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CHARLEY'S AUNT

By Brandon Thomas

A ROMANTIC COMEDY

CAST

JACK CHESNEY JED SLAUGHTER
BRASSETT.....MICHAEL J. GRISWOLD
CHARLEY WYKEHAMCHRIS M. ROBERSON
FANCOURT BABBERLYCHRISTIAN DOYLE
AMY SPETTIGUELISA GRAHAM
KITTY VERDUNEMILIE ROMMEL
STEPHEN SPETTIGUETOM BIRKELAND (SEPT 9 – 25)
ELLIOT WEINER (SEPT 30 – OCT 2)
COLONEL SIR FRANCIS CHESNEY STEVE TARRY
DONNA LUCIAMAGGI BARRETT
ELA DELAHAYJESSICA REYNOLDS
THE HOUSE MAIDCASSIE COLLISON

JOHN MUNN – DIRECTOR
KATE HOLLAND
STAGE MANAGER

This play is dedicated in loving memory to TLT family member Thomas Henry Jensen.

FRANCES RANKOS **JUDY CULLEN** **BRETT CARR** **DAVID DUVALL**
COSTUME DESIGNER SCENIC DESIGN LIGHTING DESIGN ORIGINAL MUSIC

CHARLEY'S AUNT is produced by special arrangement with
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SYNOPSIS

ACT I:

Scene 1: Jack Chesney's Rooms at Oxford (Morning)
"When pious frauds - are dispensations." -- Hudibras

Scene 2: Garden outside of Jack Chesney's Rooms (Afternoon)
"While there's tea there's hope." -- Pinero

- 20 Minute Intermission -

ACT II:

Scene 1: Garden outside of Jack Chesney's Rooms
(the same afternoon)

Scene 2: The Drawing Room at Spettigue's Home (Evening)
"Dinner lubricates business." -- Boswell

From the Artistic Director's Desk: About *Charley's Aunt*



Brandon Thomas was born in Liverpool on Christmas Eve 1856 (or 1850, no one seems to agree). He began his career as a comic actor in 1879 and extended his creative urges to include the writing of songs and plays. Brandon Thomas wrote over a dozen comedies, most of which received lukewarm receptions. Though Thomas might have preferred his career to have been compared with the genius of his contemporary, Oscar Wilde, his career might be likened more to that of a later American counterpart, Joseph Kesselring (1902-1967) who also wrote prolifically but who is generally remembered exclusively for the classic comedy, *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Mr. Thomas succeeded in his one moment of comic gold at the Theatre Royal of London in 1892 with the opening of *Charley's Aunt*. The show's farcical humor was wildly appreciated and ran for over four years, for a total of 1,466 performances. It was translated into many languages and, until the early 1930s, not a week went by without a performance somewhere in the world. At one point, 44 different productions of one of the most popular English farces of all time were running at the same moment across the globe. A young man in love masquerading as an old woman in a dress: that is high comedy in any language.

This popular British farce has been adapted for the screen nearly a dozen times beginning as a silent movie in 1915. In 1941 (four versions later) 20th Century Fox produced the version known in Britain as *Charley's American Aunt*, in which Jack Benny played Lord Fancourt Babberly. The play was also re-fashioned into the musical *Where's Charley?* by George Abbott. The musical version is said to have helped to further the careers of aspiring actors Rex Harrison and Noel Coward. Over the years acting luminaries such as Jose Ferrer, Louis Nye, Roddy MacDowall and Raul Julia have all donned the black dress, gray wig, and fichu traditionally associated with this production.

It is generally thought that Thomas wrote the play on a lark to further the career of fellow actor and comedian, W.S. Penley (as well as his own). Thomas died in London in June of 1914.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

2005-06 Convert Your Single Tickets to Season Tickets Today!

Sept 9 - *Charley's Aunt* Opens

Sept 9 - "Gift an Experience" - 3-Punch Flexpass Goes On Sale!

Sept 10 - Grandparent's Day

Sept 17 - Teens Class, *Theatre Smorgasbord for Teens* Begins

Sept 20 - Adult Singing/Acting Class w/ Instructor David Duvall

Sept 23 - Autumn Equinox

October

Oct 2 - Last Day to Convert Single Tickets into Season Subscriptions

Oct 10 - Nov 15, 2005 - YPI Classes Begin

*African Treasures

*The Art of Improv

*Adventures at Hogwarts

*"Oh Yea, That's Write!"

Oct 28 & 29 - Second Stage, *An Evening With Edgar Allan Poe*

Oct 31 - Halloween

Purchase Tickets Online at
www.tacomalittletheatre.com



An Evening with
Edgar Allan Poe
by Bryan Willis

October 28 & 29
@ 7:30pm

Journey back to 1849 and spend an intimate evening with the classic master of suspense as the TLT Lobby becomes Poe's Salon, where he shares his spine-tingling stories and scathing commentaries about fellow writers. Tea and cakes, served during the performance. "Nevermore" should this event be missed!
Limited Seating Available

Order Tickets Today! (253) 272-2281 x14

Tea in the Secret Garden December 11, 2005

An Interactive Character Event

You are cordially invited to an enchanting tea at Misselthwaite Manor! Join Mary, Colin, and the cast of *The Secret Garden*, and indulge in finger sandwiches, cakes, souvenir photos and special prize drawings. Tea in the Secret Garden follows the final Sunday matinee of *The Secret Garden*.

Tickets to this delightful event may be purchased as a package with tickets to any performance.

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ON MAINSTAGE NEXT: TLT's 2005-06 Mainstage

Let us transport, inform, and inspire you with the productions of our 87th Season . . .



The Secret Garden

Nov 11 - Dec 11



Ain't Misbehavin'

Feb 3 - 26



1776

June 2 - 25



The Women

April 7 - 30

Convert your Single Tickets into Season Tickets before Oct 3rd and save more than 30% on the remaining four productions!
Convert Adult tickets for \$52.00 and Senior/Student for \$44.00.

COMING SOON:

TLT's 2005-06 Second Stage:

A little variety to spice up your theatrical life . . .



An Evening With Edgar Allan Poe

Mr. Poe will again, regale guests in our literary salon with tales of his life & literature! October 28 & 29 @ 7:30pm

Tea in The Secret Garden

Characters from Frances Hogsdon Burnett's classic novel of rebirth and renewal come alive as our guests sip soothing beverages, collect autographs, and chat with Mary, Colin, and Dickon. December 11, 2005



The Complete History of America (abridged)



What they did for Shakespeare, will now be done for the history of our great democracy. A new trio of madcap thespians take on the history of the U.S. with irreverence and a generous dollop of lunacy. January 6 -15 @ 8:00pm

Musicals in Concert

Here's our chance to "test drive" musicals we'd like to stage! Presented in concert form, we'll present all of the songs from a contemporary musical and let you tell us what you think! March 3 & 4 @ 8:00pm (Title TBA)



Corps of Discovery: Lewis & Clark



Two Washington playwrights pay tribute to the 200th Anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition in two short original plays. May 12 & 13
Lewis & Clark at the End of the World by Bryan Willis @ 6:00pm
York by Bryan Harnetiaux @ 8:00pm

Purchase Your Second Stage Tickets Now!
Limited Seating Available, Call the Box Office at (253) 272-2281 x 14, or buy online at tacomalittletheatre.com!

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES

MAGGI BARRETT – Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez: Maggi made her TLT debut in last year's *National Pastime* as "Lylah Barber". "Aldonza", *Man of La Mancha*, "Anita", *West Side Story*, "Roxy" in *Chicago*, "M'Lynn" in *Steel Magnolias*, and "Ruella" in *Communicating Doors*, have been some of Maggi's favorite roles to play.

TOM BIRKELAND – Stephen Spettigue (Sept 9 - 25): Tom has been a part of the TLT family, in one capacity or another, for the past 50 years. In addition to his acting credits, Tom has directed several productions and served for a number of years on the theatre's Board of Directors, including a year as the Board's President. Among his favorite acting credits at TLT: *Hello Dolly!*, *Sleuth*, *Present Laughter* and last season's Second Stage production of *National Pastime*.

CASSIE COLLISON – The House Maid: At the age of 15, this is Cassie's first performance at TLT but she hopes there will be many more!

CHRISTIAN DOYLE – Lord Fancourt Babberly: is very elusive when it comes to writing biographies.

ELLIOT WEINER – Stephen Spettigue (Sept 30 - Oct 2): Elliot's thrilled to rejoin John, Christian (and Tom), his last year's *Ten Little Indians* buddies and this great new gang. When not writing/remodeling, Elliot volunteers at the Humane Society - adopt! and have your pets spayed or neutered!

MICHAEL J. GRISWOLD – Brassett: Most recent roles include: "Carlson", *Mice & Men*; "David", *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*; "Louis", *Lost in Yonkers*. This one is for me Mum.

JESSICA REYNOLDS – Ela Delahay: 14, attends Kalles Jr. High School in Puyallup. She began modeling when she was three years old, and has participated in a number of local drama productions through her church and school.

CHRIS M. ROBERSON – Charley Wykeham: Chris recently graduated from PLU with a BFA in Theatre and Art. He appreciates the hard work of everyone involved in the show and would also appreciate anyone interested in buying art from him.

EMILIE ROMMEL – Kitty Verdun: Emilie is delighted to join in her first TLT production. Past roles include, "Cherie" in *Bus Stop*, "Gertrude" in *Hamlet*, and "Catherine" in *Pippin*. More than ever, many thanks to family, friends & employers for unerring support & flexibility!

LISA GRAHAM – Amy Spettigue: Currently obtaining a Music Business degree at the University of Puget Sound. Past activities include: Adelphian Concert Choir, Upstage Um, UPS Opera Scenes, *Die Fledermaus*, Silver Screen: The Musical, Reparatory Dance Group, Miss Montana National Teenager 2002.

JED SLAUGHTER – Jack Chesney: Last seen at TLT as "Charlie" in *Annie Get Your Gun*, Jed is somewhat puzzled by what appears to be a play without songs. Shouldn't we be learning the dances by now?

STEVE TARRY – Colonel Sir Francis Chesney: Steve just played "King Arthur" in *Camelot* at Renton Civic Theatre. Roles at TLT include: "Dowd" in *Harvey*, "Higgins" in *My Fair Lady* and "The Pirate King" in *Pirates of Penzance*.

JOHN MUNN – Director: has directed such productions as *Lost in Yonkers*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Inherit the Wind* and last year's *Ten Little Indians* at Tacoma Little Theatre as well as *Murder on the Nile*, *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday* and last season's *A Few Good Men* at the Lakewood Community Players.

KATE HOLLAND – Stage Manager: Kate is thrilled to be participating in her 4th show at TLT, 3rd time stage-managing. Other shows include, *Biloxi Blue* (TLT) and *The Well* (RVET). Thanks and love to everyone who made me who I am today.

BRETT CARR – Lighting Designer: still hiding out care of the witness protection program, and still never writes his own bio. It's a personal policy.

JUDY CULLEN – Scenic Designer: Yes, she's STILL here! Thanks to Alex, Tracy, Mom, Sis & Brandon!

FRANCES RANKOS – Costume Designer: Frances has worked as a costume supervisor and designer in the Puget Sound area since the early 1980's, and has been the costume supervisor for Tacoma Opera since 1984. *Eliza and the Lumberjack* was the first production she designed for TLT. She has also appeared on stage with numerous theatres. Her last role at TLT was "Sister Berta" in the anniversary production of, *The Sound of Music*. Presently Ms. Rankos currently works full time as a travel trainer for Pierce Transit.

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Production Staff and Crew

Director	John Munn
Stage Manager	Kate Holland
Scenic Designer	Judy Cullen
Costume Designer	Frances Rankos
Lighting Designer	Brett Carr
Technical Director	Ryan Coleman
	Kevin Myers
Light Operator	Tess Griswold
Stage Crew	Zack Griswold
Set Construction	Ryan Coleman
	Kevin Myers
Paint	Sarah Holt, Cindy Taylor & Judy Cullen
Properties	Cindy Taylor Tracy Berryman



SPECIAL THANKS

James Venturini & Tacoma Actors Guild,
Alex Lewington
Auburn Avenue Dinner Theatre,
Tacoma Opera, Tommy Ciocca
& Betty Cullen

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Kate Holland, Amanda Westbrooke
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