“Spinning Tales:” Our 2012 Season

EAST LYNNE THEATER COMPANY: A PROVEN DESTINATION FOR THEATER LOVERS WHO CRAVE THE ADVENTURE OF DISCOVERY!

Draper raised the bar on storytelling with her monologues; Poe wrote the first detective stories before the word “detective” was even created; Megre & Hackett’s farce about advertising a product that may – or may not – exist. Here comes the “spin!”

June 13–July 21 at 8:30 (no show on Wed. July 4; added show on Sun. July 8): RUTH DRAPER’S COMPANY OF CHARACTERS

Before the solo shows of Lily Tomlin and Whoopi Goldberg, there was the originator of the “character monologue,” Ruth Draper. For 40 years, throughout the world, she performed humorous and touching scenes with great precision, filled with a diverse array of characters from charwomen to divas. Scenes include “A Class in Greek Poise,” “At a Telephone Switchboard,” and “A Cocktail Party.”

ELTC is only the second production company—ever—to be allowed to produce this work since Draper. Performers are two ELTC favorites: Karen Case Cook (The Ransom of Red Chief) and Suzanne Dawson (The World of Dorothy Parker) under the direction of Gayle Stahlhuth.

Draper (1884-1956) was born into an affluent New York City family. She studied people—whether it was her German governess, or the residents in the Maine village where the Drapers had a summer home—and created monologues based on her findings which she performed for family and friends. Pursuing a career in theatre, she made her Broadway debut in 1916. The following year, Draper performed in an evening of monologues, the most successful of which was the one she had written. From then on, Draper only performed her own material.

In 1920, she made her London debut, garnering rave reviews, and establishing herself as the preeminent practitioner of her art—a master performer of the character monologue. She toured throughout the United States from 1924–1928, and in 1928–1929, played 18 weeks at the Comedy Theater in New York City. In the 1930s and 1940s, she toured throughout the world, and gave private recitals for Sarah Bernhardt, Eleonora Duse, and the royal families of Britain, Spain, and Belgium. Her repertoire included 60 dramatic sketches featuring 52 characters whom she performed, as well as 316 others whom she evoked in her sketches. Her only props were a chair or two, possibly a table, and her costumes were composed of various scarves.

At age 72, she died in her sleep, after receiving accolades for her performance on the Broadway stage earlier that night. Eleonora Duse declared “Ruth Draper is theater!”

Wed. June 13: After-show Opening Night Party at Pier House Restaurant, 1317 Beach Ave. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres, cash bar AND the opportunity to mingle with actors and fellow theater lovers!
Fri. June 22: After-show Q&A with cast and director Fri. July 13: ASL Performance

SHOW SPONSOR: La Mer Beachfront Inn

Mon. July 2 at 8:00: STORYBOOK THEATER: OLD TALES WITH A NEW TWIST A Student Workshop Production, admission-free! (Details inside)
2012 Season
BACK STAGE at ELTC

“Spinning Tales”....

July 25–September 1 at 8:30 PM: THE POE MYSTERIES, a World Premiere, adapted by James Rana, based on the first modern detective stories ever written. C. Auguste Dupin is a recluse living in Paris, avoiding people and the bill collectors, when an American journalist comes to interview him. As the great detective recalls his cases, the characters spring to life on stage. Six actors portray fifty roles in Edgar Allan Poe’s famous “Murders in the Rue Morgue,” “The Murder of Marie Roget” and “The Purloined Letter.” This production moves to Ocean Professional Theatre Company in Barnegat, NJ from Oct. 24–28.

Everyone in the cast has performed with ELTC before: Mark Edward Lang (The Guardsman), Shelley McPherson (Why Marry?), James Rana (Sherlock Holmes: Adventure of the Norwood Builder), Thomas Raniszewski (Berkeley Square), Fred Velde (Dulcy) and Grace Wright (He and She). Gayle Stahlhuth directs.

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) – the name conjures up mysteries, murder, and madmen. He is considered the creator of the modern detective story, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle credits him with influencing his own Sherlock Holmes creation.

Poe demonstrated his writing skills at an early age, but earning a living was always a struggle. Orphaned by age three, he was raised by John Allan, a wealthy merchant who never supported his writing career. Poe was a literary critic and editor for magazines in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City, while working on his own stories and poetry.

In 1844, while editing for The Evening Mirror, this magazine published “The Raven,” and Poe finally received the fame he sought. He could demand more pay for his work and his lectures became exceedingly popular. At the same time, his wife’s health was failing. When Virginia died in 1847, at age twenty-four, Poe was devastated. For the next two years, he toured, giving lectures and seeking backers to start a new magazine. While traveling between Richmond and Philadelphia, he stopped in Baltimore.

He was found, unconscious, in the bar room of a public house that was being used as a polling station for a local election. Poe never regained consciousness and the cause of his death remains a mystery.

Fri. August 3: After-Show Q&A with cast, playwright and director
Fri. August 24: ASL Performance

SHOW SPONSOR: The Henry Sawyer Inn

Sun. August 12 at 8:30 PM: CAPE MAY OPRY: NASHVILLE COMES TO JERSEY! Barry Tischler has rounded up a group of talented musicians you won’t want to miss. (Tickets: $20; Season Tickets cannot be used for this special event.)

September 19–October 13 at 8:00 (no show on Wed. Oct. 3; added show on Sun. Oct. 7 at 7:30): IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE, a “farcical fact” in three acts by Roi Cooper Megrue and Walter C. Hackett, was a hit on Broadway in 1914. This screwball comedy was twice made into a movie: a silent in 1919, and in 1931 with Carole Lombard. The premise – and promise – that anything can be sold is at its core, but it also examines the very nature and romance of advertising. Decades before AMC’s Mad Men, this clever farce demonstrates that an ad campaign might be better than the product. All it takes is one adventurous young man to announce, “Advertising is responsible for everything!” and he and his two friends are off and running in this mad romp with a cast of ten.

In the cast are ELTC favorites Tom Byrn (He and She), John Cameron Weber (The World of Dorothy Parker), and Gayle Stahlhuth, who also directs. New to ELTC are Glen Corlin, Brian Graziani, Matt Baxter Luceno, Kate Shine and Maria Silverman. Glen has performed in Hawaii and Germany in productions ranging from Oklahoma! to Crimes of the Heart. Brian recently portrayed the White Rabbit in a national tour of Alice in Wonderland. Matt was in King Lear starring Stacey Keach, and has worked on CBS’s The Guiding Light. Kate has performed in NYC and regionally, and her film/TV credits include a recent role in The Goldberg Girls starring Chris O’Donnell and Renee Zellweger. ELTC is showing the Keaton film on September 8!

Roi Cooper Megrue (1883-1927), born in New York City, was an assistant to Elisabeth Marbury, a theatrical and literary agent. Under Cover (1914) was his first Broadway success, and Seven Chances (1916) was made into two films: in 1925 directed by and starring Buster Keaton, and in 1999, under the title The Bachelor starring Chris O’Donnell and Renee Zellweger. ELTC is showing the Keaton film on September 8!

Megrue directed and co-produced Jesse Lynch Williams’ Why Marry? In 1917, the first play to win the

30 Rock.
Pulitzer Prize. ELTC produced Why Marry? in 2006, bringing it back in 2007 due to its popularity. ELTC’s production was the first time this comedy had been produced in eighty years.

Walter C. Hackett (1876-1944) was born in California. His play Regeneration, written with Owen Frawley, was made into a film in 1915, and in 2000, the film was selected for preservation by The Library of Congress.

Hackett married Marion Lorne, and they moved to London where they built The Whitehall Theatre. From its opening in 1930 with The Way to Treat a Woman, through 1934, most of the plays were written by Hackett, starring his wife. In 2004, the theater was redesigned and is now Trafalgar Studios.

After Hackett died, Lorne resumed her Broadway career and made her film debut in Strangers on a Train. Portraying Aunt Clara on Bewitched earned her an Emmy in 1968. Elizabeth Montgomery accepted on her behalf, as Marion Lorne had died a few months before the awards ceremony.

Wed. September 19: After-Show Opening Night Party at Aleatheara’s Restaurant, 7 Ocean Street
Fri. September 28: After-show Q&A with the cast and director
Fri. October 12: ASL Performance
SHOW SPONSOR: Exit Zero

By celebrating The American Spirit on Stage through classics and new works, ELTC reveals a portal to the past that provides a better understanding of the present.
ELTC & The Cape May Film Festival proudly present:

SILENT FILM CLASSICS with live organ accompaniment
Performed by Wayne Zimmerman

Sunday, August 5 at 8:30:  The Mark of Zorro
Saturday, September 8 at 8:00:  Seven Chances
Sunday, October 14 at 8:00:  Nosferatu

Tickets: $15; Season Tickets cannot be used for admission.
Wayne Zimmerman is president of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). Performing throughout the county, he regularly accompanies silent films at the Loew's Jersey Theatre in Jersey City and The Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville, PA. Last October, he was so well received when he played for Phantom of the Opera, also presented by ELTC and the Cape May Film Festival, that we had to invite him back!

Save Money with Packages!
Have a lovely meal + see an ELTC show = Save Money!
Call the restaurant to make reservations and ask for East Lynne Theater Company’s Dinner-Show-Package
(These tickets are purchased through restaurants only.)

Aleathea’s at The Inn of Cape May, 7 Ocean Street: $47 per person, includes dinner, tax, token gratuity, and ticket.
   Reservations: 884-5555

410 Bank Street Restaurant, 410 Bank St.: Dinner + $15 ticket. Seating by 6:00  Reservations: 884-2127

Fresco’s - A Seafood Trattoria, 412 Bank St.: Dinner + $15 ticket. Seating by 6:00  Reservations: 884-0366

The Washington Inn, 801 Washington St.: Complete dinner anytime + $15 ticket  Reservations: 884-5697

AND
When staying at these B&Bs, patrons have the opportunity to purchase tickets for only $20.00. (Must purchase at the B&B)

The Henry Sawyer Inn: 722 Columbia Avenue  609-884-5667 or 800-449-5667 or www.henrysawyerinn.com.
The Victorian Lace Inn: 901 Stockton Avenue  609-884-1772 or www.victorianlaceinn.com.

If anyone age 12 or under is part of the party using these packages, call ELTC and a complimentary ticket will be waiting at the box office.

“Tales of the Victorians”
It’s the 23rd Anniversary of Tales, and Peg Curran has compiled a terrific line-up of venues. Storytellers include Lee O’Connor, Stephanie Garrett, Michele LaRue, Suzanne Longacre and Hope Gaines - all ready to serve up tantalizing tales along with tea-time treats.
Time is 4:00 PM: Thursdays in the summer and Saturdays in the fall, still for $10, with anyone age 12 and under free and welcome!
Contact ELTC to make reservations and verify locations.

June 21: The Butterfly Tea Room
   109 Sunset Boulevard
June 28: The Mad Batter
   19 Jackson Street
July 5: The Dormer House
   800 Columbia Avenue
July 12: The Chalfonte Hotel
   301 Howard Street
July 19: The Inn of Cape May
   7 Ocean Street
July 26: The Cliveden Inn
   709 Columbia Avenue
August 2: Victorian Lace Inn
   901 Stockton Avenue
August 9: The Mission Inn
   117 New Jersey Avenue
August 16: Peter Shields Inn
   1301 Beach Avenue
August 23: Victorian Lace Inn
   901 Stockton Avenue
August 30: The Inn of Cape May
   7 Ocean Street
Sat. October 6: The Cliveden Inn
   709 Columbia Avenue

Ghosts at Christmastime
In November and December, join us for more tales on "The Ghosts of Christmas Past Trolley Rides." Contact MAC for trolley times and tickets: 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278.

“Head down to Cape May, the island resort town at the southern tip of New Jersey, where East Lynne Theater Company is putting on a solidly satisfying revival of “He and She,” written in 1911 and last seen on Broadway in 1920.”

– From Terry Teachout’s review in The Wall Street Journal, July 8, 2011
Thriving School Residencies, with the help of NJTA & Target

ELTC has provided in-school residencies in Cape May County since 2001 through funding from NJTA’s “Stages Festival.” Gayle and Lee were once more back at West Cape May Elementary School, this time directing twenty 4th - 6th graders in *The Wizard of Oz*. An enthusiastic audience of over 100 saw the show on March 29. Dorothy Sheehan from *The Press of Atlantic City* took terrific photos that appeared in the April 4 edition and Mary Linehan wrote a great article in *The Shore News Today*. Link is: [http://tinyurl.com/eltc-oz](http://tinyurl.com/eltc-oz). Thank you to the teachers, Ms. Calabro and Ms. Stoner, for working with Gayle, Lee and the students; the parents who created the set and supplied costumes and props; Ms. McLaughlin, Supervisor at the school; ELTC Board Members Frank Smith and Dawn Brautigam and volunteer Harriet Wilson for their support.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Wildwood being incorporated into a city, and 5th grade students at Glenwood Avenue Elementary School celebrated the event by writing plays and performing, with the help of Gayle and fellow artist-in-residence, Grace Wright. On March 13, the 5th graders performed *100 Years of Wildwood* in front of a delighted audience.

Funding for this residency was from Target, the third year in a row that ELTC has been a grant recipient from this well-known department store. Since 1946, Target has given 5% of its income to non-profits. We’ve applied again for this grant so that ELTC can hopefully return to Wildwood in 2013.

Thank you to Michael Menszak, Basic Skills Teacher, for helping set up the residency; fifth grade teachers, Ms. Heraux, Mrs. Santiago and Mr. Sturm for working with Gayle, Grace, and the students; and Mr. Kummings, the Principal. Once again, Elisa Lala from *The Press of Atlantic City* wrote a lovely article, with pictures by Dale Gerhard. Read it at: [http://tinyurl.com/eltc-wildwood](http://tinyurl.com/eltc-wildwood).

ELTC’s involvement with this school paved the way for The First Presbyterian Church of Cape May to lend a hand. Attending the show was Pastor Jim Richards and his wife, Jackie. Since 99% of the students at Glenwood receive free lunches and breakfasts, Jim and the deacons at First Presbyterian agreed that the church would supply funds to facilitate the inclusion of Glenwood in NJ Food Bank’s BackPack Program. This service provides schools with supplemental food for distribution to eligible children to be placed “in their backpacks” for the weekend.

You just never know where “reaching out” can take you!

“...the students’ participation was highly enriching and possessed immeasurable intrinsic value. I was very proud to see them come out of their shell and perform for their peers, teachers, and parents. We so appreciated your visit at Glenwood Avenue Elementary School, as well as did our students.”

– John Kummings, Principal
Glenwood Avenue Elementary School
Wildwood, NJ

**STORYBOOK THEATER:**
**OUR 6th ANNUAL STUDENT ACTING WORKSHOP**

Presented in storytelling fashion, the focus is on the actors working as a tight ensemble, using the imagination. Tales include “The Bremen Town Musicians,” “The Fisherman and His Wife” and “The Three Travelers.” Assisting Gayle this year will be Kathleen D. Gaynor and production assistant Gabrielle Wilson.

Rehearsals are from June 19–July 2, with a **performance on Monday, July 2 at 8:00**. These shows are very popular, with standing room only! **Students must be between ages 11-18.**

For information and applications, go to ELTC’s web site or call the office.
Other East Lynne Events...

Since last October, six ELTC touring productions were seen by over 3,000 people in four states: Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York; and eight counties in New Jersey. Funding comes directly from the organizations sponsoring ELTC’s touring shows, yet the town of Cape May benefits because ELTC clearly states that its home is Cape May.

Michèle LaRue’s performances of the witty Someone Must Wash the Dishes: An Anti-Suffrage Satire and Tales Well Told were, as usual, seen at a variety of locales, including The College of Staten Island/CUNY.

Lorna Lable in her Emma Goldman: My Life brought 80 people to their feet in a standing ovation at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in NYC.

Susan Tischler and Lee O’Connor in Susan’s Helpful Hints was so well received at the J. Thompson Baker House in Wildwood that the Friends of the Baker House have requested Someone Must Wash the Dishes in October.

Thanks to funding through NJTA’s “The Stages Festival,” Victorian Magic, with Robert Aberdeen, and Sherlock Holmes Adventure of the Norwood Builder performed in libraries in Ocean and Bergen counties.

“The Stages Festival” also helped ELTC bring Pushcart Players’ bilingual musical A Cuentos Del Arbol or Tree Tales to Cape May. The performance was admission-free and everyone left smiling and humming the tunes!

ELTC was also able to offer a free acting class, conducted by Tom Byrn, due to funding from “The Stages Festival.”

Upcoming Highlights:

Sun. May 20: Paul Robeson Through His Words and Music, performed by Derrick McQueen, at the North Carolina Stage Company in Asheville, NC. It’s a benefit for the local non-profit Homeward Bound.

Sat. October 6 at 8:00: Someone Must Wash the Dishes: An Anti-Suffrage Satire sponsored by The Friends of the J. Thompson Baker House in Wildwood. Dinner is served at the house at 6:00. Reservations/info: 729-4515.

ELTC held its annual Cape May fundraiser in November, with live music wonderfully provided by Chris Sooy and Lew London. The performers were Suzanne Dawson, Mark Edward Lang, Alison J. Murphy, Lee O’Connor, James Rana, Thomas Raniszewski, Susan Tischler, and Grace Wright, all doing skits from the Vaudeville era. Patrons were even greeted at the door with James walking on stilts!

As usual, the recipient of the Historic Jackson Street Neighborhood Association Scholarship was announced. This year, it was Grace Wright.

Much work went into planning. Board President Frank Smith took care of the invitations and Linda Linhares helped with the mailing; Irene Schreiner provided centerpieces; David Knipe tuned the piano for free; Mark Lang designed the invitations and he, along with Karen Case Cook and Alison J. Murphy, selected, organized and cast the scenes. Marilyn Foster took care of last minute raffle sales.

But without the generosity of Beth Eastman, The Menz Family, Alecthea’s, and The Inn of Cape May contributing the banquet hall, food, and the use of a hotel room, none of it would have been possible. Thank you everyone who participated! It was a lot of fun!

Our next Annual Fundraiser will be on November 8, 2012.
ELTC's 2012 SEASON SUPPORTERS so far . . . March 2011–May 2012
(We think we listed everyone, but if we forgot you, we’re sorry, and let us know!)

Angels ($6,000–$12,000): NJ State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of The National Endowment for the Arts; The NJ Dept. of State, Division of Travel & Tourism
Producer ($3,000–$5,000): Aleatha's Restaurant & Curran Investment Management
Producer’s Circle ($1,500–$2,999): Charles and Cathy Alexander, The Henry Sawyer Inn, La Mer Beachfront Inn, and Target
Associate Producer ($750–$1,499): Niels and Elizabeth Favre, Miller Realty Family Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund, and Frank Smith
Director ($300–$749): Anonymous, Dawn Brautigam, Danny Cohen and Mindy Silver, Karen Case Cook, Mollie Falk, Anne and Harrison Frahn, Margaret and John Gagliardi Charitable Fund of The National Endowment for the Arts; The NJ Dept. of State, Division of Travel & Tourism
Patron ($200–$299): Anonymous, ACE Charitable Foundation, Lester and Roberta Aungst, Cameron Badders, Joan Behr, Nancy Benson, Connie Blocher, Geri Breth, Jean Badders, Joan Behr, Nancy Benson, Connie Blocher, Geri Breth, Jean
Friend ($10–$199): Anonymous, ACE Charitable Foundation, Lester and Roberta Aungst, Cameron Badders, Joan Behr, Nancy Benson, Connie Blocher, Geri Breth, Jean

MURDER MYSTERIES with retired police detective Frank Smith
At The Henry Sawyer Inn & Twin Gables Inn
January 18 & 19 February 22 & 23
March 8 & 9 March 22 & 23

PLAYWRITING GET-AWAY with ELTC's Gayle Stahlhuth
At The Henry Sawyer Inn on March 1 & 2
For details, contact The Henry Sawyer Inn at (609) 884-5667 or hensawyerinn@verizon.net or Twin Gables at (609) 884-7332 or twgables@verizon.net or ELTC. Reservations and payment are made through the inns.

FREE JUGGLING CLASS WITH JAMES RANA
Friday, August 3 1:00-2:30 PM
James Rana, a hit at ELTC’s fundraiser last fall, has captivated audiences in North America and Europe with his sleight-of-hand and juggling.
Reservations requested.

AN ACTING CLASS WITH TOM BYRN
Monday, Oct. 8 from 6:00-9:00
For ages 17 on up Fee: $20
ELTC is offering another class with Tom! If you’re a seasoned performer, never performed, or a theater lover who wants to find out more about how actors work, join us! Tom works with many Philadelphia-area theaters, and was a member of the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble for eleven years.
Reservations requested.

ELTC HONORS BETH EASTMAN AND ALEATHEA’S AT THE ENCORE AWARDS
Beth Eastman, president of The Inn of Cape May and Aleathea’s Restaurant was ELTC’s honoree on May 17 at the South Jersey Cultural Alliance’s (SJCA) 17th Annual Paul Aiken Encore Awards Dinner at the historic Landis Theater in Vineland. Since 2008, Beth Eastman has supported ELTC’s annual fundraiser by providing the use of Aleathea’s, along with a three course meal, without charge. She has also lent furniture to dress ELTC’s sets, and helped with housing for ELTC designers and performers.

VOLUNTEERS: ELTC appreciates you all, and Thank You!
Dorothy Badders, Joan Behr, Nancy Benson, Connie Blocher, Geri Breth, Jean Dougherty, Ursula Friedrich, Betsy Heegard, Phil Jacobs, Linda Linhares, Faye Morris, Gus Mosso, Mary Ann Mosso, Barbara Ridgeway, Dianne Riehl, Dolores Roehrenbeck, Eileen Short, Shirley Stiles, and Harriet Wilson.
Welcome to Our New Board Members

ELTC is pleased to announce two new board members: Jim Richards and Dawn Brautigam.

Jim is the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Cape May who has also served churches in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maryland, and Indiana. Born and raised in the Philadelphia area, he graduated from Millersville University before earning a Master’s degree in Education from Shippensburg University and a Master of Divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Before entering the ministry, he taught school, including drama, at a middle school near Harrisburg, PA. He is married to Jackie Richards, who works at MAC.

Dawn, originally from Philadelphia, but also raised in New Jersey and Delaware, holds a degree in Criminal Justice Administration. She worked in various departments at Harrah’s Atlantic City for over twenty years and currently works in the business office at Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities (MAC).

The Board also wishes to thank two members who are leaving the board: Patti Chambers, who served since 2002, and Joann Oxley, who joined the board in 2005.

Those interested in board membership or becoming a volunteer may talk to box office personnel, call the office, or send an e-mail to eastlynnecco@aol.com. Just to get one show mounted requires the work of many behind the scenes as well as on the stage. ELTC couldn’t do it without the help of its board members and volunteers - and those behind the scenes get to share the excitement of being in on the ground floor of what it takes to run a theater company!

Go to our web site to join ELTC on Facebook, Twitter, and sign up for our E-News Blasts! Be the first to know the ELTC news, updates, and specials!