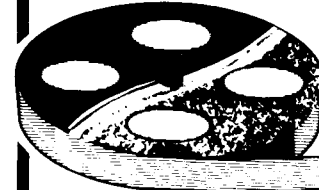




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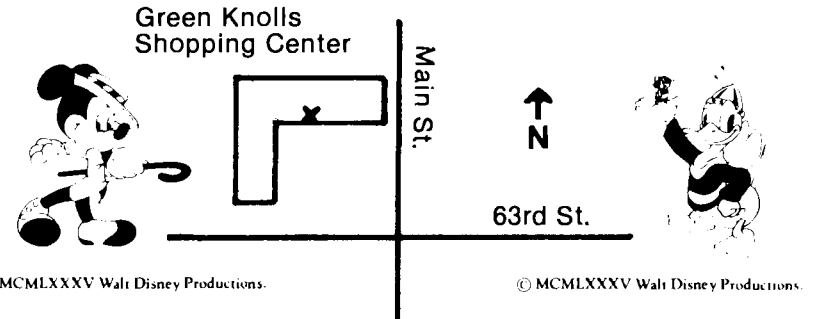
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The Dining Room

by A. R. Gurney, Jr.

The Dining Room was first produced off-Broadway by Playwriters Horizons in 1982.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Everyone has a reaction to the dining room.

"I knew I had grown up when I moved from the kids' table in the kitchen to the 'big' table in the dining room."

"Our most important family decisions were made around the dining room table."

"We only ate in the dining room on Sundays and holidays."

"I knew I had to behave when we ate in 'that' room."

"We never had a dining room. We just ate in the kitchen. I figured dining rooms were for the rich."

Perhaps such varied responses inspired Gurney to write a play **not** about one particular family in one fully dressed dining room, but instead to write a series of vignettes about an assortment of families and characters of all ages and generations as seen in a dining room. This play looks at the American middle class as set in the dining room as if it were an emblem for an entire culture. In so doing, he tosses realism and convention aside and overlaps and intertwines 18 stories of some 50 plus characters. An entrance from a hall is merely suggested stage left and another from the kitchen, stage right. Dishes, silverware, and crystal come and go, but food and drink are pantomimed. A few costume pieces convey only the hint of each character's dress. It's as if Gurney displays the dining room basics as one might display art in a museum. The surroundings he leaves blank to be filled in by the viewer's imagination. Therein much of the play's charm lies.

So sit back, relax, and picture your version of the typical American dining room while waiting for Grove Players presentation of A. R. Gurney's **The Dining Room** to begin.

THE CAST

Richard Albright Cynthia K. Lucas Kathy H. Racine Francis Valach
Richard Gannon Gregg Howell Palmer Judy Seeley Tracy Vonderohe

DINING ROOM

Act I

1. Agent-JUDY S., Client-RICHARD A.
2. Arthur-RICHARD G., Sally-KATHY R.
3. Annie-JUDY S., Father-GREGG P., Girl-TRACY V., Boy-FRANCIS V., Mother-CYNTHIA L.
4. Ellie-TRACY V., Howard-FRANCIS V.
5. Grace-KATHY R., Carolyn-JUDY S.
6. Aggie-CYNTHIA L., Michael-RICHARD A.
7. Architect-TRACY V., Psychiatrist-RICHARD G.
8. Peggy-CYNTHIA L., Winkie-KATHY R., Billy-GREGG P., Brewster-RICHARD A., Sandra-JUDY S., Ted-FRANCIS V.
9. Grandfather-RICHARD A., Dora-TRACY V., Nick-RICHARD G.
10. Paul-GREGG P., Margery-KATHY R.
11. Nancy-CYNTHIA L., Stuart-RICHARD G., Mother-JUDY S., Fred-RICHARD A., Ben-FRANCIS V., Beth-TRACY V.

Act II

12. Sarah-TRACY V., Helen-CYNTHIA L.
13. Kate-JUDY S., Gordon-RICHARD A., Chris-GREGG P.
14. Tany-FRANCIS V., Aunt Harriet-KATHY R.
15. Jim-RICHARD G., Meg-CINDY L.
16. Emily-TRACY V., David-RICHARD A., Claire-JUDY S., Bertha-KATHY R., Standish-GREGG P.
17. Harvey-FRANCIS V., Dick-RICH G.
18. Annie-JUDY S., Ruth-CYNTHIA L., Host-GREGG P., Guests-RICHARD G., KATHY R., RICHARD A., TRACY V., and FRANCIS V.

DIRECTOR	Judy Hamontre
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Elaine Albright
PRODUCER	Mardelle Vonderohe
LIGHTING DESIGN	Chris Groves, Michael Wlodarski
STAGE MANAGER	Tom Seeley
COSTUMES	Lynn Dian, Theresa McSwiggin
PROPERTIES	Jean Lamb
SOUND	Francis Valach
SET DRESSING	Judy Seeley, Gerry Schumacher, Judy Hamontre, Jim Ryan, Rich Gannon, Joe Delaloye
ARTIST	Donna S. Roost
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Grove Players wishes continued success to our friend Jim Delmotte who left the Downers Grove Park District for career advancement. Grove Players owes our use of James Breasted Auditorium to him because of his cooperation. We dedicate **The Dining Room** to Jim Delmotte.

WHO'S WHO

JUDY HAMONTRE, Director
Judy's directing credits include GP's **Brigadoon**, **UTBU**, **Annie Get Your Gun**, and **Dracula**. She placates her passion for theater by being constantly involved in a production. She has produced, directed, costumed, and designed make-up for GP besides directing shows at Downers Grove South where she teaches. Judy also wrote and directed the stage show that GP presented at last summer's Heritage Fest. Last season, Judy played Hattie Walker in **Follies**.

ELAINE ALBRIGHT, Assistant Director
Elaine's stage credits include Marion in **The Music Man** and Irene Malloy in **Hello, Dolly**. In her years with GP she has assistant directed and helped with just about every facet of production. She is also on the GP Board of Directors.

RICHARD ALBRIGHT
Playing Lady Bracknell in GP's **The Importance of Being Earnest** is Richard's most memorable theater experience — and perhaps ours. He is a favorite of directors and audi-

ences alike. Recent credits include Elwood P. Dowd in **Harvey**, Sheridan Whiteside in **The Man Who Came to Dinner** and J. B. Biggle in **How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying**. Richard also appears in musical choruses, has directed for GP, and done just about everything else for the group. He teaches English at Lyons Township High School.

RICHARD GANNON
A long time member of Grove Players, Rich first appeared in our 1973 production of **See How They Run**. Other credits with GP include William Detweiler in **How The Other Half Loves**, Peter in **Company** and Paul in **Kiss Me, Kate!** as well as numerous stints as scenic designer and set construction chief. Elsewhere Rich has portrayed Doc Porter in **Crimes of the Heart**, Bill Ray in **On Golden Pond** and Spettigue in **Charley's Aunt**. Having pursued graduate studies in Theater at Northern Illinois University, Rich was business manager of Paper Moon Productions and contractor for such professional houses as Lincolnshire Theatre, Pheasant Run Play-

WHO'S WHO

house and Drury Lane Water Tower, to name a few. Rich met his wife, Nanci, during GP's production of **Harvey** for which she played Nurse Kelly to his Dr. Sanderson.

CYNTHIA K. LUKAS

If you saw GP's **Close Ties** last spring you'll be glad to see Cynthia back with us. She gave the show a special quality as Anna — the oldest sister. Cynthia also played Lenny in **Crimes of the Heart** for Village Theater Guild. Other credits include Faye in **Chapter Two**, Rita in **Unknown Women** and a radical student in the TV movie **Kent State**. She has also directed **True West** and **Our Town**. Cynthia has put her MA in Communications and BA in English to work as a free-lance writer/novelist.

GREGG HOWELL PALMER

Gregg was seen last fall in **Beyond Therapy** in Chicago. Previous roles include Jack in **The Importance of Being Earnest** and Rev. Morell in **Candida**. Gregg's training includes St. Nicholas Acting School, S.I.U., and College of Dupage. At home in Downers Grove, Gregg enjoys playing guitar or a good game of chess.

KATHY H. RACINE

Here's an actress who has seemingly endless energy and versatility. Kathy played a critically acclaimed Rose in GP's **Gypsy**. Now, she is playing a variety of roles in this show. Past credits include Miss Prism in **The Importance of Being Earnest**, Young Sally in **Follies** and the Apothecary in **The Imaginary Invalid**, all for GP. Kathy says she will always remember pro-

moting **Gypsy** live, on stage at the Tivoli Theater, to the same audience that came to see **Allens**.

JUDY SEELEY

Judy is President of Grove Players and works wholeheartedly for the group in many ways. Producing, set construction, costuming, fund raising, and managing publicity are all roles Judy has filled. Stage credits include Emily in **My Three Angels**, Shirley in **UTBU**, and various musical choruses. Judy works with **Little Friends, Inc.**, a self help program for disabled adults. She also directs the children's choir at her church and enjoys what time is left over with her family in Downers Grove.

FRANCIS VALACH

One week after playing a delightful Tulsa in **Gypsy** this fall, Francis auditioned for his role in **The Dining Room**. He just can't get enough of the thrill of being on stage. Francis has credits for roles in **My Three Angels**, **Close Ties** and **The Shadow Box**. He now joins a fellow cast member (Gregg) from **Beyond Therapy** to make this another memorable show. Frank lists his residence in Party Town, U.S.A.

TRACY VONDEROHE

Tracy had chorus roles in GP's previous two musicals, **Gypsy** and **Follies**. This is her biggest role yet, although she had some high school stage experience. Backstage, Tracy has helped with costumes and elsewhere. When not involved in theater, she is spending time building a new house with her husband.



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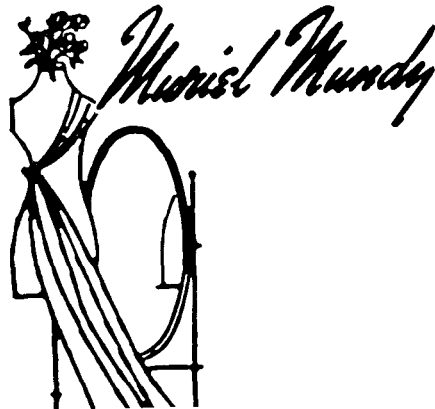
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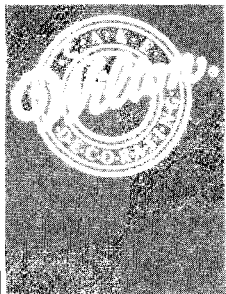
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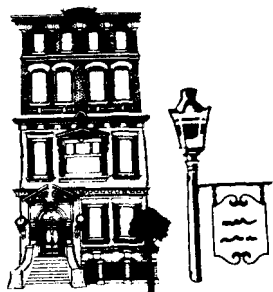
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