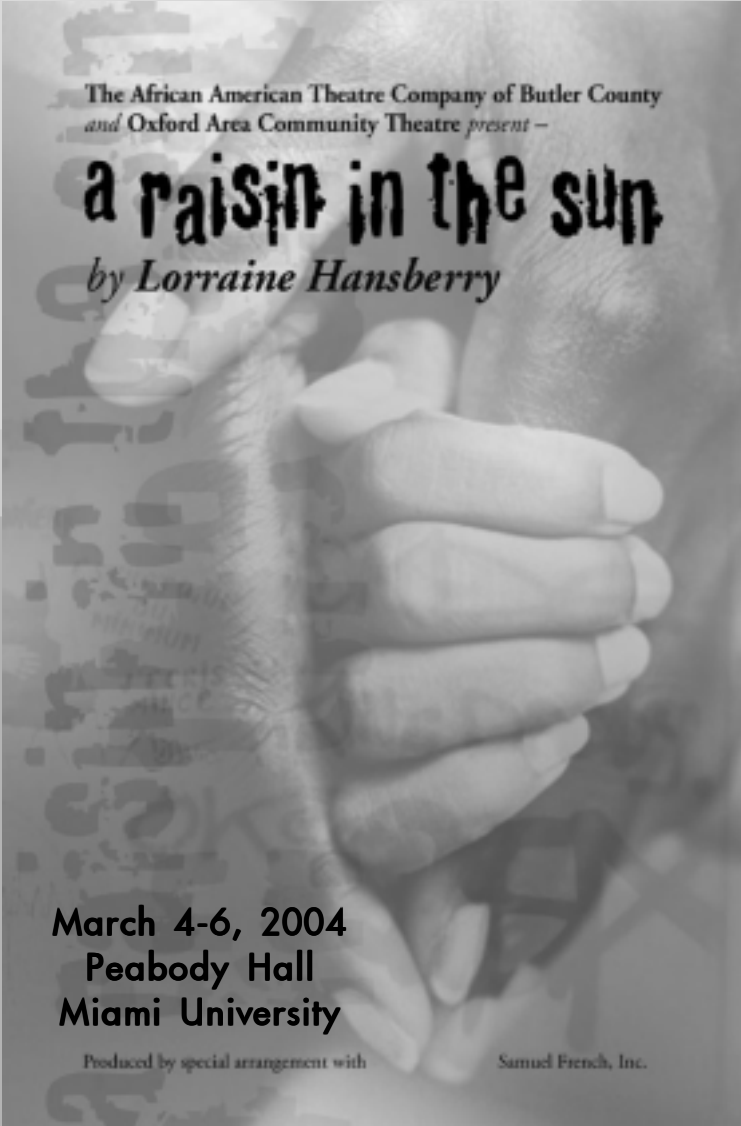




OxACT

Oxford Area Community Theatre
presents its 23rd Season



The African American Theatre Company of Butler County
and Oxford Area Community Theatre present –

a raisin in the sun
by Lorraine Hansberry

March 4-6, 2004
Peabody Hall
Miami University

Produced by special arrangement with

Samuel French, Inc.

Please support the

**The Oxford
Community Arts
Center
You gotta
have art!**



Fundraising is well under way, but there is still plenty of room for new donors!

Significant contributions are still needed for building renovation and grounds improvements. In order to recognize large-scale donations, there will be one or more permanent wall plaques honoring those who give and whose generosity has made this worthy project possible. Financial assistance is greatly appreciated and will help us make this worthy project a reality!

Donations made to the Oxford Community Foundation are tax deductible. To make inquiries about contributions or pledges to an Arts Center Renovation Fund in the Oxford Community Foundation, please telephone the Foundation's executive director at (513) 523-0623.

To make a donation at this time, please make checks payable to:

Oxford Community Arts Center, Inc.

And send to:

Oxford Community Arts Center

P.O. Box 172

Oxford, OH 45056

For more information about becoming a donor, contact:

Thomas C. Olver, Campaign chairman

Phone: 513-523-7591 Email: tolver@wooglin.com

OxACT

2003-04 SEASON CONTRIBUTORS

BENEFACTOR \$250+

Susan and Barry Chabot
J. Howard and Gwyneth DuBois
Meikle family

ANGEL

\$100 - \$249

Patricia Belin and Frank Thomas
Lisa and Marc Biales
Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity
Jane and Arnold Gross
Lois and Joseph Hookey
Doug and Joan Hoover
Will and Mary Lee Keebler
Jim and Sarah Michael
Marcia and James Olcott
Thomas Olver
John and Sandra Pont
Deborah and Douglas Ross
Gil and Sue Siegel
Sally and Jack Southard
Dixie and Luke Utter
Sallie R. Wadsworth
Joseph and Kate Wespiser
Allan Winkler

MARQUEE

\$50 - \$99

Linda and Dave Augspurger
Elsa Jane Baer
Brad Cotterman
Richard and Mary Daniels
Patrick Dowling and Sally Smith
Don and Marcella Eberwine
Elizabeth and Donald Gerber
Charley and Helen Griffin
Marilyn and Robert Johnson
Georgie and Jack Reardon
Judith and Jimmy Trent
D.M. Wesson
Dave and Sue Wilson
You're Fired!

PATRON

\$25 - \$49

Jeanne Bassett
Thomas and Martha Blackiston
Bill and Nora Ellen Bowers
Barb and Michael Broida
Barbara Diehl
Jane Flueckiger
Grace Halte
Marilyn Hoewelerr
Jim and Jean Marks
Mary P. Melvin
Martin and Ruth Miller

Rebecca A. Morgenson
John and Shirley Moser
Marilyn Rettig
Wendy Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. Settevendemie
Phil and Martha Shriver
Helen Kuller Snider
Pierre and Letitia Sotteau
Joanne and Neil Will
Bud and Bibbi Williamson

Special THANKS go to:

Thacker Photography

... for the publicity photos for *Raisin*, some of which are on display in the lobby, as well as the cast photo in this playbill. Owner/photographer Dotti Thacker's studio is at 5958 Fairfield Road, Oxford. Tel. 513.523.8083 or 800.243.8083.

Western College Program, Miami University

... for the use of Leonard Theatre for final rehearsals and performances.

Miami University Art Museum

... for serving as the OxACT ticket office for this season and to the docents who provide the people-power for ticket sales.

Fey Insurance

... for sponsoring the opening night reception

Oxford Community Arts Center

... for providing space to rehearse *Raisin* over the past two months. Special thanks to the Arts Center for continuing to provide space for OxACT's lights, props, costumes, etc.

Tanze Performing Arts Center and Susan Moser

... for additional rehearsal space

Ball of Oxford

Mike Elam and Miami Systems Corporation

... for designing and printing the posters

The Greater Hamilton Civic Theatre

... for the use of costumes

Mike Ripberger, Capitol Dry Cleaners

... for discounting the cleaning of costumes

Steve Pauna, Tom Featherstone, and Gion DiFrancesco

... of the Miami U. Theatre Dept. for their generosity in allowing us to use props and furniture from their stock

NOTES ABOUT OUR THEATER

The Women's restroom is located at the end of the hallway in the south wing (just outside the theatre) and the Men's restroom is located at the end of the north wing. In addition, there are restrooms located downstairs. Please ask an usher for directions.

The use of recording devices or cameras is strictly prohibited.

Please put pagers, beepers and chiming watches on "silent" setting or check them with the house manager during performance. ALSO PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE!

Parents are requested *not* to bring a child under age 2 into the theater. Anyone disrupting the performance will be asked to leave.

Interested in contributing? Financial contributions provide opportunities to enhance community spirit and promote the arts at the local level. Our contribution levels are:

\$25-\$49 PATRON

\$50-\$99 MARQUEE

\$100-\$249 ANGEL

\$250+ BENEFACTOR

If you would like to become a contributor, please phone OxACTION at **523-OACTION (6228)**, or send a check made out to OxACTION to **P.O. Box 535, Oxford, Ohio, 45056**.

*If you liked "Cole," you'll
LOVE the*
TALAWANDA DRAMA SPRING PRODUCTION:

Cole Porter's
Anything Goes



Mar. 25 Dinner Theatre
(6:00 dinner, 7:30 curtain)

March 26 7:30

March 27 2:00 and 7:30

THS Auditoria. Ticket prices:

Dinner show \$25 per person, phone 523-0110.

Other performances

\$5 in advance, \$7 at the door.

**For tickets, phone 523-3063 or
purchase uptown at Juniper**

AFTER-SHOW RECEPTION

The OxACTION Board of Directors invites everyone to join the cast and crew at the reception immediately following the Thursday night performance. The reception will be held in the "Gallery" adjacent to the theatre.



***Thanks to the Volunteers from The
Knolls of Oxford for hosting
the reception.***

OxACT's Founding Patrons

Susan Braunig
Bill Brewer
Sgt. David Broxterman, USA
William and Charlotte Bruhn
Allan and Christina Button
Robert and Biz Campbell
Roger and Marilyn DeSoucy
Randy and Bev Devirendt
Edgar Dupont
The General Store/Finishing Touches
John and Kathy Gerberick
Dave and Becky Heckert
Bill and Jane Hollingsworth

Michael Keller
Joe and Janet Kretschmer
Jack Liles
John Lowrey
Marilaine's
Mrs. C. Rollin Niswonger
Jack and Sally Southard
C. E. and Betty Stousland
Dennis and Helen Sullivan
Stephen E. Toney
William and Dixie Utter
Kaye York-Longworth



OxACT Mission Statement

"The mission of the Oxford Area Community Theatre shall be to provide the community with the highest quality amateur theater possible. In order to achieve our goal, OxACT will present a mixture of musicals, dramas and comedies from the classical and contemporary repertoire. We will do our best to achieve balance between shows that are appealing to the audience, cast, crew and director while increasing theatrical knowledge for all involved."



OxACT's 2003-04 Board

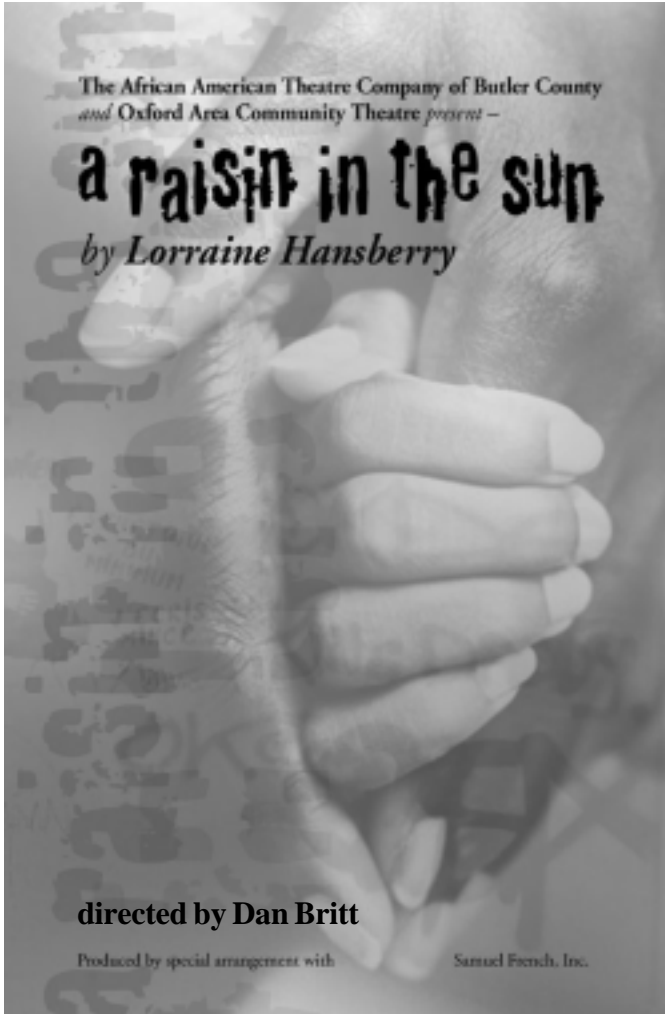


Susan Meikle, president
Bob Campbell, treasurer
Anne Settevendemie Ritz,
secretary
Biz Campbell
Steve Elliot

Mike McVey
Daryl Olthaus
Tom Olver
Deb Richardson
Ryan and Marie Steffen
Donna Stevens

OXFORD AREA COMMUNITY THEATRE
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATRE COMPANY OF
BUTLER COUNTY

presents



Sponsored by
Arby's of Oxford

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

MOVING MAN Gary Hines
RUTH YOUNGER..... Melanie S. Rogers
TRAVIS YOUNGER Josh Wright
WALTER LEE YOUNGER..... Carlos Baxley
BENEATHA YOUNGER..... Kerri Duncan
LENA YOUNGER (MAMA) Cynthia Pinchback-Hines
JOSEPH ASAGAI..... Stuart Frazier
GEORGE MURCHISON Terence V. Moore
BOBO..... Jeff Woodard
KARL LINDNER..... Daryl Olthaus

*All of the action takes place in the Younger's apartment on
Chicago's Southside in the early 1950s*

Act One

Scene 1

Morning, Friday

Scene 2

The following morning, Saturday

Act Two

Scene 1

Later that same day

INTERMISSION

Scene 2

Friday night, a few weeks later

Scene 3

Saturday, one week later

Act Three

An hour later



The Design/Production Team and Crew

Co-producer/Assistant Director

Donna Stevens

Co-producer/Set & lighting design/Technical director

Rebecca Howard

Stage Manager, light board

Amy Pomante



Props/running crew

Deb Richardson



Sound/running crew

Joe McQueen

Set construction/painting

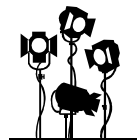
Gary Richardson, Deb Richardson, Lisa Richardson,
Tyler Richardson, Austiin Richardson, Susan Meikle, Claire Meikle,
Kaili Fuehrer, Dan Britt, Donna Stevens, Rebecca Howard, Daryl
Olthaus, Tom Olver, Carlos Baxley, Melanie S. Rogers, Amy Pomante

Load-in crew

Nick Delphia, Stuart Frazier, Jason Harnish, Zoe Streicker-Howard

Costumes

JoAnne McQueen, Ruth Britt



CAST/CREW

Carlos Baxley (WALTER) is excited to work with The African American Theater Company of Butler County and OxACT for this production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. As Bobo/Joseph Asagai in November's co-production with Middletown Lyric Theater, he had a chance to work with some very talented individuals and is once again blessed to work with an equally talented group. "I would like to thank my family, friends, co-workers and cast/crew for their support. If our performance enlightens one person then we have done what we have set out to do."

Daniel Britt (DIRECTOR) may be familiar to area theatre goers as an actor. This is the second incarnation of his first venture directing a full play. He has performed in such plays as *The Rainmaker*, *Death of a Salesman*, *True West*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, and *Biloxi Blues*, to name a few. What you see tonight is the result of a determined and talented cast and crew going the extra mile to help bring this important play to your stage. None of this would have been possible without the generous spirit of the OxAct board, the guidance and experience of Rebecca Howard, and the unselfish and compassionate efforts of Donna Stevens. And those lessons lovingly learned from Biz Campbell.

Ruth Britt (COSTUMES): Ruth's beloved late father would be happy that the tuition he spent for UC's school of fashion design is not going to waste. Thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in this important production.

Kerri Duncan (BENEATHA) is a 4th year Miami University theatre major from Inglewood, CA. In the past year, she has been the makeup designer for *Boys from Syracuse* and *Birds*; the latter of which earned her a nomination for the American College Theatre Festival. Kerri's "thanks you's": First, I would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for keeping me healthy and sane throughout this entire process. I would also like to thank: my parents and sisters; Logan; Candace and Caleb; Brynn, Marquita and Kim; and Talea. Finally I would like to thank Dan for giving me this chance – I almost gave up hope but then you came along; Donna, I'm going to miss our drives to Tanze-let's keep in touch; Melanie, Cynthia, Carlos and Josh for being another extension of my family and welcoming me with open arms; the rest of the cast and crew for being such a wonderful ensemble to work with; and finally MU Theatre's faculty and staff for their guidance, patience and/or support!

Stuart Frazier (ASAGAI) Stuart is a senior at Miami University, majoring in English: Creative Writing. His acting experience stems from numerous high school chorus and dance roles. He has also been featured in a number of student films as an undergrad and recently filmed in a short documentary for the Underground Railroad Freedom Center. On campus, he is a member of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc., a member of the Tower Players—an improv comedy troupe—and an integral member of the staff in the office of the Provost, i.e., student aide. He also volunteers in any way he can to better the community—such as signing participants up for Pledge-A-Meal. "I am very pleased to be involved in this play and I thank everyone for giving me this opportunity."

Cynthia Pinchback-Hines (LENA (MAMA)) Cynthia's acting career dates back to high school, where she performed in *The Night of January 16th* and *You Can't Take it with You*. She joined the Thespian Club in college and learned to appreciate the art and craft of acting there. Cynthia performed Off-Broadway in Philadelphia and last year in *Ties that Bind*, a one-act play written by Ruth Britt and presented at the Fitton Center in Hamilton, OH. Most recently, Cynthia portrayed "Mama" in the Middletown Lyric Theatre production of *A Raisin in the Sun*. Cynthia is President and Principal Consultant for TalentEd Network. She resides in West Chester, OH with her husband Gary and children Erik and Brooke.

Gary Hines (MOVING MAN) Gary characterizes himself as an activist. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Gary is currently President of Gph Consulting Group and President of the NAACP—Hamilton/Fairfield/West Chester/Mason branch. His first experiences acting took place in church pageants, under the direction of his mother—Sunday School superintendent. Today, he is attracted to roles tied to his passion for social justice. This production of "A Raisin in the Sun" is Gary's debut as an adult actor. Gary says, "I appreciate the opportunity to perform in this esteemed play." The role he enjoys most is being husband to his wife Cynthia and father to his children Erik and Brooke.

Rebecca Howard (co-producer/set & lighting design/technical director) Ever the glutton for punishment, Becky is once again pretending she knows what she is doing. Her onstage experience gives her a distinct advantage in pulling this off. Her eternal gratitude goes to Ann and Kaili for their patience and perseverance, and to Donna and Dan for making her look good.

Terence V. Moore (GEORGE) Terence Moore was born in rural North Carolina and graduated from N. C. State University with a Chemical Engineering degree. He branched out into community theatre by writing and acting in his first play at the Fitton Center One-Act Play Competition and has also appeared onstage in *Billy Yank's Diary* at Parrish Auditorium and *A Raisin In The Sun* sponsored by the Middletown Lyric Theatre. Why has he gotten involved in theatre? "I'm balancing my structured engineering training with the zany, creative side that I experience in the theatre." Terence is a founding member of the African American Theatre Company of Butler County (AATCBC). He wishes to thank his wife April for her unwavering support, his two kids Aaron and Terentia for being his inspiration, Dan and Ruth Britt for introducing him to the theatre, and the actors of the AATCBC for being a blessing to local theatre.

Daryl Olthaus (LINDNER) Currently an OxACT board member and Registered Nurse at Fort Hamilton Hospital, Daryl has participated in a variety of OxACT productions over the last seven years, most recently *The Wizard of Oz*, and *You Can't Take it With You*, *The Adventures of Peter Pan and Wendy*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Bell, Book and Candle*, *The Rainmaker* and *Dames at Sea*. He also played Reuben in Miami University Summer Theater's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*.

Amy Pomante (stage manager/light board operator) This is Amy's 2nd time being recruited by Becky to help OxACT with lights. It's been Lovely! Break a leg everyone!

Deb Richardson (props/running crew) By day, “Dr. Deb” helps Miami students stay healthy. By night, “Dr. Mom” cheers for Lisa, Tyler, and Austin in their many sports and activities. “Thanks for your patience and support, Gary!” Deb was in OxACT’s *Wizard of Oz* and *Talking With*, and in shows with several area groups. She was an actor-screenwriter with The Countering Group for the *48-Hour Film Project (2003-Cincinnati)*.

Melanie S. Rogers (RUTH) Melanie is happy to be portraying “Ruth Younger” in *Raisin* for a second time under the magnificent direction of Dan Britt for OxACT. She was recently seen as “Cassie Cooper” in *RUMORS*, at Middletown Lyric Theater, and has also been seen in the *Fitton Center’s One Act Plays 2003*, *The Tuskegee Airmen* for Don Del Productions, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Chocolate City*, *Kilimanjaro*, and *The Student One Acts*, all for Ufumbuzi Players at Delaware State University. She earned a degree in Secondary English/Language Arts/Reading Magna Cum Laude, and has been playing the part of an 8th Grade Language Arts/ Reading teacher at Winton Woods Middle School in Cincinnati - one of her best roles ever! She would like to thank God for the talent; Daniel Britt and Rick Carson for their patience in sharing her between plays while both *Rumors* and *Raisin* were in progress simultaneously, and for their constant support; her new Middletown Lyric Theater family for their kindness and warm wishes; the wonderful cast and crew of this production; and her parents, Broderick and Dianne Rogers, for their constant encouragement and love.

Donna Stevens (Assistant Director, Co-Producer). According to her mother, Donna has been “acting” since she was in the first grade. Having performed most recently in OxAct’s *Cole* and *The Wizard of Oz*, Donna has also worked onstage and backstage for many OxAct productions. She feels very fortunate to have so many gifted, loving teachers, mentors, extended family and friends in the local theater community. Donna thanks Dan Britt for allowing her to participate in the production of this powerful story and to work with such a talented cast and crew.

Jeff Woodard (BOBO) is making his acting debut in this production. He is associate director for product supply at Procter and Gamble. While growing in responsibility with P&G, Jeff has lived in Iowa, South Carolina, North Carolina and now Cincinnati, Ohio. He has been a Mason youth football coach since 2000, and a member of the Solid Rock Church where he teaches a senior high Sunday School class and is a supporter of the Solid Rock Church Men’s Ministry. Jeff is the husband of Joan and father of Jasmine, Jordan and Jillian.

Josh Wright (TRAVIS): “I was born in Oxford, Ohio 1991. I’m the youngest of four other. One brother, three sisters. I’ve been at Talawanda Middle School for 2 years. Now I’m 12 years old in the seventh grade. Things I like to do in my free time are, hanging out with my friends, playing video games, and listening to music. I love sports. I have played them since the first grade, football, basketball and a little track. I don’t know why but I love to be the center of attention. I love to make others laugh. That’s just me. And I’m glad God’s leading my way to the next level.”

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AUDITIONS FOR OXACT'S PRODUCTION OF

THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES

- The Oxford Area Community Theatre (OxACT) will be staging
- Frank Gilroy's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *The Subject Was Roses* May 14-16. The play will be directed by Bill Brewer.

Audition dates are

**7 p.m. Sunday, March 7, and
7 p.m. Monday, March 8**

at the Oxford Community Arts Center, located at the corner of High St. and College Ave. in Oxford. Parking is available behind the building.

**Casting Requirements:
One young man, 20s;
One mature man, 50s;
One mature woman, 50s.**

Those who audition will be asked to read from the script.

For additional information, contact the director at 513-524-2227 or at bbrewer@designedlearning.com

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Director's Note

"The intimacy of knowledge which the Negro may culturally have of white Americans does not exist in the reverse." —Lorraine Hansberry

Several years ago, my wife Ruth and I began a journey through this oftentimes troubling reality of race and segregation in our communities. It began with a news headline that the Cincinnati area is the eighth most segregated community in the country. As we began to better understand the implications of that statement, we realized that the theatre is one of the few open societies we have. But here in Butler County, it is sorely lacking in diversity. We could not deny the responsibility to help change that. In April of 2002, we helped form the African American Theatre Company of Butler County (AATC/BC).

*From the beginning, the members of the AATC/BC have accepted the mission of creating diversity in area theatre and fostering understanding in our community. By presenting plays about the African American experience, we felt we could prepare actors and backstage technicians in the disciplines of the dramatic arts and thus open the area community theatre companies to a greater opportunity for integration and our communities to a better understanding of who we all are. Thanks to OxAct, we are able to bring you ***A Raisin In The Sun***.*

*Lorraine Hansberry's ***A Raisin in the Sun*** was first produced in 1959. It has been called a turning point in American art because it is the first play to present an honest portrait of a black American family. The themes in this play – lost dreams, the struggle for identity, segregation and assimilation, and the power of family – are as relevant today as they were in 1950s. We have designed our set to represent incomplete lives – dreams deferred – and to use one of the most common, hard-working characters in this play – the mover – to carry the message of hope.*

If you are white, this is most likely the first play you have attended in your community that is about a black family. If you are black, this may be the first time you have attended the live theatre offered in your community. Either way, we hope it is not your last.

*Thank you,
Dan*

OxACT

Seasons

1988-89

Baby

Painting Churches
Skin of Our Teeth

1989-90

Sound of Music
The Glass Menagerie
Arsenic and Old Lace

1990-91

Closer Than Ever
The Diary of Anne Frank
Once Upon a Mattress
Marriage of Figaro

1991-92

The Music Man
Gianni Schicchi and Suor Angelica
The Shadow Box
The Odd Couple

1992-93

Agnes of God
Ten Little Indians
Die Fledermaus
Oklahoma!

1993-94

Annie!
Fefu and Her Friends
The Fantasticks

1994-95

Working
The Miracle Worker
The Boys Next Door

1995-96

Carousel
Nunsense
The Lion in Winter

1996-97

Annie Warbucks
You Can't Take It With You
My Emperor's New Clothes

1997-98

Steel Magnolias
Sylvia
Adventures of Peter Pan and Wendy
No Fish in the House

1998-99

Stefanie Hero
You're a Good Man Charlie Brown
Bell, Book & Candle

1999-2000

Forever Plaid
The House of Blue Leaves
Talking With . . .
The Rainmaker

2000-01

E. Hemingway
Nuncrackers: The Christmas Musical
The Prince and the Pauper
Dames At Sea

2001-02

Parallel Lives
I Do! I Do!

2002-03

Luv
The Wizard of Oz

2003-04

Cole
A Raisin in the Sun
The Subject was Roses

1980-81

Mouse Trap
Blithe Spirit
The Boyfriend

1981-82

Barefoot in the Park
Wait Until Dark
The King and I

1982-83

Bus Stop
Harvey
Oliver

1983-84

Prisoner of Second Avenue
Inherit the Wind
Working

1984-85

Ah, Wilderness
Dial "M" for Murder
Pippin

1985-86

Godspell
6 RMS RIV VU
The Dining Room

1986-87

Evita
The Real Inspector Hound
Our Town

1987-88

Fiddler on the Roof
All My Sons
Morning's at Seven



We invite you to take a few minutes before or after the show, or during intermission, to look through the collection of programs from past seasons in the album(s) in the lobby. Find yourself, or old friends, or memories of cherished productions from previous years.

If you have any photos, programs, or posters from OxACT shows that you would like to see included in our archive, and possibly on the website, please phone Becky Howard at 513-756-1963 to arrange for us to borrow them long enough to have the images scanned and added to our computerized collection. We are especially interested in any materials from the earliest years.



Oxford Area Community Theatre
P.O. Box 535
Oxford, OH 45056
513-523-OACT (6228)
www.oxact.org