

Milford Second Street Players

proudly present

Neil Simon's

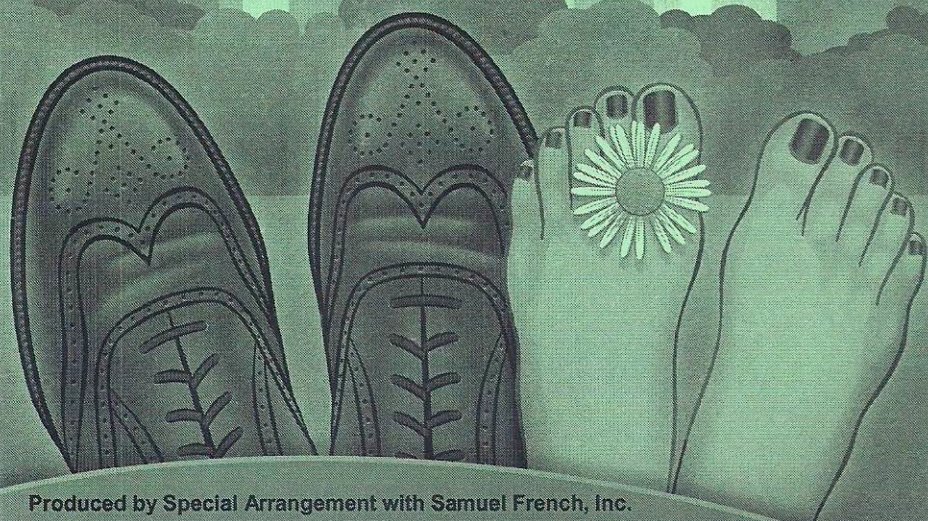
Barefoot in the Park

Directed by Mark A. Dissinger

July 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 2011

Riverfront Theatre

2 S. Walnut Street, Milford, DE 19963



Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

CAST

Corie Bratter Samantha Simpson
Paul Bratter Tyler Ryan
Ethel Banks Maria Fry
Victor Velasco Steven Haber
Telephone Man Michael Schmiedlin
Delivery Man Maynard Gregory

ACT ONE

The top floor of a brownstone on East 48th Street, New York City.
About 5:30 on a cold afternoon in February 1968.

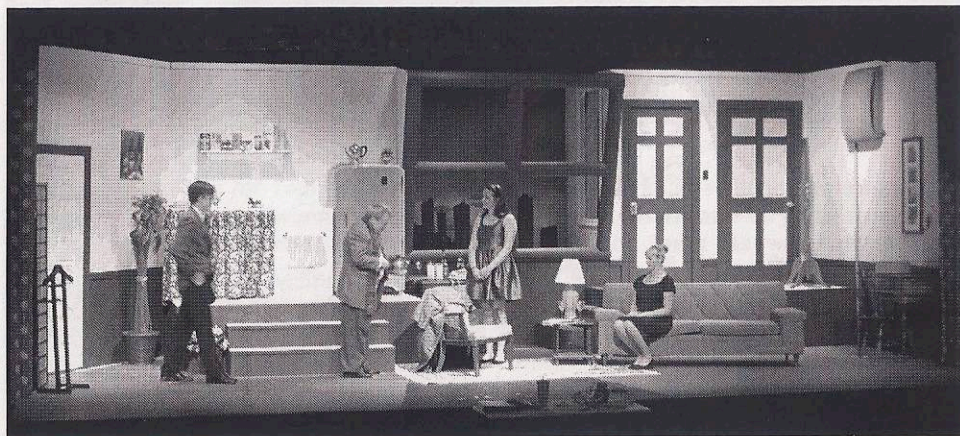
ACT TWO

SCENE 1: Four days later. About 7:00 pm.
SCENE 2: Later that night. About 2:00 am.

ACT THREE

The following day. About 5:00 pm.

There will brief intermissions after ACT ONE and ACT TWO



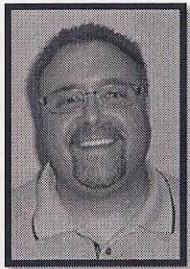
Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park* . . . in rehearsal at Riverfront Theatre.

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

PRODUCTION

Director Mark Dissinger
Assistant Director Titia Halfen
Producer Steve Twilley
Stage Manager Ben Lonski
Stage Crew Debbie Passwaters, Leslie Eustis
Maynard Gregory, Michael Schmiedlin
Consulting Stage Manager LeRoy Andrews
Lighting Design Mark Dissinger,
Carly Jo Hosbach, Ben Lonski
Technical Assistant Carly Jo Hosbach
Set Design Mark Dissinger
Master Carpenter Chris Annand
Master Artist Bill Walton
Set Construction & Painting LeRoy Andrews,
Mark Dissinger, Maria Fry, Maynard Gregory,
Steven Haber, Titia Halfen, Eric Korpon, Joan Lofland,
Ben Lonski, Dan Marabello, George Mason,
Michael Schmiedlin, Samantha Simpson,
Robin Twilley, Steve Twilley, Bill Walton
Costumes Sharon Buchanan, Titia Halfen, Cast
Properties Susan Newark, Tracy Dissinger, Cast & Crew
Publicity Susan Newark, Mark Dissinger
Tickets Tracy Dissinger, Judy Venturini
Hospitality Ben Lonski

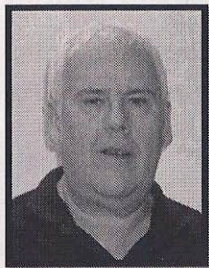
Meet the cast and crew of BAREFOOT IN THE PARK



Mark Dissinger (DIRECTOR), SSP Board member and treasurer, has directed many, many shows with SSP (usually with much larger casts than six!) including such personal favorites as *Cinderella*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and – as a performer – *Wait Until Dark*. Mark also directed *Barefoot in the Park* in Pennsylvania 19 years ago! He and his wife, Tracy, share a home in Milford with daughter, Libby, and various four-legged creatures. Taking his cue from the show, Mark says that “in the 19 years Tracy and I have been married, we have lived every day as if it was the first six days!”



Maria Fry (Ethel Banks) has been on stage as a dancer since the age of four and has been doing plays since she was 12. Some of her more recent shows with SSP include *How the Other Half Loves*, *Gypsy*, *Annie*, and *Crimes of the Heart*. She has also choreographed for SSP, Kent County Theater Guild and Calvary Assembly of God Church. Maria says that “making people laugh is the best medicine in the world.” Away from the theatre Maria enjoys physical activities and home improvements. She is also a dance instructor for the First State Academy of Dance. Maria lives in Milford, with her son, Sean.



Maynard Gregory (Delivery Man) has been on the Riverfront stage numerous times in such shows as *Sweeny Todd*, *Annie*, *Cinderella*, and many children’s theatre productions. He directed the children’s show, *Red Vs. the Wolf*. Maynard and his wife, Eleanor, live in Milford with three dogs, a cat, and a rabbit. Daughter, Linda, is currently studying in South Korea. “*Barefoot in the Park* gives us a snapshot of life in the early 1960s, before the turmoil later in the decade. You can see the changing attitudes in the show and its characters.” Away from the theatre, Maynard is an addictions counselor and enjoys cheering on his Red Sox!



Steven Haber (Victor Velasco) returns to SSP after appearing in last year’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. “If you’ve ever thought of being on the stage, or behind it, Second Street Players is the group for you,” Steven says. “It’s only my second show here, and I feel like part of the family!” He adds, “I think this play has things we can all relate to: A mother who needs extra attention, a young couple in the first stages of their relationship, a colorful neighbor, and of course, a Princess Phone!” Steven lives with his partner of 22 years, Eric, and their two cats, Mary Ann and Ginger. He works for a tax information publisher from his home office.



Titia Halfen (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) co-directed *A Love Affair* and assistant directed many shows including *As You Like It*, *A Christmas Story*, and SSP’s *Moonlight and Magnolias*. Titia makes her solo directorial debut later this year with SSP’s holiday production of *Humbug*. She also appeared in *Our Town* and *Nuncrackers*. About *Barefoot in the Park*, Titia says, “I love it! It’s a funny, sweet show — it’s a hoot! — and it’s been a privilege to work with Mark and the entire cast and crew.” Titia lives in Prime Hook with her mom and dad, and doggie, Dixie. She is an RN at Hope House Fellowship Health Resources.



Ben Lonski (STAGE MANAGER) has appeared in SSP’s *Our Town*, *Meshuggah-Nuns!*, *The Homecoming*, *Oscar & Felix*, *Dinner With Friends*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A member of SSP’s Board, Ben directed last fall’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and will next direct *I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change*. He has stage managed many shows and enjoys it so much that he spends many weekends moving the furniture around in strangers’ unlocked homes. Watch out!! Ben is a physical therapy assistant at the Milford Center. He lives in Magnolia with his wife, Debbie, and enjoys time with their children, Troy, Rebecca, Sarah, and Patrick.



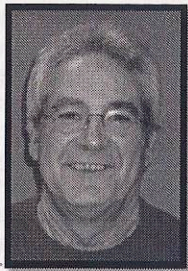
Tyler Ryan (Paul Bratter) is a theatre major at Albright College in Reading, PA, where he has appeared in *Arabian Nights*, *Eurydice*, and *What We’re Up Against*, and numerous high school productions. This is his first show with Second Street Players. Unlike his character in *Barefoot in the Park*, Tyler says he “doesn’t enjoy games much — like Paul doesn’t enjoy Corie’s games. But, unlike Paul, I’m not a big relationship person.” Tyler lives here in Milford with his parents and sister. When not onstage or working at his summer job at Sketchers USA, Tyler enjoys playing guitar and “nerd things.”



Michael Schmiedlin (Harry Pepper, the Telephone Man) makes his community theatre debut with *Barefoot in the Park*. Watching his son Zachery’s play rehearsals gave him the itch to audition. Michael lives with his wife, Shawna, and their kids, Zachery and Alexandra, in Dover where he is a speech therapist with Genesis. Unlike the characters in *Barefoot in the Park*, Michael doesn’t recall any fights with his wife during their “first six days” of marriage because “you realize that the love two people have is stronger than a difference...or two or three!” He thanks Mark for giving him the shot, and the cast and crew for a great experience.



Samantha Simpson (Corie Bratter) is also making her Riverfront Theatre debut but, as a drama major at Washington College and before that at Wesley College, she has appeared in such shows as *Spring Awakening* and the soon-to-be-published *Conversations With God*. Sam relates so well to her character’s behavior that “I’d rather not think about how much like Corie I am!” Still, the Camden resident says, “this is a play — and a part — that I’ve wanted to do for some time so I’m thrilled to be part of this production. I’ve fallen in love with the cast and this theatre and will miss you all when I return to school in the fall!”



Steve Twilley (PRODUCER) is an SSP board member and frequent Riverfront actor and director, appearing in *Our Town*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Oscar and Felix*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, and *Caught in the Net* among many others. He has directed such shows as *The Homecoming*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *Deathtrap*. Steve says he loved working with Mark (...and especially while Mark was away on vacation!) but says that while Mark had the vision, it was Steve, Robin, and Ben who built the window from which to see it. Steve and his wife, Robin, share an empty nest in Milford...but still with Jake the Blunder Dog and visits from sons, Brandon and Tyler.

Special Thank You to:

David Wilkerson, for the really cool refrigerator.

God's Way Thrift Store for some furniture pieces.

Fitzgerald Salvage and Recycling

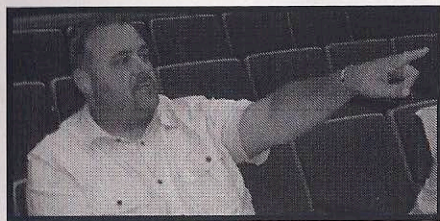
Gaffney Productions

SSP Board of Directors

The audience and supporters of Second Street Players

*We appreciate your support and look forward to providing
you with live community theatre entertainment
for many years to come.*

From the director...



Thank you for coming to see a production of my favorite Neil Simon show. In 1946, Neil Simon worked in the mail room of the Warner Brothers offices in Manhattan following service in the Army Air Force. He quit that job to write radio and television scripts with his brother, Danny. He wrote for many

CBS radio series and was noticed by Sid Caesar who hired him for his popular, "Your Show of Shows." Mr. Simon's writing talents led him to great success over the years. *Barefoot in the Park* is the second non-musical show he wrote. It opened on Broadway in October of 1963 and became his longest running Broadway hit - 1,530 performances. It is the 10th longest-running non-musical in Broadway history.

Now, Milford is not Broadway, but we strive to come close. This is the second time I have directed this show, the first being 15 years ago right before my daughter was born. My wife made me promise to take a break from theatre which I did, for a little while. When I set out to direct the show this time I knew in my mind what I wanted to see on stage; from the set to the characters and everything else that gets pulled together to make the show happen. I am happy to say that what you will see this evening is everything I imagined - and then some.

Community theatre is about fun and entertainment and teamwork and sharing the love of theatre with the audience so that they can forget about life for awhile and be entertained. Married couples will see a lot of themselves in Corie and Paul. This show is about marriage; the ups and downs, the compromises, the "I told you so's." It all works out in the end, we all know that. But it is sometimes a funny road to the end.

I have listed some "Special Thank You" notes in the playbill but I want to take a moment to thank some extra special people. To my Assistant Director, Titia. She was right with me the whole way and it felt like we were finishing each other's sentences most nights at rehearsal. To my production staff and all volunteers that gave their time and talents every time there was work to be done. To my cast, you took my visions and ran with them and built them into a wonderful production. To my very special friends that are my family, you know who you are, please know that words cannot express my gratitude. Finally and most importantly; Libby, thanks for putting up with your dad's crazy ideas and antics and for being the best daughter a dad could have. My wonderful wife, Tracy. You have walked "Barefoot in the Park" with me for nearly 19 years and I could not have asked for a better walking partner.

Mark Dissinger