

# The Little Theatre

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*Newly Air-Conditioned and Decorated Theatre - On The Square - Sullivan*



**Guy S. Little, Jr. Presents**

**DAVID NELSON and JUNE BLAIR in**  
**"THE HAPPIEST YEARS"**

**August 11th through August 16th, 1964**

Guy S. Little, Jr.

PRESENTS

# David Nelson and June Blair

In

## "The Happiest Years"

By THOMAS COLEY and WILLIAM ROERICK

With

**GERTRUDE BERMAN**

**Ralph Foody, Lillian Malek, Robert Gwaltney, Irenne Webster  
and MARGARET GATHRIGHT**

Directed by **JOHN KELSO**

Scenery and Lighting Designed by **ANDREW GREENHUT**

Production Stage Manager	Costume Co-Ordinator	Assistant Stage Manager
<b>ROBERT GUNTHER</b>	<b>ROD FERNANDEZ</b>	<b>ANDY BABBISH</b>

ENTIRE PRODUCTION UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MR. LITTLE

### CAST

Martha Johnson .....	JUNE BLAIR
Richard Johnson .....	DAVID NELSON
Alida Wentworth .....	IRENNE WEBSTER
Clara Graves .....	GERTRUDE BERMAN
Bertram Graves .....	RALPH FOODY
Roger Littlefield .....	DAVID BAKER
Joan Miller .....	MARGARET GATHRIGHT
Florence Graves .....	LILLIAN MALEK
Morton Graves .....	ROBERT GWALTNEY

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The living room of the Graves home in a small midwestern college town

#### ACT I

Ten o'clock of a Friday evening in late January

#### ACT II

Scene 1. 7:45 A.M. the next morning  
Scene 2. Nine o'clock the same evening

#### ACT III

Noon the next day

**There Will be a 10 Minute Intermission Between Acts**

**No Smoking In The Theatre**

### PRODUCTION STAFF FOR MR. LITTLE

Properties .....	Joan Levin,	Technicians .....	Susan Heller,
Master Electrician .....	Bill Haddad, Warren Day	Bill Haddad, Vince DeDario, Bill Hud-	nut, Sarajane Robinson, Dave Baker,
Head Ushers .....	Butch Abell	Hugh Tirrell, Rikki Jo Klieman, Mike	Kassin, Warren Day, Michelle Champ,
Box Office .....	Linda Hall and	Joan Levin, Ann Hershey, Karen Fisher.	Children's Theatre .....
Pat Bennett, Judy Sickafus, Inis Little	Penny Moses	Property Co-ordinator .....	Bob Balaban
Stand-by for Mr. Nelson .....	Paula Noble,	Publicity Director .....	Lee York
Stand-by for Miss Blair .....	Vince DeDario	Executive Secretaries .....	Dee Bradley and
Hair Styles .....	Susan Heller	Sue Smith	
Apprentice Co-ordinator .....	Rod Fernandez		
	Butch Abell		





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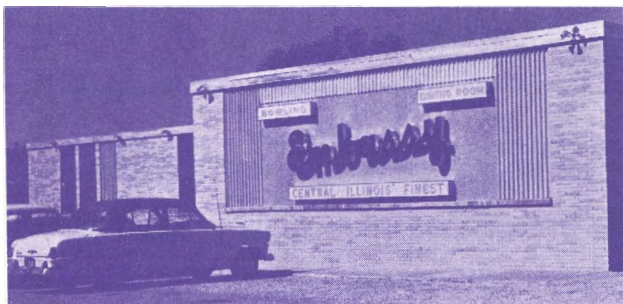
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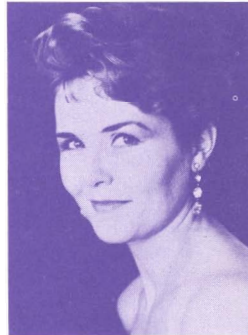
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Sullivan 3200

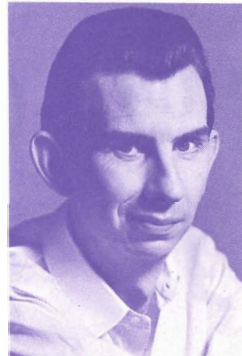
Bethany 153

## Who's Who In The Cast . . .



BARBARA LEA, after graduating from Wellesley College as a music major, began a highly successful career as a jazz singer. She recorded three LP's and won the "Down Beat" Critics' Poll as The Best New Singer in 1956 and received coverage in "Time" Magazine. Turning her talents to the legitimate theatre, she played 'Myrtle Mae' in HARVEY at the noted Bucks County Playhouse. Her television appearances include

THE TONIGHT SHOW, UNITED STATES STEEL HOUR and THE NAKED CITY. Miss Lea will open the season in Sullivan as 'Margaret Munson' in KIND SIR and will appear in the production SEVEN YEAR ITCH.



ROBERT GWALTNEY has been resident character actor at the Little Theatre for six seasons having appeared in BRIGADOON, the very first production in Sullivan in 1957. Among a long list of theatrical credits he includes appearances with Bert Lahr in BURLESQUE, Burgess Meredith in THE SILVER WHISTLE, and Burl Ives in THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER. On television he has been seen with Melvyn Douglas

and Teresa Wright on THE AMERICAN HERITAGE series and with Dane Clark on THE UNITED STATES STEEL HOUR. This season he will appear as 'Carl' in the opening production KIND SIR and a variety of other roles throughout the summer.

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### Who's Who In The Cast . . .



**LILLIAN MALEK** first appeared with The Little Theatre as Mae in **THE PAJAMA GAME**, the opening production of the 1958 season, where she stopped the show every performance. Lillian appeared on Broadway with Bert Parks in **THE MUSIC MAN**. At the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami she has been seen in **BYE BYE BIRDIE** with Russel Nye, **ON THE TOWN** with Peggy Cass, **REDHEAD** with Gretchen Wy-

ler, and **AUNTIE MAME** with Gypsy Rose Lee. On television Lillian has been seen on The Red Skelton Show and in **THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH**. This past fall she journeyed to Los Angeles where she repeated her hilarious performance as the cook in **MISS PELL IS MISSING** with Edward Everett Horton which was enjoyed by Sullivan audiences last season.



**JERILI LITTLE** has appeared in thirty-one productions at The Little Theatre during the past seven seasons. Her many roles during recent seasons have included the title role in **GYPSY** with Margaret Whiting, Eddie Bracken's wife in **THE TUNNEL OF LOVE** and Lili in **CARNIVAL**. This summer, Jerili will again appear opposite Eddie Bracken in **THE SEVEN YEAR ITCH** and as Eliza Doolittle in **MY FAIR LADY**

and Evie in **STOP THE WORLD**. Jerili is the wife of producer Guy S. Little, Jr. and mother of two children, Vanessa, age 8 and Sean, age 2.

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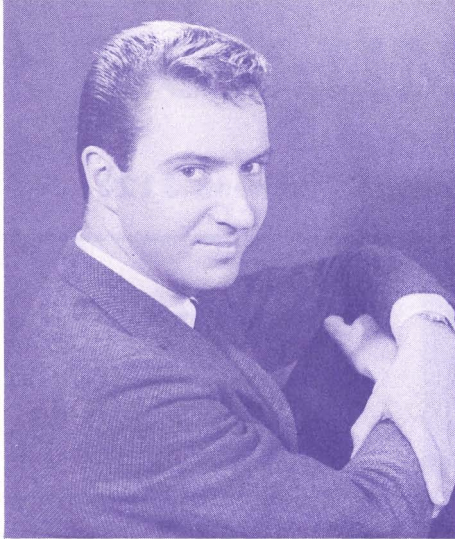
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## **The Little Theatre**

It was in July of 1957 that Guy S. Little, Jr. first brought Broadway to Sullivan. In only seven years The Little Theatre has become one of the outstanding theatres in the summer stock world. It is the only professional Equity music and drama theatre between Chicago and St. Louis and one of the few theatres in the country that presents a stock season of the latest B'way musicals and plays on a proscenium stage in an air-conditioned, indoor theatre. The intimate Little Theatre has 500 seats with excellent sight-lines and acoustics. In the past seven seasons, some 60 top productions have been presented at The Little Theatre. Patrons come from over a hundred miles to the north, south, east and west of Sullivan to enjoy an evening or matinee of outstanding musical and dramatic entertainment. Such outstanding stars as Eddie Bracken, Ann B. Davis, Annamary Dickey, Bruce Foote, Jack Haskell, Edward Everett Horton, Marjorie Lord, Eloise and Pat O'Brien, Peter Palmer, Rosemary Prinz, Margaret Truman, Ruth Warwick and Margaret Whiting have appeared on The Little Theatre's stage during recent seasons. The Little Theatre has been completely decorated in red, gold and white with enlarged rest rooms, box office, a new balcony and additional air-conditioning. Now well established with Midwest audiences and considerably enlarged in scope, The Little Theatre launches its eighth and most exciting season.

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## Who's Who In The Cast . . .



MARGARET GATHRIGHT returns to The Little Theatre to appear as Babe opposite Peter Palmer in THE PAJAMA GAME and will remain with the company to do leading roles in THE HAPPIEST YEARS, LO AND BEHOLD and COME BLOW YOUR HORN.

Margaret first appeared on Broadway in THE GIRLS AGAINST THE BOYS with Bert Lahr, Nancy Walker, Dick Van Dyke

and Shelley Berman. Since then New York audiences have seen the glamorous Miss Gathright in TENDERLOIN with Maurice Evans, KEAN with Alfred Drake and I CAN GET IT FOR YOU WHOLESALE with Lillian Roth. Off-Broadway has claimed the versatile Margaret in THE THREEPENNY OPERA and RUSSELL PATTERSON'S SKETCH-BOOK, while her summer stock engagements have included leading roles in FIORELLO, CAN-CAN, CALL ME MADAM and CAMINO REAL.

Last season at The Little Theatre, Margaret appeared with Joe E. Brown in HARVEY, Marjorie Lord in BLITHE SPIRIT and Margaret Truman in LATE LOVE.

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## Who's Who in the Cast . . .

DAVID NELSON (Richard Johnson) has enjoyed the unique experience of portraying himself since he was 12 as a member of television's finest and most popular family comedy series, **THE ADVENTURES OF OZZIE AND HARRIET**. His first appearance on the program (radio version) took place in October, 1949. David like his brother, Rick, has already appeared in more than 250 TV episodes of the series. David played himself in 1952 in Universal-International's full-length feature of the Nelsons called **HERE COME THE NELSONS**.

Less than three years ago, while the Nelson family took a brief recess from shooting its TV show, Dave did his first movie on his own. He distinguished himself and won critical acclaim for his sensitive portrayal of Ted Carter in the 20th Century-Fox hit picture, **PEYTON PLACE**. For this performance, he won a major award—Photoplay Magazine's "Gold Medal" as the "Outstanding New (film) Actor of 1958." In the summer of 1958 Dave made his second movie for 20th. He won a featured role in **THE REMARKABLE MR. PENNYPACKER**, co-starring Clifton Webb and Dorothy McGuire. As he did for **PEYTON PLACE**, Dave commuted between the 20th lot and his family's TV series set.

In the winter of 1959 Dave won a co-starring role with Robert Ryan and Burl Ives in United Artists' **DAY OF THE OUTLAW**. In this picture he played an outlaw, a role for which he grew a full beard and mustache. David's next film assignment was in **THE BIG CIRCUS**. In this picture he played another athletic role, that of a "catcher" on a trapeze team. His latest film role is that of a G.I. in 20th Century-Fox's **THE BIG SHOW**, much of which was filmed in Germany.

While working in **THE BIG CIRCUS**, David became fascinated with the trapeze and afterwards studied the aerialists' art. He made such rapid progress that the Grahams asked Dave to join their aerial troupe, the **FLYING VIENNAS**, as its regular "catcher." He has appeared with the troupe on numerous engagements throughout the country, including Hawaii and Alaska.

He was born in New York City on October 24, 1936. Dave married Actress June Blair after a courtship of some two years. The pair met when June was cast in the role of Dave's "girl friend" in an episode of **THE ADVENTURES OF OZZIE AND HARRIET**. Their first child, Daniel Blair Nelson, was born August 20, 1962.

**JUNE BLAIR** (Martha Johnson) was born in San Francisco, attended grammar school there and spent her high school years at University High in Los Angeles. She pursued a modeling career while still in high school, with the results appearing both on billboards and on magazine covers. June broke into television in a segment of **OUR MISS BROOKS**, and subsequently appeared in numerous TV shows, including **THE ADVENTURES OF OZZIE AND HARRIET**. She appeared in an episode of the latter series for the first time in 1959, cast in the prophetic role of Dave's "girl-friend." Their friendship, then romance, stems from this episode. Dave and June were married in May, 1961. After the wedding, June continued to appear in the Nelson family TV series, only now, instead of portraying Dave's girl-friend, she played his wife.

Her picture credits include the Alan Ladd production of **ISLAND OF LOST WOMEN**,

**WARLOCK** with Richard Widmark, **YOUNG LIONS** with Marlon Brando and Dean Martin, **BEST OF EVERYTHING** with Joan Crawford. She proved her dramatic talent when she was a nominee for an "Oscar" nomination for Best Supporting Actress in the **RABBIT TRAP** which co-starred Ernest Borgnine. The film won the Best Picture award at the Berlin Film Festival. She has appeared in nearly every top-rated television series. June and Dave are parents of a son, Daniel Blair Nelson, born August 20, 1962.

**GERTRUDE BERMAN** (Clara Graves) made a big hit at The Little Theatre in 1962 as Mae Peterson in **BYE BYE BIRDIE** and as Aunt Eller in **OKLAHOMA!** One of Chicago's busiest actresses, she recently has appeared in many plays at the Candlelight Theatre and at the Swan Theatre in Milwaukee in **COME BLOW YOUR HORN** with George Nader. Before returning to Sullivan to appear in **THE HAPPIEST YEARS**, Gertrude appeared in **COME BLOW YOUR HORN** at the Berkshire Playhouse in Stockbridge, Mass. She has appeared at the Studebaker Theatre with Geraldine Page in **A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY**, at Drury Lane Theatre with Gypsy Rose Lee in **LIGHT UP THE SKY** and with June Havoc in **GOODBYE, MY FANCY**. Other outstanding theatres in the Midwest that have claimed Gertrude's many talents include the Highland Park Music Theatre, the Old Log Theatre in Minnesota, the Peninsula Playhouse at Fish Creek, Wisconsin, Shady Lane Theatre in Marengo, Illinois and Tenthouse in Highland Park.

**RALPH FOODY** (Bertram Graves) appeared earlier this summer at The Little Theatre in **KIND SIR**, **7 YEAR ITCH** and **THE SOLID GOLD CADILLAC**. He has worked extensively in the Midwest and recently completed his first full length movie, **MICKEY ONE**, starring Warren Beatty and Franchot Tone. A native Chicagoan, Mr. Foody is a graduate of Marquette University and was managing editor of a national trade weekly before turning to the stage. Before coming to Sullivan, he was seen in **THE FOURPOSTER** at Country Club Theatre outside Chicago and was with Phyllis Diller in **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** at Chicago's Drury Lane. Ralph has also handled leading roles in **MARRIAGE-GO-ROUND**, **BORN YESTERDAY**, **THE LITTLE HUT** and many others. He has appeared with such headliners as Dick Shawn, Jack Carson, Gypsy Rose Lee, Nina Foch, Genevieve and Louis Nye. For a year, Mr. Foody toured with the Shakespearean Repertory Company throughout the East appearing as Lear, Falstaff, Brutus and Friar Laurence.

**IRENNE WEBSTER** (Alida Wentworth) was last seen at The Little Theatre in 1961 as Essie in **TAKE ME ALONG** and Mrs. Harcourt in **ANYTHING GOES**. Miss Webster is very familiar to Chicagoland for her varied appearances in summer stock, and she has toured the country with Melvyn Douglas in **INHERIT THE WIND**. On Television she has appeared on **BIG STORY**, **THEY STAND ACCUSED**, **HAWKINS FALLS** and **YOUR DREAM HOME**. Irenne appeared in the Black Hills Passion Play as Salome and in the Chicago area at Drury Lane Theatre with Linda Darnell in **LATE LOVE**, and at Melody Top with Lisa Kirk in **SHOW BOAT**. Recently she appeared at Candlelight Theatre in Chicago in the title role in **EVERYBODY LOVES OPAL** and in **MY THREE ANGELS**.

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**SINGLE ADMISSIONS:** Musicals—Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings: \$3.50, 2.50 and 1.45 including tax. Friday and Saturday evenings: \$3.75, 2.75 and 1.75. Saturday matinee at 5:00 and Sunday

matinee at 2:30 — \$3.20, 2.10 and 1.00.

**CURTAIN TIME:** Tuesday through Friday at 8:15. Saturday at 5:00 and 9:00. Sunday at 2:30 and 7:30.

For Complete Information Write: **THE LITTLE THEATRE, Sullivan, Illinois.**

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