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## Grandest Canyon

by Burton Bumgarner

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## Synopsis & Scenes

Miss Ida Ingram's dying wish was to have her ashes scattered over the Grand Canyon—no small request for the two remaining sisters, Isabelle and Imogene, to carry out as they are elderly and have never before ventured out of South Carolina. Into the picture comes a long-lost nephew, Brandon, who agrees to drive his maiden aunts to Arizona to give himself time to think through his mid-life crisis. Leigh Ann, a neighbor woman who was practically raised by the elderly triplets, soon catches up and joins them on this incredible trip where they meet everyone from a crooked mechanic to a cross-dresser named Barbie who saves the day in New Orleans. The elderly women also learn about converter boxes, margaritas, and how much trouble an urn of ashes can be.

**Place:** South and Southwest U.S. **Time:** Present Day

### Act One

- Scene 1: Funeral Home, Chowan, South Carolina
- Scene 2: Ingram's Kitchen
- Scene 3: Restaurant, Augusta, Georgia
- Scene 4: Antique store, Atlanta, Georgia
- Scene 5: Motel room, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- Scene 6: Park bench, Poplarville, Mississippi
- Scene 7: Bar, New Orleans, Louisiana

### Act Two

- Scene 1: Precinct Jail, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Scene 2: Motel and Restaurant, Beaumont, Texas
- Scene 3: Bar, Kerrville, Texas
- Scene 4: Restaurant, Fort Stockton, Texas
- Scene 5: Motel, Carlsbad, New Mexico
- Scene 6: Market, Gallup, New Mexico
- Scene 7: Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona
- Scene 8: The Grandest Canyon

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## *Cast* (in order of appearance)

Preacher .....	STEVE SMITH
Isabelle Ingram.....	DIXIE SHOWALTER
Imogene Ingram.....	DIXIE SAYRE
Leigh Ann.....	MARCIA RITCHIE
Brandon.....	DAVE PRATHER
Funeral Director/Junior/Young Thug/Drunk.....	ISAAC EASTWOOD
Waitress/Antique Dealer .....	RENA SWEARINGEN
Mechanic/Bartender.....	RYAN NEDEFF
Street Person/Tourist 2.....	DONNA LINSELL
Barbie.....	BOB FRANCIS
Detective/Policeman .....	DAVE WARNER
Waitress.....	SUSAN COURTNEY
Salesman.....	NIKKI FIELDS
Tourist 1.....	FRANCES GIBSER

## *Crew*

Director.....	BOB HOLLAND
Assistant Director.....	SPENCER SEELEY
Technical Director.....	ROD ODEN
Set and Light Designer.....	ROD ODEN
Stage Manager.....	SABRINA DYE
Assistant Stage Manager.....	BILL SWEARINGEN
Production Assistant .....	NORA CORRA
Costumer .....	DEBBIE SEELEY
Hair and Makeup.....	NIKKI FIELDS
Props Mistress.....	PAM SALISBURY
Light Board Operator .....	DEBBIE SEELEY
Bookholder .....	CAROLYN HOLLENDONNER
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Playbill Layout and Design.....	BRETT MEADE

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## Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

**SUSAN COURTNEY** (2nd waitress) has appeared at the Guild in *The Red Velvet Cake War*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Dixie Swim Club*, *The Foreigner*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Dearly Departed*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Boys Next Door*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Rumors*, and *Squabbles*. She has been an assistant director and worked backstage on numerous productions. Susan is with guest relations at Camden Clark Medical Center.

**ISAAC EASTWOOD** (Funeral Director, Junior, Young Thug, Drunk) appeared in *The Lion In Winter* and *Witness for the Prosecution* on the Guild stage. He is an actor and works at the Locker Room Sports Bar.

**VERONICA (NIKKI) FIELDS** (Salesman) is an Actors Guild veteran and has appeared on stage in *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *The Dinner Party*, *Rumors*, *The Red Velvet Cake War*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. She was the costumer for *Leading Ladies*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Into the Woods* and was assistant director for *The Octet Bridge Club* and *The Lion in Winter*. Nikki served as director for *Hairspray*.

**BOB FRANCES** (Barbie) appeared on the Guild stage in *The Full Monty* and supervised building the set for *Avenue Q*. A native of Brooklyn, Bob had a very active performing life in junior high and high school, where he participated in *Othello*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Porgy and Bess*. He then joined the Marines, where he spent part of his time stationed at Camp David during President Ford's term. A long-time employee of the FAA, including working at the Wood County Airport, he retired in 2005 and lives in Lubeck.

**FRANCES GIBSER** (Tourist #1) has performed in *Leading Ladies*, *Man of La Mancha* and *All Shook Up* at the Guild. She was an AD and stage manager for *The Dixie Swim Club*. In other productions she served on lighting and stage crews. Frances has performed with the Riverby Theatre in (Gallipolis, OH) in *Annie* and *Ladies of Harmony* while assisting the stage manager for *Les Misérables* and performed with the River City Players in Meigs County. Since she retired, traveling and gardening are two of her favorite activities.

**DONNA LINSELL** (Street Person, Tourist #2) is usually found behind the scenes painting, sewing, or ushering. Donna's onstage Guild premier was as the Giant in *Into the Woods*. As owner of Natural Photography and Art, she has worked on several independent films, including as the production manager/line producer and photographer on the soon-to-be marketed internationally *Hollow Creek* (Spotlight Films/Newfoundland Films). Donna is registered with the WV Film Commission. She is currently playing in *The Taming of the Shrew* at OVU.



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**RYAN NEDEFF** (Mechanic, Bartender) is appearing in his fourth show at the Guild, having previously performed in *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Full Monty*, and *The Red Velvet Cake War*. Before coming to the Guild, he spent ten years as a professional wrestler, studied theatre at Marshall University, and was a member of the Parkersburg Catholic High School Drama Club and Story Tellers Club, where he performed in productions of *West Side Story*, *Guys and Dolls* and various medleys. He lives in Parkersburg with his son Ralland.

**DAVE PRATHER** (Brandon) is a long-time member of the Guild, appearing in several shows. He received Khalil awards for his performance in *Honk!* (The Cat), *Chicago!* (The Jury), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Otto Frank) and *The Boys Next Door* (Lucien P. Smith). He has directed several shows, including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Paint Your Wagon*, and *Leading Ladies*. He appears in the movie *Christ Complex* and in the upcoming *White Zombie*. Dave studied acting at The National Shakespeare Conservatory and writing at Warren Wilson College. He has completed a screenplay, a stage play, and is working on three novels.

**MARCIA RITCHIE** (Leigh Ann) is a longtime supporter of the Guild and appeared on its stage in *Lombardi* and *Ten Little Indians*. She hails from Ravenswood, WV and spends most of her time advocating for the arts and teaching pre-school at the Parkersburg Art Center. Marcia studied theatre at WV Wesleyan College. She thanks her friends and family for their support and Bob Holland for casting me in this highly humorous stage adventure!

**DIXIE SAYRE** (Imogene) has appeared on the Guild stage in *White Christmas*, *The Full Monty*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Dixie Swim Club*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Nunsense*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Honk!*, *Seussical the Musical*, *In the Beginning*, *Annie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *South Pacific*. She has also appeared in *The Music Man*, and *Huck Finn's Story* at Ohio Valley Summer Theatre in Athens, Ohio and with the River City Players in Meigs County, Ohio in *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *A Little Princess*.

**DIXIE SHOWALTER** (Isabelle) has been actively involved with 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 *Prelude to a Kiss*; 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** (Preacher) is appearing on the Guild stage for the second time, having previously appeared in *On Borrowed Time*. He has worked behind the scenes on numerous productions, most recently this season's *White Christmas*. Stephen also works with the Guild Builders program as the Technical Group Coordinator. He is also a member of the Guild Board of Trustees. An





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assistant professor of accounting at WVU-Parkersburg, Stephen enjoys spending time with his wife, Paige, and daughter, Abby. He would like to dedicate his performance to the Guild Builders “kids” who inspire him through their hard work and dedication.

**RENA SWEARINGEN** (Waitress, Antique Dealer) appeared as Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Carmen in *Cooking with Gus*, Aunt Em in *The Wizard of Oz*, Cee Cee Windham in *The Red Velvet Cake War*, Christine Vole in *Witness for the Prosecution*, and Margaret in *Much Ado about Nothing* on the Guild stage. She worked backstage in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and portrayed Venticelli in *The Lion in Winter*.

**DAVE WARNER** (Detective/Policeman) has appeared on the Guild stage in *Paint Your Wagon*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Leading Ladies*, *The Boys Next Door*, *You Gotta Have Heart* and *All Shook Up* and worked backstage on *The Dixie Swim Club* and *The Story of My Life*. He has performed at the Riverby Theatre (Gallipolis, OH) in *Annie*, *Les Miserables*, and *The Christmas Carol*. Dave has been in several productions for the River City Players in Meigs County and performed numerous productions, such as *Annie*, *Music Man*, and *My Fair Lady* with the Defiance Community Theatre..

**BOB HOLLAND** (Director) has performed on the Guild stage in many roles, including Max in *Lend Me a Tenor*, C.S. Lewis in *Shadowlands*, Albert in *The Dinner Party*, Felix Unger in *The Odd Couple*, Ivan in *Art*, Dickinson in *1776*, Freddy in *Noises Off*, Gooper in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He has directed *An Inspector Calls*, *Deathtrap*, *Black Coffee*, *Nightwatch*, and *Prelude to a Kiss*. Bob has worked backstage and serves as the Guild's unofficial dialectician. He is an associate at the Jan Dils law firm.

**SPENCER SEELEY** (Assistant Director) has served as Assistant Director for *On Borrowed Time*, *Dixie Swim Club*, *Prelude to a Kiss*. He appeared on stage in *Paint Your Wagon* and worked backstage on *The Dixie Swim Club* and *Dracula*.

**ROD ODEN** (Technical Director) is thrilled and honored to be joining the AGP starting this 2013-14 season! Rod is proud to be part of the continuing tradition of theatrical excellence at the AGP. Rod has designed and technical directed on stages from Los Angeles to Michigan, in a variety of venues. Rod's most recent work at AGP includes *Dracula*, *White Christmas*, the WV premier of *Lombardi*, *Shrek*, and *Grandest Canyon*. Other favorite productions include *Peter Pan*, *How I Learned to Drive*, and *The King and I*. Rod sends his love and appreciation to Raquel, Tristan, Lucas, Jamie, and Sylar.



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*All information is complete as of 6/1/14. Please report errors or omissions to the office at 304-485-9322.*

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