

**The Community Players of Salisbury
Presents**

Edward Albee's

**Who's
Afraid
of
Virginia
Wolf**

**Directed by
Robin
Finley**

April 12 - 8pm / April 13 - 2pm & 8pm

April 18 & 19 - 8pm / April 20 - 2pm

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75th
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Community Players of Salisbury, Inc.

Presents

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Written by

Edward Albee

Directed by

Robin Finley

**WorWic Community College
Guerrieri Center Auditorium**

Friday, April 12, 2013 at 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 2:00 PM
Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 8:00 PM
Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 8:00 PM
Friday, April 19, 2013 at 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 2:00 PM

Presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play
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*This production was made possible, in part, by a grant from the
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The Community Players' President's Message

Welcome! As you are probably aware, this is our 75th Season. No small feat, especially for non-profit theatre companies. Since this is such a special milestone, the Board wanted to increase our season to four productions. This April slot brings the Pulitzer Prize winning drama, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* to our stage. Albee described the inspiration for the title thus: "I was in there having a beer one night, and I saw "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" scrawled in soap, I suppose, on this mirror. When I started to write the play it cropped up in my mind again. And of course, who's afraid of Virginia Woolf means who's afraid of the big *bad* wolf . . . who's afraid of living life without false illusions. And it did strike me as being a rather typical, university intellectual joke."

"Va Woolf" as we called our production at Salisbury State Theatre in 1975 brings back very fond and personal memories for me. I was part of that wonderful group that toiled under the remarkable leadership of Dr. Leland Starnes. Good grief!, our Stage Manager for this production, Megan Davis, was not even born when I worked on the College's performance starring Sue Hess, Leland Starnes and our very own Kathy (Peters) Panchyk. Many of us have grown up with Community Players either by being an audience member or working on the productions. Our wish is to continue to grow by presenting award winning plays, new works and beloved classics to new and mature generations alike.

Thanks to you, we will.

Sharon A. Benchoff

Officers

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Program	David and Pat Oberholtzer and Tom Robinson
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Scholarship	Cindy Gore
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Synopsis

Martha is the daughter of the president of the college where her husband is an English professor. After a party, they invite a young couple who are new to the college over to their home. To say that there is give and take in the interactions between these four is wildly under describing the action.

Place

The living room of a house on the campus
of a small New England college

Act I

Fun and Games

Intermission

Act II

Walpurgisnacht

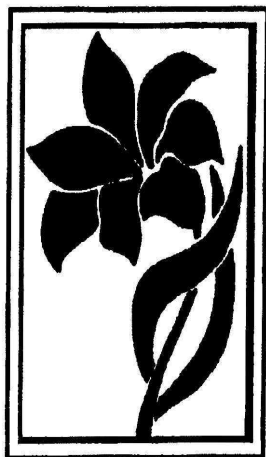
Intermission

Act III

The Exorcism

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Cast

(in order of appearance)

Martha
George
Honey
Nick

Ann Northam
Matt Bogdan
Shelbie Thompson
Dan Hudson

Production Staff

Director Robin Finley
Producer Sharon Benchoff
Stage Manager Megan Davis
Set Design Ernie Matthews
Costume Coordinator Lynne Bratten
Set Construction Ernie Matthews, Gary Finley,
Sharon Benchoff, Megan Davis, Ed Duvall,
Robin Finley, Leslie Hendrickson, Nadine Jackson,
Jim King, Jean King, Tom Marr and Mary Veise
Set Decoration Debby Nagel
Lighting Gary Finley
Sound Gary Finley and Bill Gore
Sound Effects Tom Robinson
Props Megan Davis
Hair/Make-up Shelbie Thompson
House Manager Mary Veise
Publicity Kel Nagel and Sherri Trader Hynes
Program Cover/Poster Design Kathy Panchyk
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Director's Message

I saw the film version of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* many years ago and it has haunted me since. The “truth or illusion” theme fascinated me. But when I saw the stage play I was struck by the comedy – dark humor to be sure, but humor nonetheless. I believe that, even though George and Martha entertain themselves by slashing away at each other, theirs is truly a love story. They have a loyalty to one another that is very touching. That is, to me, what makes “George and Martha, sad, sad, sad.” So I hope you enjoy their story and don't be afraid to laugh.

No show is ever staged without the help of some very dedicated people. So, I would like to thank everyone who helped with this production. Sharon Benchoff, (producer) who kept me on track with her advice ; Megan Davis (stage manager) for her humor and support; Debby Nagel (set decorator) for her tireless searching for the right set pieces; Ernie Matthews (set construction/design) for saying yes when he could have said no; Bill Gore and Tom Robinson for helping me find the music and sound effects; Lynne Bratten (wardrobe) for making my actors look good (despite her broken leg); Gary Finley (lighting design/sound) for his endless patience and his infatuation with George and Martha; and, finally to Ann, Matt, Shelbie, and Dan (my actors) for their time, patience, and so much hard work. You are my right ... (well you know what I mean).

Most of all I would like to thank Community Players of Salisbury for giving me a chance to bring these characters to life.

Robin Finley



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Who's Who in the Cast

Matt Bogdan (George) Matt has been involved with the Community Players of Salisbury on and off for 30 years. He directed *The Odd Couple*, *The Impossible Years*, *Lend me a Tenor*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *My Fair Lady*, and *The Music Man*. He played in Thomas Jefferson in 1776, Bill Sykes in *Oliver!*, Jud in *Oklahoma!*, and the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*. Matt has been an English teacher for 34 years, most of them at Pocomoke High School, and directed over 50 shows at the high school level.

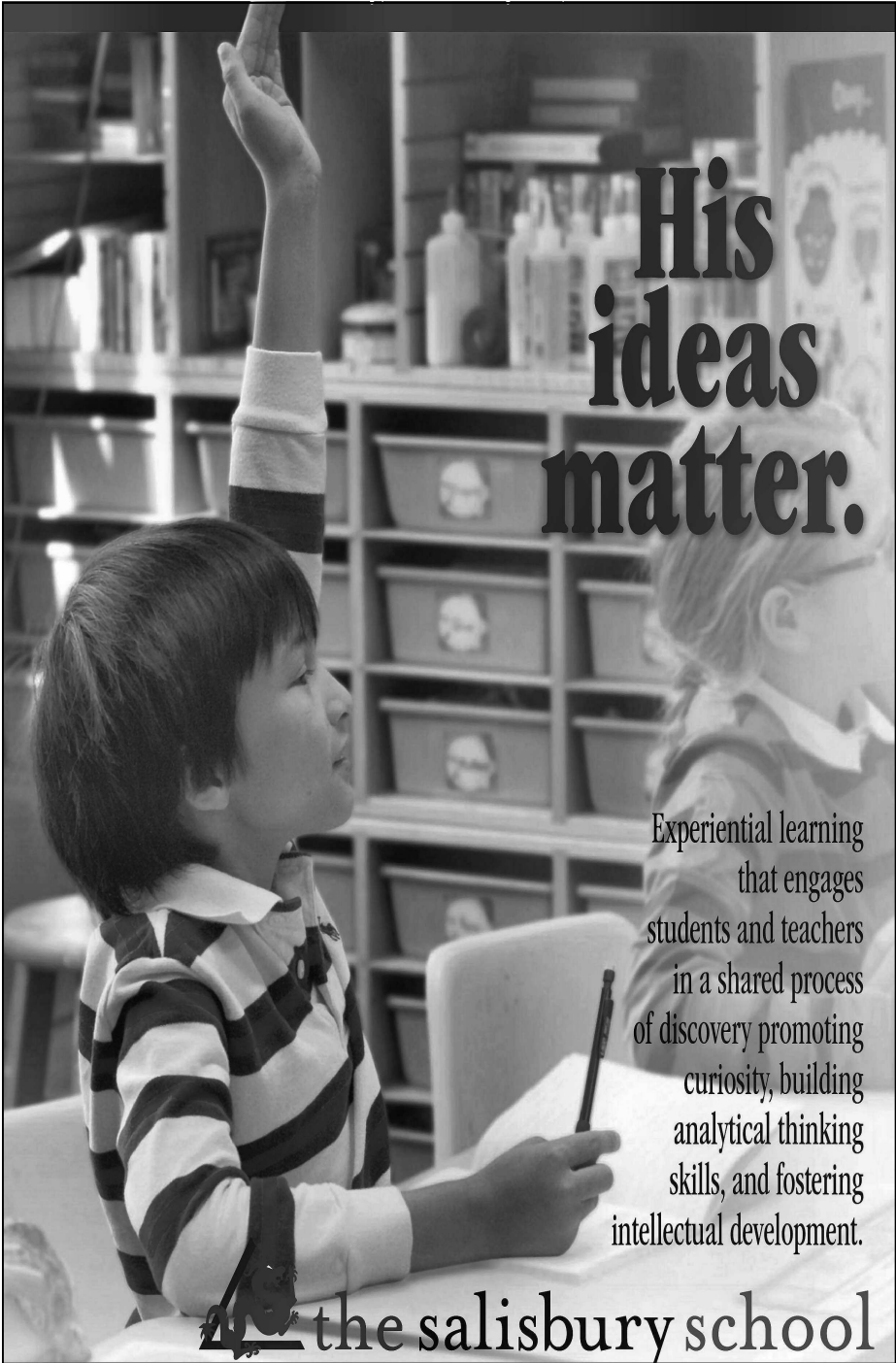
Dan Hudson (Nick) Dan would like to thank Community Players and Robin for the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing cast. He is a graduate of Delmar High School and Salisbury University. Dan was also involved in the production of *The Mousetrap*

Ann Northam (Martha) Ann has appeared in four Community Players' productions — *The Spider's Web*, *Social Security*, *Cinderella*, and *The Solid Gold Cadillac*. In college she majored in Speech and Theatre and has since honed her performance skills as an award-winning member of Toastmasters, and had featured roles in summer stock and dinner theatre. She refers to Martha as the role of a life-time. She follows in some mighty big footsteps: Uta Hagen originated the role on Broadway. Elizabeth Taylor made the role famous in the movie. And Sue Hess was Martha, acting with Dr. Leland Starnes, in the Salisbury University production. No pressure there!!! Rising to the challenge has been her focus since she said "Yes!" when director Robin Finley offered her the part.

Shelbie Thompson (Honey) Shelbie is thrilled to be making her Community Players debut in such an iconic show with an amazing cast. As a freshman at Salisbury University with a minor in theatre, Shelbie plans to continue acting during her college career. Past theatre credits include; Frances in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, Lily St. Regis in *Annie*, and Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon a Mattress*. She would like to give a HUGE thanks to Robin and Megan for all their hard work and dedication to make this production happen!

Who's Who Behind the Scenes

Robin Finley (Director) This is Robin's first time directing a show for Community Players. She directed *Five Women Wearing the Same*



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Dress last summer to benefit “Relay for Life”. Robin has been in several shows for Players and WorWic's Dessert Theatre and was stage manager for *The Odd Couple*. She wants to thank her production crew, actors, and family for their hard work, help, and understanding.

Sharon Benchoff (Producer) Sharon has been an active member of Players for over three decades, known for her work as a lighting designer for over thirty productions including *The Fantasticks*, *Footloose*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *1776* and, most recently, *Oliver!*. Sharon has also directed *Noises Off*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Laughing Stock* and *Wait until Dark*. She recently designed the lighting for Salisbury School's Peter Pan and Bennett high School's Rock and Roll Revival, as well as productions at the Mar-Va Theater in Pocomoke. She is finishing another term as our president .

Megan Davis (Stage Manager) Megan is so happy to be working with Community Players and the cast and crew of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. Previous credits include *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* and *The Mouse that Roared*, as well as stage manager of Player's production of *Chicago*. Here's to years of “truth and illusion.” Enjoy!

Gary Finley (Lighting Design/Sound) Gary has been involved with lighting performances for Wor-Wic Community College in the past including some of their annual Dessert Theatre and Variety Show productions. Gary has also involved himself with the Community Players of Salisbury, where most recently, he has had his hand in lighting *Harvey*, *Laughing Stock*, *Bell, Book, & Candle*, *An Inspector Calls*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Charley's Aunt*, and *The Mouse That Roared*.

Ernie Matthews (Set Construction) Ernie has been a valuable part of Players for over two decades. Whether designing and building sets or directing, we know we can count on Ernie for our productions. He is also chairman of the Patrons Committee; is in charge of Season Tickets and handles on-line ticket sales. Ernie is currently serving on the Board of Directors for Players.

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As always we wish to thank those individuals who contributed
but whose names do not appear in the program.

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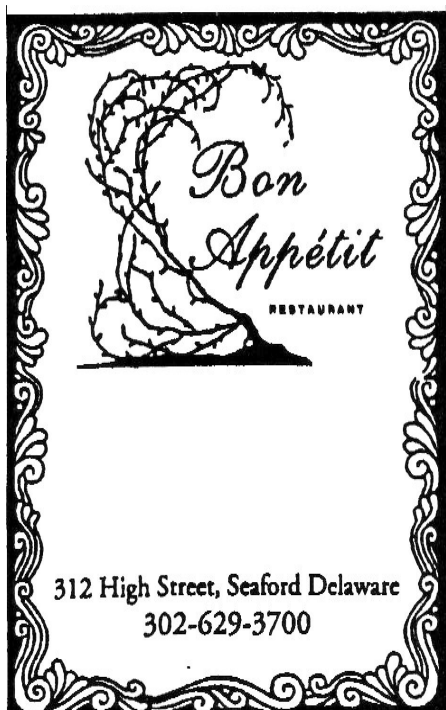
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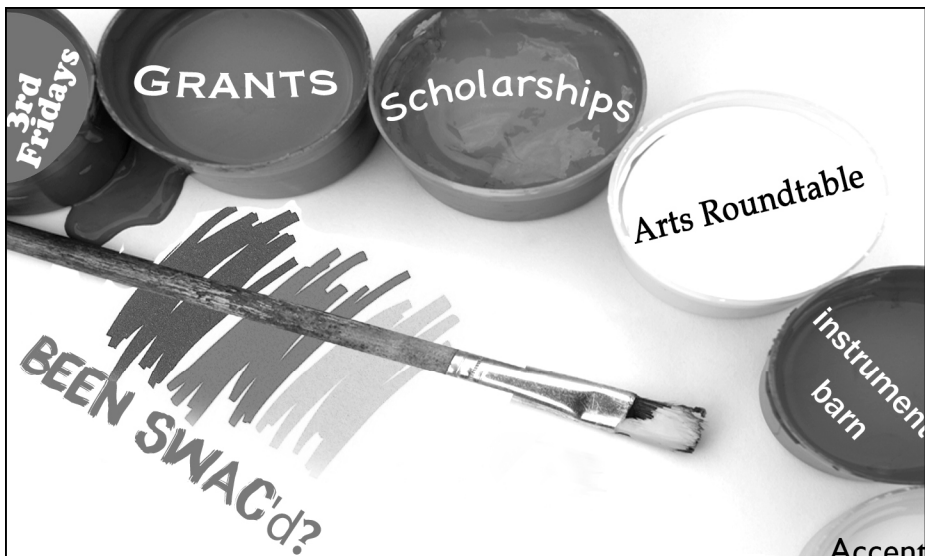
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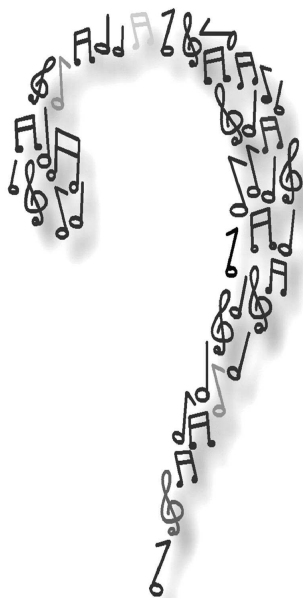
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