

# TGV'S STAGE TWO

PRESENTS

## A PIECE OF MY HEART

BY SHIRLEY LAURO



featuring

**THE GOLDEN STAGERS**  
**OCTOBER 26 & 27 @ 7:30 PM**  
**OCTOBER 28 @ 3:00 PM**

open seating \$5.00

## *Director's Notes.....*

To borrow a line from Dickens' "Tale of Two Cities", the 60's and 70's were "the best of times and the worst of times". There were the "Happy Days" of the Cunninghams and Frankie and Annette in the "Beach Blanket Bingo" films, "Bag o Burgers" nights at hamburger joints, family gatherings to watch favorite shows on new color TV sets. However, lying beneath the seemingly serene picture and ultimately rising to tragic and frightening spillovers, was a cry for freedom during the Civil Rights Movements. Traveling parallel with these events was the war in Vietnam. Some were passionately for our involvement there. Some were not. Some seemed completely untouched by any of the movements or mayhem of the complicated tapestry that was the sixties and its neighboring decades. Keith Walker writes the true stories of the women of that time...more specifically, the women of the Vietnam Conflict. Many went over as girls and came back adults often with more questions than answers.

Shirley Lauro adapted this play from Walker's book. She draws from the stories of twenty six nurses, "Doughnut Dollies" (Red Cross volunteers), USO entertainers, and women who served in the various Armed Forces to tell of their time spent in a beautiful, but war torn part of the world. Her characters ask you to listen to their tales of sacrifice, confusion, pride, fear, and yes, love of the people for whom and with whom they served. Whether you agree or disagree with history, it is their accounting and we have done our best to give an honest portrayal of their experiences in this shortened version. This is a "flashback piece" that combines Readers Theatre Techniques and those of conventional acting. Older actors play "themselves" in their younger days during the challenges of serving in battle and sometimes, the difficult homecoming.

We are the debut show for a new project of Theatre Guild Valdosta, SECOND STAGE. Our group is the newly formed, Golden Stagers and most of us are "people of a certain age." When I first directed "A Piece of My Heart", it was with the award winning, Lowndes High Off Broadway. On "Heart" and every other show I was blessed with working with young and inspiring talent. Now, these ladies and gentlemen who have worked on this production have allowed me to revisit this powerful show and have worked with dedication, respect, and a pouring out of their own skills and abilities to bring you its message. Special blessings to three of Bill's and my "kids", Cindy and Jessica and Kent.

Some of us were closer to Vietnam than others. Thank you, Jack Pruden and John Murray for your service. In the final analysis, I think that we all must ask in his/her own way...God bless us all, God bless America, God bless the world...especially now.

## COMPANY

**SANDRA DICKSON (Martha)** Recently retired as Dean of Graduate Studies, Piedmont College, after 40 years in education; Former president of TGV; Member Board of Directors Habersham Community Theatre; Board member Sautee Nacoochee Arts Center; Directing experience includes musicals, dramas, comedies, mysteries and childrens productions; Recent roles include Ouiser in "Steel Magnolias", Mdm. Arcati in "Blythe Spirit", Amanda in "Glass Menagerie", and Aunt Abbie in "Arsenic and Old Lace; Wife of Jerry and mother of Scott (both theatre graduates); Mimi to Anieyssa and Bardin (who both began performing before the age of five) and to Weston and Kinnon (who are waiting in the wings!!!!!!)

**KATHRYN E. SMITH (Mary Jo)** Dinner Theatre "Jack of All Trades" – Manager to Actress; The Oresteia – Clytemnestra, Blithe Spirit – Mme. Arcati - ... (etc, etc.); director Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, A Man for All Seasons... (etc.); student – Oriental Theatre in Tokyo; gourmet cook; teacher; costumer; writer; mother, grandmother and great-grandmother; loves the sea shore.

**JOANNE GRINER (Sissy)** Founding President of Theatre Guild Valdosta; founding Chair of Valdosta Lowndes Azalea Festival; played Ethel roles in 5 shows on the Dosta stage: *Curious Savage*, *Harvey*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *On Golden Pond*; favorite role, Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy*, touring locally; 17-year volunteer with the Main Street Program; Mom to Cathy, Robert and Becky; GG to 6 grandsons; leisure time, head in a book.

**LEE SCHERT (Whitney)** Danced with regional ballet company in Jacksonville, FL; FSU majored in Habilitative Sciences; taught severely emotionally disturbed children in Ochlocknee and Thomasville, GA; taught prepared childbirth classes through VSU's Public Services; taught drama and dance in pre-school through high school; worked in community service positions in New Zealand, California, and Texas; worked with Valdosta Healthy Living Task Force. Raised four children here in Valdosta, and now enjoying being a grandmother.

**GALE THOMAS EGER** (Leeann/ Director) BA/Theatre Wichita State University; former radio hostess, journalist, TV anchor/reporter - ABC, NBC, CBS affiliates covering (for ABC) arrival of refugees to Eglin AFB at fall of Saigon; professional acting experience includes: Lincoln Center, Yarmouth Theatre – Cape Cod, Naples Dinner Theatre, FL, WSU Summer Theatre; Charter member TGV; director/ founder award winning LHS Off Broadway 22 years; Rep. roles: Amanda, "The Glass Menagerie"; Eleanor, "The Lion in Winter", Regina, "Little Foxes"; Jean, "The Prime of Miss Jean Brody"; Guenivere, "Camelot"; Ruth, "Dear Ruth"; Bloody Mary, "South Pacific"; Flo, "Leading Ladies"; Directing: "Dark of the Moon", "Godspell", "Vanities", "Black Elk Speaks", "Antigone", "Bye, Bye Birdie", et al.

**ALMA WILLIAMS** (Steele/Head Nurse) Retired educator from East Side Christian Academy; entrepreneur who has held a variety of appointed community positions and served on the Valdosta Board of Education. Attended Valdosta State College, graduating with a B.S. In Criminal Justice and dual M. Ed. In Reading and Middle Grades Education. Avid reader, community volunteer, grandmother. Making her debut with "Stage Two" at the Dosta Theatre.

**INDAY BAUER** (Bien) Born and raised in the Philippines; retired educator of 38 years having taught in two countries and earning certification in three different states; Certified Master Gardener, board member of Dogwood Garden Club, Camellia Garden Club, Crescent Garden Council, American Association of University Women, Valdosta Azalea International Festival, Fil-Am Association, Italian-American Club, Strummers Act II; SGMC Pink Lady Volunteer; finalist for Valdosta AAUW Woman of the Year (2002); active member of St. John's Catholic Church; enjoys Karaoke, gardening line and folk dancing, reading, scrabble/bannagram, and traveling; appeared in "My Fair Lady" - Eliza Doolittle "The Mikado," "Bernadette," and "South Pacific." Married to Robert Bauer (45 years), has two remarkable daughters, an exceptional son-in-law, and two intelligent and kind grandsons.



**BILL EGER** (Male Understudy; Sound, Set, Props, Le Gophre, Primary Support for Director) Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati native; BBA - University of Miami; VSU - Education; Retired from business at 52 - taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade 16 years, HES; former award winning athlete, musician, community coach in baseball, football, soccer; active in Civic Theatres in Florida, Georgia, Kentucky as actor, director, technician; Charter member of TGV appearing in first show, The Mousetrap; Representative roles - acting: El Gallo - The Fantastiks; Sir Lionel - Camelot; Inspector Rough - Angel Street; Percival Brown - The Boyfriend; most recently in TGV's "Leading Ladies" - Doc; directing: Steel Magnolias, The Odd Couple, The Fourposter, among others.

**JACK PRUDEN** (numerous male roles) Valdosta resident for 32 years, having come here after a long career with the US government and computer systems industry. He has been an active Theatre Guild Valdosta participant since 1993, playing a wide variety of lead and supporting roles. He brings to "A Piece of My Heart" the perspective of having served as a civilian in Southeast Asia for nine years, including 30 months in Vietnam.

**JOHN MURRAY** (numerous male roles) Sought & secured for Duty Tour in junior year at Marist College in NY, 1965 - a '1-A-O' selective conscientious objector draft status; After army med. corpsman training at Fts. Sam Houston and Benning, served through 1968 as the line medic for a Company with First Air Cav. Div. I-Corps & on into Tay Ninh Province. Completed college, took grad. studies at Columbia U. in NYC, 1969-70. Waltzes with his wife Alma (28 years) between events of parish, senior community centers, Knights of Columbus, 'Valdosta Toasts', VSU adult ed. offerings, and a score of ballroom dance and gardening groups'...liturgies and therapies! This Present 'Company of Players', 'Golden Stagers' - now affording John a chance at last to pay thanks and tribute to those women who forever won a Huge 'Piece of My Heart' indeed. 'Semper Fi'.

**JOHN McCRAY** (numerous male roles) Past participant with "The Dosta" in 2006-07, after moving to Valdosta, jumped in with both feet to perform in "Oklahoma," "Tribute," "The Christmas Toy Shop" (Santa), and "The Nerd." Came back to do "South Pacific" with Gale Eger. Loves being involved with Downtown and all it has to offer.

**JESSICA HUGHES** (stage manager) Former student of Gale Eger, this is her first time working on a Theater Guild production. Mother of a beautiful daughter, enjoys gardening, cooking, and travel.

**KENT HUGHES** (guitarist) Graduate of Lowndes High School(1997) and Valdosta State(2005). Studied music under band directors Billy Martin and Robert Maynard in jazz, concert, and marching bands. Amateur guitarist, pianist, and proud husband and father.

**CINDY COX** (sound) Former student of Gale Thomas Eger; 3 ½ years active in Lowndes High School Off-Broadway; graduate LHS class of 2005; principal in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and "Steel Magnolias;" currently working with Wild Adventures in the Operations Division.

**JOHN B. MITCHELL** (sound) Valdosta resident for 10+ years. Retired AF civilian with 29 years of service. Volunteer activities include LAMP, Azalea Festival, Valdosta City Planning and Valdosta Choral Guild. Loves music and recording live bands and semi-professional performers such as the Moonlighters and John Lowbridge.

**"A Piece of My Heart" is produced with permission of SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.,  
45 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10010-2751**

# *Applause!*

**...and never ending appreciation to the men and women of the armed forces and the medical and other teams who support them!**

**Father Stan White, Christ the King Church and Hildegard's, Lee Schert**

*First Baptist Church*

**FELIX and Joanne Griner**

Josh at Office Max, Kay Riggle, Jane Osborn

*Dean Poling and Valdosta Daily Times*

Scott James - Talk Radio - 92.1

Chris Beckham - Morning Ride - 105.9

**The Cast with the Most Heart and Their Tiny, Little SuperCrew**

Andrea Thom Brenda Brunston Mary Helen Watson Bob Thom

**Cindy Cox Jessica Hughes - Original LHS Off Broadway Members**

**Kent Hughes, Guitarist Alma Williams John Mitchel, Music designer**

Michael Brogdon Dianne Brunston Patti Cook Josh Thompson

**VALDOSTA WOMEN'S VOICES**

**Montine Blanton and William Arthur Eger, Jr.**

Baby Doll and the Angel Girl

**Anieyssa Dickson, Company Baby Sitter - The Hearteam Foodies**

*The Inspiring Cast/Crew of LHS Off Broadway's A Piece of My Heart 04-05*