

# 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](http://www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com)

### *Bermuda Avenue Triangle is Outrageous Fun*

#### Special Interest:

- "Bermuda Avenue Triangle" Now Playing
- Musician Spotlight
- Actor Spotlight
- "Natalie Needs a Nightie" Rehearsals Underway
- 2009 Season Update

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Audiences are roaring with laughter at Ed Fletcher's production of "Bermuda Avenue Triangle."

This wildly funny story by Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna tells the story of two mothers and best friends – Tess La Ruffa, an Italian Catholic, and Fannie Saperstein, who is Jewish. Their daughters, Angela and Rita, have moved their mothers to a Las Vegas retirement community to share a condo.

After a welcome by the community Rabbi, Jeffrey Levine, who encourages the women to take an excursion to see the local sights, the two women meet Johnny Paolucci -- gambler and con man extraordinaire. The plot quickly thickens, as



Cast and Crew: (Seated) Jennifer Sloane, Marianne Meichenbaum, Toby Manion, MaryAnn Bardi, and Barbara Anthony. (Standing) Midge Mamatas, Joseph Johnson, and Robin New.

Johnny winds his way into the women's lives (and beds). Tess and Fannie's outlook on life is changed forever in this outrageous comedy that has delighted audiences everywhere.

Under the direction of Robin New, this talented cast is guaranteed to bring you loads of belly laughs.

"Bermuda Avenue Triangle" runs through February 22, 2009.

**For Reservations  
Call  
727-446-5898**



Mothers and daughters: MaryAnn Bardi, as Fannie, with Jennifer Sloane, as Rita. Barbara Anthony, as Angela, with Marianne Meichenbaum, as Tess.



Toby Manion, as Johnny Paolucci, and Joseph Johnson as Rabbi Jeffrey Levine.



Tess, Johnny and Fannie dance the tango for Rabbi Levine.

## Musicians Spotlight: Mark Atcher



*Mark Atcher  
on stage at the  
Early Bird Dinner Theatre*

Those of you who are regular patrons at the theatre are familiar with the wonderful pre show music of our resident musician, Mark Atcher, whose songs always set just the right mood. We thought you'd like to know about his interesting life.

Mark was born in Australia, the child of an Australian mother and an American father, who was serving with the Army Air Corp during World War Two. When the war was over, Mark's family moved back to the States and settled in Kentucky where Mark's father Randy Atcher resumed his career as a musician.

Mark was raised in a family of musicians. His grandfather, father, three uncles and two sisters had all played in the Atcher family band. When Mark's Uncle Bob had a recording contract with Columbia Records in 1939, he brought Mark's father Randy on board.

When Mark was a boy, his father had a daily children's live TV show with a cowboy theme called "T Bar V." Randy Atcher also had a weekly country music variety show called the "Hayloft Hoedown." These shows were broadcast for over twenty years, and Mark grew up surrounded by music. When he was eleven years old, he picked up one of his

father's old guitars and began to teach himself to play. This was in the very early years of Rock n' Roll, which Mark loved. Initially, Mark's father discouraged his pursuit of a music career, because the music world was not a stable one. However, in later years, Mark regularly played bass in his father's band.

While the music scene was good in the Louisville, Kentucky area, Mark headed off to college in Bowling Green. He joined the ROTC program and formed bands to play with throughout his college years. When the Beatles hit the scene around this time, the "Fab Four" enriched Mark's music.

After a stint in the Army, as an officer in Vietnam, Mark joined the Army Reserves and worked with them for the next twenty-eight years until he retired in 2005. In addition to his commitment with the Reserves, Mark also worked full time for them as a civilian Staff Operations and Training Specialist.

Mark continued his love of music and continued playing around Louisville. In 1994, the year before he moved to Florida, Mark played over two hundred music gigs in addition to his full time job and his additional work with the Army Reserves. Mark arrived in Florida in 1995

and began looking for opportunities to continue performing.

When Francis Wilson Playhouse was doing "Desert Song," Mark was cast as Captain Fontaine. When Mark met Sari Jensen at Francis Wilson, she was directing shows for the Early Bird Dinner Theatre. Sari was looking for a stage manager and Mark's wife, Kathie, fit the bill. But when one of the cast members had to leave the show, Mark filled in and took over the role. Mark enjoyed acting, but he was still thinking about his music. In 1997, he put together a demo for Ed Fletcher, thinking he might be able to play at the annual New Year's show. To his surprise, Ed asked him to play before all the shows, and Mark continues to enjoy these performances to this day.

Mark lives in Indian Rocks Beach with his wife Kathie. Between the two of them, they have three grown daughters: Vickie, Laurel and Genevieve; and two grandchildren, who all reside near one another in the Louisville area. Mark's wife Kathie teaches Senior English at Northeast High in St Pete, where Mark often does substitute teaching.

Mark has thoroughly enjoyed the past eleven years making music at the Early Bird, and looks forward to many more.

## Actors Spotlight: Jennifer Sloane

Jennifer Sloane grew up surrounded by an abundance of cultural arts in New York City. Her family had a great appreciation of the arts, and often took Jennifer to the theatre, museums and films. Her godmother, who was a vocal coach for Broadway stars such as Alfred Drake, was another strong influence.

When she was a child, Jennifer's mother took her to see Richard Burton in *Hamlet*. While watching Burton's performance from the front row, Jennifer realized that she had caught an incurable case of the theatre bug. "There's such a pure sense of communication in the theatre," says Sloane. "Whether one is in the audience or on stage, the sense of connectedness is mystical."

Jennifer's own first stage performance was in Nursery School at age three. It was also her first acting lesson – on what not to do! When her grandmother arrived late and walked down the aisle of the theatre, Jennifer broke character, threw out her arms and called her grandmother's name. With that lesson under her belt, Jennifer continued acting in High School and at summer camp in the Adirondack Mountains.

At nineteen, Jennifer left New York and headed up to Boston where she studied acting at the Actor's Workshop and took voice lessons with Dante Pavone, the acclaimed teacher of artists such as Aretha Franklin, James Taylor and Steven Tyler.

When Jennifer married and began raising her family, she left theatre behind her, but it never left her heart. She continued to perform where and when she could.

While working on her Bachelor's degree, as a single parent of three, at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, Jennifer edited books and articles for professors and wrote articles of her own for the local newspapers. After a move to Ohio in 1988, Jennifer worked for many years in the Social Justice arena helping to raise awareness about education, affordable housing, and adequate medical care.

Jennifer was also a group facilitator and led workshops and retreats on creativity and personal growth.

In 1994, Jennifer moved to Florida to be near her mother and grandmother. She continued writing and worked as both a prevention specialist and corporate trainer. While her love of acting was always present and often useful in her career, Jennifer longed to return to her first love – theatre. In 1998, she began studying acting again with a private coach. Jennifer says, "I had a terrific coach, but he ran a tight ship. It was like acting boot camp!"

After a year and a half of studies, Jennifer began landing roles in the Tampa Bay area and she felt like she had finally come back to her roots. In 2003, Jennifer discovered the Early Bird Dinner Theatre after auditioning for Robin New.



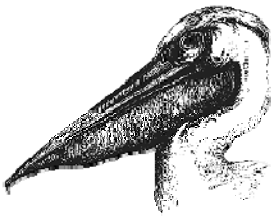
Jennifer Sloane

Her first show at Early Bird was *Return Engagements* where she played three different characters. Since then, she has appeared at the Early Bird on numerous occasions and has loved every role.

Jennifer has done commercial work up north and in Florida. In 2006, she began learning television production, and produced, wrote and hosted her own show on the Arts in Clearwater. She also produced several Public Service Announcements for local television.

In addition to acting, Jennifer continues writing. She has written two screenplays and is now focused on plays for the stage. She resides in Clearwater. Her adult daughters, Genevieve and Emily, live in Florida and her son, Adam, lives in Wisconsin. Jennifer is the proud grandmother of ten!

"I'll always be grateful to my mother for introducing me to theatre," says Jennifer, "And for teaching me the value of the Arts."



**Early Bird Dinner Theatre**  
200 South McMullen Booth  
Rd.  
Clearwater, FL 33759

Phone:  
(727) 446-5898

E-Mail:  
[Newsletter@EarlyBirdDinner  
Theatre.com](mailto:Newsletter@EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com)



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website often for  
upcoming news.

[Earlybirddinnertheatre.com](http://Earlybirddinnertheatre.com)

**Producer**  
**Ed Fletcher**

**Artistic Director**  
**Robin New**

## Rehearsals Underway for "Natalie Needs a Nightie"

Rehearsals are now underway for our next show, "Natalie Needs a Nightie" by Neil and Caroline Shaffner.

This zany comedy centers on Tommy Briggs, a young soft drink executive, who wants to impress his boss by inviting him for dinner to meet his wife and children. The problem is that Tommy isn't married and doesn't have any children.

Of course, all goes awry, from mistaken identities to too many wives and babies. Add a compulsive chambermaid, who snitches drinks and clothing items . . . and then, there's Natalie, a beautiful girl in search of her nightie.

Toby Manion is directing a terrific cast that includes: Barbara Anthony, Toby Manion, Rick Kistner, Ron Rotondo, Rhiannon Mooney, Gail Scott, and

Tom Tinorello. Artistic Director, Robin New, will be stage managing.

"Natalie Needs a Nightie" opens February 26, 2009 and runs through April 19, 2009.

**"Natalie Needs a  
Nightie"  
opens  
February 26, 2009.**

## Get Your Ducks in a Row for the 2009 Season

Early Bird Dinner Theatre has some great shows lined up for you this season.

Producer Ed is keeping the theatre open through most of the summer this year, so here's the new extended line up for 2009!

***Bermuda Ave Triangle*** (Now Running)  
**January 3 – February 22, 2009**

***Private Lives***  
**April 23 – June 14, 2009**

***Squabbles***  
**September 3 – October 25, 2009**

***Natalie Needs a Nightie***  
**February 26 – April 19, 2009**

***A Gentleman and a Scoundrel***  
**July 9 – August 23, 2009**

***Anybody for Murder***  
**November 5 – December 20, 2009**

## Patron Corner: Send Us Your Thoughts

As always, we'd love to hear from you.

If you'd like to tell us about some special memories you've had at the theatre or just tell us about one of your favorite shows, just send us an email at [newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com](mailto:newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com)

Your feedback is always welcome.

Have a favorite show or actor? Let us know. Would you like to share an experience you've had at Early Bird? Let us know and we're happy to spread the word in our next newsletter.

Hope to hear from you soon!