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#### A Message from the Artistic Director

Happy Holidays from the Main Street family to your family!

Thank you for making this a terrific year for the theatre. Because of you Main Street Players has become a cornerstone of the revitalization of our historic downtown. As we continue to celebrate our 15th Season, we applaud you for your support and dedication to making Main Street a destination for our city. Over the past years the theatre has attracted between 30 and 40,000 people to the downtown area. This helps generate dollars not only for the theatre but also for surrounding businesses and restaurants. Main Street is committed to promoting downtown and helping to boost our economy by spending our dollars locally. We are proud of our community and proud to have a part in enhancing the quality of life through the arts.

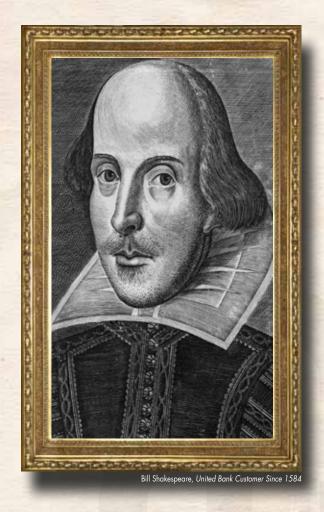
We look now to a new year filled with endless possibilities. We are excited about our upcoming shows and new endeavors planned for 2016. You will be hearing more about these in the coming weeks.

Now sit back and get ready to have fun when the Sanders Family returns to Mount Pleasant for a downhome Christmas Celebration.

Enjoy,

Moun Richardon





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# Sanders Family Christmas

#### December 3 - 13, 2015

Written by Connie Ray

Conceived by Alan Bailey

Musical Arrangements by John Foley and Gary Fagin

Director	Billy Bishop
Set Design	BJ Hughes
Costume Design Billy Bishop	and Kelsey Tinsman
Set Construction	B.J. Hughes
	Karen Stanford
	Riley Barton
	Jayne Mouchet
	Janice Aiken
	Ray Crossnine
	<b>Emory Schroeter</b>
	Billy Bishop
	Bryson Holloway
Lighting Design/Technician	Curtis Brown
	Jenna Snidemiller
Publicity	Clark Douglas



#### **SETTING**

The play takes place at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, North Carolina, located just west of Hickory near the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is Wednesday night, December 24, 1941, eighteen days after Pearl Harbor and FDR's declaration of war.

"Sanders Family Christmas" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.



# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year





#### Act I

#### 15-minute intermission

#### Act II

Mervin Oglethorpe (Pastor)	Bryson Holloway
Burl Sanders (Father)	Billy Bishop
Vera Sanders (Mother)	Georgia Olson
Stanley Sanders (Uncle)	Brian Olson
Dennis Sanders (twin brother of Denise)	Jamie Hall
Denise Sanders (twin sister of Dennis)	Kelsey Tinsman
June Sanders (Sister)	Catherine Holloway
Betty Jean Edmunds (Church Pianist)	Kelsey Bishop
Rufus Pendergrass (Church Deacon)	Bobby Hall

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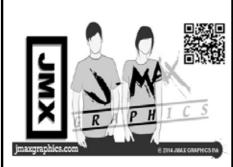








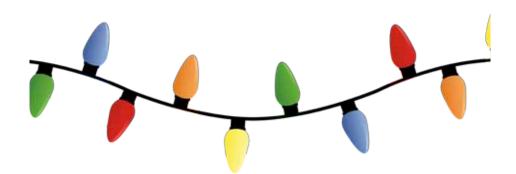








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In an effort to keep our theater looking its best, we ask that you please refrain from bringing anything other than bottled water into the auditorium.

#### -Special Thanks-

Brad Fowler and Camelot Theatre, Griffin Ballet Theatre, *The Griffin Daily News*, Betsy Harris, Blackshear Photography, Gloria Stahr, Barb Panick, Taylor Beall, Neil & Marian Sorensen, Margaret Clemonds, Joy Gaddy, Nancy Beall, Brian & Carlee Love, Nan Carley, Clark Douglas, Spencer O'Brien, Monica & Clay Jacobs, Janelle Taylor, Ray Crossnine, Karen Standford, Margaret Clemons, Janice Aiken, Jayne Mouchet, Riley Barton, James Stroud, Louisa Melton, Nick Clark, WHIE, and WKEU. So many wonderful people who have given so much to make this happen. Bless you all!



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#### The Players



**BILLY BISHOP** (Burl Sanders/Director) draws on extensive operatic and theatrical experience as well as vocal training from Mercer University. Billy completed a Master of Music degree in Church Music at Mercer's Townsend School of Music in 2012, where he also received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 2009. As an actor, Billy performs frequently with Macon

Little Theatre and has portrayed the roles of Amos in Kander and Ebb's Chicago, Ernie Cusak in Neil Simon's Rumors, Warnock Waldgrave in Larry Shue's The Nerd, William Gillette in Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot, and most recently the Ghost of John Barrymore in Paul Rudnick's I Hate Hamlet. Other stage credits include Ben Hecht in Hutchinson's Moonlight and Magnolias, Leonato in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing, John Dickinson in Edwards' 1776, Isidor Straus in Yeston's Titanic: a New Musical and Uncle Max in Rodgers and Hammerstein's The Sound of Music. As a director, Billy has previously led productions of Sanders Family Christmas and Amadeus. For the past two years, he has also served as director of Macon Has Talent, an annual benefit supporting Macon's cat rescue, Kitty City. Billy is a realtor with Properties Plus Realty, maintains a private voice studio in Macon, and currently serves as Director of Music at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.



**KELSEY BISHOP** (Betty Jean Edmunds) received her Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Mercer University in May of 2014, where she studied with Dr. Ian Altman. She was also a member of the university's touring choir, The Mercer Singers. In her final year she studied organ with Dr. Jack Mitchener to assist her in her position as organist at Mt. Zion

Baptist Church, where she has served since January of 2013. She most recently completed a program of study through Salem College in Injury-Preventative Piano Techniques with teacher Barbara Lister-Sink and is now preparing to begin her Master's degree. Her most recent projects include playing for Macon Little Theatre's production of *Spitfire Grill* and Gordon College's production of *Gift of the Magi*.



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**JAIME HALL** (Dennis Sanders) began acting at the age of six as Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*. After a long break, he began acting again upon entering high school. Jaime has been seen in fifteen shows in the past three years and has been nominated for the Georgia Governor's Honors program for acting. He is also a member of the Georgian Thespian

Conference Opening Number. He has most recently been seen as Sam Wheat in *Ghost the Musical* at Houston County High School, Josh in 9 to 5 at Theatre Macon, and as Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* at Macon Little Theatre.



BRYSON HOLLOWAY (Reverand Mervin Oglethorpe) recently appeared as Mr. Gilmer in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. He has been quite active with Main Street Players the past two seasons, having delighted audiences playing multiple characters in *The Dining Room*, Ludie Watts in *The Trip to Bountiful*, Thurston Wheelis and others

in *Greater Tuna*, and *In the Mood - A Class Act Cabaret* with his music group out of Macon. A 2009 graduate of Mercer University, Bryson is no newcomer to the stage, having performed in over 35 productions across central Georgia. Favorite roles include John Adams in *1776*, Thomas Andrews in *Titanic: a New Musical*, Bob Wallace in *White Christmas*, Brave Sir Robin in *Spamalot*, and Lord Evelyn Oakleigh in *Anything Goes* (Theatre Macon), along with Tom Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* (Macon Little Theatre). "Love to my beautiful wife, Catie. Thanks to this wonderful company!"



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY (June Sanders) is pleased to be a part of her first show at Main Street Players. Originally from Atlanta, she is currently the Music Director at Georgia Academy for the Blind in Macon. A graduate of Mercer University and Georgia College and State University, Catherine holds a bachelor and master's degree in Music

Education. Her past roles in Macon have included Shelby in *Steal Magnolias*, Virtue in *Anything Goes*, Aggie in *The Games Afoot!*, Lucy



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e-mail:rick@blackshear.com blackshearphotography.com the Slut, and Mrs. Thistletwat in *Avenue Q*, and Elaine in *Calendar Girls*. She was a member of the ensemble in *White Christmas*, *Cinderella* and *Spamalot!* 



BRIAN OLSON (Stanley Sanders) has been singing, dancing, playing music, and performing in the theatre scene in Middle Georgia for five years now. He has appeared in fifteen shows over those years since moving to Macon with his amazing wife, Georgia. When not moonlighting on stage, Brian teaches Spanish and ESOL classes at Peach

County High School. He would like to express his many thanks to Billy for the opportunity to spend time with some of his best friends.



GEORGIA OLSON (Vera Sanders) is originally from England, but has now been living in Georgia for 13 years. She has spent the last 8.5 years in Macon with her husband, Brian. She currently teaches chemistry at Mount de Sales and is very active in the local theatres. Her previous credits at Theatre Macon and Macon Little Theatre include

Swell Party (Libby Holman), Smokey Joe's Cafe, Wedding Singer (Linda), The Game's Afoot (Madge), Meet Me In St. Louis (Katie), Titanic (Caroline Neville), Rocky Horror Show (Magenta), Bedroom Farce (Jan), Much Ado About Nothing (Margaret), and Yankee Tavern (Janet). She was also seen in Faulty Towers (Polly) with the Perry Players.



KELSEY TINSMAN (Denise Sanders) is currently pursuing her Master's in Vocal Performance from the Townsend School of Music at Mercer University. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance from Wesleyan College. In the past year, she has been cast in the Mercer University

Opera productions *Alcina* (Oberto) and *A Muskrat Lullaby* (Bird). She can be seen in the upcoming Mercer production of *Oklahoma!* as Ado Annie. She would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this production possible!



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**BOBBY HALL** (Deacon Rufus Pendergrass) is a graduate of Mercer's Townsend School of Music. He is pleased to show off his country roots with his friends in this production of *Sanders Family Christmas*. He and his wife, Emily, teach private music lessons at Young America Music School in Macon. Merry Christmas!!!



**CURTIS BROWN** (Lighting Design/Technician) just appeared as Walter Cunningham and Nathan Radley in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. He is proud to be working still with Main Street Players since its 2nd season, with *To Kill a Mockingbird* back in 2002. He has performed and worked with Main Street in some capacity almost every season since. Curtis

has worked with professional theatres across the country. Some of his favorites roles have been Freddy in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Amos in *Chicago*, and the Thurston rotation in *The Tuna series*. Curtis is designing costumes and lights for this amazing production. He hopes that you will enjoy the show!



JENNA SNIDEMILLER (Lighting Technician) is taking a different role for this play. Usually in front of the audience, she has delighted us with her portrayals of Miss Maudie in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Chick Boyle in *Crimes of the Heart*, Thelma in *The Trip to Bountiful*, and multiple roles in *Dashing Through the Snow*. She is a recent UGA graduate

with a degree in both Theater and Art History. She has performed on the Gordon State College stage for the past eight years in productions such as The *Crucible, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling* Bee, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.* While taking a break before Graduate school Jenna has returned home to the stage and hopes to continue playing at the Main Street Theater.

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BJ HUGHES (Scenic Designer) is beginning his fifth season as resident scenic designer for Main Street Players. Favorite shows he designed include *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *A Trip to Bountiful*, *Titanic*, *the Musical*, and *Cotton Patch Gospel*. In addition, he has directed and designed *Crimes of the Heart*, *A Trip* 

to Bountiful, Deathtrap, Ten Little Indians, On Golden Pond, and The Little Foxes. BJ has also produced and designed over 100 productions for Alliance Theatre Education, as well as directed more than 80 of them. He has been a teaching artist there for 28 years and is currently the resident designer for Chattahoochee High School. As an actor, BJ toured America for three years in classical productions of Shakespeare and Molière before settling in Atlanta where he has performed at the Theatrical Outfit, Horizon Theater, Theatre in the Square, and at the Alliance Theatre.



NORMA RICHARDSON (Artistic Director) marks her 15th season with Main Street Players. Her theatre experience includes acting, directing, writing and production management. She has been involved with theatre for most of her life and has appeared on a number of Atlanta stages among others. With Main Street, her credits include *To Kill A Mockingbird, Titanic: A New Musical*,

Tuesday's With Morrie, Every Christmas Story Ever Told (and Then Some), Mama Won't Fly, Our Town. On-stage productions include Driving Miss Daisy, The Little Foxes, The Guys, Steel Magnolias, Driving Miss Daisy, Grace & Glorie, and Same Time Next Year. Her career in television began with Turner Broadcasting/CNN. After leaving Turner, she was an Executive Vice President with Primerica and General Manager for their corporate television production department for over 20 years. She is a native of Griffin, Georgia, and is the Founding Artistic Director of Main Street Players.



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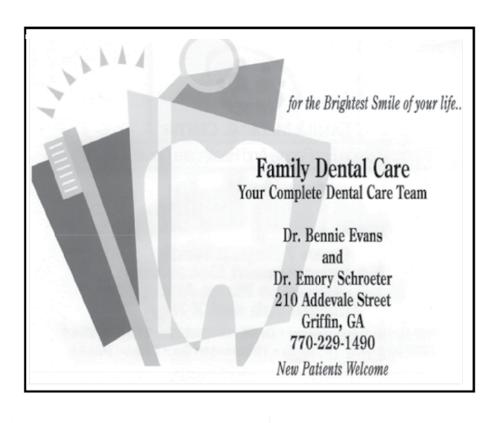
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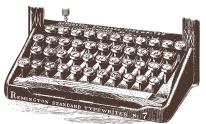
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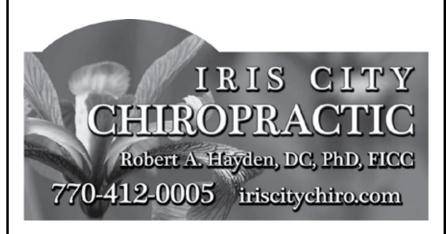
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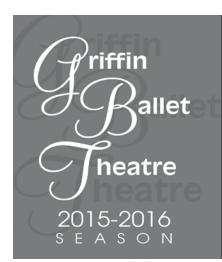
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