

• Director's Notes

Stage Door is one of the "war horses" of American theatre. Originally written in the 1930s by two of the brightest minds in the literary circles of the day, *Stage Door* was an immediate hit and has continued to be produced across the country for 70 years. The story is almost formulaic now but that is because many others have stolen this "blueprint" or at least some of its elements, and an audience doesn't realize that they are watching the original.

The story of young hopefuls seeking success in the theatre has been retold many times but Edna Ferber and George Kaufman have infused their telling with wit and a sly hint that they are not taking themselves or their characters too seriously. The brash young playwright, the young producer who sold out to Hollywood, the hard-nosed studio head, the 17-year-old actor ready to tackle Hamlet, the parents unsure of their daughter's dreams surround these young women who have come to NYC to pursue those dreams.

Most people are familiar with *Stage Door* from the RKO film starring Katherine Hepburn and Ginger Rogers. The movie and the stage play bear only passing resemblance to each other. Some names are the same and some of the original dialogue was kept in the film but the story line is very different. The stage script is far superior even with its outdated argument: Is emoting for film really acting or is it a product much like Campbell's Soup? The main attraction to the film is to see Ann Miller, Eve Arden and Lucille Ball in one of the first important appearances of their careers. It is the film that gave Hepburn a line that would long be associated with her, "The calla lilies are in bloom. They are such a strange flower." Comics and imitators would use the line for years and be assured of an appreciative laugh.

The truth which makes this play of lasting interest is that an audience loves to see a person search for a special place in the world and are reassured when once again the characters they love achieve their dreams. That is why *Stage Door* is a "warhorse" (an old play an audience loves to see again).

— Jim Moody

Fort Smith Little Theatre
presents

Stage Door

by Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman

Directed by Jim Moody
February 11-19, 2005

with permission from Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Act 1

Scene 1 • The Footlights Club (Main Room).

Somewhere in the West Fifties, New York.

Scene 2 • One of the Bedrooms. A month Later.

Scene 3 • Again the Main Room. A year later.

Intermission

Act 2

Scene 1 • Two months later. (Same)

Scene 2 • The following season. (Same) A Sunday morning.

Scene 3 • About two weeks later. (Same) Midnight.

• Crew List

Director Jim Moody
Assistant Director Leslie Kidder
Producer Jill Ledbetter
Music Micki Voelkel,
Mary Beth Koprovic
Recorded Vocal Accompaniment George Mann
Costumes Wendy Quick,
Rosemary Johnson, Kaye Birkhead, Clara Jane Rubarth
Props Martha Gooden
Lights Art Corey, Joann Waldroupe
Set Ed Chamberlain
Stage Managers Leslie Kidder, Susan Cowan

Special Thanks to **Beau's Tuxedo**
and to **A Closer Look Photography Studio**

• Cast of Characters

Olga Brandt Julianne Koch
Mattie Coleen Montgomery
Mary Harper (Big Mary) Nikki McDaniel
Mary McCune (Little Mary) ... Audrey Jagers
Bernice Niemeyer Margo Cameron
Madeline Vauclain LaRae Seay
Judith Canfield Cara Tongier
Ann Braddock Leslie Kidder
Kaye Hamilton Cecilia Woods-McDonald
Linda Shaw Monica Longoria
Bobby Melrose Angel Pulliam
Louise Mitchell Jill Ledbetter
Susan Paige Annalisa Jenner
Pat Devine Fran Milam
Kendall Adams Louise Barling
Terry Randall Sarah Woods
Tony Gillette Crystal Maroney
Ellen Fenwick Dlynn Muck
Mrs Orcutt Glenda Stockton
Frank Blake Young
Sam Hastings William Hasty
Jimmy Devereaux Jody Vrostek
Fred Powell Zachary Hammon
Lou Milhauser Richard Van Wagoner
David Kingsley Rob Ledbetter
Keith Burgess Rham Cunningham
Mrs. Shaw Ginny Lang
Dr. Randall Jim Moody
Larry Westcott Donovan Arterburn III
Billy Wes Rester
Adolph Gretzl Ron Watson

Singers Micki Voelkel,
Mary Beth Koprovic, Glenda Stockton