The Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre Co., Inc.

Coming …

THE THIRD ANNUAL NEW PLAYWRIGHTS FORUM

A series of staged readings of original plays by Staten Island Playwrights on May 16th, 17th & 18th at The Unitarian Church, 312 Fillmore Street

We are currently accepting original plays from Staten Island Playwrights through April 15th.

Visit our website at www.sishakespearetheatre.org for submission details.

Images
Images@si.rr.com

SPOTLIGHT

The Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre and The Staten Island Historical Society at Richmond Town

Jack Dabdoub **Wayne Miller**
Joseph Daly

INHERIT THE WIND

by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

directed by Michael Tennenbaum

Opening Night April 3, 2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President.....Joseph Loffredo

Vice President.....Ellen R. Mitchell

Secretary.....Jayne Cooper

Treasurer.....Elizabeth Watt

Artistic Director.....Nikki Lauren

Producing Director.....Wayne Miller

Members of the Board

Jodi Garda • George Jacobsen • David Murphy

Advisory Board

June Gray
Stephen O'Brien • Rosemary Palladino

THE CAST

Judge.....PHILIP S. STRANIERE
Rev. Jeremiah Brown.....KEN TIRADO
Mrs. Brady .....DONNA D'ERMILIO
E. K. Hornbeck .....JOE DALY
Henry Drummond.....JACK DABDOUB
Mrs. Krebs.....RITA RAMPULLA
Bertram Cates.....CHRISTOPHER SPITZER
Elijah.....RINA SKLAR
Mayor.....GEORGE JACOBSEN
Meeker.....CHARLES MCLAUGHLIN
Tom Davenport.....BRYAN RUSSO
Mathew Harrison Brady .....WAYNE MILLER
Howard .....MATTHEW HARGRAVES
Sillers.....CHRIS BENBOW
Rachel Brown.....LEE TENNENBAUM
Radio Man.....JACK NIESI
Mrs. Dunlap.....ELLEN MITCHELL
Mr. Bannister.....KEN CONROY
Timmy.....ZACH TIRADO

PLACE
Small town

TIME
Summer - not too long ago

~ THERE WILL BE ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION ~

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc.

This production is made possible in part by an Encore Grant from the Council on the Arts & Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI), with public funding from the New York State Council on the Arts.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

CHRISTOPHER BENBOW (Sillers) is delighted to participate in this production of *Inherit The Wind.* His theatre credits include the leading role in his fifth grade production of *Cowboy on the Moon* and a supporting role in the 2003 musical revue *Razzle Dazzle.* "What I lack in experience I make up for in enthusiasm!"

KEN CONROY (Mr. Bannister) last appeared with Mickey as Juror number 11 in Sea View Playwrights' *12 Angry Men.*

JACK DABDOUB (Henry Drummond) is pleased to be working with the SI Shakespearean Theater Company again. He was most recently seen as Uncle Chester/Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* with Snug Harbor Theater for Young Audiences and George in *Of Mice and Men* at Sea View Playwrights' Theatre. Other favorite roles include Christy Mahon in *Playboy of the Western World* and Hickey in *The Iceman Cometh,* both at SVPT. He wants to thank Rina, without whom he would be lost...especially since she wrote this bio.

JOSEPH DALY (E. K. Hornbeck) recently retired letter carrier of over 36 years, Joe is happy to return to the stage in a dramatic role after too long a time. Title roles include *Playboy of the Western World*, *Dracula*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Nerd* and *Beckett*. Directorial accomplishments include *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Dining Room*, *The Diviners*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Hamlet in Space!* He has also written One Act pieces for "*The Ferry Plays*" for the last three years.

DONNA D'ERMILIO (Mrs. Brady) is happy to return to the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre stage, having last appeared in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor.* Other performances include *The Man Who Came to Dinner, Love Letters (*SIST), *The Nerd* (No Empty Space Theater), *42nd Street, California Suite* and *The Odd Couple* (Staten Island Civic Theater). Donna is better known as a music director and pianist for local and regional theaters. She has conducted shows at Wagner College (*Crazy for You, Gypsy, How to Succeed..., A Little Night Music),* SICT (*Annie, Fiddler on the Roof),* and most recently, *Follies* and *Guys and Dolls* at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center. She has contributed vocal arrangements for three off-Broadway shows, and worked with the Staten Island Symphony, Staten Island Ballet, and Staten Island Children's Theater. She has appeared in cabaret performances at the College of Staten Island and Danny's Skylight Room, NYC. Donna currently teaches Music at St. Joseph Hill Academy High School, where she directs the annual musical play and the Hill Singers. She is thrilled to be part of such a distinguished cast and is pleased to be working with many long-time friends. Donna is married to her favorite co-star, Wayne Miller.

MATTHEW HARGRAVES (Howard) is presently an eighth grade student at Rocco Laurie IS 72. He will be attending Staten Island Technical High School in the fall of 2008. Matthew's previous roles include the mayor in *The Music Man*, Rooster in *Annie*, and Oz in *The Wizard of Oz.* Besides his passion for the theater, Matthew enjoys basketball, football and video gaming. Matthew is grateful for all the love and support of his family including his parents, grandmothers, aunts, uncle, cousins and his cats.

GEORGE JACOBSEN (Mayor) is happy to add the Richmondtown Court House to the various venues in which he has performed. Favorite previous roles include Jacques in *As You Like it,* Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* Jim in *The Weir*, and Mr. Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You.* Thanks always to Maureen and Jesse for their love and support

CHARLIE MCLAUGHLIN (Meeker) would like to thank Mickey for the opportunity to be a part of this significant piece of American literature in a classic setting with a somewhat historic cast. (you know who you are) Charlie can be seen these days around S. I. as a regular member of Kill-Her entertainment. Charlie says hello to his wife Janice and their two greatest accomplishments Carolyn & Victoria and Thanks for putting up with me while I get my "Fix". Have a great show everyone.

WAYNE MILLER (Matthew Harrison Brady) This production marks a 29 year anniversary of Wayne's first appearance with The Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre. He has appeared with this company in *Guys and Dolls, Richard III, Laughter on the 23rd Floor* and *Sideman.* He has been seen in feature films and network TV and heard on concept recordings for the new musicals *Platinum Taps* and *The* Blue *Angel, a musical noir.* Seen regionally in productions of *Showboat, Annie Get Your Gun, La Cage Aux Folles, Damn Yankees, Evita* and his personal favorite, Jerry Herman's *Mack and Mabel*, he is known to local audiences as the host of Time Warner Cable's academic game show, *Cranial Crunch.* He is also remembered for leading roles in local productions of *Carousel, Annie, Chicago, 42nd Street,* among many others, and most recently as Nicely-Nicely Johnson, stopping the show with *Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat* at The Snug Harbor Cultural Center's *Guys and Dolls.*

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

ELLEN MITCHELL (Mrs. Dunlap) recently appeared in the annual South Shore Rotary show "Pop Goes the 60's!". Other appearances have been in *Bye, Bye, Birdie*! for NeverLand Theatre Co. She has portrayed Sister M. Hubert in productions of *Meshuggah-Nuns*!, *Nuncrackers* and *Nunsense*. Other roles include Sister Berthe/Frau Schmidt in *The Sound of Music* (NeverLand), Miss Hannigan in *Annie* (NeverLand, SICT) and Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* for SI Shakespearean Theatre, where she serves as acting president. She has appeared off-Broadway in *Lend Me a Tenor*, The World Goes Round and as Joanne in Stephen Sondheim's Company, and has appeared at the Manhattan cabaret spot, *Don't Tell Mama*. Ellen serves on the Board of the national organization, Nurses' House, and is also studying for her PhD (in her free time!). As always, thanks to Mickey and a terrific cast!

JACK NIESI (Radio Man) may be remembered for the many popular musicals for which he has been musical director/conductor including Gypsy, *South Pacific*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *My One And Only*, *Peter Pan*, *and Fiddler On The Roof.* He is also the founder and conductor of the Broadway Pops, a symphonic concert orchestra featuring songs and production numbers from a wide variety of Broadway shows.

RITA RAMPULLA (Mrs. Krebs) has been a cast member of the South Shore Rotary's annual musical production for the last six years and is currently a member of a doo-wop trio. She has also performed as a featured vocalist in various bands throughout the tri-state area, in community theatre with NeverLand Theatre, The Actor's Workshop Performance Troupe and Snug Harbor Performing Arts and with GKP. Thanks to Mickey and a fun cast and crew - "Break a leg everyone"!

BRYAN RUSSO (Davenport) is very happy to be making his community theatre debut. He was a student at both Jimmy Whispers' acting school and T. Schreiber Acting Studio in Manhattan. He would like to thank his parents, family and friends for their ongoing support. He thanks Chris Spitzer for getting him in the door. He would also like to thank Mickey Tennenbaum for his guidance and giving him this opportunity to work with such great actors and people.

RINA SKLAR (Elijah) is happy to be working with the SI Shakespearean Theater Company for the first time (officially). She was most recently seen in the ensemble of *My Fair Lady* with Snug Harbor Performing Arts. Other favorite roles include Pegeen Mike in *Playboy of the Western World*, Elvira Condomine in *Blithe Spirit,* Desdemona in *Othello,* and Abigail Williams in *The Crucible,* all at Sea View Playwright's Theatre. Much love to Jack.

CHRISTOPHER SPITZER (Bertram Cates) After spending 3 years in northern California, Chris is very pleased to be working with Mickey again. Back on the west coast, Chris enjoyed playing such roles as Benny Southstreets in *Guys and Dolls*, and Kenickie in *Grease.* He also did some film work in such mega-blockbusters as *Santa and Sons and Daughter* and *Bloodthirst II, Revenge of the Chupacabras.* Chris is a producer at ABC News and wants to thank Shirley for her support. He's also very glad his friend Bryan Russo is participating in this show.

PHILIP S. STRANIERE (Judge) has a sneaking suspicion he is being type cast having previously played Judge Heath in *The Night Fog* January 16th, Judge Brandeis in *Annie,* Judge Harper in *A Miracle on 34th Street* and Banjo in *The Man Who Came to Dinner.*

LEE TENNENBAUM (Rachel Brown) is thrilled to be working with this very talented group of people – some of whom she feels she's known her entire life. Lee has been seen performing onstage with NeverLand Theatre Company (*Gypsy*, *Proposals*), Staten Island Shakespeare (*Crimes of the Heart*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*), and with the South Shore Rotary for

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

the past 5 years. She has also performed at Saxtons River Playhouse in Vermont (*Oliver*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *West Side Story*) and has served as choreographer for many musicals both on and off the Island. Lee is an elementary school teacher at PS 50 on Staten Island, teaching both reading and dance! She would like to thank her family for their love and support (and direction, Dad), and Mike and Lucy for loving what she does and supporting it always!!

KEN TIRADO (Rev. Brown) last appeared on stage in Tennessee William's *27 Wagons Full of Cotton*, a Seaview Playwright's Theatre over 16 years ago. Twenty years ago he and Joe Daly played brothers in Sam Shephard's *True West* for Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre. Once extremely active in local theatre, Ken decided to focus on building a career in the restaurant industry and being a father and husband. He is very happy to be working with old friends and thrilled to be able to share this experience with his son, Zachariah.

ZACHARIAH TIRADO (Timmy) is making his stage debut. He is in the 7th grade at the Michael J. Petrides School where he is on the wrestling team. Zach is into music, video games, and skateboarding.

WHO'S WHO IN THE STAFF

MICHAEL TENNENBAUM (Director) has directed over 100 shows ranging from community theater to Off-Off-Broadway to Grand Opera, and all stops in-between. A decorated veteran of the High School Wars (1970 - 2003), he is currently on the faculty of the Theatre Department at Wagner College. Special thanks to all the good people at SI SHAKESPEAREAN THEATRE for making this production possible and to Wayne Miller for getting the ball rolling. Also, thanks to a great cast for their patience and flexibility, and all the snacks. And, as always, thanks to KMOD - the Heart of Rock 'N' Roll.

ELIZABETH WATT (Producer) has been involved with Community Theatre for over 30 years. In the early 80's she was on the Board of SI Civic Theatre until she moved to Brooklyn in 1983. When she returned to SI in 1990 she jumped right back into full time work with local groups. Liz has worked as assistant director, stage manager, dresser and producer with almost every local company including SICT, Seaview, NEST, Neverland, SI Children's Theatre and SIST. She has been on the Board of SIST almost 20 years and Liz has been Treasurer for over 4 years. It has been great working on this show with so many people she has worked with before; it feels like old home week. Special thanks to Maureen, John and Leah for also accepting their mother's wackiness for the theatre. Extra special thanks to Bob who would have "enjoyed" what the theatre is now and the new "man" in my life Jake.

DAVID MURPHY (Stage Manager) has worked behind the scenes at Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre for a number of productions most recently in 'Over the River..." last October. It's a pleasure to work with such a great cast. Thank you to all of you and to my rowdy friends in the audience.

KURT ALGER (Costume Design) recent design credits include an all new Costume Design for *RENT* in Japan, *Inherit The Wind, Hairspray, Dog Sees God,* and *Caligula*. His work has been seen at Maine State Music Theater, Ogunquit Playhouse, Pennsylvania and Orlando Shakespeare Festival, Snug Harbor, and at the NYMTF. Shows include *The Rhelm of Chelm*, *The Fantastics*, *Follies, Oliver!, Jesus Christ Superstar, Melody Lingers On, Guys and Dolls*, *Blood Brothers, Mystery of Edwin Drood, Reefer Madness, Rocky Horror, Take Flight* workshop, Frank Wildhorn's *Waiting for the Moon*, *West Side Story, Grand Hotel,...Mille, My Fair Lady*. Kurt just finished working as Harvey Keitel's Dresser and Hair and Makeup artist on *Jerry Springer the Opera* at Carnegie Hall. Kurt also serves as the resident Hair/Makeup designer for all out of town Companies of *RENT*, including Montreal and Tokyo, he is also dresser to Tamyra Gray (Mimi) in the Broadway Company. Kurt is a graduate of Wagner College.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director .....MICHAEL TENNENBAUM

Producer..... .....ELIZABETH WATT

Stage Manager.....DAVID MURPHY

Assistant Stage Manager.....ZOË TIRANDO

Costumes by.....KURT ALGER

Lighting Design.....EZRA DONELLAN

Lighting Operator.....JESSE JACOBSEN

Costume Mistress.....BETTY HARGRAVES

Program and Flyer.....***Images***/CARL AND RITA ROLDAN

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I have a long personal history with INHERIT THE WIND. As a sophomore in high school, the first monologue I ever performed in an acting class (Tilden HS, Brooklyn, 1960-something...) was from this play. Then, as a teacher, I taught this play in my own classes every semester for over 30 years, so, yes, I know the whole show by heart. But, as the many different film and stage productions over the years have shown, INHERIT THE WIND (based on the real-life "Trial of the Century" -- the Scopes "Monkey" trial in Dayton, Tennessee in 1925) is not some dusty museum piece to be trotted out every few years for a new audience. Its themes and ideas are still alive and resonant today, and stories about the on-going battle between the supporters of the theories of Evolution and Creationism (or Intelligent Design) can still be found in newspapers all over the country. This play serves its audience not only as fine theatrical entertainment (which it certainly is) but also as a springboard for further discussion on a very relevant and contemporary issue. Or, to paraphrase Henry Drummond in the play, "Why else did God give us the power to think?"