



BARKSDALE THEATRE

Driving Miss Daisy

by Alfred Uhry



BARKSDALE THEATRE

Thoroughly Modern Millie

Book by Richard Henry Morris
Music by Jeanine Tesori
New Lyrics by Dick Scanlan

Directed by
**BROADWAY'S
PATTI D'BECK**

JUNE 19 - AUGUST 2
at the historic Empire Theatre

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BARKSDALE THEATRE

Bruce Miller, Artistic Director • Phil Whiteway, Managing Director

DRIVING MISS DAISY

by Alfred Uhry

Featuring Jim Bynum, Garet Chester and Joy Williams

Lighting Design by
Matt Landwehr

Technical Direction by
David Powers

Scenic Design by
Amy Bale
Terrie Powers

Costume Design by
Sue Griffin

*Original Music
Composed by*
Robert Waldman

Directed by
Joe Pabst

June 26 - August 2, 2009
On the Marjorie Arenstein Theatre Stage

DRIVING MISS DAISY was first produced Off-Broadway by Playwrights Horizons, New York City in 1987.

It was subsequently produced by Jane Harmon/ Nina Keneally, Ivy Properties, Ltd./ Richard Frankel, Gene Wolsk/ Alan M. Shore and Susan S. Myerberg in association with Playwrights Horizons, Off-Broadway in 1987.

DRIVING MISS DAISY by Alfred Uhry is presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., in New York.

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Season
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Dominion

Cast

Daisy Werthan Joy Williams
Boolie Werthan Garet Chester
Hoke Coleburn Jim Bynum

Setting

The play takes place from 1948 to 1973, mostly in Atlanta, and in many locations.

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

Additional Staff

Light and Sound Board Operator Rick Brandt
Deck Crew Randall Graves, Jeremy Howard
Dresser Sandy Humerickhouse

About Alfred Uhry



ALFRED UHRY, playwright, lyricist and screenwriter, is the only playwright to win a Tony Award, Academy Award and a Pulitzer Prize. Originally from Atlanta, he graduated with a degree in English and drama from Brown University before moving to New York, where he found his first success as the book writer for the musical, *The Robber Bridegroom*, garnering him a Tony nomination for Best Book of a Musical. His other plays include *America's Sweetheart*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* and *Swing*. He has also penned the books for the musicals *Lovemusik* (based on the professional and personal relationship of songstress/actor Lotte Lenya and composer Kurt Weill) and *Parade*, winning him a Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical and a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical. *Parade* marked his third Tony Award (having previously won for *Driving Miss Daisy* and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*). Uhry currently lives in New York with his wife Joanna Kellogg.

The Company



JIM BYNUM
(Hoke) has enjoyed performing in local and regional theatres, as well as in television and film for more than two decades.

His favorite role is Julian in the Theatre IV production of *Boys Next Door*. Most recently, he starred as Troy in *Fences* at Sycamore Rouge. Although Jim has been seen in numerous commercials, he is best known for his work with K Strong in *The Grocery Store* commercials. As Hoke, Jim is making his Barksdale debut.



GARET CHESTER
(Boolie) Richmond theatregoers have not seen Garet's work since 1999 when he played The Wizard in Theatre IV's *The Wizard of Oz*.

Before that, he was seen in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* and *Visit to a Small Planet* at Barksdale Theatre, as well as many roles at the Haymarket, Swift Creek Mill Theatre, Stage Center, The Barn and with Theatre IV's touring company. Garet is thrilled beyond words to be back at Barksdale. Since *Wizard*, Garet has been performing in, producing and directing over 30 plays at Mechanicsville Christian Center as well as creating and performing in one-man shows for corporate clients all over the U.S. Many Richmonders may remember Garet from WRNL, WRVQ and B-103, radio where he was one of Richmond's top morning men. Around the world, Garet is simply known as "that crazy missionary man who makes

us laugh". That's enough for him. He thanks Teri, Andy and Jill for making "Life worth Living." His performance is dedicated to Lloyd Shockley.



JOY WILLIAMS
(Daisy) is very grateful to have been entrusted with such a wonderful and challenging role. She's also thrilled to

work with such an amazing cast and crew, and under the direction of her good buddy, Joe. Joy came back to Richmond after having lived in NYC for 8 1/2 years and is very grateful to have been steadily working ever since. While in NYC, Joy was a resident actor of the National Improvisational Theatre. She did some comedy writing and voice over work for the The MacNeal/Lehrer Report, as well as some film and stage work. Joy was last seen here as Edith Banks in *Barefoot in the Park*. But she's been very busy since then. Most recently, she was seen as Miss Hannigan in *Annie* at Theatre IV and as Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon A Mattress* and Mrs. Babcock in *There Goes The Bride* at Swift Creek Mill Theatre. Joy is also one of the resident actors for Swift Creek's youth theatre season. When not onstage, Joy spends her time directing for Theatre IV, among other theatres, training for marathons, helping out at her kids' schools and keeping track of her kids and all the neighborhood kids that like to hang out at her house...and she wouldn't have it any other way! Joy dedicates this show to her mom, Joyce Valenti, the original southern belle.

The Company



JOE PABST

(Director) happily returns to the director's chair, having directed *Greater Tuna* and *The Odd Couple* at Barksdale Theatre

at Hanover Tavern. He was fortunate enough to have performed in *Barefoot in the Park* and *Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap* there as well. Other area directing credits include productions of *Big!, Jekyll & Hyde* and *Stephen Sondheim's Follies* at the Richmond Festival of Arts - Dogwood Dell and *The Sound of Music, You Can't Take It With You* and *Moon Over Buffalo* at Henrico Theatre Company. At Barksdale Theatre at Willow Lawn, he most recently performed in *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Brooklyn Boy* and *The Man Who Came To Dinner*. He sends love to his wife and best friend, Debra Wagoner.

MATT LANDWEHR (Lighting Design) is glad to be continuing his lighting career at Theatre IV. Originally from Green Bay, WI, he made the arduous trek to Minnesota State University, Mankato where he earned his Bachelors of Science degree in theatre production, and now calls Richmond home at Theatre IV and Barksdale Theatre as the resident Master Electrician. Selected regional lighting design credits include *I Am My Own Wife*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *The Wild Party*, *Caroline, Or Change* and *Rabbit Hole*. "For Amber Rose. Enjoy your wings baby girl."

AMY BALE (Set Design) is pleased to be making her Barksdale debut. Previous scenic designs include *The Boys Next Door* and *Scapino!* for Theatre IV. She thanks Terrie Powers for her generous assistance with this project.

DAVID POWERS (Set Design) is Technical Director for Barksdale Theatre at Hanover Tavern. He has engineered and built the sets for *Barefoot in the Park*, *Smoke on the Mountain* and *Shirley Valentine*, among many others. Previous creations include *Brickface and Stucco* for MTV (with co-creator Greg Harrison) and the voice of Conky 2000, the robot on *PeeWee's Playhouse*. David also owns and manages the film production company, Folkatoon Studio.

SUE GRIFFIN (Costume Designer) is in her sixth year as Costume Director for Theatre IV and Barksdale Theatre. Previously she spent 21 years as head of the costume department at Theatre Virginia. Memorable shows include *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (TVA), *Intimate Apparel* (Barksdale), four productions of *Pocahontas* (TIV) and most recently *Guys and Dolls* (Barksdale at the Empire Theatre). On a daily basis Sue heads up a team of professional stitchers and costumers who produce almost 400 costumes each season - altering some hard-working costumes or creating new ones for each production. Yards of fabric, trim, shoes, wigs, jewelry and hats find their way onto Sue's ever-present shopping list. The quest for the perfect accessory never ends.

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2009 - 2010 Signature Season

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By José Rivera

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Adapted by Frank Galati from the novel by John Steinbeck

February 12 - March 21, 2010 at Willow Lawn

Co-produced with Theatre VCU / Part of the Acts of Faith Festival

IS HE DEAD?

By Mark Twain, Adapted by David Ives

April 16 - May 23, 2010 at Willow Lawn

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse

June 4 - July 3, 2010 at the historic Empire Theatre

Co-produced with Theatre IV

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Director's Notes

In 1988, Alfred Uhry won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Driving Miss Daisy*. The original production also won the 1988 Outer Critics Circle Award for best Off-Broadway play. This seemingly simple play, with only three characters and minimal set requirements, takes on such weighty issues as prejudice, illiteracy, Civil Rights, anti-Semitism, aging and elder care. It explores the role reversals of the child becoming the parent, the teacher becoming the student.

The play spans twenty-five years, but oh, what tumultuous and important years those were! In 1948, the United States was just emerging from the Great Depression and World War II. The nation was then gripped with the Cold War, anti-Communist sentiments and the conflict in Korea. The Civil Rights movement was getting underway. We lost a President, a Presidential candidate and a Civil Rights leader at the hands of assassins. And then the War in Vietnam stirred the country's emotions. These events changed our nation and shaped the ideals of its citizens.

Still, at the heart of this deceptive little play is a very simple concept: the importance of friendship. The relationship between Daisy Werthan and Hoke Coleburn emerges beyond that of driver and passenger. They become friends, providing comfort and support to each other as the world around them changes so dramatically. I admire that relationship beyond words. How simple a thing it is, to be someone's friend. I hope that we are all fortunate enough to find friendship to last throughout our lives, no matter how the world changes. What a wonderful world it would be.

-- Joe Pabst

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