



**McCoy Theatre
Rhodes College**

presents

God's Country

by Steven Dietz

MUSEUM

by Tina Howe

The Sixth Annual Benefit Concert

“Oh Coward!”

Season 11

“Oh Coward!”

The Cast

Barry Fuller
Jude Knight
Tony Lee Garner
Ann Sharp

Production Staff

Directed by Bennett Wood
Scenic Designer Michael Williams
Technical Director Steven Jones
Lighting Laura Canon
Costumes Bette Garner
Choreographer Barry Fuller
Musical Director Tony Lee Garner
Scenic Artist Charlotte Higginbotham
Stage Manager Kristina Kloss
Assistant Stage Manager Bryan Ford

Orchestra

Piano 1 Paul Becker
Piano 2 Jane Gamble
Bass Frankie Grace
Percussion Kemper Durand

About Noel Coward

From the 1920's until his death in 1974, Noel Coward was one of the brightest ornaments of the English-speaking theatre. His first professional appearance was in 1911, at the age of 12, in a children's entertainment called *The Goldfish*. At 25, he achieved his first success as a playwright with *The Vortex*, in which he also appeared. For the next five decades, hardly a season went by in London or New York that did not benefit from his immense talents. He wrote 49 plays, musicals, operettas, and revues. More than 270 songs, both words and music, flowed from his pen. He usually produced, directed, and acted in his own works. He made a number of movies, appeared several times on television, and presented a highly successful cabaret act in major entertainment centers.

“*Oh Coward!*” was devised by Roderick Cook from Mr. Coward's songs, plays, poems, stories, and revue sketches. It was first presented in Toronto in 1970, and subsequently in New York in 1972, where the cast included the late Memphis-born actress Barbara Cason.

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT ONE

INTRODUCTION

The Boy Actor The Company

OH COWARD!

Something To Do With Spring;
Bright Young People;
Poor Little Rich Girl;
Zigeuner; Let's Say Goodbye;
This Is A Changing World;
We Were Dancing; Dance Little Lady;
Room With A View; Sail Away
..... The Company

ENGLAND

London Pastoral Tony
The End of the News Ann, Barry
The Stately Homes of England Jude, Tony
London Pride Ann

FAMILY ALBUM

Auntie Jessie Barry
Uncle Harry Ann, Tony

MUSIC HALL

Introduction Barry
Chase Me Charlie Jude
Saturday Night at the Rose and Crown . Ann
Island of Bolamazoo Tony
What Ho Mrs. Brisket! Barry
Has Anybody Seen Our Ship?
..... The Company
Men About Town Tony, Barry

IF LOVE WERE ALL Jude

TRAVEL

Too Early or Too Late Barry
Why Do the Wrong People Travel?
..... Jude, Tony
The Passenger's Always Right
..... The Company

MRS. WORTHINGTON The Company

Intermission

ACT TWO

MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN

..... The Company

A MARVELOUS PARTY Barry

DESIGN FOR DANCING

..... The Company

YOU WERE THERE Tony

THEATRE

Three White Feathers Jude, Barry

The Critic Tony

The Elderly Actress Ann

Hollywood Barry

The Star Jude

LOVE

Something Very Strange Ann

Gertie Barry

Loving Tony

I Am No Good At Love Barry

Sex Talk Tony

A Question of Lighting Barry, Tony

Mad About the Boy Jude

WOMEN

Introduction Barry

Nina Tony

Mrs. Wentworth-Brewster Barry

WORLD WEARY Ann, The Company

LET'S DO IT (Music: Cole Porter)

..... The Company

FINALE

Where Are the Songs We Sung? Tony

Someday I'll Find You Barry

I'll See You Again Ann

I'll Follow My Secret Heart Jude

If Love Were All;

Play Orchestra Play;

I'll See You Again The Company

Who's Who

From 1975 "Oh Coward!" Theatre Memphis Program

BARRY FULLER...is making his Theatre Memphis debut but certainly in no way his Memphis theatre debut. As one of the resident members of Front St. Theatre, Barry became an audience favorite with a string of outstanding performances in such productions as *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *The Cocktail Party*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Charley's Aunt*, and *The Caretaker*. In more recent years, he has spent the majority of his theatrical hours as a director for Lyric Theatre and Circuit Playhouse where he has guided fine showcases for *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Company*, *Marat/Sade* and *Your Own Thing*. Earlier this season, he returned to performing for the first time in eight years when he played the demanding title role in *Circuit's Butley*. Barry is associated with Walker Holidays, Ltd., and we're delighted to have him on our stage at last.

Since 1975... Barry has been fairly busy. He directed *Candide*, the opening production at the McCoy Theatre, and also at the McCoy directed *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Gondoliers* and the 10th Anniversary production of *Candide* (the latter two winning Memphis Theatre Awards.) Barry has sung major supporting roles with Dame Joan Sutherland and Beverly Sills for Opera Memphis; created and played *Scrooge* at Theatre Memphis seven times; appeared as Herr Drosselmeier in *The Nutcracker* for Memphis Concert Ballet for the last four years; and, in garter belt, mesh hose and high heels, won a Memphis Theatre Award acting award in 1991. Acting and directing at Circuit Playhouse and Playhouse-on-the-Square has occupied his spare time. Barry is an International Travel Consultant with Regency Travel.

TONY LEE GARNER...last appeared on our stage four seasons ago as John Adams in *1776*, but, in the meantime, has kept busy serving as musical director of our productions

of *My Fair Lady*, *The Boys From Syracuse* and *Promises, Promises*. Tony has played other leading roles for us in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *The Apple Tree*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and, in a change of pace, as the romantic lead in Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke*. At Southwestern, where he is instructor of music, he directed last season's *Godspell* and will direct their forthcoming production of *The Fantasticks*.

Since 1975... Tony has been either musical director for, director of, or performer in over thirty productions at the McCoy and at Theatre Memphis. He has conducted approximately fifteen major choral/orchestral works, taken the Rhodes College Singers on five foreign tours, produced two recordings by the Singers and their first CD, sung twice in Carnegie Hall with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers and been on two Telarc recordings with that same group of singers. He will go to France this summer for a third tour and another set of recordings by Telarc. In 1975 he had a six-year old daughter. Since then he has added a daughter, now age 9, and a son, now age 2. In 1975 Tony was not so tired all the time.

JUDE KNIGHT...not only holds the title of first musical leading lady of our main stage (she was Eliza Doolittle in last spring's grand opening of *My Fair Lady*) but now becomes co-star of the first musical staged in the Little Theatre as well. Jude's beautiful voice and fine acting talents have been on display in our productions of *The Boys from Syracuse*, *1776*, and *Promises, Promises*—in the latter she proved herself an adept dancer—and in *Play It Again, Sam* she struck a vote for versatility by giving an excellent performance in the non-singing Diane Keaton role. Jude has appeared with Memphis Opera Theatre and was a Mid-South regional finalist as a mezzo-soprano in the Metropolitan Opera National Council's 1970 auditions.

Since 1975...more roles followed in *A Little Night Music*, *Cole Porter*, and *Guinevere in Camelot*. Jude then "followed her secret heart" (husband Fred) to Saudi Arabia, where they worked for three years. She also performed there, and had the distinction of singing for the U.S. Embassy Ball. Jude played Nancy in *Oliver!* and *Pistache in Can Can* at community theatres in Macon, GA and Dothan, AL. Glad to be home again, she has been seen at Theatre Memphis in *Kismet*, as Maria in *The Sound of Music* (Memphis Theatre Award), Fiona in *Brigadoon* and just last month as Amalia in *She Loves Me*. Jude loves the atmosphere at the McCoy Theatre, and has played in *The Mound Builders* and in the past four benefit concerts.

ANN SHARP...should be best remembered by our audiences as Fran Kubelik, the lovely leading lady of *Promises, Promises* and for her singing of that show's most popular melody, "I'll Never Fall In Love Again." She made her debut on our stage as Passionella in *The Apple Tree* and also appeared in *The Boys From Syracuse*. At Southwestern, she appeared in *Godspell* and at Gaslight Dinner Theatre she was Daisy Mae in *L'il Abner*. Ann is a native of Covington, LA, where her credits include the non-musical title playing of Neil Simon's *The Star Spangled Girl*.

Since 1975...she was unaware that some of her favorite roles at Theatre Memphis were yet to come — *The King and I*, *Music Man*, *A Little Night Music*, *Rumors* and *She Loves Me*. Ann never envisioned that many

satisfying roles, including her favorite, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, would be performed on the boards of her Alma Mater — not to mention the handful of benefit concerts which have been such a source of joy and enrichment. She has continued a long run in her roles of wife to Edward, school psychologist to Memphis City Schools and is trying to keep up in her role as mother to twelve-year old Charles.

BENNETT WOOD (director)...is still reaping praise for his last outing as a director, *Schubert's Last Serenade*, which brought Theatre Memphis first place in the nation at the Festival of American Community Theatre competitions. The production then went on to represent the United States at the International Theatre Olympiad. On the other side of the stage, Bennett is one of Memphis' best known actors; his leading roles include Charles in *Blithe Spirit*, John Dickinson in *1776*, Bob in *Mary, Mary*, Ben Hubbard in *Another Part of the Forest*, and Jerome Malley in *Child's Play* in which he replaced guest artist, Dana Andrews. Bennett is chairman of The Little Theatre at Theatre Memphis.

Since 1975...his roles have included Dysart in *Equus*, Elyot in *Private Lives*, Ralph Nickleby in *Nicholas Nickleby*, Caesar in *Caesar and Cleopatra*, and Boss Finley in *Sweet Bird of Youth*. He has directed, among others, *The Mound Builders*, *As You Like It*, *In Fashion*, *Quartermaine's Terms*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Rumors* and *She Loves Me*. For the McCoy Theatre he has created and/or staged the five previous benefit concerts.

This Benefit is dedicated with gratitude and joy for the life of Scott Maitland, a life of copious talents which he generously shared with us here at the McCoy.
Requiem aeternam