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The Dining Room, program

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Mississippi State University
The Department of Communication
Blackfriars Drama Society
and
The Union Program Council
present



The Dining Room

by

A. R. Gurney, Jr.

March 18 - 21, 1987



THE DINING ROOM

BY

A. R. GURNEY, JR.

DIRECTED BY:
SCENERY AND LIGHTING BY:
DIRECTOR OF THEATRE:

JO DURST
WAYNE DURST
DOMINIC J. CUNETTO

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CLIENT, MICHAEL, BILLY, STUART, JIM, HOST WAYNE BISHOP*+
AGENT, FATHER, TED, FRED, CHRIS, HARVEY, GUEST ROBB LINSKY
CHARLIE, ARCHITECT, GRANDFATHER, GORDON, DICK, GUEST DAVID ORR*+
HOWARD, BREWSTER, PSYCHIATRIST, PAUL, STANDISH, GUEST . . . SCOTT KOWERDUCK
ARTHUR, NICK, BEN, TONY, DAVID, GUEST GREGG CARLISLE
SALLY, MOTHER, GRACE, PEGGY, OLD LADY, KATE, EMILY, RUTH . . . JILL LAWSON
LIZZIE, ELLIE, AGGIE, SANDRA, DORA, NANCY,
SARAH, MEG, BERTHA, GUEST LORI DAVIS
ANNIE, CAROLYN, WINKIE, BETH, MARGERY, HELEN, HARRIET,
CLAIRE, GUEST MARY PERRY

THE PLAY TAKES PLACE IN A DINING ROOM - OR RATHER, MANY DINING ROOMS, DURING THE COURSE OF A DAY.

THERE WILL BE A TYN MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACTS.

* MEMBERS OF ALPHA PSI OMEGA NATIONAL DRAMATIC FRATERNITY

+ THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS OF THE SARA KOPELLE DRAMA SCHOLARSHIP. THIS SCHOLARSHIP IS SUPPORTED PRIMARILY BY THE KLEBAN FAMILY.

PRODUCTION STAFF

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/STAGE MANAGER:	STEPHEN CUNETTO
UNION DIRECTOR:	ANDY RHOADES
UNION PROGRAM DIRECTOR:	BUD WILCOX
UNION PROGRAM COUNCIL:	KIM KILPATRICK & JOEY HANS
UNION TICKET OFFICE MANAGER:	ROBERT BOEHM
PUBLICITY CO-ORDINATOR:	LYDA McNEELY
SET CONSTRUCTION CREW:	PAUL BLANKENSHIP
JOHN HOWELL, TERRI LACY, ROBERT LONG, DAVID ORR, JON TURNER, STACY RUFFIN, SCOTT KOWERDUCK, PAUL WILBOURN, JEFF THOMAS	
SOUND:	JOHN HOWELL
LIGHTS:	ROBERT LONG
PROPS:	TERRI LACEY
POSTER AND PROGRAM COVER:	BECKY SMITH

USHERS: BLACKFRIARS DRAMA SOCIETY AND THE UNION PROGRAM COUNCIL

SPECIAL THANKS TO: HARRIS PUBLISHING CO. AND MR. AND MRS. ORR

WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE STARKVILLE COMMUNITY FOR
THEIR PATRONAGE.

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ABOUT THE PLAY AND PLAYWRIGHT

"NOBODY COMES NEAR A DINING ROOM ANYMORE. . . .NOWADAYS, PEOPLE EAT IN KITCHENS, OR IN LIVING ROOMS, STANDING AROUND, BALANCING THEIR PLATES LIKE JUGGLERS. SOON THEY'LL BE EATING IN BATHROOMS. WELL, WHY NOT?" THUS BROODS ONE OF THE CHARACTERS IN THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED OFF-BROADWAY HIT THE DINING ROOM, A RICHLY WOVEN, IMAGINATIVE, AFFECTIONATE AND OFTEN HILARIOUS LOOK AT A VANISHING BREED-THE AMERICAN UPPER MIDDLE CLASS, SET IN A DINING ROOM, WHICH BECOMES AN EMBLEM FOR AN ENTIRE CULTURE, GURNEY'S PLAY IS A DELIGHTFUL SERIES OF VIGNETTES INVOLVING AN ASSORTMENT OF FAMILIES AND CHARACTERS OF ALL AGES AND GENERATIONS. THERE IS THE HUMORLESS PATRIARCH, WHO IS CALLED FROM SUPPER TO DEFEND HIS BROTHER'S HONOR AT THE COUNTRY CLUB...THE LACONIC WALL STREET EXECUTIVE AND HIS BEDRAGGLED DAUGHTER, CONFERRING AT THE TABLE ABOUT HER RECENT FLIGHT FROM HER HUSBAND...TWO PREP-SCHOOL GIRLS PLOTTING A GIN-VODKA-AND-FRESCA PARTY, AND MORE. THE COMEDY IS BY TURNS SUBTLE AND BOISTEROUS, AND THROUGH IT ALL RUN THREADS OF IRONY AND COMPASSION. CONSISTENTLY ENTERTAINING, THE DINING ROOM IS A FRESH AND ORIGINAL LOOK AT A SOMETIMES GRACIOUS, SOMETIMES STIFLING, THOROUGHLY AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

WINNER OF A NATIONAL ENDOWMENT GRANT IN 1982, A. R. GURNEY, JR. ALSO WON A DRAMA DESK AWARD IN 1971 AND A ROCKEFELLER PLAYWRITING AWARD IN 1977. HIS PLAYS INCLUDE THE GOLDEN FLEECE, SCENES FROM AMERICAN LIFE, CHILDREN, WHO KILLED RICHARD CORY?, THE WAYSIDE MOTOR INN AND THE MIDDLE AGES. HE ALSO ADAPTED JOHN CHEEVER'S STORY O YOUTH AND BEAUTY FOR PBS TELEVISION.