

Thief River Falls Community Arts Council presents a play



**The House of
Blue Leaves**
by John Guare

July 22-25, 2009

A Zany Comedy in 2 Acts

Directed by Rob Burkel

Northland College Theater - TRF

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Made possible in part by a grant provided by the Northwest Regional Arts Council through funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board & the Minnesota State Legislature.

The House of Blue Leaves

Written by John Guare

Directed by Rob Burkel

SCENE

A cold apartment in Sunnyside,
Queens, New York City

TIME

October 4th, 1965

ACT I: 4:45 a.m.

ACT II: scene 1: later that morning
scene 2: evening, same day

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

ARTIE SHAUGHNESSYRob Burkel
RONNIE SHAUGHNESSYTate Sorvig
BUNNY FLINGUSKari Mooney
BANANAS SHAUGHNESSYMichele Christensen
CORRINNA STROLLERAlice Conwell
HEAD NUNDiane Bach
SECOND NUNLinette Lundeen
LITTLE NUNMickayla Ario
M. P.Christian Johnson
THE WHITE MANBrian Ario
BILLY EINHORNScott Pream

The House of
Blue Leaves



The House of
Blue Leaves



The House of
Blue Leaves



THE CAST



BRIAN ARIO (The White Man/Backstage Crew) is a disabled veteran, but that doesn't stop him from being an active community volunteer. He has recently served as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Annie Get Your Gun*. Brian, who has consulted and written many church skits and videos, says "I would like to thank my wife, Jen, and my children for getting me involved in theatre again."

MICKAYLA ARIO (Little Nun) is soon to be in tenth grade. She is also a student of John Robert Powers School of Acting. Mickayla has recently performed in the TRFCAC's production of *Annie Get Your Gun*. She has also been in *The Fisherman and His Wife*, as well as many church skits and plays. Mickayla adds "Thank you for this opportunity to be the Little Nun. It has been a great time working with everyone."



DIANE BACH (Head Nun) is a newcomer to the TRF Community Arts Council productions. She is an upholsterer, as well as a school bus driver. Diane says "I am enjoying the work on this play, my first, and I think I would like to do more."

ROB BURKEL (Artie/the play's director) works as a personal banker at Wells Fargo Bank. A familiar face to the TRF audiences, he has lent his brilliant acting abilities to many TRF Community Art Council productions, beginning with *Madrigal Dinners* in 1996. Other TRFCAC performances include Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*, Judd Fry in *Oklahoma*, ½ the cast in *Greater Tuna*, Tom in *The Glass Menagerie* and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. Rob comments, "Thank you for supporting our theatre. It means the world." We would like to say "Thank you" to Rob for doing double duty on this production.



MICHELE CHRISTENSEN (Bananas) has a long history with the TRFCAC, ably performing in *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Annie*, *The Odd Couple*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. She has also performed in *Pippin*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Murder Most Fouled Up*. Michele, employed at Arctic Cat, would like to say "I had a lot of fun, it was a blast. Thanks, everyone!"



ALICE CONWELL (Corrinna Stroller) comes to us from Red Lake Falls. She has performed in the TRFCAC productions of *Anything Goes* as Mrs. Harcourt and in *Mame* where she played six parts, including Madame Branislawski, Mother Burnside and Mrs. Upson. Alice says "I've been in six shows since 1999 and have had the opportunity to develop 11 characters. It is fun to try to create something different for each role. This summer, besides working this play, I have been having too much fun with my terrific family, also I am thoroughly enjoying learning to play bass guitar."

CHRISTIAN JOHNSON (M.P.) is entering Lincoln High School this fall, however he is no stranger to the stage, already performing in *Guys and Dolls*, *Aladdin*, *Oliver Twist* and *Tom Sawyer*. This is Christian's first TRFCAC production. He adds "I really enjoy my part. It could be a little more of a challenge, but that's ok because I happen to have a lot going on."



LINETTE LUNDEEN (Second Nun) actually is a bartender when she's not on stage. Although this is her first TRFCAC production, she has performed in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Linette says "I have not been in any plays for about four years and am really excited to get back into theater. This is a really fun play and the cast makes it what it is."

KARI MOONEY (Bunny) is a 'Jane-of-all-trades' both at Computer Run/ Radio Shack and on the stage. Her past TRFCAC productions include *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Sound of Music*, *Mame*, and *The Odd Couple* (female version). She has also performed in *The Owl and the Pussycat*. Kari wants to say "'Thank You' to my husband and daughter for their support and help with line memorization; to my fellow cast mates for laughs and hours of endless fun - they are also family; to my director for drawing out the best in all of us and putting up with my endless questions; and to the Arts Council for giving us productions that allow us all to 'slip away' into another world! This production has been GRRREAT!"



SCOTT PREAM (Billy Einhorn) has graced the stage in many TRFCAC productions to include *My Fair Lady*, *Gypsy*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Sound of Music*, *Mame*, *Anything Goes* and most recently in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Scott's NCTC productions include *Triangle Fire/Man With Bogart's Face*, *Gap in Generations* and *Titus Andronicus*. He has also performed in Fosston's *Something's Afoot* and Middle River's *On Golden Pond*, as well as many church productions. When Scott is not on stage, you'll find him performing in Material Control at Arctic Cat. Scott comments "It's great to work with such a talented group of actors. Welcome newcomers to this production, it's great to be on stage with you. And to you people out in the audience, sit back and enjoy this 'crazy' production. Thanks for coming."



TATE SORVIG (Ronnie) comes to this TRFCAC's production as a Carleton College Class of 2009 graduate. Although new to TRFCAC productions, he performed on the Lincoln High School stage in *Blast It* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Tate says "Right on, thanks for coming!"

THE CREW

JEN ARIO (Stage Manager/Props) is the office secretary at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church during the day. She has been very involved backstage with the TRFCAC productions of *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Anything Goes*. On stage, Jen performed in the NCTC production of *All Shook Up*.



JONATHAN DENT (Technical Director) works as a Product Manager at Digi-Key Corporation. Please refer to the summer program booklet for Jonathan's complete bio.

DON SCHINDLER (Set Design and Construction) is an extremely talented wood craftsman who makes his home in Thief River Falls. This is the first theatrical set he has built. We hope he will consider more!

ANDREA THIBERT (Costume Mistress) is Thibert Theatrical, a hobby/obsession since 1984. A well kept secret, Thibert costumes travel the nation, thanks to the world wide web. TRF Community Arts Council audiences may remember her costumes in *The Sound of Music*, *Mame*, *Anything Goes* and *Annie Get Your Gun*.

BEHIND THE SCENES

STAGE MANAGER.....Jen Ario
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....Jonathan Dent
SET DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION.....Don Schindler
COSTUME MISTRESS.....Andrea Thibert
BACKSTAGE CREW.....Brian Ario
SET PAINTER.....Karen Jenson
PUBLICITY.....Jean Larson

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

People ask me all the time "What is this play about?" I have to admit I don't always know how to answer that. What I believed it to be about twenty years ago is different than what I believed ten years ago and that has changed even now.

I remember when I first read and saw *The House of Blue Leaves* in college. Being lucky enough to be the Props Master for our production at Mankato State I had a lot of exposure to it. Exposure that allowed me to be involved yet watch the actors tell the story. It was a funny and wonderful production; a story which stuck with me and that is the best kind. There is nothing better than spending the next two days reflecting on a play or a movie you just saw. *The House of Blue Leaves* had that affect on me. Yet I couldn't completely sum up what it was about. So I went to the director and asked him. He looked me in the eyes and said, "Why don't you give me your thoughts on what it's about." Oh how I hated that statement. I told him and he simply took in my thoughts and didn't agree or disagree. Furthermore he never really told me what he thought it was about. I was angry with him that day.

So....here I am 20 years later having actors and others ask me what the show is about and I reply "Why don't you give me your thoughts."

Let me give you some thoughts what *The House of Blue Leaves* is about. Maybe it's about fame or our obsession with it; maybe it's about our animalistic behavior. It is about a zoo keeper who dreams of being a famous songwriter, a mistress who wants to be seen with fame, and a wife who wants the famous to love her.

But mainly, *The House of Blue Leaves* is funny. It was funny 20 years ago, it was funny when it premiered in 1971 and I hope it is funny now. If we give you funny, all the questions of what it is about will arise and you'll enjoy having something to think about for the next two, five or ten days.

Thank You,
Rob Burkel

THANK YOU!

NCTC – for hosting the TRFCAC this summer in our favorite theatre
The Beito Foundation – for their generous support
Kezar Music – for being the best ticket sellers this side of the Mississippi
Karen Jenson – for painting the set
Lola Wiskow/Lola's Hearing Aid Center – for the vintage hearing aids
NCTC Cosmotology Dept – for providing Bunny's Wig
Mandi Rodahl – for the piano work
Jane Anderson – for rehearsal review
Murray Anderson – for taking the bio headshots
Shawn Rhen – for lighting effects on the television set
You, the Audience – for supporting us with your attendance

The House of
Blue Leaves



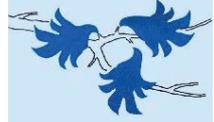
The House of
Blue Leaves



The House of
Blue Leaves



The House of
Blue Leaves



MEMBERSHIPS

Producer 500+

Mark & Jean Larson

Director 250+

Philip & Eloise-Marie
McKenzie

Brook & Kristin Redd

John & Nancy Tofte

Mark & Becky Yuska

Crew 100+

Diane Drake

Ed & Kari Mooney

Roger & JoAnn Thibert

LoriAnn Walseth

Star 50+

Barbara Hauger

Elling & Joyce Iverson

Karen Jenson

Star 50+ (cont.)

Ken & Connie Mehrkens

Duane & Robyn Morey

Dave & Muriel Olin

Yvonne Peterson

Faith Rud

Thief River Glass —

Jim & Jill Dillon

Ernest & Ina Thorsgard

Patron 20+

Daisy Burns

Mary Cullen

Marvin & Susan Field

Dane Jenson

Peggy Mehrkens

Bill & Melba Penning

Warren & Margaret Saetre

If you would like to join this esteemed group of individuals, please fill out the form included in the program booklet. Your membership will be recognized in next summer's listing.

The House of
Blue Leaves



The House of
Blue Leaves



The House of
Blue Leaves



The House of
Blue Leaves

