

# ED FLETCHER'S EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE

## 727-446-5898

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### Special Interest:

- **The Dixie Swim Club**
- **Actor Spotlight**
- **2011 Season**

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

## **The Dixie Swim Club Opens to Great Reviews!**

*The Dixie Swim Club* is the story of five unforgettable women performed by five unforgettable actors.

According to Lee Zumpe of Tampa Bay Newspapers, "Eccentric characters and sweet Southern charm ... make for a delicious mix in *The Dixie Swim Club*, by playwrights Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten."

The play is a touching and very funny look at the lives of five North Carolina women, whose strong friendship is based on their days together on their college swim team.

Over a period of three decades, free from husbands, kids and jobs, the women meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other's lives.

*The Dixie Swim Club* focuses on four memorable summer weekends.

As the years pass and their



Cast: (Left to Right) Robin New; Mary Ann Bardi; Barbara Anthony; Marianne Meichenbarum; and Tracy Borgatti.

lives unfold, these five women come to increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges that life flings at them.

When fate throws a wrench into one of their lives, these friends rally around their own with the strength and love that takes this comedy in a poignant and surprising direction.

Artistic Director, Robin New, appears in this production along with four other very talented actors: Marianne Meichenbaum; Mary Ann Bardi (who happens to be this month's Actor's Spotlight); Tracy Borgatti and Barbara Anthony.

We hope you'll join us for this delightful comedy and a refreshing look at the resiliency of the human spirit.

*The Dixie Swim Club* runs until February 27, 2011.

Call now for to make a reservation. This is one show you won't want to miss!

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

## Actor's Spotlight: Mary Ann Bardi



Mary Ann Bardi

Mary Ann Bardi, who is currently appearing in *The Dixie Swim Club* was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York.

Mary Ann is a genuine people-person, who always adds a touch of honest joy to any show. Her loyalties are strong and her friendships are deep and lasting ones.

Mary Ann began acting later in life. Her daughter wanted to be an actress, and after taking her daughter on auditions, Mary Ann's own dreams of acting came true. While her daughter is now an attorney, Mary Ann is very active in theatre in Tampa Bay.

During her earlier years, Mary Ann lived in Long Island and worked in New York City doing Public Relations, Sales, and as a Pre-school Teacher. Once she

married her husband, Henry, Mary Ann's favorite job of all was raising their three children - Joseph, Philip and Rosemary.

Once Mary Ann discovered her love of theatre, she discovered the joy of playing different characters, the interaction with the audience, and the people that she met both onstage and off. "Especially people like Ed Fletcher and Robin New," adds Mary Ann.

In fact, Mary Ann met her best friend, Marianne Meichenbaum, while doing *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. That was also the first time she was directed by Robin New, which led to several collaborations, including her role as Fannie in *Bermuda Avenue Triangle* at Early Bird. Mary Ann performed in *Over the River and Through the Woods* with her husband. "That was a great experience," says Mary Ann. "We did that show three times!"

"I've had wonderful experiences in every show I've done," Mary Ann adds.

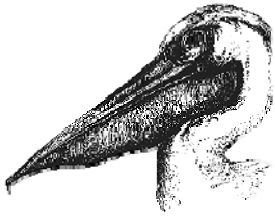
When she played Lucille

in *Cemetery Club*, she had just been diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Doing that show helped her through a difficult time. Audiences often don't realize how therapeutic theatre can be for actors, too.

Mary Ann will celebrate eleven years cancer-free in March. In October of 2010, after a successful fundraiser, she did the Susan G. Koman Three Day for the Cure Walk with her daughter. Together, they walked 60 miles in three days. "It was an exhilarating experience. One I will never forget," Mary Ann said.

When asked what her best and worst acting experiences have been, Mary Ann said, "No experience is bad. They're all learning experiences." She paused and then added jokingly, "I've had a lot of funny things happen to me on stage, but I have to protect my dear actor friends!"

Mary Ann and her husband moved to Florida in 1989. They are eagerly expecting their first grandchild in June. "Last but not least," adds Mary Ann, "I could not have had any of these experiences without my wonderful husband of 36 years."



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## Rehearsals Underway for "Sex Please, We're Sixty."

Get ready for **Sex Please, We're Sixty** another hilarious American farce by Michael and Susan Parker. Rehearsals have begun and the actors are chuckling over this one.

The farce takes place at a Bed and Breakfast where a mix-up occurs between the men and women with a libido boosting pharmaceutical. A retired chemist invents a little blue pill that's designed to enhance amorous desires in menopausal women. Imagine what would happen if the men mistakenly take the pills? We'll only tell you that you'll laugh yourself silly watching their hot flashes, tears and hysterical reactions. This delightful storyline is sure to entertain and enlighten everyone's thinking about the sexual prowess of all the sixty-plus folks. Expect plenty of twists and turns and enjoy non-stop laughter while being reminded that sixty-plus is indeed sexy!

Artistic Director Robin New has assembled a great cast that includes: Toby Manion; Barbara Anthony; Tracy Borgatti; Brent Ballard; Midge Mamatas and Jennifer Sloane.

*Sex Please, We're Sixty  
opens March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
and runs until April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

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Make sure you check our website often for upcoming news.

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

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## Get Your Ducks in a Row for Our 2011 Season

**Now Playing: The Dixie Swim Club:** January 6 - February 27, 2011

**Sex Please, We're Sixty:** March 3 - April 24, 2011

**Don't Dress for Dinner:** April 28 - June 19, 2011

**Last of the Red Hot Lovers:** July 14 - September 2, 2011

**Leading Ladies:** September 8 – October 30, 2011

**The Sensuous Senator:** November 3 – December 23, 2011

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

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

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## Patron Corner: We Love Hearing from You!

Thank you for writing to us and telling us how much you enjoy our shows! Keep those letters and emails coming. We welcome hearing about the special experiences you've had at the theatre. You can email us at the address listed below.

[newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com](mailto:newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!!!

*Jennifer Sloane*

Editor, Early Bird Newsletter