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The Player

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SPRING 2009

May 1st and Billie Dawn's Ready to be "Born Yesterday"

Improbable Romance/Political Fireworks/Surefire Comedy!!!

Ain't America great! Where else could a rough kid off the New Jersey streets grow up to be a multi-millionaire businessman with a posh hotel suite in Washington, Billie Dawn, a gorgeous blonde chorus girl, on one arm, a Harvard-educated lawyer on the other and a genuine U.S. Senator in his back pocket? That's Harry Brock, the ruthless junk dealer who only needs the help of Congress to corner the market for the post-war world's enormous piles of rubble. When he puts Paul Verrall, a nosy investigative reporter, on his payroll to give Billie some polish, Harry figures he's solved his only problems: his press image and Billie's embarrassing lack of 'couth'. How wrong he is! Instead of social graces, Paul gives Billie a short course in literature, the arts and the democratic way, and the plot boils with laughter, a touch of romance and timely political insights.



Billie (Ruth Cooney) teases stuffy Washington insiders C.L. Rogers and Richard Dorbin

(All photos by Meg Ingold)

The play is the all-time Broadway hit, *Born Yesterday*, by Garson Kanin, coming to the Oxford Community Center for ten performances, **Friday and Saturday, May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 8 pm; Sunday matinees on May 3, 10 and 17 at 2 pm; and a Thrifty Thursday Early Bird show on May 14 at 7 pm.**

Born Yesterday was a rave-review hit on Broadway in 1946, described by critics as "...guaranteed to rock the rafters," "...a wisecrack in every sentence, tough talk and plenty of action," and became an Oscar-winning film in 1950. It's a laugh treat for the whole family but pre-teens may not get all the plot nuances.

Director Laura Ochsman, with the assistance of Maureen Curtin and mentor Pat Murphy Sheehy, has brought together an exciting cast of surprising new faces and TAP favorites. Ruth Cooney is the incomparable Billie Dawn, the role that brought stardom to Judy Holliday; Patrick Fee is the bullying Harry Brock; Richard Dorbin is the indomitable Paul Verrall, C.L. Rogers is the classical Scotch and power-driven Washington attorney, Ed Devery, Eric Mihan is the persuadable Senator Hedges and Nina Wahl is his socialite wife. The hotel staff jumping to Harry's every need is Sabine Simonson, Sheila Wainwright, George Ludington, Jessica Newell, Liliya Ross, Kelly Davis and Caitlyn Thomas.

Assisting are: Ruth Cooney, doubling as set designer, Deb Dawkins, Lawrie Jessup and John Swann as set builders, John Hanbury, lights and sound designer, Olivia Garahan and Kelly Davis, stage managers, Kate Levey, costumer and Liz Fisher, poster design. The show is produced by Lynn Mielke and George Ludington.

Born Yesterday Benefits Family Violence Council

TAP patrons for the **Saturday, May 9** performance of *Born Yesterday* will benefit the **Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence**, a group of social workers and allied professionals created in 1980 to provide innovative programs for women, children and, yes, men, who had heretofore suffered in silence. The Council offers assistance ranging from legal advocacy, abuse prevention to shelter care and more. Why *Born Yesterday* for this vital cause? You'll discover that Billie Dawn's rebirth is at least partly a very funny but courageous triumph over an abusive relationship. Special refreshments will be provided by the Council and a portion of your ticket will go in the right direction.

Don't Forget: Opening Night Champagne and Thrifty Thursday!

Opening night for *Born Yesterday*, on May 1 will again feature complimentary champagne and light snacks starting at 7:00 pm before the 8:00 PM curtain. It's a real celebration and a great date idea! Also, for those who want an early evening **and** a terrific deal, remember that adult tickets are **two-for-one** on Thursday, May 14, at 7:00 pm and students (through college with ID) are **free**. Can you believe a family of four for just \$15?



Betsy Ames MacFarland

(1942-2009)

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bill MacFarland and the entire family of Betsy Ames for her untimely passing last month. Betsy gave TAP a choice bit of her very large acting talent in two roles, *Painting Churches* and *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, both in 2004, and as recently as last December she was talking about finding "the perfect role" (she meant something funny, witty and challenging) for next season. But Betsy had so many perfect roles – artist, film actress, the Queen of voice-overs, not to mention enthusiastic audience member, volunteer and cheerful friend. The entire TAP family mourns the loss of this treasured colleague.

Thanks Volunteers!

The sell-out crowds for *My Three Angels* (especially the Sunday matinees) gave our volunteer crews a real workout but they came through with almost no ruffled feathers. Great Big Thanks go to **Judy & Bob Amdur, Elizabeth Benitz, Ruth Cooney, Carla Cronin & Pete Howell, Marilyn and Bob Dietz, Betty Dorbin, David Foster, Beth Anne & Ed Langrell, Peggy & Van Lott, Leigh & Skipper Marquess, Diane & Dempsey Mizelle, Robyn Mendelsohn, Dorette & Larry Murray, Leslie Nolker, Christine Paalberg, Irene Pentimall, Cindy & Jim Reed, Barb & Katherine Seese, Christine Valeo, Sheila Wainwright, Barbara Wilson, Nancy Wilson & Peter Dunbar, Liz & Bernie Witter.**



Hotel Suite cocktails and laughter with C.L.Rogers, Eric Mihan, Ruth Cooney, George Ludington



Junk Dealer (Patrick Fee) Meets the Press (Richard Dorbin)

For reservations and information, call 410-226-0061 or visit www.tredavonplayers.org

Coming Next for TAP



"Damn Yankees"



Book by Douglas Wallop
Music by Jerry Adler
Directed by Marcia Gilliam



Broadway's hit musical about how the Yankees lost the pennant to the lowly Washington Senators with some playfully Satanic help. Based on the best-selling novel by Oxford's own Doug Wallop. Songs like "You've Gotta Have Heart," "Whatever Lola Wants" and many more. Great tunes, tons of laughter. Don't Miss This One!



Performances

Friday & Saturday evenings, August 14, 15, 22, 23, 28 & 29 at 8 pm
Sunday matinees, August 16, 23 & 30 2 pm
Thrifty Thursday Early Bird, August 27 at 7 pm



Auditions at Oxford Community Center

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 14 & 15 7-8:30 pm, Saturday, April 18, 10 am-12 noon
Needed: 2 male leads 30-65, 1 male lead 18-30, 8-10 male baseball players 18-50, 2-3 other males 30-65, 1 female lead (Lola) 25-50 (sing & dance); 4 female supporting 25-65, 4-6 female chorus, 18-60. Additional fans, bat boys & girls 6-30. 4-6 dancers, male & female
Bring a prepared song with sheet music or recorded accompaniment
Lola and dancers be prepared to learn short dance routine



Credit Cards Welcome at TAP's Box Office

Your Visa, Mastercard or Discover Card are now welcome at TAP's box office. No, we still don't have a system to reserve seats with a credit card but we're moving in that direction. Of course, we still love cash and your check is always acceptable unless you happen to be named "Madoff."

TAP is funded in part by a General Operating Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, with funds provided by the State of Maryland and by the National Endowment for the Arts, and by a similar grant from the Talbot County Arts Council, agencies which believe that a great nation deserves great art, and that promotion of the arts is good for our families, our businesses and our communities.



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Ruth Cooney as Billie Dawn in her smashing rebirth in “Born Yesterday”

(All photos by Meg Ingold)