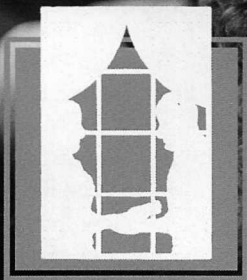


THE Classic Theatre

SAN ANTONIO

JUMPSTART THEATRE



UNCLE
VANYA

August 20-30, 2009

210-589-8450
www.classictheatre.org

MISSION

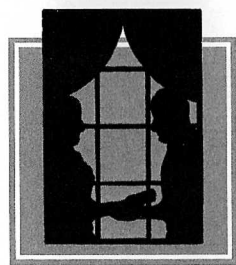
The Classic Theatre's mission is to reinvigorate and create new audiences for the theatre by presenting professional productions of popular classics and forgotten masterpieces for residents of and visitors to San Antonio.

VISION

To build a professional theatre that inspires passionate involvement in a shared theatrical experience and is a source of pride for our community.

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UNCLE VANYA

By Anton Chekhov
Adapted by the ensemble

The action takes place on Serebryakov's estate.
There will be one 15 minute intermission.

CAST

SEREBRYAKOV Allan S. Ross
YELENA Emily Spicer
SONYA Laura Darnell
MARYA VASILYEVNA Terri Peña Ross
VANYA John Minton
ASTROV Anthony Ciaravino*
TELEGIN Justin Laughlin
MARINA Anne Collins
YEFIM Sam Mandelbaun

PRODUCTION STAFF LISTING

Director Andrew Thornton
Stage Manager Yinelly Arnold
Asst Stage Manager Lori Anne Roman
Set Designer Allan S. Ross
Lighting Designer George Burnette
Costume Designer Margaret Mitchell
Cut Drapers Vanessa Lopez
Kathryn Mitchell
Wig Mistress & Dresser Vanessa Lopez
Props Mistress Lori Anne Roman
Sound Designer Andrew Thornton
Sound Consultant Rick Malone
Sound Operator Lupe Flores
Set Construction Danny Kreifels
Set Crew George Hatfield
Branden Schulle
Michael Alexander Willingham
Box Office Rick Malone

* - Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of
professional actors and stage managers.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) was a physician, a humanitarian, a playwright, the grandson of a serf, and is considered by many to be the greatest short story writer in all of literature. He once claimed that he thought of medicine as his wife and literature as his mistress, and his plays contain an affection that sets them apart from other dramas of the period. There are no heroes or villains, and sometimes "nothing" happens. Still, these openly-drawn tragicomedies continue to strike a chord with people around the world.

In working on Uncle Vanya (written in 1896), while adhering to a sense of appropriate period, we have allowed ourselves to explore Chekhov's many subtextual possibilities, have experimented with the many different colors and intentions that may exist behind the words. "You really are aggravating," for example, takes on completely new meaning when said as a flirtation. So these characters are, in this instance, an actor's playground, where more exploration leads to more insight, layering, tenderness, darkness, and revelation.

The major themes in the play are no surprise: unrequited love; the suppression of a heart's desire; parental neglect; missed opportunity. But Uncle Vanya also contains a fervently held concern for mankind's needless and egregious destruction of natural resources, both personally and ecologically, a concern facing us with glaring immediacy today. "What are people going to say about all this a hundred years from now?" Astrov asks. Well, here we are. What are we saying?

SPECIAL THANKS

Keystone School
UIW Theatre Arts Department
Trinity Theatre Arts Department
Gloria Robinson from Ronald Reagan High School
David Sanchez
Chris Cheever
Steven & Mary Bull
Yury Belov
B.J.'s Southside Music
Phillip May
Diane Malone

The producers wish to thank the Costume Collection
in New York City for its assistance in this production.

CAST BIOS

Anthony Ciaravino (*Astrov, the doctor*) has been seen on many stages across San Antonio. After graduating from UIW, he went on to earn an MFA in Acting from the professional actor training program at the University of Minnesota. Following Grad school, Anthony worked at the Guthrie for the 6 seasons. Representative roles at the Guthrie include Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Don John in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Trouble/ Doctor in *In the Blood*, and Chamberlain in *The Invention of Love*. Among the roles Anthony has played in San Antonio are Hamlet, Romeo, and Macbeth. Currently, he is in charge of the Theater Arts curriculum in the Upper School at Keystone School.

Anne Collins (*Marina, the housekeeper*) has wanted to perform since her school days at P.S. 54 in Buffalo, NY. The Extended Run Players at UIW gave her the chance and she has performed in *Blithe Spirit*, *The Radio Show* and *Memories on Review: Tales of WWII*. She wishes to thank Andy for this opportunity.

Laura Darnell (*Sonya*) is a University of the Incarnate Word alum with a B.A in Theater Arts. Her acting credits include: *The Miser*, *Far Away*, *Tom Foolery*, *On the Verge*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Clean House*, and *Three Days of Rain*. She has worked backstage in UIW's productions of *la malasangre*, and Anton in *Showbusiness*, and served as wardrobe supervisor in *Cinderella*. This her first performance in the San Antonio theatre community outside of UIW.

Justin Laughlin (*Ilyia Illich Telegin "Waffles"*) was last seen onstage in The Overtime Theatre original production of *"The Good Samaritan"*. A graduate of The University of the Incarnate Word, he has a B.A. in Theatre Arts & Philosophy. Previous notable roles include Yusef El-Fayoumy in Attic Rep's production of *Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and Boyd Middleton in The San Pedro Playhouse production of *Book of Days*. Other productions at the San Pedro Playhouse include *As Bees in Honey Drown* and *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Previous credits at UIW include *Blue Window* (Tom), *Beast on the Moon* (Aram), *Othello* (Montano).

Sam Mandelbaum (*Yefim, a hired man*) since he went to study theatre at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Sam has acted in and assistant directed a number of productions, with fondest memories of *West Side Story*, *Balm in Gilead*, and *Ah! Wilderness*. Also, last spring he directed *Say de Kooning* and *RW&B Review* for UNCSCA (which he thinks sounded way better and less pretentious before they tagged on the U). He is a founding member of the Convergent Theatre Co. of SATX, with acting credits in *Snakebit*, *Sight Unseen*, and *Never the Sinner* (surviving a short run off-off Broadway). Most recently he co-authored and directed *An Inconvenient Nose* at the Magik Theatre as CTC's first original work. Before returning to NC to complete his BFA in Directing in 2010, Sam plans to gain a more diverse arts education and to go on an adventure. And no, he doesn't know what that means either.

John Minton (*Uncle Vanya*) along with his wife Amy, were the founders of Firelight Players, a highly acclaimed company that produced many award winning productions. Some fond roles include *Sideman*, *Strange Snow* and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *Sea Marks*.

Allan S. Ross (*Serebryakov*) is the co-artistic director of The Classic Theatre, Professor Emeritus of Theatre, and a founder of The Summer Repertory Company, has worked professionally in theatre as an actor, director, and designer. Some of his favorite acting roles are; C.S. Lewis in *Shadowlands*, Roy Cohn in *Angels in America*, Brackish in *Park your Car in Harvard Yard*, and Andrew in *Sleuth*. He has received recognition for his work in San Antonio theatre by receiving 15 Alamo Theatre Arts Council Globe Awards in the areas of acting, directing and design. He was also given ATAC's highest award, The Jasmina Wellinghoff award for special contributions to theatre in San Antonio.

Terri Peña Ross (*Marya Vasilyevna*) received her BA in Theatre from the University of Texas at Austin and her MA in Directing from Southwest Texas State. She is a Globe Award winner. Some favorite roles have been as mother and teacher as well as *Enchanted April* at the Playhouse, *Glass Menagerie* with The Classic Theatre, *Quilters* with Offstage Inc. and *Wit* with Firelight Players.

Emily Spicer (*Yelena*) is a Globe Award-winning actress who last appeared on stage at the Jump Start Theater as Dr. Livingstone in *Agnes of God*. Prior to that, she appeared in a one-woman show as Coco Chanel in the San Pedro Playhouse Cellar Theater production of *No. 5*. Other favorite roles include naughty cook Suzette in the Cameo Theatre production of *Don't Dress for Dinner*, runaway bride Rosannah De Luce in *Brilliant Traces*, and the conniving Alexa Vere de Vere in *As Bees in Honey Drown*.



She Stoops to Conquer

Oct 15 - Nov 1, 2009

by Oliver Goldsmith
directed by Allan S. Ross

A Comedy of Manners first performed in 1773, *She Stoops to Conquer* is a rich comedy of great warmth. It paints a picture of an admirable society, but one that is deeply in need of revision that comes through the agency of a wonderful young woman, Kate Hardcastle. Kate is a character in the tradition of great comedies like *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Lysistrata* that offer up the wisdom and wiles of women as the means of curing problems both great and small. When the male world is caught up in the ridiculous conventions men themselves have imposed, it takes a woman like Kate to sort it all out.

"A reserved lover, it is said, always makes a suspicious husband."

- Miss Hardcastle

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STAFF BIOS

Andrew Thornton (Director) holds a BFA in Drama from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a Diploma in Directing and Russian Language from GITIS, the Lunacharsky Institute, in Moscow. He was a founding member of the Knights of Indulgence Theatre United States (KITUS), which had its homes in Delaware and Northern California, and more recently, directed the theatre program at Churchill High School, where his favorite directing projects were *Red Noses*, *One Hundred Demons*, and his own adaptation of Chekhov's *Seagull*. Andrew is also an actor, and has received honors for his roles in *Rabbit Hole*, *The Pillowman*, and *Lincolnesque*. He was most recently seen as Mason in *Take Me Out* and as Martin in *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?*. Andy is a company member of AtticRep, and looks forward to directing Scott McDowell's sequel to *The Good Samaritan* at the Overtime Theatre this fall.

Margaret Mitchell (Costume Designer) is a freelance costume and scenic designer and a Professor of Theatre at the University of the Incarnate Word. Her design work has represented the United States three times at the Prague Quadrennial. She recently received the Jasmina Wellinghoff Special Contribution to the Theatre Award, and she was the Moody Professor at UIW last year. With Dr. Oscar Brockett and Linda Hardberger she has co-authored a new book, *Making the Scene: A History of Stage Design and Technology in Europe and the United States*. This is her first design for the Classic Theatre.

George Burnette (Lighting Designer) is the Technical Director at The University of the Incarnate Word. He is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University and of The University of the Incarnate Word. George has been designing lights, sound and scenery at UIW since 1979. A member of the San Antonio theatre community since 1973 he has numerous design credits and worked at many of the theatres in San Antonio. In 2006, he designed scenery at Jump Start for Rudy Harst's original piece, *Hurry Slowly*.

Yinelly Arnold (Stage Manager) is currently the Assistant Technical Director at San Antonio College. Her past credits include *Just a Kiss*, *Pain of the Macho*, *Baby with the Bathwater*, *Twelfth Night*, *Charlotte's Web*. She has also worked around town as a stage manager for *Las Nuevas Tamaleras*, *Lincolnesque*, and *One for the Road*.

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