

THEATRE GUILD
VALDOSTA

PRESENTS

CLIFFHANGER

by James Yaffe



May 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18

At the 'Dosta Playhouse, downtown Valdosta, GA

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Production Staff

Director..... Brenda Kay Brunston
Assistant DirectorBrock Gilliard
Scenic Designer Grant Brown
Scenic Artists..... Rosemary Coleman, Lynnette Kenworthy
Lighting Designer Josh Robertson
Front of House Manager..... Bill Eger
Stage ManagerByron Vance
Lights/Sound Josh Robertson
Original Graphics Ryan Swaims
Producer..... Michael Brodgon
Set construction Michael Brodgon, Grant Brown,
Brenda Kay Brunston, Diane Marie Brunston, Rosemary Coleman,
Sommers Coleman, Patti Cook, Danielle Costello, Brock Gilliard,
Lynnette Kenworthy, Quentin McKennon, Josh Robertson, Adrian Taylor,
Mary Helen Taylor, Andrew Thomas

Special thanks to Dean Poling and the Valdosta Daily Times.

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Henry Lowenthal..... Andrew Thomas
Polly LowenthalPatti Cook
Edith Wilshire..... Diane Marie Brunston
Melvin McCullen Sommers Coleman

The action takes place in the Lowenthal House, located in a small college town somewhere in the Colorado Rockies.

The time is late May, at the end of the semester

Act 1

Scene 1- Late one afternoon

Scene 2 - Morning, three days later

Act 2

Scene 1- Afternoon the same day

Scene 2- A few hours later

There will be one 15 minute intermission between Acts.

The role of David DeVito is played by
Quentin McKennon.

His name was not listed under the
Cast of Characters due to technical error.

Cliffhanger Raffle Basket

Worth \$350.00

featuring a bust of Socrates by renowned
sculptor Robert Toth as seen in *Cliffhanger*, the
vintage vinyl album: *Ella Fitzgerald sings Cole
Porter* (used in the play), a Season Pass to TGV's
25th Anniversary Season 2013-2014, and several
goodies provided by local merchants

A list of participating merchants is displayed in
the lobby with the basket.

Tickets are
\$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00

Tickets can be purchased during intermission.
The drawing will be held Saturday, May 18th.
You do not have to be present to win.



Andrew Thomas (Henry) Andrew returns to the TGV stage having recently performed in *Love, Sex, and the IRS* and playing the Narrator/Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods*. He would like to thank both the Brendas in his life for their support and encouragement!



Patti Cook (Polly) Patti is delighted to be in the TGV stage again as Polly, the realist in an idealistic world. Her favorite roles at TGV include Jessie Mae in *Trip to Bountiful*, Jacqueline in *Don't Dress for Dinner*, and Louisa in *Ladies in Retirement*. Patti would like to thank Brenda and the wonderful cast and crew for this experience.



Diane Brunston (Edith) As a veteran of the TGV stage Diane is happy to join the cast of *Cliffhanger* as Edith. She most recently played Aunt Spiker in the Gingerbread Players show *James and the Giant Peach* and Meg in *Leading Ladies*. This past year she also made her directorial debut with TGV's Stage Two production of *The Smell of the Kill*.



Sommers Coleman (Melvin) Sommers is making his TGV debut as Melvin in *Cliffhanger*. He has graced the Dosta Playhouse stage many times in a variety of roles with Gingerbread Players. He is glad to have the opportunity to work on this show.



Quentin McKennon (Detective DeVito) Quentin is returning to theatre after a year hiatus. He had the pleasure of playing in Theatre Albany's *Big River*, Clay Auditorium's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Footloose*, among others. He currently studies English journalism at VSU. He thanks the cast and crew for their hard work and the Gods for allowing him to continue with this acting stuff.

Philosophy

A primary conflict in *Cliffhanger* hinges on the differences between the philosophy of Socrates and Situational Ethics. The following is a bit of Philosophy 101:

The Philosophy of Socrates

- True happiness is promoted by doing what is right
- The Socratic Paradox states that people act immorally, but they do not do so deliberately
- If one knows what is good, one will always act in a manner as to achieve good
- If one acts in a manner not conducive to one's good, then that person is mistaken and lacks knowledge
- Knowledge = virtue/good
- Ignorance = bad/evil
- We seek good, but fail to achieve it by ignorance
- Major objection to Socratic Ethics-if evil is never done deliberately or voluntarily, then evil is an involuntary act and no one can properly be held responsible for the evil that is done

The Philosophy of Situational Ethics

- Right and wrong depend upon the situation
- There are no universal moral rules or rights-each case is unique and deserves a unique solution
- A person who practices situation ethics approaches ethical problems with some general moral principles rather than a rigorous set of ethical laws and is prepared to give up even those principles if doing so will lead to a greater good
- Pros of Situational Ethics: it's personal; it's particular; it's based on doing good
- Cons of Situational Ethics: it excludes most Universal moral truths; it can't produce consistent results; it may approve of "evil" acts

Director's Notes

Immediately upon reading *Cliffhanger* I imagined a world that is skewed and more than a bit off-center. Nothing in life is exactly as it seems and I desired to evoke that “off-centeredness” in the set and lighting design, the staging of the play, and the character development. Thankfully all the people associated with the production jumped on this “crazy train” whole-heartedly and never looked back. Thank you Grant, for helping me create a space that shows how unchanged and uneventful Henry and Polly’s lives have been while cleverly providing a set upon which we could play with the recent unorthodox events in their lives that make them so off kilter. Thank you Josh, for your thoughtful approach to designing lighting that lent itself so well to this idea that our futures are not as clear as we would sometimes like them to be. Thank you to my eclectic quintet of a cast, all the hours of character study and discussion were thought provoking and exciting to be a part of as you brought to life the people James Yaffe created. And thank you to everyone else who helped get this production to the TGV stage, especially Brock, Lynnette, and Rosemary. I am in awe at the support I have received and the openness that each and every one of you brought to the process. And to the audience, thank you for being here. I hope this production causes you laugh, causes you wonder, and causes you to reflect. Enjoy the show!

Brenda

Theatre Guild Valdosta is pleased to
announce the first show of the
2013-2014 season:



Auditions for TGV’s upcoming production of *9 to 5: The Musical* will be held June 3rd and 4th at 6:30pm at the Dosta Playhouse. Don’t miss your chance to be part of this terrific new musical based on the movie!

For more information visit us online at theatreguildvaldosta.com.



The honor of your presence

is requested at

*Theatre Guild Valdosta's
25th Anniversary Party*

July 19, 2013

7:30 pm

The Dosta Playhouse

Refreshments and Memories

will be served.