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 Garrisan

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 then, with works produced in the 80s bringing him his most critical acclaim and success. Several of his plays have been featured on Broadway.

A. R. GURNEY

Gail Garrisan

ABOUT THE GUEST DIRECTOR Gail Garrisan 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. Garrisan 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.
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

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival
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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.