



ED FLETCHER'S EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE

727-446-5898

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200 South McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759
www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com

Rich is Better Now Running at Early Bird

Cast from left to right:

**Mary Jordan,
Bill Henricks,
Barbara Anthony,
and
Laurent
Ciccarello**



Ed Fletcher's production of *Rich is Better* opened April 24th. This delightful comedy takes place in the 1950's. The author, Jack Sharkey, was one of the most prolific playwrights in the USA. In his lifetime, he published nearly 100 plays, including 15 musicals. *Rich is Better* was originally written for Kaye Ballard.

Nona, played by Barbara Anthony, is unaware that her husband Gino, played by Bill Henricks, actually owns the company for which she does telephone sales. During their

courtship, Gino posed as a laborer because he was afraid of being married for his money. He has yet to explain!

When Gino's secretary Pam, played by Mary Jordan, shows up with important papers he forgot to sign, Gino introduces her as a co-worker seeking advice on a romantic problem.

Generous Nona insists Pam bring her lover to dinner. Pam cons her podiatrist, played by Laurent Ciccarello, into coming on what he thinks is a house call. By the time the disastrous dinner party occurs, Nona's misguided gossip has caused a strike at Gino's company and she wonders why Gino won't join the picket lines. In the meantime, Gino inadvertently gives Nona the impression that Pam is his big romance.

Rich is Better is skillfully directed by Robin New, and runs until June 15th.

**Call 727-446-5898
To reserve your seats!**

Robin New is a Gifted Artistic Director



Robin New:
Artistic Director

Robin New, the Artistic Director at Early Bird Dinner Theatre, began acting when she was 15 years old. According to Robin, she was very shy and her mother signed her up for drama class. Theatre has been a major part of her life ever since.

Robin has been directing for about 25 years and has been at Early Bird since 1999 where she has directed over 35 shows for the theatre.

Robin's directing style is a refreshing experience for

actors. As an actor, Robin is able to channel her ideas and techniques through the cast members.

"An actor," says Robin, "has certain instincts and experiences that they try to bring forward, and I still learn from that." Since Robin is able to put herself in the actors' shoes, it makes the directing process a very pleasurable one for all.

Robin says "Having

been an actor in countless shows, directing is almost an out of body experience where I'm able to see the complete picture on stage, as an audience member, back stage, and the technical, light and sound arenas. All this helps me make decisions about what I believe an audience will enjoy." Robin's instincts are on target!

Robin also designs the sets, often helping to build them, and wields a mean staple gun!



Spotlight: The Actor's Corner: Toby Manion

If you've seen some of the zany and larger than life characters Toby Manion has played on stage, you'd never suspect what a sweet and humble guy he really is. In fact, we had to talk him into doing an interview for this article.

Toby has his Graduate Degree in Theatre from the University of Louisville – that's Loo-ah-ville, as he'll remind you.

When Toby was 13, his mother took him to see a comedy and that began his inspiration for acting.

His first play was "the Money's Paw" at Western Kentucky University. Toby still loves to make people laugh.

Toby moved from Kentucky to Florida in 1986 and started doing Community Theatre, film and commercial work. He worked for Mystery Dinner Theatre for 10 years, acting and directing productions.

In 2001, Toby began performing at Early Bird, as Elliott in "Private Lives."

Over the years, he has gifted many audiences and cast members with his excellent timing and exuberance for his craft.

When asked why Toby loves acting so much, he replied, "Because it allows me to be characters that I'd never be in real life,



and I love the camaraderie with the cast."

And what's his favorite play? According to Toby, it's always the one he's currently doing.

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**PHONE:
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Coming soon:

✓ More Actors'
Corner News
✓ Upcoming
Season

Don't forget to check out the new Season!

As you may know, *Rich is Better* will be our last show this Season. The theatre will be dark for the summer, but get ready, because we have some great shows coming up in the Fall!

Our Season opens with *Social Security*, the very first play ever done at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre and an all time audience favorite.

Next is *Over the River and Through the Woods*, another favorite.

In January, get ready for the hilarious *Bermuda Avenue Triangle*.

We're always happy to hear from you. Send us an email at
Newsletter@EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com

All of us at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre would like to offer a generous thank you to each of our patrons. Whether you've been visiting us for years or you are a newcomer to our theatre, your presence keeps dinner theatre alive and well in Clearwater, Florida.

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[HTTP://WWW.EARLYBIRDDINNERTHEATRE.COM](http://www.earlybirddinnertheatre.com)
