



**First Season
1989 - 1990**

**President:
Joanne Griner**

THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG

JULY 1989



presents

They're Playing Our Song

Book by
Neil Simon

Music by
Marvin Hamlisch

Lyrics by
Carole Bayer Sager

CAST

HOPE INCE as Sonia

KEITH BEST as Vernon

Voices of Sonia

Kay Hardesty

Debbi Hart

Amy Kilgard

Voices of Vernon

Ernest Whitlow

Bill Lee

Matthew Schenk

Off-stage Voice of Phil by Roland Chisolm

ORCHESTRA

Piano.....Glen Eckman

Drums.....Hugh Brown

Electric Piano.....Frank Steele

Produced By Special Arrangement with

Samuel French, Inc.



Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission Theatre Guild "song writers" Keith Best and Hope Ince prepare for a dinner theater production of "They're Playing Our Song" by performing

segments of the musical for the Lions Club at the Gold Plate Restaurant. The opening production will be at the King of the Road July 20.
— Times Photo by Mike Tanner

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Frank Steele

Producer.....Patrick Reymann

Stage Manager.....Joanne Griner

Assistant Stage Managers...Meredith Ince, DeLane Blankenship

Musical Director.....Frank Steele

Master Carpenters.....Tim Hilton, Charles Green

Lights.....Sonny Chisolm

Sound.....Sonny Chisolm

Make-up Committee.....Debbi Hart, Judy DeLoach,
Debbie Graham, Brenda DiSabotino

Hair Stylist.....Danny McCranie

Costumes.....Vondeen Harris

Program Chairman.....Debbie Barnard

Tickets.....Annette O'Neal

Ad Sales.....Cathy Gilbert

LVAC Theatre Guild Set To Open 1st Dinner Production

By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer

"Well, it finally happened, just as I feared. Love strikes Vernon Gersch."

This pivotal line, delivered by Vernon into his tape-recorded journal, sets the stage as rehearsal of act two begins for the local performance of the musical "They're Playing Our Song."

Love strikes in the form of Sonya Walsk, a hyperactive, but sensitive songwriter who comes to work with Vernon, a well-known lyricist, complete with bag, baggage and almost ex-boyfriend Leon.

"They're Playing Our Song," the story of two song writers who don't always make beautiful music together, is coming to Valdosta this month.

The dinner theater production, a presentation of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission Theatre Guild, will be July 20 and 21 at the King of the Road Inn. Rehearsal is winding down to it's final stages with lines being polished, movements being refined and the last touches given to hair and costumes.

"They are coming along, you know they are still struggling with lines from time to time but it's going to be good. The leads are strong and good. It's going to be a good show," Guild president Joanne Griner said.

Ms. Griner said the dinner theater and the fact the show is a musical comedy will draw even bigger crowds than the season opener Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap." More than 100 tickets have already been sold for the two performances.

The two leads are played by Valdosta residents Keith Best and Hope Ince. Best said he is very unlike his character Vernon.

"He's cynical," Best said. "He's locked himself up in his little shell and he's happy. There he's safe, it's easy for him. He's a nice guy but he hides it and it takes someone like Sonya to bring that out."

In contrast, Mrs. Ince's character Sonya is energetic and free-thinking to the point of being hyperactive, but there's much more to the character.

The two run the gamut of emotions, from irritation to passion to sadness and back again. There is, however, a lot of humor in the play as demonstrated in one scene in

which Sonya is complaining to Vernon about working all the time since she moved into his apartment.

"I want to see what the rest of the world is doing," she complains.

"You can see from here, they're not doing much," Vernon responds unsympathetically.

The two leads are supported by six singing and dancing alter-egos Amy Kilgard, Debbie Hart, Kay Hardesty, Bill Lee, Ernie Whitlow and Matt Schenk. The voice of Phil, the recording studio technician is supplied by Roland Chisolm.

Alter-ego Ernie Whitlow is excited about being on stage. He said that is the best part of the production for him, along with the "real little pianos" used as props during the show.

The most difficult part for ego Debbie Hart has been the concentration needed to coordinate dancing, singing and acting. This is Ms. Hart's first time performing in live theater.

The production has meant hard work and a lot of volunteer hours for cast members, but director Frank Steele had only praise.

"We've got a good show here," he said.



presents

Auntie Mame

by

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

Based on the best-selling novel by Partick Dennis

CAST

PART	NAME
Nora Muldoon.....	Sherrie Farabee
Patrick Dennis, as a boy.....	Jeremy Guy
Ito.....	Bill Okuma
Vera Charles.....	Hope Ince
Osbert.....	Alex Penn
Ralph Devine.....	Delane Blankenship
Bishop Eleftharoses.....	Charles Green
M. Lindsay Wollsey.....	Ernie Whitlow
Auntie Mame.....	Joanne Griner
Mr. Waldo, a paper hanger.....	Dennis Seereiter
Mr. Babcock.....	Hugh Brown
Stage Manager.....	Winona Hodges
Theatre Manager.....	Valerie Varn
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Liz Foster
A Maid.....	Kelly Wingrove
A Butler.....	Roland Chisolm
A Leading Man.....	Delane Blankenship
Lord Dudley.....	Ernie Whitlow
Young Customers.....	Nikki Paulson
	Cris Okuma
	Mike Varn, II
	Davey Ince

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Frank R. Steele
Producer.....	Mary Ann Green
Stage Manager.....	Christie Woods
Asst. Stage Manager.....	Winona Hodges
Set Design.....	Dan Hanafan, Cliff Dix, Tim Hilton, Charles Green
Set Construction/Painting.....	Tim Hilton, Charles Green, Malcolm Rainey, Dennis Seereiter, Patrick Reymann, Robert Nix, Brian Wingrove, Dorothy Roby, Dale Lawrence, Debbi Hart, Sherrie Farabee, Jim Roby, Mary Ann Green, Charlie Oliver, Hugh Brown, Cliff Dix, Jason Avery, Kay Jennett, Lisa Kunert, Patricia Tomlinson
Lights.....	Pete Ganas
Sound.....	Pete Ganas
Stage Crew.....	Entire Company
Props.....	Winona Hodges, Christy Woods
Make-Up/ Hair Styles.....	Steve Heddon, Katrina Heddon, Danny McCrannie of Styles by Ken
Costumes.....	Annette O'Neal, Grace Riggs
Program Chairman.....	Debbi Barnard
Tickets.....	Cheryl Paulson
Ad Sales.....	Cathy Gilbert
Publicity.....	Sherrie Farabee

AUNTIE MAME
NOVEMBER 1989

PART

NAME

Mr. Loomis, A floor walker.....	Alex Penn
Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside.....	John Eldrige
Cousin Jeff.....	Jim Rinehart
Cousin Fan.....	Debbi Hart
Cousin Moultrie.....	Charles Green
Sally Cato MacDougal.....	Denise Steptor
A Shopper.....	Kelly Wingrove
A Girl.....	Mary Faye Paffhausen
Radcliff.....	Liz Foster
Emory.....	Cliff Dix
Mother Burnside.....	Winona Hodges
Groom.....	Rusty Tomlinson
Dr. Shurr, a vet.....	Roland Chisolm
Patrick Dennis, a young man.....	Warren Woods
Agnes Gooch.....	Lydia Ross Freeman
Brian O'Bannion.....	Jason Avery
Gloria Upson.....	Tammy Crowe
Mrs. Doris Upson.....	Kay Jennett
Mr. Claude Upson.....	Jim Rinehart
Pegeen Ryan.....	Meredith Ince
Michael Dennis.....	Jeremy Guy
A Man.....	Delane Blankenship
A Woman.....	Kelly Wingrove
A Man.....	Dennis Seereiter
Off-stage Voices.....	Dennis Seereiter

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play takes place in Auntie Mame's Beekam Place apartment and various other locales in which she becomes involved over a period of years from 1928 to 1946.



Presents

Auntie Mame

**By Jerome Lawrence
and
Robert E. Lee**

Produced By Special Arrangement
With Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

**November 2, 3, 4
at
Mathis City Auditorium**

**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Show at 8:00 p.m.**

'Make The Theatre A Part Of Your Life'





Members of the cast of "Auntie Mame" rehearse for the Thursday-Saturday production at Mathis city auditorium. JoAnn Griner, left, portrays Auntie Mame and at right are Sherrie Farrabee and Jeremy Guy cast as Patrick. — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

'Auntie Mame' Opening

There's probably a Mame Dennis in every family and Frank Steele, director of the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission Theatre Guild's production of "Auntie Mame," thinks that will be part of the show's appeal.

"Auntie Mame" will open Thursday at Mathis city auditorium and will run through Saturday. This is the third play since the Guild formed and the second in the 1089-90 show season. "Auntie Mame" features a much larger cast, Steele said, many of whom have never done a community theater play before.

"It's a full-sized show which means more stage changes and costume changes and a larger cast which means more community people participating."

"Auntie Mame" is a stylistic show set in the 1930s and '40s and tells the story of young Patrick Dennis' move from Chicago to New York to live with his wordly and somewhat eccentric aunt and the life they make together. The situations range from the tragic, such as the stock market crash of 1929, to the absurd situations Mame seems to get her-

self into while trying to get along with the rest of the world, including getting a job at Macy's selling roller skates.

Steele said the size of the show prompted many more people to audition and led to the discovery of a lot of natural talent.

"I feel like the strong people, even the new ones, have been put in good spots and their own intuitiveness made the characters come to life."

Joanne Griner, who plays Auntie Mame, said she thinks the community will enjoy this play because there's a little bit of Auntie Mame in even the most proper and sedate person.

"I think everyone has a bit of Auntie Mame's flamboyance and would like to share some of her excitement about life," she said.

"The delight is the variety of people and backgrounds who make up the cast. A wide span of age from 10 to the mid-50s. We have students and military and Phd's involved in hammering and sawing, and medical technicians and accounting people on stage. It has attracted many new people from the community, who

beyond this play have become interested and become a part of the Theatre Guild."

Jason Avery, who plays Brian O'Bannion, a comic Irish romantic, said he was interested in finding some theater activities to do before he starts college next fall and has enjoyed the family feeling of being part of "Auntie Mame."

"I think that's the best part of being in a community theater," he said.

Jeremy Guy, 10, who plays young Patrick, said playing the part in such a big cast has been fun, but "strange at times." He, like the rest of the cast members, worries about getting his lines right and being funny in the right places. "I like it though."

"Auntie Mame" features a cast and crew from Valdosta, Lowndes County and the surrounding area. The contributing efforts of about 50 people are going into the production.

"Our goal is to always top our last performance," Ms. Griner said. "We invite the public to join us for an evening of fun and fine theater."



BUS STOP

FEBRUARY 1990



Presents
BUS STOP

3 - Act Romance
by William Inge

Produced by Special Arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

CAST

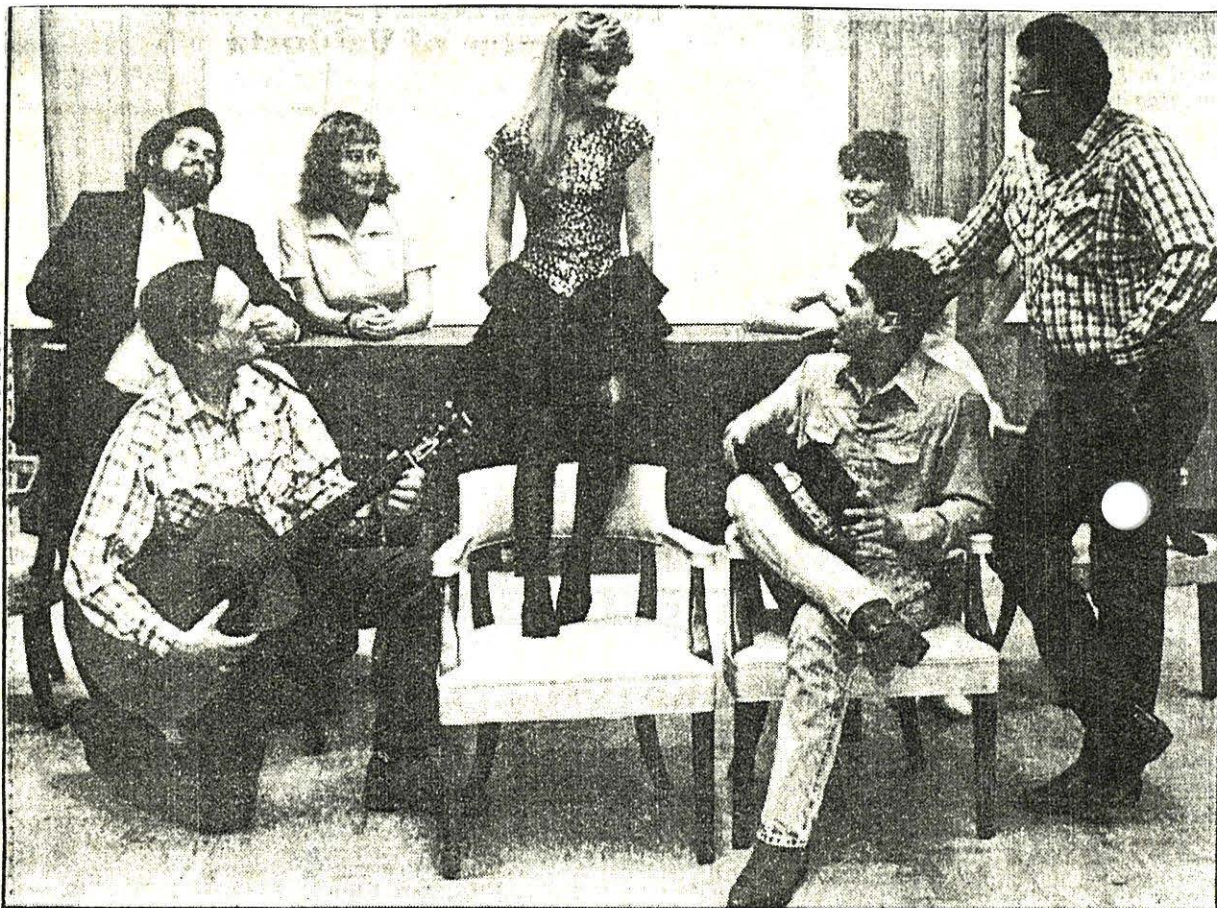
(IN ORDER OF THEIR APPEARANCE)

Elma Duckworth, waitress.....Blair Barnett
Grace Hoylard, restaurant owner.....Denise Steptoe
Will Masters, sheriff.....Jerry Ellis
Cherie, a chanteuse.....Kim Parker
Dr. Lyman, a former professor.....Micheal Lowe
Carl, a bus driver.....Hugh Brown
Virgil Blessing, a ranch hand.....Phillip Barr
Bo Decker, a young rancher.....Warren Woods

SCENES

The action of the play takes place in a street-corner restaurant in a small town about thirty miles west of Kansas City.

ACT I
A Night In Early March, 1:00 a.m.
ACT II
A Few Minutes Later
ACT III
Early Morning, About 5:00 a.m.



Members of the cast of "Bus Stop," the winter production of the Lowndes-Valdosta Theatre Guild, rehearse for the play which opens Thursday — Photo By Paul Leavy.

'Bus Stop' Opens Thursday

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Special To The Times

"Bus Stop," winter production of the Lowndes-Valdosta Theatre Guild, opens Thursday, and in the tradition of the Valentine season, love or the pursuit of it, is the major theme of the show.

"It's a romantic comedy which takes a look at a small section of the lives of very common people," said Bob Nulph, show director. "It's a group of people thrown together during a snowstorm in a bus stop 30 miles out of Kansas City. It's a show which looks into stereotypes and changes them to a degree."

The play tells the story of Bo, played by Warren Woods, a young cowboy who has fallen in love with his first romantic interest, Cherie, a dance hall girl, played by Kim Parker. "Unfortunately he gets off to a bad start when he grabs Cherie and throws her on the bus with the intention of taking her to his ranch to marry her." The story unfolds overnight in a dingy bus stop surrounded by six other characters involved in some degree in their own romantic conflicts.

"We have love coming out of nowhere," said Nulph. "It's a show of metamorphosis where every character changes from beginning to end."

Three of the eight performers, Warren Woods, Hugh Brown and Denise Steptoe, are veterans of past Guild plays, but actors Kim Parker, Blair Barnette, Michael Brown, Philip Barr and Jerry Ellis are appearing with the Guild for the first time. While the actors confess to some nervousness as the opening night approaches, they say they are enjoying working together on the show. "I like the camaraderie of the project, stepping in here and being accepted," Ellis said.

"I did a couple of church plays and took drama in junior high school, but it's the first time I've done this," said Kim Parker. "I think it's kind of neat having the play around Valentine's Day. It's a wonderful romance in addition to being a hilarious play."

Philip Barr, who plays Virgil, Bo's best friend, has been acting in college and community theater for years. He played the character of Will, the sheriff in "Bus Stop," in a college production of the show. He

described Virgil as an old cowboy, just "kicking around." He said Virgil just fell into being a cowboy and likes it.

The other characters in the play include Grace, the owner of the bus stop played by Denise Steptoe; Elma, the young waitress, played by Blair Barnette; Will, played by Jerry Ellis, a one-horse town sheriff who helps along the relationship between Bo and Cherie.

Michael Lowe plays Dr. Lyman, a besotted philosopher whose drunken ramblings and lecherous leanings actually hide for a while a gifted, intelligent, and sensitive person. Hugh Brown plays Carl, the bus driver who has his own ideas about love and romance.

"Bus Stop" performance will be Thursday through next Sunday at Lucy Ho's. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. and the show at 8 p.m. The Sunday matinees will be at 2 p.m. with lunch at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for dinner and show and \$6 for show only. Students and seniors are half price. "Bus Stop" is the Guild's last dinner theater show of the 1989-90 season. Ticket information is available by calling 247-ARTS.

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR.....Robert Nulph
PRODUCER.....Joanne Griner
STAGE MANAGER.....Roland Chisolm
SET CONSTRUCTION.....Malcolm Rainey
Charles Green
Dennis Seereiter
ART.....Kay Jennett, Jason Avery
Charlie Oliver
LIGHTS/SOUND.....Roland Chisolm
William Brown
PROGRAM.....Charlie Oliver
TICKETS.....Annette O'Neal
Mary Faye Paffhausen
AD COORDINATOR.....Cathy Gilbert
PUBLICITY.....Sherrie Farabee

'You Can't Take It With You' 'Plays' Thursday-Saturday

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Where can a teacher be a dancer? A businesswoman be a teen-ager again and a college student be a world-class wrestler? Actually, you can be anything you want on stage—one reason community theater appeals to so many.

Some area residents live the life of their dreams on stage regularly as members of the Lowndes/Valdosta Theatre Guild. The cast of the upcoming production, "You Can't Take it With You," is made up of local teachers, businessmen, nurses, college and high school students, retirees and Air Force personnel.

Female lead Cathy Gilbert said no matter what her fellow thespians say, most actors perform because they love attention. "I love audience applause, I love acting, it's ego," Ms. Gilbert said.

"It's a disease, you get addicted to being in front of an audience, it's a natural high to be in front of an audience," said Denise Steptoe, who has performed in community theater for

17 years. The Echols County school teacher said it's not difficult at all to rehearse hours nightly, after work when you're doing something you love.

Valwood junior Heather Epes doesn't get enough practice acting in school productions, so she too performs in the community group. Though she likes the audience attention, Ms. Epes said she acts for self-fulfillment. "It gives me a chance to learn how other people feel and that puts me in touch with how I feel."

Transcending your own personality being someone else temporarily, for an hour, or a few nights, is appealing to many community actors.

But whatever reason they choose, community actors must be dedicated. A few weeks before a production, the group rehearses anywhere from three to four hours five nights a week. In addition to interest, plenty of spare time is a prerequisite for involvement in the theatre guild.

Ms. Steptoe said the local group is a good place for those interested in acting to start. "It's the type of group that welcomes anybody," no matter

what their age or occupation, she said.

Ms. Steptoe also believes the community group is less intimidating to new and old actors. It's not as competitive as one might expect, or find in a college or high school theatre troupe. It's much like a family, Ms. Steptoe said.


Auditions are held before each play and newcomers are welcome.

"You Can't Take it With You," by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, is set in New York City during the Depression. The play revolves around a family of "individualists," living down the street from Columbia University.

Tickets for "You Can't Take it With You" are available now. Reservations may be made by calling the LVAC office at 247-ARTS. Tickets for dinner and play are \$17; guild members, senior citizens and groups of 20 or more can get them for \$15 each.

The show will be performed Thursday-Saturday at the Moody Air Force Base Officers Club. Doors will open at 6 p.m., dinner's at 6:30 p.m. and the curtain goes up at 8 p.m.

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU MARCH 1990



Presents

You Can't Take It With You

by
Moss Hart
and
George S. Kaufman

Produced by Special Arrangement
With Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

March 29, 30, and 31, 1990

at

Moody Air Force Base Officer's Club

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Show 8:00 p.m.

"Make The Theatre A Part Of Your Life"



From left, (seated) Albert Pendleton, Jason Avery, Debbi Hart, Michael Lowe and (standing) Heather Epes, Alex Penn, Denise Steptoe, Jim Rinehart, Cathy Gilbert, Rich

Nunley, and (seated at desk) Jason Wade rehearse for 'You Can't Take It With You' play set for Thursday-Saturday — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

Comedy in Three Acts
By Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

THE COMPANY (As They Appear)

Penelope Sycamore.....Cathy Gilbert
Essie.....Sarita Rainey
Rheba.....Denise Steptoe
Paul Sycamore.....Richard Nunley
Mr. De Pinna.....Michael C. Lowe
Ed.....Alex Penn
Donald.....SSgt. Jim Rinehart
Martin Vanderhof.....Albert Pendleton
Alice.....Heather Epes
Henderson.....Bill Tucker
Tony Kirby.....Jason Avery
Boris Kolenkhov.....Jason Wade
Gay Wellington.....Teri Moser
Mr. Kirby.....SSgt. Ernie Whitlow
Mrs. Kirby.....Debbi Hart
The Man.....Hugh Brown
Jim.....Sgt. Warren Woods
Mac.....Roland "Sonny" Chisolm
Olga.....Sherrie Farabee

The action takes place at the home of Martin Vanderhof in New York - just around the corner from Columbia University, but don't go looking for it. The room we see is what is customarily described as a living room, but in this house the term is something of an understatement. For here meals are eaten, plays are written, snakes collected, ballet steps practiced, xylophones played, and printing presses operated. In short, the brood presided over by Martin Vanderhof goes on about the business of living in the fullest sense of the word. From Grandpa Vanderhof down, they are individualists. This is a house where you do as you like, and no questions asked.

Time: 1936

SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene 1 - A Wednesday evening about 7 p.m.
Scene 2 - Much later the same evening.

ACT TWO

A week later.

ACT THREE

The next day.

There will be intervals between acts.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Mary Ann Green
Producer.....Frank Steele
Stage Manager.....Kerri Miller
Set Deisgner.....Charles Green
Artistic Designer.....Ellen Oliver
Publicity, Program and Ticket Chairman.....Cheryl Paulson
Program Cover.....Jason Avery
Lights/Sound.....Sonny Chisolm
Ad Coordinator.....Kelly Wingrove
Set Construction Crew.....Dennis Seereiter,
Hugh Brown, Warren Woods,
Albert Pendleton, Jerry Ellis,
Charles Green, Joanne Griner,
Sherrie Farabee, Kelly Wingrove,
Meredith Guy, Mary Ann Green, and Frank Steele
Props Crew.....Meredith Ince,
Kelly Wingrove, Kerri Miller,
Clair Peterson, Heather Epes,
Brad Lenz, Jake Moulton,
Sherrie Farabee, Warren Woods,
DeAnna Dorminey, Christy Priest,
and Heather MacDonald
Publicity, Program and Ticket Crew.....Kelly Wingrove,
Mary Ann Green,
and Frank Steele
Costumes.....Meredith Guy,
Joyce Nash, Sue Miller and Frank Steele
Hair Styles & Make-Up.....Danny McCrannie

The Taking of Photographs is Strictly Prohibited.

We gratefully acknowledge the special contributions made to our efforts by the following:

Dan Hanafan	Allied Building Supplies
Drumheller Bag Company	E.R. Mosby
Fabric King	Dowling Bag Company
Peacock Paint Center	Valwood School
Antique Boutique	Janet Robinson
Eileen Mitchell	All States Moving & Storage
Eddie Law's Furniture	Valdosta Podiatry Assoc.

Notes from the Director:

At first, I was dismayed to learn that the layout of this program was going to produce a lot of blank paper where these words of mine now reside. But when Cheryl challenged me to "do something about it", I figured if you'd read this far, you might not mind reading a few more lines from me.

Whenever I work in the theatre, I am always amazed at the number of people on the "outside" who are surprised that I could really enjoy the endless hours, the deadlines, the stress, the problems. Sure, this show was a big undertaking and a tremendous responsibility, but the people along the way are my reason why. Perhaps the only true obstacle to the production of this show, was finding it a home — someplace, anyplace, where we could make it happen! I know I speak for the Theatre Guild and certainly for the Company, when I say simply and sincerely, thank you Moody Air Force Base for taking us orphans in! Not only did you "let us", you welcomed us and treated us with a graciousness that makes us proud that you are part of the community. Not only are you vital to our defense and our economy, you are sensitive to the total needs of the community, including the commitment to "making the theatre a part of our lives". Thank you COL. Burton Bright (Ret.) for paving the way, for introducing me to LTC. Jim Blanco and CPT. David Lane, who so enthusiastically received our ideas and supported our endeavors. Thank you, Mr. Hughes, for the magnificent preparations we have had here in the Club, for your tolerance and patience with our phone calls and our hours. Thank you, COL. Joe Praeter and COL. Raymond Trusz for you gave the final approval. And thanks to the many more folks here, from the guards at the gate, to the help in the kitchen, to the ticket sellers and reservation assistants. You are the reason I do what I do!

Mary Ann