CHARLEY’S AUNT

By Brandon Thomas

April 18-22, 2007
Patricia Corbett Theater
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Division of Opera, Musical Theater, Drama and Arts Administration
presents

Charley’s Aunt
By Brandon Thomas

Set Designer
Tanner Cosgrove*

Costume Designer
Bonnie J. Snowden*

Lighting Designer
Travis Hagenbuch*

Wig & Make-Up Designer
Krissa Lent*

Sound Designer
Chuck Hatcher

Vocal Coach
Rocco Dal Vera

Stage Manager
Cynthia M. Hennon*

Director
R. Terrell Finney, Jr.

* CCM Student

PATRICIA CORBETT THEATER
April 18-22, 2007

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**Director’s Note**

*Charley’s Aunt* is one of the most successful stage comedies of the modern era. The play premiered at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds on February 29, 1892, where it was produced by the D’Oyly Carte Opera Company. It subsequently opened in London at the Royalty Theatre on December 21, 1892, playing more than 1500 performances, and then opened on Broadway on October 2, 1893, where it ran for four years. It has been translated into dozens of languages, been given various international film adaptations, and spawned the 1948 Frank Loesser musical *Where’s Charley?*. We decided it was high time that CCM Drama students had their chance to explore these delicious roles and bring this delightful tale of college pranks and high jinks to Cincinnati area audiences to enjoy.

Without giving away the entire plot (for those of you not familiar with the story), just know that Charley Wyckham and Jack Chesney are undergraduates at Oxford University. They need a chaperone so they can entertain Amy Spettigue and Kitty Verdun, respectively the niece and ward of Stephen Spettigue, an Oxford solicitor. Charley receives word from his guardian that his aunt, whom he has never met or spoken to, is coming to visit and that she is coming by train at any moment. The boys grab this opportunity and send a telegram to Amy and Kitty saying that they are invited for lunch to meet Charley’s aunt, Donna Lucia d’Alvadorez, who is a rich widow from Brazil (“where the nuts come from”). All is going well until Charley’s aunt sends a telegram to say that she has been detained on business and not to expect her for a few days. The boys start to panic and persuade their friend, Lord Fancourt Babberley (“Babbs”), to masquerade as Charley’s aunt. This leads to unintended consequences for all, especially once the real Donna Lucia d’Alvadorez arrives on the scene, but you will have to watch the unfolding of this brilliantly plotted story to see if the boys’ scheme is ultimately successful.

As always, I want to thank my wonderfully gifted student and faculty designers for helping create such a rich environment for our actors. We have had a terrific time together researching the styles and customs of English life in the 1890s, and we hope our mutual efforts will meet with your approval. This is a great, old-fashioned three-act comedy, and there is something new to be experienced at each turn of the action. Please settle in for a fun-filled evening getting to meet *Charley’s Aunt*.

-R. Terrell Finney, Jr.
Scene

Commemoration Week, Oxford, 1892

Act 1: Jack Chesney’s rooms, St. Olde’s College, Oxford. Morning.
   Act 2: A garden outside Jack Chesney’s rooms. Afternoon.

*There will be two 15-minute intermissions.*
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**Cast Profiles**

**Andrew J. Bernhard**  *Stephen Spettigue*
Junior from Cincinnati, Ohio

**Elsewhere:** Scott in the tour of *Thy Brother’s Keeper* with Ken Jones Executive Productions (Cincinnati); Will in *Losing Will* with Jaguar Motion Picture (Cincinnati); Lawrence in *An Evening in Durango* with New Edgecliff Theatre (Cincinnati); Alex in *Halcyon Days* with the Performance Gallery (Cincinnati).

**Colin Brock**  *Brassett*
Sophomore from Houston, Texas

**At CCM:** Skipps in *The Lady’s Not for Burning*.

**Lauren Ashley Carter**  *Kitty Verdun*
Junior from Massillon, Ohio

**At CCM:** Lampito in *Lysistrata*, Thea Elvstead in *Hedda Gabler*, Mariana in *Measure for Measure*, Lisa Needham in *The Glory of Living*. **Elsewhere:** Carol in *Oleanna* with Queen City Off-Broadway (Cincinnati); Pam in *The Full Monty* with New Stage Collective (Cincinnati).

**Nathan Elam**  *Col. Sir Francis Chesney*
Junior from Cincinnati, Ohio

**At CCM:** Humphrey Devize in *The Lady’s Not for Burning*, Solinus/Duke of Ephesus in *The Comedy of Errors*, Lord John/Porter in *The Elephant Man*, Friar Thomas in *Measure for Measure*, Jim in *The Glory of Living*. **Elsewhere:** Ensemble in *(UN)Natural Disaster* at the Cincinnati Fringe Festival; Ensemble in *Innocents* at the Contemporary Arts Center.

**Adrien Finkel**  *Ela Delahay*
Junior from Scottsdale, Arizona

**At CCM:** Kelly in *The Glory of Living*, Nurse Sandwich/Pinhead in *The Elephant Man*, Alizon Eliot in *The Lady’s Not for Burning*, Dromio of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors*.

**Katelyn Groh**  *Amy Spettigue*
Sophomore from Cincinnati, Ohio

**At CCM:** Ismenia/Fisherwoman in *Lysistrata*.

**Ian Lokey**  *Jack Chesney*
Junior from Ft. Worth, Texas

**At CCM:** Cinesias in *Lysistrata*, Freddie in *Noises Off!*, Barnadine/Pompey in *Measure for Measure*, Eilert Lovborg in *Hedda Gabler*. **Elsewhere:** Ensemble in *(UN)Natural Disaster* at the Cincinnati Fringe Festival; Ensemble in *When the End of the World Comes…* at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.
CAST PROFILES

MIKHAIL ROBERTS  Lord Fancourt Babberley
Junior from Dubuque, Iowa
At CCM: Tesman in Hedda Gabler, Nicholas in The Lady's Not for Burning, Egeon in The Comedy of Errors. Elsewhere: Rick in Iris and Dasher in The Eight: Reindeer Monologues at Know Theatre of Cincinnati; Ethan in The Full Monty with New Stage Collective (Cincinnati); Casper in Fun with Queen City Off-Broadway (Cincinnati).

JONATHAN SILVER  Charley Wykeham
Sophomore from New Milford, New Jersey
At CCM: Magistrate in Lysistrata, German Captain in Comedy on the Bridge. Elsewhere: Ensemble in (UN)Natural Disaster at the Cincinnati Fringe Festival.

SARAH ELLEN STEPHENS  Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez
Junior from Cincinnati, Ohio
At CCM: Gucci in La Finta Giardiniera, Ensemble/Violinist in Measure for Measure, Dromio of Ephesus in The Comedy of Errors. Elsewhere: Les Style/Stepp Sister in Dreamgirls with Jersey Productions (Covington, Ky.).
R. Terrell Finney, Jr.  Director and Producer
R. Terrell Finney, Jr. has directed CCM’s productions of Floyd Collins, Dancing at Lughnasa, The Diviners, Myths and Hymns, As You Like It, Baby, Lend Me A Tenor, Chekhov in Yalta, Blithe Spirit and the world premiere of Clever Dick for CCM/Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, among others. He is a former artistic director of Showboat Majestic, where selected productions included Crimes of the Heart and They’re Playing Our Song. He also directed The Importance of Being Earnest for the Cincinnati Shakespeare Festival. Acting credits include Nurse Nanny Fanny in ETC’s Snow White, Hysterium in the “Hot Summer Nights” production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, and Argon in CCM’s The Imaginary Invalid. He has also served as narrator for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. A graduate of the MFA directing program at Boston University, he spent the summers of 1992 and 1995 in training programs with the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain. Finney is a past president of the Ohio Theatre Alliance and is currently the head of the Division of Opera, Musical Theater, Drama and Arts Administration at CCM, where he produced the acclaimed “Hot Summer Nights” series from 1998 to 2002. A member of Actors’ Equity Association, he serves on the Commission on Accreditation of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and frequently serves as a consultant to theater programs across the United States.

Tanner Cosgrove  Scenic Designer
A third-year graduate student from Helena, Montana, Tanner Cosgrove was the scenic designer for CCM’s productions of Dangerous Liaisons, The Lady’s Not for Burning, Listen to My Heart, Floyd Collins and The Boor/The Bear, and a props artisan for The Elephant Man. He was also the scenic designer/technical director for The Marriage of Figaro at the Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca (Italy) and served as resident designer for more than 16 shows with the Grandstreet Theater (Helena, Mont.).

Travis Hagenbuch  Lighting Designer
A senior from Ottawa, Illinois, Travis Hagenbuch has served as lighting designer for CCM’s productions of The Robber Bridegroom, Listen to My Heart and the Spring 2005 Dance Concert. He has also served as assistant lighting designer for Cinderella with the Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca (Italy) and Ace with Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, as well as the Cleveland Ingenuity Festival (Cleveland, Ohio). Hagenbuch was the assistant to lighting designer Trad A. Burns for 11 productions in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Los Angeles.

Bonnie J. Snowden  Costume Designer
A senior from Kenton, Ohio, Bonnie Snowden designed costumes for CCM’s productions of Listen to My Heart and served as assistant costume designer for Crazy for You, Top Girls and Merrily We Roll Along. She has also served as assistant director for Lysistrata and The Glory of Living. Snowden was the director and costume designer for Snoopy with the Hardin County Players (Kenton, Ohio) and worked in wardrobe for various productions at West Virginia Public Theater, including Beauty and the Beast.
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KRISSA LENT  Wig & Make-Up Designer
A first-year graduate student from Toronto, Ontario, Krissa Lent was the assistant wig and make-up designer for CCM’s productions of The Full Monty, Dangerous Liaisons and The Lady’s Not for Burning and was part of the pre-show make-up crew for The Full Monty and The Pajama Game. At Millikin University (Decatur, Ill.) Lent was the wig and make-up designer for Sugar, Damn Yankees and The Secret Garden and costume designer for The Great God Brown and Old Maid and the Thief/Trouble in Tahiti.

CHUCK HATCHER  Sound Designer
Chuck Hatcher recently designed the sound for Of Mice and Men directed by Artistic Director Ed Stern at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and The Yellow Boat for the Playhouse’s educational outreach program. Other Playhouse credits include A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to The Forum, Hiding Behind Comets and The Last Five Years. His sound design for The Syringa Tree, directed by Michael Haney, has been heard in several theaters in the United States and at The English Theater in both Frankfurt, Germany and Vienna, Austria. At CCM Hatcher has designed sound for The Lady’s Not for Burning, Merrily We Roll Along, Dancing at Lughnasa, Dracula–The Game of Love, Six Degrees of Separation, The Boys From Syracuse, The Laramie Project and CCM’s “Hot Summer Nights” in 2000 and 2001. Prior to joining the faculty at CCM, he was the resident sound designer and a senior lecturer at Cornell University from 1988-2000, where he has designed sound for more than 50 productions and served as house sound engineer for a long list of nationally known dance companies. Other regional theater credits include productions at Buffalo’s Studio Arena Theater, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Syracuse Stage, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Hangar Theatre, Tacoma Actors Guild, Capital Rep and Summer Studio Theater 02-05 at the University of Illinois. He is a member of USA829/IATSE as a sound designer and serves as a vice-commissioner for the USITT Sound Commission.

ROCCO DAL VERA  Vocal Coach
Rocco Dal Vera is a professor of drama at CCM. A co-author with Robert Barton of the book Voice: Onstage and Off, Rocco is also the founding editor of the Voice and Speech Review for the Voice and Speech Trainers Association. With an MFA in voice coaching and training and a BFA in Musical Theater, he has worked on over 500 films and television shows including L.A. Law, Hill Street Blues, Raiders of the Lost Ark and The Gods Must Be Crazy. His voice has also been heard on countless commercials throughout the country.

CYNTHIA M. HENNON  Stage Manager
A first-year graduate student from Redlands, California, Cynthia Hennon has served as stage manager for CCM’s productions of The Cradle Will Rock and The Lucrezia Legend and assistant stage manager for The Lady’s Not for Burning and Dangerous Liaisons. At the University of the Pacific (Stockton, Calif.), Hennon stage-managed productions of Berlin to Broadway, King Lear, Hearts’ Desires, Assassins and The Vagina Monologues. She has also served as stage manager for Meet Me in St. Louis and The Odd Couple with The Western Stage (Salinas, Calif.) and Die Fledermaus with the Bay View Music Festival (Bay View, Mich.).
Joan Cavally (BM ’48, MM ’60) has been transforming the lives of young musicians for decades. Her 50-plus years of service in the music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota have allowed her to nurture many talented CCM students. Recently Joan made a commitment to endow the Robert N. Cavally Memorial Scholarship Fund in honor of her late husband—one of the country’s most renowned flutists—through a provision in her will. So, those of us that know Joan can be assured that her smiling, chirpy personality will live on in perpetuity.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

CCM BOX OFFICE: Located in the CCM Atrium, the Box Office is open Monday through Friday, 12-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 12-4 p.m.; and one hour prior to curtain for Mainstage performances. MasterCard, VISA and Discover cards are accepted. CCM Box Office, P.O. Box 210003, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0003; (513) 556-4183.

PARKING: Convenient parking is available in the CCM Garage, at the base of Corry Boulevard off of Jefferson Avenue. Additional parking is available in garages throughout the UC campus. Any questions concerning on-campus parking should be directed to UC Parking Services at (513) 556-2283.

TAX CREDIT: If you find that you cannot attend your performance, your tickets may be donated for tax credit as a charitable contribution. Simply notify the Box Office prior to the performance to release your seats, and give your name and address. A tax donation receipt will be mailed to you.

EMERGENCY CALLS: If you are likely to receive an emergency call during a performance, please leave your name and seat location with the House Manager. If you have a beeper, we also request that you leave it with the House Manager along with your seat number so as not to disturb the audience and actors. In case of emergencies, this will help us locate you as quickly as possible.

LOST AND FOUND: (513) 556-9413

HOUSE POLICIES: The House Manager has been instructed to minimize the disturbance to patrons already seated when accommodating latecomers. The director and producer of each production select times which are least likely to interrupt the performance, and latecomers will be seated only during these times. Latecomers who miss these opportunities will not be admitted until intermission. The House Manager has also been instructed that to minimize the disturbance to our patrons, children under the age of six are not to be admitted.

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SMOKING AND REFRESHMENTS: These are not permitted in the theater.

HEARING ENHANCEMENT: Telex listening devices are available for checkout during performances in both Patricia Corbett Theater and Corbett Auditorium. Please inquire at the Box Office.

WHEELCHAIR SEATING: Wheelchair seating is available in both theaters. Seating is limited, so reservations should be made with the Box Office when ordering tickets. These seats are subject to availability.

GROUP SALES: The Box Office can accommodate groups for major productions and concerts. Preview and benefit performances are also available for some productions. For more information, call the CCM Box Office at (513) 556-4183.

CCM ONLINE: www.ccm.uc.edu
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