

 The
Tabard Theatre Company

Presents

Making
GOD
Laugh



September 20 – October 13, 2013

Theatre on San Pedro Square
29 N. San Pedro Street • Downtown San Jose

from Cathy Spielberger Cassetta, Executive Director

If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans.

First time I heard this was about 16 years ago from a friend. It struck me as being quite a wise and insightful proverb. And it made me laugh. I have a deep faith in God and have always believed everything happens for a reason, everything is in His hands, and He does, truly, want the best for each of us. Rather than thinking God was laughing at me because I made plans, I was humbled that my plans would make God laugh, and that helped me put what I do in perspective. God knows I'll do almost anything for a laugh.

If you've spent any time around me, you've probably heard me share this pithy adage. So last year when I was researching shows for this season, the title *Making God Laugh* jumped out at me. Finding merit, wisdom and folly in it, I added Sean Grennan's comedy as one of the "Twists" of our season of Twists and Turns. Join me now as we all get a break from making God laugh to watch Sean's characters do this for us. Just remember, "Embrace change. Life is easier that way."

from Sean Grennan, Playwright

Hello to all the Tabard Theatre family: In my correspondence with Cathy Cassetta, whom I've never met but, from our correspondence, I feel like I know. (By the way, I'm certain my show will be in good hands with her.) Recently Cathy had asked me for my thoughts, this assumes I have any, about why I wrote "Making God Laugh."

The short answer, the one that doesn't happen over lots of drinks, is that as I'm moving through my fifties, I've found myself reflecting on this career I've chosen as well as thinking a lot about family. This play is, for me, where the personal and professional intersect. There's a saying in the writing game that eventually all playwrights have to write their "Family" play. (Hey, O'Neill wrote a few of them...) This is mine and no one will confuse me with O'Neill.

But, while it's a family show, it's also a play that's about the unexpected turns that life serves up. The plans we make and what actually happens. Coming from a family of six kids, I remember all kinds of plans and dreams that were passed around with the meatloaf and gravy. It's been interesting to me, maybe to you, to see all these years later, which of these dreams took root, which faded away, and what ultimately is really important. I don't know if this play answers all that, I mostly hope it's funny. But I've tried to shoot for both.

I sincerely hope that you see some of your family up there tonight.

Making memories. Tabard.

Presents

Making GOD Laugh

Written by

SEAN GRENNAN

This play was originally produced by Peninsula Players Theatre in Fish Creek, WI,
Greg Vinkler, Artistic Director, Brian Kelsey, Business Manager, Tom Mula, Director of Production

Journey of the heart. Tabard.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer	Cathy Spielberger Cassetta
Director	Doug Baird
Production Manager	Ritwika "Ritz" Chandwani
Technical Director	Joe Cassetta
Stage Manager, Light Board Operator	Joan Rubin
Assistant Stage Manager	Jackie Edge
Lighting Designer	Selina Young
Sound Designer	John DiLoreto
Sound Board Operator	Robert Lewis
Scenic Artist	Migi Oey
Properties	Guadalupe Diaz
Properties Run Crew	Savannah Greenhalgh
Costume Designer	Marilyn Watts
Program Layout	Barbara Reynolds

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The Tabard Theatre Company is grateful for the support provided, in part, by the Farrington Historical Foundation, a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San Jose, and a Regional Arts Fund grant from Silicon Valley Creates.

Theatre for All Ages. Tabard.

MAKING GOD LAUGH

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Ruthie	Beverley Griffith
Bill	Steve Lambert
Richard	Kevin Kirby
Maddie	Alexandra Bogorad
Thomas	Ray D'Ambrosio

Setting

Act I

Scene 1

Thanksgiving, 1980

Scene 2

Christmas, 1990

Act II

Scene 1

New Year's Eve, 1999

Scene 2

A Spring morning, 2010

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

A portion of Tabard's concession proceeds from this production will be donated to



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MEET THE ARTISTS



Alexandra Bogorad (Maddie) began her acting career with regional and national commercials, voice-overs, and industrial films in Michigan. Alex attended the University of Michigan theatre and drama program and is a member of SAG and AFTRA. Recent performances include *Dallas in Sister Cities* at Dragon Theatre and Jackie in *Mauritius* at Pear Avenue Theatre. Alex also loves her job as a speech-language pathologist. Last fall Alex appeared in Tabard's award-winning production of *Trying* and is thrilled to be returning in another Tabard show!



Ray D'Ambrosio (Thomas) feels extremely blessed to be in his first Tabard production, in this well-written play and in this wonderful cast. Ray has spent the last couple of years performing in musical theater around the Bay Area with Stage 1, Chanticleers, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, and Broadway by the Bay. Favorite roles include a kvetching flower shop owner, a multi-faced authority figure, a mute king, and a talking clock. He sends thanks to his miraculously understanding wife Donna and his inspiring daughters Ally and Lauren.



Beverley Griffith (Ruthie) returns to Tabard after appearing in *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Crossing Delancey* and assisting with *Babes in Hollywood*. She was a dancer with the *USO* Germany, *Moulin Rouge* Paris, *Lido* Las Vegas, and *Circus Conelli* Zurich. Theatre includes Palo Alto Players (*Noises Off*, *You Can't Take It With You*), City Lights (*Hamlet*, *Equus*, *Noises Off*, *Lysistrata*, *Captive Flowers*), Shady Shakespeare (*The Lion in Winter*, *Richard III*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Taming of the Shrew*), Bus Barn (*Angels In America*, *Leading Ladies*, *Enchanted April*), and others.



Kevin Kirby (Richard) is happy to be returning for his third show at Tabard, following recent appearances as Buddy in *Follies* and Alvin in *The Story of My Life*. Favorite roles elsewhere include Dad in *Distracted* (Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory), George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Palo Alto Players), Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* (West Valley Light Opera), Roy Cohn in *Angels in America* (City Lights), and The Baker in *Into the Woods* (Foothill Music Theatre), among many others.



Steve Lambert (Bill) makes his Tabard debut with this production. He has worked with various theatre companies including City Lights, Los Altos Stage, and TheatreWorks. Steve studied and worked in New York, where he appeared in *An Enemy of the People*, *The Ideal Husband*, and *The White Valentine*, as well as in several feature films and daytime "soaps." His directing credits include *The Fantasticks*, *The King and I*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Catch 22*. Steve graduated from Santa Clara University with a degree in Theatre Arts.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Doug Baird (Director) is a Tabard associate artistic director who previously directed Tabard's productions of *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Hold On to Love*. Other recent directing credits include *Bells Are Ringing*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *My Fair Lady* at West Valley Light Opera. An award-winning actor, he will be remembered by Tabard audiences for roles in *Lady, Be Good*; *Hold On to Love*; *The Little Prince*; *More Than Petticoats*; and *Fools*.

Cathy Spielberger Cassetta (Producer) is a theatre/television veteran and entrepreneur who created/produced/co-hosted the weekly TV program *Theatre This Week* in the 1990s before founding Tabard in 2001. For Tabard she has directed *Scapin*, *Dames at Sea*, *The Gifts of the Magi*, *The Dog Sitters*, *Sabrina Fair*, *A Taffeta Wedding*, *Stompin' at the Savoy*, *Bandstand Beat* (also created and wrote), *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Crossing Delancey*, *Babes in Hollywood*, and the award-winning production of *Trying*. This season she is directing and writing *The Duke*, *The Count and Me* and *Love, Laughter and Linguine*.

Joe Cassetta (Technical Director) continues to lead Tabard's technical team, which he has done since the company was founded in 2001. With a BS in mechanical engineering and an MBA from Santa Clara University, Joe's steady and skilled leadership has led to Tabard's increased ability to explore and expand what we do technically.

Ritwika "Ritz" Chandwani (Production Manager) is a theatre graduate of Virginia Tech, involved with theatre and film in Washington DC and India. Ritz moved to the Bay Area last year and recently joined Tabard as main stage Production Manager and Education Managing Director. She is part of the South Asian theatre group Naatak and has more than 10 years of experience in acting, directing, choreography, stage lighting, scenic design, stage-managing, and film production. Her vision is to have her own production company to produce films and teach theatre to underprivileged children.

Guadalupe Diaz (Properties) returns to Tabard after managing props for *Babes in Hollywood*, *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*, and the award-winning production of *Trying*. Lupe has worked on numerous musical productions for South Bay Musical Theatre doing props, lighting, and costume construction; favorite musicals are *Beauty and the Beast* and *1940s Radio Hour*. A retired high school Spanish teacher, she is enjoying her enhanced leisure time by traveling, contributing to community theatre, and spending lots of time with her "grandhijos" Grace, Dex, and William.

John DiLoreto (Sound Designer) is Tabard's head audio engineer and has designed sound for many Tabard shows as well as for TheatreWorks, City Lights, South Bay Musical Theatre and numerous clubs and rock bands for more than 30 years. He is also a former recording studio owner, record producer, and keyboardist in numerous rock bands and in theatre orchestras. While at M.I.T. he studied acoustics with Professor Bose, and he holds a M.Eng. from U.C. Berkeley and an MBA from Stanford. By day, he is Tabard's operations director.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Jackie Edge (Assistant Stage Manager) returns to Tabard after working on *The World Goes 'Round*, bringing a wealth of musical experience. A Central Valley native and graduate of CSU Stanislaus with a Bachelor of Music, she worked as assistant director of Summer Music @ Stanislaus and also traveled to Spain and Portugal on musical tours. Jackie is a cellist who also plays viola, trombone and "guitar is fun to play for kids, holidays, or just to mess around while hanging out with people."

Savannah Greenhalgh (Properties Run Crew) is just a girl who loves the theater and is trying to make it a bigger part of her life. She's 20 years old and has been interested in life backstage since she was about 15. This is her first time working with the Tabard crew. As she puts it, "I'm looking forward to making new friends and having a new experience and learning what I can. That's what I'm here for."

Sean Grennan (Author) has written a number of works including the musical comedies *Married Alive!*, *A Dog's Life*, *Another Night Before Christmas*, *Phantom of the Country Palace* (MTI), and *Ms. Cinderella*. His non-musical plays include *LUCK!*, *Beer for Breakfast*, *As Long As We Both Shall Live*, and his new work *The Tin Woman*. At this writing, Sean is also working on a new musical, *Half Hour!*, with composer David Kreppel. This play is dedicated to his late father-in-law, William "Pop" Santen.

Robert Lewis (Sound Board Operator) moves to another technical role for Tabard after serving as light board operator for *The World Goes 'Round* and part of the house staff for *Babes in Hollywood*. A New Jersey native and electrical engineer by education, Robert is now a 26-year resident of the Bay Area (with stops in Dallas, Boston, and Tokyo along the way) and software consultant. Happily married for 34 years, he enjoys singing and playing mandolin with his church music group.

Migi Oey (Scenic Artist) has worked consistently on the Tabard technical team since *Bandstand Beat* in 2011. She designed the set for the award-winning *Trying*. Her knowledge of the performing arts stems from photographing musicians to working with local theatres, schools, and corporate events. She is skilled at drawing, painting large-scaled murals and faux finishes, photography, floral design, textiles, and graphics.

Joan Rubin (Stage Manager) is managing her second show for Tabard, following last season's *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*. She has stage-managed a dozen shows for Woodside Players and Woodside Community Theatre. For her eleventh Saratoga Drama Group and South Bay Musical Theatre production, she will manage the upcoming *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. She notes it has been a most pleasurable and rewarding experience working with the serendipitous actors and staff of Tabard.

Marilyn Watts (Costume Designer) has been Tabard's resident costume designer since the company's second season and designed the costumes for the award-winning *Trying*. Marilyn is also Tabard's box office manager, has her own catering company, and is costumer for many other theatre companies. What brings an even bigger smile to her is anything related to *I Love Lucy*.

Selina Young (Lighting Designer) returns to Tabard after designing the lighting for *Babes in Hollywood*, *I Left My Heart* and *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*. She has also worked for countless Bay Area theatre companies, including Palo Alto Players and San Jose Stage Company.

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The Tabard Theatre Company

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Executive Director: Cathy Spielberger Cassetta

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