

# Other Desert Cities

by Jon Robin Baitz

Directed by Don Toner

BABS  
GEORGE

BERNADETTE  
NASON

RICK  
ROEMER

LARA  
TONER

JACOB  
TRUSSELL



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Poster design: Trevor Lorraine

January 25 - February 24, 2013

# AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE

Don Toner Producing Artistic Director  
Lara Toner Haddock Associate Artistic Director

presents

## Other Desert Cities

by Jon Robin Baitz

DIRECTED BY DON TONER

Costume Designer **BUFFY MANNERS**  
Lighting Designer **DON DAY**  
Set Designers **DON TONER**  
**AND PATRICK CROWLEY**  
Sound Designers **THE GUNN BROTHERS**  
Properties Designer **HOLLY CROWLEY**

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*Other Desert Cities* is presented by special arrangement  
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Originally produced by Lincoln Center Theatre, New York City, 2010.

*Other Desert Cities* ♦ January 25 - February 24, 2013  
Austin Playhouse ♦ P.O. Box 50533 Austin, TX 78763-0533  
phone: 512. 476.0084 ♦ e-mail: austinplayhouse@aol.com  
www.austinplayhouse.com

## The Cast

Polly Wyeth.....**BABS GEORGE\***  
Brooke Wyeth.....**LARA TONER\***  
Lyman Wyeth.....**RICK ROEMER\***  
Trip Wyeth.....**JACOB TRUSSELL**  
Silda Grauman.....**BERNADETTE NASON\***

\*Austin Playhouse Acting Company ♦ Member Actors' Equity Association

### Time and Place

Palm Springs, California: The home of Polly and Lyman Wyeth  
Christmas Eve 2004

Epilogue: Seattle, March 2010

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Cell phones (including texting), photography, and all recording devices are  
strictly prohibited during the performance.

### Production Team

Production Management.....Patrick Crowley and Eedann McCord  
Scenic Artist.....Holly Crowley  
Sound Board Operator.....Christopher Loveless  
Box Office Associate.....Jessica Hughes  
Scenic Carpenter.....Patrick Crowley  
Graphic Design.....Trevor Lemoine  
Photography.....Christopher Loveless  
Website Design.....Laura Walberg

### Austin Playhouse Acting Company

Kimberly Barrow	Margaret Hoard	Lauri Raymond	Dirk van Allen
Brian Coughlin	Huck Huckaby	Rick Roemer	Hans Venable
Mary Agen Cox	Molly Karasch	David Stahl	Laura Walberg
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Rachel Dendy	Bernadette Nason	Michael Stuart	Ben Wolfe
Babs George	Jason Newman	Benjamin Summers	
Gray G. Haddock	Andrea Osborn	Zach Thompson	
Boni Hester	Tom Parker	Lara Toner	



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## Who's Who

**Don Toner** (Producing Artistic Director) founded Austin Playhouse in 2000. Before that he was Producing Artistic Director of the State Theater Company/Live Oak Theatre for thirteen years. Prior to coming to Austin he was Associate Producer for the inaugural season of the Los Angeles Theatre Center, Associate Producer/Director of the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park for three seasons, and he founded Theatre Center of Mississippi; the state's first Equity theatre. He has also produced and directed at New Stage Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, Theatre Midland and Theatre Four in New York City. For Austin Playhouse he has produced and directed *The Game's Afoot*, *Born Yesterday*, *Boeing-Boeing*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Stop the World, Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The 39 Steps*, *Jacques Brel...Paris*, *Misalliance*, *The Mousetrap*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Fantasticks*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Amadeus*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Steel Magnolias*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Odd Couple*, *House*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Rumors*, *Enchanted April*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Underpants*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Private Lives*, *Travesties*, *The Dead Presidents' Club*, *Damn Yankees*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Copenhagen*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Blues in the Night*, *The Seagull*, *Arcadia*, *Mahalia*, and *Light Up the Sky*. He has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of *Heroes*, *Afterplay* and *The Threepenny Opera*.

**Buffy Manners** (Costume Designer) Before getting involved in theatre, Ms Manners started designing costumes for Austin Ballet Theatre in the days when they performed at the Armadillo World Headquarters. She is also a regular designer for Tapestry Dance Company, and was nomi-

inated for a Critics' Table Award for their internationally acclaimed production of *Souls of Our Feet*. She has designed many ballets including full-length productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Nutcracker*. Buffy Manners has designed close to ninety productions for Austin Playhouse and Don Toner, the latest being *A Room With A View*, and *Boeing-Boeing*. She has also designed *Three Sisters*, and *Eurydice* for Mary Moody Northern Theatre at St Edwards University; *Cherry Orchard* and *Ghosts* for Breaking String Theatre; and *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *Henry V*, *Richard III*, *The Rivals*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, for Austin Shakespeare Festival. She has been nominated for several B. Iden Payne Awards for her work. She has also been nominated by Austin Critics' Table for her costume designs for *An Ideal Husband*, *A Macbeth*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Henry V*, and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. Last fall she was fortunate enough to be invited to design a production of *Hamlet* for Prague Shakespeare Festival at the National Theatre in Prague, Czech Republic, under the direction of Tina Packer.

**Don Day** (Lighting Designer) has been designing professionally for over 30 years winning both Austin Circle of Theatre and Austin Critics' Table awards for his work. Don designed light for Austin Playhouse productions of *The Game's Afoot*, *Born Yesterday*, *A Room with a View*, *Boeing-Boeing*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Stop the World, Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The 39 Steps*, *Jacques Brel...Paris*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Misalliance*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Fantasticks*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Age of Arousal*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Sylvia*, *Dug Up*, *Amadeus*, *A Funny...Forum*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *Speed the Plow*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Exits and Entrances*, *Women Who Steal*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *An Ideal*

*Husband*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Dead Presidents' Club*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Odd Couple* and *House*. He is currently working with students as Technical Director at Southwestern University in Georgetown. Don holds an MFA from the University Of Texas.

**The Gunn Brothers** (Sound Designers) Gordon and Jimmy have been recognized many times over with B. Iden Payne and Critics' Table awards and nominations. They have worked with most of the theatres in Austin; they were the sound designers in residence at Capital City Playhouse for the majority of its run, and they worked on some 20 shows at the State Theatre. Previous shows with Austin Playhouse include *The Game's Afoot*, *Born Yesterday*, *Boeing-Boeing*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The 39 Steps*, *Misalliance*, *The Mousetrap*, *Frost/Nixon*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Sylvia*, *Dug Up*, *Amadeus*, *Speed the Plow*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *Women Who Steal*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Kingfish*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Copenhagen*, *The Seagull*, *Blues in the Night*, and *Arcadia*.

**Patrick & Holly Crowley** (Production Management, Set and Properties Design) Patrick has been a part of the Austin theatrical community since the late 70's. He has worked as a Technical Director, Master Carpenter, Lead Rigger, Designer, Director, Actor, and Master of the Custodial Arts for numerous companies across the United States. He is currently acting as the Artistic Director for The Aurora Arts Theatre in Corpus Christi. Holly has been seen in many houses across the country wearing many different hats and tool belts. She has worked for Fort Worth Opera, Maine State Music Theatre, Casa Manana, The Aurora Arts Theatre, and others where she has performed as Ulla in *The Producers*, Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret*, Set Designer, Production Manager,

Scenic Artist, and many other wonderful roles within this magical theatrical world. She is currently acting as Production Manager for her own company, Dynamic Duo Productions, where she and Patrick build and design together.

**Babs George** (Polly Wyeth) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company and has appeared in *The Lion in Winter*, *Age of Arousal*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Women Who Steal*, *Steel Magnolias*, *House and Garden*, *Light Up the Sky*, *Private Lives* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She directed *Afterplay* and *The Kingfish* for Austin Playhouse. Babs has worked in regional theaters across the country, and played Lady Macbeth in Scotland at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Other Austin theatres where she has performed are: St. Edwards' Mary Moody Northern Theatre, Austin Shakespeare Festival, Breaking String Theater, Palindrome Theatre, Penfold Theatre, The State Theatre Company, TexArts, and Zachary Scott Theatre. She completed her M.F.A. in Classical Acting at The Shakespeare Theatre and George Washington University and is currently teaching acting at Texas State University as well as in the school she originated, the State Theatre School of Acting, (now in association with Austin Community College). She has also taught in the theatre departments at Southwestern University, St. Edwards and The University of Texas. The past two years she has won B. Iden Payne Awards for Best Actress in a Drama for "Martha" in *Virginia Woolf* and Kate Keller in Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. She has been a member of AEA and SAG for over 30 years.

**Bernadette Nason** (Silda Grauman) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company. She has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of *Boeing, Boeing*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Misalliance*, *Sylvia*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Odd Couple*,

*An Ideal Husband, The Underpants, The Merry Wives of Windsor and The Man who Came to Dinner.* In Austin, she has worked with St. Edward's University Mary Moody Northen Theatre, Palindrome Theatre, Breaking String Theatre, Austin Shakespeare Festival, State Theatre Company., and ONSTAGE Theatre Co., among many others. She has received multiple nominations and awards including the 2007 Critics' Table Special Citation, "The John Bustin Award for Conspicuous Versatility." She is also a professional touring storyteller ([www.bernadettenason.com](http://www.bernadettenason.com)) writing and producing solo fringe presentations, and appearing in schools, libraries and festivals nationwide.

**Rick Roemer** (Lyman Wyeth) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company and has appeared in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Exits and Entrances, Jacques Brel, Amadeus, The Importance of Being Earnest, and Stop the World I Want to Get Off.* At Zach Theatre, Rick played Danny/Zeus in *Xanadu* and will appear as The Albert's in the world premiere of Steven Dietz's play *Mad Hip Beat and Gone.* With Austin Shakespeare, Rick performed in *Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Richard III*, and at the State Theater he performed in *A Christmas Carol* for two seasons. At UT Austin, he performed in the world premiere of Robert Schenkkan's *The Marriage of Miss Hollywood and King Neptune*, and at SU, Rick played Alfie Byrne in *A Man of No Importance.* In addition Rick is a professor of theatre at the Sarofim School of Fine Arts at Southwestern University in Georgetown where he has directed many productions including *Godspell, The Cherry Orchard, Dames At Sea, Cabaret, Le Bourgeois Avant-Garde, The Glass Menagerie, Company, The Rocky Horror Show* and *Urinetown.* For the past five years Rick has been acting and directing at the Rhodopi Drama Theatre in Smolyan, Bulgaria as part of the Rhodopi International Theatre Laboratory. At the laboratory, he co-wrote, developed and directed a Theatre For Young Audience production called

*Extremely Important Stories or The Truth About Spiders* and also Rick directed the all Bulgarian premiere production of *Durang, Durang* at the Rhodopi Drama Theatre. Rick received his Ph.D. in Theatre History, Theory & Criticism from UCLA and is the author of Charles Ludlam and the Ridiculous Theatrical Company.

**Lara Toner** (Brooke Wyeth) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company. She has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of *The Game's Afoot, Boeing-Boeing, Proof, The 39 Steps, Misalliance, Frost/Nixon, Dancing at Lughnasa, Blithe Spirit, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, Don't Dress for Dinner, An Ideal Husband, The Night Hank Williams Died, House and Garden, A Man for All Seasons, Enchanted April, Rumors, Travesties, The Underpants, The Seagull, and Arcadia.* She has also appeared in productions for State Theatre Company, Hyde Park Theatre, Aunt Lulu Productions, and Austin Script Works, among others. For Austin Playhouse she has directed *A Room with a View* (which she also adapted for the stage), *A Christmas Carol, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, The Turn of the Screw, Age of Arousal, Heroes, It's a Wonderful Life, Dug Up, Women Who Steal, Moonlight and Magnolias, Garden, A Texas Romance,* and co-directed *Proof, Speed the Plow* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses.* She also recently directed *Age of Arousal* at Southwestern University.

**Jacob Trussell** (Trip Wyeth) has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of *Chess (Freddie), A Funny Thing Happened...(Protean), The Fantasticks (Matt), and Jacques Brel is Alive and Well...(Replacement).* A graduate from St. Edwards University he appeared on the Mary Moody Northen Stage in various productions including *Peer Gynt, Cloud 9, and Parade.* Other credits include *Sweeney Todd* and *Bat Boy* with SummerStock Austin, *DayboyNightgirl* with DA!, *Jubilee* with Rubber Repertory, *Hillcountry Underbelly* with Paper Chairs, and *Flying* with Breaking String.

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