouble With the Christmas Presents*, and *A Tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber*. She portrayed Diana in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Eileen in *Moon Over Buffalo*, and most recently, Elaine in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Michael Carley

Michael first appeared on the MDAA stage in *Man of La Mancha*. He has also performed in *Annie*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *A Tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber*.

Philip Lawes

A resident of Greenwood, Philip is a member of the Board of Directors of the Greenwood Little Theatre. His stage credits include Ugly in GLT's production of *MASH*, Anselmo in *Man of La Mancha*, Mr. Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You*, Vince Fontaine in *Grease*, and Steve in Cleveland Community Theater's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He was last seen in MDAA's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* as Teddy, and he directed GLT's production of *Putting On Heirs*.

Mary Wilson

Mary has appeared in several MDAA productions including her favorites, *Nunsense*, *Laundry and Bourbon*, and *Lend Me a Tenor*. She has worked on sets and props and has directed two MDAA productions: *The Nerd* and *The Trouble With the Christmas Presents*.

1999 - 2000



BOARD OF DIRECTORS **MID-DELTA ARTS ASSOCIATION**

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Ernie Baker

VICE PRESIDENT

John Ammons

SECRETARY

Robert May

TREASURER

Bill Nunley

BOARD MEMBERS

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Trish Berry	Barbara McCormick
John Brindley	Beverly Pentecost
Joyce Hull	Emily Shafer
Jimmy Lear	Robert Sledge
Billy Williams	

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Duncan Baird	Kathryn Purcell
Marie Dailey	Randy Randall
Karen Dickman	Evelyn Roughton
Adelaide Fletcher	Leanne Silverblatt
Tom Gresham	Semonne Strawbridge
Paul Jaudon	Frank Tindall, Jr.
Harold Manning	Adele Williams
Nancy McElmurray	Jim Woods
Marsha Wooten	

Jessie P. Lee, 1978-1995

HISTORY OF THE MID-DELTA ARTS ASSOCIATION

In the summer of 1978 a group of talented individuals put together a musical production called *Fifty Years of Broadway*. Performances were held in the Legion Hut in Indianola, and the response was great. Organizational plans for a community theater in Indianola followed, and in October 1978, Mid-Delta Arts Association was chartered.

During the early years, MDAA offered productions featuring men, women, and children from Indianola as well as the surrounding towns of Inverness, Moorhead, Sunflower, and Greenville. MDAA also brought in several touring company productions which included the Jackson Ballet, the Jackson Symphony, *La Boheme*, John Maxwell's *Oh, Mr. Faulkner, Do You Write?*, and blues artist Son Thomas.

MDAA's first big musical, *The Sound of Music*, was presented in Lockard Elementary School Auditorium. It was a typical hot and humid June. There was no air conditioning, but the crowds came from all over to fill the auditorium for a full week of performances. It was clear that talent in the area was abundant. MDAA Patron Membership grew with each theater season.

MDAA acquired the old Catholic Church building (located on the theater's present site at the corner of Main Street and Sunflower Avenue in Indianola), and work began to transform the old church into a serviceable theater. Although there was little money available, there were plenty of willing volunteers with a strong desire to see the project through. The building was converted with volunteer labor for about \$5,000.

Productions flourished in this setting for the next five seasons. Morris Lewis, Jr., and Farmer H. Hamilton, Jr., co-chaired a Capital Improvement Campaign that resulted in over \$150,000 being raised to completely renovate the theater. At this time, a large lobby area was added, theater seating was installed, a sound and light booth was created, and numerous backstage improvements were made.

We are proud of our most recent renovation to the theater---a new stage with added wing space, backstage improvements, and new curtains as well as work areas. For the past twenty years we have enjoyed one successful season after another. The tremendous support of MDAA Patrons from throughout the Delta has grown steadily. As we look ahead to a bright future, we continue to strive to present quality productions and to encourage the Performing Arts in our area.

MDAA PRODUCTIONS 1978 to the PRESENT

- | | |
|--|--|
| '78-79 Fifty Years of Broadway
Mid-Delta Arts Association Chartered
American Potpourri
The Sound of Music | '90-91 The Glass Menagerie
Show Stoppers
Under the Yum Yum Tree
Annie |
| '79-80 Arsenic and Old Lace
A Tribute to Richard Rodgers | '91-92 Vanities
The Odd Couple-Revival
Plaza Suite
Oklahoma |
| '80-81 The Odd Couple
Man of La Mancha | '92-93 Lily, The Felon's Daughter
Into the Woods
The Rainmaker
Bye, Bye Birdie |
| '81-82 Ten Little Indians
Mid-Delta Radio Hour
South Pacific | '93-94 Nunsense
Love Letters
Little Shop of Horrors
Lend Me a Tenor
Joseph and the Amazing
Technicolor Dream Coat |
| '82-83 Our Town
Fiddler on the Roof | '94-95 Midsummer Night's Dream
A Christmas Show Stopper
Guys and Dolls
Wait Until Dark |
| '83-84 Life with Father
Meet Me at the M.A.T.
Music Man | '95-96 The Dining Room
Camelot
Crossing Delancy
The Boyfriend |
| '84-85 You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Chapter Two
Oliver! | '96-97 The Nerd
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
Hello, Dolly |
| '85-86 SRO and Patio Porch
Harvey
Gypsy | '97-98 The Taffetas
The Trouble with the Christmas Presents
An Evening with Andrew Lloyd Webber
Moon Over Buffalo |
| '86-87 Stranger With Roses
Broadway-Music of Our Lifetime
The Mikado | '98-99 20 Year Gala Celebration
The Sound of Music
12 Angry Men
Arsenic and Old Lace |
| '87-88 You Can't Take It With You
Realizing A Dream
Damn Yankees | |
| '88-89 Greater Tuna
Crimes of the Heart
Mame
The Fantastics
The Diary of Anne Frank | |
| '89-90 Steel Magnolias
Godspell
I Do, I Do!
Frankenstein | |

MDAA sponsored outstanding touring productions such as *La Boheme*, the Jackson Ballet, Nancy Sellin (New York actress), the Brigham Young Choir, *The Nutcracker*, Ethel Mohammed's *Art*, the Tucson Boys Chorus, "Oh, Mr. Faulkner, Do You Write?", Rob Maher (Metropolitan Opera baritone), the Jackson Symphony Brass, Son Thomas, the pianos of Jeffrey and Ronald Marlowe, Dr. Paul's harpsichord, Barbershop A Capella and various arts council performers.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The MDAA Requests

LATECOMERS

If you arrive after curtain time, you will be seated by an usher at an appropriate time in the production. We ask your cooperation in fairness to the performers as well as other members of the audience.

The use of **CAMERAS** and other **RECORDING DEVICES** by the audience is strictly prohibited.

Kindly leave **CELLULAR PHONES** and **PAGERS** with an usher. If you are called, an usher will notify you immediately.

SMALL CHILDREN must have their own ticket and occupy their own theater seat. No babes in arms, please.

SMOKING is prohibited in the theater.

REFRESHMENTS are usually served in the lobby during intermission. Please, no food or drinks beyond the lobby.

TICKETS

Our patrons get an opportunity to reserve their seats over a 2 to 3 day period prior to selling tickets to the general public. Our publicity is given mainly through our local newspaper, The Enterprise-Tocsin, with some radio and TV coverage. Tickets are available at the Indianola Chamber of Commerce office, and office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The telephone number is 887-4454. If for some reason you are unable to attend the performance you have tickets for, please notify the Chamber of Commerce. This will allow us to use these tickets for someone else. Almost all of our performances are sell outs and returning your tickets will prevent empty seats.



IN THE WINGS YOUTH THEATER

For children in grades 2 - 7

For more information call

Ramona Mauseth (887-1540) or
Marsha Wooten (887-3592)



MISSION STATEMENT MID-DELTA ARTS ASSOCIATION

Mid-Delta Arts Association is an active theater dedicated to providing Indianola and the surrounding area with live drama, comedy and musical entertainment at the highest level. Created, nourished, and sustained by the Indianola community and the surrounding Delta area, MDAA is committed to excellence in selecting quality productions in keeping with the expectations of our patrons.

HELP WANTED: We always need new actors, actresses, set designers, stage hands, musicians, directors, ushers, sound and light assistants, costume, property masters and curtain pullers. Please give serious consideration to being a part of our next production. You would love this wonderful experience!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

*The University of
Mississippi Concert
Singers*

Dr. Jerry Jordan
Director

December 3, 1999
Two Performances

This internationally recognized ensemble has won major international competitions in England, France, Bulgaria and Italy. As winner of the "Gran Premio Europeo di Canto Corale" in Italy, this group is considered the top nonprofessional choir in the world.

Early Spring, 2000

This Tony-Award winning musical is considered Cole Porter's Masterpiece. A play within a play, it is based on Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew.



*Bell Book
and Candle*



A Comedy by JOHN van DRUTEN

Late Spring, 2000

A haunting comedy, Bell, Book and Candle is about a spell-binding cat and its owner.