

# AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE

Don Toner Producing Artistic Director  
Lara Toner Artistic Director, Larry L. King Theatre

presents

## Age of Arousal

by Linda Griffiths

*Wildly inspired by George Gissing's The Odd Women*  
directed by Lara Toner

Stage manager Laura Walberg ♦

Lighting designer Don Day

Costume designer Diana Huckaby

Set and Sound design Lara Toner

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*Age of Arousal* is produced by arrangement with Kensington Literary Representation,  
34 St. Andrew Street, Toronto, ON, M5T 1K6, 416.979.0187, kensingtonlit@rogers.com.  
*Age of Arousal* was developed in a series of workshops produced by Duchess Productions.  
Its world premiere was presented as part of the Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian  
Plays 2007, at Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary, Canada.  
Dramaturgy by Karen Hines.

*Age of Arousal* ♦ April 10 - May 10, 2009  
Austin Playhouse ♦ P.O. Box 50533 Austin, TX 78763-0533  
phone: 512. 476.0084 ♦ e-mail: austinplayhouse@aol.com  
www.austinplayhouse.com

## THE CAST

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| RHODA NUNN.....      | Jenny Larson      |
| MARY BARFOOT.....    | Babs George ♦*    |
| VIRGINIA MADDEN..... | Jenny Gravenstein |
| ALICE MADDEN.....    | Cyndi Williams *  |
| MONICA MADDEN.....   | Kimberly Barrow   |
| EVERARD BARFOOT..... | Brian Coughlin ♦* |

♦ Member Actors' Equity Association \* Member Austin Playhouse Acting Company

**The play takes place in London, 1885 (mostly)**

*There will be one ten-minute intermission.*

**Photography, recording devices,  
and cell phones are prohibited.**

### PRODUCTION STAFF

|                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Scenic Artist.....            | Jennifer Singletary          |
| Costume Assistant.....        | Glenda Barnes                |
| Set Construction.....         | Mike Toner                   |
| Development Manager.....      | Erin Hefner                  |
| Administrative Associate..... | Cyndi Williams               |
| Box Office Associates.....    | Kathleen Toner, Kate Eminger |

### Special Thanks

to [www.sufferinstudios.com](http://www.sufferinstudios.com) for maintaining our website,  
**Christopher Loveless** for his awesome photography,  
and **Trevor Lemoine** for our beautiful poster.



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# COMPANY BIOS

**Don Toner** (Producing Artistic Director) founded Austin Playhouse in 2000. Before that he was Producing Artistic Director of the State Theater Company/Live Oak Theatre for thirteen years. Prior to coming to Austin he was Associate Producer for the inaugural season of the Los Angeles Theatre Center, he was Associate Producer/Director of the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park for three seasons, and he founded Theatre Center of Mississippi, the state's first Equity theatre. He has also produced and directed at New Stage Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, Theatre Midland and Theatre Four in New York City. For Austin Playhouse he has produced and directed *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Amadeus*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Steel Magnolias*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Odd Couple*, *House*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Rumors*, *Enchanted April*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Underpants*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Private Lives*, *Travesties*, *The Dead Presidents' Club*, *Damn Yankees*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Copenhagen*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Blues in the Night*, *The Seagull*, *Arcadia*, *The Fantasticks*, *Mahalia*, and *Light Up the Sky*. He appeared in *Heroes*, *The Threepenny Opera* and Brian Friel's *Afterplay*.

**Lara Toner** (Director) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company and Artistic Director of Austin Playhouse's Larry L. King Theatre. For Austin Playhouse she has directed productions of *Heroes*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Dug Up*,

*Women Who Steal*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Garden*, *A Texas Romance*, and co-directed *Speed the Plow* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. She has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *House and Garden*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Enchanted April*, *Rumors*, *Travesties*, *The Underpants*, *The Seagull*, and *Arcadia*. She has appeared in local productions for State Theatre Company, Hyde Park Theatre, Aunt Lulu Productions, and Austin Script Works, among others.

**Laura A. Walberg** (Stage Manager) hails from Chicago where she grew up as a professional dancer, contortionist and gymnast. She has spent the last few years back in her hometown of Chicago spending a great deal of time working in improv (primarily with Second City). Laura's last work at the Playhouse was as the choreographer for their first musical, *The Fantasticks*. As a company member of Austin Musical Theater, she appeared in *A Chorus Line*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Music Man*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and *Gypsy*. A four-time B. Iden Payne Award nominee, other Austin appearances have included *Patience*, *Godspell*, *Naughty Austin I & II*, *Into the Woods*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *West Side Story*, *Threepenny Opera*, *Buck's Disciple*, *Faustus* and *Lucifer*. Laura attended graduate school at the ASOLO Conservatory for acting and is an honors graduate of St. Edwards University, earning her BA in theater with emphasis in acting.

**Diana Huckaby** (Costume Designer) has been designing costumes for numerous years in Austin. Austin Playhouse costume credits include *Amadeus*, *A Funny...Forum*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Women Who Steal*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Steel Magnolias*, *House and Garden*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Kingfish*, *An Ideal Husband* and *Afterplay*. She is also the founder and President of The Violet Crown Players. VCP costume and stage credits include *A Little Night Music* (Austin Critics Table nomination), *Guys & Dolls*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Dracula: A Musical Nightmare*, *Tintypes*, *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline* and more. Additionally, Diana has performed in numerous Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and has performed countless choral masterworks. By day, she is a non-profit accounting/fundraising software support supervisor for Sage Software.

**Don Day** (Lighting Designer) has been designing professionally for over 30 years winning both Austin Circle of Theatre and Austin Critics' Table awards for his work. Don designed light for the Austin Playhouse productions of *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Sylvia*, *Dug Up*, *Amadeus*, *A Funny...Forum*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Speed the Plow*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Exits and Entrances*, *Women Who Steal*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Dead Presidents' Club*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Odd Couple* and *House*. He is currently having a great time working with students as Technical Director at Southwestern University in Georgetown. He also recently designed lights for *Dog Sees God* for Hyde Park Theatre. Don holds an MFA from the University Of Texas.

**Kimberly Barrow** (Monica) is a recent graduate from St. Edward's University's Theatre Department. For Austin Playhouse she appeared as Constanze in *Amadeus* and as one of the Geminae in *A Funny...Forum*. She has appeared at St. Edward's in *Honk!*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Parade*, *Macbeth*, and *On The Town*. She has also appeared in Summer Stock Austin's production of *The Stinky Cheese Man*. At the Blue Theatre she appeared in the *Ten Minute Play Festival* in 2007.

**Brian Coughlin** (Everard) is an Austin Playhouse Acting Company member. He has appeared in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Amadeus*, *A Funny...Forum*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Melvin P. Thorpe), *A Man for All Seasons* (King Henry VIII) and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Neville Landless) at Austin Playhouse and *Present Laughter*, *Omnium Gatherum*, *Cabaret*, and *Rockin' Christmas Party* at Zachary Scott Theatre, and *Parade* at Mary Moody Northern Theatre. Regional credits include *Into The Woods* (Cinderella's Prince/Wolf) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stanley), among others. Film credits include *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas* and *The Medicine Show*. He is a graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown and holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Connecticut.

**Babs George** (Mary) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company and recently appeared in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Women Who Steal*, *Steel Magnolias* and *House and Garden* for which she received a B. Iden Payne nomination. She directed *Afterplay* and *The Kingfish* for Austin Playhouse. Other Austin Playhouse appearances have been in

*Light Up the Sky, Private Lives* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Babs has worked in regional theaters across the country, and played Lady Macbeth in Scotland at the world renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Other Austin theatres where she has performed are: St. Edwards' Mary Moody Northern Theatre, Austin Shakespeare Festival, The State Theatre Company, and Zachary Scott Theatre. She recently completed her M.F.A. in Classical Acting at The Shakespeare Theatre and George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and teaches acting at St. Edwards University as well as in the school she originated, the State Theatre School of Acting, (now in association with Austin Community College). She has been a member of AEA and SAG for over 25 years.

**Jenny Gravenstein** (Virginia) was last seen in *An Ideal Husband, Macbeth*, and *Henry IV* with Austin Shakespeare. Professional highlights include: Amanda in *The Food Chain* (Circle Theatre, Fort Worth, TX) and Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (45 Bleecker Street Theatre, NYC). She has also performed with the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Soho Rep (NYC), West End Shakespeare Company (NYC) and is a company member of the Slant Theatre Company in NY. Film/Television credits include: *Resist Evil: Part Two* and *Love Without Borders* (NTV-Russian Mini-series). Jenny received her BFA in Acting from SMU in Dallas, TX and continues to work here in Texas and New York.

**Jenny Larson** (Rhoda) Jenny Larson is the Artistic Director of Salvage Vanguard Theater (SVT). Her work with Salvage Vanguard Theater includes performing in *Death of a Cat, America Misfit, MUD, Difference Engine*, and *tempOdyessy* among others. Her directing credits with

SVT include *reverberations, THRUSH, Voices Underwater, Hamilton Township*, and *Iphigenia (a rave fable)*. A few other directing credits include *You Are Pretty* and *SPURT* for the St Idiot Collective. Jenny was recently awarded "Outstanding Direction" from the Austin Critics Table in 2007-08 for her work on *Voices Underwater* and *You Are Pretty*. Jenny was also awarded "Outstanding Body of Work" from the Austin Critics Table in 2004 for her work as an actor in several local productions. Jenny has also worked as an actor with Rude Mechanicals (most recently appearing as Sigmunda in *I've Never Been So Happy*), Trouble Puppet Theater, Frontera @ Hyde Park, the former State Theater, and Zach Scott Theater. Jenny graduated with a BA from St Edwards University, magna cum laude, in 2001.

**Cyndi Williams** (Alice) is an Austin Playhouse Acting Company member. She appeared in the Austin Playhouse productions of *Dancing at Lughnasa, A Texas Romance, Moonlight and Magnolias, The Seagull*, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Other recent stage appearances include *The Difference Engine* for Salvage Vanguard Theater, *You Are Pretty* for St. Idiots Collective, and *The Assumption* for Refraction Arts Project. Also an award-winning playwright, her play *Dug Up* opened the season this year at Austin Playhouse's Larry L. King Theater. She is a Founding Core Member of Austin Script Works, and a company member for many years with Refraction Arts Project. She starred in the independent film *Room*, which garnered her a nomination for Best Lead Actress in the Independent Spirit Awards, and she received the Karen Morley Award from the American Women Film Critics for her performance. By day, she takes reservations for Austin Playhouse.

## AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE MISSION

Austin Playhouse is dedicated to providing opportunities for Austin artists and audiences to celebrate the human experience. Austin Playhouse will nourish your mind, delight your spirit, and enrich your life through professional productions of classic, contemporary and musical plays.

## AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE ACTING COMPANY

The Acting Company is comprised of artists who have made a significant contribution to the high quality of theatre at Austin Playhouse. Acting Company members are an active presence in the theatre. Their leadership and dedication provide the foundation for Austin Playhouse's continuing artistic excellence.

Brian Coughlin  
Mary Agen Cox  
Rachel Dendy  
Amber Dupuy  
Babs George  
Gray G. Haddock  
Margaret Hoard  
Huck Huckaby

Molly Karrasch Wineberg  
Barry Miller  
Bernadette Nason  
Andrea Osborn  
Tom Parker  
Lauri Raymond  
Rick Roemer  
David Stahl

David Stokey  
Michael Stuart  
Zach Thompson  
Lara Toner  
Dirk van Allen  
Hans Venable  
Cyndi Williams  
Ben Wolfe

## BRIEF NOTE ON HISTORY IN AGE OF AROUSAL

History is not written on a straight line. *Age of Arousal* often treats linear time irreverently, focusing on events that took place from 1869 - 1914. The term Suffragette was first recorded in print in 1906. The population imbalance in England was registered in the late 1880's. The militant period where suffragists were imprisoned by the hundreds and force-fed was primarily from 1906-1910.

All these events occurred in the height of England's Victorian Era. The Victorian ideal of womanhood was romanticized and unreal, but it was also seductive as such myths always are. Suffragists needed to convince men that women were their equals; they also needed to convince women to take themselves off the pedestal of idealized womanhood.

Suffrage (the civil right to vote) for women did not occur at the same time in every country around the world. Throughout history rights have been bestowed and revoked. In 1915 many women enjoyed more freedoms than they did in 1950. We must be vigilant. Being vigilant can be fun. Enjoy the show.

## LARRY L. KING THEATRE CONTRIBUTORS

Austin Playhouse gratefully acknowledges  
a \$10,000 grant from the

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