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OF PARKERSBURG PRESENTS



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Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

## The Red Velvet Cake War

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope & Jamie Wooten

The Red Velvet Cake War is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



The video and/or audio recording of this performance  
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THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM

**The West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
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## Synopsis & Scenes

**Place:** In and around the home Gaynelle Verdeen Bodeen,  
Sweetgum, Texas, USA. **Time:** Mid-July, the present.

### Act One

Scene 1:.....Thursday morning  
Scene 2:..... A few minutes later  
Scene 3:..... Moments later  
Scene 4:..... Seconds later  
Scene 5:..... That afternoon  
Scene 6:.....Friday evening  
Scene 7:..... Early Saturday morning

### Act Two

Scene 1:..... Later that morning  
Scene 2:..... One hour later  
Scene 3:..... That afternoon  
Scene 4:..... One hour later

*There will be one  
fifteen-minute intermission.*

## Cast

*(in order of appearance)*

Cee Cee Windham.....BRENNIA SMITH  
Gaynelle Verdeen Bodeen.....RENA SWEARINGEN  
La Merle Verdeen Minshew.....TARA POLAN  
Aubrey Verdeen.....DAVID B. PRATHER  
Jimmie Wyvette Verdeen.....SUSAN COURTNEY  
Peaches Verdeen Belrose.....VERONICA FIELDS  
Bitsy Hargis.....MARY LUCAS  
Newt Blaylock.....RYAN NEDEFF  
Sheriff Grover Lout/Purvis Verdeen.....CHARLES ROBERTS  
Elsa Dowdall.....KIM KORCSMAROS  
Mama Doll Hargis.....JANE MANCINI

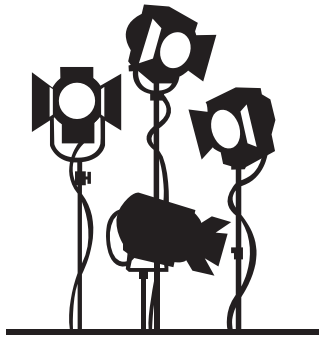
## Crew

Director.....HEATHER HEPBURN  
Assistant Directors.....DON GEIBEL, DREW WILLIAMS  
Technical Director.....JOHN GRADWOHL  
Production Assistant.....JUDY CHEUVRONT  
Costumer.....JASON BENNETT  
Advisor.....JOHN LEE  
Playbill Layout and Design.....BRETT MEADE

*You are invited to meet the cast downstairs in the  
greenroom following the performance.*

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## A Letter from the President



“WE’RE HAVING A FAMILY REUNION.” You’ve heard the words before. Some of you were delighted; immediately making travel plans, arranging “sleeping quarters” for the overnight stay in the lodge, planning meals and dessert menus, discussing games and crafts to keep the kids busy, and genuinely looking forward to the chance to visit with aunts, uncles, and cousins you haven’t seen in ages.

Others of you were appalled; checking your calendars over and over hoping a conflict magically appears, complaining about the walls shaking from Uncle Ron’s snoring during the last family gathering, re-living the unfortunate food poisoning incident from Aunt Maxine’s casserole, praying that the “Radford” clan will stay home because their kids are “hell on wheels,” and steeling yourself for the upcoming encounter with Aunt Donna who just can’t stop kissing your cheek – despite the fact you are no longer a child.



Regardless of your typical feelings about family reunions, you will enjoy the one you’re invited to attend today. The Verdeen cousins know how to make a reunion an **event** and you will certainly laugh at the antics of everyone’s favorite: crazy uncle. Throw in some dessert and a ton of dysfunction and you have a recipe for a great experience.

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## *The Bayley Award*

The "Bayley" was established by the Actors Guild with a two-fold purpose: first, to honor one of our "founding mothers" and most influential members - Suzanne Bayley. The other function of the Bayley Award is for our membership to express an annual, public "thank you" to an individual, group or business in the community for services to the Guild above and beyond the call of neighborly duty.

Our most recent Bayley Award was granted to the Khalil Family.

## *The Khalil Awards*

For many years Dr. Ghassan Khalil and his family have made an annual contribution to ensure the continuation of live theater in our community and have championed the importance of the arts in our lives. The Khalil Awards were established to honor the Outstanding Production and the Outstanding Performance of each season. An anonymous panel consisting of persons who have seen every show of the previous season selects the recipients of these awards.

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg would like to congratulate director Charlie Matthews and the entire cast and crew of *Tuesdays with Morrie* as the Best Show for the 2011-2012 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was John Lee, for his portrayal of Morrie in *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

## *The Grace-Marie Merrill Award*

Melody Carson is the most recent recipient of the Grace-Marie Merrill Award for exceptional volunteerism to the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. The award is named for a former drama teacher at Parkersburg High School who was an early member of the Guild, where she acted in and directed plays.

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To become a voting member of the Actors Guild, contact Susan Schuchts at [sschuchts@yahoo.com](mailto:sschuchts@yahoo.com) or 304-488-8401. Membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 7 P.M.

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## Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

**SUSAN COURTNEY** (Jimmie Wyvette Verdeen) has appeared at the Guild in *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Dixie Swim Club*, *The Foreigner*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Dearly Departed*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Boys Next Door*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Rumors*, and *Squabbles*. She has assistant directed and worked backstage on numerous productions. Susan is with guest relations at Camden Clark Medical Center.

**VERONICA (NIKKI) FIELDS** (Peaches Verdeen Belrose) is an Actors Guild veteran. Has appeared on stage in *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Dinner Party*, *Rumors* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Costumer for *Leading Ladies*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Into the Woods*. Was Assistant Director for *The Octet Bridge Club* and *Lion in Winter*. Nikki served as director for *Hairspray*. She is also excited to be sharing the stage once again with her sister Brenna Smith, it has been too long.

**KIM KORCSMAROS** (Elsa Dowdall) This is Kim's first appearance with the Actors Guild. She is an instructor and coach of the Union for Speech and Debate at West Virginia University at Parkersburg. Her theater experience includes directing a one act play during her master's degree program at Marshall University and appearing as the Mother character in the Fairmont State University production of *A Thousand Cranes*.

**MARY LUCAS** (Bitsy Hargis) is performing for the first time on the Actors Guild stage. Becoming involved in the Actors Guild has been a goal of Mary's for over twenty years, and she recently found herself with the courage, energy, and time to turn her goal into a reality. Lindsay Snider's advice and prompting helped too. Thank you! Mary would also like to thank her husband, Gary Lucas, her brother, Tom "Bub" Postlewait, and her best friend, Gina Borrelli Lewellyn, for their love, support, and encouragement in all she does! Mary teaches second grade at Kanawha Elementary School.

**JANE MANCINI** (Mama Doll Hargis) has appeared on the Guild stage in *Death of a Salesman*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Godspell*, and *The Boys Next Door*. Just at home backstage, she has worked on *The Wizard of Oz*; *Big, the Musical*; *Leading Ladies*; *Hairspray* and many others. Jane has three grown daughters and four grandchildren. She lives in Parkersburg with her husband Jesse, and is a monitor tech at Camden-Clark Medical Center-Memorial campus. She would like to thank her family for their support.

**TARA POLAN** (La Merle Verdeen Minshew) this is Tara's first performance at the Actors Guild. Most of her acting experience has been at the MOVP. She has appeared in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Look Homeward Angel*, *Angel Street* (Outstanding in Acting award OCTA 2012), and *A Piece of My Heart*. She has also performed at WVUP in *The Laramie Project* and *Tartuffe*. She has worked

back stage on props, costumes and as backstage manager. Tara is a rural letter carrier for the Vincent, OH post office. She has four wonderful daughters and five (soon to be seven) awesome grandchildren.

**DAVE PRATHER** (Aubrey Verdeen) is a long-time member of the Guild, appearing in several shows. He received Khalil awards for his performances in *Honk! (The Cat)*, *Chicago! (The Jury)*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Otto Frank), and *The Boys Next Door* (Lucien P. Smith). He has directed several shows, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Paint Your Wagon*, and *Leading Ladies*. He appears in the movie *Christ Complex* and in the upcoming *White Zombie*. Dave studied acting at The National Shakespeare Conservatory and writing at Warren Wilson College. He has completed a screenplay, a stage play, and is working on three novels.

**RYAN NEDEFF** (Newt Blaylock) this is Ryan's third production with the Guild, having previously performed in *Prelude to a Kiss*, and *The Full Monty*. Before coming to the Guild, he spent ten years as a professional wrestler, studied theater at Marshall University, and was a member of the Parkersburg Catholic High School Drama Club and Story Tellers Club, where he performed in productions of *West Side Story*, *Guys and Dolls*, and various medleys. He lives in Parkersburg with his wife Rachel and son Ralland.

**CHARLES ROBERTS** (Sheriff Blaylock/Purvis Verdeen) has been out of the community theater scene for a couple of years now, but is glad to be back on stage at the Actors Guild! His first play was *Spoon River* during his senior year at Parkersburg South High School. Since then, Charles been on stage in various leading, supporting and smaller roles for a total of thirty-two plays spanning from *A Christmas Carol* at Fairmont State College to *West Side Story* at WVU-Parkersburg, *Dearly Departed* at MOVP and *A Few Good Men*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Death Trap* and *Into the Woods* at the Actors Guild.

**BRENNA SMITH** (Cee Cee Windham) is finally stepping out from behind the scenes! She has done makeup for the Guild's productions of *RENT*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and most recently, *Hairspray*. She has worked backstage and on the light rail for many productions since her adolescent years. Brenna has appeared onstage as Catherine Connolly in *The Laramie Project* at WVUP, Donna in *A Taffetta Christmas* and JoBeth in *Seeing Stars Over Dixie* for a small dinner theater company. She is a Merle Norman beauty advisor at Lee's Studio and is very happy to be sharing the stage with her sister, Veronica.

**HEATHER HEPBURN** (Director) has been at the Actors Guild for almost ten years now and this is her first time directing. She could not have asked for a better cast! Their hard work and dedication have made her so proud. Heather has assistant directed at MOVP and AGP. One of the shows, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, is representing West Virginia at Nationals for AACT. You might know Heather better as an actor because she's appeared in numerous shows in the Mid-Ohio Valley; some of her favorites being *Hairspray* as Motor Mouth Maybelle, *Doubt* as Mrs. Muller and *Look Away* as Elizabeth Keckley.

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**DON GEIBEL** (Assistant Director) has appeared in numerous Guild productions, as well as directed many more since 1977. He has worked with other theatrical groups, such as the Mid Ohio Valley Players, The Dayton Playhouse and WVU-P. He is looking forward to *The Red Velvet Cake War* and believes audiences will find it delightful.

**DREW WILLIAMS** (Assistant Director) is a graduate from Parkersburg High School. He's been seen in several shows; *Night of The Living Dead* (PHS Players), *Wake Up Call* (PHS Thespian Troupe 264), *Radium Girls* (PHS Players), *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* (Smoot Theatre), *All Shook Up* (Actors Guild), *The Secret Garden* (Actors Guild), most recently seen in *The Full Monty* (Actors Guild). This is Drew's first time as an assistant director, and he is so happy to be working with such a talented cast, and thrilled to be a part of a great production staff. Enjoy the show!

**JASON BENNETT** (Costumer) is so happy to have worked on such a funny show as *The Red Velvet Cake War*, which has been so much fun. Other shows he has costumed for the Guild are *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Full Monty* and he will also be costuming *Avenue Q* and *Shrek* and hopes there will be many more yet to come. Jason wants to say thank you to everyone at the Guild for being so great and make his life so much fun.

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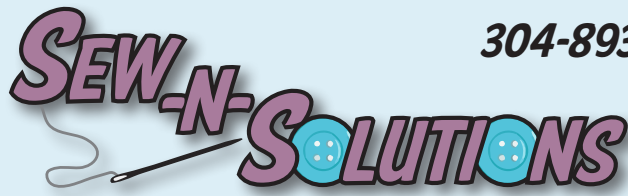
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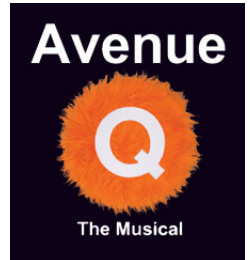
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