

Milford Second Street Players

proudly present

GREATER TUNA

Written by
Jaston Williams
Joe Sears
Ed Howard

Directed by
J. Denise Baker

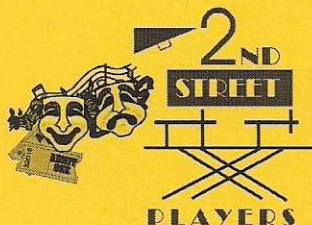
April 29, 30, May 1, 6, 7 & 8, 2011

Riverfront Theatre

2 S. Walnut Street, Milford, DE 19963

302 422-0220

www.secondstreetplayers.com



Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

In Memory of Our Friend, Partner,
and Fellow Performer

Harvey Williams

May 1, 1927 — February 28, 2011

Harvey Williams was a Navy veteran, comptroller for Masten Trucking and, later, Milford Stitching, radio announcer for Milford High School football and basketball games, past president of the Milford Little League, former Milford City Councilman, active member of the Avenue United Methodist Church, and loving husband, father, and family man.

Harvey was also one of the original members of and driving forces behind Milford Second Street Players. From his first appearance onstage in SSP's second show, *Once Upon a Mattress* in 1981, to his role as the hilariously confused dad in *Caught in the Net* in 2004, Harvey delighted audiences — and his fellow cast and crew — with his comedic, dramatic, and vocal talents. Behind the scenes, Harvey was a long-time member of the SSP Board of Directors and, for many years, served as Treasurer. His fiduciary skills, dedication, and love of the theatre guided Second Street Players for more than three decades, perhaps never more importantly than during the purchase and renovations (twice) of what is now Riverfront Theatre, home of his beloved Players. In all of these roles, Harvey's dry wit, hearty laugh (even at himself), and that ever-present twinkle in his eye served him — and us — very well.

Harvey and Betty Lou, his talented and loving wife, were fixtures at Second Street, whether onstage, backstage, or just enjoying the shows with the rest of us. He will never be replaced and we will never be the same without him. Thank you, Harvey. We miss you.

Board of Directors
Milford Second Street Players, Inc.

GREATER TUNA CAST & CREW

Bill Walton

Thurston Wheelis
Bertha Bumiller
Sheriff Givens

Randy Hoffpauir

Arles Struvie
Pearl Burris

Joshua Wakeley

Charlene & Stanley Bumiller
Vera Carp
Petey Fisk

Joe McCann

Chad Hartford
Leonard Childers
Reverend Spikes

Dan Payne

Harold Lattimer
Coach

Melissa Janson

Hank Bumiller
Yippy
Elmer Watkins

Debra Passwaters

Jody Bumiller
Phinas Blye

Jessica Neal

Ronnie
R.R. Snavely

Paula Smith

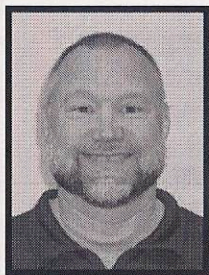
Didi Snavely

Director.....	J. Denise Baker
Assistant Director.....	Paula Smith
Stage Manager.....	Susan Newark
Properties.....	Susan Newark
Make-up & Costumes.....	Cast
Set Design.....	J. Denise Baker
Set Painting.....	Bill Walton
Lighting Design.....	John Moller
Lighting Board Operator.....	Valerie Richman
Original Pre-Show / Intermission Commercials.....	Bill Walton
Publicity.....	Susan Newark, Joan Lofland, Dan Marabello
Playbill.....	Steve Twilley
Tickets.....	Tracy Dissinger & Valerie Andrews
Hospitality.....	Ben Lonski

MEET THE PEOPLE OF



J. Denise Baker (DIRECTOR) has been a member of Second Street Players since their third show, *Harvey*, which she directed in the early 1980's. Since then, she has directed and acted in many shows, and currently serves on SSP's Board of Directors. Her favorite onstage roles were in *The Spitfire Grill*, *Nonsense II*, and *Nuncrackers*. "My favorite shows I directed were the ones that had Harvey Williams in them. Second Street Players will not be the same without him." Denise thinks that, "*Greater Tuna* reflects that part of the community we try to avoid, but we love to laugh at their ignorance!" Two years ago, Denise retired from Lake Forest High School where she was a drama, speech, and English teacher. She lives in Frederica.



Randy Hoffpauir (Arles Struvie, Pearl Burris) has appeared in Second Street's *Wait Until Dark* and *Dearly Departed*. "I first saw *Greater Tuna* in Monroe, Louisiana, in 1987," Randy recalls. "Everyone in the audience had seen the show many times because they shouted out favorite lines as the actors performed them!" Randy grew up in a small town in Louisiana, not far from the Sabine River (just to the east of the great state of Texas). "All of the characters in this play were neighbors (or relatives!) of mine," he says. "I have enjoyed playing Arles because he's so much like fellows I know back home. And, I like playing Pearl because she's MORE than something of a challenge!" Randy lives in Milford with twin 10 year old sons, Josh and Jake.



Melissa Janson (Hank Bumiller, Yippy, Elmer Watkins) has been involved with theater since high school and majored in communications and theater in college, where she also directed children's theater. She has appeared on the Riverfront stage in *Lend Me a Tenor*, *The Crucible*, *Dearly Departed*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Jake's Women*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. "My favorite parts were as Beth in *Dinner with Friends*, and Susanne in *Dearly Departed*." About her fellow cast members, Melissa says, "I am ashamed that these men can play women so well. My biggest challenge was trying to talk and walk like a man!" Melissa lives in Milford with daughters, Megan and Tyler. She works at home as a call center coordinator for Aetna, Inc. and is a die hard EAGLES fan!



Joe McCann (Chad Hartford, Leonard Childers, Reverend Spikes) brings his talents back to Riverfront Theatre after most recently appearing in last summer's *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and SSP's *Oscar and Felix* three summers ago. He has also appeared onstage in Baltimore, Annapolis, and Washington, DC, in such shows as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Kid Purple*. Joe and his wife, Kathryn, live at Prime Hook with their dog, Cooper, and cats, Maggie and Rooney. Joe says that Prime Hook isn't similar at all to Tuna, Texas but that "people are odd or different everywhere — thank heaven! — and that includes me!"

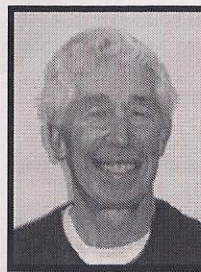
GREATER TUNA



Jessica Neal (Ronnie, R.R. Snavelly) makes her Second Street Players and Riverfront Theatre debut with *Greater Tuna*...and her first time onstage since middle school! "I am a singer at heart!" she says. Jessica sings with the southern gospel group, New Direction, and the Milford Church of God choir. "Everyone will see one of their relatives in the *Greater Tuna* characters," she says. "That's what makes the show even funnier." She adds, "I love R.R. Snavelly's musical abilities. He reminds me of myself!" Jessica lives in Milford with husband, Travis, and 10-year-old son, Logan, and two-year-old daughter, Kathleen. She is the assistant branch manager at the Sussex County Federal Credit Union.



Susan Newark (STAGE MANAGER, PROPS) has appeared in several Second Street shows including *Our Town*, *Seussical—The Musical*, *Cinderella*, *Annie*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Miracle Worker*. Susan is a member of the SSP Board, serving as secretary and properties chair. In her spare time, she is an RN at Bayhealth Medical Center and owner of Triple M Farms. Susan lives in Staytonville with husband, Jack, and children, Mason and Melanie.



Dan Payne (Harold Lattimer, Coach) makes his Second Street Players debut with *Greater Tuna*. He was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in a small town on Staten Island which, Dan says, had many of the personalities present in *Greater Tuna*. He says when he first saw the play in San Francisco years ago, it evoked memories of his growing up and he thinks others will feel the same way. As an international tax lawyer, Dan's work took him throughout the U.S. and the world. When he retired and moved to Delaware, he finally had time to devote to a lifelong ambition of being "'on the stage' for pleasure and not work." Dan lives with his wife Ceil in Rehoboth Beach. They have two sons living in Florida and California.



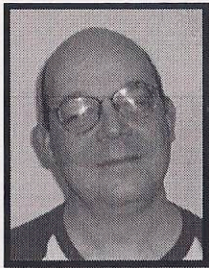
Debra Passwaters (Jody Bumiller, Phinas Blye) returns to the Riverfront stage after appearing in last year's *Meshuggah-Nuns!* and 2009's *Babes in Toyland*. Debbie was also rehearsal assistant when Denise Baker directed *How the Other Half Loves*, was stage manager for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and is also currently directing SSP's upcoming Children's Theatre production of *The Three Bully Goat's Griff*. "I love the characters of *Greater Tuna* but Milford is a little more cultured than Tuna, Texas!" Debbie says. "It has been a blast working on this show. Let's just say 'what happens on the set of *Tuna* stays on the set of *Tuna*!'" Debbie lives in Milford with "my two wonderful and crazy dogs, Hope and Chance."



Paula Smith (Didi Bumiller, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) makes her first appearance at Riverfront but has previously done such shows as *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Dracula*, *Done to Death*, and *Lil' Abner*. A resident of Felton (with Bill, Nolah, Aylish, five cats, and two guinea pigs), Paula says that where she lives is "pretty similar to Tuna in that we know most everyone. My parents owned a sporting goods store that sold guns so I have that in common with Didi, but Bertha is my favorite character as she is a misguided, though well-meaning mother – much like many of our mothers." "Rehearsals have been a hoot!" Paula says. "Everyone in the cast has been great and I have especially enjoyed working with Denise again after quite a few years."



Joshua Wakeley (Charlene & Stanley Bumiller, Vera Carp) was just seen as George in Second Street's opening show of the 2011 season, *Our Town*. He is an alumnus of Lake Forest High School where he performed in *Tom Sawyer*, *Lil' Abner*, and *Les Miserables*. He was also in a show there called *Greater Tuna* — which won Best in State at the Delaware Annual High School Theater Competition. Josh has also portrayed the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Wonderland* and Snoopy in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Josh is a huge theater and film fanatic, and enjoys spending time with friends. "We never know exactly what we're going to do at the moment – but that's half the fun!" Josh lives in Frederica with his parents, Lauri and Scott.



Bill Walton (Thurston Wheelis, Bertha Bumiller, Sheriff Givens) has been in SSP's *The Homecoming* and *Babes in Toyland*, as well as all seven Children's Theatre productions — from *Elves and the Shoemaker* to the upcoming *Three Bully Goats Griff*. Bill played guitar and mandolin in the orchestra for *The Sound of Music* and *Spitfire Grill*, and has been the "master set painter" for Second Street productions going back to *Annie* in 2006. "Working on this show has been one hilarious rehearsal after another," Bill says. "If it looks like we're having a lot of fun on the stage tonight, it's because we are — and we have been for a couple of months now!" Bill lives in Felton with Paula and their daughters, Nolah and Aylish.

GREATER TUNA...

*...takes place in various locations
in Tuna, Texas.*

*...will be presented in two acts
with a fifteen minute intermission.*

*...contains adult language
intended for mature audiences.*

From the director...

Greater Tuna has always made me laugh. I've done this show several times using as many as 20 actors and, as it was intended, only two. The creative manner in which it was written lends itself to a variety of interpretations, but there always has been something funny about seeing men dress in women's clothing.

Add that to the ability to laugh at another's foibles and you've got a funny show.

My clever cast of nine has worked diligently at being rednecks with a minimum of brain cells — truly, quite a stretch for several of them. And how we have laughed at rehearsals! It has been a pleasure not only to watch how the actors have progressed with the individual character interpretations, but also to watch how they have sneaked peeks at each other as different motives and techniques were discovered on stage.

Hopefully, this light comedy will take your mind off any troubles you might have for a few hours.

I would like to dedicate this show to Randal Hilton who died in the past year. He and Josh Wakeley won Best in the State when we competed in the Delaware Annual High School Theater Competition. Randal's portrayal of Vera will live long in the minds of all who saw him. Randal, you left us too soon.

J. Denise Baker

SPECIAL THANKS

Jeff Rettig

Paula Smith & Bill Walton

Debra Passwaters

Chris Annand

Lake Forest High School

The entire cast for their contributions to the show