

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

theatrefest 2011:
**SOUTHERN
COMFORT**



ARTS
nc
state



Set Design

John C. McIlwee

Costume Design

John C. McIlwee, *The Dixie Swim Club*
Jennifer Dasher, *Southern Comforts/WMKS*

Lighting and Sound Design

Paul Pharris

Technical Direction

David Jensen

Scenic Artist and Properties Artisan

Jayne Mellema



raleigh arts
COMMISSION

This project is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on
recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission

The Dixie Swim Club

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope
and Jamie Wooten

Directed by John C. McIlwee*
Mette CJ Schladweiler* – *Stage Manager*

Titmus Theatre
May 26-29, June 1, 4, 5, 9, 12

Setting

The living room of a beach cottage on the Outer Banks of NC
one weekend in August.

Act I

Scene 1: Twenty-two years after the characters' college graduation (1978)
Scene 2: Five years later (1983)

There will be one 15 minute intermission

Act II

Scene 1: Five years later (1988)
Scene 2: Twenty-three years later (2011)

Cast in order of appearance

SHEREE.....Suzanne Kennedy
LEXIE.....Donna Rossi-Youngblood
JERI NEAL.....Sandi Sullivan
VERNADETTE.....Kathy Norris
DINAH.....JoAnne Dickinson

** Member of Alpha Psi Omega Honorary Theatre Fraternity*

Southern Comforts

by Kathleen Clark

Directed by Rachel Klem
Randall Rehfluss* – *Stage Manager*

Kennedy-McIllwee Studio Theatre
June 2-3, 5, 8 10-12, 15, 18 19

*For your enjoyment, this performance will play without intermission
for approximately 75 minutes.*

Setting

The living room of Gus Klingman's home,
Morris County, NJ, 1996.

Cast in order of appearance

GUS.....John Murphy
AMANDA.....JoAnne Dickinson

** Member of Alpha Psi Omega Honorary Theatre Fraternity*

WMKS:

Where Music Kills Sorrow

by Frank Higgins

Directed by Allison Bergman

Catherine Hamner – *Musical Director*

Caroline B. Domack – *Stage Manager*

Titmus Theatre
June 16-17, 19, 22-26

Setting

The warehouse of Carroll's Sawmill and Lumberyard,
Big Stone Gap, Virginia, 1935.

There will be one 15 minute intermission

Cast in order of appearance

DOC.....T. Phillip Caudle
ALMA.....Elizabeth Grayson
WILLY.....Tyler James Haggard*
CINDY.....Brett Williams*
JOHNNY.....Mark Dillon
AUDREY.....Rhonda Bond
ROBERT.....John Rogers Harris
KLANSMAN/GUARD.....Kenny Hertling
KLANSMAN/GUARD.....Paul Brothers*

CHRISTEN BLANTON.....Fiddle
DOUG BAKER.....Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin
RYAN MACK.....Bass

* *Member of Alpha Psi Omega Honorary Theatre Fraternity*

Production

Assistant Stage Managers (Dixie Swim Club).....	Kristina Dorsett, Clare Vestal
Assistant Stage Manager (Southern Comforts).....	Natalie Malouf, Clare Vestal
Assistant Stage Manager (WMKS).....	Anna K. Rains
Assistant Technical Director.....	Andrew Korhonen*
Master Carpenters.....	Randall Rehfluss*, Sarah Scott
Scenic Carpenter.....	Chris Bradsher
Run Crew.....	Kenneth Hertling, Paul Brothers*, Clare Vestal
Sound Board Operator (Southern Comforts).....	Chris Bradsher
Light Board Operator (Southern Comforts).....	Randall Rehfluss*
Costume Shop Manager.....	Jennifer Dasher
Draper.....	Laura Parker
Wardrobe Crew Head.....	Ella Brooks
Dresser(s).....	Danica Dewell, Emily Mays
Marketing.....	Nancy Breeding, Ellie Cooke
Marketing, Graphics and Photography.....	Ronald A. Foreman*
House Manager.....	University Theatre House Crew
Ushers.....	University Theatre House Crew and community volunteers

* *Member of Alpha Psi Omega Honorary Theatre Fraternity*

TheatreFest Cast Bios

Christen Blanton, *Fiddle* (WMKS), is a violist/violinist/fiddler currently living in Greensboro, NC. She holds degrees in both music education and performance, and teaches music at St. Pius X Catholic School in Greensboro. Christen is the fiddler in the Zinc Kings, a Greensboro band specializing in traditional music of the North Carolina Piedmont. She has appeared in on-stage fiddle roles in *Big River*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Lil' Abner*, and *Oklahoma!* Christen is thrilled to be a member of the WMKS band.

Rhonda Bond, *Audrey* (WMKS), is a longtime resident of Raleigh and has been involved with many local theatre groups. She has toured with United Stage and Flat Rock Playhouse and graced the floor of some of Raleigh's finest restaurants. A graduate of UNCG's theatre program she regularly appears with Hillyer Community Chorus as a choral singer. She is delighted to make her debut performance in TheatreFest 2011's *WKMS: Where Music Kills Sorrow*.

Paul Brothers, *Klansman/Guard* (WMKS), is a senior in arts applications (visual) with a minor in Spanish. Previous credits include *Urinetown the Musical*, *Inspecting Carol*, *Twelfth Night*, *Into the Woods*, and *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. "I'm really happy to again be a part of the University Theatre community."

T. Phillip Caudle, *Doc* (WMKS), is well-known by Triangle theatre goers having performed in over 40 area productions. His most recent appearances were as “The Narrator” in *A Christmas Story* last Christmas, and “Maurice” in the recent original production of *Devon Does Denmark* at Theatre In The Park. He and his wife, Peggy Lynn live in Fuquay-Varina, along with their fabulous old fur-ball, Leko.

Mark Dillon, *Johnny* (WMKS), plays music much like his grandfather did during the Great Depression. Currently he plays in the old time band The Zinc Kings with several of the musicians in the show WMKS. During the daylight hours Mark is a high school band director in Chatham County, NC. He is not entirely sure how he ended up being an actor on the stage but is enjoying the experience. He wishes to thank his family for instilling a love of country music and his wife for tolerating the lifestyle that goes with being married to a musician.

JoAnne Dickinson, *Dinah* (Dixie), *Amanda* (Southern Comforts), returns to her native North Carolina for another TheatreFest season. Her favorite roles at UT are “Desiree” in *A Little Night Music* and “Sally” in *Follies*. She also loved playing “Miss Marple” in last season’s *A Murder is Announced*. Although JoAnne still performs regularly as a cabaret singer and performer in her current home of Boston, she enjoys the theatre scene in Raleigh where she also played “Madame Arcati” in *Blithe Spirit* for Hot Summer Nights At The Kennedy. JoAnne serves on the Friends of Arts NC State board and is, with her husband Charles, a life-long supporter of all arts.

Elizabeth Grayson, *Alma* (WMKS), has graced the stage nationally and internationally in Broadway, opera, classical concerts, TV and film. Elizabeth has played “Guenevere” opposite Richard Harris in the national Broadway tour of *Camelot*, “Grace Kelly” in *American Opera Jackie O* at Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Italy. Other regional roles include “Marsinah” in *Kismet*, “Laurie” in *Oklahoma!*, “Eliza” in *My Fair Lady*, “Musetta” in *La Boheme*, and “Donna Anna” in *Don Giovanni*. She has sung as soloist in concert with the North Carolina, Asheville, Durham, and Fayetteville symphonies.

Tyler James Haggard, *Willy* (WMKS), is a senior in creative writing. Tyler is thrilled to be in his first Theatrefest production, having performed roles in UT productions of *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, *Inspecting Carol*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa* during his senior year (and a half). Tyler must thank everyone at University Theatre for opening the stage door, and of course thank his family, friends, and Brett, who has captured his heart on and off the stage, for all of their unyielding support and love. Enjoy the show!

John Rogers Harris, *Robert* (WMKS). Acting credits include *Fences* (The Justice Theatre Project), *Caleb Calypso and the Midnight Marauders* (Manbites Dog & UNC Performance Studies), *Fourth and a Mile* (NCCU Theatre), *1776* (Carrboro Arts Center), *JITNEY*, *The Exonerated* (Deepdish Theatre Company), *The Death of Innocents* (UNC Performance Studies), *The Piano Lesson*, *The King and I*, *The Boys Next Door*, *A Few Good Men* (Raleigh Little Theatre), *The Moving of Lila Barton*, *GNAT!* (The Temple Theatre, Sanford, NC), *A Soldier’s Play* (The Contemporary American Theatre Company, Columbus, OH). Directing credits include *Gem of the Ocean* (Actors Theatre of Charlotte), *Wine in the Wilderness* (New Traditions Theatre), *Driving Miss Daisy* (Theatre Workshop of Owensboro), *Pathway to Freedom* (Snow Camp Historical Society), *Dance on Widows Row*, *Master Harold . . . and the boys* (RLT) and *The Ohio*

State Murders (OSU Theatre). Producing credits include *JOSIAH!* (Owensboro, KY). Dramaturgy credits include The Deepdish Theatre Company, The Temple Theatre, Cape Fear Regional Theatre and The Contemporary American Theatre Company. Special thanks to Gabriele, Djaq, Ilana-Marie, and Anderson.

Kenny Hertling, *Klansman/Guard* (WMKS), is a sophomore in political science at North Carolina State University. "I could not be more happy to be a member of this theatre and this community."

Suzanne Kennedy, *Sheree* (Dixie), is employed in the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine. Suzanne seems to gravitate to mostly female casts with previous roles in *Come Back to the 5 and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean* (RLT), *Nine* (RLT), and *The Odd Couple* (Female version; Stillwater Theatre). "I am delighted to be performing in the newly renovated Thompson Hall and thank my husband, Michael, for agreeing to let me perform instead of taking a vacation."

John Murphy, *Gus Klingman* (Southern Comforts), was born in N.Y.C. and has lived in the Triangle since 1989 during which time he has appeared in eighty-some plays. Previous TheatreFest productions include *Little Foxes*, *Squabbles*, and *Don't Dress for Dinner*, and at Burning Coal, he was in *Rat in the Skull*. John currently lives in Chapel Hill.

Kathy Norris, *Vernadette* (Dixie), is happy to again be a part of Theatrefest, last appearing as "Edith Potter" in *The Women* directed by John McIlwee. Favorite roles include "Dolly Levi" in *Hello, Dolly*, "Jack's Mother" in *Into the Woods*, and the title character in *And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little*. A special thrill was "Mrs. Paroo" in NCT's production of *The Music Man* with Gary Beach. Kathy is an independent meeting and conference planner. She is the wife of Danny, mother of Joe and Katy, and "Granny" to Kate, Jack, Will, Chris and Matt... "life is so good!"

Donna Rossi-Youngblood, *Lexie* (Dixie), is making her Theaterfest debut. As a teen, she was "bit by the bug" at the Dogwood Dell in Richmond, VA, later completing her BA in Theater at Shenandoah College where favorite roles included "Pegeen" in *Playboy of the Western World*, and "Kate" in *She Stoops to Conquer*. After taking a hiatus to raise Corin, Justin, & Zach, (Love you guys!) she recently returned to the stage, with appearances at TIP, Burning Coal, and RLT. She would like to give a big thanks to John for taking a chance and helping her to "dust off the cobwebs."

Sandi Sullivan, *Jeri Neal* (Dixie). Sandi's recent credits include "Ms. Shields" in NCT's *A Christmas Story*, "Linoleum" in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* at HSN@K, and "Mitzi" in *A Murder is Announced* (Theatrefest). In 2009 and 2010, The Independent Weekly named Sandi one of the top ten individual performers for her portrayals of "Jean Brodie" in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* at RLT and "Beatrice" in *The Effect of Gamma Rays...Marigolds* at REP, respectively. "Much love to Joey, Erin, and Tallie."

Brett Williams, *Cindy* (WMKS), is a junior in zoology. This is Brett's fifth show with University Theatre, but her first TheatreFest. Recent credits include "Florinda" in *Into the Woods*, "Viola" in *Twelfth Night*, "Little Sally" in *Urinetown the Musical*, and most recently "Groupie #1" in the student studio production of *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. Brett is uber-excited about having to play her own instruments in the show as she only

started playing guitar about six months ago. She'd like to thank her family and friends for all their support and her boyfriend for being a good sport about his beard.

TheatreFest Production Bios

RACHEL KLEM, *Director* (Southern Comforts), is the director of Common Ground Theatre in Durham and managing director of Ghost & Spice Productions. She has directed and acted in the Triangle area for nine years. As an actor, credits include "Rita" in *Educating Rita*, "Martha" in *Agnes of God*, "Joan" in *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, and "Joanne" in *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*. In the area, she has directed *The Play About the Baby*, *Oleanna*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *Souvenir*, and *The Zoo Story*. Rachel has been professionally improvising since she was 18 years old, and can presently be seen performing with Transactors Improv. She earned her master's degree in acting from DePaul University's The Theatre School in Chicago. As an adjunct faculty, she teaches Intro to Theatre here at NC State University.

John C. McIlwee, *Director* (Dixie), has been with NCSU's University Theatre for more than 25 years. He has worked extensively throughout the United States as an actor, director, costume designer, scenic designer, makeup artist, and playwright. He holds a master's degree in theatre and a master of fine arts degree in theatre design. A recipient of the Raleigh Medal of Arts, John is also a national award-winning fashion designer and a two-time winner of the National Arts and Letters Council Award for children's playwriting. Just last season he directed and designed costumes for *Amadeus*, *Into the Woods*, and *Murder on the Nile*; set design for *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, and acted in *Re:Design*. He also appeared in and costumed Evan Rachel Woods' production for Theatre in the Park's *Romeo and Juliet*. This year he designed costumes for *Urinetown the Musical* and directed *Twelfth Night* and *Inspecting Carol*. He continues to lecture extensively on the history of couture and costume and enjoys working with the University Theatre staff to create a varied and exciting theatrical experience available to all university students.

Allison Bergman, *Director* (WMKS), is the assistant director of University Theatre and a veteran stage director of more than thirty theatre productions in Los Angeles, Boston, Pittsburgh and New York City. She holds a BFA in theatre studies from Boston University and an MFA in directing from Carnegie Mellon University where she was a Steven Bochco Scholar. She studied acting, dance and voice at L.A. City College Theatre Academy, American National Academy of Performing Arts, and Southern California Conservatory of Music, and has won a Drama-Logue Award for Directing. In tandem with her directing career, Allison is a dramaturgical consultant with several projects in development in New York and Los Angeles. She is the former artistic director of Broadway On Sunset and co-founder of The West Coast Musical Theatre Conference. She has also co-authored *ACTING THE SONG - Performance Skills for the Musical Theatre*, and penned the libretto for a new musical, *Ancient City*. Before moving to the East Coast, she had been named Outstanding Woman in Theatre in Los Angeles. Other University Theatre productions Allison has directed include *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Urinetown*, *Spider's Web*, and *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*.

Catherine Hamner, *Music Director* (WKMS), is a North Carolina native, with Tennessee relatives who would feel quite comfortable singing music from *WMKS!* With two music degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill and additional study in Europe, her life has been divided between national opera tours, musical theater, education, and church music. She's excited to return to TheatreFest, where she previously worked with John McIlwee in some of his hit musical revues. Cathy has one son, Zachary (12), and is married to Latham Hamner of Raleigh.

Caroline B. Domack, *Stage Manager* (WMKS), most recently stage managed *A Christmas Story* for NCT. She is the PSM for Peace College, where she graduated in 2001. After college she went to NYC to complete an internship in stage management at The Juilliard School. She stage-managed more than 15 shows for Juilliard and NYU. She was also performance/house manager for Juilliard from 2004-2007. In NYC she also worked as assistant coordinator for talent flow at the Drama Desk and Tony Awards and assistant coordinator for seat fillers at the Country Music Awards. She would like to say thank you to Tim, J.J., and Phillip for letting her out of the house and into the theater.

Mette CJ Schladweiler, *Stage Manager* (Dixie), has been stage-managing in the Triangle area for over 20 years and most recently stage-managed the Raleigh Arts Commission Medal of Arts Ceremony, *Death and the Maiden* at Hot Summer Nights at the Kennedy along with Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Nile* at University Theatre's Theatrefest last summer. Mette is excited to be back working with all the creative and talented individuals at University Theatre again! Mette would like to thank her husband, Linh and son, Jackson for all their love and support while "Mommy" does what she loves to do!

Randall Rehfuss, *Stage Manager* (Southern Comforts), is a senior in arts applications-theatre and physics. This is my second year working TheatreFest as a stage manager, and though the cast is considerably smaller than last year's, working with JoAnne and John has truly been a great experience. This is also my third opportunity working with Rachel Klem who I hope continues to be a guest artist with us for many more shows while I am here finishing up my degrees.

Kristina Dorsett, *Assistant Stage Manager* (Dixie), is a recent graduate of NC State University with a degree in microbiology and a minor in genetics. She has appeared onstage as "Lady Macbeth" in *Macbeth* and the "Jazz Singer" in *Twelfth Night*. Kristina worked backstage as an ASM for last season's *Murder on the Nile*. She would like to thank her family and friends as well as John and Mette for giving her the opportunity to work in this year's Theatrefest.

Natalie Malouf, *Assistant Stage Manager* (Southern Comforts), is a sophomore in criminology.

Anna K. Rains, *Assistant Stage Manager* (WMKS), is a senior in plant biology and business. Anna is thrilled to be here for TheatreFest 2011! Previous work has included five shows with University Theatre, time with Raleigh Little Theatre, and most recently, *Hello Dolly* at NCT. Many thanks to the UT staff, the parental units, and the special people that keep her sane.



"See it on Stage"
2011-12 Season

September 2011



October 2011

Tennessee Williams

GARDEN
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Suddenly Last Summer
Something Unspoken

November
2011



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Since its completion in 1925, Thompson Hall has showcased the ability and creativity of NC State University's students. Originally the home of NC State's men's basketball games, the "Old Thompson Gym" became home to NC State's fledgling performing arts and crafts programs in 1964.

On August 17, 2009, after a \$16 million dollar renovation, Thompson Hall reopened and provided new homes for University Theatre and the Crafts Center. On the theater levels, Thompson houses two intimate performance spaces, Titmus Theatre (seats 192) and Kennedy-McIlwee Studio Theatre (seats 102), a costume shop, a scene shop, and a design studio. The renovated Thompson Hall now allows University Theatre students the opportunity to study, work, and perform in a beautiful and outstanding state-of-the-art facility.

We invite you to play a central and perpetual role in the renovated Thompson Hall by naming a chair in either the Titmus Theatre or Kennedy-McIlwee Studio Theatre. Your chair will feature a plaque on the arm rest with your name(s) or any other dedication you wish to make.

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