

The Little Theatre

"Central Illinois Only Professional Equity Music and Drama Theatre"

Seventh Season ★ Summer of Musicals and Drama

Newly Air-Conditioned and Decorated Theatre - On The Square - Sullivan



Guy S. Little, Jr. Presents

MARJORIE LORD in "BLITHE SPIRIT"

June 25th through June 30, 1963

Guy S. Little, Jr.

PRESENTS

MARJORIE LORD

in

"BLITHE SPIRIT"

An Improbable Farce in Three Acts

By

NOEL COWARD

With

Eugene Van Hekle, Margaret Gathright, Robert Gwaltney
and
Lillian Malek

Directed by FRANK CASSIDY

Scenery and Lighting Designed by **ANDREW GREENHUT**

Production Stage
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JOHN KELSO

Costume
Co-Ordinator
ROD FERNANDEZ

Assistant Stage
Manager
HERBERT O'DELL

ENTIRE PRODUCTION UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MR. LITTLE

CAST

Edith	BETSY SPECK
Ruth	MARGARET GATHRIGHT
Charles	EUGENE VAN HEKLE
Dr. Bradman	ROBERT GWALTNEY
Mrs. Bradman	WILMA ALLEN
Madame Arcati	LILLIAN MALEK
Elvira	MARJORIE LORD

THE ACTION of the play passes in the living-room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent, England.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1—Before dinner on a summer evening.
Scene 2—After Dinner.

ACT II

Scene 1—The next morning.
Scene 2—Late the following afternoon.
Scene 3—Early evening. A few days later.

ACT III

Scene 1—After dinner. A few days later.
Scene 2—Several hours later.

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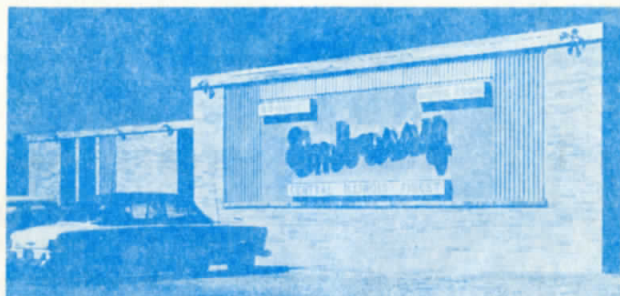
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June 25-30

MARJORIE LORD

Danny Thomas' TV wife in
"BLITHE SPIRIT"



July 2-7

BERNARD GRANT

Dr. Fletcher from "The Guiding Light" in
"CRITIC'S CHOICE"



July 9-14

MARGARET TRUMAN

in
"LATE LOVE"



July 16-28

TWO WEEKS!

The Delightful B'way Musical
"CARNIVAL"

July 30-Aug. 11

ROSEMARY PRINZ

Penny from "As The World Turns" in
"THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN"



Aug. 13-18

FORREST TUCKER

("The Music Man") in
"THE RAINMAKER"



Aug. 20-25

EDWARD EVERETT HORTON in
"MISS PELL IS MISSING"



Aug. 27-Sept. 1

MR. AND MRS. PAT O'BRIEN in
"DEAR RUTH"



Sept. 3-8

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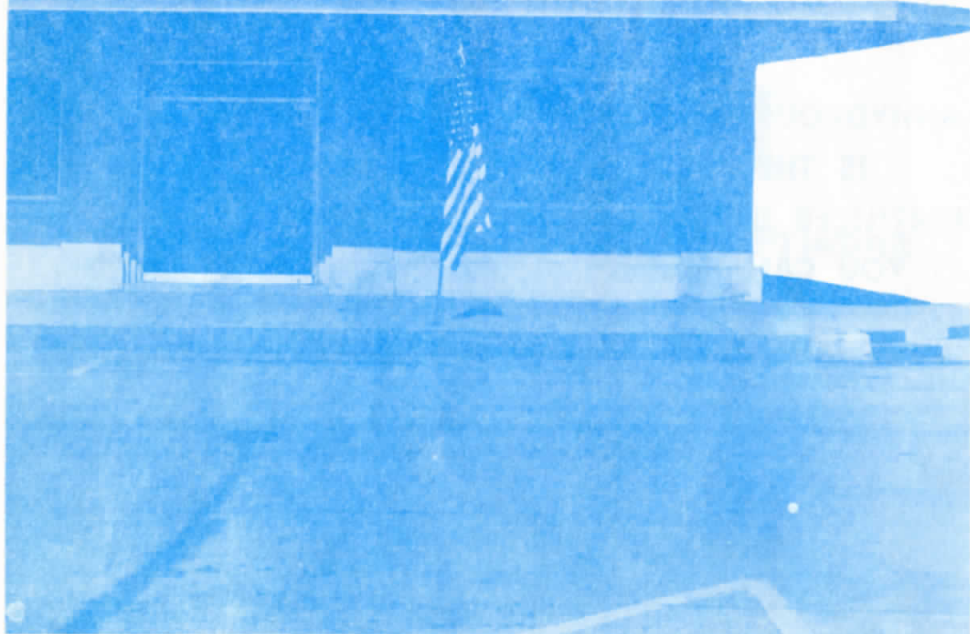
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Who's Who In The Cast . . .



JERILI LITTLE appeared in the first production at The Little Theatre in 1957 as Meg in BRIGADOON. Since that time she has played a great variety of roles including Nellie in SOUTH PACIFIC with Bruce Foote, Isolda in TUNNEL OF LOVE with Eddie Bracken, Gladys in PAL JOEY with Ruth Warwick and Louise in GYPSY with Margaret Whiting.

In addition to appearing in CRITIC'S CHOICE and CARNIVAL this season, Jerili will direct LATE LOVE with Margaret Truman. She directed ROBERTA in 1957 and CAN-CAN and THE DESERT SONG in 1958.

LILLIAN MALEK last appeared in Sullivan as Mae in THE PAJAMA GAME, the opening show of the 1958 season at the Grand. More recently, Miss Malek has appeared on Broadway with Bert Parks in THE MUSIC MAN. Her stock credits include roles at leading theatres in BYE BYE BIRDIE, DAMN YANKEES with Julie Newmar, and AUNTIE MAME with Gypsy Rose Lee. She has appeared on THE RED SKELTON SHOW on TV and as the Fortune Teller in THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH. This summer, Lillian will be seen as Betty Chumley in HARVEY, Madam Arcati in BLITHE SPIRIT and Mrs. Colby in LATE LOVE.

ROBERT GWALTNEY appeared in all the Summer of Musical productions during the first four seasons in Sullivan. He returns to The Little Theatre this summer to appear as Dr. Chumley in HARVEY, Dr. Glass in CARNIVAL and Dr. Bradman in BLITHE SPIRIT—three very different doctors! In addition he will be seen as Billy in LATE LOVE, and Oscar in Edward E. Horton's pre-B'way tryout of MISS PELL IS MISSING. Mr. Gwaltney's extensive theatrical experience includes such television work as an American Heritage play entitled SHADOW OF A SOLDIER.



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Who's Who In The Cast . . .



EUGENE VAN HECKE is an honor graduate of the Goodman Memorial Theatre. He has appeared in AUNTIE MAME on Broadway and on tour with Constance Bennett and Sylvia Sidnev. Off-B'way audiences have seen him in CAPACITY FOR WINGS, TROJAN TRILOGY and most recently in Edward Albee's FAM AND YAM. Eugene has been on the production staff of some of B'way's brightest shows including MY

FAIR LADY, MUSIC MAN and CAMELOT. At The Little Theatre this summer, Eugene will be seen as Dr. Sanderson in HARVEY, Charles in BLITHE SPIRIT, Matthew in LATE LOVE and Marco in CARNIVAL.

MARGARET GATHRIGHT first appeared on Broadway in THE GIRLS AGAINST THE BOYS with Bert Lahr, Nancy Walker, Dick Van Dyke and Shelly Berman. Since then, New York audiences have seen Miss Gathright in TENDERLOIN with Maurice Evans, KEAN with Alfred Drake and I CAN GET IT FOR YOU WHOLESale with Lillian Roth. Although her B'way credits have all been in musicals, Margaret will appear in four straight plays at The Little Theatre this season including Kelly in HARVEY, Ruth in BLITHE SPIRIT, Ivy in CRITIC'S CHOICE and

Janet in LATE LOVE. Off-B'way has claimed the versatile Miss Gathright in THE THREEPENNY OPERA and RUSSELL PATTERSON'S SKETCH BOOK while her summer stock engagements have included leading roles in FIORELLO, CAN-CAN, CALL ME MADAM and CAMINO REAL. Just before coming to Sullivan, Margaret completed a six weeks engagement at Number One Fifth Avenue.



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Producer Guy S. Little, Jr.
Welcomes You To

The Little Theatre

It was in July of 1957 that Guy S. Little, Jr. first brought Broadway to Sullivan. In only six years The Little Theatre has become one of the outstanding theatres in the summer stock world. It is the only professional Equity music and drama theatre between Chicago and St. Louis and one of the few theatres in the country that presents a stock season of the latest B'way musicals and plays on a proscenium stage in an air-conditioned, indoor theatre. The intimate Little Theatre has 500 seats with excellent sight-lines and acoustics. In the past six seasons, some fifty top productions have been presented at The Little Theatre. Patrons come from over a hundred miles to the north, south, east and west of Sullivan to enjoy an evening or matinee of outstanding musical and dramatic entertainment. Such outstanding stars as Margaret Whiting, Jack Haskell, Ruth Warrick, Eddie Bracken, Bruce Foote and Annamary Dickey have appeared on The Little Theatre's stage during recent seasons. The Little Theatre has been completely decorated in red, gold and white with enlarged rest rooms, box office, a new balcony and additional air-conditioning. Now well established with Midwest audiences and considerably enlarged in scope, The Little Theatre launches its seventh and most exciting season, presenting ten outstanding musicals and plays featuring stars from Broadway, Hollywood, and TV.

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Who's Who in the Cast . . .

MARJORIE LORD (Elvira), who is going into her 7th year as the wife of Danny Thomas on television's **THE DANNY THOMAS SHOW**, has been blessed with a unique comedy timing plus a superb comedy presence with dramatic overtones.

The charming, red-haired actress, when still in her teens and a newcomer in New York, conquered the innumerable hurdles facing stage-struck youngsters in just a few weeks by landing the ingenue lead in **THE OLD MAID** starring Judith Anderson, then B'way's most popular show and a Pulitzer Prize winner.

During the summer of stock that followed, Marjorie played in **SPRINGTIME FOR HENRY** with Edward Everett Horton. A Hollywood talent scout caught the show, and Marjorie was placed under contract with Universal Pictures. She then started shuttling between New York and the movie capitol, practically living in the proverbial trunk. In the short period of the next two years, she managed to do five Broadway shows, including **LITTLE BROWN JUG** and **SIGNATURE**, and five motion pictures. She appeared opposite James Cagney in **JOHNNY COME LATELY** and Bing Crosby in **RIDING HIGH**.

Miss Lord played the lead in **ANNIVERSARY WALTZ** on Broadway with Macdonald Carey and has played the role of Alice Walters for over 700 performances with Carey, Howard

Duff, Hugh Marlowe and others. Marjorie traces two great changes in her life to **ANNIVERSARY WALTZ**. Producer Randolph Hale became her real-life husband as a romantic result of her appearance in the play, and Danny Thomas took her as his TV spouse after catching one of her sparkling performances.

It is as a serious craftsman in the world of acting that Marjorie wants to shine. She is irrevocably devoted to her family (she has two children), the theatre and her career. Any place where there is acting is a haven for Marjorie—but she is particularly partial to the legitimate stage. After leaving Sullivan, Marjorie will appear in **BLITHE SPIRIT** at The Cherry County Playhouse in Traverse City, Michigan.

WILMA ALLEN (Mrs. Bradman) made a hit at The Little Theatre last season as the social worker in **THE TUNNEL OF LOVE** with Eddie Bracken. Wilma is a native of Indiana and a graduate of Indiana State College in Terre Haute. She has taught commerce at Tuscola High School for 14 years, directed many variety shows and is the mother of two children.

BETSY SPECK (Edith) who hails from Washington D. C. is a newcomer to The Little Theatre. She has appeared as Minnie in **THE MATCHMAKER**, Miriam in **DEAR RUTH**, Corliss Archer in **KISS AND TELL** and the title role in **PETER PAN**. Betsy will be attending Stephens College in the fall.

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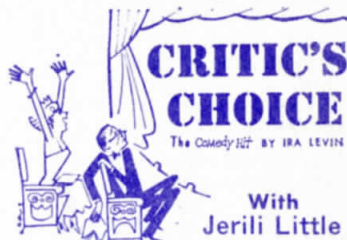
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Props Alex Gregory and
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Assistant Technician Dorothy Hawks
Executive Secretary Sue Smith
Head Ushers Judy Horstman and
Pat Bennett
Costumes Suzanne Baker
Betsy Speck, Nancy Ryman
New Costumes Executed by Jessie

Apprentice Co-ordinator Alex Gregory
Understudy for Miss Lord Cheryl Masterson
Box Office Sharon Spencer,
Judy Sickafus, Alma Smith, Inis Little
Production Assistants: Robert Balaban,
Cheryl Masterson, Marshall Smith, Nancy
Ryman, Howard Weiner, Betsy Speck, Alice
Shasteen, Marilyn McLendon, Suzanne Mc-
Gregor, and Joan Brandzel.

CREDIT: Flowers—Elzy's Flower Shop; Furniture—Masonic Home.