



kanata theatre

THE DINING ROOM

by A.R. Gurney



September 16 to 20 & 23 to 27, 2014

directed by BARBARA KOBOLAK

THE DINING ROOM was first produced Off-Broadway by Playwrights Horizons in 1982.

SETTING

The play takes place in a dining room—or rather, many dining rooms. Our first two scenes are present day, then we jump backwards in time to the late 1930s. From there, we move chronologically forward, scene by scene, to 2014. Many of the scenes overlap; each scene deals with a different family and situation. These families are not necessarily related, but reflect the families, friends, and times Gurney experienced growing up in Buffalo, New York.

CAST

Derek Barr
Karen Germundson
Paul LeDuc

Anne-Marie Chronnell
Tom Kobolak
Liz Szucs

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In directing and acting, I find that I have a great affection for plays about families. This led me to A.R. Gurney's 1982 comedy/drama, *The Dining Room*. It is a succession of vignettes of upper-middle-class society in North America. All the action occurs around a formal dining room table, with six actors creating 57 characters (comprising many different families) within 18 scenes. Though we are looking at the decline in the lifestyle of the wealthy WASP, we are also looking at ourselves.

Therefore, this is a play of recognition of family life and its comic, dramatic, and everything-in-between moments. What we see are glimpses of various families, and how family life changes, adapts, or resists change. Gurney is also, at times, satirizing this society. But even then, he does it with affection, or to show that it is worth satirizing. As one vignette finishes, another begins; sometimes the next scene silently overlaps a scene that is coming to its conclusion. As originally published, Gurney's play encompassed a period ranging from the late 1930s to the early 1980s. In this production, we have brought several scenes closer to the present day, without changing the text.

Also, in accordance with the playwright's instructions, we don't use actual food, and the actors mime many actions associated with food and drink. This is a play that is not about dishes, or food, or costume changes, but rather a play about people in a dining room.

In conclusion, even today, despite our changing rituals and manners, the dining room still holds fast to our families, to growing up, to ruling, to being ruled. Here's to celebrations, to joy, to sorrow – to all of us.

Please be considerate: ensure that pagers and cellular phones are turned off. The use of any media device during the performance is prohibited by law.

There will be one intermission of 20 minutes.

BIOGRAPHIES



BARBARA KOBOLAK (Director) has been a member of Kanata Theatre since 1989—this is her second KT directing effort. Audiences may also remember her from such roles as Barbara (*Pack of Lies*), Gwen (*Here on the Flight Path*), Maggie (*Dancing at Lughnasa*), and Bella (*Lost in Yonkers*); last spring she was Edith Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Phoenix Players). She has previously directed for Phoenix and for the one-act play readings at Ottawa Little Theatre. Barbara currently sits on the Kanata Theatre board as vice-president, and is also on the board of the Eastern Ontario Drama League. Thanks to everyone for serving up such a delightful production!

Father, Michael, Brewster, Grandfather, Stuart, Gordon, David, Harvey, and Host

DEREK BARR is very happy to be back on the KT stage after his role as the Judge in last season's courtroom drama, *Inherit the Wind*. He has also appeared in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and *A Few Good Men*, for which he received a Capital Critics Circle acting nomination. He is very excited to be working with Barbara Kobolak again (as he is a huge fan) and the entire cast and crew. He extends many thanks to his wonderful wife Darlene, family and friends for their support.



Sally, Girl (Lizzie), Ellie, Aggie, Winkie, Old Lady, Helen, Meg, Bertha, and Guest

ANNE-MARIE CHRONELL is thrilled to return to the Canadian stage after an eight-year hiatus whilst she was living in London, UK. Having trained in Calgary, she has spent nearly 20 years acting and directing. Favourite recent roles include: Hannah in *Arcadia*, Olive in *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, Medea Redux in *Bash*, Mark Antony in *Julius Caesar*, and she especially enjoyed directing *Festen* and a reimagined version of *The Libertine* whilst in London. Big thanks go to Barb, as well as to her husband and fellow KT actor, Nick, for holding down the fort.

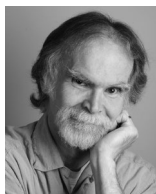


Annie, Grace, Peggy, Nancy, Sarah, Harriet, Emily, Annie, and Guest

KAREN GERMUNDSON has been acting and singing for a number of years and has performed with various community theatre companies, including Phoenix Players. This is her third show with Kanata Theatre. Getting to perform in a play as intriguing and challenging as *The Dining Room* is an opportunity any actor would wish for. She is grateful to Barbara Kobolak, her fellow cast members, and all the other hard-working people involved in this production.



Client, Howard, Psychiatrist, Ted, Paul, Ben, Chris, Jim, Dick, and Guest



TOM KOBOLAK, when not in his basement with his beloved bass guitars, has been either directing *Agnes of God*, or hunched over the sound equipment up in the stage manager's booth behind you all, or off singing and dancing in musicals with Suzart Productions. He was last on the Ron Maslin Playhouse stage as Vincentio, the perplexed father of the groom in *The Taming of the Shrew*. He is immensely pleased to plunge into Mr. Gurney's fine play with such talented and creative colleagues. Do enjoy the show, and keep the shiny side up.

Arthur, Boy (Charlie), Architect, Billy, Nick, Fred, Tony, Standish, and Guest

PAUL LEDUC is thrilled to be making his Kanata Theatre debut in his most challenging undertaking to date, playing multiple roles in, *The Dining Room*. He was honored to be nominated for an award at the Eastern Ontario Drama League one act play festival in 2012 and would like to respect that nomination by continuing to learn from fellow actors and amazing directors. He's performed dark comedy, straight up comedy, and danced his way through *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Thanks to past directors and an incredibly supportive family, Paul hopes to continue bringing audiences smiles, laughs or maybe even tears. Special thanks to Barbara Kobolak.



Agent, Mother, Carolyn, Sandra, Dora, Margery, Beth, Kate, Claire, Ruth



LIZ SZUCS is joining Kanata Theatre in this production and she is ecstatic to finally have the chance to experience a new group to play with in *The Dining Room*! Liz has been involved with productions with Lakeside Players, as Stevie Mason in *The Big Leap* and Mrs. Baptie in *Schoolhouse*. The last four years she took on some exciting characters with The Mississippi Mudds of Carleton Place, including the Rockin' March Hare in *Alice in Wonderland*, Prince Pekoe in *Aladdin*, Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense 2* and most recently as Scrooge's happy go lucky nephew, Fred, in *Humbug*!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Barbara Kobolak
Production Manager	Tom Kobolak
Production Finances.....	Bill Horsman
Stage Manager	Carol Hussey
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Sandra Quirt, Arlene Watson
Set Design	Dorothy Shaw
Set Construction (Head Carpenter).....	Rom Frigon
Set Carpenters.....	Paul J. Carriere, Paul Behncke, Barry Fortey, Tony Francis, Earl McLaughlin, Sandy Wynne
Set Painting	Deanne Donohue, Margrit Cattell, Sandy Wynne
Set Décor	Sandy Wynne, Dorothy Shaw
Properties	Anna Lisa Bloom, Nihan Kavaslar, Kathleen Walsh
Lighting Design	Zach Andruchow
Lighting Assistants	Dave Anderson, Iain McCracken
Sound Design	Kendrick Abell
Sound Assistant	Al Quirt
Costume Design	Meghan Lavigne
Costume Team	Marilyn Valiquette, Maxine Ball, Kathryn Clarke
Dressers	Joan Conrod, Darlene Milligan, Halia Osadca
Continuity	Margrit Cattell, Liane Freedman, Carrie Owen
Hair Design	Carol Walkey
Make-up	Martha Johnstone, Tania Carriere, Danika Malovic, Rhiannon Henkelman, Susan Simchak
Green Room	Terry Leonard, Helen Weeden and Gwendy Tolley
Refreshments/Servery	Andrea Fajrajsl
House Manager	Don Lillico

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.

Coffee, soft drinks and desserts are available in the lobby.

*Kanata Theatre acknowledges with special appreciation the following
friends who have provided items or services to the production:*

Tom Pidgeon; Ottawa Little Theatre;

David and Joy Forbes; Alix Sideris; Robert Dueck;

and all KT members who volunteered after the publication deadline.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



A warm welcome to Kanata Theatre's 46th Season! And what an entertaining season it promises to be!

We start with tonight's satiric look at the American middle classes. We celebrate Halloween with one of the oldest horror stories in the English language, Robert Louis Stephenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, brilliantly retold by Jeffrey Hatcher. We greet 2015 with *Night Sky* by Susan Yankowitz a compelling story of triumph over disaster, told with honesty, wit and humour.

Then there is *The Lion in Winter*, James Goldman's comedic portrayal of one of England's greatest kings and his fractious family. Finally we will leave you in stitches with W.O.Mitchell's devilish tale, *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*.

In the middle of all this we continue a long Christmas holiday tradition with *Fairy Tale Ending*, the *Big Bad Family Musical* by Keiren MacMillan and Jeremy Hutton.

For details and to find out how to get involved in the activities of Kanata Theatre please visit kanatatheatre.com

I hope you find much in our new season to entertain, engage and inspire you.

Jim Holmes
President, Kanata Theatre

Did you enjoy the show?

SAVE 25%

Purchase a season ticket package to join Kanata Theatre for the rest of the season and receive a discount of 25%.

Visit the Box Office for more details or call 613-831-4435.

kanatatheatre.com

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher
from the novella *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

November 4 to 8 & 11 to 15, 2014

Curtain 8 pm | Tickets \$20

directed by WENDY WAGNER
assisted by Ilona Henkelman

Join us as we keep you on the edge of your seat
until the final, shocking moments in this chilling
and spellbinding tale of horror.

Tickets call 613-831-4435
www.kanatatheatre.com

Volunteer with Kanata Theatre

The names listed in this program are only a portion of the volunteers that help make all Kanata Theatre plays possible. We depend on dedicated members to perform all functions. We have no paid employees: everything is run by volunteers.

Kanata Theatre is always looking for new members to help with everything from set construction to acting to selecting costumes to handing out programs.

If you enjoy theatre, why not come join us?

More details are available at www.kanatatheatre.com or call 613-831-4435.



PhonicEar On-Wave hearing assistance system is available during all Kanata Theatre productions. Small clip-on receivers permit control over listening volume levels. These units are available from the cloak room with regular headsets (or you may use your own headset with 3.5mm plug, if you prefer) or T- Switch hearing aid loops.

Please be considerate of our patrons and volunteers
and refrain from wearing scented products.



TICKET POLICY

Tickets may be purchased by phone using Visa or Mastercard by calling 613-831-4435 or online at kanatatheatre.com. The box office opens two weeks before the opening night of each play, and is open from 5 pm to 7 pm on Monday through Friday, 10 am to noon on Saturdays, and 5 pm to 8 pm on play nights.

Exchanges can be made up to 48 hours before the performance time shown on the ticket. The original ticket must be returned to the Box Office before an exchange (\$1 fee/ticket) can be made. There is a mail slot by the front door of the Playhouse, so tickets may be dropped off at any time.

If you are a season ticket holder but are unable to attend a particular play, please don't waste your tickets: do give them to a friend or neighbour, as we are unable to issue refunds. Curtain time is 8 pm.



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The paintings in the foyer
are by courtesy of the
Kanata Civic Art Gallery

For further information,
please get in touch with
Ann Williams at
613-592-2399

**Kanata Theatre's telephone number
for emergency calls is 613-831-4436.**

Ron Maslin Playhouse
is accessible by
OC Transpo:

Route 118 stops in front
of the Playhouse.
Route 96 stops at Terry
Fox and Hazeldean.

The bus stop numbers
for the Playhouse are
6381 and 6382.