

# 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)

### ***NATALIE NEEDS A NIGHTIE is Hysterically Funny***

#### **Special Interest:**

- *Natalie Needs a Nightie* Now Playing
- Your Servers
- Actor Spotlight
- *Private Lives* Rehearsals Underway
- 2009 Season Update

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Audiences are thoroughly enjoying Ed Fletcher's current production of *Natalie Needs a Nightie*, written by Neil and Caroline Shaffner.

This fast-paced comedy is about a young soft drink executive named Tommy Briggs. Tommy desperately wants to impress his boss by inviting him for dinner to meet his wife and baby. The only problem is that Tommy isn't married and doesn't have any children!

All havoc ensues as Tommy tries to find a wife and child. Thrown into the mix are mistaken identities, too many wives and babies, a compulsive chambermaid, who snitches drinks and clothing -- and then



Cast: (Left to Right) Rick Kistner, Ron Rotondo, Toby Manion, Rhiannon Mooney, Gail Scott, Barbara Anthony and Ronald Farnham.

there's Natalie, a beautiful innocent girl in search of a nightie.

Under the direction of Toby Manion, the cast does a fantastic job of making all this absurdity seem believable . . . and hysterically funny! Come and see for yourself and

be prepared to laugh . . . a lot!

*Natalie Needs a Nightie* runs through April 19, 2009.

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



The Set for *Natalie Needs a Nightie*

## Service with a Smile: Mark Ogden and Cassie Galanopoulos



*Mark Ogden*

Those of you who are regular patrons at the theatre are familiar with the cheerful faces of two of the best members of our service staff, Mark Ogden and Cassie Galanopoulos.

We thought you'd enjoy learning a little more about Mark and Cassie.

When Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theatre moved to its new location at the Italian American Club, Mark and Cassie transferred from the old location, along with the actors. Both Mark and Cassie are employed by Banquet Masters in Pinellas Park.

Mark Ogden has been in the restaurant business for most of his life. He was born in Barbados where his grandfather owned a café. After emigrating from Barbados in 1978, Mark's parents had a delicatessen in the States. Mark went to High School in Medford, New Jersey, and came to Clearwater in 2002. He managed a Mortgage Call Center for five years. When the call center closed, his neighbor, who just happened to be Cassie, suggested he return to his restaurant roots. Mark has been serving patrons at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre for five years.

Mark also does additional

catering for Banquet Masters and cleans banks at night. We wonder when, if ever, he sleeps!

Mark loves to cook, spend time at the beach, and loves wave running, wind surfing and snorkeling.

Cassie Galanopoulos comes from Chicago, where she was a preschool teacher for ten years. In 1997, Cassie moved to Florida "for the sunshine and the palm trees." After moving, Cassie continued working with preschool age kids in an after school program and worked as a bartender at night. In 2000, Cassie went into Real Estate. She especially enjoyed helping first time homebuyers find the house of their dreams.

Cassie has been working at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre for almost nine years. She loves working with the actors, many of whom have become good friends over the years.

Cassie likes to go to the beach to unwind. She

loves boating and other outdoor activities, and spending time with her dog, Rocco.

Mark and Cassie enjoy helping the patrons at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre, and they're always happy to see the familiar faces of the patrons who attend the theatre on a regular basis. They both love seeing all the shows – and they are as supportive and helpful to the actors as they are to the patrons.

Mark and Cassie are a core part of the Early Bird Dinner Theatre. We enjoy their smiling faces, cheerful words of encouragement and their can do attitude!

In these days where good customer service can seem like a thing of the past, Mark and Cassie make the phrase "service with a smile" come alive with heartfelt meaning.

Many thanks to Mark and Cassie for who they are and for all they do.



*Cassie Galanopoulos*



*Mark and Cassie at Halloween*



*Cassie and Mark Service with a Smile*

## Actors Spotlight: Gail Scott

Gail Scott was born and raised in the United Kingdom, where her parents still reside.

Gail obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre at the Whittaker Drama School in Blackpool, England.

Before coming to the States, Gail worked for Red Rose Radio, did voice over work, and appeared in many theatre productions in the UK. She is also a trained dancer and an excellent singer.

Gail arrived in the US in 1993 and did her first show at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre in 1994 when she appeared in the popular farce *Boing Boing*. Since then, Gail has done over thirty shows at the Early Bird and is extremely grateful to Producer Ed Fletcher and Artistic Director Robin New for giving her so many opportunities to perform.



Gail approaches acting in a most professional way. She learns her lines early, knows her cues and is always ready for whatever might happen on stage. In fact, should anything ever go awry, any actor would be relieved to have Gail on stage with them. She always knows exactly where she is and she stays cool, calm and collected.

In addition to her work at Early Bird, Gail also spent three years in St. Louis, as a certified teacher of on-camera acting. She also loved spending time singing in her band "Blue Daddy."

Gail has an excellent voice and singing style. If there's ever a karaoke event, she's the first one up to sing and she gets everyone's attention.

"While theatre can be a positive escape from every day life," says Gail, "There's a lot more to it than that. Finding a character in the pages of a script, breathing life into that character, and then sharing it with the audience is an exhilarating process."

"But the greatest feeling in the world," Gail says, "is hearing that applause after a performance that has been well done."

*Gail Scott backstage and ready for her next cue*

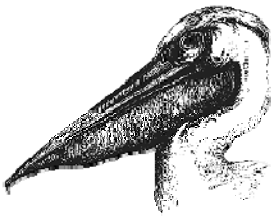


*Gail Scott*

Like many of the actors at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre, Gail finds herself feeling at home with her colleagues. "There's something about being around other like-minded people – actors -- that is relaxing."

When an actor at Early Bird wants to refine their British accent or check pronunciation of a certain word, Gail is the first one they ask. And she's always happy to oblige.

Gail doesn't talk much about her personal life or her performance experience and talent. In fact, we were fortunate to get this interview. But for those of us who know Gail, it isn't hard to see that she is a loyal friend, a hard worker and multi-talented actor. Gail is always a welcome addition at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre.



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upcoming news.

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

**Producer**  
**Ed Fletcher**

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

## Rehearsals Underway for *Private Lives*

Rehearsals are now underway for our next show, *Private Lives*.

This classic comedy by Noel Coward is gracefully, yet wildly funny. The dialogue displays some of Coward's best wit.

Elyot and Amanda, once married and now honeymooning with new spouses at the same hotel, meet by chance, reignite the old spark and impulsively elope. After days of being reunited, they again find their fiery

romance alternating between passions of love and anger.

Their aggrieved spouses appear and a roundelay of affiliations ensues as the women first stick together, then apart, and new partnerships are formed. Eventually there is a knock down drag out fight that opens the eyes of Elyot and Amanda, who then steal off together a second time.

Artistic Director Robin

New is directing a terrific cast that includes: Barbara Anthony, Toby Manion, Tracy Borgatti and Joseph Johnson. Jennifer Sloane is stage-managing.

*Private Lives* opens on April 23 2009 and runs through June 14 2009.

***Private Lives***  
**opens on**  
**April 23, 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 Fletcher is keeping the theatre open through most of the summer this year, so here's the new extended line up for 2009!

***Natalie Needs a Nightie (Now Running)***  
**February 26 – April 19, 2009**

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

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

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