

ED FLETCHER'S EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE

727-446-5898

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Special Interest:

- *How the Other Half Loves*
- Selecting Scripts
- 2010/2011 Season

Table of Contents:

- *How the Other Half Loves* 1
- Script Selection Process 2
- Dixie Swim Club 3
- Upcoming Shows 3
- Patron Corner 3

200 South McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759
www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com

Now Playing: HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES

Ed Fletcher's production of *How the Other Half Loves*, by Alan Ayckbourn, is a classic British farce that will leave you laughing and marveling at the comical antics of three couples, whose lives are hopelessly intertwined.

Frank and Fiona Foster live an upscale life that is depicted on one half of the stage. Bob and Teresa Philips disorganized and argumentative lifestyle is depicted on the other half of the stage. The bespectacled William and Mary Detweiler are perpetually confused as they unwittingly travel between the other two couples' entanglements.

Frank is Bob and William's boss, but his wife, Fiona, is having an affair with Bob. Bob's wife, Teresa, becomes suspicious when Bob arrives home very late one night, leaving her alone with their baby. When she presses Bob for an answer as to his whereabouts, he says he was comforting William, who believes his wife Mary is having an affair.



Cast: (Left to Right) Ian MacCallum, Tracy Borgatti, Charles W. Wilcox, Gail Scott, Barbara Anthony, and Joseph Johnson

Meanwhile, Fiona tells her husband that she was out comforting Mary, who believes that her husband William is having an affair!

Now, the innocent Detweilers are implicated as alibis. When both Fiona and Teresa invite the unsuspecting couple to dinner, we have an opportunity to see some truly ingenious theatrics. The dinner parties are performed simultaneously with William and Mary swiveling on stools from one dinner table to the other. From the banal conversation at one table to a physical argument at the other table, William and Mary attempt to cope.

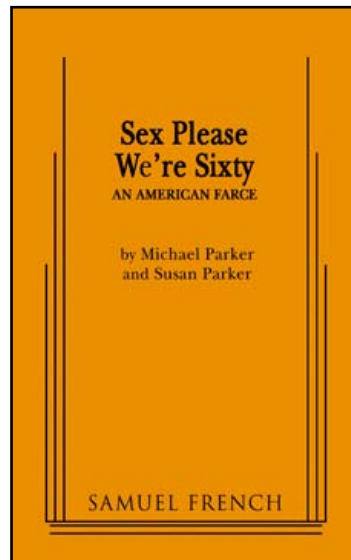
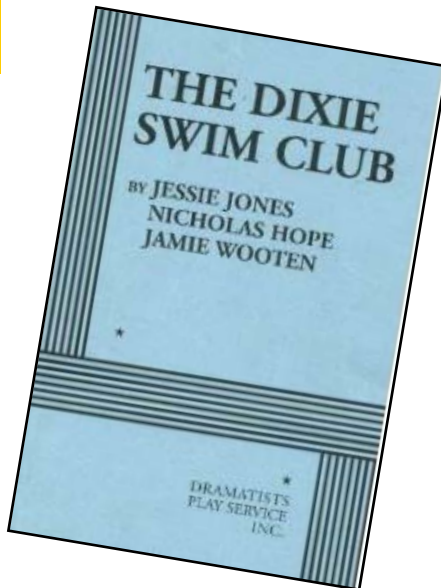
And that's just Act One!!!
Come and enjoy this hysterical well-accomplished feat by both the author and the actors.

Artistic Director Robin New's cast includes: Ian MacCallum; Tracy Borgatti; Charles W. Wilcox; Gail Scott; Barbara Anthony and Joseph Johnson.

How the Other Half Loves runs until December 26, 2010.

**For Reservations
Call
727-446-5898**

How We Select Scripts for the Shows you Love



Three scripts for upcoming shows

This spot is usually reserved for the Actor's Spotlight, but we thought you would like to know how Early Bird goes about selecting the shows that you love to see.

Before each new season begins, catalogues from different play publishing companies are sent out. In order to produce six shows per season 45 to 50 plays must be reviewed first. Under Ed Fletcher's direction, a group of about six to eight readers research different plays and make suggestions.

Mr. Fletcher contacts the publishing houses to see if the plays are available for production. Then, he orders the scripts for review. The scripts usually come from Samuel French Publishing or the Dramatists Play Service, the two main play-publishing houses. The readers then begin studying all the new scripts. They share the best ones with each other, and discuss their merits.

There are many considerations when choosing scripts for Early Bird. The number of actors in the

play is one such consideration. Our stage can only accommodate so many actors at once, nine at the very most. Then, there is the set design to think about. For example, a two-story set might not fit in the stage area.

One of the most important considerations for Early Bird is whether or not the script is well written and funny. We know that our patrons come back for the laughter, and so that's something extremely important that we look for when considering new scripts for the upcoming season.

After the first batch of plays has been read, the list gets whittled down to about 25. The readers discuss these scripts and continue to review them to decide whether or not they are appropriate for our patrons.

Sometimes, a play will come to Early Bird via other means. An actor might make a recommendation of a favorite comedy that they think would work well for our patrons, or readers

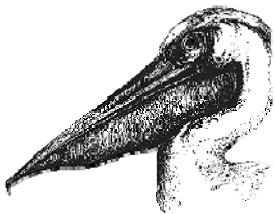
might do additional research online to see what other successful theatres are producing around the country.

Then, rarely, there is a brand new play that has never been produced, like Michael Parker's "Never Kiss a Naughty Nanny," which had its world premiere at Early Bird.

Once a consensus is reached among the readers, they make their recommendations to Mr. Fletcher, who reviews their selections and makes the final decisions, including licensing rights and royalty arrangements with the publisher.

As you can see, choosing the six plays for the season is not a quick and easy process! But for those of us who love theatre, the selection process is an exciting and fun one.

Our ultimate aim is always to please the patrons. We certainly hope we achieve that from our script selection process all the way to the final production that you get to enjoy when you come to the theatre!



In Rehearsal Now: THE DIXIE SWIM CLUB

Rehearsals are in progress for *The Dixie Swim Club* and the show will be opening on January 6, 2011.

This touching and hilarious comedy is about the lifelong friendship of five Southern women. They first met many years ago on their college swim team, and have met every August to recharge their friendship. Free from husbands, kids and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each other's lives.

The Dixie Swim Club focuses on four of those weekends and spans a period of thirty-three years. As their lives unfold and the years pass, these women increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges that life flings at them. And when fate throws a wrench into one of their lives in the second act, these friends rally round their own with the strength and love that takes this comedy in a poignant and surprising direction. *The Dixie Swim Club* is the story of five unforgettable women.

The cast includes: Artistic Director Robin New; Barbara Anthony; Tracy Borgatti; Marianne Meichenbaum; and Mary Ann Bardi.

Call early and make your reservations soon!

The Dixie Swim Club
opens on
January 6, 2011

Get Your Ducks in a Row for Our 2010/2011 Season

NOW PLAYING: How the Other Half Loves from November 4 to December 26, 2010.

The Dixie Swim Club from January 6 to February 27, 2011

Sex Please, We're Sixty from March 3 to April 24, 2011

Don't Dress for Dinner from April 28 to June 19, 2011

For more information and details of upcoming shows, please visit our website:

Earlybirddinnertheatre.com

Patron Corner: Let's Hear from You!

Tell us about some special memories you've had at the theatre or tell us about one of your favorite shows; just send us an email at

newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com

We look forward to hearing from you!!!

Jennifer Sloane
Editor, Early Bird Newsletter

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Make sure you check our website often for upcoming news.

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