

# AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE

Don Toner Producing Artistic Director  
Lara Toner Associate Artistic Director

presents

## *A Flea in Her Ear*

BY GEORGES FEYDEAU  
TRANSLATED BY JOHN MORTIMER

DIRECTED BY DON TONER

Production Stage Manager	<b>Paige Binder</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Don Day</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Buffy Manners</b>
Set Designer	<b>Jessica Colley-Mitchell</b>
Sound Designers	<b>The Gunn Brothers</b>
Properties Designer	<b>Jennifer Singletary</b>

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*A Flea in Her Ear* by Georges Feydeau

March 27 - May 3, 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

(in order of appearance)

CAMILLE CHANDEBISE.....	<b>Aaron M. Clay</b>
ANTOINETTE PLUCHEUX.....	<b>Gwendolyn Kelso</b>
ETIENNE PLUCHEUX.....	<b>Hans Venable *</b>
DR. FINACHE.....	<b>Douglas Taylor ♦</b>
LUCIENNE HOMENIDES DE HISTANGUA.....	<b>Boni Hester ♦</b>
RAYMONDE CHANDEBISE.....	<b>Andrea Osborn ♦*</b>
VICTOR EMMANUEL CHANDEBISE.....	<b>David Stokey ♦*</b>
ROMAIN TOURNEL.....	<b>Rommel Sulit</b>
CARLOS HOMENIDES DE HISTANGUA.....	<b>Ben Wolfe *</b>
AUGUSTIN FERAILLON.....	<b>Steve Shearer</b>
EUGÉNIE.....	<b>Kate Eminger</b>
OLYMPE.....	<b>Mary Agen Cox ♦*</b>
BAPTISTIN.....	<b>Tom Parker ♦*</b>
HERR SCHWARZ.....	<b>Tom Parker ♦*</b>
POCHE.....	<b>David Stokey ♦*</b>

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

SETTING: PARIS, 1907.

### ACT ONE

**The drawing-room of the Chandebises' house  
in the Boulevard Malesherbes. Afternoon.**

### ACT TWO

**The Hotel Coq d'Or in Montretout. Evening.**

### ACT THREE

**The Chandebises' drawing-room. Half an hour later.**

THERE WILL BE TWO, TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSIONS.

*The play runs approximately two hours and twenty minutes.*

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

**Georges Feydeau**  
(December 8, 1862 - June 5, 1921)  
was born in Paris, the son of novelist and  
a Polish woman. At the age of twenty, he  
wrote his first comic monologue. He  
found his first success four years later with  
*Tailleur pour dames* (Ladies' Dressmaker,  
1889). That same year Feydeau married  
Marianne Carolus-Duran.  
Feydeau began a study of great farces in  
1890. This study brought him success with  
his play *Champignol malgré lui*  
(Champignol in Spite of Himself, 1892).  
Following this, Feydeau made a name for  
himself both in France and abroad, some  
of his plays opening overseas and in other  
languages before they opened in France.  
The plays are noted for their great wit and

complex plots, featuring misunderstandings  
and coincidences, and what one critic  
called "jack-in-the-box construction".  
Though critics at the time dismissed  
Feydeau's works as light entertainment, he  
is now regarded as one of the great French  
playwrights of his era. His plays are seen  
today as precursors to Surrealist and  
Dada theatre, and the Theatre of the  
Absurd.  
Despite being a very successful play-  
wright, high living, gambling and the fail-  
ure of his marriage led to financial diffi-  
culties. During the winter of 1918  
Feydeau contracted syphilis and slowly  
descended into madness in the remaining  
years of his life.

## A FLEA IN HER EAR PRODUCTION CREW

Assistant Director.....Babs George  
Running Crew.....David Weaver, Austin Amelio  
Stage Carpenter.....Mike Toner  
Graphic Designer.....Trevor Lemoine  
Set Painting Crew.....Sadie Langenkamp  
Wig Design.....Diana Huckaby

## AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE STAFF

Producing Artistic Director.....Don Toner  
Associate Artistic Director.....Lara Toner  
Development Manager.....Erin Hefner  
Administrative Associate.....Cyndi Williams  
Box Office Associates.....Kate Eminger, Kathleen Toner

## SPECIAL THANKS

Austin Playhouse wishes to thank the following individuals  
whose time and talents have contributed to this production's success.  
**Dreyfus Antiques** for the loan of their beautiful chandeliers and furniture,  
**Babs George, Diana Huckaby, Huck Huckaby,**  
**www.sufferinstudios.com** for maintaining our web site  
**Trevor Lemoine** - **www.metaledgedesign.com.**



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through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant  
from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award  
from the National Endowment for the Arts,  
which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



COMING SOON

## Age of Arousal

by Linda Griffiths

April 10 - May 10, 2009

Larry L. King Theatre, Southwest Premiere

directed by Lara Toner, starring Babs George, Cyndi Williams, Jenny  
Larson, Kimberly Barrow, Jennifer Gravenstein, and Brian Coughlin.  
The suffrage movement ushers in the modern age in this witty and wild  
new play that's a liberating celebration of women's passions and desires.

*Rated R for sexual content and scandalous thoughts.*

*...this is not your grandmother's Victorian drama...*

## The Fantasticks

by Harvey Schmidt, book and lyrics by Tom Jones

May 22 - June 28, 2009, Main Stage

America's longest running musical and Austin Playhouse's first smash hit  
returns to charm audiences once again.

Austin Playhouse box office: (512) 476-0084  
or [www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com)

## 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  
Barry Miller  
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Zach Thompson  
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Dirk van Allen  
Hans Venable  
Cyndi Williams  
Ben Wolfe

# COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

**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 *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 Austin Playhouse productions of *Heroes*, *Afterplay* and *The Threepenny Opera*.

**Paige Binder** (Stage Manager) has worked with Austin Playhouse since 2002 in technical and stage management positions. She recently stage managed the Austin Playhouse production of *Heroes* and designed lights for Weird Sisters' productions of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Twelfth Night*. She is currently attending U.T. Austin as a Humanities major.

**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 *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *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.

**Buffy Manners** (Costume Designer) has designed *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Sylvia*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *An Ideal Husband*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *A Texas Romance*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Travesties*, *The Fantastics*, *The Seagull*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (a co-production with Austin Shakespeare Festival) for Austin Playhouse. She designed all shows under the direction of Don Toner at the State Theatre. She has been nominated for several B. Iden Payne Awards for her work. She has also been nominated for Austin Critics Table Awards for her costume designs for *An Ideal Husband*, *A Macbeth*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Henry V*, and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. Before getting involved in theatre, Ms Manners started her costume design career in the dance world with Austin Ballet Theatre in the days when they performed at the Armadillo World

Headquarters. She is a regular designer for Tapestry Dance Company productions.

**The Gunn Brothers** (Sound Designers) Gordon and Jimmy have been have been recognized many times over with B. Iden Payne and Critics' Table awards and nominations. They have worked with most of the theatres in Austin; they were the sound designers in residence at Capital City Playhouse for the majority of its run, and they worked on some 20 shows at the State Theatre. Previous shows with Austin Playhouse include *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Sylvia*, *Dug Up*, *Amadeus*, *Speed the Plow*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Women Who Steal*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Kingfish*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Copenhagen*, *The Seagull*, *Blues in the Night*, and *Arcadia*.

**Jessica Colley-Mitchell** (Set Designer) is joining Austin Playhouse for the first time with this production. Jessica is a 2008 graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, where she focused on set and costume design. Recent credits include *SubUrbia*, *The House of Bernarda Alba* (assistant designer), and *Dido and Aeneas* at Southwestern, as well as scenic artist for the 2007 Zilker Summer Musical, *My Favorite Year*. Costume credits include work for the Lone Star Lyric Opera in Houston, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (cutter/drapers) and *Seussical: The Musical*, both at Southwestern. She has also worked on costumes for *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *The Waiting Room* for the 2008-2009 season at Pflugerville High School.

**Jennifer Singletary** (Properties Designer) has been the properties designer for the Austin Playhouse productions of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Sylvia*, *Amadeus*,

*Blithe Spirit*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Steel Magnolias*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *The Night Hank Williams Died*. She has worked in the art department for various films, commercials, and videos. She has also worked in technical theatre at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and for the AnimaDance Company in North Carolina.

**Aaron M. Clay** (Camille) his regional credits include *A Flea in Her Ear* (Camille) (B. Iden Payne Nomination), *Kentucky Cycle* (Joshua), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Cheswick). He was an original cast member of *Wilcox Manner*, *Medea Stories*, and *C/O The Grove*. Aaron is also a founding member of P.O.P.E (Sketch Comedy) and St. Idiot's Collective. For more information please visit [www.aaronmclay.com](http://www.aaronmclay.com).

**Mary Agen Cox** (Olympe) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company. She has been seen in Austin Playhouse productions of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Women Who Steal*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Enchanted April*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Copenhagen*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *Light Up the Sky*. A long-time Austin resident, she appeared in many productions at Live Oak/State Theatre. Her favorite roles include Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Stella May in *Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean*, Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and Lily Dale in *The Young Man From Atlanta*. She received critical acclaim for her work in the one-woman show *The Miracle of Washing Dishes* and as the title role in *Hamlet*.

**Kate Eminger** (Eugenie) is a recent graduate of St. Edward's University in Austin. Her past credits include *Parade* (Monteen), *Ring Round the Moon*



(Isabelle), *Kneeling Down at Noon*, *Cesar and Ruben*, *Honk!*, *The Crucible* (Abigail), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero), *Proposals*, and *You Can't Take it With You*. Kate has recently been involved with SummerStock Austin, Transit Theatre Troupe, and the Mary Moody Northern Theatre.

**Boni Hester** (Lucienne) appeared in the Austun Playhouse productions of *The Threepenny Opera* and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. She was a member of Austin's State Theater Acting Company where she appeared in *My Fair Lady*, *As Bees in Honey Drown*, *Beast on the Moon*, *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Pumpboys & Dinettes*, *She Loves Me*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Golden Shadows Old West Museum*, and *Nunsense* among others. Other regional credits include Ruby in *Dames at Sea*, Lucy in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and June in *Gypsy*.

**Gwendolyn Kelso** (Antoinette) is making her first appearance with Austin Playhouse. With Austin Shakespeare, Gwen has been seen as Mrs. Marchmont in *An Ideal Husband*, Witch/Lady Macduff in *Macbeth* and Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Before returning to Austin, Gwen worked with the Saint Louis Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Saint Louis Shakespeare Festival and the Harrisburg Shakespeare Company in Pennsylvania. She received a BFA in performance from the Theatre Conservatory at Webster University. When not on stage, Gwen manages the Scottish Rite Theatre, works in the Education department at ZACH Theatre and teaches Shakespeare classes for youth. She is represented by Collier Talent.

**Andrea Osborn** (Raymonde) As an Austin Playhouse company member, Andrea has appeared as the title role in *Sylvia*, Suzanne in *Don't Dress for Dinner*, the French temptress, Lucille Cadeau in *House & Garden*, Lady Caroline in *Enchanted April* (Austin Critics Table Award for Best Supporting Actress), Chris in *Rumors*, and Hannah in *Arcadia*. Austin credits include Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Valerie in *The Weir*, Honey Wells in the World Premiere of *The Dinosaur Within*, and Witch in *A Macbeth* all for The State Theatre; Celia in *As You Like It* and Lydia Languish in *The Rivals* for Austin Shakespeare, and Alice in *Closer* for Zachary Scott Theatre; Los Angeles television and theatre credits include a national television commercial for Toyota, and Veronique in Clive Barker's *Frankenstein In Love* (Sacred Fool's Theatre). She is a graduate of Webster University Conservatory of Theatre Arts. She dedicates her performance to Sir Charles.

**Tom Parker** (Baptistin/Herr Schwarz) is a founding member of the Austin Playhouse Company and a former board member of Austin Playhouse. Tom was most recently seen in the role of Count von Strack in the Austin Playhouse production of *Amadeus*. He originated the role of Harry S. Truman in the 1996 World Premiere production of *The Dead Presidents' Club* and has played that role in all of the subsequent productions staged at Austin Playhouse. Other Austin Playhouse appearances include: *A Funny Thing...Forum*, *Light Up the Sky*, *The Fantasticks*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Damn Yankees*, *The Underpants*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Rumors*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Inherit the Wind* and *Blithe Spirit*. During his thirty years in Austin, Tom has appeared in over seventy-five productions. This production marks his fifty-first collaboration with

Don Toner. Tom was the first recipient of the annual John Bustin Award for Conspicuous Versatility presented by The Austin Chronicle. For more information visit Tom's website at: [www.tomparker-actor.com](http://www.tomparker-actor.com).

**Steve Shearer** (Feraillon) has been performing on Austin stages since the early 1980's. He studied at the National Shakespeare Company in New York. For about twelve years, ending in 2002, he was a member of the Equity acting company at Live Oak Theatre/State Theatre Company. While a member of the company he played the title role in *Macbeth*, Petruccio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Gerry in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Uncle Louie in *Lost in Yonkers*, and Chance Wayne in *Sweet Bird of Youth*. He appeared in the Austin Playhouse productions of *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *The Kingfish*. He has also appeared in numerous network television movies including *Madam's Family* for CBS opposite Ellen Burstyn, as Swoosie Kurtz's husband in *A Promise to Carolyn*, and as a "mob boss" chasing Rebecca DeMornay and William H. Macy in *The Con*.

**David Stokey** (Victor Emmanuel/Poche) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company. Austin Playhouse productions include *Inherit the Wind*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *House and Garden* (Critics), *Rumors*, *The Underpants*, and *Private Lives* (B. Iden Payne/Critics). Regional credits include *Dinner with Friends* (B. Iden Payne/Critics), *As Bees in Honey Drown* (B. Iden Payne/Critics), *The Good Doctor*, *The Young Man from Atlanta* (Critics), and *Down Along the Brazos* (B. Iden Payne/Critics) (The State Theater), *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (Critics) and *Shear Madness* (Critics) (Zach), *A Flea In Her Ear* (B. Iden Payne), *The Grapes of*

*Wrath*, *Chicago* (B. Iden Payne/Critics), *Night of the Iguana* (B. Iden Payne/Critics), and *Into the Woods* (Critics) (St. Ed's), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Twelfth Night* (ASF). TV credits include NBC's *Friday Night Lights* and Fox's *Prison Break*. Film credits include *Master of the Game* and *Fall to Grace*.

**Rommel Sulit** (Romaine Tournel) appeared in the Austin Playhouse production of *Inherit the Wind*. An Austin Shakespeare company member, he has appeared in *Will Power: Your Imaginary Forces*, *Hamlet*, and *The Dog in the Manger*. Other credits include Scottish Rite Theatre's *Twelfth Night*, Physical Plant Theatre's *Not Clown*, *Lacuna* and *Elephant's Graveyard* (both premiering at the Cohen New Works Festival). Film credits include *A Scanner Darkly*, *Prison Break*, *Mr. Brooks*, and *Johnny Goes to Texas*. He trained at the School at Steppenwolf.

**Douglas Taylor** (Dr. Finache) Mr. Taylor's work as an actor has taken him from Beeville, TX. to New York City. But most of his career in the theatre has been spent right here in Austin, where he was included in the Austin Chronicle's "Most Valuable Players," a guide to Austin's top forty stage actors. Some of Mr. Taylor's favorite performances are Hercule Poirot in *Black Coffee*, J. Frank Dobie in *Night Swim* by Steve Moore, the bartenders in *Fish* by Cyndi Williams and "40's" in *THEM* by Michael Mitchell. Mr. Taylor was recognized by his peers with the B. Iden Payne Award for his work in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, and the Austin Critics' Table has acknowledged his work in a number of productions. In New York, Mr. Taylor performed in Eugene O'Neill's *Sniper* with Expanded Arts Theatre (Off-Broadway) and Shakespeare in the Park(ing) Lot's *The Taming of the Shrew* (way,WAY, Off-Broadway) Mr. Taylor's

talents are not exclusive to the stage. He has been in local legend Willie Nelson's made-for-TV movie, *Another Pair of Aces* and the Texas drama, *Bed of Lies*. His big screen debut was in Richard Linkletter's *Dazed and Confused*.

**Hans Venable** (Etienne) is an Austin Playhouse Acting Company member. He has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of *A Funny...Forum*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Odd Couple*, *House and Garden*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Dead Presidents' Club*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Other memorable roles include Charlie Cotchipee in the musical *Purlie* with ProArts Collective, Mickey Thomas in *Shear Madness* at Zachary Scott Theatre, *The Boys in Our Town*, Jesus in *Counsel of Love*, and Vasily in *Seven Were Hanged* all with Big State Productions.

**Ben Wolfe** (Carlos) is a member of Austin Playhouse's Acting Company as well as Hyde Park Theatre's company. Austin Playhouse credits include *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Speed the Plow* (Charlie Fox), *Don't Dress for Dinner* (George), *Travesties* (Tristan Tzara), and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (Banjo). He was recently seen as Darren in Hyde Park Theatre's Long Fringe production of *The Drowned World* and as Macduff in Austin Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Other Austin credits, working with HBMG Foundation, Austin Shakespeare Festival, Hyde Park Theatre, Different Stages/Crazy Jane Productions, among others include *The Dog in the Manger* (Tristan, B. Iden Payne and Critics' Table Awards winner), *Romeo & Juliet* (Benvolio, B. Iden Payne Award winner), *2 Into War: The Retreating World* (Ali, B. Iden Payne Award winner), *Featuring Loretta* (Michael, B. Iden Payne Award winner), *Twelfth Night* (Sir Andrew Aguecheek).

## Endowment Fund Contributors

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Cal & Joy Gooden	Elsie B. O'Neal	John & Joyce Wilson
Paul & Pat Gowens	Bill Kalmbach	Karl Bayer & Karen Wilson
Roslyn & Dave Gutman	& Bonnie Orr	Coke & Geraldene Wilson
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