

# ED FLETCHER'S EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE

## 727-446-5898

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### Special Interest:

- *The Dixie Swim Club*
- Actor Spotlight
- 2011 Season

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200 South McMullen Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 33759  
[www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com](http://www.EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com)

## *The Dixie Swim Club* opens January 6, 2010

We're beginning the New Year with Ed Fletcher's production of the smash hit comedy *The Dixie Swim Club*, by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten.

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 come together once a year 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 over thirty years.

As the years pass and their lives unfold, these five women come to increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges that life flings at them.



Cast: (Left to Right) Marianne Meichenbaum; Barbara Anthony; Robin New; Tracy Borgatti; and Mary Ann Bardi

When fate throws a wrench into one of their lives, these friends rally around their own with the strength and love that takes this comedy in a poignant and surprising direction.

Artistic Director, Robin New, appears in this production along with four other very talented actors: Marianne Meichenbaum (who happens to be this month's Actor's Spotlight); Mary Ann Bardi; Tracy Borgatti and Barbara Anthony.

*The Dixie Swim Club* is the story of five unforgettable women ... performed by five unforgettable actors!

We hope you'll join us in the New Year for a taste of comedy and a refreshing look at the resiliency of the human spirit.

*The Dixie Swim Club* runs until February 27, 2011.

Call now for to make a reservation. This is one show you won't want to miss!

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

## Actor's Spotlight: Marianne Meichenbaum



Marianne Meichenbaum

This month's Actor's Spotlight goes to the multi-talented, versatile and much loved Marianne Meichenbaum.

We don't think there's an actor at Early Bird – or anywhere else for that matter – who doesn't love working with Marianne. From her positive attitude to her professional experience, she exudes talent and brings out the best in all of us.

Marianne was born in Scranton, PA, which she notes is an old Vaudeville town. She grew up in the small village of Clarks Green where she spent her childhood enjoying rural outdoor activities and attending school. Yet beneath those fond childhood memories, Marianne dreamed of becoming a dancer. She began dancing at the age of three and it was her passion throughout her teenage years. Marianne was part of Scranton's first Regional Ballet Companies and performed all the classics. Each summer, she went to New York to study ballet, and even took classes from the infamous George Balanchine at the New York City Ballet.

Marianne also studied jazz and tap

and states that some of her mentors included Peter Gennaro, Matt Maddox and Bob Fosse.

Acting entered her life when she began taking theatre classes at the University of Illinois, where she majored in Psychology and minored in English. Marianne found that acting allowed her to go beyond the structure of dance into a world where freely experimenting with characters was key. She became active in musical theatre with several acting companies, and her first summer stock job was playing Nellie in *South Pacific* ... in Butte, Montana!

After marrying and having her family, Marianne was fortunate to be able to continue her acting career, and added over thirty musicals to her credits. When Marianne and her husband moved to Florida in the late 1980's, she found a couple of directors she fell in love with, one being Early Bird's Robin New. "She is such a talented lady," says Marianne.

Tampa Bay had a lot to offer, but when Marianne got involved with Early Bird, she says, "I felt like I found a very special niche with good actors, a nice environment and lots of fun keeping live theatre going with such amazing patrons!"

"Ed Fletcher," adds Marianne, "has been in this business for many years and really knows how to bring good shows to our audiences."

One of Marianne's favorite Early Bird memories is doing *Bermuda Avenue Triangle* with her best friend and fellow

actor, Mary Ann Bardi. "The entire cast in that show really hit it off amazingly well on stage," says Marianne. "We were all able to read each other, and I do believe that's a sign of a good actor – they're natural."

Another favorite of Marianne's was *Social Security*, where she played Sophie.

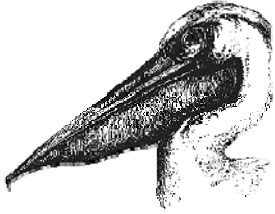
Marianne says that she wasn't truly happy in show business in her younger days, as the competition was fierce and the day-to-day judgment was difficult. Now, those days are long gone and Marianne says that coming to Clearwater and having the chance to work at Early Bird has been a wonderfully positive experience. In fact, she says, "Thank you, Ed Fletcher, and thank you patrons of the Arts. Our job is to keep live theatre going and it is truly a privilege to bring it to you."

When not doing shows, Marianne has taught dance, done choreography, office work and management. "But my favorite job in the world," she says, "was being the mother of four amazing children, who have now given me six fantastic grandchildren!"

Marianne adds that her husband of forty-six years is the love of her life. "We feel so fortunate and love our beautiful home in Clearwater and spending our summers in Cape Cod."

"Recently," says Marianne, "we've found another home in Clarence, New York so we can be closer to our grandchildren. Life is good! Thank you God!"

Marianne is appearing again with her best friend Mary Ann Bardi in our upcoming production of *The Dixie Swim Club*. We're delighted to have her back!



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

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All of us at Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theatre would like to extend a warm Holiday Greeting to each and every of you!

We hope you are able to spend time with your loved ones this Season. We extend our gracious thanks for the time you have spent with your Early Bird family this year and best wishes for a healthy, prosperous and happy New Year to all!!!



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Make sure you check our website often for upcoming news.

[Earlybirddinnertheatre.com](http://Earlybirddinnertheatre.com)

*Producer*  
**Ed Fletcher**

*Artistic Director*  
**Robin New**

## ***Get Your Ducks in a Row for Our 2011 Season***

*How the Other Half Loves* closes this month.

**Next up:** *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](http://Earlybirddinnertheatre.com)

## ***Patron Corner: We Love Hearing from You!***

Thank you for writing to us and telling us how much you enjoy our shows! Keep those letters and emails coming. We welcome hearing about the special experiences you've had at the theatre. You can email us at the address listed below.

[newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com](mailto:newsletter@earlybirddinnertheatre.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!!!

*Jennifer Sloane*  
Editor, Early Bird Newsletter