

BELOIT CIVIC THEATRE

Now in its 83rd Year  
Presents...

**THE DINING ROOM**

By

**A. R. GURNEY**

January 28, 29, 30

February 4, 5, 6 at 7:30

3 p.m. matinees on Jan. 30, 31, and Feb. 6

2016

Elizabeth Reinholz Theatre

Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

440 Park Avenue South

New York, NY 10016

*THE DINING ROOM* was first produced at the Studio Theatre of Playwrights Horizons, in New York City, opening January 31, 1981.

## THE CAST

**Donna Balsley:** Agent, Mother, Carolyn, Sandra, Dora, Harriet, Beth, Kate, Claire, Ruth

**Stephen Ellis:** Client, Howard, Psychiatrist, Ted, Paul, Ben Chris, Jim, Dick, Guest

**Jay Goodwin:** Arthur, Boy, Architect, Billy, Nick, Fred, Tony, Standish, Guest

**Loren Sass:** Father, Michael, Brewster, Grandfather, Stuart, Gordon, David, Harvey, Host

**Rebecca Wallendal:** Sally, Girl, Ellie, Aggie, Winkie, Old Lady, Helen, Meg, Bertha, Guest

**Sydney Winchester:** Annie, Grace, Peggy, Nancy, Sarah, Margery, Emily, Guest

## THE SETTING

A dining room

**There will be a twelve-minute intermission between the acts. Enjoy the cookies in the lobby.**

## THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Barry Nyquist
Stage Manager	Mary Easland
Set Design	Loren Sass
Set Construction	Victoria Ames, Joyce Anderson, Donna Balsley, Les Blumreich, Deb Burns, Mary Easland, Stephen Ellis, Mike Fallon, Tom Lepinski, Mary Mowers, Harold Pann, Sally Pierick, Loren Sass, Ed Skwarlo, Gerry White, Tom Young
Lighting and Sound	Mike Goddard, Jake Hamil, Loren Sass
Costumes	Donna Balsley, Joyce Anderson
Properties	Donna Balsley, Dee Fischer, Joyce Anderson
Running Crew	Dee Fischer, Les Blumreich
Make-up Design	Dee Fischer

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The play is set in a museum showing the dining room of a typical well-to-do household, the place where the family assembles daily for breakfast and dinner and for any and all special occasions. The action is comprised of a mosaic of interrelated scenes - some funny, some touching, some rueful - which, taken together, create an in-depth portrait of a vanishing species: the upper-middle-class WASP (the wealthy Anglo-Saxon Protestants of New England). The actors change roles, personalities and ages as they portray a wide variety of characters - from little boys to stern grandfathers, and from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids. Each vignette introduces a new set of people and events. Dovetailing swiftly and smoothly, the varied scenes coalesce into a theatrical experience of exceptional range, compassionate humor and abundant humanity.

As you watch this detailed play with a range of 57 different characters and 18 separate situations, you will probably relate to several of the characters and the predicaments in which they find themselves. In my years on this earth I have known and continue to know many of these people and events.

In all my years of theatre, I always find that BCT is a great group to work with. I'm so glad to have the opportunity to direct for them. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who work hard on a range of production activities from sets to lighting to costumes to makeup that make these shows happen. And last but not least, I would like to give huge thanks for the set designed by Loren Sass, and with sincere appreciation, for my wonderful stage manager, Mary Easland.

Please enjoy *The Dining Room*.

**Barry Nyquist, Director**

## WHO'S WHO

**Donna Balsley**, a member of the Beloit Civic Theatre Board of Directors, has served as costume designer for the group since 1991. Donna also gathers and builds props for every production along with working on set building and décor. She most recently appeared in last season's production of *A Talent for Murder*, and previously in *Seniors of the Sahara*, *The Last Romance*, *Lost In Yonkers*, *Deathtrap*, *Cliffhanger* and *Over the River and Through the Woods*. In addition to her work at BCT, she has appeared in many plays at other area theaters: Janesville Little Theater, New Court Theatre, U-W Players for Spotlight On Kids, and for New American Theatre. As costumer, she has worked with the following organizations, costuming over 100 shows: Janesville Little Theater, U-W Players, Spotlight on Kids, Center Stage, Opera for the Young, Honeogah High School, Rockford Mendelssohn Club, New Court Theatre, and New

American Theatre, and, of course, BCT. Donna is “a proud Nonna to 4 grand children. I have two beautiful daughters and equally beautiful sons-in-law.”

**Stephen Ellis** debuts for Beloit Civic Theatre in *The Dining Room*. His previous theatrical experience includes appearances in Indiana in *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grille*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Incident at Vichy*. Stephen also appeared in *The Fantastiks* for the 4th Street Theater in Indiana, *The Rocky Horror Show* for Studio One in Janesville, *Much Ado About Nothing* for U-Rock Players and in *Hamlet* for the Crown Point Community Theatre in Indiana. Stephen has a bachelor’s degree in theatre with a specialization in dramaturgical work from Wabash College...that's right...the one referenced in Hoosiers!!! Stephen is a resident of Rockton and works as a route driver for Wilmar Pump and Supply in Delavan.

**Jay Goodwin** is a member of the Board of Directors of Beloit Civic Theatre and has previously performed in BCT’s productions of *Cliffhanger*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Greetings*, *Everything I Really Needed To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*, *The Whole Town’s Talking*, *Laura*, *God’s Favorite*, *Night Must Fall*, and BCT's first production of *The Dining Room*. He also appeared in *Godspell*, *Camelot*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Man Who Came for Dinner*, and directed *Enter Laughing* for BCT. Jay has performed with other area theatre groups such as The Summertime Players, Stage One and Janesville Little Theatre in such plays as *The Patient*, *Personals* and *Love, Sex and the I.R.S.* Including his work for BCT, Jay has performed in over 50 plays. He also has done comic improv with The Comedy Connection, and he loves karaoke, dancing, spending time with his grown sons (Christopher, Michael, Anthony and Shawn) and going out with friends.

**Loren Sass** is the Vice President of the Beloit Civic Theatre Board and has directed ten shows for BCT including the recent musicals: *She Loves Me*, *Whodunit: the Musical*, and *Ruthless: the Musical*. He has appeared onstage for BCT in 20 shows since his first in 1968. Loren appeared in last season’s *A Talent for Murder* and as half the population of Tuna, Texas in *Greater Tuna*. He most recently acted in *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Deathtrap*, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, *God’s Favorite*, and *Rumors*. Loren directed *You’re a Good Man*, *Charlie Brown* for New Court Theatre and also directed a production of *The Mikado* for the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra. After teaching theatre and directing fifty-one shows at Beloit Memorial High School, he retired in 2002. He has been married to Diane for forty-seven years and is the proud father of two and grandfather of three. He is an avid theatregoer, attending shows in Rockford, Minneapolis, New York and Chicago with regularity. For twenty years he conducted over 300 theatre tours with his tour and travel company, Theatre Getaways. Loren also serves on the executive board for P.A.P.A.S. (Parent Advocates for the Performing Arts in Our Schools) and is the chief financial officer for Caritas, Beloit’s food pantry. Loren enjoys gardening and making his yard the envy of the neighborhood. He is also in charge of selling BCT’s program advertising, writing the

newsletters, taking reservations, making website updates, designing and building the sets, and running the yearly membership subscription campaign.

**Rebecca Wallendal**, who serves on the Board of Directors, has appeared in *Plaza Suite*, *Working*, *The Whole Town's Talking* and *Over the River and Through the Woods* for BCT. Rebecca has also appeared in and costumed several Theatre Unlimited productions. She is a recent graduate of the Northern Illinois University Master's Program - Fine Arts, a feat that she accomplished while being the mother to 3 children under 7, Esther, Jacob and Simon. She works as a costume designer and technician for Beloit Memorial High School where her husband, Greg, is the theatre director, for American Players Theatre (APT) and for The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. In her "spare" time, she enjoys reading and caring for her children.

**Sydney Winchester** previously appeared in *Lend Me a Tenor* and *A Talent for Murder* for BCT. She is a graduate of Beloit Memorial High School where she appeared in *The Matchmaker*, *Dark of the Moon*, *Cinderella*, *A Servant of Two Masters*, *The Good Doctor*, *Hairspray*, *Arabian Nights*, *Urinetown*, and *High School Musical*. At BMHS, Sydney also did extensive work back stage in set construction and décor, was a grip in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, served as "Safety Captain" for two years and was Vice President of the Theatre Club. Sydney attended U-W Rock County and U-W Madison and is currently working as a secretary at Beloit Plastics. Her parents are Brian and Jody, and her brother, Cameron. Sydney loves acting and singing, and she is a past recipient of a Beloit Civic Theatre Scholarship.

**Barry Nyquist** (Director) Barry says, "It's so good to be back and working with dear friends at BCT." He has spent most of his life in theatre whether acting professionally, directing or teaching acting. The most recent shows Barry directed for BCT are *A Talent for Murder*, *Church Basement Ladies*, and *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*. Barry's prior shows for BCT include *God's Favorite*, *Laura*, *Play On*, *Night Must Fall*, *The Nerd*, and *The Dining Room* (1997). Barry has directed at the following other theatres: NAT (New American Theatre), Clocktower, Rockford College, Starlight, Seaside Music Theatre, The Red Barn, and Beloit College. He also taught fifth through twelfth grade acting and speech at Keith Country Day School in Rockford and the Prairie School in Racine, and acting at Beloit College. Barry is a member of Actors Equity, the professional actors union. As a professional actor, some of Barry's favorite roles include Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Kit Carson in *The Time of Your Life*, 9 characters in *The Dining Room*, and JP Finch in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. *The Dining Room* is one of Barry's favorite shows. "Please enjoy!"

**Mary Easland** (Stage Manager) A member of the Board of Directors of Beloit Civic Theatre, Mary served as Stage Manager for *A Talent for Murder* and *Seniors of the Sahara*, as Assistant Stage Manager for *Squirrels in the Attic*, as a dresser for *Greater Tu-*

na, and on the running crews of *Church Basement Ladies* and many other productions. Mary works in the Treasurer's Office for The City of Janesville. Her family consists of her daughter, Katie, and her Mom, Janet of whom she says, "...each inspire me every day." Mary enjoys bicycling and walking outdoors and taking day trips with family and friends. She also spends much of her time working on set construction for BCT. Another of Mary's board responsibilities is to serve as "Cookie Queen", a much revered and important title!

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Mike Goddard for the loan of his dining room table  
Beloit Memorial High School Theatre Department

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Refreshments will be available during the intermission. All proceeds go to the Beloit Civic Theatre Helen Hayes Teed Scholarship Fund. Each year awards are given to students going on after high school to study theatre arts or communications.

We are "GOING GREEN" at intermission. Please put your coffee and soda cups in the recycling bins.

Please be aware that Beloit Memorial High School is a "non-smoking" facility. Please respect the school policy and state law and refrain from smoking on school grounds.

No photography is allowed during performance.

Please turn off ringing cell phones and pagers during performance.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please leave your name, address, and phone number with one of the volunteers at the ticket tables in the lobby. Address changes may also be given to one of our lobby personnel.

Please check out our recently updated website at [www.beloitcivictheatre.org](http://www.beloitcivictheatre.org)

Gift certificates are available for the entire season or for individual shows. They make wonderful gifts for all occasions. If interested, contact our box office at (608) 362-1595 or Loren Sass at (608) 365-0235.

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### **AUDITION NOTICE**

Auditions for our spring show will be held in the theatre on March 14 and 15 at 7 p.m. Claire Johnson will direct Exit *Laughing by Paul Elliot*. The cast calls for one man and four women. You may request to be added to our actor database if interested. Post-cards announcing auditions are mailed before each show's auditions. Just give your name, phone number and postal mailing address to anyone working in the lobby or e-mail us at [beloitcivictheatre@gmail.com](mailto:beloitcivictheatre@gmail.com)

Beloit Civic Theatre wishes to thank the following members for their additional financial contributions to the theatre. If there are any errors or omissions in this list of supporters, please call Loren Sass at 608-365-0235. This list was compiled on September 6th,????? (updated on\_\_\_)? so if your name is not listed, we may have received your donation after that date. Thanks again for your support!

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