

BELOIT CIVIC THEATRE

Now in its 84th Year
Presents...

**MOONLIGHT
AND
MAGNOLIAS**

By

RON HUTCHINSON

January 26, 27, 28

February 2, 3, 4 at 7:30

3 p.m. matinees on Jan. 28, 29, and Feb. 4

2017

Elizabeth Reinholz Theatre

Produced in cooperation with

Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

440 Park Avenue South

New York, NY 10016

THE CAST

David O. Selznick	Loren Sass
Ben Hecht	Brad Thorp
Victor Fleming	David Bitter
Miss Poppengul	Donna Balsley
The voices of everyone else	Peter Tropp

THE SETTING

Place: A Hollywood studio lot, office of legendary producer David O. Selznick.

Time: 1939

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

Large quantities of peanuts will be used during the action of the play. If you have a serous peanut allergy and are in the front of the theatre, please see an usher to be re-seated further back.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Barry Nyquist
Stage Manager	Mary Easland
Set Design	Loren Sass
Set Construction	Joyce Anderson, Les Blumreich, Donna Balsley, Deb Burns, Mike Fallon, Dee Fischer, Dawn Kabor, Tom Lepinski, Mary Mowers, Harold Pann, Loren Sass, Ed Skwarlo, Gerry White, Tom Young
Lighting and Sound	Peter Tropp
Costumes	Donna Balsley, Joyce Anderson
Properties	Donna Balsley, Dee Fischer, Joyce Anderson
Running Crew	Les Blumreich, Dee Fischer, Lisa Scholten
Make-up Design	Dee Fischer

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It is my pleasure to work with this wonderful cast on this funny play based on the actual story of how the movie, *Gone With the Wind*, was rush-written in five days. A few

weeks into shooting, MGM's epic Civil War film was headed toward failure, and Producer David O. Selznick called in "script doctor" Ben Hecht to rewrite the awful script. Many of the details of the script you will see enacted in this performance are true to the story of those hectic five days, and as you watch it, you will realize that the play is much more than the story of the making of a movie script. It's also about money, values, racism, anti-Semitism, the looming war and the Holocaust in Europe. 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 *Moonlight and Magnolias*.

WHO'S WHO

Donna Balsley (Miss Poppenghul) Donna, 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 *The Dining Room*, and previously in *A Talent for Murder*, *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, Hononegah 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."

David Bitter (Victor Fleming) *Moonlight and Magnolias* is David's 9th performance for Beloit Civic Theater. He recently performed in TUI's production of *My Fair Lady* at JPAC, and he directed *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten* for Theater Unlimited last June. He has directed other shows for TUI including *The Music Man* and *Brigadoon*. His other most recent performances were in Stage One's production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, and University of Wisconsin-Rock County's *Man Of La Mancha* in which he portrayed Don Quixote. David has performed in area theaters over the past 14 years, returning to play Doc in *West Side Story* after a 25-year hiatus (otherwise known as real life). In addition, for TUI he appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Is There Life After High School?*, *Beauty And The Beast*, *Godspell*, *Camelot*, *Mame*, *Guys On Ice*, *Oliver!*, and *The Boys From Syracuse*. For JPAC he appeared in *The Frogs*, and for

ECHO Community Players, in *Arsenic And Old Lace* and twice in *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. He has performed often at Beloit Civic Theater in shows such as *Bus Stop*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*, *Greetings, Over The River And Through The Woods*, *Arsenic And Old Lace*, *Guys on Ice*, and *Lend Me A Tenor*. He was in the cast of the play *Mirror Image* written by his friend and co-actor Jim Lyke. He has appeared with The JPAC Radio Players in WCLO's live radio shows of *A Christmas Carol*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Miracle On 34th Street*, *War of The Worlds*, *Frankenstein*, and *Casablanca*, which opened the Beloit International Film Festival in 2015 on WBEL radio, and most recently, *A Christmas Story*. David is a Registered Pharmacist for Shopko in Beloit. He has been married for 35 years to Kathleen, an RN for Dean Clinic in Janesville, who also does the costuming for TUI. They have three children, Alyson, Joshua, and Emma who have all been involved in music and theater. He is extremely grateful to his family for their continuing support of his "other" career. When he's not in the theater he is an avid golfer, a professional guitarist, and collector of music, movies and books. He is currently the Treasurer for TUI.

Loren Sass (David O. Selznick) Loren is 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 21 shows since his first in 1968. Loren appeared in last season's *The Dining Room*, and previously in *A Talent for Murder*, *Greater Tuna*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Deathtrap*, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, *God's Favorite*, and *Rumors* for BCT. Last summer he appeared in *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* for Theatre Unlimited in Janesville. Loren directed *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* for New Court Theatre and the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra's production of *The Mikado*. 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-eight years and is the proud father of two and grandfather of three. He is an avid theatre-goer, attending shows in Rockford, Minneapolis, New York and Chicago with regularity. For twenty years he conducted over 300 theatre tours with his travel company, Theatre Getaways. Loren also serves on the executive boards for P.A.P.A.S. (Parent Advocates for the Performing Arts in Our Schools) and Caritas, Beloit's food pantry. The Beloit Daily News selected Loren as "Volunteer of the Month" in November. He is also in charge of BCT's program advertising, reservations, set design and the yearly membership subscription campaign. "Now that my age starts with a seven, I feel blessed to have the energy and ability to spend my time doing what I love."

Brad Thorp (Ben Hecht) Brad appeared in *Talent for Murder* for Beloit Civic Theatre, and he has also worked in on set construction and on running crews for various BCT productions. In high school Brad appeared in *My Sister Eileen*, *Bye Bye*

Birdie, Grease, Cheaper By the Dozen, Rehearsal for Murder, Calamity Jane and West Side Story. Brad works as Manager of Novaspect Reliability Services and is married to wife, Teresa; they have 4 children, Matthew, Mary, Luke and Timothy. Brad enjoys spending time with Teresa and playing military simulation games with his buddies, Mary, Luke and Tim. Brad thanks his family for their support.

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 *The Dining Room, 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.*

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

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 recyclable 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 website at 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, *Same Time, Next Year*, directed by Michael Chase, will be held in the theatre on March 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. The cast calls for one man and one woman. The age range will be determined by those who audition. You may request to be added to our actor database if interested. Postcards 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

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 December 31st, 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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