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GREENWOOD LITTLE THEATRE
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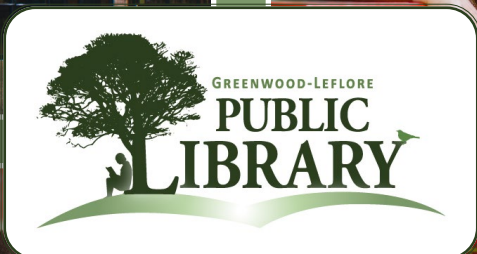
Blithe Spirit

By Noël Coward

October 27-29 at 7:00 pm
October 30 at 2:00 pm

Davis Auditorium
400 Cotton Street, Greenwood, Mississippi

BLITHE SPIRIT BY NOËL COWARD IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 1941, England was fighting the beginnings of World War II. The German Blitz was nightly destroying parts of Coward's London – including his office and apartment. He took a short vacation and decided to write a comedy with a supernatural theme that would help lighten the mood of his fellow Brits. Coward wrote the script in only a few days. He later reported that the words flowed in an almost unbroken stream of consciousness—the finished text required hardly any alteration.



Blithe Spirit is one of Coward's greatest plays: a witty and beautifully constructed piece that never fails to entertain with its original storyline and array of bizarre and intriguing characters. The play originally ran in London's West End for four and a half years. Since then, it has rarely been out of production – reproduced in theatres worldwide.

I hope we do justice to Coward's genius and that you enjoy our production of *Blithe Spirit* as much as we have enjoyed working on it.

Pam is a Broker-owner of Powers Properties, a REALTOR® for over 30 years, and 2022-23 President of Greenwood Little Theatre.

She is a Mississippi University for Women graduate with majors in Mathematics and Speech and Theater. After graduation, Pam taught high school math at Amanda Elzy. She then taught Math and Speech at Pillow Academy before working as a Mathematician and computer programmer at the Corps of Engineers.

She has been involved in theater since college, with lead roles in Picnic and Alice in Wonderland. She performed in Butterflies are Free and Red Hot Lovers with Vicksburg Little Theater. Pam has also appeared on the GLT stage in The Odd Couple, Dixie Swim Club, and Six Degrees of Separation. She directed the first two Senior plays at Pillow Academy and Vintage Hitchcock: A Radio Play at GLT.



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and there's always a Smile on it!



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DEDICATION



The cast and crew wish to dedicate this GLT production to Dame Angela Lansbury. She passed away at 96 years on October 11, 2022. *Blithe Spirit* was revived on Broadway, and Lansbury won the Tony Award for her performance as Madame Arcati. Here's a toast to one of the most prominent women of American theatre and screen.

We also dedicate this production to GLT's partnership with the GLCSD and MVSU. We are excited to welcome Dr. Edward Morse, Associate Professor and Music Coordinator, Fine Arts Department, MVSU, who is performing with his students in the orchestra pit, and his daughter Lily, the voice of Daphne.

Flash photography and video recording are prohibited. Please do not use electronic devices during the show.



It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

Adapted by Joe Landry

Coming December 2022

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life as a live 1940s radio broadcast. With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, the story of idealistic George Bailey unfolds as he considers ending his life on one fateful Christmas Eve.

Join us for a message of hope and love that is sure to inspire families and friends of all ages this holiday season.

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CAST

PALL BEARERS	Greenwood Mentoring Group and GLCSD Students
EDITH	Elecia Elmore
RUTH	Katie Mills
CHARLES	Paul Brown
DR. BRADMAN	Bob Draper
MRS. BRADMAN	Kimberly Gnemi
MADAME ARCATI	Michele Shahan-Hale
ELVIRA	Ali Dinkins
NARRATORS	Jeff Johns, Stephen Hale

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The play takes place in the living room of the Condomines' house in Kent, England.

Act I

Scene 1: Before dinner on a summer evening.

Scene 2: After dinner.

Act II

Scene 1: The next morning.

Scene 2: Late the following afternoon.

Scene 3: Early evening. A few days later.

Act III

Scene 1: After dinner. A few days later.

Scene 2: Several hours later.

There will be a 15-minute intermission between Acts I and II.

MEET THE CAST



Paul Brown (*Charles*) is a Greenwood native and GLT veteran. Paul's GLT acting credits include such productions as *Noises Off!*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and most recently, "Daddy Warbucks" in *Annie*. Paul has directed several productions for GLT, including *The Producers*, *Nunsense!*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Paul is the Clinical Education Specialist for VitalCaring Group.



Ali Dinkins (*Elvira*) completed her undergraduate work at Baylor University and graduate work at Wayne State University, both in Acting. She was a member of the Hilberry Acting company in Detroit, Michigan, for two years. She has spent most of her career teaching: from a Preschool librarian to a performing arts high school theatre teacher, and Adjunct acting professor at Millsaps College.



Bob Draper (*Dr. Bradman*) joined the Greenwood Little Theatre in 2016, appearing in *The Good Doctor*. He played in *84*, *Charing Cross Road*, *Wait Until Dark*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Ragtime*, and *Annie*. Now retired, Bob spends time as a Friend of the Museum of the Mississippi Delta and volunteers for community organizations. He and his wife, Sharon, are Greenwood First United Methodist Church members.



Elecia Elmore (*Edith*) is a Greenwood native, a graduate of Delta State University, and a Realtor with Powers Properties. Elecia has a background in dance, twirling, and gymnastics. However, *Blithe Spirit* is her first theatrical performance. "This theatrical experience has definitely been eye opening. I had no idea the time, effort, and manpower that goes into these Little Theater productions. It has been a real pleasure getting to know the cast and crew."

MEET THE CAST



Kimberly Gnemi (*Mrs. Bradman*) grew up attending plays at GLT with her mother, grandmother, and aunts and always dreamed of being on stage. *Blithe Spirit* is her second production at GLT, and her first was *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* in 2019. When not on stage, Kimberly manages the Viking Cooking School. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, playing tennis, reading, and cheering for the MSU Bulldogs in her free time.



Stephen Hale (*Narrator*) was born in Norman, Oklahoma. He is the Interim Senior Minister at First United Methodist Church in Greenwood and for Valley Hill UMC. He was part of the Dramateurs Little Theater Group in California, playing various roles, operating sound and lights, and doing set construction. Later, he was involved in Little Theater in multiple settings, playing “Lloyd, the Director” in *Noises Off* with the Woodward Little Theater Group.



Jeff Johns (*Narrator*) has served Delta State University as Police Chief since 2016. He and his wife Terri reside in Greenwood with their dog Sandy and recently welcomed their first grandson Isaac. Johns has narrated a few church Christmas programs and speaks publicly on campus safety throughout the region.



Katie Mills (*Ruth*) is a Delta native and Director of Development and Operations at ArtPlace Mississippi. This production marks Katie’s first appearance at GLT. Past roles include Jean Louise in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Dulcie in *The Boyfriend*, both with the Mid-Delta Arts Association in Indianola. “The last time I was on stage was in March 2020 for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It is such a pleasure to once again be involved in a live production.”

MEET THE CAST



Michelle Shahan-Hale (*Madame Arcati*) was a lifelong resident of Oklahoma before moving to Greenwood in August of this year with her husband, Rev. Dr. Stephen Hale. She is a Physical Therapist and EMT. Michele has always loved music and the arts--especially theater. "I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with all those involved with this Greenwood Little Theater production."

MEET THE ASSISTANT DIRECTORS



Jeanne Gewalt is a transplant to Greenwood from her native California, with a BA in Art and a Master's Degree in Architecture/Historic Preservation. Jeanne has performed, costumed, and choreographed various university and community theatrical productions and has taught college Fashion Design. *Annie* was her first co-directing and costuming with the GLT, followed by costuming for *Crimes of the Heart* and *Steel Magnolias*.



Dezarae Leto's career as a General Surgeon brought her to Greenwood earlier this year. *Blithe Spirit* is Dezarae's first production with GLT. When she's not working at the hospital, she's all hands on deck, helping with the cast and crew. She has been involved in the arts for over two decades, working in theater, motion pictures, print, runway, and beyond. "*Blithe Spirit* may be the first play I'm involved in, but it won't be my last."

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR Pam Powers

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS Jeanne Gewalt, Dezarae Leto

STAGE MANAGER Dezarae Leto

PROPERTIES Elecia Elmore

WARDROBE Jeanne Gewalt

HAIR AND MAKEUP Dezarae Leto

SET DESIGN Dezarae Leto, Allen Wood III,
Cyndi Long, Pam Powers

SET CONSTRUCTION Allen Wood III, Mo Powers, Cyndi Long

LIGHTING AND SOUND Glen Nail, Seth Wheatley

SPECIAL EFFECTS Allen Wood, Dezarae Leto

STAGEHAND AND PROMPTERS Polly Waring, Amy Williams

PROGRAMS Alicia Dallas

PHOTOGRAPHY Hank Lamb

HOSPITALITY Elizabeth Johnson

TICKETING Kathryn Dyksterhouse, Amber Joiner

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to all the people and organizations who went above and beyond to make this production so special!

Iankel Santos and Cielo Mazantini, MVSU students

Dr. Edward Morse, MVSU professor

Daniel Splaingard, MVSU professor

Mrs. Kourtney Bush, Principal, Davis Elementary

Greenwood-Leflore Consolidated School District

Key Club Members: Wells Wilson, Lawson Harvey, Dharamvir Padhiar, Dhruv Patel, and Andrew Brock

Bill Clay, Greenwood Mentoring Center

Candy Carver, Traditions

Randy Harper, H&H GameCalls

Ashley's Rug World

Magnolia Home Center

Hank Lamb, Lamb's Photography

Johnny Jennings Videography

Katherine Parker, The Greenwood Commonwealth

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We work hard at creating a theatrical experience that will be inspirational and educational, and have a positive influence on and within the community. Greenwood Little Theatre is an important part of the Arts and Cultural experience that makes local communities better places in which to live, work and raise families.

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Our mission is to entertain and enrich the lives of the residents of our community and surrounding areas, providing a venue through which those who have an interest in theater can, through participation in productions, find an outlet for their creative talents and spirit.

*Greenwood Little Theatre is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.
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Greenwood Little Theatre, since 1956

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