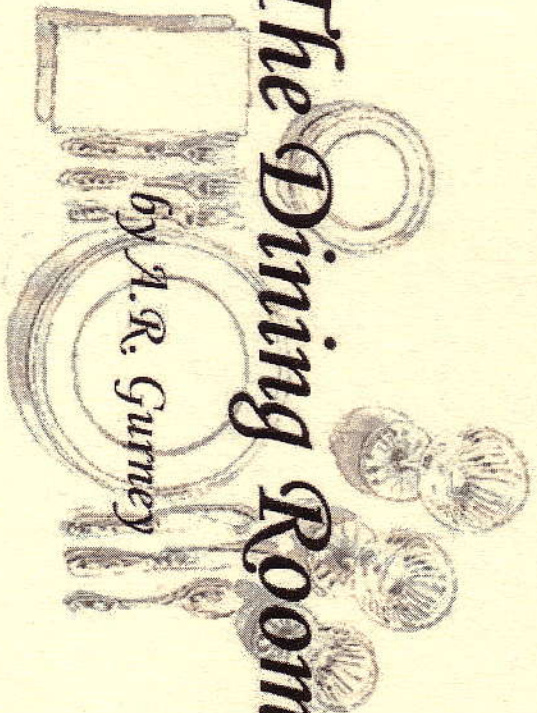


Ankeny Community Theatre

presents

The Dining Room

by A. R. Gurney



January 13 – 28, 2006

Ankeny Community Theatre

1932 S.W. Third St.

Ankeny, Iowa

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Director's Notes...

The Dining Room has long been one of my favorite plays. It presents a series of glimpses into the human condition; the joys and sorrows, love and sadness that accompany family life. Each of the vignettes explores the relationships of families, and the ways in which our families can wound us and heal us.

As the playwright, A. R. Gurney, explains, "I soon found myself writing this strange play which kept wanting to take place in a dining room... This was the room where my parents used to give their sparkling dinner parties, the laughter from which I could hear echoing up the stairs long after I had shaken hands and been sent to bed. Yet just as I used to squirm in my seat at the strictures of the dining room, so did my rebelliousness assert itself against the rules of drama. I've never had confrontations with my family. Writing is my source of psychological healing."

Although his playwrighting had a therapeutic effect on Mr. Gurney himself, it strained real-life relations with his father and other members of his family as they recognized themselves in his characters and plot lines. In fact, he had dramatized such familial events as his grandfather's funeral and his grandmother's senile delusions. Subsequently, Mr. Gurney was known to rewrite portions of dialogue and plot on the nights his family members attended performances.

But writing from his own experiences makes his characters more true-to-life. The cast and crew have spent many hours with Mr. Gurney's characters in rehearsal and have found ourselves, and people we know, in the characters, settings, and situations. We have shared much laughter and a few tears during the time we have spent together as a temporary family. We are pleased to have you as guests in our dining room, and we are confident you will enjoy this "banquet of theatrical riches."^{}*

~ Becky Scholte, director

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<i>Spirit Boulevard 1802 S.E. Delaware Ankeny</i>	<i>Carmen's Flowers & Gifts 516 S.W. 3rd Street Ankeny</i>
<i>Coldwell Banker – Kimber Powell Ankeny</i>	<i>Flooring Gallery 7215 University Avenue Windsor Heights</i>
<i>Bill & Breta Westlund</i>	<i>Ruby Uy</i>

Up Next at ACT...

*Schoolhouse Rock Live!
February 24 – March 12*

*Book by Scott Ferguson; music and lyrics by Dennis Curley, Lynn Ahrens,
Bob Dorough, Dave Fishberg, Kathy Mandry, George Newall, and Tom
Yofe*

*Directed by Kim Van Haecke
Musical Direction by Preslia Paulding*

*Caught in the Net
April 21 – May 6
By Ray Cooney
Directed by Kevin Sprague*

ACT News...

Volunteers Needed! Ankeny Community Theatre can always use volunteers. We need actors, directors, producers, and stage crew. We also need help with set building, lights, sound, make-up, costumes, refreshments, and cleanup. We love having new people involved! Time commitment depends on the individual, and we appreciate any time that you can give us. If you'd like to become a member of our family, just call the theatre.

Matching Funds ~ If you are involved with the theatre or would like to give a monetary donation, please check with your employer about matching funds. Many employers have a program set up to match funds that employees donate to a non-profit organization. Some employers have programs by which they will donate a certain amount of money based on employees' volunteer hours. Meredith Corporation, Federal Home Loan Bank, and MidAmerican Energy are just a few of the companies that have provided us with such funding.

E-Mail list ~ In an effort to reduce mailing costs and provide information to our patrons more quickly, ACT has created an e-mail database. If you'd like to sign up to receive newsletters, audition information, and show reminders, simply visit our website at www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com.

Become an ACT member! This year, ACT membership became an even better value. Just take a look at the benefits you'll receive with your ACT membership and we're sure you'll agree. There are several levels of membership, one of which is sure to fit your budget. If you've let your membership lapse, this is the year to come back to ACT. If you are a current member, consider upgrading your membership to take advantage of the additional benefits that come with a higher membership level. You can be assured that your membership makes a difference in the community through the expanded programs and productions that ACT is able to provide – and don't forget your contribution is totally tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Dining Room

By A. R. Gurney

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Mary Bricker..... Agent, Mother, Carolyn, Sandra, Dora, Margery,
Beth, Kate, Claire, Ruth

Greg Anderson..... Client, Howard, Psychiatrist, Ted, Paul, Ben,
Chris, Jim, Dick, Guest

Warren Westlund..... Arthur, Charlie, Architect, Billy, Nick, Fred, Tony,
Standish, Guest

April Kissel..... Sally, Lizzie, Ellie, Aggie, Winkie, Old Lady,
Helen, Meg, Bertie, Guest

Patricia Wy-Westlund... Annie, Grace, Peggy, Nancy, Sarah, Aunt Harriet,
Emily, Annie, Guest

Ron Gilbert..... Father, Michael, Brewster, Grandfather, Stuart,
Gordon, David, Harvey, Fost

Setting: A dining room ~
or rather, many dining rooms over the course of many years

No recording devices or flash photography are allowed during this production. Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers, or other audible electronic devices.

*The Dining Room is produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.*

Act I

- Scene 1 – Agent, Client*
- Scene 2 – Arthur, Sally*
- Scene 3 – Annie, Father, Lizzie, Charlie, Mother*
- Scene 4 – Ellie, Howard*
- Scene 5 – Grace, Carolyn*
- Scene 6 – Aggie, Michael*
- Scene 7 – Architect, Psychiatrist*
- Scene 8 – Peggy, Winkie, Billy, Sandra, Brewster, Ted*
- Scene 9 – Dora, Grandfather, Nick*
- Scene 10 – Paul, Margery*
- Scene 11 – Nancy, Stuart, Old Lady, Fred, Ben, Beth*

Fifteen minute Intermission

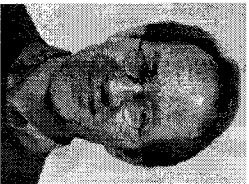
Act II

- Scene 1 – Sarah, Helen*
- Scene 2 – Kate, Gordon, Chris*
- Scene 3 – Tony, Aunt Harriet*
- Scene 4 – Jim, Meg*
- Scene 5 – Emily, David, Claire, Bertha, Standish*
- Scene 6 – Jarvey, Dick*
- Scene 7 – Annie, Ruth*
- Scene 8 – Ruth, Host, and Guests*

Production Team

- Director* *Becky Schofield*
- Producer/Stage Manager/Props Mistress* *Theresa Britt*
- Set and Light Design* *Ron Gilbert*
- Costumes and Props* *Cast*
- Light and Sound Operator* *Jarold Mosier*
- Publicity* *Dawn Hockemeyer*
Jolene McGee
Lynn Arterburn
Jenny Neighbour

Cast and Crew Notes ~



Greg Anderson has been involved with theatre productions since 1973. A graduate of Drake University with a BFA in Theatre, Greg has worked professionally as a freelance actor and voice talent since 1984. Credits include such things as small parts in movies and TV shows, numerous commercials for both radio and TV, a low budget horror film, and many training videos. When not working in front of the camera or on stage, Greg spends his time as a house-husband, a set builder for video productions, and in the summer he drives to South Dakota to run a family fireworks stand.



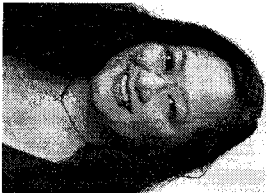
Mary Grieker is an at-home mom and recovering lawyer. Her credits include appearances on nearly every stage in the Des Moines area, with highlights such as Terella James, the title character in The Totally True Completely Fictional Story of the Mother of Jesse James (2005 Iowa Fringe Festival), Dolly Levi in Helllo, Dolly! (Des Moines Playhouse) and Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest (Drama Workshop). Mary is a member of a very theatrical family – husband Joe and sons Jeff (16) and Carter (11) are actors, too!



Ron Giffert has performed frequently at The Des Moines Playhouse (Daddy Warbucks in Annie, Linus Larrabee in Sabrina Fair, I, Col. Markinson in A Few Good Men) and with StageWest (Hearst Siegel in Boy Gets Girl). This is Ron's first appearance as an actor on the ACT stage, although he has directed three shows here (The Boys Next Door, Mesfuggah-Nuns and our most recent show, It's A Wonderful Life) and also serves on the board. He is about to direct Sunrise at Campobello, a Tony-winning play about 9-11-R, for Drama Workshop in Des Moines. Ron is the proud father of Lindsay (19) and Spencer (16).



April Kissel most recently appeared as Susan Hofflander in The T's 2005 production of Don't Drink The Water. Previous roles have included Dr. Finch in A Comedy of Errors, Mildred Hayaworth Carlson in Vaith County II, An Evening of Culture, and Mrs. Sadie Moskowitz in The Education of Hyman Kaplan at Mount Mercy College. April is a graduate of Iowa State University but also attended Mount Mercy College, and University of Wiles, Sarnesca. A personal lines Underwriter for Allied Insurance by day, April recently became engaged. Her hobbies include painting, running, plates, and searching out the best margaritas in town.



Patricia Wy-Westlund is pleased to be making her stage debut at ACT, especially in a show that's a personal favorite. In addition to appearing onstage in Des Moines and the surrounding area, Patty has performed in productions in Los Angeles and Minneapolis. Favorite theatrical credits include the title role in Medea, Lucy in You're a Good Man, Charley Brown, and two productions of Hair. Patty is proud to be sharing the stage again with husband Warren as well as this incredibly talented and wonderful cast. Patty has a BFA in Theatre from Drake University, and her hobbies include tap dancing, singing with the rest of her family in "Top Hat Caroleers," and collecting animal endo/ecto parasites.



Warren Westlund is also appearing for the first time on the ACT stage. However, he has extensive stage credits throughout Des Moines, Ames, Adel and Florida. Warren's favorites over the last 28 years are Rene Galfimard in M. Butterfly, Caiaphas in Jesus Christ Superstar, Margaret Mead/Steve in Hair, and the 19 different characters portrayed by Ensemble Man 2 in Enconated. Warren has a BS and graduate schooling in Computer Engineering from Iowa State University. He is excited to be sharing the stage for the 13th time with his wife, Patty. Hobbies include reading and singing renaissance and Victorian era music with his wife and brother-in-law. Warren and Patty own Premier Pets in West Des Moines and share their home in Ames with their many dogs, cats, rabbits, rats, birds, and turtles.



Becky Schaefer has enjoyed every minute of directing her first show. Becky has appeared onstage in roles ranging from Aunt Josephine in Time of Green Gables to Masha in The Sea Gull, including an appearance as Sybilie in ACT's 2004 production of The Odd Couple (female version). Becky was the assistant director/stage manager for Seussical and Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, among others, at the Des Moines playhouse. By day, Becky is an Implementation Consultant at Wells Fargo Financial, and is always Mom to Emily (11) and Aaron (8).



Theresa Britti is a longtime ACT volunteer – the first production she helped with was A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum back in 1987. Theresa took a break from theatre for a few years to raise her children Megan and Ericke, but now that they are teenagers she is excited to be back at the theatre. Theresa was on the crew for ACT's recent production of It's A Wonderful Life and counts among her other favorites Nunsense, Once Upon A Mattress, and A Bedful of Foreigners. In real life, Theresa is a Radiation Therapist at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines.

Many thanks to our members...

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Monica Green
Jerry & Jo Reid
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Juanita Rogers

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Laanne Dodge
Steve Fickle
Jim Leeper
Genevieve Logue
Jan Luce
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