

THE SUMMIT PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

91st Season
Spring 2009

THE CONSTANT WIFE



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In 1973, my high school theater group went on a trip to London. We saw the original West End productions of *Pippin*, and *No, No, Nanette*, and a revival of a forty five year old comedy starring Ingrid Bergman. The comedy was, of course, W. Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife*. I remember being surprised at how relevant the play was (the role of women in society being a new topic of discussion—or so I thought, in all my eighteen year old wisdom), and how funny. But, things being as they are, I didn't give much further thought to the play, despite the 2005 Broadway revival, until last year, when Joann Scanlon approached me about directing at The Playhouse and mentioned that *The Constant Wife* was being considered for the season. After re-reading the play, I was astonished to find the play just as relevant, and just as funny, as I had found it to be thirty five years previously. Even more surprising was that the (now eighty year old) play retains its ability to shock with its candor—what must have been the response when Ethel Barrymore played the title role in 1927? It's like discovering your sweet grandmother not only had a wild and scandalous Past, but that her Present is pretty shocking too.

W. Somerset Maugham never expected his plays to last. He considered them mere entertainments. Though he consciously served as a link between social critics like Henrik Ibsen and George Bernard Shaw and the wittier comedies of Oscar Wilde and Noel Coward, he nevertheless saw himself as being in "the very front row of the second-raters." With all due respect to Mr. Maugham, there is nothing second-rate about *The Constant Wife*.

I will always be grateful to The Playhouse for looking beyond the usual titles and bringing *The Constant Wife* back into my life. It's been a pleasure and an inspiration seeing the dedication that these volunteers bring to every aspect of this production. The Playhouse (which was already nine years old at the time of the world premiere of *The Constant Wife*!) is an irreplaceable NJ treasure, and I am honored to now be a small part of its theatrical history.

Rick Delaney

LP

AVAILABLE AT DESK



The Summit Playhouse is a member of the
TriCounty Community Theatre Association.

See www.TriCountyCTA.org for listings of
productions and audition notices.

The Summit Playhouse Association presents its
Two Hundred Ninety Fourth Production

THE CONSTANT WIFE

BY W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

Set Design & Painting
Rhoda Roper

Stage Managers
Frank Hawrusik
& Linn Smith

Costume Design
Fran Harrison

Set Construction
J. Guerdon Mayfield

Assistant to the Director
Betty Kaus

Set Decor
Sally Ponzio

Co-Producers
**David Hoffman
& Joann Scanlon**

Director
Rick Delaney

April 24, 25, 30 at 8:00pm
May 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 8:00pm
Sunday Matinee, May 3 at 2:00pm
The matinee is a signed performance

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

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Mrs. Culver	Jean Kuras
Bentley	Bill Roome
Martha Culver	Liz Messineo
Barbara Fawcett	Loretta Smith
Constance Middleton.....	Kathleen Campbell Jackson
Marie-Louise Durham.....	Meghan Murray
John Middleton, F.R.C.S	Brett McDonald
Bernard Kersal.....	Michael Harvey
Mortimer Durham	John Halecky

Setting

The Place:

John Middleton's house in Harley Street, London

The Time:

Act I: A summer afternoon in 1927

Act II: A fortnight later

Act III: One year later

There will be two intermissions. During the first, juice will be available downstairs in the lounge.

The Thursday benefits are for Summit Area Community School and the New Providence Education Foundation.



As a courtesy to the cast and the other patrons, please

Turn off your cell phone

No photography or recording



Production Staff

Director.....	Rick Delaney
Co-Producers.....	David Hoffman & Joann Scanlon
Assistant to the Director.....	Betty Kaus
Stage Managers.....	Frank Hawrusik & Linn Smith
Set Design	Rhoda Roper
Set Construction	J. Guerdon Mayfield
Assisted by.....	Brent Baab, George Doherty, T. Carter Hagaman, John Halecky, Michael Harvey, Frank Hawrusik, Ed Johnson, Brett McDonald & Roy Pancirov
Set Painting.....	Rhoda Roper
Assisted by....	Morrene Jacobs, Betty Kaus & Robert Roper
Set Decor.....	Sally Ponzio
Costume Designer	Fran Harrison
Assisted by.....	Lyn Mackie
Dressers.....	Susan Smith & Joanne Wilson
Properties	Geraldine Zoccoli
Lighting & Sound.....	Bill Roome
Assisted by.....	Brent Baab
Hair.....	Allison Guzman of Nickel Street Salon
Make-up.....	Susan Smith
Signing	Adrienne Adamo & Carol A. Goodman
Publicity	Pam Heller
Poster & Playbill.....	Bill Roome
Tickets	Cathy Hawrusik
Assisted by.....	Becky Hawrusik, PT Kizzia & Kathy Tatlow
Photography.....	Chase Newhart
Usher Coordinator.....	Betty Kaus

Acknowledgments

Cover photo by Chase Newhart Photography
Gramophone curtesy of The Bickford Theatre
Scaramouche Costumes, Inc.

Who's Who

John Halecky (Mortimer Durham) is making his debut at The Summit Playhouse. He started honing his acting chops as the professor in a first grade production of *The Case of the Missing Pronoun* at P.S.13 in Bayonne, N.J. His other roles have included Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Martin Vanderhof in *You Can't Take It With You*, Gordon Miller in *Room Service*, King Kaspar in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, the Wazir in *Kismet*, Lippy in *Kiss Me Kate*, Pseudolus in *Forum*, the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady*, and Arnolphe in Moliere's *The School for Wives*. By day, the Summit resident is a financial public relations consultant at Tandem Media and is building a multi-plex cinema in Paterson.



Michael Harvey (Bernard Kersal) is excited to be making his Summit Playhouse debut in *The Constant Wife*. After getting his taste for theatre in high school back in his native Australia, Mike has most recently been brought back to the stage through performing, writing and co-directing Brayton Elementary School's *Dessert Show*. Over the past four years he has played such memorable characters as Dr. Keyster, The Bailiff, Chef Nicholson and, most recently, Officer Guantanamo. Mike is pleased to not be cross-dressing for this role and thanks Michele, Victoria, Ian and Cameron for allowing him to vent his artistic passion.



Kathleen Campbell Jackson (Constance Middleton) is so pleased to be making her debut at the Summit Playhouse! Her Plays in the Park Credits include *Joseph* (Narrator 1999-2005 at The State Theater), *Seussical* (Gertrude McFuzz), *Ragtime* (Evelyn Nesbit), *Titanic* (Kate McGowan), *The Secret Garden* (Martha), and *Once Upon a Mattress* (Lady Larken). Other recent credits include *City of Angels* (Bobbi/Gabby) and *The Spitfire Grill* (Shelby) with the Chatham Players, and *Company* (Amy), the latter for which she won the NJ Perry Award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical. Kathleen is the NJ Director for The Yuletide Carolers and a member of 12 Miles West Theater Company.



Jean Kuras (Mrs. Culver) is making her sixth appearance at the Summit Playhouse, having played Elizabeth Almond in *The Heiress*, Evelyn Ashford in *Wit*, Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible*, Edna in *A Delicate Balance*, and Mrs. Tilford in *The Children's Hour*. Jean thanks Joann Scanlon, Fran Harrison, the wonderful cast and remarkable stage crew of this beautiful theater and the special artistry of Rick Delaney for making the past few weeks a Constant Pleasure.



Brett McDonald (John Middleton, F.R.C.S) is excited to be making his professional debut in *The Constant Wife*, here at the Summit Playhouse. He is particularly pleased to be working again with his wife's lover, Michael Harvey (Bernard). Brett studied for a number of years at HB Studios in NYC. He has come to the Summit Playhouse after an extended run with the Brayton Dessert Show, where he played a host of forgettable roles ranging from Ali G to Borat and most recently Jamal. Born in Montreal and raised in London, Brett is now pleased to call the Garden State his home. Love and thanks to my three kiddies and my beautiful wife Lisa.



Elizabeth Messineo (Martha Culver) is pleased to be back on the Playhouse stage since her last appearance in *A Delicate Balance*. Previous credits with Summit include: *Enchanted April*, *Remembrance*, *I Hate Hamlet* and *Light Up the Sky*. She also directed *Dear Edwina, Jr.* for our children's theatre, Kaleidoscope. Off stage, Liz enjoys volunteering in her daughter Joanna's school — including directing the school plays — and helping husband Chris with his production company, Off Stage Films.



Meghan Murray (Marie-Louise Durham) is excited to be performing at the Summit Playhouse in her second production this season! She first appeared last month as Sister James in *Doubt*. Meghan graduated from Syracuse University in 2002. Currently, she appears as a live television Guest Host on QVC and works as a commercial actress for companies like Serius XM Satellite Radio and Good Neighbor Pharmacy. She currently trains at the Peachcraft Actors Studio in Summit. Meghan lives in Summit with her husband, Charlie, and three dogs, Murray, Homer and Henry. To all her family and friends: "Love-ies."



Bill Roome (Bentley) has appeared on stage (with varying amounts of facial hair) as Anagnos in *The Miracle Worker*, Bart in *Inspecting Carol* and Francis Nurse in *The Crucible*. Off-stage, he has done lighting and/or sound for many of our productions, and is the Playhouse's Technical Director and Web Master. When not on stage, in the balcony, or climbing a ladder, he hangs out at Alcatel-Lucent in Berkeley Heights, where he also lives. In the town, that is, not at Alcatel-Lucent.



Who's Who (continued)

Loretta Smith (Barbara Fawcett) is grateful for the opportunity to join the talented cast of *The Constant Wife* for this, her first appearance with the Summit Playhouse. Following some High School productions several (!) years ago, Loretta got back under the lights last year with the Stony Hill Players production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Iolanthe*. She enjoys choral singing and is a member of Summit's Calvary Chorale. She also visits the local nursing homes with the Larks singing group (a Junior League outreach program). Love and thanks to Gordon and the family for their support.



STAFF

Rick Delaney (Director) has many professional NJ directing credits, including *My Son*, *The Messiah* at What Exit? in Maplewood, and *The Road To Mecca* and *Fully Committed* at the Theater Project in Cranford. In addition he has directed dozens of staged readings for the Playwright's Workshop in Cranford. A playwright himself, he is the author of the critically acclaimed *Dracula: A Dark Romance*, and has directed productions of his plays *Obscenities* and *Troupers*. Best known as an actor, he is happy to return to the Summit Playhouse where, several years ago, he appeared as George in *The Actor's Nightmare* in a benefit evening celebrating the work of, and hosted by, Christopher Durang. This summer, Rick will be seen as Antonio in *The Merchant Of Venice* at the Inwood Shakespeare Festival. He expresses grateful thanks to an indefatigable cast and crew.

Carol A. Goodman (Sign Language Interpreter) is a nationally certified interpreter and full-time professor at Kean University where she directs a student sign language performance group, The Kean SIGNatures. She signs regularly for VSA NJ (Very Special Arts of New Jersey). Dr. Goodman has been interpreting for theater performances since 1982 along the east coast.

Fran Harrison (Costume Designer) has designed and constructed costumes for many New Jersey theatres, including the Bickford, Chatham Players, Westfield and Stony Hill. She received a Perry Nomination for her work with *Little Women* in Chatham this year. Her recent work with the 1940's musical *City of Angels* won her an award in the A.A.C.T. national design competition. She has also designed and constructed current additions to the costume collection of the Yuletide Carollers.

Frank Hawrusik (Stage Manager) has served as stage manager for a number of Playhouse productions, such as *Living Out* and *The Children's Hour*. He has also produced several others, including *Is There Life after High School* and *A Delicate Balance*. In addition, he is the Playhouse's Business Manager.

Betty Kaus (Assistant to the Director) is President of the Playhouse, has been a member since 1950, has directed fifteen plays, has appeared in several, and is on the House and Grounds Committee.

J. Guerdon Mayfield (Set Construction) is ending his fourth season as set construction head. This show was fun in that he went around telling people he kissed wife #1 good by when she went to work and then was spending the day with wife #2 and was making sure he got home before wife #1 did. It has been great to work with Rick and Rhoda. Thanks to all the help from both the regular crew and the cast members. He is an advocate for bringing theatre enjoyment to the deaf and hard of hearing and asks that any one who has hearing issues contact him as to how to make our productions more enjoyable.

Sally Ponzio (Set Decor), an area resident and VP of a local IT company, Symbolic Systems, Inc., is new to the Summit Playhouse. Currently she has assisted, on the set of *Baby*, with set decorations and props. While training in theater arts with a NY Troupe, she has appeared in a Sheryl Crow music video and, more recently, in the new NBC mini-series *Kings*. Backstage work is certainly insightful and a tremendous learning experience, but Sally's true desire is to be on stage.

Rhoda Roper (Set Design & Painting) has designed over twenty one sets for the Playhouse, beginning with *Foxfire* in 1992 and including last year's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. She has also designed for The Bronx Opera Company, The Bickford Theater, Savory Singers G & S Company and other theaters around the area. Her favorite sets are *Marriage Of Figaro*, *Later Life*, *I Hate Hamlet* and her all time favorite, *The Enchanted April*.

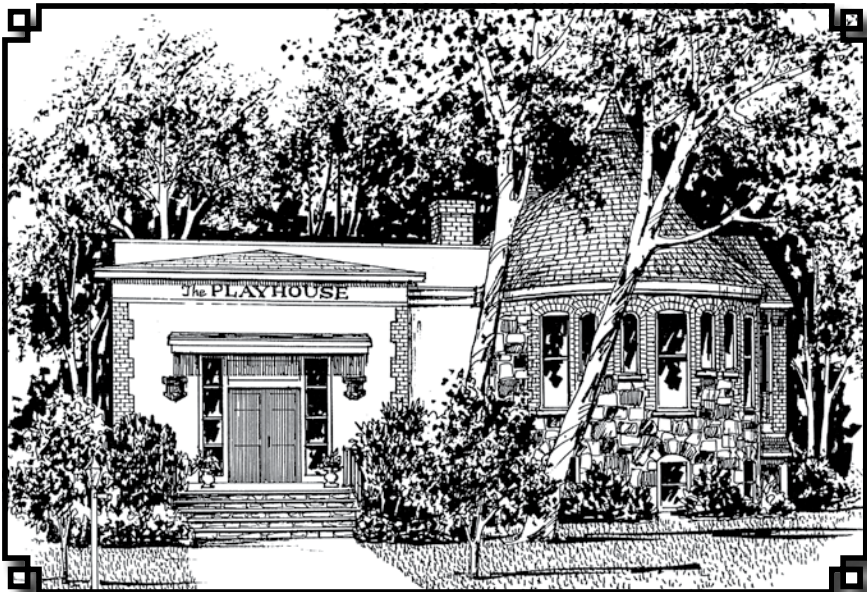
Joann Scanlon (Co-Producer) has directed over fifteen shows at The Playhouse and knows very well what is wanted and needed in a producer. "*The Constant Wife* has been such a pleasure to work on. A delightful cast and a dedicated director and crew make it all worthwhile."

Linn Smith (Stage Manager) is in his 41st season at The Playhouse and this production, as best as he can recall, will be his 56th at the Stage Manager's Desk. Linn has also built sets, been a producer and is a Past President of The Playhouse. He has even appeared on stage, although very briefly, twice for Joann Scanlon. He is currently serving on the Board and says, "my favorite production is always the one I am working on now."

Geraldine Zoccoli (Props) is called by some the "Queen of Props." She has been doing props for a long time and finds the challenge beyond compare. Some of the other hats she has worn are set decoration, ushering, costumes and even producing *Arsenic and Old Lace* and debuting on the playhouse stage in *Charlotte's Web*. Gerry would like to thank Maureen, John, Dawn and her grandsons for all their support.

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Historic preservation work at this theater is funded by grants from the NJ Cultural Trust, the Garden State Historic Preservation Trust administered by the NJ Historic Trust, and a 2007 HEART grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Playhouse Contributors (2008-09 Season)

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This Spring

*The Summit Playhouse, in association with
Pixie Dust Players, Presents*

DREAMERS REVUE

Directed by Lindsay Maron

May 15 — 21 \$12

For details, see www.PixieDustPlayers.com

We are so excited to announce our spring show! The Dreamers Revue will be a combination of songs from popular musicals and movies all revolving around our theme, "Dreamers." There will be tons of solos and featured moments during songs and dances that everyone will enjoy! The show will include a variety of fun songs including: *Ever Ever After (Enchanted)*, *Corner of the Sky (Pippin)*, *The Girl I Mean to Be (Secret Garden)*, *Waiting for Life (Once on This Island)*, *Electricity (Billy Elliot)*, and many more!

This Summer

Kaleidoscope Theatre For Youth Presents

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice

Book by Linda Woolverton

Directed by Renee Palermo

Performances: July 24 — August 2

Auditions: May 27 & 28

For details, see www.SummitPlayhouse.org

The Brainsy and Beautiful Belle yearns to escape her provincial life...and her brute of a suitor, Gaston. However, Belle gets more adventurous than she wanted when she becomes a captive in the Beast's enchanted castle! Dancing flatware, menacing wolves, and singing furniture fill the stage with thrills in this beloved fairy tale about very different people finding strength in one another and learning how to love.