

ED FLETCHER'S EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE

727-446-5898

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
2008
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200 South McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759
www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com

Crowds Cheer for Season Opener "Social Security"

Special Interest:

- "Social Security" Brings Record Crowds
- Two Actor Spotlights
- New Look to Our Newsletter
- Our Patrons

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Our first show of the season opened to the tune of cheering crowds, record breaking attendance and a super review.

For our September 18th matinee performance, our parking lot was bursting with buses! With five busloads of patrons in the audience in addition to our regular patrons, it was the largest audience we've had at our new facility, the Italian American Club.

One week later we had a terrific review in the TBN weekly.

It's clear to us that everyone loves "Social Security!" With a great cast, superb direction by our Artistic Director, Robin New, and a wonderful



Artistic Director, Robin New with cast: (L to R) Tom Campbell, Jennifer Sloane, Midge Mamatas, Bill Henricks, Joseph Johnson, and Barbara Anthony

script by Andrew Bergman, Ed Fletcher has produced yet another huge crowd pleaser.

If you haven't seen the show yet, call now to reserve your seats . . . while there's still some left.

"Social Security" runs until November 2, 2008.

**For Reservations
Call
727-446-5898**

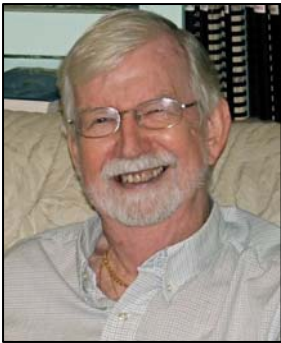


Full house at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre



Busloads are coming to "Social Security"

Actor's Spotlight: Bill Henricks



Actor Bill Henricks relaxing backstage between shows

Bill Henricks, who is one of the kindest and most generous actors in the business, grew up in Ohio and Pennsylvania. As a child, if he wasn't acting in a local church show, Bill created his own plays.

After his family moved to LA, Bill did a lot of stand-up comedy, even taking his comical character with its bright red yarn wig and baggy clothes on the road.

During his High School years, Bill performed at the Rainbow Playhouse in Hollywood and "supered" in many operas.

"Supering," Bill explains,

"means showing up at the stage door, getting into a costume, grabbing a spear (or whatever) and going out on the huge stage at the Los Angeles Civic Auditorium. All you had to do was follow the stage manager's directions . . . if he caught you doing anything else, you were removed at once . . . without pay!"

After retiring from a career in education, Bill moved to Nevada and continued his love of theatre, acting in both comedies and dramas. In 1992, when Bill moved to Florida, he says, "I was really going to retire this time!" But when a director at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre talked him

into doing a show . . . well, luckily for us he hasn't stopped since!

"Acting," says Bill, "has given me a voice I never would have had. It's a great gift to touch the lives of the audience. Acting is a serious, scary business. We open ourselves completely. Anything can happen onstage . . . and usually does! But there's no greater feeling than stepping out on that stage, delivering your first line and hearing the laughter of the audience."

"Just hope," Bill adds with his usual good humor, "that it's a comedy you're appearing in!"

Rehearsals are Underway for "Over the River"

Rehearsals are now well underway for our next show "Over the River and Through the Woods" by Joe Pietro.

This audience favorite tells the story of Nick, a single, Italian-American guy from New Jersey. His parents retired and moved to Florida, but that doesn't mean his family isn't still in Jersey. Nick sees both sets of his grandparents every Sunday for dinner until he's been offered the

dream job he's been waiting for. When he tells his grandparents that the job will mean he has to move away from them, the news doesn't sit so well.

Thus begins a series of schemes to keep Nick around that includes bringing to dinner the lovely and single Caitlin O'Hare as bait . . .

The cast includes Barbara Anthony, Toby Manion, Midge Mamatas, Bill

Henricks, Ian MacCallum and Mary Jordan.

Under the direction of Robin New, this talented cast is guaranteed to delight you with the telling of this funny and universal story about family, loyalty and love.

"Over the River and Through the Woods" opens November 6, 2008.

"Over the River and Through the Woods," our second show of the season, opens November 6, 2008."

Get Your Ducks in a Row for the 2008-2009 Season



Early Bird Dinner Theatre has some great shows lined up for you this season.

After "Social Security," and "Over the River and Through the Woods," we are running some new

and very funny shows.

"Bermuda Love Triangle" runs from January 3-February 22, 2009.

"Natalie Needs a Nightie" runs from February 26 – April 19, and "Private Lives" runs from April 23 – June 14, 2009.

But that's not all . . .

We'll be announcing some surprises shortly!

Make sure you check our website often for upcoming news.

EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com

Actor's Spotlight: Barbara Anthony



*Actor Barbara Anthony
Getting ready for a show*

Barbara Anthony grew up in central Pennsylvania and began acting at age 11 at the State College. After playing Brigitta in "The Sound of Music" at the State College and again at the Mountain Playhouse, an equity company, Barbara was hooked!

After meeting her husband, Craig, at Penn State University, Barbara moved to Pittsburgh, where she did commercials, print work and performed at the Little Lake Theatre Company and The Mountain Playhouse.

When Barbara moved to Florida in the late 1990's, she first worked for HSN as a model. Her first theatre role was directed

by Robin New. The show was "Forty Carats" and Barbara gave an award-winning performance, as Ann.

When Robin began directing at Early Bird in 1999, Barbara was cast as Amanda in "Private Lives," and she has been with the theatre ever since.

Barbara, who has taken on countless memorable characters, believes that the true character behind a role presents itself to her through the lines of dialogue in the script. She then finds things she has in common with a character, which makes each role she plays a very personal one.

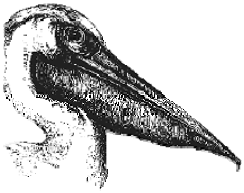
"Sometimes," Barbara says, "I'll really miss a

character after a show!"

Barbara, who feels more comfortable onstage than anywhere else, says that she is very grateful to Producer, Ed Fletcher, and Artistic Director, Robin New, at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre for giving her the opportunity to continue to learn all facets of theatre work . . . from hunting for props and costumes, painting sets, and working backstage to performing onstage.

Many actors don't take the opportunity to learn the less glamorous side of theatre, but Barbara Anthony is that rare breed of actor . . . the one who will do whatever job is needed in order to make the show and the theatre, itself, the best possible experience for everyone.

We've Been Redecorating



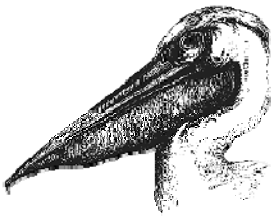
If you haven't been to the theatre yet this season, you may be pleasantly surprised to see some new improvements.

Over our summer break, Ed Fletcher had the theatre completely repainted in rich shades of burgundy and beige – beautiful theatre colors.



In addition, the buffet has been enhanced and you'll find the food choices even better than ever.

And the dessert . . . need we say more?



APPLAUSE

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Producer
Ed Fletcher

Artistic Director
Robin New

It's time for our patrons to take a bow!

Without you the world would be a sadder place indeed.

It's your laughter that keeps us going, and your loyalty that inspires us to do our best to provide you with the best dinner theatre experience in the area.

Whether you've been visiting us for years or you are a newcomer to our theatre, none of our shows would be possible without your presence.

Each of you helps keep theatre alive and well in Clearwater, Florida.

All of us at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre would like

to offer a generous thank you to each of our patrons.

So, take a bow and accept our grateful applause for your patronage.)



Patron Corner: Send Us Your Thoughts

As always, we'd love to hear from you.

If you'd like to tell us about some special memories you've had at the theatre or just tell us about one of your favorite shows, just send us an email at newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com

Your feedback is always welcome.

Have a favorite show or actor? Let us know. Would you like to share an experience you've had at Early Bird? Let us know and we're happy to spread the word in our next newsletter.

Hope to hear from you soon!