

THE CITY THEATRE COMPANY
Kicking – Off the Sixth Season!

RUMORS

by Neil Simon

Ken – Jonathan Urso
Chris – Michelle Cheney
Lenny – Scot Friedman
Claire – Wendy Zavaleta
Ernie – Tony Salinas
Cookie – Melinda Peinado
Glen – Daniel Sawtelle
Cassie – Rachel McGinnis
Officer Welch – Bobby DiPasquale
Officer Pudney – Lindsay McKenna

Setting: The home of Charlie and Myra Brock, New York.
A pleasant evening in May.

There will be a fifteen minute intermission between acts.
Each act is a little over one hour long.

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Congratulations to The City Theatre!

Nominated for five 2011 B. Iden Payne Theatre Awards
including Outstanding Drama Production –
Topdog, Underdog

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2011 - 2012 Season Tickets.

Annie Zaffrann Bill and Karen Warren Dr. Mark Rumples
Mike and Sue Wood Alexandra Wood Clifford Spinac and Steve Lopez
Michael Meigs W. Michael Murray Susan Stayton
Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley Dan Eggleston Laura Luthy
Pam Dozler and Stephen Bayer Rudy Barrera

City Theatre Contributors.

Rick Crowley Christine Lemp Dr. & Mrs. Ben Berkovsky Carmina Eaton
Mary Ann Crowley Jennifer Bednorz Ashley Jorge Jonathan and Lourdes Wooley
Teresa Matlock Lisa Scheps Erik Virkkala Concordia University Mark Banasau
Rodney & Donna LeRoy Mary Louise Donohoe Arts on Real Theatre
George & Linda Knappek Paul Strelzick & Patricia Drew Keith and Debbi Anderson

A special production thanks to Dr. Bert C. Vasut, Lisa Jordan, R. Michael Clinkscales
Bert Flanagan and Costumed Occasions, and a spectacular cast and crew.

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and fun of the best "class - act" stage entertainment in Austin.

Who's Who in the Cast.

Michelle Cheney is the recipient of several B Iden Payne nominations, and has appeared on stages in and around the Austin area Past roles including parts in The City Theatre's productions of *Little Dog Laughed*, *Nonsense*, *Into the Woods*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Texarts and Arts on Real (The Full Monty)*. In addition, she has been featured in NXNW performances of *Talking With*, *The Shadow Box*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (B-Iden Payne Winner). Other work includes *Best Little Whorehouse*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Noises Off*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. Michelle also created and produced her own cabaret show presented by City Theatre in 2010.

Bobby DiPasquale likes long walks on the beach...oops, sorry, wrong bio. Bobby is thrilled to return to The City Theatre stage. Over the years, he has appeared in countless stage shows including memorable roles as Kenickie in *Grease*, Smokey in *Damn Yankees*, Hugo Peabody in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Orko in *He-Man Live!* and many others. Bobby is also an accomplished stand-up comedian, improviser, sketch comedian, and roastmaster and has been seen on Spike TV, and the CW Network. But, the best parts of Bobby are his ability to write in third person and how modest and beautiful he is. He's probably the most beautifully stunning, yet exceptionally modest person he knows. Bobby would like to thank his family, his *Rumors* family, and his marvelously talented friends, who without him, their lives would be much emptier (...there's that modesty again.)

Scot Friedman has appeared on stage and on camera, and has voice-over credits in animation, film, commercial, and theatrical productions. Past performances with The City Theatre include *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Of Mice and Men*, *How the Other Half Loves* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Other include *The Night of the Iguana* (Different Stages), *Two Rooms* (Rapsallions of the Periphery, 2010 Austin Theatre Examiner nomination for best lead actor in a drama), and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Hidden Room, 2010 B. Iden Payne winner for outstanding comedy). In December, look for him as Larry in a production of *Burn This* (Seven Towers).

Rachel McGinnis has appeared on stage with City, Tutto, Austin Playhouse, Paper Moon Repertory, Cambiare, Vestige Group, Palindrome, and Pollyanna theatre companies. Favorite roles include Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (B. Iden Payne, Austin Critic's and Austin Theatre Examiner nominations), Aunt Meg in *The Dudleys*, Becca in *Rabbit Hole* (Austin Critic's and Austin Theatre Examiner nom), Heidi in *The Heidi Chronicles* (B. Iden Payne nom), Nina in *The Nina Variations* (Austin Critic's nom for Best Drama), and Zubaida Ula et al in *The Laramie Project* (B. Iden Payne Award). She studied theatre at Northwestern University, is a member of SAG and is Co-Artistic Director of Paper Moon Repertory (along with her charming and wonderful husband, David Meissner). Look for Paper Moon's upcoming play, *The 21 Would-Be Lives of Phineas Hamm*, opening February 17th at the Blue Theatre.

Lindsay McKenna graduated cum laude from Southwestern University with a BA in Theatre and English. While at Southwestern, performances included *Playhouse Creatures*, *Medea*, *A Man of No Importance*, and *The Homage that Follows*. In Austin, she has had roles in Dystheatre's *SLAG* and at City Theatre, *Into the Woods* and most recently, *HAIR!* This is her third show at City Theatre, and she would like to thank Andy for thinking she is funny.

Melinda Peinado received her theatre degree from Northwestern University and recently returned from working in television and film production in Los Angeles and New York for CNN, NBC, HBO. Since completing her MFA in Acting at the University of Texas, she has appeared in "Law & Order," "All My Children," several independent films, including *Bella*, and at the O'Neil Theatre Center. Most recently she performed the lead in *Magdalena's Crossing* for the Negro Ensemble Theatre in NY.

Tony Salinas is a graduate of Loyola University with a B. A. in theater and communications. He has appeared on stage in several shows, including *The Santaland Diaries*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Two Rooms*, *Night of the Iguana*, *Wilhelm Reich in Hell*, and *Too Many Husbands*. He has also appeared in some films such as *Orbit*, *Are We Men, or Are We Coppers?*, and *Joey and Jerome's Artistic, Meaningful, Independent Film*. Tony is very excited to be working with such a great cast and crew and hopes everyone enjoys the show.

Daniel Sawtelle is pleased as punch to be returning to City Theatre stage recently seen in *Of Mice and Men*, the 2009 Acts Summer Fest where he won best supporting actor for *A Different Kind of Sketch Show* and *Christmas Belles*. A B. Iden Payne nominee for his work in *Peter and the Wolf*. Other credits include *R.U.R.*, *Hamlet*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Vain* which he co-wrote, *The Laramie Project*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Macbeth*, *12 Angry Men* and *Black Comedy* among others. He also has been in several little films you've never heard of as well as the sit com pilot *Misery Loves Company* which he co-wrote and produced and can be found on the Youtube.com. Daniel can also be seen performing improv with Dinner Detective Austin and CometySportz Austin. He wants to thank everyone in *Rumors* for their work and dedication to the show. And he wants to thank, you, the audience for making theatre possible and for reading the bios because it gives him a chance to refer to himself in the third person without seeming cocky. He also loves his wife very much.

Jonathan Urso is always delighted to work with City Theatre. Recently onstage as Homer in Different Stages' *Morning's at Seven* and Gooper in City Theatre's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. He has also directed *Of Mice and Men* for City Theatre, *Humble Boy* for Different Stages, and *Butterflies Are Free* and *Lunch Hour* for ONSTAGE Theatre Company. He has also worked as Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Production Manager, Lighting Designer, and Board Op on various shows. He also continues work with VORTEX Repertory Company, Blue Lapis Light, Capital City Men's Chorus, Austin Classical Ballet, and ONSTAGE Theatre Company. Many thanks, to Andy for this wonderful opportunity. To his amazing cast mates (It is a pleasure sharing the stage with all of you) and, to Cary for her unwavering patience, love, and support.

Wendy Zavaleta has appeared on stage with several Austin companies including TexArts (*Damn Yankees* and *I'll Be Seeing You*), NXNW (*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and *Talking With*), Paladin Theater Company's *Early Girl*, Crank Collections' *Epidemic of Fear*, Vortex Repertory Theater's *Sleeping Beauty*, Austin Playhouse's *Damn Yankees* and Georgetown Palace Theater's *A Little Night Music*. A B. Iden Payne Award for Outstanding Cast Performance for *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and was an Austin Theater Examiner Reader's Choice nominee for Actress of the Year 2010. Wendy appeared as a lead in the feature film *Paradise Recovered*, which has been winning film festivals across the country and has recently received distribution. Love and thanks to her guys, husband Tony and sons Chad, Brent and Alex.

Andy Berkovsky (Director) is a drama graduate of Sam Houston State University and a three - time B. Iden Payne nominee for Outstanding Director (The Boys Next Door, Glengarry Glen Ross and Agnes of God.) Andy has been involved in theatre arts as performer, director, choreographer, designer, and teacher for over thirty years. He has worked with Texas stage companies The Hilton Dinner Theatre, The Alpha Psi Players, and Houston's Theatre under the Stars, Stages, and Miller Outdoor Theatre. He has directed shows on the stages of the UT Bass Concert Hall, SHSU, West Texas A&M University and Victoria College including *The Miracle Worker*, *The Laramie Project*, *Hamlet*, and *The Grapes of Wrath*. He has taught classes and workshops at SHSU, West Texas A&M, Austin Lyric Opera, and College of the Mainland and is twice honored as a Texas U.I.L. state champion director in one-act play competition. He is also an eight - time honoree as outstanding drama director, has coached numerous students to national competitions and the winner of over fifty grand sweepstakes awards at Texas theatre contests. Favorite roles: Fagin - *Oliver*, Riff - *West Side Story*, Jesus - *J C Superstar*, Leading Player - *Pippin*, and the Emcee - *Cabaret*. Andy is thrilled to have such an outstanding cast and crew for this show. Much thanks to his family and friends who have shown all their love and support these many years.

Production Crew.

Direction and Design – Andy Berkovsky
Set Construction and Painting – Andy Berkovsky
Matthew Burnett and Javier Silva
Scenic Painting – Jennifer Cunningham
Light Board Operator – Javier Silva
House Management – Kate Crowley
Assistant Management – Clay Avery, Jeff Hinkle
Barbara Cohn and Dawn Erin
Publicity Design – Rachel McGinnis

Director's Note.

What you can say about one of the best cast and crews I have ever had the opportunity to work with as they grapple and do battle with the finest comedy writer of the stage and screen? It has been such a joy to work on *Rumors* and I am truly grateful for every step of the way. If Broadway ever erects a monument to the patron saint of laughter, Neil Simon would have to be it. What a history for this legendary writer; first, churning out jokes for Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*, where he worked alongside of Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, and Larry Gelbart. Then, writing hit after hit for the stage and screen – *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Goodbye Girl*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*; winner of four Tony Awards, two Emmys, a Screen Writers Guild Award and a Pulitzer Prize and holding the record for the greatest number of hits in the American theater. With all of this, he has kept us laughing for over fifty years. What is the secret to his success? That's hard to say. Maybe, between the lines of laughter, jokes, and bits, we come to find ourselves; a group of mixed up primates barely hanging on but still able to take pleasure in remembering the joys and loves of this imperfect, yet remarkable world. A toast to the theatre and to City's sixth season!

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2011-2012 THEATRE SEASON

Friends of The City Theatre Kick-Off Gala

September 30 and 31

Rumors by Neil Simon

September 29 - October 23

The Miracle Worker by William Gibson

October 27 - November 20

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues by Jeff Goode

December 2 - 18

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

February 16 - March 11

Wit by Margaret Edson

March 15 - April 8

Inherit the Wind

by Jerome Lawrence and Robert Edwin Lee

May 10 - June 3

Medea by Euripides

June 7 - July 1

She Stoops to Conquer by William Goldsmith

July 19 - August 12

Chicago

Music and Lyrics by John Kander and Fred Ebb

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