

The Little Theatre-On The Square

"Central Illinois' Only Star Music and Drama Theatre"

Fifteenth Season • April-November, 1971 • Sullivan, Ill.



Guy S. Little, Jr. Presents

GISELE MacKENZIE in "HERE TODAY"

September 21-26 1971

Guy S. Little, Jr.
Presents

GISELE MacKENZIE

in

"HERE TODAY"

By George Oppenheimer

with

NEAL THORPE

JOHN DUTRA

MARY BEST

DAVID HULL

Bobby Cook

Pamela Manuel

Ben Agresti

Directed By GARY GARDNER

Production Designed By JEROME ROSENBERGER

Production Stage Manager — BARRY CARLSON

ENTIRE PRODUCTION UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MR. LITTLE

CAST

Jeffrey Windrew	BOBBY COOK
Bertram	BEN AGRESTI
Philip Graves	JOHN DUTRA
Claire Windrew	PAMELA MANUEL
Mrs. Windrew	MARY BEST
Stanley Dale	NEAL THORPE
Mary Hilliard	GISELE MacKENZIE
Spencer Grant	DAVID HULL

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

- ACT I. The Windrew House, at Nassau, the Bahamas.
ACT II: Next morning.
ACT III: Shortly afterward.

THERE WILL BE A TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACTS

NO SMOKING IN THE THEATRE

No Pictures Please — Cameras Not Permitted in Theatre

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR MR. LITTLE

Public Relations and Publicity
Director Dee Bradley
Property Master Michael Learned
Property Assistant Anna McNeely
Assistant Stage Managers Bobby Cook,
Michael McDonald, Guy Little, Ben Agresti
Executive Secretary Carolyn McFarland
Business Manager Guy S. Little, Sr.

Technical Director Ray Carlson
Box Office Inis Little, Mary Kranz,
Kathy Fowler, Pauline Friend, Mildred Colclasure, Margaret Brummet
Lights Michael McDonald
Head Usher Kathy Fowler
Assistant to Mr. Little Bobby Cook
House Manager Peter Aulen

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Who's Who in the Cast . . .

GISELE MacKENZIE (Mary Hilliard) broke Sullivan box office records last season for two weeks as *Mame*. She learned to play the piano at the age of two, followed by becoming a concert violinist and a vocalist of no mean ability. She graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music in her native Canada and then went on to starring in her own radio show, *Meet Gisele*, for four years. Soon after, she became a regular on "Bob Crosby's Club 15" and was signed with Capitol Records and appeared on Mario Lanza's program. While appearing with Mr. Crosby in Las Vegas, she met Jack Benny who signed her as a vocalist, not knowing that she played the violin. Once he learned and included it in the format, their appearances together became one of the highlights of television. The four years that Gisele starred on TV's *Hit Parade* brought her another triumph—she not only sang the standard favorites but broke precedent by singing her own personal hit which was number one for 13 weeks. It was the popular ballad, *Hard To Get*.

Gisele has starred on *Studio One*, *General Electric Theatre*, *Kraft Theatre* and in leading theatres across the country, she has played major leads in *South Pacific*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The King And I*, *Auntie Mame*, *Mame*, *Gypsy*, *Wonderful Town*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Luv and Remains To Be Seen*. Recently she starred in *Hello, Dolly!* at Canal-Fulton Summer Arena and broke box office records there with additional matinees scheduled to handle the overflow audiences.

NEAL THORPE (Stanley Dale) has been in show business for over twenty years and has been in everything from Shakespeare to burlesque. He started as a juvenile in one of the last of the *Bill A Week* touring companies in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and in Chicago, he graduated to the classics and summer stock after which, he went to New York—and eventually on to Hollywood where he now lives and works. Neal has acted with and directed many stars including Gisele MacKenzie, Van Johnson, Pat O'Brien, John Raitt, Ginger Rogers, Robert Goulet, Martha Raye and Andy Williams. Although he makes occasional appearances on stage, he prefers directing and has recently become involved with television production. Neal's last appearance in Sullivan was with Miss MacKenzie in *Mame* last season in the part of Babcock.

JOHN DUTRA (Philip Graves) is making his first appearance at The Little Theatre-On The Square although, he and Miss MacKenzie are no strangers, having worked together on the *Hit Parade*. Mr. Dutra has been a Broadway performer for over twenty years as a leading man in many productions including *Forever Carats*, *Cactus Flower*, *Any Wednesday*, *There's A Girl In My Soup*, *The Caine Mutiny*, *Two For The Seesaw*, *A Far Country*, *Private Lives*, *Silent Night*, *Lonely Night* and *No Time For Sergeants*. His leading roles in stock theatre have been with Herbert Marshall, Herminone Gingold, Ethel Barrymore, Colt, Dody Goodman, Jill Corey, Robert Alda, Jane Kean, Una Merkle and many others. **VARIETY** called him "a seasoned pro, the most believable actor I've seen in years . . . he smoothes the generation gap by filling the vacuum with humor and happiness . . . he really communicates . . . from humor to pathos, he registers superbly".

MARY BEST (Mrs. Windrew) made her first appearance at The Little Theatre-On The Square this season with Noel Harrison in *The Mouse-trap*. She is an accomplished Broadway actress who did a dozen shows there before transferring her interests to the Chicago area, now her home. Mary was the original RCA Color Girl in television and was active in TV in addition to playing six seasons of summer stock in the East.

Mary was featured in the national touring company of *Jane Eyre* with Sylvia Sidney, with Luther Adler in *Angel Street* and *Miami Beach* with Helmut Dantine. In the Chicago and mid-west areas, some of the productions in which she has appeared are *See How They Run* with Mamie Van Doren, *Charley's Aunt* with Louis Nye, *Affairs Of State* with Joan Caulfield, *Happiest Millionaire* with Walter Pidgeon, *Philadelphia Story* with Jeanne Crain, *Susan And God* with Joan Fontaine, and *Tom Poston In Butter And Egg Man*.

DAVID HULL (Spencer Grant) has appeared in so many leading theatres and with so many stars that his credits in stage, television, commercial and industrial films form a long list. He was the Master of Ceremonies of his own musical variety show in Chicago for two years as well as an NBC regular on network series and the *Today Show*.

David toured the country with Myrna Loy in *Barefoot In The Park* and also, with the national company of *The Odd Couple*. Some of his other appearances include playing opposite Margaret O'Brien in *Under The Yum-Yum Tree*, *Jenny Kissed Me* and *Young And Beautiful*, with Pat O'Brien in *Our Town*, *Loud Red Patrick* and *Father Of The Bride*, with Billie Burke in *Mother Was A Bachelor*, *Lady Of The House* and *Life With Mother*, *Winslow Boy* with Vincent Price, *Late Love and Tea And Sympathy* with the late Linda Darnell, *The Philadelphia Story* with Jeanne Crain, *Barefoot In The Park* with Virginia Graham and *Born Yesterday* with Marie Wilson.

The first appearance made by David on the Sullivan stage was in this season's opening play, *The Paisley Convertible* with Bill Bixby followed by *Beginner's Luck* with Bob Crane and *Play It Again, Sam*. During his absence this season, he has been busy appearing in *A Thousand Clowns* with Hugh O'Brien and Peter Breck, and *Play It Again, Sam* with Pat Paulsen at Florida and Ohio Theatres.

PAMELA MANUEL (Claire Windrew) made her Sullivan debut with Rosemary Prinz in *Annie Get Your Gun* in 1969 and returned last season to appear with Peter Palmer in *Brigadoon*. A student of dancing for many of her young years, Pam has come away with so many "firsts" in dancing and acrobatic contests that it is hard to make an accurate count. In 1968, she was first runner-up in the Miss Teen-age Illinois contest held in Decatur and the same year, won the State Fair talent contest with her jazz and acrobatic dancing skills.

Since her first appearance on the Sullivan stage, Pam has danced in most of the musical productions including this season's *The Great Waltz*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Fiddler On The Roof* and *Li'l Abner*. She made her dramatic debut in *Play It Again, Sam* with Pat Paulsen.

BOBBY COOK (Jeffrey Windrew) made his professional debut as Pappy Yokum in this season's *Li'l Abner* with Peter Palmer. His excellent dancing ability was displayed in *Mame* with Gisele MacKenzie, *Brigadoon* with Peter Palmer and *Hello, Dolly!* with Virginia Mayo and as the Fiddler in *Fiddler On The Roof* with Tom Poston. Bobby was the musical director for the Children's Theatre this season as well as assistant to the producer.

BEN AGRESTI (Bertram) marked *Li'l Abner* as his first professional appearance in the part of Earthquake McGoon. Audiences will remember his featured roles this season as Ebeseider in *The Great Waltz* with Marion Marlowe, Ciccio in *Most Happy Fella* with Bruce Yarnell and Mordcha in *Fiddler On The Roof* with Tom Poston. Ben has directed two Children's Theatre productions, *Puss And Boots* and *Tom Sawyer* and co-directed and appeared in *Little Red Riding Hood*.

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THANK YOU



As we near the closing of the 15th season at The Little Theatre-On The Square, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and that of our staff, cast and company for the loyal and faithful support that you, our theatre patrons, have given us during 1971. As you may recall, we began the New Year with a successful production of BOEING-BOEING and our spring season officially opened April 13th with Bill Bixby in THE PAISLEY CONVERTIBLE. I have attempted to present a variety of plays and musicals and I trust and hope that most of the productions have pleased most of you, at least, most of the time. The Little Theatre-On The Square will be dark during October this year, but we will re-open our Fall season November 9th with the beautiful Jeanne Crain in Noel Coward's masterpiece, PRIVATE LIVES. Some of you may recall that the late Gertrude Lawrence created the role of Amanda in the original Broadway production in the 30's; I saw PRIVATE LIVES with the wonderful Tallulah Bankhead when I was quite young and again last season on Broadway with Tammy Grimes and Brian Bedford. Last season's revival won many awards and was considered by many seasoned theatre-goers to be the hit of the year. It will be experimental having theatre in Sullivan in November but I feel that PRIVATE LIVES will be the perfect comedy to delight you during the 11th month of the year. During the holiday season, opening after Christmas, I hope to present that charming musical, I DO! I DO! and next season, depending upon the release of properties and the availability of stars, our schedule should include PROMISES, PROMISES, 1776, FORTY CARATS, BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE, CHILD'S PLAY and revivals of CAMELOT, THE UNSINKABLE MOLLY BROWN and other favorite shows from recent Broadway seasons. Again, thank you for your wonderful support during 1971 — I do hope to see you often again in future seasons.

Warmest regards,

Guy S. Little, Jr.
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