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"Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out To Dry" by Jules Styne, Sammy Cahn

SHERYL LAWRENCE HOWARD (Florence Foster Jenkins) is pleased to be doing her ninth production with The WordPlayers either as an on-stage character, or music direction, or pit playing. Mrs. Howard has been blessed to play amazing female characters for The WordPlavers such as Emma Goldman in Ragtime, Sally Brown in You're a Good man Charlie Brown, Martha in *Secret Garden* and Mrs. Fairfax in Jane Eyre. It is a great

THE ARTISTS

Special thanks to the artistic staff – Ethan Graham, Terry, Steve, Edina, and Alex. And of course, thanks to Mike and the beagles (Gatsby and ZuZu) for their constant unconditional love and support.

world of Florence Foster Jenkins and her love of "good" music. Mrs. Howard is excited to play opposite long time friend Matthew Mimbs.

honor to be able to dive into the

MATTHEW E. MIMBS (Cosme **McMoon)** is not only excited to

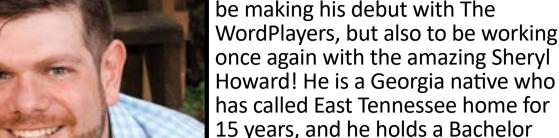
of Music in Church Music with a Minor in Theatre from Carson-Newman University, where he

performed in several Lyric Theatre

ETHAN GRAHAM ROEDER (Director) is a multi-disciplinary theatre maker, Knoxville native, and founder of First

based in Knoxville. Previous directing

Take Co., a new theatre company



productions, including My Fair Lady (Freddy Eynsford-Hill), Thoroughly Modern Millie (Trevor Graydon, III), and Seussical: the Musical (Horton the Elephant). He has been involved both onstage and off in many productions with Encore Theatrical Company in Morristown such as Follies (Young Ben), Into the Woods (Rapunzel's Prince), 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (William Barfee), and Ragtime (Tateh), and he served as music director for *The Full Monty* and *The Hunchback of* Notre Dame. Matt made his Knoxville theatre debut in the Clarence Brown Theatre and Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's collaborated production of Bernstein's Candide, in which he understudied the title role. He has been a featured soloist at First United Methodist Church in Morristown in oratorios such as Handel's Messiah and Haydn's Creation, and at Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville as the Evangelist in Chilcott's St. John's Passion. In 2019 he was a soloist in Handel's Messiah for the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra's Classical Christmas Concert at the historic Tennessee Theatre. He sings with both the Knoxville Choral Society and the Knoxville Chamber Chorale, and he is a collaborative pianist at Carson-Newman University and

at both the Morristown and Sevierville campuses of Walters State

Community College. Matt also serves as Director of Music and Arts at 2nd Presbyterian Church in Knoxville. Matt lives in Knoxville with his

credits: Miss A's Garden Party, The Coffeeshop Cabaret, All's Well That Ends Well (First Take Co.), Bare (UTK Theatre Department), and a slew of assistant directing projects in Knoxville, Cincinnati, and Minnesota. As a playwright, his newest immersive piece, THE ERSATZ EXPRESS, recently premiered as part of the Off the Grid Series at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Local Acting: Clarence Brown Theatre, Flying Anvil Theatre, Oak Ridge Playhouse. Thanks to Terry, Sheryl, Matt, and Alex for their generous spirits and the chance to tell this story as part of the team. BA, MSIS: UTK. Up next: PROOF OF CONCEPT with First Take Co. Learn more at linktr.ee/ethangraham. **ALEX DRINNEN** (Stage Manager) is a writer, designer, actor, educator and producer. Born and raised in Knoxville, he started involving himself in the theatrical world at age 7 and has not stopped since. He currently works as the Technical Director at Knoxville Children's Theatre, as well as is pursuing his MFA in Pedagogy, with an interest in dramatic theory and criticism from the University of Idaho. As a playwright, his work has been produced in Nashville and surrounding communities. His play, The Family Marcher, was named as a Top Finalist for the International Thomas C. Wolfe Playwriting Award in 2020 and his most recent piece, Dallas, Russia, will premiere at the University of Idaho in the spring of 2023. He is also a credited Teaching Artist with the Nashville Children's

STEPHEN F. KREMPASKY (Set Design) is the Executive Director of the Farragut Business Alliance, promoting retailers, restaurants and

service providers in the Town of Farragut. Additionally, he is President

DANA SPEARS (Dresser) Dana has worked with children's and community theatre for many years in Georgia before her recent move back to her home state of Tennessee. She is thankful for the opportunity to work with The WordPlayers for the first time. BOARD OF DIRECTORS President: Angie Johnson Secretary: Jeni Lamm Treasurer: Terry Weber Directors: Robert Bright Shawn Carson Tom Cervone

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Graphic Designer – Terri Lloyd Webmaster – Joe Jaynes

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We are thankful for the support of our 2022-2023 Season Contributing Players! (Gifts given between Aug. 1, 2022 and Oct. 3, 2022)

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2022-2023 Season! WordPlayers Theatre Company Advent Touring Show

History Tour Althea and Angela by Todd Olson Available to tour to your facility: February 13 – March 10, 2023 In 1955, Althea Gibson and Angela Buxton were world-ranked tennis players ... yet no one wanted to partner with them in women's doubles. In fact, few even wanted to talk with them. Post-War America was still very segregated and the tennis world was still very anti-Semitic. Althea, a black woman from Harlem, and Angela, a Jewish woman from Liverpool, were outcasts in two nations. So they decided to join forces outside their own country. What happened then made history.

COMING UP in our Nativity on the Square by Tom Long Touring the Greater Knoxvile Area: Nov. 27 - Dec.21, 2022 Please see our website for a schedule of public performances. The figures of a public creche scene come to life on Christmas Eve and attempt to discover who they are. A drunken bag lady explains the Nativity to them in a manner that is both comic and deeply moving. (Length: 25-30 minutes) **Holiday Mainstage Show** A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas by Laurie Brooks at Pellissippi State Community College, 10915 Hardin Valley Road, Knoxville Public Performances: Fri., Dec. 9th @ 7:30 pm, Sat& Sun, Dec. 10 & 11 @ 2:30 pm School Shows: Dec. 9, 12, 13 & 14 @ 9:30 am & Dec. 12 also at Noon. Reservations must be made in advance for school shows. A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas is a one-act play with music, based on the beloved series of "Little House on the Prairie" books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The playwright imagines events that occurred when the Ingalls family had to leave Walnut Grove to run a hotel in Iowa. It is a story about hope, perseverance, and family. (Recommended for ages 6+)

Theatre, leading their improvisation classes, devised work, and creative role-play courses.

dog, Ralphie.

of MASSKUS Productions, a special events consulting agency. Steve has designed over 320 theatrical and corporate productions and just finished Metamorphosis for Bearden High School, Once Upon A Mattress for Hardin Valley Academy and Into The Woods for the Oak Ridge High School Masquers. He is currently designing the musical Curtains for Bearden High School. Steve is a "Fellow" of the American Association of Community Theatre with over 34 years of industry service. **EDINA BOBREK** (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be costuming another WordPlayers' production. Edina began her "unofficial" work in costuming several years ago working with Bearden High, The WordPlayers, and other schools and local theatre companies. Favorite projects include The Addams Family, Les Miserables, Little Women, Jane Eyre and Bright Star. Edina is especially grateful to The WordPlayers for giving her this opportunity to work with this wonderful cast and crew. Special thanks to my wonderful family for putting up with a house filled with costumes and supplies.

Leann Dickson, James Williams STAFF Artistic Director – Terry Weber Managing Director – Jeni Lamm Artistic Associate – Ethan Norman

Tennessee Arts Commission The WordPlayers is impacting the greater Knoxville community for the Kingdom of Christ! Your support is needed and greatly appreciated! The WordPlayers is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Please send your tax deductible gifts to P.O. Box 50451, Knoxville, TN 37950-0451. You can help secure the future of The WordPlayers by supporting our endowment through The East Tennessee Foundation. Please consider building The WordPlayers endowment through your estate planning and planned giving. Contact East Tennessee Foundation, (865) 524-1223, for more information.

Our 2022-23 Season is being supported, in part, by federal award number 21.027 awarded to Knox County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Arts & Culture Alliance. For more information please visit: www.wordplayers.org. To receive periodic updates, please join our email newsletter list and mailing list. Also, follow us on Facebook (The WordPlayers), Twitter (@wordplayers) and Instagram (wordplayers).

"It All Depends on You" by Ray Henderson, Lew Brown, B.G. Desylva Copyright © 1926 (Renewed), Chappell & Co., Stephen Ballentine Music, Ray Henderson Music All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. "Violets for Your Furs" Copyright © 1941, Music Sales Corporation (ASCAP) International. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" by Frank Loesser Published by Famous Music LLC (ASCAP) All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. TIME 1964 at first, returning to 1932 through the '40s CAST FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS - Shervl Lawrence Howard COSME McMOON - Matthew E. Mimbs PRODUCTION TEAM Director - Ethan Graham Roeder Music Direction - Sheryl Lawrence Howard & Matthew E. Mimbs Stage Manager - Alex Drinnen Set Design - Steve Krempasky Sound Design - Troy Stavros Lighting Design - Joe Jaynes Costume Design - Edina Bobrek Props Coordinator - Terry Weber **Dresser - Dana Spears Board Operator - Stavros Keritsis** Publicity - Cheryl Masur & Candace Moore SPECIAL THANKS UT Dept of Theatre, Christy Fogarty, Jack Hopkins, Lisa Stockton, West End Antique Mall, Central Baptist Bearden, Erin Presbyterian DIRECTOR'S NOTE It would be easy to write Souvenir off as a classic comedy: the eccentric leading lady sets up the laughs, the straight man knocks them down. Simple enough! However, the further our actors dug into these characterizations, the more themes (subtle or otherwise) began to appear. If you're here for a good laugh, Souvenir definitely offers that opportunity, but it also explores the choice between making money or making meaning with your art; the disparity between those with talent and those with money, and the gap in opportunities afforded to each; and, perhaps most notably, the love of music as a force that transcends all else. Amidst all of these themes, one question consistently appeared: "Where is the line between laughing with someone and laughing at them?" There's speculation on whether Mrs. Foster Jenkins was in on the joke - it's possible Florence was much like actor Sheryl Howard, an extremely skilled musician and vocalist who actively used her technique to "sing badly" very, very well. If so, then we're laughing with her. If not, we invite you to examine why you find yourself laughing, because it's likely you will! Recently I've come to terms with the fact that I laugh not because her "folly," as McMoon calls it, is so great, but rather that her heart is so open. I chuckle because I see in her what I often lose sight of myself: the childlike joy of performing for its own sake. Her spirit is something to be admired, and each time I watch the show, I feel a little closer to that sense of wonder. I hope you feel the same. Matt and Sheryl deliver virtuosic, marathon performances. There's no downtime for either actor, and we've reveled in the almost vaudevillian nature of costume changes, prop handling, and, of course, sheer amount of music. This is a play about real people, and our actors have imbued their own years of musicianship and the trials of leading artistic lives into the story. You may have come for name recognition, but I hope as you leave the names on your lips are Matthew Mimbs and Shervl Lawrence Howard. "Art cannot be ruled by caution." -- Ethan Graham Roeder, director