

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

Special Interest:

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- New Buffet Menu
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PRIVATE LIVES: Now Playing to Great Reviews

Private Lives, the classic British comedy by Noel Coward, is receiving great audience response, along with a fantastic review in the local papers.

Ed Fletcher's production of *Private Lives* is elegantly staged, highly relevant and delightfully funny. The dialogue displays some of Coward's best wit, and the actors' delivery is superb.

Elyot and Amanda, previously married to one another, are now each remarried to new spouses, Sybil and Victor. While honeymooning with their new loves at the same hotel with adjoining balconies, they meet by chance. "Everything happens by chance," says Amanda.

Is it chance that reignites the old spark between the two and causes them to impulsively abandon their



Cast: (Left to Right) Tracy Borgatti, Toby Manion, Joseph Johnson, Barbara Anthony and, Artistic Director, Robin New

new spouses and run off to Paris together? Is it chance, when after days of being reunited, they once again find their fiery romance alternating between love and hate?

When their aggrieved spouses appear during a knock down drag out fight, is it once again . . . chance?

We can't answer these questions for you. You'll have to see for yourself! We will tell you that according to Reviewer Lee Clark Zumpe of Tampa Bay Newspapers, "Early Bird Dinner Theatre's ensemble cast serves up fine performances well-suited for Coward's waggish dialogue, proving *Private Lives* remains as ribald and relishable as ever."

Private Lives runs through June 13, 2009.



The Set for *Private Lives*

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

Introducing Our New Buffet Menu:



Our New Hot Buffet



Full Salad Bar with New Items

The Early Bird Dinner Theatre is pleased to announce a new and improved buffet dinner for our patrons. Thanks to our catering company, Banquet Masters, and their responsive service, our new hot buffet includes something to suit everyone's palette.

FULL SALAD BAR

Tossed Salad, Three Potato-Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Three Bean Salad, Carrot Salad, Tomato Wedges, Cucumber Rings, Sliced Black Olives, Green Olives, Sliced Red Onions, Sliced Beets, Assorted Pickle Slices, Jello, and Ranch and Italian Dressing.

HOT ENTREES

Carved Top Round Roast Beef with Au Jus and Horseradish; Salmon Almondine; Chicken Piccata; Crab Cakes; and Meatballs in Marinara Sauce.

SIDE DISHES

Long Grain Wild Rice, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, and Assorted Rolls and Butter

DESSERT

Chocolate Cake

Coffee and Iced Tea

If you'd like an alcoholic beverage with dinner, please feel free to bring wine or beer and we'll provide the glasses.



Peas and Carrots, Long Grain Wild Rice, Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes and Meatballs in Marinara Sauce.



Salmon Almondine, Chicken Piccata and Crab Cakes

Actors Spotlight: Joseph Alan Johnson



Joseph Alan Johnson

Joseph Alan Johnson was born in Charleston, West Virginia, where he began acting in plays at a very young age. His mother's cousin, Clay Tanner, who appeared in westerns like *Rawhide*, inspired the young boy to pursue a career in acting.

Joe also drew his inspiration from the world around him. As a child, after watching an episode of *My Three Sons*, he was so irritated by the lack of talent displayed by one of the young actors on the show that he jumped up, ran downstairs to where his parents were playing canasta with friends. Joe startled them all when he passionately announced, "I'm going to Hollywood and I need an agent NOW!"

Joe did get to Hollywood, but it wasn't that night.

Joe's first career bump came early on when, as a child, he was told that he was too fat to play Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. That didn't stop Joe. He simply put on shows in his own backyard.

After a brief college education, Joe made a serious life decision. He enrolled in the Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City to pursue his love of acting. "Classes in fencing and classic stage technique did not really prepare me for a career of dog food commercials and horror movies," says Joe with his usual sardonic wit. "However," he quickly adds, "The Academy was an excellent learning experience."

Joe's childhood dream of working in Hollywood came true after he finished his studies at the Academy. He moved to Hollywood, and immediately began working as an actor.

After ten years of moderate success, doing a series of teen-age movies, episodic TV shows, commercials and other films, Joe decided to exercise his talent in a new environment. He moved to Europe, where he spent three years in Italy doing Italian TV movies and voice-over work, dubbing Italian films into English. Joe says that dubbing the films was challenging work. When the European actors spoke English poorly, it was very hard to match their lips and imbue their lines with good acting qualities. "It's actually easier to dub films when someone is speaking a foreign language," explains Joe.

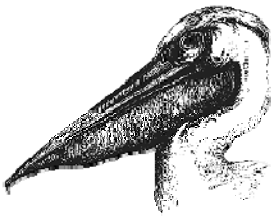
After his sojourn in Italy, Joe returned to LA. He began writing film scripts and even saw a couple of them produced. But writing jobs are even harder to find in LA than acting jobs, and soon Joe found himself having to make another major life decision. His parents in Florida were ailing and needed him nearby. Eight years ago, Joe moved to St. Petersburg, Florida to help meet his parents' needs.

This was a fortuitous move for local theatergoers, as Joe quickly rediscovered his love of live theatre. Over the past eight years, he has performed in more than two dozen shows, including many productions at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre.

Joe has a distinctive witty style that is inherent in his many memorable performances, ranging from the wacky dogood Rabbi in *Bermuda Avenue Triangle* to the erudite and pompous Victor Pryne in *Private Lives*. Off stage, Joe is always quick to come up with an amusing anecdote to entertain his acting colleagues. And speaking of entertaining, Joe is the consummate dinner party host, preparing elaborate feasts and memorable social events for his friends.

In addition to acting, Joe continues to write. He wrote an interactive murder mystery that played locally for eight months, and wrote and performed a one-man show on Edgar Allan Poe. He continues to write stage plays.

"It's always fun to perform at Early Bird," says Joe. "The audiences genuinely appreciate live theatre, and that is always a thrill."



Early Bird Dinner Theatre

200 South McMullen Booth Rd.
Clearwater, FL 33759

Phone:
(727) 446-5898

E-Mail:
Newsletter@EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com



Make sure you check our website often for upcoming news.

Earlybirddinnertheatre.com

Producer
Ed Fletcher

Artistic Director
Robin New

Rehearsals Underway for *The Owl and The Pussycat*

Rehearsals are now underway for our next show, *The Owl and the Pussycat*.

This classic comedy by Bill Manhoff takes place in a San Francisco loft. You may remember the film version that starred George Segal and Barbra Streisand.

Aspiring "owlish" author, Felix, focuses his binoculars on his neighbor Doris, a "lady of the night" plying her trade.

After Felix complains to

the landlord to have her evicted, Doris, who claims to be an aspiring model and actress, needs a place to stay. She figures Felix owes her a bed for the night after having her evicted.

The arrangement leads to hilarity in this popular zany comedy.

Artistic Director Robin New is directing a terrific cast that includes: Tom Bronson, as Felix, and Jonelle Marie Meyer, as Doris.

The Owl and the Pussycat opens on July 9, 2009 and runs through August 23, 2009.

The Owl and The Pussycat
opens on
July 9, 2009.

Get Your Ducks in a Row for the Rest of 2009

Early Bird Dinner Theatre has some great shows lined up for the rest of the year.

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!

Private Lives (Now Running)
April 23 – June 14, 2009

The Owl and the Pussycat
July 9 – August 23, 2009

Squabbles
September 3 – October 25, 2009

Anybody for Murder
November 5 – December 20, 2009

Check our website for the 2010 Season. We'll be posting it soon!!!

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

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!