

# ACTORS GUILD

OF PARKERSBURG PRESENTS



*by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope  
and Jamie Wooten*

*Sponsored by United Anesthesia*

January 20, 21, 27, 28 and February 3, 4 at 8:00 PM  
January 29 at 2:30 PM

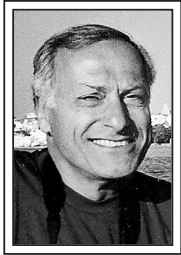


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## *Dr. Ghassan Khalil*

1934–2011



*We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Ghassan Khalil, one of the dearest friends of the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, who passed away on July 12, 2011 at the age of seventy-seven. Dr. Khalil and his wife Genevieve have been long-time season ticket holders, and are the namesake behind the Khalil Awards, given each season for outstanding performances on our stage. Our actors have always looked forward to hearing his boisterous “bravo!” emanating from the audience and his presence in our theatre will not soon be forgotten. To you, Dr. Khalil, we dedicate our 2011-2012 Season and extend our own sincerest **bravo!***

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

# The Dixie Swim Club

*written by*

Jessie Jones  
Nicholas Hope  
Jamie Wooten

The Dixie Swim Club is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

*Video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means are strictly prohibited.*

# Synopsis & Scenes

Five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other's lives. *The Dixie Swim Club* focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of thirty-three years.

**Place:** The living room of a beach cottage on the Outer Banks of North Carolina

**Time:** One weekend in August

## Act One

Scene 1.....1978  
(22 years after the characters' college graduation)

Scene 2..... 1983

## Act Two

Scene 1..... 1988

Scene 2.....2011

*There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.*

THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM



**The West Virginia Division  
of Culture and History**

WITH APPROVAL FROM

**The West Virginia  
Commission on the Arts**



# Cast

*(in order of appearance)*

Sheree.....MARY LOU HARNETT  
Lexie.....SUE MURDOCK  
Dinah.....BARBARA FULL  
Vernadette.....DIXIE SAYRE  
Jeri Neal.....SUSAN COURTNEY

# Crew

Director..... JEAN NEWTON  
Assistant Directors..... SPENCER SEELEY, FRANCES GIBSER  
Advisor..... CHARLIE MATTHEWS  
Dialect Coach..... BOB HOLLAND  
Production Assistant.....DAVE ARGABRITE  
Technical Director.....JOHN GRADWOHL  
Set Design.....JOHN GRADWOHL  
Scenic Design.....STEVE SIMONTON  
Lighting Design.....JOHN GRADWOHL  
Sound Design.....ROB HOWARD  
Costume Design.....ANN SIMONTON  
Stage Manager.....FRANCES GIBSER  
Assistant Stage Manager.....NORA CORA  
Sound Board Operator.....JIM FULL  
Light Board Operator.....SPENCER SEELEY  
Props Chair.....DEBRA SEELEY  
Running Crew..... BETTY MATTHEWS, CHARLIE MATTHEWS, JOHN NEWTON,  
DEBRA SEELEY, JUDY SHINER, DAVE WARNER, AARON WHITED  
Book Holder.....NORA CORA  
Photographer.....JULIA RAFFA

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## Director's Note

### *The true meaning of friendship*

I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED plays that reflect real life, especially those that look at the humor in life's situations. As a director, I love ensemble pieces. *The Dixie Swim Club* is that and more. The humor and sorrow comes from reality. Situations we all face at one time or another. It shows the true meaning of friendship, loyalty and support of five women for each other over a period of fifty-six years. They met in college twenty-two years before we meet them. Over the next thirty-three years we are privileged to see glimpses of their lives and the one constant thread that holds all together - their friendship and support of each other. Although each woman has followed a different life path, they have managed to keep hold of that most important thing - true friendship.



I have been honored to work with an exceptional cast and crew. Like the play, the last three months have been filled with humor, support and friendship. To each of them goes my deepest gratitude.

JEAN NEWTON  
Director, *The Dixie Swim Club*

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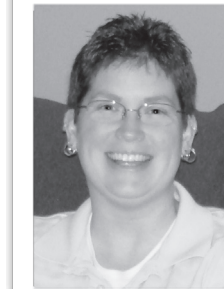
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## A Letter from the President

**M**Y FIRST “BEST FRIEND” was Danny. We met at a small church in Seneca, South Carolina, and quickly became buddies. During my dad’s sermons, we would sit beside each other – passing notes (and trying not to get caught) and laughing (until we did get caught and were hushed by the mom we were sitting with that day). As soon as the church service was over, we’d rush out of the building to play tag or some game of our creation. I still remember Danny’s crooked smile and blue eyes, and the way he’d laugh when I said something particularly funny.

We were all of six years old, but our friendship was legitimate and meaningful nonetheless. Unfortunately, our friendship was not destined to last a lifetime. I last saw Danny when we were ten years old and he was waving from the back seat of his foster dad’s car – his big, crooked smile assuring me he was very happy as he set out on his journey to be adopted (along with his two older brothers) by a family with a large farm, horses, and lots of climbing trees.

As C.S. Lewis once noted, “Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival.” Today’s production will remind you of the friends you’ve had, the ones you’ve lost, and those you will cherish forever. I hope it will encourage you to tell your friends the value they bring to your life and, perhaps, inspire you to contact the friends who have faded into memories.

As for me, it’s time to log on Facebook and start looking for Danny.

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## About the Playwrights

JESSIE JONES, NICHOLAS HOPE AND JAMIE WOOTEN are currently enjoying the reputation of being three of the most widely-produced comedic playwrights in America.

Their Southern-style laugh-out-loud comedies include the wildly popular Futrelle Family Texas trilogy: *Dearly Beloved*, *Christmas Belles* and *Southern Hospitality*. Jones, Hope and Wooten are also authors of the hit plays *The Dixie Swim Club*, *The Hallelujah Girls*, *Til Beth Do Us Part* and their newest comedies *The Red Velvet Cake War*, *Dashing Through The Snow* and *Mama Won't Fly*.

Jessie Jones co-authored the award-winning classic, Southern-fried funeral comedy, *Dearly Departed*, and

its feature film adaptation, *Kingdom Come*, which was released by Fox Searchlight Films. Nicholas Hope was Director of Casting for Theatre Communications Group in New York, The Goodman Theatre in Chicago and ABC Television in New York and Los Angeles. Jamie Wooten spent many seasons with Dorothy, Blanche, Rose and Sophia as a writer/producer on the classic television series *The Golden Girls*.



With more than sixteen-hundred productions and over twelve-thousand performances, the Jones Hope Wooten Comedies have now entertained more than one-million theatergoers in forty-nine states across America and in Canada, Denmark, The Netherlands, Australia, Mexico, The Virgin Islands, England, Scotland and Kenya.

## Tickets Online & Box Office Hours

ONLINE TICKET PURCHASING has arrived at the Guild and is now available for individual performances as well as season tickets. This convenient new option allows for ticket purchases any time, day or night, and is a welcome addition to our regular box office, staffed by dedicated volunteers. Purchasing online is quick and easy and your tickets can be printed from home, saving time and effort. Visit us at [actorsguildonline.org](http://actorsguildonline.org) for details. Our regular box office opens ten days before each performance.

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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 Barbara Full, music director Greg Strauss and the entire cast and crew of *RENT* as the Best Show for the 2010-2011 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was Dave Prather, for his roles in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *The Boys Next Door*.

## *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.

## Who's Who in the Cast and Crew



**DAVE ARGABRITE** (Production Assistant) has served as PA for numerous productions including *Into the Woods*; *Leading Ladies*; *A Year with Frog and Toad*; *Noises Off*; *The Civil War*; *The Wizard of Oz* and *Big, The Musical*, and has worked on the light rail and backstage. He appeared onstage in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Dave serves as member for the Guild Board of Trustees. He is married to Jane, grandfather to Louise and is employed by E.I. DuPont



**SUSAN COURTNEY** (Jeri Neal) has appeared at the Guild in *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 employed by Extras.



**BARBARA FULL** (Dinah) has been active at the Guild since 1975, acting in over thirty productions, including *On Borrowed Time*; *Into the Woods*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *The Civil War*; *Damn Yankees*; *Honk!*; *Same Time, Next Year*; and *Anything Goes*. She has directed eleven shows including *Rent*, *Annie*, *The Who's Tommy*, *Doubt* and *Forever Plaid*. Barbara retired as the music teacher at Neale School after thirty-six years, where she directed the choirs and theatrical productions. She is also active at the Smoot Theatre where she is the director of the Smoot Theatre Children's Chorus and is on the staff of Camp Vaudeville.



**FRANCES GIBSER** (Assistant Director) has performed in *Leading Ladies*, and *Man of La Mancha* and was a member of the crew in *Paint Your Wagon* and *The Boys Next Door*. She has been a cast member in several productions at the River City Players in Meigs County, Ohio, such as *Steel Magnolias* and numerous murder mysteries. This is her first time at the Guild to assist the Director, and she wants to thank Jean Newton for the opportunity to learn all the "ins and outs" of the direction mode. She is a retired college professor and enjoys travelling, and gardening.



**JOHN GRADWOHL** (Technical Director) In addition to designing and technical directing at the Actors Guild, John performs as Professor Phineas T. Bubblemaker in *Professor Bubblemaker's Marvelous Medicine Show* and *Professor Bubblemaker's Beautiful Bubble Ballet* as well as performing for festivals, parties and schools in the area. He also is glad to have his hair growing back.



**MARY LOU HARNETT** (Sheree) has been active at the Guild since 1995, acting in numerous productions, including *Damn Yankees*, *Armenic and Old Lace*, *The Music Man*, *Cinderella*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and most recently, *The Reel Thing*. She has also

appeared at the Becky Thatcher and in productions in Manassas, Virginia. She is the proud mother of three adult children and has one "perfect" grandson, Gavin. She resides and works in the Parkersburg area.



**BOB HOLLAND** (Dialect Coach) has appeared here at the Actors Guild as Edgar in *Anybody for Murder*, Gooper in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Frederick Fellowes/Philip Brent in *Noises Off*, Ivan in *Art*, Max in *Lend Me A Tenor*, Albert in *The Dinner Party*, C.S. Lewis in *Shadowslands*, Blore in *Ten Little Indians*, Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Gazebo*, and *Legends*. He also directed *An Inspector Calls*, *Black Coffee*, *Night Watch*, and *Deathtrap*. Bob is employed as a Departmental Supervisor at the Jan Dils Attorneys at Law.



**SUE MURDOCK** (Lexie) last appeared as a Bird in *A Year with Frog and Toad*. She was also in *Big, the Musical*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Harvey*; *The Sound of Music*; and *The Music Man*. At the MOVP Theater Sue performed in last year's *G.I. Jukebox*, *The 1940's Radio Hour*, *Swinging on a Star*; and played Annie Wilkes in *Misery*. Sue has two children, Alex and Karaline, and is the Director of Human Resources for Washington State Community College. "In the spirit of this production, I dedicate my performance to my amazing friends, who enrich and bless my life every day."



**JEAN NEWTON** (Director) has been active with the Guild for over forty years, designing sets, acting (favorites are Chelsea in *On Golden Pond*, the attorney in *The Gazebo*, Daisy the Clown for MOV Children's Theater Bureau), as a Costumer (including *Secret Garden*, *Joseph... Dream Coat*, *Gypsy*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *My Fair Lady*) and as a Director (including *Moon Over Buffalo*; *South Pacific*; *The Sound of Music*; *Annie*; *Oliver*; *Anybody for Murder*; *Same Time, Next Year*). She was honored to serve as Guild President for four years and to have received the Grace-Marie Merrill Award in 1999 and an Arts Volunteer Award in 2001.



**DIXIE SAYRE** (Vernadette) has appeared on the Actors Guild stage in *The Wizard of Oz* (Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch), *Nunsense* (Sister Amnesia), *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser), *Honk!* (Maureen/Queenie), *Seussical the Musical* (Sour Kangaroo), *In the Beginning* (Arielle), *Annie* (Mrs. Pugh), *Beauty and the Beast*, and *South Pacific*. She also appeared in *The Music Man* (Widow Paroo) and in *Huck Finn's Story* (River Woman) at Ohio Valley Summer Theater in Athens and with River City Players, Meigs County, OH, in *Annie Get Your Gun* (Dolly Tate), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fruma Sara), *A Little Princess* (Miss Minchin) and *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser).



**SPENCER SEELEY** (Assistant Director) appeared in *Paint your Wagon* and *Man of La Mancha* and was an Assistant Director and Stage Manager for *On Borrowed Time*.





**ANN SIMONTON** (Costume Coordinator/Designer) has recently costumed the shows *Into the Woods*, *RENT*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. She has won several awards for costume design at OCTA. She has also appeared onstage, most recently in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Ann is married to Steve, is the mother of Daniel, and is retired from Wood County Schools.



**STEVE SIMONTON** (Set Design/Scenic Artist) has been a scenic painter at the Guild for years, beginning with Guild Builders. He has applied his talents to *Into the Woods*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Big, The Musical*; *Anne of Green Gables* and *The Civil War*. He has shared an OCTA set design award for *Big, The Musical* and he even appeared on stage once in *Anne of Green Gables*. Steve is married to Ann and is retired from Wood County Schools.

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E. Jean Samples  
Rick & Kay Stanley  
Betty & Marqueta Stephens  
Pam Thomas  
Clifford & Phyllis Walker  
Marda Wilson

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## *Friends*

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- Wood County  
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Judith Borger  
Mike & Jeanne Bugyis  
Pauline Cline  
Jim & Sue Crews  
Tom & Pat Ellenberger  
Edna Foster  
Mr. & Mrs. James Foutty  
Ethel Frost  
Jean Gill  
June Hill

Sandy Irvin  
Mary & Emily Larrison  
Jim & Edie Lindley  
Ted & Maxine McPherson  
Rick Modesitt  
Sharon Niday  
Heyward & Peggy Roberts  
Rich & Deborah Shaffer  
John & Yvonne White  
Jayne Whitlow  
Roger, Joyce & Katherine Zipfel

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## *Cherubs*

*Contributed to Guild Builders*

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- Wood County  
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Betsy Hawthorne Albright  
Gerald E. Bills  
Jim & Ann Beck  
Jonnie Camp  
Erin Clovis  
Jon & Carlene Cox  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dotson  
Carson Durnell  
Colton Durnell  
John Esenwine  
Marge Esenwine  
Neva Esenwine  
David & Carolyn Garrity  
Mark Gaston  
Dr. & Mrs. Gevas  
Bill Grenoble  
Robert & Jane Harris  
Nancy Hawthorne  
Rita Hennen  
Marian Hoffman  
Frank & Ronda Humbert  
Genevieve Khalil

*Cherubs continued...*

Albert & Teresa Kimmel  
Daisy Lawrence  
Harper Grace Lawrence  
Gary McIntyre  
Greg Merritt  
Mary Ann Osborne  
Mercedes Phillips  
Krista Pierson  
Betty Pierson  
Bill Pierson  
Jenna Pierson  
John Pierson  
Matt Pierson  
Doug & Kathy Reeder  
Helen Reilly & Ty Furrow  
Heyward & Peggy Roberts  
Susan Schuchts  
Clifford & Phyllis Walker  
John & Yvonne White

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## *Season Ticket Patrons*

LaVerne Aanerud  
Bobby & Jessica Adair  
Sally Alvarado  
Kellie Anderson  
Jeffery & Irene Atwater  
Thomas & Deborah Bayley  
Jim & Ann Beck  
Dave & Carol Bidstrup  
Gerald E. Bills  
Doris Boggs  
Judith Borger  
Cecilia Brown  
Kitty Brown  
Mike & Jeanne Bugyis  
Carolyn Calhoun

Jonnie Camp  
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Ralph & Carole Chambers  
Pauline Cline  
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Mike & Nora Corra  
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Robert Cox  
Jim & Sue Crews  
Larry & Marilyn Croucher  
Sally Fletcher Davis  
Barry Deem & Beth Deem-Pierce  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dotson  
Vickie Dotson  
Pam Duliere  
Jeffrey Elder  
Thom & Pat Ellenberger  
Mary Faulkner  
Mary & Patricia Flanagan  
D.L. & Brenda Flanary  
Edna Foster  
Mr. & Mrs. James Foutty  
Ethel Frost  
Ty Furrow  
David & Carolyn Garrity  
Mark Gaston  
Dr. & Mrs. George Gevas  
Jean Gill  
Bunk & Pat Goudy  
Carma M. Guertin  
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Susan & Robin Kelby  
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Bob & Judy Langkamer  
Mary & Emily Larrison  
Rodney & Joan Lemley  
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Phil & Becky Lofty  
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Greta Lowe  
Jim Mahaffey  
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Frances Manzo  
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Mercedes Phillips  
Doug & Kathy Reeder  
Helen Reilly  
Bruce & Linda Rogers  
Rose Russell  
E. Jean Samples  
Susan Schuchts  
Carolyn Ann Scott

Rosemary Scott  
Rich & Deborah Shaffer  
Mary Showalter  
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Madaline Wilby  
Marda Wilson  
Judith Yglesias

*All donor and season ticket information is complete as of 12/15/11. Please report errors or omissions to the Guild Business Office at 304-485-9322 or through our website at [actorsguildonline.org](http://actorsguildonline.org).*

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*– Katharine Hepburn*



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