

ED FLETCHER'S EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE

727-446-5898

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200 South McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759
www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com

"Over the River and Through the Woods:" Join Us for The Perfect Holiday Show!

Special Interest:

- "Over the River and Through the Woods" is the perfect show for the Holidays.
- Actor Spotlight
- "Bermuda Avenue Triangle" Rehearsals Underway
- Patrons' Corner

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Just in time for the Holidays, Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theatre presents the delightful comedy "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



Cast: (L to R) Toby Manion, Barbara Anthony, Midge Mamatas, Bill Henricks, Ian MacCallum and Mary Jordan.

bringing to dinner the lovely and single Caitlin O'Hare as bait

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" runs through December 28, 2008.

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



Ian MacCallum, as Nick Cristiano, and Mary Jordan, as Caitlin O'Hare



Barbara Anthony and Toby Manion as Aida and Frank Gianelli



Midge Mamatas and Bill Henricks as Emma and Nunzio Cristiano

Actor's Spotlight: Midge Mamatas



*Midge Mamatas:
The Early Years, Age 4*

This picture represents the first time I became interested in acting. I was living with my parents and three older brothers in Lincoln Park, Michigan. Growing up my best friend Carol and I performed shows in our neighborhood. Once we even made \$4.35 and donated it to the American Cancer Society. We were pros!

The first time I really went on stage was in High School. I also became involved in local theatre productions in shows from "Our Town" and the "Miracle Worker" to classics like "Medea."

After attending Wayne State University in Detroit, I went to New York and studied at the Berghof Studios, but was told that I needed "to live" . . . which I took literally!

For nearly twenty years I traveled the world, as a Grand Prix Racing Journalist, a part owner of an International Photo and News Agency, an English Teacher, a Researcher for

soy products, and a published author among other things. I lived in New York, Switzerland, Japan, Australia and Zaire, traveling extensively to many other countries, and all the time the love of theatre was always in my heart and soul.

The most thrilling event of my life was the birth of my son, Tolee. When Tolee was eight, we returned to the US – Florida, to be exact, because my parents were here and it was now impossible for me to live in a cold climate. Tolee continues to be the joy of my life, and he has given me the additional delight of his beautiful, intelligent wife, Melissa.

Not long after coming home, I began to think about the theatre again. In 1991, I auditioned for the Early Bird Dinner Theatre and was cast in "The Prisoner of Second Avenue." From then on, I have appeared in hundreds of shows all over the Bay Area, as well as modeling for HSN and

other commercial work. I'm very proud of having recently appeared in a short film "Widow" written and directed by an extremely talented young woman, Lauren Kinsler.

As a teenager, I remember standing on stage hearing the audience laugh and then a little later on, hearing them cry. I was amazed by the power of the interaction between performer and audience. So many of these magical moments happen right here on the Early Bird Stage.

I've worked in many wonderful plays with incredibly talented actors. Each time I step on the stage it's an education and a partnership with my fellow actors and the audience. For this I am very grateful.

Thank you to Robin New, Ed Fletcher and all the actors I have worked with, for their help and for being a part of the journey that is my wonderfully adventurous life!!!



*Midge on the set of
"Social Security"*



*Midge on set
in the film "Widow"*

Rehearsals Underway for "Bermuda Ave Triangle"

Rehearsals are now underway for our next show, the "Bermuda Avenue Triangle" by Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna.

This laugh-out-loud comedy centers on the amorous adventures of two widows -- one Italian-Catholic, the other Jewish -- who have been shuffled off to live as roommates in a gaudy Las Vegas retirement community, courtesy of their

successful, career-driven daughters.

They're rescued from a misadventure by a con man, who sweet-talks his way into their lives in a most intimate way.

He changes them and their outlook on life forever in this outrageous, yet endearing comedy that delights audiences everywhere.

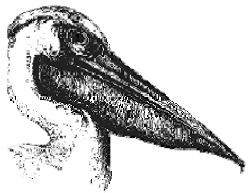
Artistic Director, Robin New, directs a talented cast that includes:

Marianne Meichenbaum, Marianne Barty, Toby Manion, Joseph Johnson, Barbara Anthony and Jennifer Sloane.

"Bermuda Avenue Triangle" opens January 2, 2009 and runs through February 22, 2009.

***"Bermuda
Avenue Triangle"
opens
January 2, 2009.***

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO OUR PATIONS

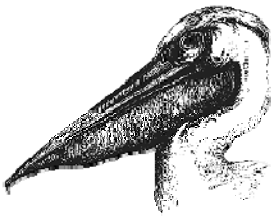


All of us at Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theatre would like to extend a warm Holiday Greeting to each of you!

We hope you are able to spend time with your loved ones this Season. A gracious thank you for the time you have spent with your Early Bird family this year. May 2009 bring you joy!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Patrons Speak Out

About Our Current Show:

"Wanted to let you know that we enjoyed your show very much. We have been going for years & found this show one of the best."

-- Nellie



A Word from Up North:

"Just a ... note to thank you for your many hours of fun and food that we've enjoyed over the past ten years As we sit here looking out the window at the snow and single digit temperatures . . . we've enjoyed the

pictures you sent and especially want to give a smile to Toby and Barbara. Everyone is so professional, but these two stole our hearts.

Retire table three with our name on it. We'll think of you all often and wish you continued success."

-- Ed and Jean

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Get Your Ducks in a Row for the 2009 Season

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

After "Over the River and Through the Woods," we are running some wonderful new shows and an all time classic!

"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

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!



Producer
Ed Fletcher

Artistic Director
Robin New