

THE

WOMEN

BY CLARE BOOTHE LUCE

The comedy classic about
what women say and do
when the men aren't around

Lex-Ham Community Theater

Saint Paul Central High School
275 N Lexington Pkwy, Saint Paul

| Sunday | | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | 7:30 p.m., March 24 | 7:30 p.m., March 25 |
| | | | 7:30 p.m., March 31 | 7:30 p.m., April 1 |
| 2:00 p.m., April 2 Pay What You Can | | 7:30 p.m., April 6 | 7:30 p.m., April 7 | 7:30 p.m., April 8 |

Tickets: \$15/\$11 children, students, seniors aged 65 and older
Pay what you can for the Sunday, April 2 performance

Presented by special arrangements with Dramatist Play Service

www.LexHamArts.org/theater ● 651-644-3366



The Women

by
Clare Boothe Luce

Cast in order of appearance

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Sylvia (Mrs. Howard Fowler) | Jenna Evans |
| Nancy Blake | Christine DeZelar-Tiedman |
| Peggy (Mrs. John Day) | Elisabeth Watson |
| Edith (Mrs. Phelps Potter) | Laura Oakes |
| Jane, the Haines' maid | Susie Kaster |
| Mary (Mrs. Stephen Haines) | Kjersten Johnson |
| Countess de Lage | Ann J. Griffith |
| 1st Hairdresser | Valerie Hoiness |
| 2nd Hairdresser | Katy Baxter |
| Euphie | Juliet Grigsby |
| Miriam Aarons | Carrie Garcia |
| Olga, the manicurist | Laureen Berlin-Burns |
| Pedicurist | Julie Jackson |
| Miss Fordyce, the nanny/tutor | Valerie Hoiness |
| Little Mary, Mary and Stephen's daughter | Kelsey Tuma |
| Mrs. Morehead, Mary's mother | Lorna Anderson |
| 1st Girl in Dressmaker's Shop | Anna Hayek |
| 2nd Girl in Dressmaker's Shop | Cherech Allam |
| 1st Saleswoman. Miss Shapiro | Mitzi Addis |
| 2nd Saleswoman | Julie Jackson |
| 1st Model, Miss Myrtle | Jennifer Strassberg |
| Crystal Allen | Amanda Hofman-Frethem |
| 2nd or Corset Model | Laureen Berlin-Burns |
| Princess Tamara | Cherech Allam |
| Exercise Room Instructress | Katy Baxter |
| Maggie, the Haines' cook | Betty Mische |
| Miss Watts, Mr. Haines' secretary | Juliet Grigsby |
| Miss Trimmerback, the notary | Katy Baxter |
| Hospital Nurse | Mitzi Addis |
| Lucy, the Reno hotel owner | Betty Mische |
| Helene, Crystal's maid | Jennifer Strassberg |
| 1st Girl in Powder Room | Anna Hayek |
| 2nd Girl in Powder Room | Jennifer Strassberg |
| 1st Society Woman in Powder Room | Cherech Allam |
| 2nd Society Woman in Powder Room | Valerie Hoiness |
| Woman with Cigarette Tray | Mitzi Addis |
| Sadie | Julie Jackson |
| Dowager | Juliet Grigsby |
| Debutante | Anna Hayek |
| Girl in Distress in Powder Room | Laureen Berlin-Burns |

Scenes

Act 1

- Scene 1: Mary Haines' living room. A winter afternoon.
- Scene 2: A hairdresser's. An afternoon a few days later.
- Scene 3: Mary's boudoir, an hour later.
- Scene 4: A fitting room. An afternoon, two months later.
- Scene 5: An exercise room, two weeks later.
- Scene 6: Mary's kitchen, midnight, a few days later.
- Scene 7: Mary's living room, a month later.

10 minute intermission

Act 2

- Scene 1: A hospital room, a month later.
- Scene 2: A Reno hotel room, a few weeks later.
- Scene 3: Crystal's bathroom, early evening, two years later.
- Scene 4: Mary's bedroom, eleven-thirty, the same night
- Scene 5: The Powder Room at the Casino Roof, near midnight, the same night.

Production Team

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Director | Robin Johnson |
| Stage Manager | Jack Rose |
| Set Designer and construction | Dutton Foster |
| Props and set | Kathy Super |
| Set crew | Lynn Beytien |
| | Shane Stevenson |
| | Katie Tuma |
| Costume Design lead | Judy Larsen |
| Costume Design | Eileen Eaves |
| | Patricia Eaves |
| | Daria Gora |
| | Deborah Sabet |
| | Barbara Schendel |
| | Eva Snopek |
| | Jennifer Snyder |
| Dressers | Nancy Hanke |
| | Tricia Sargent |
| Sound Design | David Schliep |
| Tech Operator | Nic Broadnax |
| Music Director | Randall Throckmorton |
| Graphic Art | Barb Keith |
| Publicity | Lindsay Buescher |
| | Hillary Keefer |
| Photography | Lila Taft |
| Video | Val DuVernet |
| Producer | Urban Landreman |

Please
remember to
turn off all cell
phones or pagers
during the
performance.



Cast and Production Team Members

Mitzi Addis (1st Saleswoman, Nurse, Women with cigarette tray) is appearing in her first Lex-Ham production. Previous experience includes voice-over work on training films and for commercials on Cable Television.

Cherech Allam (2nd Girl, Princess Tamara, 1st Society Woman) works full time at Minnesota Public Radio. She has not been in a play since her high school days. In her spare time she likes to volunteer, travel and try out new cuisines.

Lorna Anderson (Mrs. Morehead) is excited to be in her first role with Lex-Ham. She graduated from St. Olaf College with a B.A. in English and studied drama in London. Previously she performed in community theater in her hometown of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Recently she appeared as Saunders in *Fallen Angels* at the Shingle Creek Theater, as Judge Heath in *Night of January 16* at Lakeshore Players in White Bear Lake, and as Marsha Truman in *It Wasn't Murder?* with Eden Prairie Players. She wishes to thank her friends for their wonderful support.

Katy Baxter (2nd hairdresser, Exercise Room Instructress, Miss Trimmerback) had the opportunity to be in many musicals throughout her life (*Hello Dolly*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Grease*, *The Music Man*, *The Pajama Game*) but what got Katy even more interested in theatre was being in a One Act of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Thus, when Katy ran across auditions for *The Women*, she quickly tried out, and is excited to be in her first community show.

Laureen Berlin-Burns (Olga, 2nd Model, Girl in Distress) is a freshman at the nearby Concordia University Saint Paul, majoring in Secondary Education and Theater. This is her first production with Lex-Ham and she's thrilled to be in one of her favorite play. Laureen was recently Frenchy in the musical *Grease* at Concordia. A special thank you to Bryan for his support and encouragement.

Christine DeZelar-Tiedman (Nancy Blake) has performed in three previous Lex-Ham shows (*The Vegetable*, *Under the Gaslight*, and *The Trojan Women*). She has also appeared with a number of other theatre companies around the Twin Cities, including Cromulent Shakespeare Company (*Comedy of Errors*), Heritage Theatre Company

(*The Man Who Came to Dinner*) and Como Lakeside Theatre (*Fiddler on the Roof*). By day, Christine is a librarian at the University of Minnesota. Besides acting, in her spare time Christine also enjoys reading, attending theatre, and spending time with her husband, Steve.

Jenna Evans (Sylvia Fowler) comes to the stage by way of improv, a courageous spirit, and never ending optimism. By day, Jenna works in international finance while spending her evenings and weekends exploring her creative side. After making her acting debut at the 2005 MN Fringe Festival as Brenda in Quick Question Productions' original play, *Strapped*, she performed as both Philostrate and Cobweb in La Vie Theatre's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and as Sylvia Fulton in Eden Prairie Players' original play, *It Wasn't Murder?* You can also find Jenna performing regularly with the Stevie Ray Showcase Troupe, The Outtakes and her three woman improv troupe, Tabula Rasa. She also hosts/stage manages private murder mystery dinner shows around the Twin Cities.

Dutton Foster (Set Designer) As a child of twelve or so, Dutton Foster built an elaborate puppet theater complete with footlights and a fancy act curtain, intended for puppet shows he never actually produced. After a sporadic acting career that began by playing Lady Macbeth in grade nine (all-male school) and ended after graduate school, Dutton has directed, designed, and built high-school and middle school shows since 1961. In recent years he has retired from directing and teaching high-school English, but continues to design and build for St. Paul Academy and Summit School, his former employer. Dutton is also a published playwright; his most successful opus has been a one-act melodrama, *The Wild Flowering of Chastity*, or *Chaste Across the Stage*, published in about 1970. Since the turn of the century Dutton's set work has included (among others) *The Laramie Project*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Peer Gynt*, *Into the Woods*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Sound of Music*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *City of Angels*, and *Pippin*. Dutton recently designed the set for Lex-Ham's *All My Sons*.

Carrie Garcia (Miriam Aarons) is appearing in her first Lex-Ham Theatre production. A theatre major from Macalester College, it has been many years since she has last appeared on stage – the last time was a holiday season appearance with Slim Dunlap and band. She would like to

thank her two boys – Kailash and Julian – for their support, and her husband Tom for taking over while she pursued her passion for theatre once again.

Ann J. Griffith (Countess de Lage) first performed with Lex-Ham in 2004, when she played multiple roles in *Working*, and is delighted to be in *The Women*. Ann's other favorite theatre credits include *Wonderful Town* (Ruth Sherwood), *South Pacific* (Bloody Mary), *Medea* (Medea), *Thieves' Carnival* (Lady Hurf), *The Sound of Music* (Mother Abbess), *The Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch of the West), *La Boheme*, *Godspell*, *Theatre in a Trunk*, and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. Ann thanks her family and friends for their love and support.

Juliet Grigsby (Euphie, Miss Watts, Dowager) is returning to community theater after a hiatus of more than twenty years. Her previous roles were Marion Hollander in *Don't Drink the Water* and Abby Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, both of which were sponsored by the Princeton Drama Workshop in Princeton, Minnesota. Juliet grew up in New York City where she went to the High School of Performing Arts, took classes at Sanford Meisner's Neighborhood Playhouse and has studied acting at the Guthrie. Juliet works for the Saint Paul Public Schools.

Anna Hayek (1st Girl, Debutante) is happy to be making her Lex-Ham debut in 'The Women'. After being very active in the glamorous theater world of Pelican Rapids, MN and participating in a couple of plays at Hamline University, Anna took a hiatus from the acting world. She spent her time traveling, obtaining her BA in Spanish and Education, working, traveling, singing, doing yoga and traveling. Anna missed acting, however, and is happy to be back at it with such a fabulous cast, director, and producer. She thanks her family and her boyfriend for all their support!

Amanda Hofman-Frethem (Crystal Allen) began her theatre career in 1994 in a production of *The Women* as First Girl. Since then she has graced stages in both Michigan and Minnesota. Favorite roles include Marjorie in *Extremities*, Elaine in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and Nancy Lee in *Night of January 16th*. Amanda would like to state for the record that she is not the witch Crystal is. Of course, she would be lying.

Valerie Hoiness (1st Hairdresser, Miss Fordyce, 2nd Society Woman) is thoroughly enjoying this opportunity to "play pretend" with so many talented people. In the more mundane world, she is an attorney in St. Paul, specializing in litigation. She is proud to say that none of her clients have ever pulled anyone's hair in a courtroom. She is grateful to Robin and Urban for welcoming her and her atrophied talent into this production, and she looks forward to similar

opportunities that may cross her path. She thanks her boyfriend, her family and her friends for their unfailing support and encouragement during this purely selfish endeavor. Valerie dedicates her performances to her cherished, recently departed kitty, Mila.

Julie Jackson (Pedicurist, 2nd Saleswoman, Sadie) is honored to be making her Lex-Ham debut with a wonderful group of women! Her stage appearances include shows with Heritage Community Theater, Phipps Center for the Arts, Woodbury Community Theater, and others. In recent years, she has also performed at the MN Renaissance Festival.

Kjersten Johnson (Mary Haines) is enjoying working with Lex-Ham Community Theater once again. You may have last seen her as Liz in their production of *The Philadelphia Story*. Since then she has played a variety of roles with other local theatre groups. It's a special treat to be able to work with Lorna and Jenna again after just wrapping a show with them through Eden Prairie Players. She also loves to serve on her church's drama team where she caught the acting bug.

Robin Johnson (Director) At Lex-Ham: *The Women*

As director: The New Place: *Elizabeth Rex* (Area Premiere), Moliere's *The Doctor In Spite Of Himself*, *Senses and Sorrows*; Entertainment Director for Super Bowl XXVI

As actor: The New Place: *Elizabeth Rex*; CalibanCo Theatre: *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Suddenly*, *Last Summer*; Lakeshore Players: *Ah, Wilderness!*, *The Laramie Project*

Film/Radio The 7 Project (featured at the MN Fringe Festival, 2004 and also Cinema Lounge) Being Josh Harnett, Just Reboot; Minnesota Public Radio: Sunday Opera with Michael Barone, The Morning Show, A Prairie Home Companion, Classical 24

Awards Lavender Magazine's Best Actress (Non-musical) of 2005 for *Elizabeth Rex*

Susie Kaster (Jane) is appearing in her second Lex-Ham show. She played Meg in *The Actor's Nightmare* and various voices in *Sorry*, *Wrong Number*, for the Lex-Ham play festival early in 2005. A couple of her previous performances include Columbia in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and Balthazar in *Much Ado About Nothing*. I would like to thank my mother and also my boyfriend Mike, for supporting me to pursue my acting.

Betty Mische (Maggie, Lucy) has 9 children, 17 grandchildren (in May it will be 18), and on March 27th she will have my first great grand child. Betty played Madam La Solda in *All Because of Agatha*, Sarah in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Helga ten Dorp in *Deathtrap*, and two years ago she played Lucy and Maggie in *The Women*. Betty is on stage due to the encouragement of her son-in-law, Tom Torborg. Currently she is employed as a receptionist/girl (grama) Friday for a political campaign.

Laura Oakes (Edith Potter) is appearing in her first Lex-Ham show. A community theater rookie, Oakes' previous acting experience was many years ago in high school when she played Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Oakes has always enjoyed the performing arts as both a participant and patron. She lives in St. Paul with her husband and young son, and is grateful that their ongoing support has allowed her to return to one of her passions!

Jack Rose (Stage Manager) was awakened by his grandmother one morning with the news that the Japanese had surrendered. "Go back to sleep, Grandma", he exclaimed. "It's 1987." He used to be an all-night deejay in Providence, RI but left radio to seek an honest living, a noble goal so far unmet with success. He has spent the majority of his adult life out of jail. Jack was recently seen as the mayor in *The Music Man*, the captain in *Anything Goes*, and the bartender in *Bye Bye Birdie*, all with Heritage Theater Company in Maplewood, and as the musical entertainment in Lex-Ham's productions of *Talley and Son* and *Sylvia*.

Jennifer Strassberg (Miss Myrtle, Helene, 2nd Girl) is delighted to join the cast of *The Women* with Lex-Ham Community Theater. While this is her first mainstage performance with the company, Jennifer is no stranger to Lex-Ham. Her acting career actually began with Lex-Ham acting classes last spring and has been a whirlwind ever since. You may have recently seen her in Nimbus Theatre's production of *Propaganda for the Converted* or in Mounds View Community Theatre's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, in which she was the Dance Captain. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys taking dance classes and supporting the local music scene. She works as Account Executive for TicketWorks and UptownTix and gigs as a bartender at the Ordway Center.

Kelsey Tuma (Little Mary) is appearing for the first time on the Lex-Ham stage. Her previous roles have

been Betsy in the Gremlin Theatre's first children's play *Wild*. She was also a townspeople in Como summer production of *Music Man*. Kelsey has been entertaining family members for years with her impromptu characterizations!

Elisabeth Watson (Peggy Day) is in her first show in the Twin Cities area. She moved here in November 2005 to live with her parents in Plymouth after studying philosophy and theology for a semester in Switzerland. Her great theatrical passion is Shakespeare: Last year, her favorite role was Olivia in *Twelfth Night* and she was one of the ten national finalists in the English Speaking Union's Shakespeare competition with a piece from *The Tempest*. Elisabeth will begin her freshman year of studying theatre at Vassar College in New York state this autumn.

Clare Boothe Luce



Few women have succeeded in so many varied careers and included as friends so many prominent Americans as Clare Boothe Luce.

Clare started out wanting to act, but switched her focus to writing. After starting as a writer for *Vogue* in 1930, she quickly moved to being the Managing Editor of *Vanity Fair*.

She met Henry Luce, the founder and publisher of *Time* and *Fortune*, and quickly fell in love. Henry divorced his wife of 12 years to marry Clare.

Clare wrote several plays including *Abide With Me*, *The Women*, and *Kiss The Boys Goodbye*.

Clare traveled widely and experienced international affairs. She ran and was elected to Congress from Connecticut in 1942 and again 1944.

She left Congress to return to writing for magazines, films, and books.

By 1952, Clare returned to political activities and Dwight Eisenhower named her ambassador to Italy until 1956.

She pursued art and mosaics out of the limelight until 1959 when President Eisenhower nominated her to be Ambassador to Brazil. Clare was voted in, but resigned three days later due to the clamor over her remark that Senator Wayne Morse, who had opposed her, had been "kicked in the head by a horse".

Lex-Ham Community Theater

Shakespeare Reading Series

Join neighbors and friends for an informal reading of:

The Merchant of Venice

Friday, April 21, 2006

1184 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul

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)

Special thanks go to

St. Paul Central High School
St. Paul Public Schools
Concordia University - St. Paul
St. Paul Academy and Summit School
Target Corporation
Carol Ann Winther-College of St. Catherine
Gus Liepitz
St. Paul Midway Family and Skyway YMCA
Wendy Radunz & Jason Nabor
Linda Christensen
Karin Kaihoi and Mary Kay Cosmetics
Jaime Bernsdorf at
Dean Gray Salon, 1219 Randolph Ave

Please consider giving a financial donation to the Lex-Ham Community Theater. Because we try to keep ticket prices low, income from ticket sales do not cover the total cost of putting on a show.

In this era when government support for the Arts is being reduced, donations of any amount are most welcome.

You can send a tax-deductible donation to:
Lex-Ham Community Arts
1184 Portland Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

Special thanks goes to our 2005 donors

Angels - \$101 and more
Dr. Richard & Mary Davis
Karl & MaryLou Grahek
Urban Landreman
Joy Lindsay
Roy Martin
Shane & Mary Perry
Jack Rose

Patrons - \$51 - \$100
Michele & Jerry Cromer-Poiré
Michele & Mark Forde
William Helfmann
Chris and Renee Nachtsheim
Msgr. Robert Probst
Fran Williams

Backers - \$26 - \$50
Robert Holst
Tom Kelly
Mark & Darlene Levenson
Holly Lindsay & Michael Levine
John & Sue Mollner
Doug Thompson
Mary Vanderwert

Friends - \$1 - \$25
Deb & Paul Alper
Bonnie Beverly
Rebecca Brenner & Steve VanAllen
Linda Fei
Ken & Barbara Ford
Jane Kerr
Lisa Lee
Elmer Pierre & Pat Mitchell
Holly Windle

“There’s nothing like a good dose of another woman to make a man appreciate his wife.”

- Mrs. Morehead

Lex-Ham Community Theater

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, such as *Soul Gone Home* by Langston Hughes and *The Vegetable* by F. Scott Fitzgerald;
- Giving the regional and world premieres of works by local authors, such as *Bullets and Beauties* by Urban Landreman; and
- Reviving wonderful classics such as *The Philadelphia Story* by Philip Barry, *Under the Gaslight* by Augustin Daly, and *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller.

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.

The theater is further involved with the community by offering acting classes through St. Paul Community Education and holding free informal Shakespeare Reading Series events. Call (651) 644-3366 to get involved.

Upcoming Events

July - The Fantasticks
Christopher Teipner director
Auditions in May

November - Tom Sawyer
John Townsend director

See www.LexHamArts.org/theater for more info

Buy *The Women* shirts, mugs, bags and more at
www.cafepress.com/TheNewPlace

Acting Classes

The Lex-Ham Community Theater offers acting classes for both children and adults in conjunction with both St. Paul Community Education and St. Paul Parks and Rec. Classes have included:

Beginning Acting
Advanced Beginning Acting
Shakespeare for Beginners
Acting for History Buffs
Acting Comedy
Improvisation
Audition Skills

The next sessions will start in April, 2006.
To register for children's classes, call 651-325-2672

To register for adult classes, call 651-293-8811 or see www.commed.spps.org.