



March, 2010

Greetings and welcome to Cocaloony Key, “...a little bit of heaven dropped from the sky one day.”

*The Gnädiges Fräulein*, written in 1965, is translated from German as “The Gracious Lady” and marked a startling departure in the work of Tennessee Williams. It debuted on Broadway at the Longacre Theatre on February 22, 1966 as part of a double-bill of one-act plays written by Williams titled *Slapstick Tragedy* (the other being *The Mutilated*.)

On first read, many images came to mind – the Wizard of OZ, the Carol Burnett show, Warner Brothers Roadrunner cartoons, films by Tim Burton (and David Lynch), I Love Lucy. With that conglomeration of genres and ideas in tow, we set out to uncover the island of Cocaloony Key. The process provided many laughs, hours of interesting discussion and conjured memories of childhood fishing trips with my brothers.

The books and articles devoted to the merits and shortcomings of *Gnädiges* are far more in number than actual productions of the play itself. The lively discussion on the play’s merits that accompanied its debut led me to investigate further. Allean Hale of The Provincetown Theatre Festival writes, “(many researchers) saw *Gnädiges* as an allegory on the tragicomic subject of human existence....the play defies description...it seems autobiographical, for the Fraulein’s declining career is a fantasy version of the playwright’s own. The text can be interpreted as Williams’ disillusioned view of the Theatre, with Molly as producer/director, Polly as the media, and Indian Joe as Hollywood, exploiting sex-as-commerce, and the Fraulein as the Artist under attack by the critics--the Cocaloonies.

Looking ahead to September 2010 and the upcoming Philadelphia Live Arts and Fringe Festival, the IRC will serve up *The Empire Builders* by Boris Vian, French novelist and playwright, jazz connoisseur and critic, Dixieland trumpeter and composer of more than 400 songs. As a writer, Vian’s collected works amount to more than 50 volumes. Vian is best remembered for his novels *L’écume des jours* (1947), adapted for film with the strange English title *Spray of the Days* (1968), directed by Charles Belmont. This work was also adapted for the opera (1981) by Russian composer Edison Denisov. *J’irai cracher sur vos tombes* (1946), (*I Spit on Your Graves*), was another of Vian’s writings that garnered attention; Vian died in a Parisian cinema at age 39 while watching a preview of the film adaptation of *I Spit on Your Graves*.

(continued on inside back cover)

*The Empire Builders (Les Bâtisseurs d'Empire ou le Schmurz, 1959)* follows the antics of a family whose new apartment is invaded by a terrifying noise. First staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1962, and then in New York in 1968, look for the IRC's production of *The Empire Builders* this September at Walnut Street Theater Studio 5.

Thanks for helping us excavate these seldom-seen works. Your support, through ticket sales and tax-deductible contributions, keeps our tiny IRC island afloat. We are most appreciative, and hope you'll pass along the word to a few good friends.

For now, thanks for sharing your time with us.



Tina Brock  
Artistic Director

**Many thanks to those who helped make  
*The Gnädiges Fräulein* possible:**

**Captains**

The Philadelphia Cultural Fund  
Sam Hopkins and Eileen O'Brien

**Navigators**

Bill and Vikki Monaghan • Bob and Pat Schmidt  
Beverly Stover • Susan Zawislak

**Quartermasters**

Pat and Stacey Bishop • Annette Brandolini • Gail Furman  
Michael Golden Shelley Green • Moe and Sandy Lebo  
Mark Mendenhall • Dr. Steven Peitzman  
Robin and Joseph Rodriguez • Dr. Robert J. Wallner

**Helmsmen**

Herman and Madeline Axelrod • John and Alberta Chiaravalloti  
Norman and Carolyn Ellman • Emma Grigore • Kevin Glaccum  
Marc Scheiner and Jonathan Hamm • Jeanette Hartunian  
Suzanne Inman • Frederick D. Jackes • Robert C. Jones  
David and Lucia Rosenberg • Christopher and Jennifer Rule  
Valerie Sowell • Bertram Strieb • Lauren Yarosheski

# The Gnädiges Fräulein

## By Tennessee Williams

Polly.....Kelly Vrooman  
Molly.....Leah Walton\*  
Permanent Transient.....Bob Schmidt  
Indian Joe.....John D'Alonzo  
The Gnädiges Fräulein .....Jane Moore\*  
Cocaloony Bird.....Lee Pucklis

Directed by Tina Brock

Costume Design: Brian Strachan

Lighting Design: Joshua Schulman

Set Design: Lisi Stoessel

Sound Design: Tina Brock (with permission of ASCAP)

Stage Manager/Board Operator: Jesse Delaney

Assistant Set Designer: Emma Ferguson

Assistant Costumer: Rob Paluso

Cutter/Draper: Rufus Cottman

Cockaloony Head Piece Draper: Melanie Miles Stanton

Wig Designers: Rob Paluso, and Melanie Miles Stanton

Costume Construction: Cassie Eckermann, Stephen Smith and  
Angela Guthmiller

**Presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.,  
on behalf of The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee**

**This production is made possible by a generous grant from  
The Philadelphia Cultural Fund**

The IRC is a 501C3 non-profit corporation.

The IRC participates in the  
Barrymore Awards Honoring Excellence in Theater.

*\*Members of Actors Equity Association*

***Playing time is 65 minutes; there will be no intermission.***

## CAST & CREW

**John D'Alonzo (Indian Joe)** is a Philly native who is thrilled to be working with IRC for the first time. Upcoming theater projects include *Carousel* at Plays and Players Theater in May and *Dirty Laundry* (an evening of short plays by local playwrights) by Secret Room Theatre during the Philly Fringe in September. Recent film credits include *The Last Airbender* by M. Night Shyamalan which will open this summer, and *No Boundaries* by Violet Mendoza, which you can rent on Netflix and Blockbuster or own via Amazon. John would like to thank Tina, the talented cast, crew and You for supporting the Arts! Peace and Nothingness your way : )

**Jane Moore (The Gnädiges Fräulein)** is pleased to have this opportunity to work with The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium. After receiving her MFA from Temple University's graduate theater department, Ms. Moore went on to host WHY? TV's award-winning interview show *Jane Moore &...* Theatrically she has worked at the McCarter Theatre, Virginia Museum and Virginia Stage and Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Locally she has worked at The Lantern Theater Company, Theatre Exile, Pig Iron Theatre Company, The Wilma and Act II Playhouse, where she received a Barrymore nomination for *Grace and Glorie*.

**Lee Pucklis (Cocaloony Bird)** has acted and produced on and off Broadway, in regional and stock theatre, film and TV. His formal training came from Meisner, Strasberg, LeGallienne, Lortel and Brock. Additional NY theatre work includes the general management and stage and production management functions at Lucille Lortel Productions, the Actors Studio, Union Square Theatre, American Place Theatre, and Circle Rep. Lee is a past member of the NY League of Theatre Producers, and also a former theatre program auditor for the New York State Council on the Arts. Presently, he is an advisory board member of the IRC aiding in fundraising and production development.

**Bob Schmidt (Permanent Transient, Technical Director)** is a founding member of the IRC and has appeared in many IRC productions since the company's founding in 2006: Eugène Ionesco's *The Chairs, Victims of Duty, The Leader*, and *Foursome*; Christopher Durang's *The Actor's Nightmare, Wanda's Visit*, and Samuel Beckett's *Catastrophe*. Favorite roles include Clov in Hunger Theater's production of Beckett's *Endgame*. Prior to returning to Philadelphia after attending Temple University, Bob spent nearly a decade in Los Angeles, during which time he earned his rent playing Doogie Howser's stand-in.

**Kelly Vrooman (Polly)** is excited to be joining the cast for her first production with IRC. She most recently appeared in *Slasher*, with the Luna Theatre Co. When not on stage Kelly entertains children nationwide as a morning host for the *Sunny Side Up Show* on the first 24 hour preschool network, Sprout. She has also puppeteered and voiced characters for *Preschool Musical on a Stick* and *The Sprout Sharing Show*, recipient of the Cablefax Award "Best Children's Show" in 2009. Kelly can be seen performing regularly with Philadelphia's longest running show, ComedySportz and is currently the ComedySportz High School League Coordinator. Many thanks to her family members who consistently travel many miles to show their support.

**Leah Walton (Molly)** is very happy to be appearing with IRC for the first time. Local performances include: Lantern Theatre (*Scapin*), InterAct (*Jihad Jones* and *Skin in Flames*) Walnut Street Theatre (*The Odd Couple*) Pig Iron (*Pay Up* Barrymore Nom. Best Ensemble 2006) Mum Puppettheatre (*Rhinoceros*) EgoPo (*Vieux Carre* and *Spring Awakening* Barrymore Nom. Best Ensemble 2007) New City Stage (*Talk Radio*) Montgomery Theatre Co (*10% Of Molly Snyder*) among many others. Original/ensemble created pieces include *The Giant Squid* and *Echo*. Training: Ithaca College, National Theater Institute, Moscow Art Theatre School and the Michael Chekhov Association. The Philadelphia Theatre Initiative has twice awarded Leah full scholarships to continue training in clown and movement-based performance work. Leah teaches acting at Walnut Street Theatre School and HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy. Next up: *Nerve* with Azuka Theatre. Proud member of Actors Equity Association.

**Tina Brock (Producing Artistic Director, Gnädiges Director)** One of the founding members of the IRC, Tina has directed nine of the ten IRC productions since its inception in 2006, including Eugène Ionesco's *The Chairs*, *The Lesson*, *Frenzy for Two*, *Foursome*, *The Leader and Victims of Duty*; Samuel Beckett's *Ohio Impromptu*, *Catastrophe*, and *Come and Go*; Edward Albee's *The Sandbox*; Harold Pinter's *Trouble in the Works*, and Christopher Durang's *Wanda's Visit*, *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*, *Desire Desire Desire*, *A Sty of the Eye* and *The Actor's Nightmare*. As a freelance actress in Philadelphia and New York, Tina has appeared in theater, regional and national commercials, television and film. Local theaters include Luna Theater, Azuka Theater, Theatre Exile, Arden Theater Company, Philadelphia Theater Company, Act II Playhouse. Upcoming: *The EmpireBuilders* in September 2010. She studied Journalism and Dance/Theater at University of Maryland and graduate studies in Psychology while working in development, public information and fundraising at PBS WHYY-TV12. Over the past fifteen years, Tina has also worked as a freelance producer and writer, and as an associate producer on the NPR

radio series A Chef's Table with Jim Coleman. Television credits include the pilot season of the short-lived Ghost Stories; many years as an on-air spokesperson for PBS/WHYY-TV12. Many thanks to the cast and designers for wrestling with this giant Cocaloony during extraordinary times, including mile high snow and the Miracle of Life. *Gnädiges* is for my father, whose passion was fishing in the Florida Keys, and for Liam, my guiding light.

**Rufus Cottman (Costume Construction)** holds a BA in Fashion Design from Massey College in Atlanta Ga. He also holds an associate degree in Fashion Design from Tracy Warner school of Fashion Design. He has worked at the Arden Theater, Prince Theater, Three Little Bakers, The Rock School, Upper Darby Performing Arts Center, and The University of the Arts as a Cutter/Draper and Costumer. He is president and CEO of Designer Extrordinaire, a design company specializing in costume, make up and styling. He is currently employed at the University of the Arts Dance department as Assistant costume designer and cutter/draper.

**Jesse Delaney (Stage Manager, Lights & Sound Operator)** hails from the backwoods and dirt roads of rural Lancaster, PA. For nearly 2 decades he has repped Philly hard at home and abroad, and found camaraderie amongst the high jinx, low lifes, and limelights of the City of Brotherly Love. It has been his pleasure to have been involved with the IRC in various capacities since 2008.

**Emma Ferguson (Assistant Set Design)** will graduate in May from Swarthmore College with a B.A. in Theater Arts/Set Design and a minor in Gender Studies. Her set design credits include Sarah Ruhl's *Melancholy Play*, Itamar Moses's *Outrage*, Suzan-Lori Parks's *365 Days/365 Plays*, LaChiusa and Wolffe's *The Wild Party*, and an outdoor production of *Macbeth*. Other design credits include lights for Ruhl's *Eurydice* and props for Caryl Churchill's *Vinegar Tom*. She is also a founding member of Matchbox Theater Company, who premiered the collaborative creation *Preparations for Departure* at the 2009 Philly Fringe. Thanks so much to Lisi and Tina, for giving me this opportunity, and for your guidance and patience.

**Rob Paluso (Assistant Costumer)** is a Costume and Fashion Designer in the Philadelphia area. Originally from Washington, PA, Rob studied costume design at West Chester University and then fashion design at Istituto Marangoni in Milan. He would like to thank Brian for the opportunity to work on such a fun show.

**Joshua Shulman (Lighting Design)** was the 2008 Barrymore Award winner for his lighting of *Art* at Delaware Theatre Company. He was also nominated for a Barrymore in 2009 for lighting *Rock 'N' Roll* at the Wilma Theatre. Work for other companies includes Azuka Theatre, Media Theatre Company, InterAct Theater, Flashpoint Theater Company, Lantern Theater, The Hidden City Festival, Theatre West Virginia, Rebecca Davis Dance Company, Hotel Obligato, and many more. Joshua has his MFA from Boston University. Love to Karen and Elijah.

**Lisi Stoessel (Set Design)** is a Philadelphia-based scenic designer who is once again delighted to be working with the IRC. In 2009 she designed the set for the IRC's Philly Fringe hit, *The Chairs*. Other recent design credits include *Our Lady of 121st St* (Albright College), *Medea* (Villanova University), *The Annihilation Point* (Time Mender Productions), *Purr, Pull, Reign: A Litigious Fantasy in D* (Johnny Showcase and the Lefty Lucy Cabaret), *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Heritage Theatre Festival), *Everything Freezes: Another Winter's Tale* (Sideshow Theatre Company), *The Love Song of J Robert Oppenheimer* (The University of Virginia), and *Owning Up to the Corn* (Sarah McCarron). Lisi is an artistic associate of Chicago's Sideshow Theatre Company. She holds her MFA in Scene Design from the University of Virginia.

**Brian Strachan (Costume Designer)** is the Director of Dance for the University of the Arts School of Dance in Philadelphia, PA. At the University he is responsible for all aspects of costuming within the school of dance. Brian has designed *The Lesson* and *The Chairs* for the IRC in past seasons. Brian has also designed costumes for EgoPo Theater Company, The Lantern Theater Company, Ursinus College, Sharp Dance Company, Isis Theater Company, New City Stage, The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theater, Temple University, and Enchantment Theatre as well as many other theaters and colleges across the country. Brian is so happy to be back working with the IRC. Brian can be reached at [bstrachan@uarts.edu](mailto:bstrachan@uarts.edu). After all this hard work he is looking forward to a restful vacation on Cockalooony Key this Summer.

**Philadelphia Fringe Festival**  
**September 2010**  
**The Empire Builders**  
by Boris Vian



TA  
THEATRE ALLIANCE  
OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

# ON STAGE

## March-April 2010

*Respect-A Musical Journey of Women\** Doo-Wop Wed Widening Hoods: A 50's  
Society Hill Playhouse & Act II  
Playhouse  
1/27/2010-4/28/2010  
215.923.0210

*The 25th Annual Putnam County  
Spelling Bee\**  
The Media Theatre  
3/3/2010-3/28/2010  
610.891.0100

*King Lear\**  
People's Light & Theatre Company  
3/3/2010-3/28/2010  
610.644.3500

*RENT\**  
Temple Theaters  
3/3/2010-4/11/2010  
215.204.1122

*Happyly Ever After\**  
1812 Productions  
3/4/2010-3/28/2010  
215-592-9560

*3rd Annual Playshop Festival\**  
Philadelphia Theatre Workshop  
3/6/2010-3/21/2010  
215.316.1361

*Charlotte's Web\**  
Hedgerow Theatre  
3/6/2010-4/10/2010  
610.565.4211

*Jubilate\**  
Academy of Vocal Arts  
3/7/2010-3/14/2010  
215.735.1685

*The Ugly Duckling\**  
The Ritz Theatre Company  
3/10/2010-3/13/2010  
856.858.5230

*Peanuts and Crackerjacks New Play  
Festival\**  
Plays and Players  
3/12/2010-3/20/2010  
215.735.0630

*Musical*  
Marple Newtown Players  
3/12/2010-3/21/2010  
610.353.9181

*The Story*  
The Drama Group  
3/12/2010-3/27/2010  
215.844.0724

*The Velveteen Rabbit\**  
Burlington County Footlighters  
3/13/2010-3/21/2010  
856.829.7144

*Up*  
Bristol Riverside Theatre  
3/16/2010-4/4/2010  
215.785.0100

*The Gnadiges Fraulein\**  
Idiopathic Reticulopathy Consortium  
3/19/2010-4/3/2010  
215.285.0472

*New Voices Saturday Reading Series*  
Philadelphia Young Playwrights  
3/20/2010  
215.665.9226

*Loiuc and Ophelia*  
Bushfire Theatre of Performing Arts  
3/23/2010-4/4/2010  
215.747.9230

*At This Evening's Performance\**  
Hedgerow Theatre  
3/25/2010-4/18/2010  
610.565.4211

*Some Assembly Required\**  
BCKSEET Productions  
3/25/2010-4/17/2010  
215.923.0210

*How I Became a Pirate*  
Walnut Street Theatre for Kids  
3/27/2010-4/10/2010  
215.574.3550

*Fat Pig\**  
Theatre Horizon  
4/2/2010-5/1/2010  
610.283.2230

*Alice in Wonderland\**  
The Media Theatre  
4/3/2010-4/24/2010  
610.891.0100

*Shining City\**  
Theatre Exile  
4/7/2010-4/25/2010  
215-218-4022

*The 25th Annual Putnam County  
Spelling Bee\**  
Montgomery Theater  
4/8/2010-5/8/2010  
215.723.9984

*When We Go Upon the Sea\**  
InterAct Theatre Company  
4/9/2010-5/9/2010  
215.568.8079

*Sick\**  
Luna Theater Company  
4/11/2010-5/2/2010  
215.704.0033

*The Eagle's Claw*  
Stages of Imagination  
4/13/2010-5/7/2010  
610.892.8189

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*  
The Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre  
4/14/2010-5/9/2010  
215.496.8001

*Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin  
Timberlake)\**  
Flashpoint Theatre Company  
4/15/2010-5/8/2010  
215.665.9720

*Fiddler on the Roof*  
Rowan University Theatre  
4/16/2010-4/18/2010  
856.256.4030

*A Moon for the Misbegotten*  
Actors' NET  
4/16/2010-5/2/2010  
215.295.3694

*Improv Comedy\**  
The N. Crowd  
Every Friday Night @ 8pm  
215.253.4276

For a complete list of shows playing this month and all year, please visit  
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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Eileen O'Brien and Samuel Hopkins

Jesse Delaney

Kali Colton

Gary Tennis

Frank Hoeber and Dita Baron Hoeber

Bob and Pat Schmidt

Jack Higgins

Jaime Pannone

Bill Brock

Liam Brock

Ryan McMenamin

Brian Adoff

Kate Black-Regan

Liam Castellan

Michael Dura

Sharon Geller

Michael Harrah

Ethan Lipkin

Chris McGovern

Kevin Meehan

Kevin Murphy

Kirsten Quinn

Bill Rayhill

David Robson

Sonja Robson

RJ White

Johanna Austin Smith (austin.art.photo)

Denise at The Philadelphia Free Library Music Department

Millie Hiibel and Pat Cohill

Burlington County Community College Pemberton, NJ

Swann's Costume Shop

Lorin Lyle at The Parlor

### **Advisory Board**

Brain Adoff • Tina Brock • Kali Lela Colton • Eileen O'Brien

Lee Pucklis • Bob Schmidt • Jane Stojak • Gary Tennis



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**The Idiopathic Ridiculopathy Consortium**  
**P. O. Box 63872, Philadelphia, PA 19147**