

*The
Summit
Playhouse
Association*

The following program is from our 2004-2005 season.

For information on our current production,
and on other shows we have presented,
please visit our web site at

<http://SummitPlayhouse.org>

The Summit Playhouse Association
Established 1918
10 New England Ave
Summit, NJ 07974
908-273-2192



The Summit Playhouse Association Presents



Fiorella!



Director's Note

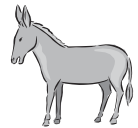
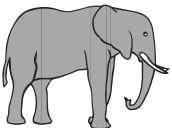
When I was just a kid in Brooklyn, I remember my parents talking about how proud they were of their "paesano," Fiorello H. LaGuardia, the mayor of New York City. How he helped the immigrants. How he fought and won his battle with the corrupt, unscrupulous Tammany Hall. How the three-term "Little Flower" became the most beloved mayor of one of the world's greatest cities. How he could have gone even higher in politics had he not succumbed to pancreatic cancer at the age of 60.


Fast forward to 1960 and to a singer and lover of anything I could hum. Hearing such wonderful songs from this Pulitzer Prize winning Broadway musical that had just copped six Tony Awards was to bring back sweet memories of a time gone by.

Fast forward even further and here I am having the opportunity to direct Fiorello! It didn't matter that it encompassed "a cast of thousands" and close to two dozen set changes to be done on a postage-size stage. It was, for me, a dream come true.

Now it is said that 80% of the success of a show can be credited to the director's selection of the cast and the selection of a very talented creative team of the musical director and choreographer. I got all that, and in Spades! (pun on Politics and Poker). In addition, the production you are about to see could not have been possible without the help of a very dedicated and talented backstage crew.

Having said all this, we invite you to enjoy this evening as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you, reliving with us a slice of history about that rare and wonderful man, Fiorello H. LaGuardia.





The Summit Playhouse Association presents its
Two Hundred Eightieth Production

Fiorella!

Book by **Jerome Weidman & George Abbott**

Music by **Jerry Bock**

Lyrics by **Sheldon Harnick**

Set Construction

Ed Johnson
& Mike Tatlow

Lighting & Sound

Bill Roome

Costumes

Heather Amsler

Assistant Director

Nancy Gurley

Producer

Vincent J. Balzano

Stage Managers

Nina Deutz
& P. T. Kizzia

Properties

Geraldine Zoccoli

Director

Rose Pancirov

Musical Director

Ken Horn

Choreographer

Stephanie Warkulwiz

November 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 at 8:00pm
Sunday Matinee, November 14 at 2:00pm

The Playhouse Association
10 New England Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 273-2192 www.SummitPlayhouse.org

Cast

Chaz Turner..... Fiorello H. LaGuardia
Sandra Rudnitzky Marie Fischer
Joseph Schmidt Ben Marino
Melanie Ann Lombardi Thea Almerigatti
Bethany K. Fustos Dora
William A. Yersevich Morris Cohen
Keith Sampino Neil
Brian Carroll Floyd McDuff
Stephanie Warkulwiz..... Mitzi/Strikette/Ensemble
Bud Dawson Hack/Senator/Frank Scarpini/Ensemble
John Becker..... Hack/Commissioner/Ensemble
Gil Childers Hack/Chadwick/Ensemble
Paul Morrengiello Mr. Lopez/Hack/Judge/Ensemble
Michael K. Wnoroski Hack/Politician/Ensemble
Robbi Curtis..... Mrs. Pomerantz
Jim Knight Mr. Zapatella/Ensemble
Marzella Fierro..... Chorine/Dancer/Ensemble
Jeslyn Wheeless Strikette/Chorine/Majorette/Ensemble
Liz Dawson Strikette/Ensemble
Emily Russoniello Strikette/Ensemble
Ethan Aires..... Newsboy/Ensemble
Sarah Aires..... Newsboy/Ensemble

Acknowledgments

The Playhouse would like to thank the following for their assistance:

Bickford Theatre
Chatham Community Players
Florham Park Players
Phillip-Jeffries, Ltd.
Upholstery Unlimited in Westfield
Abby and William Yersevich

**This program was printed with a generous grant
from Victor M. Jaramillo.**

Scenes & Songs

Act I

Prolog: WNYC Radio Studio, 1930's.

Scene 1: Fiorello's Law Office, 1915.

"On The Side Of The Angels"

Scene 2: Republican Party Office, later that day.

"Politics And Poker"

Scene 3: Outside Strike Headquarters, later that day.

"Unfair"

Scene 4: Fiorello's Law Office, later that day.

"Marie's Law"

Scene 5: Three Street Corners, 1916.

"The Name's LaGuardia"

Scene 6: Outside Republican Party Office, after Election Day.

"The Bum Won!"

Scene 7: Roof of Greenwich Village Tenement, 1917.

"I Love A Cop"

Scene 8: Fiorello's Office in Washington, DC, a short time later.

Scene 9: Outside Republican Party Office, a few weeks later.

"I Love A Cop (Reprise)"

Scene 10: Republican Party Inner Office and Yard, immediately after.

"Till Tomorrow"

Scene 11: LaGuardia Goes To War, 1917 to 1918.

Scene 12: New York Dock, after Armistice, 1918.

"Home Again"

Act II

Scene 1: LaGuardia's Home, 1929.

"When Did I Fall In Love"

Scene 2: Floyd & Dora's Penthouse Terrace, a brief time later.

"Gentleman Jimmy"

Scene 3: Fiorello's Law Office, the next week.

Scene 4: Street Corner, that night.

Scene 5: Street Corner, later that night.

Scene 6: Outside Fiorello's Law Office, Election Night, 1929.

"Gentleman Jimmy (Reprise)," "The Name's LaGuardia (Reprise)"

Scene 7: Republican Party Office, 1933.

"Little Tin Box," "The Very Next Man," "Politics And Poker (Reprise)"

Scene 8: Fiorello's Law Office, the next morning.

"The Very Next Man (Reprise)," "The Name's LaGuardia (Reprise)"

There will be a 15 minute intermission, during which refreshments will be served in the lounge downstairs.

Who's Who

Fiorello! marks **Ethan Aires'** stage debut. He would like to thank his Mom and Dad for all their support, and thank Rose Pancirov for her faith in him. He recently attended Union's School of Music where he studied tap and sculpture.

Sarah Aires started in theater a year ago and has recently been seen in *The Sound Of Music* as Maria and in *Little Shop of Horrors*. This is her first appearance at the Playhouse. She thanks Rose Pancirov, her family, and her friends for their support. Sarah attended Union's School of Music where she studied voice, musical theater, and modern dance.

John Becker, a Playhouse member for twenty years, has appeared in Playhouse productions of *She Loves Me*, *Side By Side By Sondheim*, and *The Crucible*. With other groups, John has appeared in *My Fair Lady* (Higgins and Freddy — in different productions), *Our Town* (Editor Webb), *A Funny Thing Happened ...* (Hysterium), and *Blithe Spirit* (Charles).

Brian Carroll started in theater late in life, and has recently been seen in *To Kill A Mocking Bird* as Boo and in 2004's *Jersey Voice's* at Chatham. He would like to thank his wife Ellie for all her support. He would also like to thank Rose Pancirov for this opportunity. This is Brian's first appearance at the Summit Playhouse.

Fiorello! marks **Gil Childer's** debut with the Summit Playhouse as well as his return to community theater after a lengthy hiatus. In the interim, he has been a regular in the Brayton Dessert Show. Gil would like to thank his mother for instilling in him a love for the theatre and his wife Anne and his children for their support and sacrifices.

Robbi Curtis, a Playhouse member for twenty years, has appeared here in *She Loves Me*, *Side By Side By Sondheim*, *The Diary Of Anne Frank*, *84 Charing Cross Road*, *The Dresser*, and *Enchanted April*. She has directed *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Remembrance*, and *A Grand Night For Singing* for the Playhouse. Robbi and her husband, George Doherty, spend their free time playing with their grandchildren, Fiona and Seamus.

Bud Dawson is excited to be back on the Playhouse stage after a ten year hiatus doing theater work in Florida. He looks forward to other work on his "Stage of Choice" in Summit.

Liz Dawson has appeared in 14 productions at the Playhouse, as well as numerous productions with other groups, including Plays In The Park (Edison), Chatham Players, Westfield Players, Barn Theater (Mountain Lakes) and Florham Park Players. Her favorite roles include Bananas in *House Of Blue Leaves*, Lucille in *Cemetery Club*, Grand Duchess in *The Student Prince*, and Annie in *Foxfire*.

Marzella Fierro is appearing at the Summit Playhouse for the first time. She has appeared as dancer in several musicals at St. Peter's Prep High School, including *Return to the Forbidden Planet* and *Those Damn Yankees*.

Bethany K. Fustos is a 2004 graduate whose B.A. in Theatre with minors in Italian and Psychology, which allows her to psychoanalyze Italian-speaking theater-goers (sometimes). She has been in over 50 productions in New York and New Jersey since the age of seven, and leaves you with this parting thought: Tennessee Williams wrote, "In memory everything seems to happen to music." Maybe that's why musicals make the best memories. Thank you, all.

Jim Knight is so grateful to be performing with such a talented group in his first production with the Summit Playhouse. He has performed elsewhere in eight other shows. He was also an extra in the movie *The Stepford Wives*. In addition, Jim is a member of The Hunterdon Harmonizers, a barbershop chorus, and The Flemington Raritan Community Theatre. Jim resides in Alexandria Township.

Melanie Ann Lombardi is thrilled to be making her Summit Playhouse debut in *Fiorello!* She recently appeared in EPI's Best of Broadway and in *The Music Man* as Ethel. Melanie graduated from TCNJ with a BA in English as well as a love for theatre and opera. Thanks to her friends and family!

Paul Morrongiello first appeared on the musical stage in the 1991 Oldwick Community Player's *Oklahoma*. Since then, Paul has appeared in many community theater productions, most recently *Guys & Dolls*, *Titanic*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Mame*. He also enjoys singing tenor with the Hunterdon Choral Union and his church choir. Paul thanks the Summit Playhouse for a warm welcome in this great show.

Sandra Rudnitzky is happy to be back at the Summit Playhouse where she was previously seen as Kate in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. She has a Masters degree in Music and has completed an acting program at the Esper Studio in NYC. Her favorite roles include Boo in *The Last Night Of Ballyhoo*, Fastrada in *Pippin*, Golde in *Fiddler On The Roof* and Gabrielle in *The Dinner Party*. Sandye lives in Edison with her husband and daughters and dedicates her performance to her mother, Thelma, for all her love and support.

Emily Russoniello is appearing at the Summit Playhouse for the first time, and she's thrilled to have the opportunity to perform in one of her favorite shows. Emily has worked at several other northern NJ theaters, most notably Allegro Productions in Parsipanny. Much love and thanks to her family, Chris, Kit and Andrew.

This is **Keith Sampino's** first time performing at the Summit Playhouse. His favorite roles at other theaters include Nick Christano in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Lawyer Craven in *Sly Fox*, and Ezra Chater in *Arcadia*. Many thanks to a great cast and production staff.

Although *Fiorello!* marks **Joseph Schmidt's** debut with the Playhouse, he is no stranger to the stage. In addition to his professional television and movie credits, Joe has performed in dozens of community theater productions throughout New Jersey. His favorite roles include Finch in *How To Succeed ...*, Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, The Baker in *Into The Woods*, Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*, Ali Hakin in *Oklahoma*, and Henry Etches in *Titanic*.

Chaz Turner first played the title role in the musical *Fiorello!* eight years ago at the Cranford Theater. He's enjoyed re-interpreting the part for his first appearance at the Summit Playhouse. Chaz especially likes working with his wife, Stephanie, in the show. Recently, Chaz performed with the Chatham Players in New Jersey Voices 2004, and in the Neil Simon farce, *Rumors*.

This is **Stephanie Warkulwiz's** first production as choreographer and performer at the Summit Playhouse. Stephanie has been dancing for 28 years and has performed throughout the state of New Jersey. Her film and TV credits include *Godzilla*, *One True Thing*, and *All My Children*. Much love to Chaz, and to her family and friends for their support.

Fiorello! is **Jeslyn Wheelless'** second musical at the Summit Playhouse, having twirled her baton in *Is There Life After High School?* in May, 2003. She's loving the lively cast, Rose's patience in directing a 20-scene show, and Stephanie's choreography. Jeslyn also sings in the Calvary Chorale and the Larks, and performs as a storyteller and folksinger. Jeslyn and her son Ben's CD, *Hoot Owl Blues*, won a national award in 2000.

This is **Michael K. Wnoroski's** debut at the Summit Playhouse. He has been seen in many productions throughout North Jersey. His favorite roles include Richard in *Dames At Sea*, the title role in *Pippin*, and the role of Jimmy in an original dramatic realization of Pete Townshend's *Quadrophenia*.

In honor of **William A. Yersevich's** efforts at the Bickford Theater, where he is chairman of Hospitality and Special Events for the Guild, he was the recipient of the 16th annual Applause Award for the year 2004, given by the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. His usual

Who's Who (continued)

efforts behind the scene take center stage in this production, with his first onstage appearance, playing Morris Cohen, LaGuardia's big hearted office manager.

Rose Pancirov (Director) has been actor and director for over 40 productions. She is happy to return to the Summit Playhouse where she directed *Two By Two*, *It's Only A Play*, and *Crimes Of The Heart* to critical acclaim. Her love of theatre make her an avid theatergoer. Besides being on the Summit Playhouse Board, Rose participates on committees and boards of the Tri-County Community Theatre Association, the Bickford Theatre Guild, the Chatham Community Players, the Florham Park Players, the National Society Of Arts And Letters, and the Madison Rotary. My heartfelt thanks to a wonderful, talented and supportive cast and crew.

Ken Horn (Musical Director) has worked on many New York productions, including *Up The Ladder To The Roof* (arranger/performer) and *Don't Tell Mama* (with Dawn Dos Santos). Ken's community theater credits include *Scrooge — The Stingiest Man In Town* (Scrooge), *Nunsense* (musical director — an A.C.T. award nomination) and *Kiss Me, Kate* (musical director). In addition to being a professional performer in the Tri-State area, Ken is a professional Music Educator. He is currently with the Westfield Public Schools, and he founded the Little Notes Summer Music Program. Ken thanks his family for their support.

Heather Amsler (Costumes) is dabbling for the first time in New Jersey community theater. She performed and produced extensively though college, but had let growing up get in the way. Now settled as a local realtor, Heather decided it was time to get back into the game.

Vincent J. Balzano (Producer) has appeared on stage with many area groups (Chatham Players, Florham Park, Summit Community Players) and has directed *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Black Comedy* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* for the Playhouse. A past Playhouse President, he recently organized, directed and appeared in our Playhouse Benefit *Two Guys and a Girl* which netted over \$6,500.00, which shall go for repairs and a new roof.

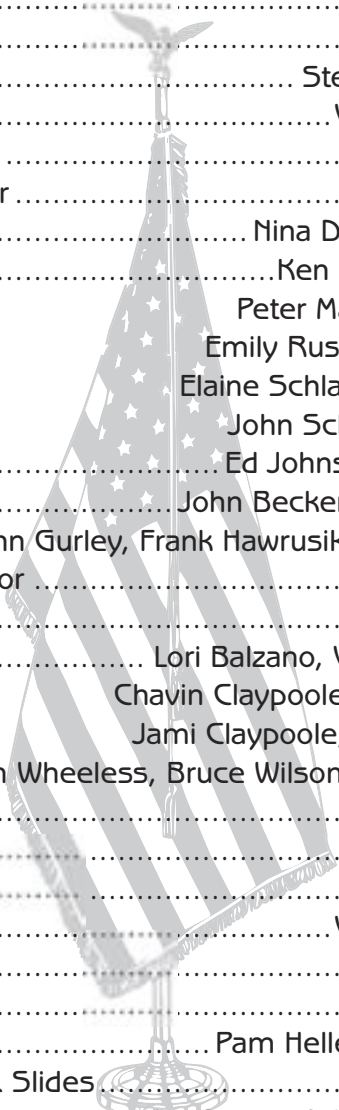
Nina Deutz (Stage Manager) comes to *Fiorello!* with a wealth of experience in professional and community theatre, ranging from director, producer, stage manager to actress, singer and even a brief stint as a "Gentleman Jimmy" tap dancer — in a prior life.

Nancy Gurley (Assistant Director) has assisted the director or producer on numerous Playhouse productions, including *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Is There Life After High School?*, *Labor Day*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, and *Two By Two*. She has also worked props on nine shows, and costumes on six more. She is our Entertainment Chairman, which has qualified her as the Playhouse's "Chief Cook & Bottle Washer."

P. T. Kizzia (Stage Manager) has been an active member of the Playhouse for 44 years, and has grown to love the organization. She hopes you will too, and she hopes that you enjoy the show tonight.

Joanne Wilson (Assistant Producer) has been a member of the Playhouse since 1986. She has worked backstage on several productions and has served on the Playhouse Board. Joanne has appeared in *Lettice and Lovage* and *Enchanted April*. She is especially proud to have been in *The Boys Next Door*, still one of her favorite Playhouse productions.

Production Staff



Director	Rose Pancirov
Musical Director	Ken Horn
Choreographer	Stephanie Warkulwiz
Producer.....	Vincent J. Balzano
Assistant Director	Nancy Gurley
Assistant Producer	Joanne Wilson
Stage Managers	Nina Deutz & P. T. Kizzia
Orchestra	Ken Horn (Keyboards), Peter Martin (Percussion), Emily Russoniello (Clarinet), Elaine Schlatter (Woodwinds), John Schumacher (Brass)
Set Construction	Ed Johnson & Mike Tatlow
Assisted by	John Becker, George Doherty, John Gurley, Frank Hawrusik & Ben Wheelless
Set Design & Décor	Rose Pancirov
Assisted by	Ben Wheelless
Set Painting	Lori Balzano, Vincent J. Balzano, Chavin Claypoole, David Claypoole, Jami Claypoole, Candace Selwyn, Ben Wheelless, Bruce Wilson & Joanne Wilson
Costumes	Heather Amsler
Assisted by	Bruce Wilson
Lighting & Sound	Bill Roome
Assisted by	Vincent J. Balzano
Properties	Geraldine Zoccoli
Assisted by	Nancy Boucher
Makeup	Pam Heller & Maya Daniels
Poster, Program & Slides	Bill Roome
Publicity	Alan Danzis & Vincent J. Balzano
Photography	Ken Smith
Tickets	Stephanie Fisk
Usher Coordinator	Betty Kaus

The Thursday benefit performance is for SPARC.

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2004—2005 Season

Fiorello!

Book by Jerome Weidman & George Abbott

Music by Jerry Bock

Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

Directed by Rose Pancirov

November 5—20, 2004

Inspecting Carol

By Daniel Sullivan & The Seattle Repertory Theatre Company

Directed by Kate Schlesinger

February 25—March 12, 2005

Auditions:

December 5 & 6. For more information, please see
www.SummitPlayhouse.org/auditions.html

A Delicate Balance

By Edward Albee

Directed by Joann Scanlon

May 6—21, 2005

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