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OF PARKERSBURG PRESENTS

# MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS

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Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

# Moonlight and Magnolias

by Ron Hutchinson

MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS is presented by special arrangement  
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Moonlight and Magnolias was originally produced in New York City by the Manhattan Theatre Club on March 3, 2005, Lynn Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer. The World Premiere was produced by The Goodman Theatre, Chicago, Illinois on May 15, 2004, Robert Falls, Artistic Director; Roche Schulfer, Executive Director.

The video or audio recording of this production by any means is strictly prohibited.



THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM

**The West Virginia Division of Culture and History  
and the National Endowment for the Arts**

WITH APPROVAL FROM

**The WV Commission on the Arts**

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY

**The Ross Foundation • Artsbridge**

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# Synopsis & Scenes

1939 Hollywood is abuzz. Legendary producer David O. Selznick has shut down production of his new epic, *Gone with the Wind*, a film adaptation of Margaret Mitchell's novel. The screenplay, you see, just doesn't work. So what's an all-powerful movie mogul to do? While fending off the film's stars, gossip columnists and his own father-in-law, Selznick sends a car for famed screenwriter Ben Hecht and pulls formidable director Victor Fleming from the set of *The Wizard of Oz*. Summoning both to his office, he locks the doors, closes the shades, and on a diet of bananas and peanuts, the three men labor over five days to fashion a screenplay that will become the blueprint for one of the most successful and beloved films of all time.

**Place:** Hollywood, California **Time:** February, 1939

## Act One

**Scene 1:** A Hollywood studio lot, office of legendary producer David O. Selznick. Monday, 6:00 am.

**Scene 2:** Two days later

## Act Two

**Scene 1:** Two more days later

*There will be a ten minute intermission between each scene.*

## Special Thanks

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# Cast

Ben Hecht ..... DAVE PRATHER  
 Victor Fleming.....BILL KNOTTS  
 David O. Selznick.....ROD ODEN  
 Miss Poppenguhl..... RAQUEL JACKMOND

# Crew

Director..... CHARLIE MATTHEWS  
 Assistant Director..... SPENCER SEELEY  
 Costumer..... DEBRA SEELEY  
 Production Assistant ..... KELLY MATTHEWS  
 Stage Manager..... HALEY MATTHEWS  
 Asst. Stage Manager..... SPENCER SEELEY  
 Technical Director.....ROD ODEN  
 Asst. Technical Director..... SPENCER SEELEY  
 Props .....KELLY MATTHEWS, PAM SALISBURY  
 Lighting Design.....SABRINA DYE  
 Light Board Operator.....SABRINA DYE  
 Sound Design.....ROD ODEN  
 Sound Operator..... HALEY MATTHEWS  
 Advisor.....JOHN LEE  
 Photographer.....JEFF BAUGHAN  
 Playbill Layout and Design.....BRETT MEADE



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## A Letter from the President



WELCOME TO OUR 2014-2015 SEASON. We have a wonderful slate of shows prepared for you and trust that you will make every effort to see each and every one of them-at least once.

From watching a group of men 'on a mission' to re-write the screenplay for *Gone with the Wind* in *Moonlight and Magnolias* to watching Tom paint the fence in the last show, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, the Broadway Musical* we are confident you will find some

bit of wisdom to take with you on life's journey.

I recently had the opportunity to take in a brief excerpt of *Moonlight and Magnolias* and was taken back to my high school days when I would read only the first, last and middle chapter of a book and then stand in front of my classmates and give a report on the book, while all the time hoping that I had read enough to get a "feel" for the book and that the teacher would not catch on to my secret. I would have more nervous anxiety that I would change the story line than at having to stand in front of my classmates and enlighten them on the merits of deep sea fishing or the life of John Adams. Of course, I would always feel guilty about this the night before the report was due and, at that point, it was just not possible to read the entire book in one setting. Part of the reason for not actually reading the book at the last minute was my guiding principle that the thicker the book, the less likely anyone else would have read it. I should include a note here for those of you who may have had the distinct joy of having me in your class, this was never something I did in your class-trust me, I really, really, loved your class.

Well, I have said all of that to get to the point that I have never read the classic *Gone with the Wind*-it was way too thick for my actual reading. I guess that I might be able to consider myself a bit of a Hecht. I was someone who has never read the book, but is trying to create a screenplay which catches all of the highlights. While this show will keep you laughing and leave you feeling like you have been watching a tennis match, we trust that this high-energy story line will also leave you with a new-found desire to read or re-read the book if you have not already done that.

We trust that you, our patrons, find benefit in each of our programs that you participate in and invite you to learn more about becoming a member, patron or volunteer by contacting any usher or house manager or calling our office at (304) 485-9322.

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## Director's Note

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE...Laughter is the spark of the soul... Laughter is the shortest distance between two people...Nothing shows a person's character more than what they laugh at...The most important aspect of comedy is the ambiguity.

While directing this play I received two gifts: First, the gift of laughter, and even more revelatory, the history behind the herculean effort of David O. Selznick's legacy "Gone with the Wind". Selznick was not a tortured soul like Van Gogh, or a giant of literature like Tolstoy, or a Shakespearean legend like Olivier... But at the end of the day he was not so different. He pursued his dreams with an artist's passion and his creative drive is surely evident in his total body of work.

Comedy is a tricky business, and you can't have comedy without drama...so "Buckle up"... you are in for an amazing ride! One more thing...if you have never watched "Gone with the Wind" or haven't seen it in a long time...do it now... after tonight, I guarantee, you'll see it in a completely different light!

CHARLIE MATTHEWS

Director, *Moonlight and Magnolias*



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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 Dr. Robert Heflin and United Anesthesia, Inc.

## 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 Barbara Full and the entire cast and crew of *Avenue Q* as the Best Show for the 2012-2013 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was Dan Miller, for his portrayal of Dave Bukatinsky in *The Full Monty*.

## The Grace-Marie Merrill Award

John Newton 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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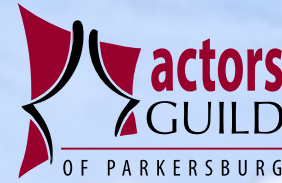
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## Actors Guild Membership 2014-2015



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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★ Indicates a Life Member, current as of 9/1/14

## Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

**RAQUEL JACKMOND** (Miss Poppen-guhl) is thrilled to be returning to the stage at the Guild! She has performed in theaters from Los Angeles, CA to Big Rapids, MI. Playing such roles as Lucy in *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* and Roz in *Moon Over Buffalo* as well as recently being seen in the ensemble cast of *9 to 5* at AGP. She would like to thank her four boys for their constant love and support, as well as her amazing partner and fellow actor Rod Oden for always pushing her to new heights!

**BILL KNOTTS** (Victor Fleming) has been active with the Actors Guild since 1982 and this play marks his sixty-fourth production. He has worked backstage in every capacity except director. Bill recently retired from the Bureau of the Public Debt after thirty-four years of service. He is proud to be a distant cousin of the late comic actor Don Knotts, and after forty years of correspondence, Bill is included in the acknowledgments section of former stage and screen actress and Tony Award nominee Reverend Mother Dolores Hart's recent best-selling autobiography.

**ROD ODEN** (David O. Selznik) is enthralled to be making his on-stage Guild debut. Rod has performed on stages from Los Angeles, CA to Lexington, KY. Rod is very excited to be on-stage performing with his greatest and life-long partner, Raquel. Some of his favorite roles include Hamlet in *Hamlet*, George in *Moon Over Buffalo*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Gary LeJeune/Roger in *Noises Off!* Rod wants to thank the Guild for this opportunity and send his appreciation and love to his wife and four kids.

**DAVE PRATHER** (Ben Hecht) 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), *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 movies *Christ Complex* and *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.

**CHARLIE MATTHEWS** (Director) has been very active in the Guild for many years. He has served in many capacities both administrative and artistic. Having participated in over one hundred productions his memorable directorial experiences include: *Big River*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Civil War*, *Into the Woods*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *The Elephant Man*, *Children of a Lesser God*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Noises Off*, *Lombardi* and the award winning *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Memorable acting experiences include: *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The Caine Mutiny* *Court Martial*, *Noises Off*, *1776*, *Moon over Buffalo* and *A Walk in the Woods*.

**SPENCER SEELEY** (Assistant Director) has served as an assistant director for *On Borrowed Time*, *Dixie Swim Club*, *Prelude to a Kiss* and *Grandest Canyon*. He appeared on stage in *Paint Your Wagon* and *Man of La Mancha* and worked backstage on *Dixie Swim Club*, *Dracula* and *Lombardi*.

**ROD ODEN** (Technical Director) is very excited to be continuing with the Guild on their journey through the 2014-2015 Season! Rod is proud to be a part of the continuing tradition of theatrical excellence at AGP. Rod has designed and technical directed on stages from Los Angeles to Michigan, in

a variety of venues. Rod's most recent work at AGP includes *Shrek*, *Lombardi*, and *9 to 5: the Musical*. Other favorite productions include *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*. Rod sends his love and appreciation to Raquel, Tristan, Lucas, Jamie, and Sylar.

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