

## Now Playing: *Leading Ladies*

### Special Interest:

- **Now Playing**
- **Spotlight on our Producer & Director**
- **Our next show**

Ed Fletcher's production of the Ken Ludwig farce, "Leading Ladies" is running strong but there are only a few show dates remaining to catch this zany romp set in 1958 York, Pennsylvania.

Our story revolves around Jack Gable and Leo Clark, two actors who allow fate to lead them to hopefully millions of dollars, along the way they happen to fall in love with two local girls, Meg and Audrey, all the while pretending to be women to fool a wealthy widow into thinking they are her long lost nieces.

Leo is charming and wonderfully portrayed by Charles Wilcox and Jonathan Cho brings his unique style of flawless comedic timing to the character of Jack Gable. The sweet and innocent Audrey is convincingly played by newcomer Julia Teal and the beautiful comedian Jonelle Meyer as Meg reels us in and makes her character lovable. Of course what show would be complete without the extreme talent of Barbara Anthony who plays the nearsighted and



strong willed widow, Florence. Bill Henricks as her physician, Doctor Myers is strong willed himself and superb.

Our story soon gets complicated for the boys when they find out Meg is engaged to the local minister, Reverend Wooley, skillfully played by Joe Johnson and Audrey is engaged to Butch played by newcomer, Adam Crain who brings great energy and innocence to his character. Leo and Jack must work hard and devise a scheme to allow love to be their fate and if they happen to be successful maybe even a few millions to boot!

*Leading Ladies* runs through October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Call now for to make a reservation. You'll be glad you did!

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

## Spotlight: Producer & Director, Ed Fletcher & Robin New

As many of you know, the business savvy and muscle behind our successful theatre is our producer, Ed Fletcher. For over 30 years Mr. Fletcher has built his production company on the foundation of great shows and great food at a great price.

Early in 1998 the Early Bird Dinner Theatre then located at Bill Irlé's Banquet Hall on Ft. Harrison was enjoying great success with hundreds of happy patrons every week but Ed thought it would be a good idea to bring in new talent to help further along his success and as usual he was right. He spread the word that he was looking for a new director to add to his group of directors that were already working for him. At the same time across the bridge was Robin New looking for a directing job, she had earned a respectable reputation as a director for Francis Wilson Playhouse in Clearwater and Carrollwood Players in Tampa.

Robin had seen several productions at the Early Bird while coming to see friends that were performing in various shows there. She had introduced herself many times to Ed and gave him her resume' and after going through his stack of applications and asking his actors about Robin, he decided to give her a chance.

So one day she got the call she thought would never come, it was Ed and she was nervous, after all... here was this man in power, producer of a professional Dinner theatre, which many of you know is a different genre and one that Robin had never experienced before. She knew she would have to prove herself worthy... They talked and set up a meeting to discuss the show Ed had in mind for her.

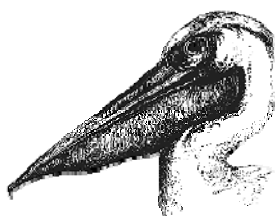
Robin's first show was a 2-person comedy *Grace & Glorie* starring Midge Mamatas and Chris Tracey. "Ed handed me a script and told me... here is the play your doing and these are your actor's. I think he pretty much thought he wasn't taking too much of a risk because of the immense talent of the 2 actresses and the story of the show...how badly could I mess it up?" Of course *Grace & Glorie* was a success and soon after Robin was hired to direct more and more productions until eventually she became Artistic Director.

Robin had already racked up a large amount of experience both as an actress and a director, but in all her years in the theatre community she had never enjoyed it as much as doing just one show for the Early Bird and had no idea when she walked through those doors what a change it would make in her life. The friendship she and Ed share is one of mutual respect and admiration and because of that working relationship this theatre including our ensemble group of actors has become as close as any family.

Ed has been very happy with the growing quality of each production as he has said "Let's get better and better, improving all the time" and a large part of our success has been the teamwork of Robin and Ed.

*"Ed loves to tell humorous stories about his theatre experiences and how he started and the many characters he has come across over the years to me and Barbara and I enjoy listening to him and always learning something new from the*

*wise owl. Getting to know Ed and his lovely wife and beautiful family has truly enhanced my life and made the theatre experience so much more than a place to work".*



### Early Bird Dinner Theatre

200 South McMullen Booth Rd.  
Clearwater, FL 33759

Phone:  
(727) 446-5898

E-Mail:  
[Newsletter@EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com](mailto:Newsletter@EarlyBirdDinnerTheatre.com)



Make sure you check our website often for upcoming news.

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

## Up Next: The Sensuous Senator

**The Sensuous Senator** is a wonderful bit of Americana written by Michael Parker. To the delight of our audiences, Ed Fletcher has produced many of Mr. Parker's hilarious farces.

Senator Harry Douglas has decided to run for the Presidency leaning heavily on his morality platform which soon collapses as the truth comes out about Harry's harem. While the hopeful future first lady is away, Harry comes out to play, his plans get vetoed when his steady squeeze is not available and he is forced to turn to an escort agency for some shall we say... companionship... Harry's neighbor, the elderly and forgetful Congressman Salt has locked himself out of his home and begs Harry to let him stay the night, soon Mrs. Douglas returns home unexpectedly and oh yes, there is young protégée, congressman Maguire who becomes caught up in the middle of the would-be, could-be scandal.

*How will Harry save his campaign? Will the escort, Fiona, find her clothes? Will the police arrest young, intoxicated Maguire for wearing nothing but a pink feathered robe? All these questions and more can be found at the Early Bird Dinner Theatre starting November 3<sup>rd</sup> and running til Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011....inquiring audiences want to know!*

**The Sensuous Senator**  
*opens Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*and runs until Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011*

## Get Your Ducks in a Row for Our 2011 – 2012 Season

**Now Playing:** *Leading Ladies:* thru October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Next up:** *The Sensuous Senator:* Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> thru Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

*Lie, Cheat and Genuflect:* Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> thru Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

*What is Susan's Secret?:* March 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

*Separate Beds:* April 26<sup>th</sup> thru June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

*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!!!