

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

NOW PLAYING: Don't Dress for Dinner

Special Interest:

- **Now Playing!!!**
- **Actor Spotlight**
- **2011-2012 Season**

Ed Fletcher's production of *Don't Dress for Dinner* is a must see wildly funny French farce.

To quote Lee Zumpe's review from TBN Weekly, "Calculating caterers, conniving lovers and chronic confusion combine in a comical formula pivoting on compounding dishonesty."

The plot centers on Bernard's desperate attempts to conceal his deceit from his wife, Jacqueline, after his plans for a weekend tryst with his French mistress, Suzanne, go madly awry. Sound simple? It's anything but simple.

You see ... Bernard's best friend, Robert, has been invited to dinner as a cover-up for Bernard's weekend affair. When Jacqueline, who was planning on being away for the weekend, learns that Robert is coming for dinner, she decides to stay. Why? Well, Jacqueline is having an affair with Robert, of course!



Cast: (Front) Tracy Borgatti, Charles Wilcox, and Gail Scott. (Back) Toby Manion, Barbara Anthony, and Ian MacCallum.

Did I mention that the evening's dinner also involves a caterer, named Suzette? And when her husband, George, appears in Act Two the mayhem only continues to escalate.

Returning again to Lee Zumpe's review, "The humor in *Don't Dress for Dinner* develops not so much from the absurdity of the premise as it does from each character's mismanagement of their deceitfulness. As the action progresses, each botched falsehood leads to a more complex lie until the entire situation is riotously preposterous."

The actors at Early Bird make this wild romp even more of a laugh riot. We think you'll agree!!!

Don't Dress for Dinner runs through June 19, 2011.

Time is running out to see this one! So, call now and make a reservation. You'll be glad you did!

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

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Actor's Spotlight: Michael Crockett



Michael Crockett

Michael Crockett, whom you've seen in more than a few shows at Early Bird, was born and raised in Shelbyville, IL.

He graduated from Eastern Illinois University with an Education degree and a Masters in Speech Communications. During his college years, Michael took theatre classes, knowing that, as a teacher, he would be directing plays and working with speech and debate teams. Michael has had a very rewarding career teaching high school.

So, how did he get into involved with acting? When one of his students, who was cast as Henry Blake in *MASH*, suddenly moved out of State, Michael had to play the role. It was his first time on stage, and that old acting bug was soon to bite him hard!

Michael began seeking roles at local theatres. He played Teddy in *Arsenic and Old Lace* three times ... "so far," he adds with

his usual good humor.

But it was when he played Richard in *The Seven Year Itch* and received a standing ovation from the sold out theatre that he knew he was hooked.

"It was a wonderful feeling and memory that I'll never forget," said Michael.

Since then, Michael has played numerous roles at too many theatres to list ... from the St. Louis Shakespeare Company to American Stage in St. Petersburg to Tampa's Stageworks ... and, to our delight, at the Early Bird!

While his favorite show of all time remains his role in *The Seven Year Itch*, Michael's favorite Early Bird shows were as Stanley in *Run for your Wife*, and as Inspector Roughy in *Angel Street*.

When I asked Michael what is was about acting that kept him hooked, he replied simply, "I like working with my fellow actors, particularly at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre. Robin is such a delight to work with and the other cast members are so much like family."

Michael taught high school in Red Bud, IL for 33 years. He spent 17 of those years in the same classroom! Michael says, "I wasn't sure if that was a career or a sentence!"

He made his way through high school and college by working at local supermarkets. He has also sold computers part-time, taught at a maximum-security prison, worked for a modeling agency in St. Louis, and has been in a couple of movies.

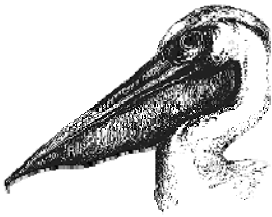
He has also played Santa both in Illinois and here in Florida at the Tyrone Square Mall!

Michael has an easy going personality, a quick mind, and an ability to learn lines at the drop of a hat! His pleasing personality and genuine commitment to acting make him a delight to work with.

In closing, Michael says, "Laughter is the best medicine, and the Early Bird helps heal people every night! It's great to have patrons come through the reception line after the show, holding their tummies because they've been laughing so hard!"



Michael Crockett, as Santa



"Last of the Red Hot Lovers" Opens July 14th

Last of the Red Hot Lovers

This wonderfully witty comedy by Neil Simon features Barney Cashman, a middle-aged, overweight owner of a fish restaurant. Married and anxious to have one last fling, Barney plans to use his mother's apartment to lure a prospective lover.

After foiled attempts to seduce three very different women on three different occasions, in total frustration and despair Barney asks the only other woman he can think of ... his wife, Thelma. However, Thelma doesn't seem too eager to accept his invitation!

We have a fabulous cast that includes: Barbara Anthony, Toby Manion, Tracy Borgatti and our own Artistic Director, Robin New.

***Last of the Red Hot Lovers
opens July 14th
and runs until September 4th, 2011***

Get Your Ducks in a Row for Our 2011-2012 Season

Now Playing *Don't Dress for Dinner*: April 28 - June 19, 2011

Brief Summer Intermission

Next up: *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*: July 14 - September 2, 2011

***Leading Ladies*: September 8 – October 30, 2011**

***The Sensuous Senator*: November 3 – December 23, 2011**

***Lie, Cheat and Genuflect*: January 5 – February 26, 2012**

***What is Susan's Secret?* March 1 – April 22, 2012**

***Separate Beds*: April 26 – June 3, 2012**

***For more information, please visit our website:* EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com**

Patron Corner:

A brief editorial apology to our patrons for the missing May Newsletter! Circumstances conspired to prevent publication last month. We thank you for your patience.

Don't forget that we love hearing from each of you, and we welcome emails about shows you've seen and special experiences you've had at the theatre. You can email us at the address listed below. We look forward to hearing from you.

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