

# **Lex-Ham Community Theater**

*respectfully presents*



## *The Philadelphia Story*

*by Philip Barry*

*8:00 p.m., July 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18 & 19, 2002*

*2:00 p.m., July 20, 2002*

*Brady Educational Center auditorium*

*University of St. Thomas*

*Goodrich Avenue between*

*Cretin Avenue and Mississippi River Blvd, St. Paul*

## Action and Scene

The action of the play takes place in the course of twenty-four hours at Seth and Margaret Lord's house in the country near Philadelphia.

The time is late June and the Scenes are as follows:

Act I: The sitting room. Late morning, Friday.

Act II:

Scene 1: The porch. Late evening, Friday

10 minute intermission

Scene 2: The porch. Early morning, Saturday

Act III: The sitting room. Late morning, Saturday.

*"Is there no such thing as  
privacy any more?"  
- Margaret*

---

## Director's Notes:

Welcome to The Philadelphia Story, the stage version that was made into the memorable Katherine Hepburn movie of the 1940's. The version you will see is not the carbon copy of what was seen on the screen. My intention was to give the 'Lord Family' the look of a real family, as they would have been. They are hardly "The Osbournes" on MTV but there is a parallel. The media creates celebrities by reporting and exaggerating the experiences the wealthy go through. The people themselves are just people. They are human...human beings. I was also blessed at the auditions with having many talented actors show up. What you'll see on stage is not only the best from that audition process but the most enthusiastic, theatre loving, helpful group of actors I've had the privilege to work with. They love what they do and I think you'll see that onstage.

Kurt Hunsicker, Director

---

## Production Staff

Director - Kurt Hunsicker  
Stage Manager - Jodi Paquette  
Lighting - Per Olson  
Sound - Barry Lazarus  
Musicians- Diane Brostrom, Bruce Nerase  
Set - LuAnne Fogelson  
Costume Coordinator - Jeremiah Scanlon  
Costumer - Holly Hausholter  
Stage Crew - Alex Forde, Jacob Harstad,  
Patrick Landreman,  
Nathan Lindsay-Levine,  
Sam Roberts, Will Schoettler

Photography - Lila Taft  
Producer - Urban Landreman

standards from the eras of swing,  
classic Broadway and the jazz age

*Diane Brostrom sings*  
for corporate events, parties, listening, dancing. . .

for information and bookings please  
call 651.649.1659

*Bruce Nerase. keyboard & arrangements*

*The Philadelphia Story*  
by Philip Barry

Cast  
in order of appearance

Margaret Lord.....	Muriel Bonertz
Tracy Lord.....	Kara Greshwalk
Dinah Lord.....	Summer Hagen
Alexander (Sandy) Lord.....	Tom Steffen
Edward.....	Sam Ahern
William (Uncle Willie) Tracy.....	David Schliep
Elizabeth (Liz) Imbrie.....	Kjersten Johnson
Macaulay (Mike) Connor.....	Michael Maddox
George Kittredge.....	Christian Finch
C. K. Dexter Haven.....	Craig Anderson
Seth Lord.....	Frederick Jay
Elsie.....	Bethany Koppin
Mac.....	Geoff Schodde
May.....	Tara Thompson
Reverend Parsons.....	Urban Landreman
Aunt Geneva.....	Holly Lindsay
Tina Mara.....	Kate Newburgh
Sidney Kidd.....	Jim Quinn
Herman.....	Zak Forde
Rita Landers.....	Mary Drew

Philip Barry was born in Rochester, New York in 1896. After serving with the US State Department in World War 1, he attended George Pierce Baker's '47 Workshop' at Harvard. He spent the rest of his life as a playwright. His greatest success was with light social comedies, including *Holiday* (1928) and *The Philadelphia Story* (1939). But his ambitions toward serious psychological and philosophical theater could be seen in his plays *Hotel Universe* (1930), *Bright Star* (1935), and *Here Come the Clowns* (1938). Barry died in 1949.

*Encyclopædia Britannica*

*“It is the genius of the comedy of manners to spin through the lives of recognizable characters with complete plausibility”* - Brooks Atkinson, review of *The Philadelphia Story*, New York Times, March 29, 1939

## The Main Line

In the 1880's, the wealthiest Philadelphians moved out of the city and into Delaware and Chester Counties along the Pennsylvania Railroad's Main Line.

The community traditionally stretched along this set of railroad tracks and included stops at Overbrook, Merion, Narberth, Wynnewood, Ardmore, Haverford, Bryn Mawr, Rosemont, Villanova, Radnor, St. Davids, Wayne, Strafford, Devon, Berwyn, Daylesford, Paoli.

As railroads fell by the wayside and automobiles took over, Route 30 (also called Lancaster Pike) became known as "The Main Line" from Philadelphia through the Chester County town of Paoli.

The Main Line is more than a train track, more than an historical highway, more than beautiful estates, more than upscale shops, more than horses - it's an attitude. It's an eclectic state of mind manifesting itself in people who are the achievers of the region and, of course, in charming villages and magnificent estates.

- philanet.com

*"Your damned intolerance  
furiates me"  
- Tracy*

## Helen Hope Montgomery Scott : The Real "Tracy Lord"

It is widely believed that Philip Barry modeled Tracy Lord after Helen Hope Montgomery Scott a Philadelphia socialite from the 1920s and 1930s.

The Philadelphia Assemblies Ball is the oldest and most exclusive social gathering in the United States. Held every year since 1748, it is strictly reserved for members of the city's Social Register - no amount of money will allow entry; blood is everything. It was here, down the staircase to the great ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, that Hope Montgomery, in ballgown and elbow-length white kid gloves, made her entrance as a debutante in 1922.

The daughter of Colonel Robert Montgomery, head of a wealthy and ancient Philadelphia family, she immediately made an impact. That evening she received four marriage proposals - none of which she accepted. The following year she met "an older man" at a Main Line dinner party, the 24-year-old Edgar Scott, heir to the Pennsylvania Railroad fortune (and an old classmate of Philip Barry). After a dozen dates they decided to marry, but her parents insisted they wait nine months. "I always knew what I wanted, and so did Edgar. We both had the idea from the start that marriage should be something that lasts forever. And it did." It was inevitably described as the Society Wedding of the Year, and exhaustively chronicled by the press down to the orange blossoms that banked the church.

The couple moved into Orchard Lodge, a 1720 fieldstone house which her father had given her as a wedding present. It lies on the Montgomerys' 750-acre Ardrossan estate on the Main Line, only a mile across an enormous lawn from "the big house", the 45-room Georgian mansion where Hope had grown up. As a young wife, Hope Scott began to feature on the New York Couture Group's annual list of best-dressed women, and patronised the salons of many famous names, both in New York and Paris, such as Mainbocher, Falkenstein and Piguët. Her beauty and her slim, angular figure (size eight throughout her life) was much photographed and painted.

The Scotts entertained, and were entertained, in a grand manner. "Everybody had so much money - there were so few taxes. People gave grand dinner parties and dances: women wore wonderful dresses and men came in fine evening clothes," she remembered. "It's a way of life that's completely gone now. It was really an imitation of Edwardian days in England. It was all quite artificial."

- Ian Irvine, *London Sunday Telegraph*, April 16, 1995

---

## Scrapple

"Odd customs, and such. Where the Biddles eat scrapple on Sunday" - Tracy

2 lb lean pork  
2 qt boiling salted water (2 tsp salt)  
1 ½ c corn meal  
2 c cold water  
¼ tsp pepper  
¼ tsp savory and sage, mixed

Simmer pork in boiling salted water until meat is very tender, 2 hours. With fork, shred the cooked pork into fine pieces. Bring to boil 1 qt of the stock. Mix corn meal and cold water. Stir into boiling stock. Cook, stirring until thick. Add seasonings. Stir the meat into corn meal mush and cook 5 minutes. Pour into buttered 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pan. Chill til firm. Slice ½" thick. Brown on each side. Serve hot—plain or with butter and syrup.

## Guffey Coal Act

The Guffey-Snyder Coal Stabilization Act (1936) was designed to impose federal regulation and provide for price fixing in the coal industry, an arrangement approved by both the coal producers and the Union of United Mine Workers. This law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, along with a host of other New Deal-era laws, and the substance of it was written into a new law in 1937 -- the "Guffey-Vinson Act of 1937" -- which was upheld.

Source: United States Senate History Office

The Guffey Coal Act is “the first constructive act in history enacted by a government in the interest of the miners” - John L. Sullivan, January 28, 1936

*“Quite a neat piece of work—  
anticipating the Guffey Coal Act the  
way you did.”  
- Mike*



Joseph Guffey  
Senator for Pennsylvania from 1935-47



## Anthracite Coal and Pennsylvania

Almost all of the nation's anthracite coal is found in eastern Pennsylvania. There are about 7 billion tons of minable anthracite coal reserves in Pennsylvania. Anthracite mining occurs in eight Pennsylvania counties: Schuylkill, Carbon, Luzerne, Northumberland, Lackawanna, Columbia, Dauphin and Sullivan Counties (ranked in order of production).

Anthracite coal seams are locked in the folded layers of rock that make up the geology of Northeastern Pennsylvania. This geology often made it dangerous and difficult to mine.

The tunnels and shafts driven into the ground to mine anthracite coal were often at steep angles that forced miners to either crawl up mine tunnels and down others to get to the coal.

Picture a birthday cake with several layers that was pushed from both ends until it folds in the middle.

Anthracite production in Pennsylvania reached its peak in 1917 when more than 100 million tons of coal were mined from underground operations centered in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton region. Anthracite industry employment reached its peak in 1914 with nearly 181,000 miners.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of  
Environmental Protection

**Samuel Ahern** (Edward) Samuel is honored to be participating in his second Lex-Ham show, having played Sandy in *Through a Glass, Darkly* last March. He is especially excited to be portraying the butler, as everyone knows, the butler dominates every classic story. Samuel acted in high school and college, along with community theatre. He is fond of escargot and hates the film "Titanic"

**Craig Anderson** (C. K. Dexter Haven) Craig is excited to be appearing in his 6th Lex-Ham show. He has also appeared in *George Washington Slept Here*, *Bullets & Beauties*, *Chinamen*, *The Vegetable*, and *Under the Gaslight*. Craig has also been active with Theatre in the Round, Lakeshore Players, the Urban Spectrum, and Theatre Triomphe in town, and is preparing for a fall tour with the National Theatre for Children in San Francisco.

**Muriel J. Bonertz** (Margaret Lord) Muriel has acted in a variety of productions throughout the Twin Cities, most recently appearing as "Annie Robbins" in Theatre In The Round's production of *Proposals* by Neil Simon. Other roles include "Berna" in *Wonderful Tennessee* by Brian Friel (Billow An Actor's Ensemble), Rebecca in *Ashes to Ashes* by Harold Pinter (Nimbus) and "Chick" in *Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley (Pig's Eye Theatre). A native of Wisconsin, she earned her undergraduate degree in theatre from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point and did graduate studies under a fellowship at the Hillberry Theatre at Wayne State University in Detroit.

**Diane Brostrom** (Vocalist) Diane is happy to make her Lex-Ham debut as singer for *The Philadelphia Story* since she is normally singing from the choir loft or in a restaurant or bar. Many thanks to Kurt for the opportunity to perform some classic standards for this great show.

**Mary Drew** (Destiny reporter Rita Landers) Mary has acted in high school, college, and in community theater. Some of her favorite previous roles were Mrs. Branson in *Blithe Spirit* and Gay Wellington in *You Can't Take It With You*. Mary is also a sign language interpreter.

**Christian Finch** (George Kittredge) is appearing in his first Lex-Ham show. He has previously appeared in the Minnesota Historical Society's productions *Hill House Holidays* and *Shadows and Spirits of the State Capitol*.

**Zak Forde** (Herman) Zak enjoys being able to spontaneously interact with the audience and is looking forward to playing the part of Aunt Geneva's grand-nephew. This is his 5th performance with the Lex-Ham Theater.

**Kara Greshwalk** (Tracy Lord) Kara is thrilled to be back with Lex-Ham for her third show. She graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2001 with a B.A. in Theatre Arts. Kara has appeared in several shows with the University Theater and in the Minnesota Fringe Festival. She wants to be more like Audrey Hepburn, but Katherine will do just fine.

**Summer Hagen** (Dinah Lord) Summer makes her Lex-Ham debut with *The Philadelphia Story*. Other theatre credits include *Seed the Storm* at Eye of the Storm Theatre, *Amadeus* at the Guthrie and *Uncommon Women and Others* with the Gaia Collective. She is a recent graduate of Hamline University and holds a B.A. in theatre.

**Kurt Hunsicker (Director)** This is Kurt's second show with Lex-Ham Community Theater, the first being last year's *The Vegetable*. He brings 30 years of theatrical experience to this production. He hopes to continue this practice of working outside his own company, OH MY...! Productions, once each year. "My theatrical roots started in community theater."

**Frederick Jay** (Seth Lord) Frederick comes to *The Philadelphia Story* fresh from a sold-out off-off Broadway run of *Fiddler On A Hot Tin Roof*, in which he brought audiences to gasps of disbelief with his powerful portrayal of Zelig, the melancholy mohel. When not acting, he enjoys sleeping and eating (though not necessarily at the same time). Frederick would like to dedicate his performance in this show to Miss Claudine Hatfield, whoever she may be.

**Kjersten Johnson** (Liz Imbrie) *The Philadelphia Story* is Kjersten's first production with Lex-Ham. She is having fun working with such a talented group of people. Her most recent community theatre experiences include the role of Vera in *Ten Little Indians* and Alice in *You Can't Take It With You*. She also loves serving on her church's drama team.

**Bethany Koppin** (Elsie) Bethany is appearing in her first theatrical production since high school, but has recently acted in the film *Malaise and Apathy* and a commercial for Staples. She recently won Honorable Mention for Best Young Actress on the year and 2nd place in Sitcom Competition in Los Angeles.

**Urban Landreman** (Reverend Parsons) Urban has participated in every Lex-Ham show since *Neighborhood on the Hill* in 1996. During the day, all his co-workers on the Hennepin County Community Health Department's Assessment Unit help get Urban out of jams. He sends a special greeting to his Aunt Mary who played Tracy in 1952 with the Green Bay Community Theatre.

**Holly Lindsay** (Aunt Geneva) Holly continues to play Kindergarten teacher at Jean Lyle Children's Center in St Paul and Halealohahau'olileilani at Halau Hula. This is her 5th production with Lex-Ham, having played major roles in *Woman Without a Name*, *Love Letters*, *The Vegetable*, and *Bullets and Beauties*. She is delighted to welcome you to this wedding celebration in Philadelphia and hopes the bride and groom have enough sense to honeymoon in Hawaii.

**Michael Maddox** (Macaulay Connor) Michael is presenting his first role in front of people. He was originally born in Madison, Wisconsin. With his deep fascination with stage lights, Michael firmly believes he was a moth in a former life.

**Kate Newburgh** (Tina Mara) Ever since Kate played The Lord High Underling in third grade for a production of *The Wiz* she's been hooked on acting. Since then she's been in performances such as *The Importance of Being Earnest* and recently played Rosalind in *As You Like It*. She's also been singing all her life and has hopes to start a folk band called Nesting Spoons

**Jim Quinn** (Sidney Kidd) This is Jim's first appearance in a Lex Ham Community Theater production; and, in fact, his first appearance in a production anywhere. He has been taking some introductory acting lessons and is interested in becoming more involved in community theater. For a day job, he hams it up as a lawyer at Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren.

**Jeremiah Scanlon** (Costume Coordinator) is pleased to once again be working with both Kurt and Lex-Ham. The managing and artistic director of Circle of Dionysus Theatre (www.circleofdionysus.com), he has appeared on all sides of the stage-directing, acting, and production. His most recent credits include the direction of Bernard Shaw's *Augustus Does His Bit* and an appearance in *As You Like It* as Jacques. Be sure to look for his next directorial effort, David Mamet's *Oleanna*, which will be opening this October at Central City Theatre in Minneapolis

**David Schliep** (Uncle Willie) David started acting in high school, moved on to summer productions with one Rex Harrison role; several Jimmy Stewart parts; one Percy Kilbride and is now almost ready to replace Henry Fonda in *On Golden Pond*.

**Geoff Schodde** (Mac) Geoff is making his first appearance with Lex-Ham. While at Drake University, he performed in *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Little Foxes*, and other shows. Geoff has also toured as a musician with the bands The Rathbones and the Nodding Begonias.

**Tom Steffen** (Sandy) Tom is appearing in his first-ever Lex-Ham show. He is an active member of The Cromulent Shakespeare Company and has appeared in their recent production of Theatre 101 as Professor Ricardo Porzone, and in Stud Game: An Evening of Poker and Improv. Big thanks and mad love to the cast and crew of The Philadelphia Story for being totally yare. Go Cannons!

**Tara Thompson** (May) Tara is in her first of she hopes many plays. She is graduating from the College of St. Catherine in December with an Art Education major. Tara has thoroughly enjoyed working in a different media of art and hopes to continue to do so in the future.

---

### Special thanks go to

All the staff at the University of St. Thomas  
for their support and generosity

All the dealers at the  
Mall of St. Paul  
Fine Antiques and Collectibles  
at the corner of Selby & Fairview  
for set furniture

Wescott Station Antiques  
226 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul  
for set furniture

Oh My...! Productions  
for costumes, furniture, and props

Circle of Dionysus Theatre Company  
for costumes and furniture

Abbott Paint and Carpet  
Frank's Nursery and Crafts  
The Lexington Restaurant  
Paper Patisserie  
Deena McMahon  
Mickey Foley

---

Thanks to all the supporters of the Lex-Ham Community Theater.  
These include the following contributors to the 2002 fund drive:

#### Sponsors (\$100 or more)

Patricia Amidon  
Karl and Mary Lou Grahek  
John Kelroy  
Urban Landreman  
Joy Lindsay  
Jack Rose

#### Family Members (\$50 to \$99)

Laurie Meschke  
Jason and Anne Schlukebier  
Cris Tibbetts and John Pikala

#### Individual Members (\$25 to \$49)

Karen Amidon and Bill Grenke  
Bonnie Beverly  
Dorothy Baier  
Christine DeZelar-Tiedman  
Ken and Barbara Ford  
Michele and Mark Forde  
Suzanne Gaines  
Margot and Francis Galt  
Ann Gehan  
James and Mary Johnston  
Nancy Kolb  
Lindy Krug  
Holly Lindsay & Michael Levine  
Dr. Francis and Louise Mayer  
Roger Paulson  
Nancy Recibe  
Jennifer Schultz  
Julie Schwietz  
Jon Skaalen  
Peggy Stojevich  
Jane Zilch

### Circle of Dionysus

*Oleanna*  
by David Mamet  
Artistic Director Jeremiah Scanlon  
October 4th -20th; at Central City Theatre in Minneapolis  
Located behind Salem Lutheran Church on 28th and Lyndale in  
Uptown

*This dark, moving drama follows the explosive relationship between a college professor and his academically struggling pupil. In the process of enlightening his pupil, this professor is confronted with some of the most difficult social complexities of our time, including competition, political correctness, and sexual harassment.*

# Lex-Ham Community Theater

The Lex-Ham Community Theater is a program of the Lexington-Hamline Community Council (LHCC). Throughout its history, the LHCC has provided the neighborhood with programs that help to maintain good housing, a healthy environment, facilities for recreation and strategies for protection from crime. The original fundamental purposes of the LHCC remain the same: to improve the quality of life in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood and to bring about long-term, sustainable community change for the neighborhood, by the neighborhood.

For several years, the LHCC has used the Arts as one of its tools to assist in building a sense of community among Lex-Ham residents. Some of the LHCC's arts projects include a neighborhood quilt with squares created by residents and the Lex-Ham Community Band.

Since its start in 1995, the Lex-Ham Community Theater has striven to achieve its mission of producing quality theatrical experiences by and for the residents of the Lexington-Hamline and surrounding neighborhoods in St. Paul. The company has enhanced the local theatrical scene by selecting lesser-known works by noted playwrights and giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors. All of its shows have provided people with little previous experience an opportunity to be on-stage or work off-stage side by side with those who have more experience.

Finally, the company strives to help build community by involving people across generations and walks of life with each of its productions.

Call (651) 645-3207 to get involved.

Check out the Lex-Ham Community Theater's web site at:  
[www.LexHamArts.org/theater](http://www.LexHamArts.org/theater)

---

## Shakespeare Reading Series

Join neighbors and friends for an informal reading of *Troilus and Cressida* at 6:30 p.m., Friday, August 16, 2002, 1184 Portland Avenue

6:30 p.m. – potluck supper

7:00 p.m. – sit down and read the play

Parts are reassigned at the start of each scene, so everyone gets lots of opportunities to read.  
Please bring your own copy of the play

## Lex-Ham Community Theater

2002 Season

March: Short Play Festival - Five Short Plays all with the theme of Mother

July 5-20: Philip Barry's *The Philadelphia Story*

September: An evening of fine food and music by four divas featuring Diane Brostrom, Jeanne Genovese, Mary Beth Marier, and Donna Marie Woodson at Ristorante Terlizzo, Raymond & Territorial Road in the Baker Court Building

November 8-23: Robert Anderson's *I Never Sang For My Father*  
Macalester-Plymouth United Church, St. Paul