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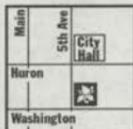
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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

2275 Platt Road

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

313 971-0605

Welcome!

Another exciting season at the Ann Arbor Civic Theater is underway, and I welcome each one of you to this performance. AACT exists because of its members, subscribers, and individual ticket buyers, and it brings together an eclectic group of performers, technicians, volunteers and audiences in appreciation of the theater arts.

Christopher Potter, in the Ann Arbor News, called the 1996-1997 AACT season "the most ambitious in recent memory." If so, then we have great plans to surpass that ambition this year as we explore the world of award winning plays and musicals. Each show this season has received multiple awards: Tonys, Obies, Drama Desk Awards, Grammy Awards and other prizes.

The performers and technicians who give their valuable time and energy to bring you each performance are all unpaid volunteers here at Civic Theater. People share their strengths, their skills and their love of theater to produce exciting, challenging and entertaining works for the community. Over the years, AACT has brought you the biggest, newest Broadway fare, as well as lesser-known but highly deserving works. This season promises no less.

We celebrate the new season as we "grow into" our own home, the lovely Civic Playhouse. During the course of the year you will see some changes, additions and improvements to make your theater-going experience at our Platt Road playhouse enjoyable and more comfortable. Let us know what we can do to make it more enjoyable for you! It is the rare community theatre that owns its own space—and Ann Arbor can be truly proud of its playhouse.

I look forward to meeting many of you during the course of the season. Here's to a season of award-winning shows, at an award-winning playhouse, with an award-winning troupe of players! We cannot do any of this without our award-winning audiences!

Sincerely,

Ronald P. Baumanis

Ronald P. Baumanis

President, AACT Board of Directors

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

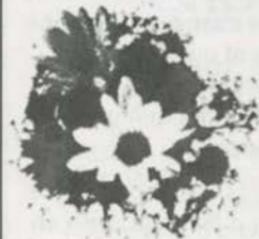
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We would like to give special thanks to those supporters who have joined our new "Friends" program. By making multiple-year pledges, these donors have guaranteed funding into the future for a portion of AACT's annual operating budget. If you would like to join this distinguished list of donors, please contact Managing Director Jay Pekala at 313 971-0605. Our heartfelt thanks to the "Friends" below:

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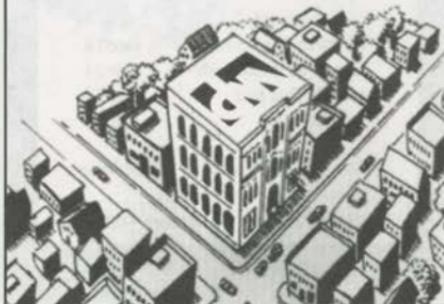
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*Ann Arbor Civic Theatre presents
a memory play about family ties and ancient legacies*

Dancing AT LUGHNASA

by Tony™ Award Winner

Brian Friel

directed by

Joy Baker Dennis

music by the Celtic band

Nutshell

June 11-21, 1998

***Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Playhouse
2275 Platt Road, Ann Arbor
(734) 971-AACT***



Cast

Kevin Branshaw	Michael
Eileen Donis-Forster	Agnes
Maria Johnson	Rose
Thom Johnson	Jack
Kathy Kauffmann	Maggie
Peter Kentes	Gerry
Cecille Lindgren	Kate
Amanda Scheffer	Chris

Staff

Joy Baker Dennis	Director
Tod Barker	Assistant Director
Lucille Anderson	Assistant Director/Choreographer
Lois Kuznets-Dowling	Assistant Director/Stage Manager
Marilyn Gouin	Costumes
Tod Barker	Set Design
Dana Buck	Set Builder
Mike Limmer	Lighting Design
Lisa Gerlach	Lighting Operator
Jeff Zupan	Sound
Michael Mahoney	Props Master
Darla Miller	Publicity

About the Play

Widely regarded as Brian Friel's masterpiece, *Dancing at Lughnasa* is the extraordinary story of five unmarried sisters living in a small village in Ireland in 1936. We meet them at the time of the Festival of Lughnasa which celebrates the pagan god of the harvest with drunken revelry and dancing.

The action of the play is told through the memory of the illegitimate son of one of the sisters, as he remembers the five women who raised him—his mother and his four maiden aunts. He is only seven in 1936, the year his elderly uncle, a priest, returns home after serving as a missionary in a leper colony for 25 years. That same year, he meets his father for the first time, a charming Welsh drifter who strolls up the land and sweeps his mother off her feet once again.

The events of this summer will change the family forever.

Kevin Lee Branshaw

Michael

AACT Activities: Ali Hakim
in *Oklahoma*

Other groups: Tommy
Albright in *Brigadoon*,
Farmington Players, Orin
Scrivello, DDS in *Little Shop of
Horrors*, Ridgedale Players, Dr.
Stuart Framingham in *Beyond
Therapy*, Stagecrafters

**Occupation/Place of employ-
ment:** Software engineer/
Autodesk Inc.

Eileen Donis-Forster

Agnes Mundy

AACT Activities: Saleri(a) in
The Merchant of Venice, 1998
Cabaret Benefit, Thelma in
*The Farndale
Avenue...Christmas Carol*.

Other groups: Ruth
Condomine in *Blithe Spirit*,
Pinckney Players, Teresa in
How the Other Half Loves,
Little Theatre of Virginia
Beach

Hobbies/Interests: Gourmet
cooking, baking, has three
Siamese cats, costume design



Tonight's music by

Pamela Meisel

fiddle

Linda Wantuck

bodhrán

Tom Voiles

flute

Pam, Linda and Tom all perform with the Ann Arbor-based Celtic band Nutshell, as well as the Ann Arbor Irish Ensemble. They are available in various combinations to provide music for any occasion.

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For fiddle, guitar and drum lessons, and other bookings,
call Pam at (734) 662-0879.



Awards, etc.: Attended New England Conservatory, Boston. Studied voice for ten years. Takes classes at Purple Rose Theatre Co.

Maria Johnson

Rose

AACT Activities: Sorrel, Little Creausa in *Medea*, Isabelle in *The Enchanted*

Other groups: Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Orpheus Productions, Lady Teazle in *School for Scandal*, Eastern Michigan University Theatre, Sandra in *A Thousand Clowns*, Eastern Michigan University Theatre

Occupation/Place of employment: Dance and drama teacher, Ann Arbor Rec & Ed

Hobbies/Interests: Dance, Speech pathology, Costuming/design

Awards, etc.: B.A., Communication/Theatre Arts, B.A., Speech Pathology

Message: Everything happens for a reason—so enjoy all.

Thom Johnson

Father Jack

AACT Activities: TJ is active both in front of and behind the lights, but his favorite is

acting. Most recently he was seen as Pym in *The Sisters Rosensweig* and John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*.

Hobbies/interests: Other than theatre, TJ enjoys playing softball and going to baseball. He smokes an occasional cigar and does not jog.

Kathy Kauffmann

Maggie

AACT Activities: Rheba in *You Can't Take It With You*, her first stage appearance in ten years.

Other groups: Nothing very recent except a long, painful hiatus from the theatre!

Hobbies/interests: Motherhood, studies

Awards: B.S., Political Science, currently studying English/Theatre & Drama at U-M.

Message: Thanks to my small-in-size, large-in-chutzpah inspirations, Matthew (2 1/2) and Andrew (1 1/2). Thanks, Keith, for all of your love and support. Thanks, Mom, Dad, Donna and Dave for love and support.

Peter Kentes

Gerry Evans

AACT Activities: Vittorio Vidal in *Sweet Charity*, Choreographer for *Cinderella*, Bob Seeman, *A Night to Remember*, *On the 20th Century*, *West Side Story*.

Other groups: Choreographed *Working* and *Into the Woods* at University Liggett School in the last year

Occupation/Place of employment: Director of Dance at University Liggett School, Grosse Pointe, Instructor, U-M

Hobbies/interests: Photography; photographs have been published by BBC, Arts & Entertainment and Dick Clark Productions.

Awards, etc.: M.F.A. Cum Laude, U-M Dance

Message: Thanks and love to my two dancing kids, Ariana (14) and Galen (12), and most of all to my mother.

Cecille Lindgren

Kate

AACT Activities: This is my first AACT production

Other groups: Elizabeth in *Anne of the Thousand Days*, Susan and the DMV Lady in

Funeral Parlor and *The DMV Lady*, Mrs. Cador in *School for Scandal*, General Cartwright in *Guys and Dolls*

Occupation/Place of employment: Attorney, and currently student at EMU in the Masters program in Theatre Arts.

Hobbies: Too numerous to mention

Message: With love and thanks to Tom

Amanda G. Schiffer

Chris

AACT Activities: Jane Seymour in *Anne of the Thousand Days*, Charlotta Ivanova in *The Cherry Orchard*

Occupation/Place of employment: Student at Eastern Michigan University

Hobbies/interests: Play the piano, sings, dances and choreographs, anthropology, French film

Message: Honor the past. Live the present. Create the future.

Joy Baker Dennis

Director

This is Joy's fourth play for AACT, and her second one this season (*Lost in Yonkers*).

Active also in technical theatre, last season she designed the set for *Six Degrees of Separation* and the properties for *Hamlet*. When not working in the theatre, she enjoys her gardens and traveling.

Tod V. Barker

Set Designer

AACT Activities: Directed *Medea*, set designer for *Medea*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *Dangerous Liaisons*

Other groups: Max in *Bent*, PTD Productions, Ypsilanti, Chris in *All My Sons*, PTD Productions, Ypsilanti.

Occupation/Place of employment: Visual Merchandiser, Selo Shevel Galleries

Dana Buck

Set Builder

AACT Activities: AACT Board (ret.), set designer for

The Farndale Avenue... Christmas Carol, Actor in *The Secret Garden*

Other groups: Director, actor, designer, technician

Occupation/Place of employment: Exhibit designer, U-M Kelsey Museum

Lois Kuznets Dowling

Assistant Director/Stage Manager

AACT Activities: Produced *The Baltimore Waltz* and *I Hate Hamlet*, facilitator for Readers Theatre Workshop and Play Reading

Occupation/Place of employment: Retired professor

Hobbies/interests: Writing a novel, writing readers theatre scripts

Awards, etc.: Three awards for book written in 1994, *When Toys Come Alive*

Message: To Jim, for being patient.

Marilyn Gouin

Costumer

Other groups: Costumed 1997

Comic Opera Guild's *Merry Widow*, costumed Gilbert & Sullivan productions

Hobbies/interests: Singing, performing at the Michigan Renaissance Festival, working on the Ann Arbor Blues and Jazz Festival

Message: Thanks to Tim Grimes for nudging me into accepting this challenge.

Mike Limmer

Lighting Designer

AACT Activities: Lighting designer for *The Baltimore Waltz*, lighting designer for *R.U.R.*

Other groups: Glenn Massey's right hand (literally) at Saline Area Players' *Arsenic and Old Lace*

Occupation/Place of employment: Mail carrier

Hobbies/interests: Gardening (eating variety only), tropical fish.

Awards, etc.: During the '80s, on the Board of Directors. Also Vice-President and Treasurer.

Darla K. Miller

Publicity Chair

AACT Activities: Cleaned the prop room several times, sold ads for the upcoming season, hung posters for the past few shows

Other activities: Slept through a few performances.

Occupation/Place of employment: U-M Medical Center

Hobbies/interests: Listening to show tunes and singing her favorites to her car

Jeff Zupan

Sound

AACT Activities: Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Sound Designer for *Lost in Yonkers*, Assistant Director, Stage Manager for *The Taming of the Shrew*. Upcoming—Director, *On Golden Pond*.

Other groups: Director, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Saline Area Players

Hobbies/interests: Amateur zymurgist (that's beer, not wine, but don't explain it.)

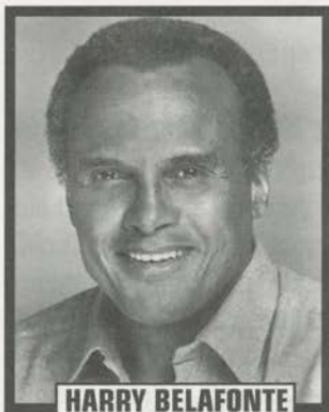
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- JUNE 26 Europe's Klezmer Band -
Kol Simcha: 8pm
- JUNE 27 Hal Holbrook in
"Mark Twain Tonight": 8pm
- JUNE 28 Kids' Day at TOP: 11am-3pm
Gemini: 2pm
Festival Youth Arts Showcase: 7pm
- JUNE 29 Dave Brubeck: 8pm
- JUNE 30 Ritchie Havens & Janis Ian: 8pm
- JULY 2 Saline Fiddlers with Peter Ostroushko
and Dean Magraw: 8pm
- JULY 3 Momix: 8pm
- JULY 4 Capitol Steps: 5pm & 8pm
- JULY 7 Three Men & a Tenor: 8pm
- JULY 8 Flying Karamazov Brothers: 8pm
- JULY 10 Peter Sparling Dance Company: 8pm
- JULY 11 Chenille Sisters: 8pm

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There is no smoking allowed in the auditorium, foyer, restrooms or outer lobby.

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Photographing or sound recording of any performance or the possession of any device for such photographing or recording inside the theater, without the permission of the management, is prohibited by law. Violations may be punished by ejection and may render the offender liable for money damages.

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The box office at the Civic Playhouse is open Monday through Friday, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. During events at the Civic Playhouse, the box office is also open from 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm.

During events at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, the box office in the Michigan League is open Thursday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 8:15 pm, and on Sunday from 12:00 noon to 2:15 pm.

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THE 1997-1998 SEASON

Lost in Yonkers

WRITTEN BY NEIL SIMON • DIRECTED BY JOY BAKER DENNIS
September 18-21, 1997, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

The Baltimore Waltz

WRITTEN BY PAULA VOGEL • DIRECTED BY AMY KULLENBERG
October 16-26, 1997, Civic Theatre Playhouse

A Little Night Music

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM • BOOK BY HUGH WHEELER
DIRECTED BY GLENN BUGALA
November 13-23, 1997, with Saturday matinees, Civic Theatre Playhouse

Junior Theatre—Stuart Little

WRITTEN BY E. B. WHITE • DRAMATIZED BY JOSEPH ROBINETTE
December 4-7, 1997, Civic Theatre Playhouse

The Farnsdale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Society's Production of A Christmas Carol

WRITTEN BY DAVID MCGILLIVRAY AND WALTER ZERLIN JR.
DIRECTED BY JAN KOENGETER
December 18-21, 1997, Civic Theatre Playhouse

You Can't Take It With You

WRITTEN BY MOSS HART & GEORGE S. KAUFMAN • DIRECTED BY THOM JOHNSON
January 22-February 1, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

An Evening of Cabaret

February 13 & 14, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

Big River

BOOK BY WILLIAM HAUPTMAN • MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ROGER MILLER
DIRECTED BY MELISSA RYAN
March 5-15, 1998, with Saturday matinees, Civic Theatre Playhouse

Junior Theatre—Heidi

WRITTEN BY JOHANNA SPYRI • DRAMATIZED BY JUNE WALKER ROGERS
March 26-29, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

The Merchant of Venice

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE • DIRECTED BY NATALIE HOLBROOK
April 16-26, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

Jesus Christ Superstar

LYRICS BY TIM RICE • MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
DIRECTION, CHOREOGRAPHY AND CONCERT STAGING BY RONALD P. BAUMANIS
May 14-17, 1998, with Saturday matinee, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

Dancing at Lughnasa

WRITTEN BY BRIAN FRIEL • DIRECTED BY JOY BAKER DENNIS
June 11-21, 1998, Civic Theatre Playhouse

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