

Fall '09

The Gunn High School Theatre Department Proudly Presents:

The Man Who Came To Dinner

by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman



Gunn Studio Theatre

Opening Night Gala November 12th
6:45 PM \$20

Other Performances November 13th,
14th, 19th, 20th, 21st 8PM

Students: \$8 General: \$10

Matinee Wed Nov. 18th 3:30 PM \$5

Tickets available www.Gunntheatre.org, at the SAC, or at the door.

PO 267
Notes from the Director

George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart won the Pulitzer prize for their heartwarming 1937 comedy *You Can't Take it With You*, and collaborated two years later with *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, placing at the center of this piece a decidedly more prickly pear of a protagonist, Sheridan Whiteside. Based on the erudite theatrical critic Alexander Woollcott, the good friend of both Kaufman and Hart who was renowned both for his literary skills and his acid tongue, our Mr. Whiteside had arrived at the lovely home of factory owner Ernest Stanley for dinner, and before he could even enter the house slipped on a patch of ice outside the front door, injuring his hip. We find him now convalescing at the Stanleys, an unexpected and unwilling guest. Thus trapped, Whiteside's world descends on the unsuspecting Stanleys, and that's where we come in.

This classic comedy opened on Broadway seventy years ago(!), on October 16th, 1939, and has been afflicting the comfortable (and inflated) ever since. Kaufman and Hart were writing at a time of challenging economic times with rumblings of war over the horizon. (Hmmm...) Their intention was clearly to divert, delight and entertain, and we hope that tonight we can accomplish that as well.

Thank you for coming out to the theatre and we hope you enjoy visiting Mesalia, Ohio as much as we did (and a great deal more than Mr. Whiteside)!

James Shelb

The Gunn Theatre Department Presents:

The Man Who Came to Dinner

by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

Director: James Shelby

Student Director: Sarah Alcabes

Stage Manager: Rahul Kerur

- Scene: The home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley, in
a small town in Ohio
- Act 1. Scene 1. A December morning.
Scene 2. About a week later.
- Act II. Another week has passed. Christmas
Eve.
- Act III. Christmas Morning.

There will be two ten-minute intermissions.

Refreshment sales benefit

Gunn's Thespian Society.

PLEASE:

No eating, drinking or flash photography in the
theatre.

Don't be a frozen custard or a mildewed pusbag:
Turn off your cell phone NOW!

Cast

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Stanley | Michelle Lalonde |
| Miss Preen | Sneha Bathina |
| Richard | Jordan King |
| June | Alice Walton/Emily Simon* |
| John | Ben Goldman |
| Sarah | Angela Marcinik/ Sarah Powell* |
| Mrs. Dexter | Kayla Neumeyer/ Liane Chabansky* |
| Mrs. McCutcheon | Catherine Volpe/ Tiffany Chen* |
| Mr. Stanley | Austin Lewis |
| Maggie | Leilani Graham |
| Dr. Bradley | Blake Vesey |
| Sheridan Whiteside | Daniel Wallach |
| Harriet Stanley | Sophia Christel |
| Bert Jefferson | Josh Kelly |
| Professor Metz | Matt Mallory |
| Lorraine Sheldon | Ronit Roodman |
| Sandy | Conrad Claassen |
| Beverly Carlton | Nick Ziebell |
| Westcott | Tiffany Chen/ Catherine Volpe* |
| Banjo | Sam Putney |

*alternating in the role

Luncheon Guests

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Convict Michaelson | Ishan Sharma |
| Convict A | Paymahn Mofidi |
| Convict B | Jonah Kaye |
| Convict c | Nikhil Kumar |
| Baker | Conrad Claasen |

Expressmen:

Fiona Flynn Rachel Freeman

Radio Technicians:

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Paymahn Mofidi | Jonah Kaye |
| Nikhil Kumar | Ishan Sharma |

Choir:

Rachel Freeman Fiona Flynn
Kayla Neumeyer/Liane Chabansky*
Tiffany Chen/Cat Volpe*

Plainclothesmen:

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Ishan Sharma | Jonah Kaye |
| Paymahn Mofidi | Nikhil Kumar |

*alternating in the role

Crew

Assistant Stage Managers:

Nikolaj Sorensen and Rebecca Kah

Dramaturge: Karen Reitman

Set Design & Construction Consultant: Andy Hayes

Construction

Head- Daniel Brouillet

Dale Anderson Eran Brandeis Paige Fitzmorris

Matt Mallory Galen Poulton Karen Reitman

Patrick Ruehl Lukas Schleuniger Nikolaj Sorensen

Costumes

Head- Shany Albalak

Morgan Beggs Mariya Guryeva Britt Jensen

Emily Powell Hannah Wolfert

Lights

Head- Lukas Schleuniger

Mira Bertsch Eran Brandeis

Rebecca Kah Cecilia Wong

Makeup

Head- Reade Levinson

Aria Airo Bayley Azevedo

Eve Kelly Hannah Wolfert

Paint

Head- Amber Khan

Mariam Helmy Neulyn Moss Lindsey Wallach

Reade Levinson Karen Reitman

Props

Head- Jessie Cherry

Holt Bowmer Rebecca Kah

Publicity

Head- Cecilia Wong

Sound

Head- Karen Reitman

House Manager: Galen Poulton

Poster Design: Danielle Wenocur

Notes from the Dramaturge:

The Man Who Came to Dinner is chock full of obscure references to popular culture of the late thirties. In producing this piece it was vital for us to accurately portray both the text and the style of the play. Thus, hours on my computer and 131 references later, the cast and crew now know who William Beebe was and that nylon was not available for stockings in 1939. Herewith follows a tiny sample of the type of the fascinating and sometimes obscure material we have come to comprehend:

Dr. Dafoe: He became a celebrity after ensuring the survival of a mother and her quintuplets in 1934.

Calf's Foot Jelly: a savory jelly made with gelatin obtained by boiling calves' feet... It was thought to be a restorative for invalids.

Katharine Cornell: Considered to be the most charming actress of her time (called the "First Lady of the American Theater"). In 1939, she was performing in *No Time for Comedy* with Olivier.

Elsie Dinsmore: Exceedingly virtuous little girl who was the main character in 28 of over 100 novels written by Martha Finley under the pseudonym of Martha Farquharson from 1867 to 1905. The stories were incredibly popular, but even by 1900, she was referred to as a "nauseous little prig."

Hattie Carnegie: Fashion designer and entrepreneur. Her establishment at East 49th Street at one point employed over 1,000 people. She was the most fashionable American dress designer in the 1930s and 1940s.

Zazu Pitts: an American film actress who starred in silent dramas, although later, her career digressed to comedy sound films. She overcame her unglamorous looks and wallflower personality by using them to create her stage and screen persona in many comedies.

Please join us and enjoy, as we have an eventful Christmas with Sheridan Whiteside!

Karen Reitman

Special Thanks

Don Anderson
Tim Farrell
Frank Flynn
Jessica Hawkins
Kristen Lo
William Liberatore
Gay Richard
Amy Christel and all the great
Gunn Theatre Boosters!
TheatreWorks
Stanford Department of Drama
Peet's Coffee and Tea- Charleston Ave.
Kaufmann's Cameras- San Mateo
Ice Skates courtesy of:
Nazareth Ice Oasis
Redwood City, CA

Coming Attractions!

William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*
In Spangenberg theatre
March 11th, 12th, 13th,
17th, 18th, 19th, 20th 2010
Student directed One Acts
May 13th, 14th, 15th,
19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd 2010