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THE TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE

presents

***ABSURD PERSON
SINGULAR***



A comedy by

Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Jon Kretzu

Arranged with Samuel French, Inc.

Absurd Person Singular

by Alan Ayckbourn

ACT ONE

Sidney and Jane's Kitchen: Last Christmas

ACT TWO

Geoffrey and Eva's Kitchen: This Christmas

ACT THREE

Ronald and Marion's Kitchen: Next Christmas

(There will be two ten-minute intermissions)
Coffee - Tea - Cocoa & Cookies
will be available in the Lobby

The Cast

Sidney HopcroftMartin Larson ✓
Jane Hopcroft.....Annette K. Miles ✓
Ronald Brewster-Wright.....Dan Forbush ✓
Marion Brewster-WrightSharon O'Neal ✓
Geoffrey JacksonBrian Weber ✓
Eva JacksonToni Rakestraw ✓
Voice of GeorgeF. Emmaline Peterson

Our Director

JON KRETZU.....Since moving to Seattle seven years ago Jon has worked throughout the city as a Director, Assistant Director, Teacher and Fine Arts Critic. His directing work has also been seen in Los Angeles and Milwaukee. Jon's productions include The Taming of the Shrew, 5th of July, Streamers, Buried Child, A Doll's House, Arms and The Man, Deathtrap, The Shadow Box and Alan Ayckbourn's other Christmas play, Season's Greetings. He has served as the Assistant Director on several shows at A.C.T. and the Seattle Repertory Theatre. Jon is also very active as a Journalist with his Classical Music and Theatre criticism appearing in a number of Seattle Newspapers and Magazines.

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Tacoma Little Theatre is available to perform its currently running production for your club or group as a fundraiser for you and an evening of entertainment.

Club dates are available on Wednesdays or Thursdays. Check with the Box Office for availability (272-2481). We must know six weeks in advance of the date you wish, as the cast members must be advised of the extra show night and plan accordingly. Smaller groups can only be accommodated at our regularly scheduled performances. Call the box office for group rates.

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The Tacoma Little Theatre salutes the Tacoma/Pierce County Corporate Council for the Arts (TPC/CCA) and its 210 member companies for their annual sustaining fund support. Since this united business fund began in 1983, the Tacoma Little Theatre has received combined total grant support of \$4,650, including a 1987 grant of \$1,650.

A TPC/CCA contribution provides vital, unrestricted operating dollars that help Tacoma Little Theatre and 9 other Tacoma arts groups pay for general operating expenses.



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**A BRIEF HISTORY
 THE TACOMA
 LITTLE THEATRE**


In 1918 the Tacoma Little Theatre sprang from a devoted group called The Civic Drama League. This cultural organization wanted to promote the theatrical arts in the community and offered lectures, study groups and play readings. As they grew in numbers, the need for a theatre became imperative.

During the 1920's, the Annie Wright Seminary was located at Tacoma Avenue and Division Street. They had a small stage and auditorium they made available to the drama league for the production of plays.

As Tacoma grew, the seminary sold this property and relocated to North Tacoma Avenue, where Annie Wright is today. Of course, this left The Civic Drama League without a theatre. The old Slovenian Hall at the foot of the 30th Street hill was available and the group proceeded to build a stage and auditorium, all volunteer. They were so successful that soon The Civic Drama League outgrew this facility and began searching for a new home. It was during this time they added the name of Tacoma Little Theatre as their production company, eventually to drop the name of The Civic Drama League from public use.

In 1939 and 1940 theatre members held endless benefits, parties and sales in order to purchase our present building at 210 North 'I' Street. The building was an auto repair garage that became the stage and auditorium area. The lobby of today was added about 1950. This garage required extensive remodeling. Improvements consisted of a trussed roof, a revolving stage (building on a Northern Pacific Railroad track), dressing rooms, heating plant, lavatories, and special wiring for productions. Used seats were secured from the University of Washington.

As you can see, the Tacoma Little Theatre has a history of supporters who value theater in our community. We invite you to experience live theatre and to support your community theatre now, to preserve it for the future generations.

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 **AUDITION NOTICE** 

You are welcome to audition for our upcoming productions.

1987/88 SEASON

TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE AUDITION SCHEDULE

All auditions are "open." No experience is necessary, however it is helpful to bring a resume if you have one. It will be attached to the audition form which is completed at the time you audition. For more information please call the box office 1-5 p.m. weekdays at (206) 272-2481.

THE COUNTRY GIRL by Clifford Odets, an American classic, opening November 6th — Auditions September 20 & 21, 7 to 9 p.m. — 6 men and 2 women.

ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR by Allan Ayckbourn, a modern comedy, opening January 15th — Auditions November 22 & 23, 7 to 9 p.m. — 3 men & 3 women.

RING AROUND THE MOON by Jean Anhouil, a whimsical french masterpiece, opening February 26th — Auditions January 3 & 4, 7 to 9 p.m. — 5 men & 6 women.

PACK OF LIES by Hugh Whitmore, a fascinating spy story, opening April 8th — Auditions February 14 & 15, 7 to 9 p.m. — 3 men & 5 women.

DAMES AT SEA by Haimsohn, Miller & Wise, a singin' and dancin' musical, opening May 20th — Auditions February 7, 8 & 9, 7 to 9 p.m. — 4 men, 3 women and 10 chorus.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN AUDITIONING WITH TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE!

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Production Staff

Director Jon Kretzu
Production Manager Mark Adolph
Set Design Ted Gentry
Sound Design Jon Kretzu
Lighting Design Terry Gibson
Property Mistress Sian Forbush
Master Carpenter Trevor Daly
Master Electrician Allen Delaney
Sound Technician Scott Miller
Set Construction Mark Adolph, Sian Forbush, Terry Gibson,
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Publicity Photos..... David Grimes of "The Portrait Gallery"
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Monica Wolfe, Heather Pilarski, Windy Parkinson, Dana Joque,
DeAnne Thompson, Salli Konek, Amber Howell
Girl Scout Troup # 93, Meghan Allard, Ann Mari Bakken, Mandy Brady,
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- William Nix
- Jim & Joann Savitz
- Michael Brian Smith
- Elaine Winter

Meet the Cast...

Martin Peter Larsen as Sidney Hopcroft. Martin most recently appeared in the University of Puget Sound's production of "Three Sisters and T.L.T.'s "The Liar." He is a graduate of California State Long Beach in Musical Theatre, Performance and Direction. Martin has preliminary acceptance to Eugene O'Neil Institute of Theatre in Connecticut for next fall. He will direct T.L.T.'s production of DAMES AT SEA.

Annette K. Miles as Jane Hopcroft. T.L.T. audiences will remember her as "Columbia", the maid, in THE LIAR and "Lettie", the maid in SOMETHINGS AFOOT. She is proud to trade one apron for another. She would like to thank her mother for teaching her to be a "happy homemaker" and her students at Lincoln High School for their ability to make her laugh. "Fröhliche Weihnachten & God Bless Everyone

Danny Forbush as Ronald Brewster-Wright. Danny was last seen as "Doctor Balazoni" in T.L.T.'s production of THE LIAR. Previously he has appeared in MRS. WARRENS PROFESSION, HOBSON'S CHOICE and TRIBUTE (1985/86) and last seasons EPISODE 26 and THE LITTLE FOXES.

Sharon O'Neal as Marion Brewster-Wright. Returning to Tacoma after a 25 year absence, working abroad for the Defense Dept. ("I've been 'abroad' for a long, long time") "Finally," she said, "I'm old enough for a really juicy part!" and despite over 20 musicals (FINIAN'S RAINBOW in 1963 to KISMET in 1983) "NOW is the best time."

Toni Rakestraw as Eva Jackson. This is Toni's first production with Tacoma Little Theatre. Some of her favorite past roles have been "Constanze," Mozart's wife in AMADEUS, "Miss Sarah" in GUYS AND DOLLS, "Daisy Mae Scragg" in LIL ABNER, and "Laurel" in CHALK GARDEN.

Brian Weber as Geoffrey Jackson. Brian was first seen as "Lawyer Craven" in T.L.T.'s production of SLY FOX and the current season as "Lelio", the liar in THE LIAR. In addition to acting he enjoys writing short stories and one-act plays.

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'TIS THE SEASON

Alan Ayckbourn's "Absurd Person Singular" is a comedy set at Christmastime so it comes as no great surprise that its humor and merriment are rooted in chaos, pain and the tragedy of everyday life. Ayckbourn's comic world has always been dominated by truthful interaction between realistic people with the result that his plays, no matter how outrageous or farcical they may become, are based in the bitter fact of human fallibility. Christmas is supposed to be a time of incredible peace and joy – this is a fact we have stuffed down our throats yearly by the perpetually cheery glut of commercial advertising that seems to begin its relentless descent sometime around Halloween. But underneath the tinsel and the toys, it can also be cause, as many studies have proven, for overwhelming depression, family squabbles and friendly pettiness. It is also a prime time for suicide. The demented insistence on love and happiness supposedly shared by one and all, can make those who are lacking either only more intensely sorrowful. There are few occasions more tension-filled than enforced frivolity. "Absurd Person Singular," with its trio of disastrous holiday get-togethers and sense of Christmas-Card catharsis, provides us with a precious gift – the luxury of looking at ourselves and laughing till we cry, rather than doing the opposite.

– Jon Kretzu
Director

Deck the halls with boughs of holly/'Tis the season to be jolly,
Don we now our gay apparel/Troll the ancient Yuletide carol.
Fast away the old year passes/Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Laughing, quaffing, all together/Heedless of the wind and weather.

Deck the Halls

For hundreds of years, kindness and charity have been shown at Christmas. At the old English holiday feasts, all were welcome. In many places, it is still good luck to see a stranger at Christmas. Christmas is a time of peace. People who are angry with each other sometimes make up. If countries are at war, they try to stop fighting. For at least a few days there is peace on earth.

Christmas
Cass R. Sandak

Why didn't all those people downstairs go home so Santa Claus could come?

One Christmas
Truman Capote

Everyone is trying to cope with a world that is increasingly mystifying, increasingly alarming.

Alan Ayckbourn

That broken star
at the top of the tree:
how broken can an old star be?
Some other ornaments are cracked,
The tinsel's tarnished, and I think
The tree's too small. Twelve lights go on,
Ten don't. They used to blink.

A Christmas Package
David McCord





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