



## 2009-2010 Season Share the Laughter!!



Don't miss your chance to share some laughs  
with us this season!!

Also as a special bonus!!

A *Tuna Christmas* with our own  
Artistic Director,  
Scott Campbell and  
Lakewood Playhouse's  
Marcus Walker

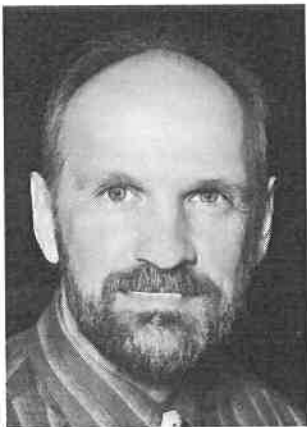


## Director's Notes

Get ready for an evening of hearty laughter as we travel back in time to watch the members of the Cleveland Opera Company in 1934 as they sing, romance, deal with mistaken identities and romp through many doors. Ken Ludwig is a talented playwright who continues to produce outstanding comedies for the stage, winning a handful of Tony and Drama Desk Awards for this comedy in 1989. He has constructed a rollercoaster ride of hilarity in his script and the fast pace of said ride in theatre blocking with both factors colliding in a most unusual and frenetic conclusion. One that I hope will have you rolling in the aisle with uncontrollable laughter!!

Kudos to the production team under the leadership of our set designer, Doug Kerr, for creating this 2 room playground for our actors to perform on. Their hard work has enabled this talented cast an opportunity to use the set in a timely manner given the nature of this farce. As for our cast, I have the utmost praise and respect for them as individuals, for them as an ensemble. They each brought their talent and gifts to the theatre table and shared willingly. They made my job truly enjoyable.

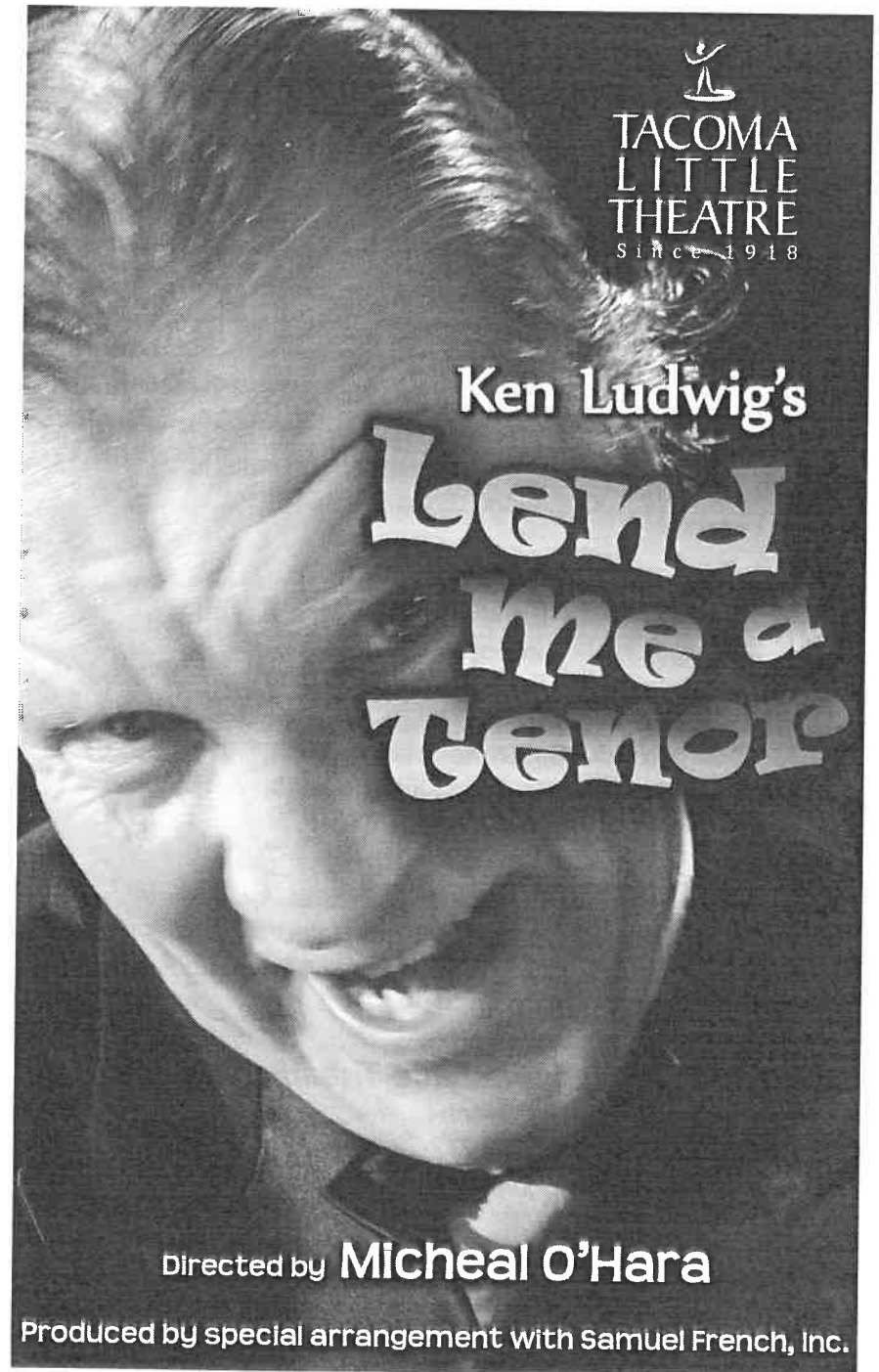
A director is only as good as the team around him. My deepest thanks to Sarahann Ricker, my assistant and stage manager, Diane Runkel for her amazing costumes and Jason Burg who designed the lighting plot. A big thank you to Scott Campbell and staff for a welcoming environment to play in. And I would also like to express my gratitude to you, this audience, for supporting local theatre. Without you, there would be no theatrical productions.



Now, sit back--get your ticket for that rollercoaster ride and enjoy *Lend Me A Tenor*. Oh, and please...easy on the phenobarbital!!

The Best!

Micheal O'Hara



## Cast

Tito.....	John Cooper
Max.....	Derek Hanson
Saunders.....	Charlie Birdsell
Diana.....	Melissa Wolff
Bellhop.....	Michael McManus
Maggie.....	Leischen Moore
Julia.....	Dana Galagan
Maria.....	Maria Valenzuela

## Setting

The action takes place in a hotel suite in  
Cleveland, Ohio in 1934,

## Act I

Scene 1 - Early Afternoon on a Saturday  
in September

Scene 2 - Four hours later

**A 15 minute Intermission**

**(Refreshments are available in the lobby)**

## Act II

Scene 1 - That night, about eleven o'clock

Scene 2 - Fifteen minutes later

## ***Tacoma Little Theatre***

210 North I Street  
(253) 272-2281

Box Office Hours: 3-6 Tuesday-Saturday

Visit Our Website

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And Join TLT's Email List for Ticket Deals! Show Announcements!  
and general information on how to get involved!!

## Artistic Staff

Director.....	Micheal O'Hara
Stage Managers.....	Sarahann Rickner
Production Manager.....	Naarah R. MacDonald
Technical Director.....	Matt Osier
Set Designer.....	Doug Kerr
Lighting Designer.....	Jason Burg
Costume Designer.....	Diane Runkel
Sound Designer.....	Scott Campbell
Props.....	Michael Dresdner
Light Board Operator.....	Devon McDonald-Kelley
Sound Board Operator.....	Sarahann Rickner
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Lily Galagan
Set Construction.....	Doug Kerr, Matt Osier, Mike Valentine
Painting.....	Doug Kerr, Erin Chanfrau, Villa Kerr, Michael Dresdner
Hang and Focus.....	Jason Burg, Alex Smith, Jaymie Workman
Programs.....	Kelly Herremans
Photography.....	Dean Lapin

## Special Thanks To:

Justine and Mark Tvedt, Kali McDonald, Sydney Campbell,  
Robbie Lapin, Tracy Berryman, Helen and George McClure,  
Barbara Gelman, Pierce County Council, Tacoma Opera,  
Lakewood Playhouse

## Tacoma Little Theatre Staff

Managing Artistic Director.....	Scott Campbell
Operations and Education Director.....	Casi Wilkerson
Office Manager.....	Loralei Ives-Keeler
Box Office Manager.....	Kelly Herremans
Box Office Assistant.....	Christopher Cline

## Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors

President.....	Micheal O'Hara
Vice President.....	George McClure
Secretary.....	Avance Byrd
Treasurer.....	Jennifer Niehaus-Rivers

Timothy Acker, Christian Geye,  
Jennifer Lackman, Mark Solomon, Justine Tvedt

## About the Cast



**Charlie Birdsell (Saunders)** This is Charlie's debut at TLT. His most recent stage role was Victor Fleming in *Moonlight and Magnolias* at Poulsbo's Jewel Box Theatre. He has appeared in numerous Bremerton Community Theatre productions such as *Born Yesterday*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Noises Off* and *The Lion in Winter*. As a playwright, his Seattle area award winning original play, *Perfectly Frank, A Comedy About Love And Lattes* was produced at Bremerton's Changing Scene Theatre Northwest. By day, Charlie is the production director for On-Hold Concepts, an advertising agency in University Place. He also provides freelance voice and audio production through his own company, Sound Voices. Most recently, he was the voice for the national AACT Fest '09 hosted by the Tacoma Musical Playhouse. Charlie and his wife Diana and family live in Bremerton...go figga. Thanks for letting me play.



**John B. Cooper (Tito)** Primarily a singer, this is John's first show at Tacoma Little Theatre and his first straight play in a long time. Most recently, he played Joseph in *The Birth of Christ in Rome*, and his 2006 Dublin performance was recorded and aired on PBS. John made his Carnegie Hall debut, Christmas 2007. He started his opera career at Portland Opera. Some of his favorites include such roles as Marcello in *La Boheme*, Danilo in *The Merry Widow*, Valentine in *Faust*, Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, and Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*. He has also been a Seattle Mariners National Anthem favorite, singing at over sixty games in the last six years. John would like to thank his beautiful wife Sharon for all of her support.

## About the Cast cont.



**Dana Galagan (Julia)** Dana previously appeared onstage at Tacoma Little Theatre in last season's *Leading Ladies* as Aunt Florence. She has also played Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*, Mrs. Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and Helen Hobart in *Once in a Lifetime* at Lakewood Playhouse. She acted as stage manager for *Much Ado About Nothing* last year here at TLT. Dana is involved in her family's business at Vino Aquino in sales and marketing.



**Derek Hanson (Max)** Derek would like to thank the huge number of people that he has learned from over the years who have had a part in forming his artistic talents to shine on the stage. Although he has pretty much grown up singing and acting for an audience, ever since he joined the school musical in the 3rd grade, he is also a local Web Designer and Computer Science student at Seattle Pacific University. Derek has recently performed with the Tacoma Opera, Seattle Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and the Driftwood Players. His most favorite roles have been Cat in *Honk!*, Frederick Barret in *Titanic*, and Joe Ferone in *Up the Down Staircase*.



**Michael McManus (Bellhop)** This is Michael's first show at Tacoma Little Theater. Michael has been on stage since the age of 10. Favorite shows include *West Side Story*, *Candide*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Camelot*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cabaret* and *Guys and Dolls*. Thanks to the great cast, creative team, TLT and the support of my family and friends!

## About the Cast cont.



**Leischen Moore (Maggie)** is thrilled to be making her TLT debut. It might be her first turn on this particular stage, it is not her first time under the direction of the talented Mr. O'Hara as she was seen last season as Annabel Glick in *Lucky Stiff* at The Lakewood Playhouse. While she happily spends her days as a voice teacher, she is delighted to spend many of her nights with Tacoma's many fine theatre companies. She received The News Tribune's Honorable Mention for Best Actress in A Musical for her work as Sonia Walsk in *They're Playing Our Song*. A few other local credits include, *Absent Friends*, *The Hollow*, *The 1940s Radio Hour*, *Urinetown*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Fantasticks*. She holds performance degrees from both NYU and PLU. Thanks GMDFK. Please visit her website at [www.lcmstudios.com](http://www.lcmstudios.com).



**Maria Valenzuela (Maria)** Maria is pleased to be returning to TLT where she was first seen in one of her earliest stage appearances as a much younger Italian woman in TLT's *The Liar*. Since then, she has been seen on concert and theater stages throughout the US and abroad. As a concert soloist, she has appeared with companies from the Tacoma Symphony Orchestra to the Orlando Philharmonic and countless others in between, including a 2007 appearance at Carnegie Hall alongside John B. Cooper. She performs regularly with Tacoma Musical Playhouse and the Seattle Opera, directs theater for family audiences with the Tacoma Children's Musical Theater and serves as the musical director for the Daffodil Festival Royal Court.



**Melissa Wolff (Diana)** is excited to be making her stage debut at Tacoma Little Theatre. She has a Bachelors of Arts and Science from UW, and has had a myriad of jobs including teaching English in France and high pressure sales. She wants to thank Michael for helping her realize her dream of being onstage

## About the Artistic Staff

**Lily Galagan (Assistant Stage Manager)** Lily developed a love for the theater when she first was a student in TLT's Youth Theatre program. She continued in workshops, classes and productions throughout her life. She was assistant stage manager for *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at Lakewood Playhouse at the age of 11 and again last season for Tacoma Little Theatre's *Much Ado About Nothing*. She has also acted as light operator most recently here for *Star Spangled Girl*. Lily is a senior at the Tacoma School of the Arts.

**Doug Kerr (Scene Designer)** has designed several award-winning sets. His latest works at TLT, were *Leading Ladies*, and *The Crucible*. At the Lakewood Playhouse some of his recent designs include: *The Sound of Music*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Our Town*, and *How the Other Half Loves*. His designs also have appeared at Centerstage, Centralia College, and Pierce College as well as other venues.

**Naarah R. McDonald (Production Manager)** Naarah has worked in theatre for over 20 years. Once called a "backstage magician," she has worked as a costumer, production manager, stage manager, assistant director and director. She has also been on stage, most recently in Lakewood Playhouse's production of *Once In A Lifetime*. Her passion though is behind the scenes where the magic happens. She is next costuming Tacoma Little Theatre's late night ghost story, *Woman in Black*. Her deepest gratitude goes out to her two shining stars that are so generous and her partner for all his love and affection.

**Micheal O'Hara (Director)** is honored to direct once again at TLT. Previously he directed a second stage production of the critically acclaimed *The Colored Museum*. He also directed *Lucky Stiff* at Lakewood Playhouse, a show that boasted of a very talented cast and a totally zany plot. Micheal enjoys performing on stage as well and was recently seen in *Miss Saigon* as The Engineer at Tacoma Musical Playhouse, Dr. Watson in *The Final Toast* for Theatre Northwest and was a featured vocalist in Bellevue Civic Theatre's *Shopping: The Musical*. By day, Micheal is the owner/manager of Glassworks, Inc in Gig Harbor and is proud husband to local actress Sharry O'Hara and loving papa to 4 rescued canine kids. Life is good!

## ***About the Artistic Staff cont.***

**Sarahann Rickner (Stage Manager)** This is Sarahann's return to TLT after having taken a year off from the theatre. Though she has stage managed before (for kids camps), this is Sarahann's debut stage managing a mainstage show. Sarahann would like to thank Micheal O'Hara for being patient with her as she learned the ropes; her cast for making this a fun and memorable first experience; and finally, her family for acting as her chauffeur. She hopes that you enjoy the show as much as she has working on it.

**Diane Runkel (Costume Designer)** This is Diane's first time costuming for Tacoma Little Theatre and it has been an honor to work with Micheal and this wonderful cast of talented actors. Her thanks go out to Scott for his faith in her ability and her family for their help. Diane's past work includes *Godspell* in Seattle and at Lakewood Playhouse: *Once on This Island*, *Absent Friends*, the cow costume from *Into the Woods* and most recently *Mousetrap*. It is always magic for her to watch these talented people work so hard to create a show. Enjoy!

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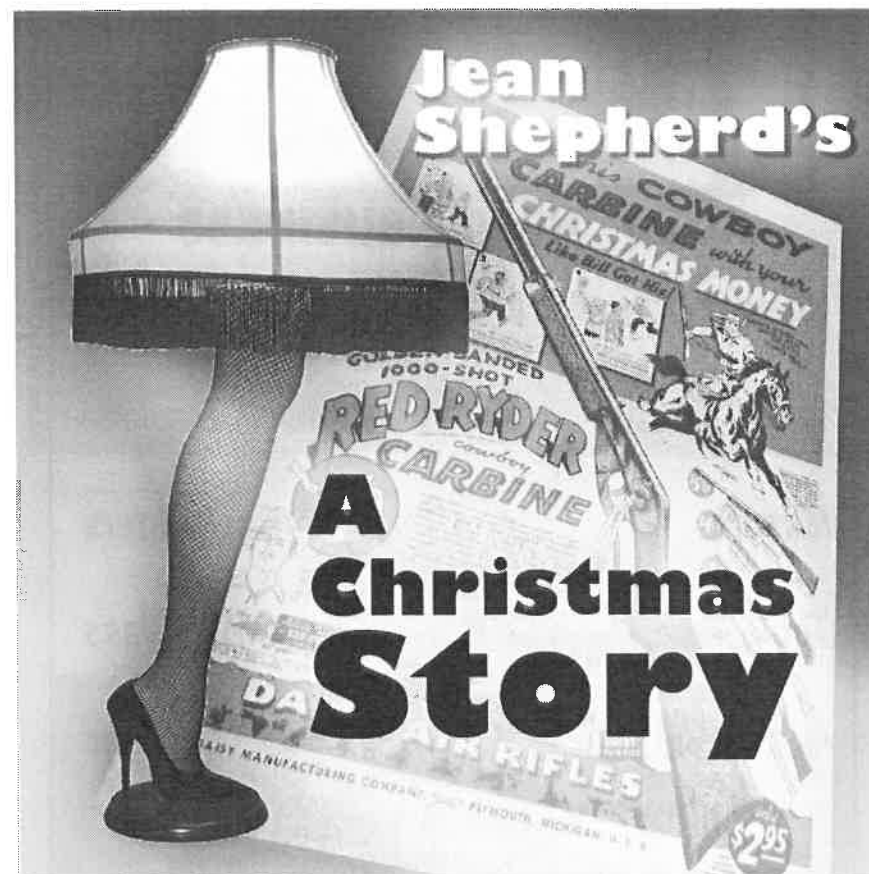
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## **Coming up Next.....**

**Our next production this season  
is the notoriously enjoyable show...**



It's 1940, in the town of Hohman, Indiana. 9-year-old Ralphie Parker wants one thing for Christmas -- an official Red Ryder BB rifle with a compass in the stock. Everyone tells him, "You'll shoot your eye out, kid." Between the bully at school and the Old Man's leg lamp -- Ralphie is having a tough Christmas this year.