

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

BY MOSS HART AND GEORGE S. KAUFMAN



CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

DeVries Theatre

March 25-27, April 8-10

FROM THE DRAMATURG

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

In December of 1936, *You Can't Take It With You* opened on Broadway for the first time. It has since enjoyed several revivals. Written by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, the escapist style of this play touched the hearts of people and gave them something to laugh about at a time when they needed it the most.

The American people needed comic relief from their everyday lives because the United States was in the midst of the Great Depression. Beginning with the stock market crash in October of 1929 and lasting until 1939, the Depression caused devastating financial losses in America. Many banks collapsed, and by 1933 more than 11,000 of the United States' 25,000 banks had failed. This accelerated the downward spiral of unemployment, and by 1932 approximately one in four Americans were unemployed. Because of the nation-wide devastation of the Dust Bowl years — with widespread crop failures due to poor farming methods combined with an unusually long drought — many people were struggling with how to survive and feed their families.

Comedy was very popular during this time because audiences for both live theatre and movies needed an escape from the pain and troubles of their personal lives and their worries about the nation as World War II approached. President Franklin Roosevelt said, “During the Depression, when the spirit of the people is lower than at any other time, it is a splendid thing that for just 15 cents an American can go to a movie and look at the smiling face of a baby and forget his troubles.”

In spite of the struggles of life during this time, the Sycamore family has learned how to truly enjoy life and enjoy their family. Even though tough circumstances surround them, they function in such a way that it is apparent that they truly love life and won't allow outside circumstances to bring them down.

— Alyssa Denen, Dramaturg

PLAY ON WORDS, a study and discussion reference resource, has been prepared by the production dramaturg and is available without charge at the concessions booth in the theatre lobby. Funding for PLAY ON WORDS is provided by Alpha Psi Omega, the Cedarville University chapter of the national honorary theatre society. These extensively researched guides are provided in order to increase understanding of each play Cedarville University presents for all who share our passion for theatre.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL PAGERS, CELL PHONES, AND WRISTWATCH ALARMS. AS A COURTESY TO THE ACTORS AND THOSE AROUND YOU, DO NOT TEXT OR INSTANT MESSAGE DURING THE PERFORMANCE.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director

Mischelle L. McIntosh*

Scenic Designer

Donald N.C. Jones*

Costume Designer

Donald N.C. Jones*

Student Designers (Costumes)

Amanda Lyn Wheeler*

Carolyn Ruck*

Lighting Designer

Rebekah Harris*♠

Robert L. Clements*

Stage Manager

Amanda Lyn Wheeler*

Assistant Stage Manager

Emily Bush*

Production Manager

Timothy Phipps*

Student Designers (Properties)

Emily Bush*

Rachel Charlee Hoffman*

Denise Yvette Serna*

SETTING

TIME: 1936

PLACE: The home of Martin Vanderhof, New York.

ACT I

A Wednesday evening. (Several hours pass between Scenes 1 and 2.)

Fifteen-minute intermission

ACT II

A week later.

ACT III

The next day.

* Member of Alpha Psi Omega, Cedarville's chapter of the national honorary theatre society

♠ Senior Theatre Project advised by Robert L. Clements and Donald N.C. Jones

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director

Donald N.C. Jones*

Assistant Technical Director

Timothy Phipps*

Set Construction/ Decoration

Nathanael Buckner

Justin Garner

Rebekah Harris*

Justin Hobbs*

Amelia Lyons

Bryan Martinez

Gabriel Pyle

Denise Yvette Serna*

Derek Stockwell

Master Electrician

Rebekah Harris*

Light Board Operators

Jazmine Cook*

Charles Crickard

Electricians

Stefanie Betori

Sarah Burch

Carolyn Ruck*

Charles Crickard

Isaiah Britton

Josiah Hutchings

James Lane

Maria Salas

Matthew Glenn

Karin Schweibold

Josiah Smith

Running Crew**Wardrobe Managers**

David Dion

Bethany Ohlin

Costume Supervisor

Kristin Troyer

Costume Crew

Jeanetta Baumer

Maria Salas

Properties Supervisor

Benjamin VanDine

Properties Crew

Jeffrey Kee

Production Assistant

Eric P. Bates

Audio Supervisor

David Swick, III

Audio Technicians

David Swick III

Make-up/Hair Supervisor

Benjamin Isaac*

Stephanie Anderson

Make-up/Hair Crew

Rachel Scherner*

Joy McBride*

Kelly Gollihue

Elizabeth Patterson

Karin Schweibold

Nathanael Biggs

House Manager**Administrative Assistant**

Deb Bissett

Dramaturgy Coordinator

Diane Conrad

Merchant†

Dramaturg

Alyssa Denen*

*† Member of the Society
of Stage Directors and
Choreographers*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Deborah Bissett

Admissions

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CAST

(In order of appearance)

Penelope Sycamore

Jessica Kay Brazalovich

Essie

Hannah Fletcher

Rheba

Grace Pilet

Paul Sycamore

Callan Yeates

Mr. De Pinna

Matthew Glenn

Ed

Derek Stockwell

Donald

Andrew John Vitaliti

Martin Vanderhof

Jordan Link

Alice

Carolyn Ruck*

Henderson

Allister Littrell

Tony

Josiah Hutchings

Boris Kolenkhov

Josiah Smith

Gay Wellington

Rachel Charlee Hoffman*

Mr. Kirby

Alexander James Mol

Mrs. Kirby

Jessica Diane Hickling*

Olga

Melanie Grace Morton

The Man

Marty Jellison

Jim

James Lane

Mac

Jason R. Lentz*

AMANDA LYN WHEELER* (STAGE MANAGER) is a junior studying theatre design. She appreciates the opportunities she has had to work both on and off stage this year in senior theatre projects and main stage productions. She wishes to use God's gifts in an urban setting in the future.

EMILY BUSH* (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is a junior studying comprehensive theatre. She has had the opportunity to play many colorful characters at Cedarville such as Mrs. Savage, The Dormouse, Mrs. Pearce, and Aunt Ola. She sees every day as an opportunity to worship and glorify the Lord through art and looks forward to utilizing the gifts God has given her as she pursues a teaching career.

JESSICA KAY BRAZALOVICH (PENELOPE SYCAMORE) is a senior, majoring in technical and professional communication and minoring in theatre and creative writing. Along with *You Can't Take It With You*, she has appeared in Cedarville's main stage production *An Ideal Husband*. Jessica enjoys eating cheese, traveling, bursting into song, doing mad libs, and spending time with her family.

HANNAH FLETCHER (ESSIE) is a senior theatre performance major who would like to thank her close friends and family for supporting her through many years of hearing her say, "I can't. There's a play going on."

GRACE PILET (RHEBA) is a freshman intercultural communications major. She most recently appeared as Sybil in the NeXtstage production of *The Cover of Life*. She is excited to be making her DeVries Theatre debut in such a wonderful show. Grace would like to thank all of her new friends here at Cedarville for giving her so much support.

CALLAN YEATES (PAUL SYCAMORE) This is Callan's third Cedarville stage appearance, having previously performed as Colonel Pickering in *My Fair Lady* and most recently as both Dogberry and Friar Francis in *Much Ado About Nothing*. He is incredibly grateful for all of the opportunities he has been given to perform at Cedarville, and his dream is to enter the entertainment arts as both a performer and designer.

MATTHEW GLENN (MR. DE PINNA) is a junior music and theatre performance major. He has been involved in theatre all his life, most recently as Leonato in Cedarville's main stage production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. He hopes to one day glorify God in a public, secular theatre environment.

DEREK STOCKWELL (ED) "I am but the brush to God's Salvador Dali."

ANDREW JOHN VITALITI (DONALD) is a senior, double-majoring in biology and international social science. He is excited to be appearing in his second main stage production at Cedarville. He would like to thank His Savior for restoring him to abundant life and his parents for loving and supporting him in his endeavors.

JORDAN LINK (MARTIN VANDERHOF) is a senior electronic media major. He hopes to go into music recording.

CAROLYN RUCK* (ALICE) is thrilled to be part of this cast of fun and wonderful people. She would like to thank her family for their love, support, encouragement, and patience, without which she would not be here today. She is a junior theatre performance and design major.

ALLISTER LITRELL (HENDERSON) is a business marketing and finance major. He was an actor in the latest Cedarville production, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and is involved in a senior theatre project. He hopes to keep acting in Cedarville productions. He thanks his family for their wonderful support and his parents' encouragement to pursue his career desires.

JOSIAH HUTCHINGS (TONY) is a freshman theatre performance major. This is his second show at Cedarville, and he is extremely excited about being involved in another show here. He thanks God for the gifts he has been given and would like to dedicate this show to his little sister Mary.

JOSIAH SMITH (BORIS KOLENKHOV) is a performance and design theatre major. He has also performed in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Cedarville as Don John. Josiah would like to thank his brothers in Brock 1 East for reminding him every day that there is always something or someone to laugh at. Josiah would also like to thank his family for teaching him the many versatile characteristics of human emotion.

RACHEL CHARLEE HOFFMAN* (GAY WELLINGTON) is a Junior comprehensive theatre major from Washington, D.C. This is her fifth role at Cedarville and her second on the main stage. She would love to thank the amazing cast for making the production so fun to be a part of!

ALEXANDER JAMES MOL* (MR. KIRBY) is a senior chemistry education major who has had a great few years jumping into the theatre world from the realm of science. He has made so many friends in the theatre department and would like to thank them for supporting him in all his theatrical endeavors. He also thanks his parents and siblings who have made the trips down to support him and encouraged him inside and outside the world of theatre.

JESSICA DIANE HICKLING* (MRS. KIRBY) is a junior theatre design and performance major. She has enjoyed the opportunities to be involved in several Cedarville shows; her favorite roles include Henka in *Crossing Delancey*, Mrs. Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*. "I am fascinated by the power of the stage and am excited to see God display His glory in this fantastic realm of influence."

MELANIE GRACE MORTON (OLGA) is a freshman performance and design major. Although she did many plays in high school, *You Can't Take It With You* is her Cedarville main stage debut. Since being at Cedarville, she has worked on *The Miracle Worker* and *Much Ado About Nothing* on the costume crew. She'd like to thank her roommate, Brittany Long, for always being there to read through scripts and study lines with her; and to her best Russian pal, Sarah Burch, she'd like to say, "Das ees gut, ja?"

MARTY JELLISON (THE MAN) is a freshman music education major with a focus on percussion. This is his first debut on the Cedarville stage. He wants to thank his parents, family, and friends for always supporting him.

JAMES LANE (JIM) is a freshman theatre major and counts it an honor to once again appear on the Cedarville stage after last being seen in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Conrade). Previous acting credits include *Les Miserables* (Joly), *Once on This Island* (Papa Ge), *Cats* (Skimbleshanks) and *Seussical* (Wickersham). James would like to thank the cast and crew of *You Can't Take It With You* and dedicates his performance to his amazing lady, Alex.

JASON R. LENTZ* (MAC) is a senior electrical engineering major. He has been involved behind the scenes in many productions at Cedarville. Jason hopes to use his gifts to glorify God and solve problems that will help people see Christ.

UPCOMING FALL PRODUCTION

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

September 30–October 2, 7–9, 2010



The Kennedy Center

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2011.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Home to 3,000 students, Cedarville is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist university of arts, sciences, professional, and graduate programs located on a beautiful 400-acre campus in southwest Ohio.

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