RUMORS

By Neil Simon

Directed by Danielle Dwyer, CJ

August 7 - 9 and 14 -16, 2009

Produced by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.
New York City.

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and alarms.
In order to protect the professional integrity of Elements Theatre Company, no photography or recordings of this performance are allowed.
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

*Rumors* has been a delight for Elements Theatre Company. Since our very first read-through, the main challenge has remained to keep a straight face and not fall into gales of laughter at Neil Simon’s ingenious, rapid-fire humor.

Neil Simon seems to be a master at transforming the mundane into moments of great hilarity: a telephone call becomes a relay race of confusing and distorted messages, dinner preparations turn into a series of crisis and injury, and finding the simple truth grows into the greatest hurdle of all.

*Rumors* was written later on in Simon’s career, and we couldn’t help but wonder how many of these recognizable (though not necessarily lovable) characters had actually danced across the stage of Simon’s own life.

Four well-to-do couples are invited to the 10th anniversary celebration of Charlie and Myra Brock. They arrive at intervals to the party, only to find a rapidly developing set of unexpected, unlikely, and disturbing circumstances. Suddenly, eight successful professionals become eight scrambling lunatics running for cover, and turning on each other at a moment’s notice.

This is true farce, and every moment is fraught with peril of some sort. But Simon spins those situations that would be not-so-funny in real life, into side-splitting interchanges that leave us gasping for breath. Suddenly we can picture ourselves in very similar scenarios, and hope that we have the grace to laugh at ourselves then just as we’re laughing now.

A true ensemble piece, *Rumors* has kept us all on our toes from “day one” – we trust you’ll enjoy it as much as we have.

Sr. Danielle Dwyer
RUMORS
By Neil Simon

THE CAST
(In order of their appearance)

Chris Gorman    Sr. Danielle Dwyer
Ken Gorman      Chris Kanaga
Claire Ganz     Ellen Ortolani
Lenny Ganz      Brad Lussier
Ernie Cusack    Br. Stephen Velie
Cookie Cusack   Rachel McKendree
Glenn Cooper    Luke Norman
Cassie Cooper   Kate Shannon
Officer Welch   Kyle Norman
Officer Pudney  N. Karen Catlin

THE TIME: Present-day
THE PLACE: Home of Charley and Myra Brock,
          Sneden’s Landing, New York

Act I     8:30pm on a pleasant summer evening
Act II    One hour later

There will be a 15 minute intermission between Acts I and II.
Please be warned—simulated gun shots will sound twice in Act I.
PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Director  Sr. Danielle Dwyer
Stage Manager  Sr. Mercy Minor
Musical Consultant  David Chalmers
Costumes  Michelle Rich, Gail Gibson, Sandy Spatzeck-Olsen
Make-up  Barbara Cole, Sr. Anne Marie Norman, Sr. Lucia Smith, Sarah Andre, Rebecca Lussier, Anna Mitchell, Amy Mitchell, Sandy Spatzeck-Olsen
Properties  Sr. Gabriella Guyer
Lighting  Sr. Victoria MacNeil, Thomas Lynch
Set Design  Soren Spatzeck-Olsen, Hans Spatzeck-Olsen, Peter Shannon
Set Interior Decoration  Camie Ford, Gail Gibson, Suzanne Inomata, Jane Ober, Michelle Rich, Sr. Anne Marie Norman
Sound  Br. Tim Pehta
Venue Master  Br. Joel Sweet
Stage Crew  Sr. Gabriella Guyer, Sr. Seana Shannon, Amy Mitchell, Cori Shannon
Elements Administration

Artistic Director      Sr. Danielle Dwyer
Dramaturg            Chris Kanaga
Administration       Sr. Seana Shannon
Tours               Carol Showalter

We acknowledge musical excerpts from:

La Bamba—Ritchie Valens; as performed by Ritchie Valens; Happy Days Are Here Again, Don't Rain On My Parade, Stoney End, You Don't Bring Me Flowers, Main Event—as performed by Barbra Streisand (from The Essential Barbra Streisand); Down with Love, Come Rain or Come Shine—as performed by Barbra Streisand (from Live in Concert); New York State of Mind—as performed by Barbra Streisand (from Memories); Only in Miami, Miss Otis Regrets—as performed by Bette Midler (from Experience the Divine); Hurry on Down—as performed by Bette Midler (from Live at Last) Friends—as performed by Bette Midler (from Jackpot); Root Beer Rag, The Mexican Connection—as performed by Billy Joel (from Street Life Serenade)

Addison Art Gallery in Orleans has generously loaned selected pieces of artwork for the set.
ABOUT THE COMPANY

Elements Theatre Company

E.T.C.

Since primitive man uttered his first “ugh,” humans have asked: who am I, how did I get here, and where am I going. Some have tried to answer or explore those questions, through a particular method of storytelling called “theatre”. We, at Elements Theatre Company, explore those answers, and render the literature of the theatre with imagination and integrity. The transformative work to become the text – to inhabit another world and live another’s life – is both our pleasure and privilege. We believe in the vitality of the word, and the community born between playwright, actor and audience. We seek to be available to that divine moment when inspiration, faithfulness, hard work, and love merge, and transport us beyond the familiar into something new.

Elements Theatre Company performs year-round on Cape Cod in Orleans, Massachusetts and has toured the east coast and many southern states performing at conferences, schools, and churches, as well as leading theater workshops. The company includes a children’s program and outreach to youth.

Members of Elements Theatre Company have received training with well-established teachers from such institutions as Shakespeare and Company (Lenox, MA) and Central School of Speech and Drama (London, England), Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (London), Shakespeare’s Globe (London), the Royal Shakespeare Company (London), and the National Theatre (London). The company has studied and taken part in intensive workshops with Patsy Rodenberg, Joanna Weir-Ouston, Glynn MacDonald and Sue Lefton. Their voice training holds specific emphasis on the Linklater method. The company recently spent February 2009 in New York City studying voice, improv, Shakespeare and the Michael Chekhov technique with Louis Colaianni, Jane Nichols, Daniela Varon and Lenard Petit.
Danielle Dwyer, CJ
Artistic Director
Co-Founder of Elements Theatre Company

Sr. Danielle Dwyer, Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Elements Theatre Company, has her Master of Arts Degree from England's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the University of London. She trained in voice, acting, and writing, with Joanna Weir at Central School of Speech and Drama (London, England), David Male of Cambridge University (Cambridge, England) and Shakespeare & Co. (Lenox, MA). An actress of critical acclaim, Sr. Danielle’s directing experience ranges from Shakespeare’s *As You Like It* to T. S. Eliot’s *Murder in the Cathedral* as well as co-directing the world premiere of *Quest for Honor, The Wind Opera*. She has authored several performance pieces, including short stories and plays, video scripts, poetic monologues and narratives for worship and meditation. In 2005, Sr. Danielle co-directed the opera “Pilgrim’s Progress” by Vaughan Williams, receiving excellent review from *The Boston Globe*. Her recent roles have included: *Lady Windermere's Fan*; Mrs. Erlynne; *The Lion in Winter*; Eleanor; *Doctor Faustus*; Mephistopheles; *Richard III*; Queen Elizabeth; *Everyman*; Everyman; and *Lettice and Lovage*, Lettice Douffet.

Christopher Kanaga
Dramaturg

A lawyer by profession, Chris has an innate understanding of language and has studied extensively the art of rhetoric, making his work with the text a natural fit. His recent roles include Lord Windermere in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*, and roles in *Faustus, Richard III, Comedy of Errors* and *Lettice and Lovage*, and voice and acting workshops in London, England with Joanna Weir, Patsy Rodenberg, and Glynn Macdonald. He studied liturgical art and architecture for four years throughout western Europe, and has managed and coordinated international artists and artisans in major architectural art installations of fresco, mosaic, and bronze and stone sculpture. Through this experience, Chris gained proficient skill in
set design and construction for the performing arts. Chris was Set Director for the highly praised production of the opera “Pilgrim’s Progress” by Vaughan Williams. In 2006 Chris toured South Korea with Spirit of America Band as the Technical Director for Quest for Honor: The Wind Opera, and co-directed A Heart to Love! Scenes and Songs of Shakespeare.
It was October 13, 1957. Neil Simon and his wife Joan were conversing over their broken down washing machine, the completely un-mechanical Neil offering random, useless tools to his handy spouse as she adjusted valves and such, when Joan made the suggestion that altered the course of theatre history forever: “Why don’t you start that play you’re always talking about?” Since then, the name “Neil Simon” has become the watchword for high jinks comedy that is revered from coast to coast, from stage to screen, and from Broadway to community theatres everywhere.

Neil Simon began his career writing scripts for radio and tv comedy acts, before branching off into Broadway with his first play, *Come Blow Your Horn*, in 1961. The comedies, musicals, and screenplays that have followed over the years have earned him seventeen Tony nominations, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and four Best Screenplay Academy Award nominations.

*Rumors* came to life later on in Simon’s career. It was his first go at pure farce—a 20th century, American take on the comedic form that was developed and perfected during the 19th century by the likes of Labiche and Feydeau in France, and Pinero in England. The basic definition of farce is a comedy including a set of stereotyped characters—inocent ordinary people—who become entrapped in tangled and far-out situations. Unlike his previous character-driven works, the plot drives *Rumors*: twisting and turning with every line, the characters always in jeopardy, running in and out of the room, just missing each other, and above all trying desperately to withhold information from each other to save their own tails.

In Simon’s own words: “The play started with the idea of doing a farce. The next thing was to do it as an elegant farce, because the farces in Moliere’s days were generally about wealthy people. These aren’t extremely wealthy people, but they are well-to-do. So I decided to dress them in evening clothes. There was something about having them dressed in evening clothes that I thought was a nice counterpoint to the chaos that was happening in the play. And so I picked a reason for them to be dressed elegantly, and it was a 10th anniversary.
“What happens is that a couple arrives as the first guests, and they don’t find anyone at home. The door is locked, and the husband goes around the back and comes in and finds that the host of the party is upstairs in bed in his pajamas, with a bullet hole through his earlobe. He is bleeding, and the hostess is nowhere to be found. There is no food that is cooked, and the servants who have been hired are gone, which seems to be a very odd situation.

“And considering the fact that the host, the man who is having his 10th anniversary, is the deputy mayor of New York, they figure there must be some sort of dreadful thing going on, either political or marital. It would probably lead to a scandal, and since the first man who arrives is the host’s lawyer, he’s looking to protect him. And since the host has taken a number of sleeping pills, he’s unable to tell the first couple what’s going on.

“The rest of the first act is keeping the information from the other couples. Then it keeps getting more and more complicated. I guess if there’s any kind of theme at all, it was the theme of rumors - how rumors can often come close to destroying friendships, even marital relationships. Because sometimes there is a basis to the rumors, and sometimes they’re just twisted. I think we’ve all been victims of rumors, and they’re very hurting.”

In his autobiography *Rewrites*, Neil Simon said, “I have always tried to put up stumbling blocks for my characters, something they’re not prepared for, something that will interfere with their plans: obstacles, hurdles, conflicts that not only make their lives more difficult, but which afford me the opportunity to put them in a humorous situation.” It sounds a lot like real life, and it’s why we can recognize and laugh at the misfortunes of all the characters; Ken, Len, Glenn, Ernie, Chris, Claire, Cookie, Cassie and Officers Welch and Pudney.
Susan Tuttle from Surroundings, Inc. helped furnish the set by generously donating some of the fabric and furniture.

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Susan A. Tuttle, Designer

Many thanks to the Orleans Police Department for donating the police costumes worn by our actors in this production.

Thank you to Sonny Gada, floral designer at St. Aubin’s Nurseries, for the flowers on the set.
MUSIC NOTES

Just as Neil Simon is at the top of his game in comedy and farce, so too are Barbra Streisand and Bette Midler in their genre. Streisand (b. 1942) is one of the most critically acclaimed female singers in the history of popular music. Her achievements include musical theater as well as acting and producing in movies. She has won numerous awards in these areas, but arguably her finest achievements are in music. Her attractive and soaring voice has captured the imagination of millions around the world and she has worked consistently with some of the finest composers and arrangers in popular music. Selections from her long career have been chosen to highlight the New York locale of *Rumors* as well as underline its social and farcical atmosphere.

“The Divine Miss M” is how Bette Midler (b. 1945) is best known, and her outgoing personality and stylish singing have made her one of the most popular singers in the world. In fact, her career parallels Streisand’s in many ways: she is also an accomplished actress and has won numerous awards for her movie and theater appearances. The selections heard tonight highlight her bubbly personality and her gregarious interpretations of popular song.

To complete a trilogy of musical artists with close ties to New York City, we also present two instrumental selections of the “Piano Man” Billy Joel (b. 1949). For more than forty years, he has set a standard of keyboard artistry and creativity that has won him fans all over the world, as well as winning five Grammy awards.

In one hilarious moment in Act II of *Rumors*, we see the cast dancing to *La Bamba*. This was one of the few but meteoric hits of singer and guitarist Ritchie Valens (1941-1959). Valens was a rock and roll pioneer, taking Mexican folksongs and adding a rock and roll beat to them. He was an inspiration to later Latin American singers as well, and his early tragic death (in the same plane crash that killed Buddy Holly) made him a legend in rock and roll music.
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Mr. R. Allen Olmstead
Dr. and Mrs. Silvio J. Onesti
Orleans Camera & Video
Orleans Cycle Shop
Mrs. Paul Oswald
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Page
Mrs. Jane E. Parker
Mrs. J. K. Patterson
Dr. John Pautienis
Pellon Consumer Products
Ms. Susan M. Pennington
Piano Covers. Com
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pond
Power Systems
Mr. and Mrs. John Preston
Puritan of Cape Cod
Ms. Delia A. Quinn
Mrs. A. M. Rankin
Mr. and Mrs. Y. B. Rao
Mr. Philip B. Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Reese
Richards Homewares, Inc.
Robert B. Our Co., Inc.
Robert Childs, Inc. General Contractors
Runway Salon
Schaefer Construction
Mr. Kevin Scully
The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Martin Shannon
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shannon
John H. Showalter
Shugrue's Hillside Grill
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sloane
Ms. Aldana G. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Snow
Ms. Stephanie Snure
Mr. and Mrs. Manny Snyderman
Mr. and Mrs. William Spahr

Mr. and Mrs. Soren Spatzeck-Olsen
Sperry Chiropractic
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Squier
Mary L. St Cyr
Steamship Authority
Mr. John A. Sten
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Stock
Suvawear, Inc.
Mrs. Joan C. Sweet
Mr. Malcolm Sweet
Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Tamagno
Ms. Susan K. Tellier
Terri's Hair Affair
Tetra Medical
Tetra Medical Supply Corp.
The Beacon Room Restaurant
The Frame Center, Inc.
The Wildflower Inn
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Therrien
Mrs. Eleanor Thompson
Mrs. Robert Timbers
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Timbers
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Trainor
True Value Hardware
Mrs. Alice M. Vyverberg
Ms. Susan Wangerman
Weiman Home Care Products
Mr. Thomas H. Wells
Wheatleigh
Mr. David A. White
Ms. Heather V. White
Ms. Bonnie Wilkes
Windmill Liquor & Fine Wines
Mr. Paul Witter
Yarmouth Anchor Hardware
Mr. Benjamin Zehnder
The Cherry Orchard
by Anton Chekhov

January 22, 23 & 24 and 29, 30 & 31
Friday and Saturday 7:30pm
Sunday 3:30pm

Set in the early part of 20th century Russia, Chekhov’s classic comedy, The Cherry Orchard, is the story of the tragi-comic events that take place in the household of Lyuba Ranevskaya. The descendants of an old aristocratic family, Lyuba and her brother Gaev cannot come to terms with the social and economic changes surging around them. When the money runs out, Lyuba is forced to return from Paris to Russia. It quickly becomes clear that the old estate must be sold, and the family itself begins to disintegrate, each member desperate either for drastic change, or to cling to life as they know it. The Cherry Orchard was Chekhov’s final play. It reflects a collection of events from his own life, and perhaps because it was his last play, he captures in humorous, bittersweet empathy a family’s struggle with fading dreams against the backdrop of a growing revolutionary machine.

$30 General; $25 Senior; Free 18 & under
Tickets: 508-240-2400

www.gdaf.org
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Elements Theatre Company Presents  
Rumors  by Neil Simon  
Directed by Danielle Dwyer, CJ  
August 7, 8 & 9 and 14, 15 & 16  
Friday – 7:30pm  
Saturday Dinner Theatre – Dinner 6pm; Play 7:30pm  
Sunday – 7:30pm

Gloriæ Dei Cantores Fall Tour  
Boston, MA – September 24  
Greenwich, CT – September 30  
Grand Rapids, MI - October 4  
Cleveland, OH – October 9  
Chicago, IL – October 11  
Little Rock, AR – October 15  
Dallas, TX – October 18  
Ft. Worth, TX – October 20  
Phoenix, AZ – October 25

All Saints Concerts  
Gabriel V Brass Ensemble and Organists  
November 7 – 7:30pm  
November 8 – 3:30pm

Advent Festival  
December 4, 5 & 6  
Friday 11am-10pm • Saturday 10am-10pm  
Sunday 12:30pm-5:30pm

Advent Service of Readings, Carols & Letters  
Friday & Saturday 7:30pm  
Sunday 3:30pm; Organ Prelude 2:30pm
Elegant Plated Teas with Live Chamber music in Bethany Guest House
Friday & Saturday 1:00pm & 3:00pm
Sunday 12:30pm & 2:30pm

Church Tours, Paraclete House Gallery, Priory Books & Gifts and Monastic Bake Shop

The Cherry Orchard
by Anton Chekhov
January 22, 23 & 24 and 29, 30 & 31
Friday and Saturday 7:30pm
Sunday 3:30pm

New 2 You – Thrift Shop
All proceeds benefit Gloríæ Dei Artes Foundation
Open Tuesday – Saturday 10am-5pm
Donations welcome
139 Rte 6A, Orleans, MA
508-247-9381

Priory Books & Gifts – Open All Year
Gloríæ Dei Cantores recordings, and other books and gifts available
Hours: 10 am – 5pm
Open Monday – Saturday (closed Wed.)
After events and Sunday services
508-247-3194

Tours of the Church of the Transfiguration
Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 3:00pm
By request: 508-247-3194

Please call 508-240-2400 for tickets & information
All events subject to change
www.gdaf.org