

# 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](http://www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com)

### Last Two Weekends for *There's a Burglar in My Bed*

#### Special Interest:

- *There's a Burglar in my Bed*
- Actor Spotlight
- Valentine's Day
- 2010 Season

Lee Zumpe, of Tampa Bay Newspapers, wrote, "Directed by Robin New, *There's a Burglar in my Bed* highlights the best qualities of Early Bird's troupe. New and her cohorts know how to stoke each scene, accentuate the innuendoes, emphasize the absurdity of the respective character's faulty logic and ignite infectious laughter amongst appreciative audience members."



Cast: (Left to Right) Barbara Anthony, Toby Manion, Jonathan Cho, Jonelle Meyer, Tracy Borgatti, Brent Ballard, Robin New.

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The cast continues to have a fabulous time with this show and is particularly appreciative of all our loyal patrons, who have braved this unusually cold Florida winter to come out in scores to thoroughly enjoy this fast-paced, hysterical farce – or, as Lee Zumpe says, "funtastic farce!"



Robin New, Barbara Anthony and Jonathan Cho in a sticky situation

There's still time to make a reservation, but call soon, as we are selling out quickly for the remaining two weekends.

*There's a Burglar in my Bed* runs until February 28, 2010.

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



Tracy Borgatti and Jonelle Meyer listen through the door to learn their fate from Toby Manion, Brent Ballard and Barbara Anthony

## Actor Spotlight: Jonelle Meyer



Actor  
Jonelle Meyer

Jonelle Meyer, who is currently playing Deborah in *There's a Burglar in My Bed*, is a natural comedic talent. She was born and raised in New York. Her father was always interested in the entertainment industry and worked for NBC. With the help of her father, Jonelle began her acting career by putting on shows in the family basement when she was six years old.

The family moved to Orlando, Florida when Jonelle was nine, and she performed in her first musical in the third grade. Jonelle remembers being sick before the show and missing some rehearsals, but she nailed her song "Go West Young Man," and was happy when her Principal told her what a lovely voice she had.

In High School, Jonelle participated in drama classes, and also learned a lot about the technical side of theatre, which is a valuable asset for any actor.

Jonelle knew she enjoyed entertainment, but wasn't sure

which area she would focus on until she went to College.

When one of her friends wanted to audition for the Florida School of the Arts in Palatka, Jonelle decided on a whim to go along and audition. It wasn't until after she was accepted and attended the College, that Jonelle knew she had found her calling. She credits her amazing teachers for their talent and guidance.

Jonelle says, "I prefer live theatre over film, because of the immediate reaction of the audience, especially with comedy. I love being able to create something that makes others forget whatever is going on in their lives, and being a part of impacting them in a positive way."

She also enjoys working with other actors, who have the same goals and who care about their work and strive to keep the integrity of the play intact. Theatre is also cathartic for Jonelle. She can take experiences from her life and use them in her characters. Jonelle adds, "Theatre can be an outlet that is rejuvenating no matter what is going on in an actor's personal life."

After College, Jonelle moved to Tampa where many of her theatre friends lived. She first met Robin New at the Old Carrollwood Players when Robin attended her performance, as Suzette in *Don't Dress for Dinner*. Robin approached her after the show and asked Jonelle to audition for Early Bird.

Since they first met, Jonelle says, "Robin has always given me confidence as an actor. She's a fun director, who gives her actors the creative freedom to explore their characters, and

she has become a good friend."

Jonelle credits Robin for helping her get her start doing what she loves to do and getting paid for it. "If it wasn't for Robin," Jonelle says, "I'm not sure where I'd be in the theatre community now."

While Jonelle prefers comedy, she has performed a wide variety of roles in the Tampa Bay area. She appeared as Sally Talley in Stagework's production of *Talley's Folly*, a dramatic two person show, and in another drama *How I Learned to Drive*, playing the role of Lil' Bit.

Some of Jonelle's favorite roles have been Maureen in *Hotbed Hotel* at the Early Bird, where her comedic talent had the cast, as well as the audience, in hysterics. She also enjoyed playing Anelle in the Early Bird production of *Steel Magnolias*. Another favorite role was in Hat Trick's production of *Funny Money* where she played the role of Jean.

Jonelle says, "Working at Early Bird Dinner Theatre is always fun. Farce is my favorite kind of show, particularly the roles where I can combine both silly and sexy characteristics." She is thankful to Ed Fletcher and Robin New for being invited back to Early Bird so often.

"Early Bird feels like home," adds Jonelle, "and I love feeling so welcome here."

Jonelle's natural talent for comedy always raises the level for all the actors in a show. Her sense of humor is in action both onstage and off, which makes working with her a delightful and fun experience.

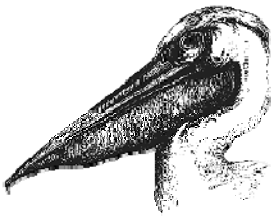
*Happy Valentine's Day to All Our Patrons  
from  
All of Us  
at  
The Early Bird Dinner Theatre!*



*Your loyal patronage means so much to all of us. We love seeing each of you when you come in the door and on the receiving line after the show.*

*Thank you for sharing your special occasions with us, including this Valentine's Day! We look forward to sharing many more with you!*





## DEATH BY CHOCOLATE Opens March 4, 2010

Paul Freed's *Death by Chocolate*, a farce that parodies, among other things, our favorite food . . . chocolate! On the day before the grand re-opening of the Meadowbrook Health Resort, employees are dropping like flies, including famed chef Edith Chiles.

The new resort manager, John Stone, is out to solve the untimely mystery. He teams up with Edie Parlor, mystery writer and amateur detective, in a wild and whacky race against time. All clues point to a sinister box of chocolates. The suspects include all the outlandish characters who work at the resort including: Lady Riverdale, the owner with dark secrets; Ralph Deadwood, the gym instructor and all around cad; Dick Simmering, the aerobics instructor; Anne, the panic stricken nurse; and Sweet Pea Meadowbrook, the overweight and grieving daughter of the recently deceased founder of the resort.

Artistic Director, Robin New, has put together a great cast that includes: Barbara Anthony, Brent Ballard, Tracy Borgatti, Michael Crockett, Bill Henricks, Joe Johnson, Midge Mamatas, Gail Scott and Jennifer Sloane.

### Early Bird Dinner Theatre

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Make sure you check our website often for upcoming news.

[Earlybirddinnertheatre.com](http://Earlybirddinnertheatre.com)

**Producer**  
**Ed Fletcher**

**Artistic Director**  
**Robin New**

## Get Your Ducks in a Row for Our 2010 Season

*Death by Chocolate* from March 4 to April 25, 2010.

*Funny Money* from April 29 to June 10, 2010.

*Kitchen Witches* from July 15 to September 5, 2010.

*Lovers and Other Strangers* from September 9 to October 31, 2010.

*How the Other Half Loves* from November 4 to December 26, 2010.

*For more information and details of upcoming shows, please visit our website:*

[Earlybirddinnertheatre.com](http://Earlybirddinnertheatre.com)

## Patron Corner: We've Got Mail!

Here's a lovely note from one of our patrons, Evelyn Beck. Thank you, Evelyn. You made our day!

*I just arrived home from seeing your wonderful, hilarious, show. I had to sit right down and tell you how everyone on the bus from Sun City Minibus enjoyed it. There was not one person who wasn't laughing when they climbed on the bus. You wonderful, funny actors outdid yourself today. You deserve a medal of happiness, fun and laughter. Barbara, Toby, Brent, Jonelle, Tracy, Jonathan, and Robin, you were all spectacular. Looking forward to being with you to see "Death by Chocolate" in March and thanking all of you for a wonderful, happy day.*

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](mailto:newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com)