

# 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)

### NOW PLAYING: Death by Chocolate

#### Special Interest:

- *Death by Chocolate*
- **Special Spotlight**
- **Guess the Actor**
- **2010 Season**

*Death by Chocolate*, by Paul Freed, is a very funny parody of a murder mystery.

When the previous owner of the Meadowbrook Health Resort and two of the resort employees all die suspiciously right before the Grand Reopening, the new owner, Lady Riverdale, and her manager, John Stone, are faced with a serious dilemma.

When Edie Parlor, a mystery writer, appears on the scene, she and John Stone attempt to solve the mystery before the Resort reopens . . . and everyone is a suspect!

There's Ralph Deadwood, the unlikely gym manager, who shares a secret past with Lady Riverdale; and Edith Chiles, famed chef for the resort. Add in Anne, the panic-stricken resort nurse, who faints at the sight of blood; Dick Simmering, the flamboyant aerobics instructor; Sweet Pea Meadowbrook, the previous owner's overweight and grieving daughter; Margaret Daniels, a nosy magazine writer looking for a scoop;



Cast: (Front) Barbara Anthony; (Second Row) Tracy Borgatti, Bill Henricks, Midge Mamatas, Jennifer Sloane; (Back Row) Joe Johnson, Michael Crockett, Brent Ballard, Gail Scott.

Alfred Mellox, the eerie butler; Lady Riverdale, the new owner with a shady past; Dyslexia, Lady Riverdale's strangely dark assistant on loan to Manager John Stone . . . and it's hard to tell just "who done it!"

Artistic Director, Robin New has put together a great cast, who are enjoying this farcical romp on a beautifully designed gothic set.

Several of the actors are playing more than one role, but we'll let you guess just who is playing who when you come and see the show!

*Death by Chocolate* runs until Sunday, April 25, 2010. Call soon for reservations, as we are booking full houses every weekend!

See you at the show!

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

## SPOTLIGHT: Eddy and Susan Lyons



*Eddy and Susan Lyons*

Eddy and Susan Lyons have played very important roles at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre for many years. You may not have seen them at the theatre, but their work behind the scenes has been invaluable to our continuing success.

Always gracious and supportive to all of us, we thought you might like to know a little more about them and what they do for the theatre.

Susan Lyons, the daughter of Ed Fletcher, Producer and owner of Early Bird, has been an avid fan of the theatre since it began. When she married Eddy Lyons in 1992, it didn't take long before her husband jumped on board to offer his support.

Eddy and Susan first met in second grade. Later on in High School, they met again and have been together since their senior year. They both graduated from USF with degrees in Special Education.

When Eddy and Susan were married, they had their wedding reception at Early Bird's former location on Fort Harrison Street in Clearwater. In fact, they even made sure to have their wedding on a Tuesday to ensure that it didn't conflict with the weekend schedule of shows! As Susan says with a smile, "The show must go on!"

After the theatre moved to its new location at the IAC, Susan helped tremendously by sending out thousands of brochures to announce and promote the new location.

Susan and Eddy have two delightful sons, a 12 year old and an 8 year old. Both boys love anything to do with the water. "The saltier, the better," says Susan. They are avid sailors, learning the art of sailing with great skill and confidence. Susan adds, "Grandpa would love to see the 12 year old in *On Golden Pond* one day soon!" Those of us at the theatre that have come to know the Lyons boys can see how polite, talented and bright they both are . . . and how much they love their Grandpa!

Eddy Lyons became more involved with the theatre after the move to the new location. He helped Robin New and some of the actors build the set for *Who's in Bed with the Butler*, which was our very first show at the IAC location. Eddy says, "As a self-trained carpenter, I was in for a quick lesson in set construction. Toby Manion, a regular cast member, saw that I was trying to get a doorframe perfectly square and he taught me the first lesson in set-building."

Toby said, "The set cannot be prettier than the actors!" So, Eddy threw down his level and square and hasn't looked back since. He has helped build some pretty incredible sets since that first experience! When Robin New asked him to build an Ion Chamber and a garbage disposal that sucks off clothing for our premiere production of *Never Kiss a Naughty Nanny*, he thought this

might be his least favorite set to build. But he quickly adds that it actually became his most favorite set. "With a little bit of imagination, frustration and a pinch of 'are you kidding?' -- we produced one of the most unique sets to this date!"

Eddy is a man of many talents. He is the General Manager of the Grande Lake Adventure Course located at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando. He provides team building and leadership programs, as well as high adventure, for guests seeking something different from the theme parks.

After what Susan calls "an extended 12-year maternity leave," she has recently returned to teaching two days a week at a small charter school in St. Petersburg. She reports that her students are awesome and the faculty is super bright and dedicated.

When we asked Susan about what her family's involvement with the theatre meant to her, she said, "My father has fostered a wonderful community of actors who are very talented and love what they do. The key to his success over his 25-year career in the dinner theatre business has been to find people who are passionate about what they do, and to provide a great service at a great value. We are very proud to be part of the Early Bird family, giving thousands of patrons many years of enjoyment and laughter!"

Now you can see why the Lyons family is so special to all of us at the Early Bird. Thank you Susan and Eddy for all you do!!!

# Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theatre

Can you match the actors from *Death by Chocolate* with their characters?



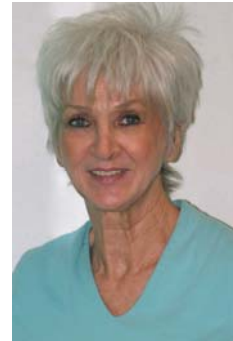
Michael Crockett



RALPH DEADWOOD



EDITH CHILES



Midge Mamatas



Gail Scott



DYSLEXIA



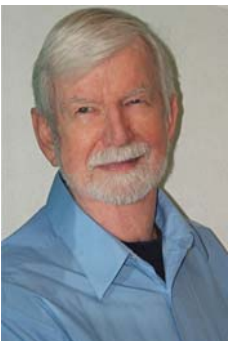
ANN



DICK SIMMERING



Brent Ballard



Bill Henricks



JOHN STONE



LADY RIVERDALE



Barbara Anthony



Jennifer Sloane



EDIE PARLOR



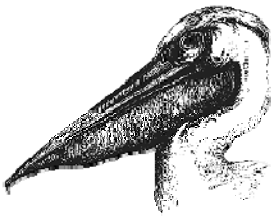
Tracy Borgatti



ALFRED MELLOX



Joe Johnson



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upcoming news.

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

**Producer**  
**Ed Fletcher**

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

## Rehearsals for FUNNY MONEY are Underway

Here comes a classic British farce by Ray Cooney, author of *Run for Your Wife* and *Out of Order* – both huge hits with Early Bird audiences.

Henry A. Perkins, a mild mannered CPA, accidentally picks up the wrong briefcase. It's full of money. Henry assumes it is illicit cash and he decides to keep it. Knowing that the former owner must have *his* briefcase, he rushes home to book one-way tickets to Barcelona. He tells his confused wife to leave everything behind; if she doesn't like Barcelona, they can go to Bali. In fact, they can buy Bali!

The doorbell rings as they wait for their taxi. The police detective at the door thinks Henry was soliciting in the men's room of the local pub. Actually, he was sitting in the loo counting the cash. The bell rings again. Another detective arrives thinking Henry is dead. A man with bullet holes in his head and Henry's briefcase were found in the Thames. Henry's inept attempts to extricate himself from this impossible situation lead to increasingly hysterical situations.

Artistic Director, Robin New, has put together a fabulous cast that includes: Barbara Anthony, Brent Ballard, Michael DuMouchel, Bill Henricks, Joe Johnson, Rick Kistner, Jonelle Meyer, and Jennifer Sloane.

***Funny Money* opens April 29, 2010 and runs through June 10, 2010.**

## ***Get Your Ducks in a Row for Our 2010 Season***

***Death by Chocolate*** from March 4 to April 25, 2010.

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

### ***Patron Corner:***

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)

We look forward to hearing from you!!!

*Jennifer Sloane*

Editor, Early Bird Newsletter