



by Paul Osborn

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September 9 • 10 • 16 • 17 • 23 • 24 at 8:00 PM September 18 at 2:30 PM



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The Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

Dr. Ghassan Khalil 1934–2011



We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Ghassan Khalil, one of the dearest friends of the Actors Guild of Parkersburg, who passed away on

July 12, 2011 at the age of seventy-seven. Dr. Khalil and his wife Genevieve have been long-time season ticket holders, and are the namesake behind the Khalil Awards, given each season for outstanding performances on our stage. Our actors have always looked forward to hearing his boisterous "bravo!" emanating from the audience and his presence in our theatre will not soon be forgotten. To you, Dr. Khalil, we dedicate our 2011-2012 Season and extend our own sincerest **bravo!**

On Borrowed Time

by Paul Osborn

Based on the novel of the same name by Lawrence Edward Watkin

On Borrowed Time was originally produced by Dwight Deere Wiman, at the Longacre Theater, New York, February 3, 1938. It was directed by Joshua Logan, and the settings were by Jo Mielziner.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. Dramatists Play Service reserves the right to withdraw a production at any time.

Synopsis and Scenes

Somewhere in the rural United States, sometime in the past, we encounter the embodiment of Death as he comes to guide the cranky but lovable Gramps from this life into the next step of his journey. The story unfolds in the back room of the Northrup home and in the back yard where an old apple tree stands.

When Pud's parents are killed in a car wreck, Granny and Gramps must take care of him. However, Pud's Aunt Demetria decides she can profit if she adopts him. When Death comes to take Granny and then Gramps, Gramps figures out how to trap Death up the apple tree and to keep Demetria from getting her hands on Pud and his inheritance.

Act One

Scene 1	Afternoon
Scene 2	A week later
Scene 3	Dusk, a week later

INTERMISSION

Act Two

Scene 1	Two hours later
Scene 2	
Scene 3	Dawn, the next morning
Scene 4	Dusk, the same day
Scene 5	A few minutes later, the same day
Scene 6	Later that night

THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM





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AND

The National Endowment for the Arts

WITH APPROVAL FROM

The West Virginia Commission on the Arts

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N A T I O N A L ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS



Cast

(in order of appearance)

Pud	Andrew Miser
Julian Northrup (Gramps)	Jim Full
Nellie Northrup (Granny)	Dixie Showalter
Mr. Brink	Bill Knotts
Marcia Giles	Jessica Blankenship
Demetria Riffle	Barbara Full
A Boy	Wesly McCune
Workman	John Gradwohl
Dr. Evans	Fr. Eric Hall
Mr. Pilbeam	
Mr. Grimes	Kevin Hartleroad
Sheriff	Stephen Smith

Crew

	Dave Prather Heather Hepburn, Spencer Seeley
Technical Director	John Gradwohl
Props Master	Paula Oliverio
Lighting Designer	Sabrina Dye
Production Assistant	Brett Meade
Stage Manager	Spencer Seeley
Assistant Stage Manager	Paula Oliverio
Light Board Operator	Sabrina Dye
Sound Board Operator	Skotty Fields
Stage Manager Advisor	Susan Schuchts
	John Gradwohl
	Donna Linsell

Set Construction: Heather Cooper, Barbara Full, Jim Full, John Gradwohl, Kevin Hartleroad, Heather Hepburn, Bill Knotts, Donna Linsell, Eric Linsell, Andrew Miser, Lisa Miser, Rob Miser, Dave Prather, Stephen Smith

The audience is invited to meet the cast downstairs in the greenroom following the performance.

Audio or video recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



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Director's Note Trapping Death in a Tree

YM NOT SURE where the legend of trapping Death in a tree originated. It may have come from Lawrence Edward Watkin, who wrote the novel On Borrowed Time. It may not. After all, there are many legends of stopping

death in different ways dating back to Greek mythology. Despite that, I couldn't find anything definite. Thus, it seems, no one wants to lay claim to this wonderful legend that reminds us of the role of death in our lives, or, indeed, in our entire world.

You might think that Death (in the guise of Mr. Brink) was the antagonist of this story. This assumption would be wrong. We have a much better antagonist in Demetria Riffle, as you will see. Death, or Mr. Brink, is merely another character we meet along the path. However, Gramps is, quite simply, not ready to go, and because Gramps has done a good deed he is able to make a wish. He uses that wish to his best advantage by trapping Death in the apple tree. How fantastic is that!

Alas, however, the truth must be told. We must know that Death cannot be fooled so easily. Oh, no. He is here to teach a lesson not only to Gramps, but to all of us. He comes to us not to terrify us but to help relieve pain and suffering and to help us move on to whatever we know in our hearts comes next.

So please come with us to a place that could be anywhere at anytime as we tell this amazing legend. And learn with us that the mysteries of life are not so frightening if we have a little faith.

Dave Prather Director, On Borrowed Time

Blue

Coverage for *my* needs, *my* life.

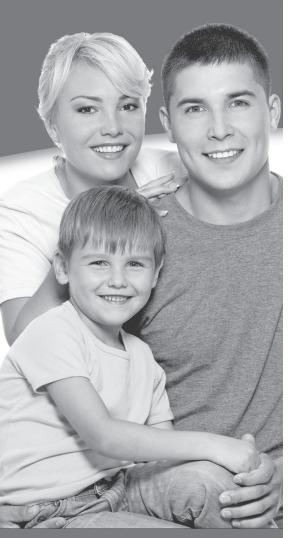
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A Letter from the President

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg is a special place. It represents a camaraderie that is all too rare in our fast-paced society. It represents an expression of talent and creativity that is sometimes stifled in our economically-driven

world. It represents an escape from the harsh realities of everyday life. It represents those same harrowing realities in a manner that makes us pause and reflect.

The Actors Guild is a special place for me because it housed my first live theater experience – my first venture into the "3-D" world of theater (thankfully without the silly glasses). I was sixteen years old at the time and was invited to attend by my boyfriend's mom and dad, who were regular Guild patrons. I had never heard of the play we were to watch (*Fiddler on the Roof*) and I was unsure how to dress for the occasion, but I was excited about what the evening held in store for me. At the end of the night, I was in awe of the entire experience – realistic sets, fantastic actors, and beautiful music and singing. And as icing on the cake, I could actually speak to the actors after the play – shake hands with the people who gave me such a wonderful evening. Yes, the Guild is a special place. It is a place of fun, talent, creativity, friends and family. And it is place that infuses our community with the joy that is live theater.

To our patrons, volunteers, friends and members, thank you for creating and supporting this special place. We hope you enjoy your true 3-D experience during the 2011-2012 season. I know I will.

Rebekah M. Mathis-Sting

Rebekah D. Mathis-Stump President of the Board of Trustees

Stronger



MEDICAL CENTER

About the Playwright

AUL OSBORN BEGAN his writing career, which spanned more than five decades, by producing original works for the theatre. But until a revival of his 1939 stage play *Morning's at Seven* appeared on Broadway in 1980 and met with rave reviews, he was perhaps best known as a prolific and suc-

cessful adapter of other authors' works for both stage and screen.

After teaching English at his alma mater, the University of Michigan, for two years, Osborn grew tired of the job and moved east to study dramatic composition with George Pierce Baker at his famous Yale University "47 Workshop." Reflecting on the appeal of a

career as a dramatist during these early years, Osborn told Michiko Kakutani in a 1980 New York Times interview: "I suppose I was a rebel in the sense that I wanted out of the [small town] environment... A lot of my old friends back there were working in hardware stores or banks, and that just wasn't for me. It wasn't theater itself that gripped me at first; it was the need to get away from a life which sort of bored me. Play writing seemed like a way out." He left Yale bound for New York City, where he worked briefly with the Long Island Rail Road while establishing himself as a writer.

The most successful play Osborn wrote during his early years in New York was *The Vinegar Tree*, a comedy about free love that enjoyed a run of 233 performances on Broadway. After the relatively lukewarm receptions of his next two original plays, *Oliver* and *Morning's at Seven*, he scored a major success with *On Borrowed Time*, an adaptation of the

Lawrence Watkin novel The Great Broadway about an old man who Stage Hit traps Death in an apple Reaches The Screen tree so that he might live on with his beloved grandson. This critical turn of events led Osborn to concentrate on adaptations for the rest of his career. ionel BARRYMORE Cedric HARDWICKE As he explained to Ka-Bastah BONDI Was MERKEL Bobs WATSON

MGM's 1939 film adaptation

kutani: "Sometimes I wish I'd never done an adaptation... I liked to write original plays so much more, but the adaptations were so easy. Someone would come up and ask me to do one, and since I wasn't doing anything else, I'd end up doing it." On Borrowed Time was followed by The Innocent Voyage, based on Richard Hughes's novel of high seas piracy, A High Wind in Jamaica, and A Bell for Adano, a dramatization of the John Hersey story centering on the American occupation of a small Italian town during World War II. On Borrowed Time and A Bell for Adano had Broadway runs of 321 and 296 performances, respectively.

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The Bayley Award

The "Bayley" was established by the Actors Guild with a two-fold purpose: first, to honor one of our "founding mothers" and most influential members – Suzanne Bayley. The other function of the Bayley Award is for our membership to express an annual, public "thank you" to an individual, group or business in the community for services to the Guild above and beyond the call of neighborly duty. Our most recent Bayley Award was granted to NOE Office Equipment.

The Khalil Awards

For many years Dr. Ghassan Khalil and his family have made an annual contribution to ensure the continuation of live theater in our community and have championed the importance of the arts in our lives. The Khalil Awards were established to honor the Outstanding Production and the Outstanding Performance of each season. An anonymous panel consisting of persons who have seen every show of the previous season selects the recipients of these awards.

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg would like to congratulate director Robin White, music director Debbie DeWees and the entire cast and crew of *A Year With Frog and Toad* as the Best Show for the 2009-2010 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was Michael Dotson, for his portrayal of Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*.

The Grace-Marie Merrill Award

Susan Schuchts and Gary McIntyre are the most recent recipients of the Grace-Marie Merrill Award for exceptional volunteerism to the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. The award is named for a former drama teacher at Parkersburg High School who was an early member of the Guild, where she acted and directed plays.

Who's Who in the Cast and Crew



Jessica Blankenship (Marcia Giles) last appeared onstage at the Guild in In The Beginning. Since her recent return, she has worked on Leading Ladies, Into The Woods, and as Assistant Technical Director for The Boys Next Door. Jessica also appeared at MOVP in The Sound of Music and has performed in many collegiate productions while

studying theater at Converse College. Recently she has been in production for the local film The Christ Complex. Jessica has enjoyed performing and being a part of many different theater organizations, but she is glad to be back performing on her hometown stage once again!



Barbara Full (Demetria Riffle) has been active at the Guild since 1975, acting in over thirty productions, including Into the Woods; Beauty and the Beast; The Civil War; Damn Yankees; Honk!; Same Time, Next Year; The Secret Garden and Barnum. She has directed

eleven shows including RENT, Annie, The Who's Tommy, Doubt and Forever Plaid. Barbara recently retired as the music teacher at Neale School after thirtysix years, where she directed the choirs and staged countless theatrical productions. Barbara is also active at the Smoot Theatre where she is on the staff of Camp Vaudeville and directs the Smoot Theatre Children's Chorus.



Jim Full (Julian Northrup) is a twenty-five year Guild veteran who has appeared as Ben Franklin in 1776, Oscar Madison in The Odd Couple, and Pap Finn in Big River. Jim also appeared in The Civil War, Monky Business, Honk!, Little Shop of Horrors, Rumors, Damn Yankees, The Who's Tommy, Into the Woods, The Nerd, The Last Night of Bally-

hoo and Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got the Will?, as well as serving as Stage Manager for numerous shows. Jim also appeared in the world premier of *How the West* Was Once at the Smoot Theatre. Jim retired from the WV Division of Highways.



John Gradwohl (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) In addition to designing and technical directing at the Actors Guild, John performs as Professor Phineas T. Bubblemaker in Professor Bubblemaker's Marvelous Medicine Show and Professor Bubblemaker's Beauti-

ful Bubble Ballet as well as performing for festivals, parties and schools in the area. He also is glad to have his hair growing back.



Father Eric Hall (Dr. Evans) still considers himself new to the stage, having left it in 4th grade and returning just a few years ago. Since 2002, however, he has found traipsing across the boards in Charleston, Wheeling, and Huntington in both dramatic and musical pro-

ductions to be engaging enough to keep him coming back for more. He has been seen in two Actors Guild productions, Witness for the Prosecution and the Guild's murder mystery dinner theatre fund-raiser My Fatal Valentine. Fr. Eric's role as pastor of St. Francis Xavier and St. Monica Catholic churches keeps him happily on his toes.



Kevin Hartleroad (Mr. Grimes) began his involvement at the Actors Guild supporting his daughters in the Guild Builder's program. After working backstage on Paint Your Wagon, he made his first onstage appearance in *Godspell*. Kevin appeared in WVUP's produc-

tion of Romeo and Juliet as Montague. This is his second appearance on the Guild stage. Kevin lives in Walker with his beautiful and loving wife Jane and is father to four wonderful and talented children. When not dazzling audiences, Kevin is the Vice President of Operations for Stalnaker Energy Corporation in Glenville, WV.



Heather Hepburn (Assistant Director) won Excellence in Acting at the regional OCTA competition for her performance as Elizabeth Keckly in MOVP's Look Away and Outstanding in Acting at the state level for her turn as Mrs. Muller in the Guild's production of *Doubt*.

Previously at the Guild she appeared in RENT (Bag Lady, Alexi Darling), Rumors (Claire), South Pacific (Bloody Mary), Beauty and the Beast (Babette), and Legends (Aretha). At MOVP Heather also appeared in Royal Gambit (Anne Boleyn) and was Asst. Director for Are You Being Served? At WVU-P she appeared in Romeo & Juliet (Nurse), A Song for Coretta (Mona Lisa), and H.M.S. Pinafore.



Bill Knotts (Mr. Brink) has been involved with the Actors Guild of Parkersburg since 1983, and has worked on more than sixty plays. His technical work includes everything except directing, and some of his favorite onstage roles were in *How to Succeed in Business*

Without Really Trying, Annie Get Your Gun!, Arsenic and Old Lace, Harvey, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Noises Off, 10 Little Indians and Witness for the Prosecution. He has been employed at the Bureau of the Public Debt for thirty-one years, and shares his home with a number of rescued felines.



Wesly McCune (A Boy) is thirteen years old and has already appeared in four plays at the Guild including A Midsummer Night's Dream (Firefly), Titanic Tragedy and Trial (newspaper boy, child), Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (Buster), and Hidden Mysteries (Spike), a

mini-play by the Guild Builders' tech crew. Recently he was involved in a commercial for the Actors Guild as well as an independent college film, *Blute*. Wesly currently participates in Kung Fu at the Shao-Lin Martial Arts Training Center, which he highly recommends.



Gary McIntyre (Mr. Pilbeam) has appeared in numerous productions at the Guild, including 1776 (Roger Sherman), Jesus Christ Superstar (priest, centurion), All That Glitters (chorus), 10 Little Indians (General McKenzie), The Reel Thing (chorus), and Witness for

the Prosecution (Dr. Wyatt). He portrayed John Beauregard onstage at the Guild and Smoot Theatre performances of *The Civil War* and Sandy Twist in the 2009 production of Paint Your Wagon. Gary recently directed two shows for the Habitat Players in Pleasants County; Fowl Play in 2010 and A Mad Breakfast in 2011. Gary is retired and lives in St. Marys.



Andrew Miser (Pud) is a seventh grader at Van Devender Middle School. He plays the violin and enjoys soccer, choir and being on the tennis team at Vandy. He is also active in his church, Christ Lutheran, Vienna. Andrew previously took part in the Guild production and was in the Guild Builders' *Robin Hood* last season

of *Godspell* and was in the Guild Builders' *Robin Hood* last season..

Marsha Mueller (Costume Designer) serves as the Guild Props Master year round, and was most recently Coordinator for the Homecoming Parade Entry and Technical Director for the Guild Builders Production of *Robin Hood*. Her past Guild show credits include Technical Coordinator for *The Story of My Life*, running crew for *RENT*, Costume Designer for *Paint Your Wagon* and house managing on a regular basis. She is married to John Gradwohl, and works for Fluharty and Townsend, Attorneys at Law and TJMaxx when she is not at the Guild. Much love to their children Sadie, Smoky, Daug, and Byrd.



David Prather (Director) has appeared in many Guild shows including The Diary of Anne Frank, Honk!, Chicago, Oklahoma!, Jesus Christ Superstar, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, 1776, Anybody for Murder?, Night Watch, Black Coffee, Noises Off,

The Boys Next Door, and Witness for the Prosecution. He was assistant director for A Streetcar Named Desire and directed A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, Paint Your Wagon and Leading Ladies. He is the recipient of a Khalil Award for his performances in Honk! and Chicago.



Dixie Showalter (Nellie Northrup) has been actively involved in the Actors Guild for over twenty years. In that time she's done a lot of backstage jobs and loved them all. Dixie served as director for 1776; I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change; and The Dinner Party. Her

onstage performances have included roles in *Driving Miss Daisy, Nunsense*, and *Cooking with Gus.* A retired R.N., Dixie loves traveling with her husband Butter, and spending time with family and friends.

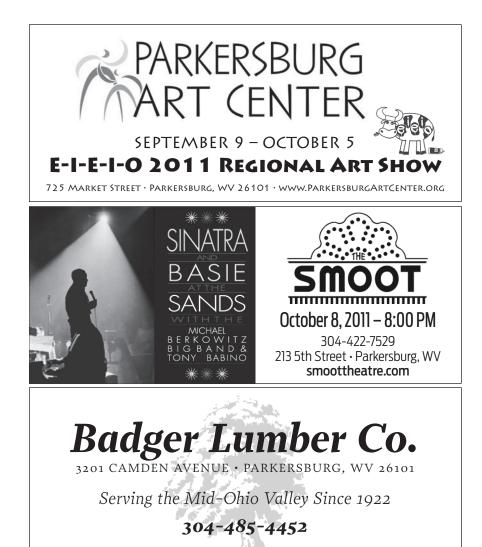


Stephen Smith (Sheriff) is performing on stage at the Guild for the first time. He has previously worked back stage on *Leading Ladies* and *The Boys Next Door* and with the Guild Builders program. This season he is serving as the technical program coordinator for Guild

Builders. Stephen is an Assistant Professor at WVU-Parkersburg in Accounting and Business. He would like to dedicate his performance to his daughter Abby and his wife Paige who are his inspiration.

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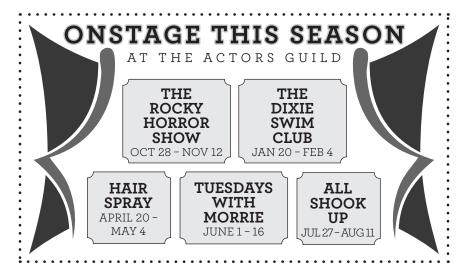
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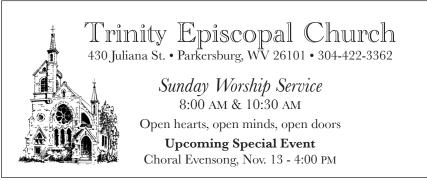
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On Borrowed Time debuted on Broadway in 1938.



OLLOWING A NUMBER of years of success with the U.S. economy, a recession hits in 1938 which causes unemployment to rise to 19%. In Europe,

Germany continues its strategy of persecuting the Jews and of occupation in Czechoslovakia. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain goes to Germany. fearing another world

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no warning from the U.S. Weather Bureau. The hurricane causes forty-foot waves to hit Long Island and 63,000 people are left homeless and some 700 are dead. October On 30th Orson Wells's radio program dra-

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slams into the east coast with little or

matization War of the Worlds causes widespread panic in the northeast when it is broadcast more like a breaking news story than a play.

war, and after agreeing to allow Hitler to occupy Czechoslovakia, declares "peace in our time". The U.S. minimum wage increases to 40¢ per hour for a 44 hour work week. On September 21st a giant hurricane

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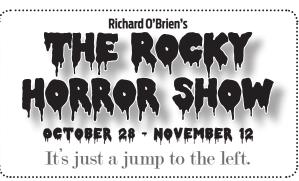
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Onstage Next at the Guild The Rocky Horror Show

HE GUILD IS THRILLED to announce the cast for the upcoming production of Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show. The "Sweet Transvestite" mad scientist Frank 'N' Furter will be played by Chris Parsons, while wholesome couple Brad Majors and Janet Weiss will be played by Aaron Whited and Alexis Radcliff. Butler Riff Raff and maid Magenta will be Rob Howard and Nikki Fields. Playing rocker Eddie and his uncle Dr. Everett Scott is Heather Hepburn with Natasha Dill-Parsons as Eddie's groupie Columbia. Frank's homemade creature, Rocky, will be played by newcomer to the Guild Jonathan Henson. Narrating the whole evening will be Dave Prather. Rounding out the cast will be Heather Allen, newcomer Danielle Collins, newcomer Zac Ivey, newcomer Ashton Buzzard, newcomer Ashley Fluharty as Phantoms and Interaction Specialists Katie Rowley, Brenna Smith, Linda Smith, newcomer Bobette Grimm, and newcomer Ashley Bruce. The show is directed by R.J. Lowe with musical direction by Josh Martin.

Rocky Horror began life in 1973 as an experimental rock musical in London's West End where it quickly became a huge sensation. The show premiered in America at the Roxy Theatre in Los Angeles and the 1975 movie version quickly became a cult phenomenon with fans coming to the show dressed in costume and yelling at the screen. The show returned to Broadway in 2001. The Actors Guild production will have special "nightinee" performances some nights and a special Halloween performance on Monday, October 31 at 7 PM. Audience participation is encouraged but

there will be **no** outside props allowed in the theater. Audience Participation Bags will be sold in the lobby. There will also be special but limited On-Stage seating available.





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