

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:

- *There's a Burglar in my Bed.*
- Director Spotlight
- New Patron Trend
- 2010 Season

Table of Contents:

- *There's A Burglar in my Bed* 1
- Director Spotlight 2
- New Patrons 3
- Next up: "Death by Chocolate!" 4
- 2010 Season 4
- Patron Corner 4

NOW PLAYING: *There's a Burglar in My Bed*

There's a Burglar in my Bed is a very funny farce written by Michael Parker.

Our opening weekend has brought us patrons, who have braved the cold weather to come to the theatre, and have left warmed with laughter and happiness!

This fabulous cast knows how to play a farce to the hilt!

William Worthington III, played by Toby Manion, and his wife, Ashley, played by Barbara Anthony, are going on separate weekend vacations to get away from their huge estate. At least, that's what they want each other to think.

Instead, they are each planning romantic trysts with their lovers, played by Tracy Borgatti, as Buffy, and Brent Ballard, as Edward Brookstone.

Of course, their paths quickly cross and this fast paced farce never lets up. As neither of the upper crust Worthington's is willing to give up the world



Cast: (Left to Right) Robin New, Tracy Borgatti, Brent Ballard, Toby Manion, Barbara Anthony, Jonathan Cho, Jonelle Meyer.

famous Worthington necklace, they each devise a plan to steal it.

Hilarious pandemonium ensues, as their plans are repeatedly foiled by the likes of one very bumbling private detective, played by Jonathan Cho, one determined nymphomaniac, played by our own artistic director, Robin New, and a couple of scantily clad sisters, played by Tracy Borgatti and Jonelle Meyer. Talk about unexpected romantic entanglements!

And where is the real and coveted Worthington necklace? You'll have to come and see for yourself!!!

There's a Burglar in my Bed runs until February 28, 2010.

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

Don't forget to check our website for more information on our 2010 Season!

www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com

Director Spotlight: Robin New



Our Artistic Director
Robin New

We thought we'd surprise our Artistic Director, Robin New, with her own spotlight this month. It seems timely, as she is under the stage spotlights in our current show, *There's a Burglar in my Bed*.

While we have highlighted Robin's career and her love of theatre in the past, we haven't shared the actors' experiences of working with Robin over the years. So, take a journey with us, as we hear what some of the actors have to say about our Artistic Director, Robin New.

Gail Scott, most recently seen in *Anybody for Murder*, says that what she loves about Robin is her willingness to allow actors to find the character they're playing . . . rather than wanting to control an actor's performance, as many directors like to do.

Gail says, "Robin will be there to help you, if you hit a dead end, but she'll do it in a way that makes you think it's your idea

simply by the way she gives her input. This really creates a bond between actor and director that allows the actor to take more risks."

Midge Mamatas, last seen in *Squabbles*, remembers the first time she worked with Robin. "It was her first show at Early Bird, *Grace and Glorie*, a very poignant play that required a sensitive, yet light humorous touch. Robin directed Chris Tracey and I in an unforgettable production. Her set was a masterpiece, which I have long since learned is one of her very special signatures." Midge adds, "Thank you, Robin, for all you do, for the wonderful memories I have of you and for the quality of productions you have given audiences at The Early Bird Dinner Theatre."

Marianne Meichenbaum, last seen in *Bermuda Avenue Triangle*, may likely have known Robin the longest. Marianne first met Robin when she attended a performance of Marianne's. Their first show together was *Night Mother* at Carrollwood. Marianne says, "It was truly one of the most incredibly challenging and rewarding experiences of my life. Robin was amazing. I had had this long professional career and had never met up with an actress, who had Robin's work ethic and who wasn't afraid to try things. She just went with her heart all the way!" Marianne adds, "It just went on from there. I love Robin's style. She has an awesome insight into where a play should go and she always triumphs. I love her dearly and respect her to the highest!"

Barbara Anthony, currently seen in *There's a Burglar in my Bed*, has developed a close friendship and working relationship with Robin. When it comes to Robin's talent as a Director, Barbara says, "Creativity is obtained through encouragement, not force. That's our Robin! She guides and encourages us to be better actors. And for that, we are truly thankful!"

Tracy Borgatti, who is also appearing in *There's a Burglar in my Bed*, speaks of how important consistency is to Robin and what a valuable asset that is for the actors and the audience. Tracy says, "Robin uses her sense of consistency to ensure that every audience gets the same great performance each time we do a show."

Jennifer Sloane, who was last seen in *Anybody for Murder*, admires Robin's patience. "It's astounding to me that Robin can put together one fabulous show after another and never lose her cool. Her workload is enormous, yet she accomplishes every task with grace, dignity and kindness. And her guidance as a Director is ideal. Robin gives an actor room to grow and that's a rare gift!"

Toby Manion, currently in *There's a Burglar in my Bed*, was unavailable for an interview, as he was busy following Robin to the gas station to pump gas for her on a recent freezing Florida night. Now, that kind of devotion just speaks for itself. It's the kind of caring that Robin inspires. And we think every actor that has worked with Robin would agree.

Thank you, Robin, for all you do!

Early Bird Dinner Theatre Audience is Growing



Patrons enjoy a family birthday at The Early Bird Dinner Theatre.

We know there's a recession going on and we know how many folks are pinching pennies these days. But at Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theatre, we are seeing a new growth in our patrons.

According to an article in the January 9, 2010 issue of *The New York Times*, "Hard Times have Younger Floridians Catching the Early Bird," a new generation of Floridians is flocking to early bird functions.

Of course, we're not really surprised. Where else can you get a fabulous dinner and a professional show at such a reasonable price?

The article in *The New York Times* states that, "Restaurant owners, researchers and patrons say it also reflects a changing mood. It is a sign, they say, of shifting priorities, as Americans respond to tighter budgets with a demand for value and a willingness to alter their habits to enjoy a little fun."

Those of us at The Early Bird Dinner Theatre have known that for years and we are delighted to welcome a new generation of patrons.

One of our favorite things to see at the theatre is when an entire family comes in to celebrate a birthday or an anniversary. We always announce birthdays and anniversaries, because we appreciate it when you share your special occasions with us.

Those of us who work at the theatre have come to feel like a family, and there are many regular patrons who have become part of that family.

So, what more can one ask for? A fine dinner, a great show, fantastic service, laughter, friendship and family . . . and all for less than what one would spend for just going out for dinner.

And we meet you at the door, walk you to your seat and then put you in the capable hands of our friendly servers. After the show and before you leave for home, the actors greet each and every patron in our receiving line. That's a personal touch you don't find in many professional theatres.

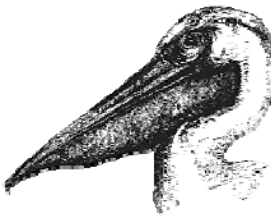
So, if you think we're tooting our own horn . . . we are. But what's the first thing you want to do when you've found something wonderful? You've just got to share it!

Thank you to our loyal patrons and welcome to our new ones. The more, the merrier!

We hope all our patrons enjoy your time with us as much as we enjoy you!



Cast members Jonathan Cho, Toby Manion and Barbara Anthony greet patrons in the receiving line after the show.



DEATH BY CHOCOLATE Rehearsals Underway

Rehearsals are underway for Paul Freed's *Death by Chocolate*, a farce that parodies, among other things, our favorite food . . . chocolate! On the day before the grand re-opening of the Meadowbrook Health Resort, employees are dropping like flies, including famed chef Edith Chiles.

The new resort manager, John Stone, is out to solve the untimely mystery. He teams up with Ed Parlor, mystery writer and amateur detective, in a wild and whacky race against time. All clues point to a sinister box of chocolates. The suspects include all the outlandish characters, who work at the resort, including Lady Riverdale, the owner with dark secrets, Ralph Deadwood, the gym instructor and all around cad, Dick Simmering, the aerobics instructor, Anne, the panic stricken nurse, and Sweet Pea Meadowbrook, the overweight and grieving daughter of the recently deceased founder of the resort.

Artistic Director, Robin New, has put together a great cast that includes: Barbara Anthony, Brent Ballard, Tracy Borgatti, Michael Crockett, Bill Henricks, Joe Johnson, Midge Mamatas and Jennifer Sloane.

Death by Chocolate opens March 4, 2010 and runs through April 25, 2010.

Death by Chocolate
opens on
March 4, 2010.

Get Your Ducks in a Row for Our 2010 Season

After ***Death by Chocolate***, the Early Bird Dinner Theatre is proud to present:

Funny Money from April 29 to June 10, 2010.

Kitchen Witches from July 15 to September 5, 2010.

Lovers and Other Strangers from September 9 to October 31, 2010.

How the Other Half Loves from November 4 to December 26, 2010.

For more information and details of upcoming shows, please visit our website:

Earlybirddinnertheatre.com

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!

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Rd.
Clearwater, FL 33759

Phone:
(727) 446-5898

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



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Producer
Ed Fletcher

Artistic Director
Robin New