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# The Dining Room

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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# FIU Theatre

Presents

## *The Dining Room*



*by A. R. Gurney*



Directed by  
**GAIL GARRISAN**

Featuring

**Chris Cromer, Paul Perez, David Solomon, Michael Leon,  
Ashley Capo, Corinne Farkash, Natalie Birriel, Francesca Toledo**

**November 2006**

**FROM THE DIRECTOR** *The Dining Room*. A.R. Gurney's brilliant metaphor for a time and values that would seem to be rapidly slipping away from us. A myriad of memories washed over me as we worked our way through the rehearsal process of this production. Memories of the home I grew up in and my "Dining Room". The smell of that special wax, from the can, that would bring back the glow to the mahogany dining room table. The heat of the morning sun, as it glanced off my neck, while I sat at that same table, practicing my "Yellow Wallpaper" monologue for Forensic Club. The thousands of family dinners. And making excuses for that D in Math. Birthdays. Difficult decisions. Heated discussions. The laughter. The felt pads that protected the table, brought out, sans table cloth, for mother's annual Christmas card writing ritual and again at tax time. This time accompanied by groans and piles of crumpled receipts. Thanksgiving Dinner. Christmas Dinner. My father saying grace. The well of memories is bottomless.

This evening we'll wind our way back and forth through five decades, 1930 through 1980, while visiting eighteen different dining rooms and their inhabitants. We'll see the charming, funny, poignant snapshots of their lives. Eight actors portray the 59 characters, ages 6 to 76. And with just a suggestion of props or costumes; because as the playwright reminds us in his notes, "This isn't a play about dishes or food or costumes, but rather a play about people in a dining room."

And so it is. My dining room, or Michael's or Carolyn's or Kate's or maybe even yours. Welcome home.

~Gail Garrison



A. R. GURNEY

**ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT** Born in 1930, A.R. Gurney found his writing legs while writing shows to entertain the military during the Korean War, during which he served in the Navy. After his service was over, Gurney enrolled in the Yale School of Drama. He later taught English and Latin at a boy's school before becoming a faculty member at M.I.T. in Cambridge. In 1958, Gurney wrote the first musical ever to be produced at Yale. He's written several plays since that time, with work produced in the 80s bringing him his most critical acclaim and success. Several of his plays have been featured on Broadway.



Gail Garrison

**ABOUT THE GUEST DIRECTOR** Gail Garrison is a freelance director and acting teacher. For nine years she worked with City Theatre, which produces the acclaimed Summer Shorts Festival and for 7 years was Festival Artistic Director. In addition to directing countless short plays for City Theatre, her work has been seen in many South Florida Theaters, including Coconut Grove Playhouse, Florida Stage, The Caldwell Theatre, New Theatre, and The Kravis Center. Ms. Garrison has taught acting, voice and movement at FAU, BCC, and at many other venues throughout the South Florida community. She is currently teaching at New World School of the Arts. She also has a private coaching practice and teaches presentation skills for executives.

#### SPECIAL THANKS

- To **Danielle Le Moal**.
- To **Mark and Patricia at Isla Trade Corporation** for the use of the table and hutch.
- And, as always, to **Marianna Murray** for her constant vigilance of all things departmental.

There will be a ten-minute intermission.

THE DINING ROOM is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

# The Dining Room

by **A. R. GURNEY**

Directed by **GAIL GARRISAN**

Scenic Designer **CASPER MACHADO\*** Lighting Designer **KRIS CARDENAS\***

Costume Designer **MARILYN R. SKOW** Sound Designer **JADE GOODRIDGE\***

Vocal and Movement Coach **TRACEY MOORE** Movement Coach **SAYDA TRUJILLO**

Technical Director **CELSO PERUYERA** Assistant TD **GEORDAN GOTTLEIB**

Costumer **MARINA PAREJA** Graphics and Photography by **STEPHEN NEAL**

\*Indicates Student Designer

**Casting Note: The actors play 59 characters, ages 6 to 76**

**NATALIE BIRRIEL**

**ASHLEY CAPO**

**CHRIS CROMER**

**CORINNE FARKASH**

**MICHAEL LEON**

**PAUL PEREZ**

**DAVID SOLOMON**

**FRANCESCA TOLEDO**

The action takes place in 18 different dining rooms over five decades, 1930—1980

#### PRODUCTION STAFF

**MORGAN HOWLAND-COOK**.....Stage Manager  
**B. J. DUNCAN**.....Assistant Stage Manager  
**AMY GONZALEZ**.....Assistant Stage Manager  
**VERONICA GONZALEZ**...Assistant Costume Designer  
**MARIA ROVIRA**.....Sound Consultant  
**TONI RAVELLO**.....Costume Head  
**ROGER BENAVIDES**.....Property Master  
**REBECCA CASTLE**.....Makeup Assistant  
**JOSHUA DOBARGANES**.....Master Electrician  
**JESUS RODRIGUEZ**.....Assistant Master Electrician  
**JOSE URBINO**.....Light Board Operator  
**MORGAN HOWLAND-COOK**...Sound Board Operator  
**YAMARYS SALOMON**.....Paint Charge  
**JACKIE MARTINEZ**.....Costume Construction  
**PATRICIA ALMODOVAR**.....Costume Construction  
**EMMA SAVAIN**.....Costume Construction  
**JOSE GRAU**.....Costume Run Crew  
**JUAN ESPINOSA**.....Costume Run Crew  
**NAN SUPHARIYANONDA**.....Costume Run Crew  
**PATRICIA ALMODOVAR**.....Floor Crew  
**AMIR MOUSSAWEL**.....Floor Crew  
**MICHAEL FERNANDEZ**.....Light Hang  
**PHILLIP EDIE**.....Light Hang  
**LATOYA BUNDEL**.....Light Hang

**DOUGLASS REILLY**.....Paint Crew, Light Hang  
**XAVIER VEGA**.....Set Crew  
**FERNANDO LAMBERTY**.....Set Crew  
**JENNIFER GONZALEZ**.....Set Crew  
**JOSHUA DOBARGANES**.....Set Crew  
**ALAIN MESA**.....Set Crew  
**ANGELICA REYES**.....Paint Crew, Set Crew  
**ROZANNE RUDD**.....Set Crew  
**JESUS RODRIGUEZ**.....Paint Crew  
**BRENDEN McCUNE**.....Paint Crew  
**ANDREA BOVINO**.....Paint Crew  
**CINDY VARGAS**.....Paint Crew  
**NATALIE CEBALLOS**.....Paint Crew  
**STEPHEN NEAL**.....Business Manager  
**RYAN CAPIRO**.....Box Office Manager  
**CHELSEA DURAN**.....House Manager  
**CAROLINA POZO**.....House Manager  
**CAIRO CANGAS**.....Usher  
**ELIZABETH CORTINA**.....Usher  
**JANINE GRANDA**.....Usher  
**LAURETTA NAVARRO-WATTS**.....Usher  
**EMILY J. FRAIL**.....Publicity  
**ALLISON SCHACK**.....Concessions/Will Call  
**KATY McCOMAS**.....Box Office  
**GIOVANNI VELAZQUEZ**.....Box Office

# Coming Attractions

SENIOR PROJECTS: A Couple of Redheads

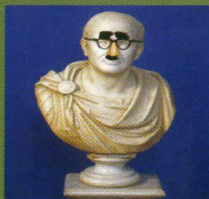


Lisa LaGrande: Rita



Deanne Saavedra: Lucy

December 3, 2006



A FUNNYTHING HAPPENED  
ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

by Burt Shevelove,  
Larry Gelbart &  
Stephen Sondheim

Directed by Phillip M. Church

February 7 - 18, 2007

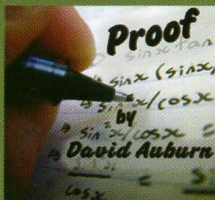


SILENCE

by Moira Buffini

Directed by  
Tracey Moore

April 5 - 15, 2007



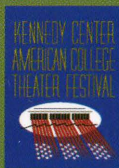
PROOF

by David Auburn

Directed by  
Judy Bauerlein

April 4 - 14, 2007

Call 305-348-3789 for tickets and information. Visit us at [www.fiu.edu/~thedan](http://www.fiu.edu/~thedan)



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival  
XXXVIII

Presented and Produced by

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Supported in Part by

The U.S. Department of Education

Dr. and Mrs. Gerald McNichols

The Laura Pels International Foundation

The Kennedy Center Corporate Fund

The National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2006.

Last year more than 1,400 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.