

Market House Theatre

## April 2011 Off Stage Noises

*We don't just entertain... We change lives!*

Market House Theatre is pleased to offer as its April production ***The Dixie Swim Club***, a comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten. This touching comedy centers around five Southern women who became friends on their college swim team. The group sets aside a long weekend every August to recharge their relationships. Free from husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other's lives. The play begins 22 years after they graduate from college. *The Dixie Swim Club* focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of thirty-three years. As their lives unfold and the years pass, these women increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges (men, sex, marriage, parenting, divorce and aging) that life flings at them. And when fate throws a wrench into one of their lives, these friends, proving the enduring power of "teamwork," rally around their own with the strength and love that takes this comedy in a poignant and surprising direction. It is really a study in friendship and how it grows and changes through the years.

Join the team: Sheree (**Cat Tilker** – Paducah Rigging), the team captain, as she tries desperately to maintain her organized and "perfect" life and continue to be the group leader. Dinah (**Victoria Parrish** – Chip Wynn Motors), is a wise-cracking overachiever whose victories in the courtroom are a contrast to the frustrations of her personal life. Lexie (**Sandra Wilson** – NewPage) is

pampered and outspoken, determined to hold on to her looks and youth as long as possible. She enjoys being married over and over and over

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From Left to Right: Cat Tilker, Marsha Cash, Sandra Wilson, Sue Fletcher, and Victoria Parrish

### ***The Dixie Swim Club***

**April 21-24 and 28-May 1, 2011**

again. Vernadette (**Sue Fletcher** – St. Mary Middle School) is the happiest, an easy-going woman with a deadbeat husband, delinquent children and a truck bumper held on with duct tape. The final member is the sweet, eager-to-please Jeri (**Marsha Cash** – Market House Theatre) who experiences a late entry into motherhood that takes them all by surprise.

There are laughs to be enjoyed throughout the play, including Vernadette's diatribe in defense of Southern cooking: "Put on your fat pants and embrace your heritage." Vernadette also can be heard to say: "I never knew what happiness was until I got married. By then, it was too late."

Directing this production of *The Dixie Swim Club* is **Lisa Humphrey**. Assisting as Stage Manager and Assistant Director is **Kris Shanks** (Blythe White & Associates).

*(Continued on back page)*

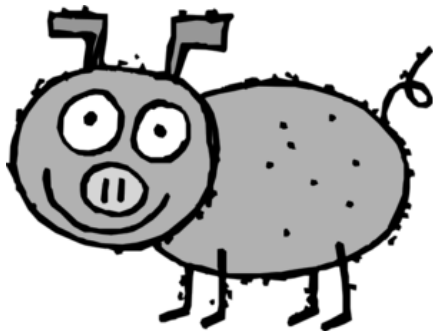
# EAT

(It's NOT ABOUT FOOD)

*"This is not a show about eating disorders. This is the story of American, and more recently international, obsession with food, appearance, and body image ... This show is a wake-up call [that] will motivate individuals to do things differently in their own lives." Susan Sugeran, M.D, Dallas, Texas*

**May 13-15, 2011** in the **Studio Theatre** MHT is proud to present **EAT (It's Not About Food)** written by Linda Daugherty (*the same playwright who penned last season's acclaimed SECRET LIFE OF GIRLS*). **EAT** illuminates the dangerous and baffling world of eating disorders in girls and boys. Using interwoven vignettes ranging from **realistic to satirical to humorous**, EAT candidly explores causes and warning signs, takes a hard look at the influences of society and the media, and tells individual stories of young people struggling with this epidemic and too often tragic problem.

The EAT ensemble cast of teens and adults includes **Sarah Byassee, Chandler Smith, Madison Whelan, Maria Miller, Caitlyn Gallip, Kathy Eckelkamp, Thom Clark, Marsha Cash, Judd Cavitt, Cason Walden, Jamie Hagood, Shelbe Overby, Sydney Skees, Natalie Shadrick, Katelin Burchett, Will Clark, and Betty Wise.** **April Cochran** directs the production and the assistant/understudy is **Tristen Miller.** EAT is sponsored by **Renie and Don Barger** and **Wellsprings Dermatology.** The Youth Season is sponsored by the **Law Firm of Kitchen and Thornton-Green.** Show times for EAT are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2:30. Tickets are \$10 and can be obtained by phoning MHT. Teens, tweens and adults will not want to miss this show!

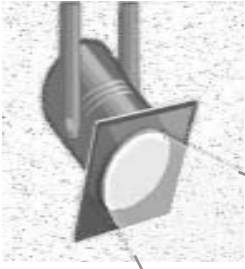


## Story Theatre Troupe The Three Little Pigs Tour

MHT's Story Theatre troupe hits the road on April 13 with the audience participation musical comedy THE THREE LITTLE PIGS!

The Three Little Pigs (scatterbrained Hazel, vain valley pig Mahogany, and sensible Madge) decide it's time they left home. After meeting up with a rather odd Merchant, they build their houses out of the infamous materials and meet up with the hungry wolf. There's more here than what meets the eye, however...this Wolf is a vegetarian! He does, however, have a bad temper - and one by one he blows their houses down, with a little help from the audience! All's well that ends well - and with a dash of common sense and a liberal dose of forgiveness - everyone learns you "gotta be a friend to have a friend."

Company members Kim Yocum, Julie Price, and April and Michael Cochran will tour THE THREE LITTLE PIGS to elementary and preschools in Western Kentucky, Southern Illinois, Southwestern Missouri, and Northwestern Tennessee. The theatre transports the cast, scenery, costumes, and sound equipment in the theatre's 12-passenger van which was donated 2 years ago by the Kentucky Colonels. Performing in front of over 10,000 youth in school gymnasiums, libraries, and church sanctuaries, the Story Theatre troupe will keep a busy schedule for the next two months. For information on how to book your school - contact the MHT box office at (270) 444-6828! **The STORY THEATRE school outreach program is sponsored by the generosity of WPSD Local 6 and Ronald McDonald House Charities.**



# Spotlight on...

## Theatre in Schools

MHT's Education Director April Cochran is one busy lady, but her shirt tails positively fly out behind her in the spring of each year. From January through March, she directs a baker's dozen of plays (yes, as in 13), many of which rehearse concurrently. Market House devotees probably know about *The Hundred Dresses* in February, *EAT* auditions and rehearsals, the three Footlights performance trimester plays in March, and the spring Story Theatre troupe, but many may not know about a huge component of her job that affects hundreds of children each year: **MHT's Theatre in Schools** program.

In addition to teaching the elements of drama through interactive theatre games in individual classrooms, April works with schools to put on full plays, most of which cover core content. No yawning allowed—these plays are fun! With names like *Hatshepsut – Queen of Denial* and *The Case of the Missing Paragraph*, the plays teach history, grammar, and even science like no text ever could, making it entertaining as well as informative. Punny jokes abound.

“April gives our students the opportunity to experience a well-directed and well-scripted play,” says Dana Donner of Ballard Elementary. “She gives the kids a look into how real acting can be both fun and rewarding, and may even get some of the children started in a more serious direction at the Market House plays.”

April schedules 10-12 rehearsals for each play, which is then performed for parents, community members, teachers, and other students in the school. Students who are not in the play will often study the script and songs so they can learn the content as well.



Paducah's Clark Elementary School production of *Cinderella* with sets, costumes by MHT, and direction and choreography by April Cochran.

This year, Ballard, Clark, Concord, Lone Oak, and McNabb elementary schools have used April for in-school plays, as well as the Paducah Middle and McCracken County GTC Drama programs. Clark Elementary just finished Disney's *Cinderella Kids* after school for its annual musical.

“April Cochran's knowledge and skill is an invaluable resource for Clark students,” comments music teacher Dale Julian. “She not only helps kids to be creative and expressive in the area of dramatic theater, but she shows them how to perform with confidence and be aware of how they fit in to the presentation as a whole at all times. Her expertise and enthusiasm allows Clark to put on productions that would be hard to rival on any stage.”

Schools fund the classroom workshops and plays in a variety of ways. One uses an activity fund, another the teachers' budget, and others use GTC funding, PTO contributions, parent donations, and/or fundraisers. International Specialty Products provides corporate sponsorship for the overall program, which helps schools with their core content arts and humanities curriculum. Although the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System has been dismantled and arts and humanities are no longer tested directly, schools must still meet benchmarks and show documentation of how they are implementing arts instruction in music, drama, and visual arts. Parents and teachers alike see the value in the in-school theatre training.



**MARKET HOUSE THEATRE**  
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*Dixie Swim Club (continued)*




The play runs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday nights and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoons **April 21-24** and continues **April 28-May 1**. *There will be a special Saturday matinee at 2:30 p.m. on April 30, with all tickets being \$15.* Regular ticket prices are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students 21 and under. Contact the Market House Theatre box office at 444-6828 or go online to [www.mhtplay.com](http://www.mhtplay.com) to order tickets.

*Annual Campaign*

Market House Theatre greatly appreciates our loyal supporters who faithfully make their donation in the spring of the year, and we always welcome new supporters! Checks may be mailed to:

Market House Theatre  
 132 Market House Square  
 Paducah KY 42001

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Market House Theatre depends on the support of individuals who believe that community theatre enriches the lives of participants and audiences alike.

The Kentucky Arts Council, a state agency, provides operational support funding for Market House Theatre with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.	
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