

SOUTH CITY THEATRE PRESENTS

NIGHT OF JANUARY 16th

Written by Ayn Rand

Directed by Donna Stinson Williamson

October 8 & 9, 2021 at 7:30

October 10, 2021 at 2:00

Shelby County Courthouse, 112 N. Main Street, Columbiana, AL

October 14, 15, 16, 2021 at 7:30

October 17, 2021 at 2:00

Pelham Municipal Courtroom, 32 Phillip Davis Street, Pelham, AL

Masks required for all attendees.

Tickets \$16 adults * \$13 students (under 18) and seniors (over 60)

**Purchase online at southcitytheatre.com
or reserve at (205) 621-2128**



Night of January 16th

Ayn Rand

Penguin Random House

Entire Play from NIGHT OF JANUARY SIXTEENTH: A PLAY BOOK by Ayn Rand, edited by Nathaniel Edward Reeid, copyright ©1933 and renewed 1960 by Ayn Rand. Used by permission of David McKay Company, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC.

Place: An Alabama Courtroom

Time: Present

Act 1

An Alabama Courtroom, first day of trial

Act 2

An Alabama Courtroom, second day of trial

There will be one 15 minute intermission

SCT Board of Directors

Artistic Director Donna Stinson Williamson
President Lisa Ponder
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Treasurer John Chain
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Members at Large

Dianne Rowe, Michael Wilbanks, Thomas Robinson,
Emily Hoppe, Daniel Strickland, Trey Woodrow,
Steven Ross, Mike Gerrells, and Sue Ellen Gerrells

CREW

DirectorDonna Stinson Williamson
Stage Manager Michelle Vercher
Poster/Program DesignerDelaine Derry Green

CAST

Judge Heath.....Lara Alvis
Bailiff Michelle Vercher
District Attorney Flint.....Rhett Barnett
Defense Attorney Stevens Bill Nixon
Karen Andre Tara Bennett
Dr. Tammy Kirkland Meredith Carpenter
John Hutchins..... Tyler Costley
Homer Van Fleet..... Thomas Robinson
Alma Sweeney..... Madelyn Harbison
Magda Svenson.....Sharon Morgan
Nancy Lee Faulkner..... Katie Hamff
John Graham Whitfield..... Jon Curren
Jane Chandler.....Donna Williamson
Sigrid Jungquist.....Leslie Price
Larry "Guts" Regan..... Michael Wilbanks

Special Thanks

Judge Lara Alvis for her invaluable assistance explaining what “real” courtroom procedure should be. The Shelby County Bar Association for their sponsorship. The Shelby County Courthouse in Columbiana and the City of Pelham for granting us the privilege of using their facilities for this production. Trey Woodrow for getting this ball rolling. Lisa Ponder for always having my back!

DIRECTOR’S NOTES

This has been a long time coming! I was approached by Trey Woodrow in late 2019 about the production, sponsored by the Shelby County Bar Association, to be performed for students in late April/early May 2020. This was also to be on SCT’s regular schedule for the fall. I had this show cast and we were ready to proceed with rehearsals in early March 2020. COVID happened. Many of these cast members have stuck with me since March 2020. We all believed that we would be able to get this play to production. FINALLY, 18 months later, our dream has become a reality.

Ayn Rand stated that the idea for this play came to her on the death of Ivar Kreuger, the Swedish “Match King,” on March 12, 1932. On that date, he committed suicide and his vast financial empire collapsed, revealing that his entire fortune had been based on fraudulent practices. The play does not directly portray the events leading to Faulkner’s death; instead the jury must rely on character testimony to decide whether Andre is guilty. The play’s ending depends on the verdict. Was he a god-like hero? An elemental force of nature? All the witnesses are “character” witnesses and it’s up to the jury to determine the guilt or innocence of Karen Andre.

Please enjoy this play, set in these unique locations. You’ll see something a little different from South City’s usual productions: there will be no music or special lighting. Set in a courtroom, the production relies only on the integrity of the setting. Enjoy!

BIOS

Lara M. Alvis (Judge Wilma Heath) is a Circuit Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit located in Shelby County, Alabama. Additionally, she is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alabama School of Law teaching Moot Court. Judge Alvis has two children, Maggie and Barrett, and resides in Pelham, Alabama. This is her first time to perform in the theatre and she appreciates all the kindness and support from South City Theatre and this cast!

Rhett Barnett (District Attorney Flint) is honored to be part of his third production for South City Theater, having previously played Lloyd Andrews in *Rehearsal for Murder* in 2017, and Duane Wilson in *Harvey* in 2019. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1997 and married in 2005. Rhett resides with his wife, Amarilys, and their daughters, Catalina and Nova, aged 14 and 6, respectively, in Pelham. He doesn't care for the outdoors and hasn't spent any significant time outside since the late 90s. Knows he eats too many chili dogs but has no plans to stop at this time.

Dr. Tara Bennett (Karen Andre) has appeared in many film, television, and theatre productions. You may have seen her most recently at South City Theatre in *The Murder Room* and *Almost, Maine*. Tara's favorite roles draw on playing the quirky blonde! She also enjoys challenging dramatic roles as played in *The Miracle Worker*, *Dark of the Moon*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Tara earned a bachelor's degree in Special Education, a master's degree in School Counseling, and a Doctorate in School Psychology. She is also an accomplished flutist and hopes to tour Europe this

summer with Twickenham Winds, a long overdue tour that was cancelled due to the pandemic. Her boyfriend noted, “Tara is not guilty . . . if she were inclined to violence, I’d be dead! Just saying . . .”

Meredith Woods Carpenter (Dr. Tammy Kirkland) has appeared in commercials for Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama, interviewed both for in-print and video for 25 for 25 with the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama; background for upcoming Christmas movie on BET titled *Christmas Deja Vu*; background for film *Romance in Bloom*; played the role of supervisor in an Employee Safety Video for Honeywell; and member of the Birmingham cast of *The Dinner Detective* (an interactive dinner show).

Tyler Costley (John Hutchins) is happy to be on stage again. His latest role was as Mr. O’Hanlon in *Yes, Virginia There is a Santa Claus*.

Jon Curren (John Graham Whitfield) has appeared in multiple church productions. He last appeared in South City’s production of *Yes, Virginia There is a Santa Claus* as Goss/George/Tom Pryor/ Officer Akins. Jon is glad to be back at South City and looking forward to what the future holds.

Katie Hamff (Nancy Lee Faulkner) is excited to be returning to the stage after such a long 2020! Her favorite role has been the part of Mette in *The Ice Front* at Birmingham Festival Theatre. Katie enjoys cooking and cuddling with her new kitten, Felix. Her favorite thing about South City Theatre has been experiencing a new role with wonderful

cast mates. Special thanks to Maria, Ed, and Felix.

Madelyn Harbison (Detective Alma Sweeney) is very excited to be in her first role as a detective in a show. This is truly a great cast and director. Some of her recent roles are Twink Fontrelle in *Dashing Through the Snow*, Granny Fanny Foote in *The Last Comedienne* and Marcy in *Almost, Maine* at South City and *Romeo and Juliet* at Bell Towers Players. This has been a great opportunity and experience. Thanks always to God, my family and friends.

Sharon B. Morgan (Magda Svenson) Testifying is fun to do when it is for South City Theatre. No objection that the cast and crew are one of a kind. Thank you to the fabulous director, Donna Williamson, for the opportunity to be a part of this fantastic cast. Both sides - the State and Defense - and Judge and Bailiff - are talented, dedicated, and fun to be around - that's the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. To the Gallery/Audience, continue to be guilty of supporting South City Theatre. This courtroom drama is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat.

Bill Nixon (Defense Attorney Stevens) is a Florida native, former baseball player at Georgia Tech and major league fast pitch softball player, and medicinal chemistry professor for 42 years. Favorite plays include *Baskerville*, *Wait Until Dark*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Mr. Roberts*, *A Man For All Seasons*, *Deathtrap*, *Angel Street*, *Spider's Web*, *Smoke and Mirrors*, *Harvey* and *Over The River And Through The Woods*. Special thanks to director Donna

Williamson for giving me the opportunity to work with her and others again, and to perform on stage for a fifth decade.

Leslie Price (Sigrid Jungquist) is elated to be returning to the stage after taking a year and a half off to help save the world. Leslie has been seen in *Everything in the Garden* (BFT), *Red Velvet Cake War* (TDT) and *Inspecting Carol* (Homewood Theatre) along with many productions with SCT including *Radio T.B.S.*, *The Odd Couple Female Version*, *Almost, Maine* and *Savannah Sipping Society*, just to name a few. Leslie is very thankful for all the continued love and support from her husband and kids.

Thomas Robinson (Private Detective Homer Van Fleet) is a relative newcomer to South City Theatre and the Birmingham theatre community. This is his third role at South City; appearing previously as Leif in *The Puzzle With The Piazza* and Edgar/Abel in *The Murder Room*. His most recent role was Morten in *The Ice Front* at Birmingham Festival Theatre. You can also catch him in season two of *The Cultists* on Vimeo. Tom would like to thank his son, Grant, and everyone who has encouraged him and given him the opportunity to act again.

Michelle Vercher (Bailiff) is excited to be back to acting at South City Theater in *Night of January 16th*. She is also serving as Stage Manager for the production. Her past South City shows include *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Mash*, *Harvey*, *The Odd Couple*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and the recent *Summer Shorts*. Past endeavors

include *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *Stage Door*, *Tiger*, and *Mariner*. She would like to thank her mother and daughter who have supported her desire to rejoin the theater world.

Michael Wilbanks (Lawrence "Guts" Regan) is ecstatic to be back on stage -- that we're all back on stage! -- and working again for the marvelous Donna Williamson! Michael has appeared in a few SCT shows such as *Mousetrap*, *Smoke on the Mountain*, and *Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus*. When he's not on stage or working the box office, Michael is teaching his eighth-grade gifted students at Thompson Middle School. Finally, he wants to thank his amazing and supportive wife, Amanda. Thank you, all, for coming to see us! Hope you enjoy the show!

Donna Stinson Williamson (Director and Jane Chandler) is thrilled to finally see this play come to the stage! Every cast is her favorite and it's no different with this one. Her favorite shows are murder mysteries, having acted or directed in 10 of them. Donna's favorite roles include Vernadette in *Sweet Delilah's (Dixie) Swim Club*, M'lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, The Purse Monologue in *Love, Loss and What I Wore* and Reba in *Last Night of Ballyhoo*. She would like to thank her fabulous cast for making this believable, everyone for coming out and supporting the show and Donald for always supporting her with theatrical projects. She would also like to apologize to her fur babies, Sylvester, Meow Meow, and Charlie, for being away from the sofa for so many nights.