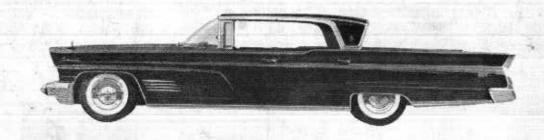


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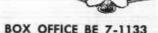
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In selecting the guest stars for our 1960 season, we have taken actors who are the best suited for the roles. We do not believe in casting famous personalities who do not know how to act. Gateway performers come to Bellport directly from their Broadway, screen, and television assignments.

We are proud of our pleasant association with the Guild Hall in East Hampton, Long Island. Gateway productions can be seen at the John Drew Theatre, America's most beautiful summer playhouse. For information concerning the East Hampton schedule, you can inquire at the box-office.

"EQUITY" is the stamp of professionalism in Show Business. Equity theatres necessarily follow the high standards set by this union. All Broadway shows are produced with Equity actors as at Gateway. The best actors in the profession are members of Equity. Gateway Theatre is the ONLY summer theatre on Long Island that maintains a resident company of EQUITY actors.

We are grateful to you, the audience, for your continued support and comments. You have proven to us that the living theatre will never die. It is our plan to bring to you each week the very best that Broadway has to offer.

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THE PRODUCERS

HARRY C. POMERAN established the Gateway in 1941 after a successful career in the business world. Because of his careful business management he holds the distinction of being one of the few producers who have kept their summer theatres operating successfully for mor than tan years. Active in the fashion, entertainment, and hotel fields, he has built a wealth of good will for the Playhouse. Mr. Pomeran is a member of the Patchogue Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, is a pastmaster of his Masonic Lodge, and was active in trade associations and the N. Y. Board of Arbitration.

STAN ALLAN has joined Gateway Playhouse as coproducer in charge of publicity, public relations and the supervision of personnel. Prior to his affiliation with Gateway, he served as station manager of Radio Station WPAC, Patchogue, and became distinguished as one of Long Island's best known radio personalities. Previously he was director of programs at WCOJ, Philadelphia. Stan Allan was associated with the Mike Wallace Interviews, the Dave Garroway Show and WOR-TV [Channel 9] and has done free lance TV commercials. He is married to the popular stage and screen actress Ruth Vickers. DAVID SHELDON has been directing plays at Gateway since 1950 and is responsible for the artistic policy of the Playhouse. A former actor who began his career in summer stack at the age of 16, Mr. Sheldon made his off-Broadway directing debut with "The Skin of Our Teath." He since has emerged as one of New York's most exciting young directors, his assignments having included "Dark of the Moon," The Happiest Millionaire," and "The Diarry of Anne Frank." After studying playwrighting with Robert Penn Warren at the Yale Drama School where he received an MFA degree, David Sheldon has spent a good portion of his winters writing for television. He has acted in New York, Texas, and England and his most recent TV credit was Hemingway's "Fifth Column" on CBS.



#### PLAYHOUSE STAFF

Business Manager
Director David Sheldon
Production Designer Frank Albright
Stage Manager James Martin
Choreographer
Musical Director Frank Seibert
Master Carpenter Otto Kress
Acting Coach E. J. Poggi
Workshop Director Peter Marble
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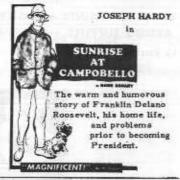


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They also demonstrate by their representation a genuine desire to promote culture in the community. The presence of a professional summer theatre in a society attests to its economic importance, its underlying residential growth potential and its emergence as a focal point of cultural development in the surrounding area. Living theater may indeed be proud of these community minded men and women of high caliber whose representation in the Playbill we gratefully acknowledge.



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PETER MARBLE serves in the dual role of actor and co-director at Gateway. He was responsible for initiating the Showcase Theatre in the Bellport Community Hall. Here plays are presented weekly by the students from Gatway's drama school. Performances are attended by the general public, invited guests, and talent scouts. Mr. Marble directed "Blue Denim" and 'Madwoman of Chaillot" last season.

E. J. POGGI is Gateway's gifted acting coach and a director of the student workshop operated on the property next to Gateway Playhouse. His background includes a B.A. from the University of San Francisco, an M.A. from Harvard, and work toward a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Mr. Poggi teaches at the Herbert Berghof Acting Studio in New York City and is a director and instructor of dramatic arts at Cooper Union.

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New Play

### THE DARK AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS

with

STUART GRAYMOUNT

BARBARA LESTER

TED CHAPMAN

and introducing THELMA DAVIDSON

Designed by FRANK ALBRIGHT

Lighting by JIM MARTIN

# Directed by DAVID SHELDON

#### CAST

#### in order of appearance

RUBIN FLOOD STUA	ART GRAYMOUNT
CORA FLOOD	BARBARA LESTER
SONNY FLOOD MIC	CHAEL BROCKSTEI
REENIE FLOOD MARY	
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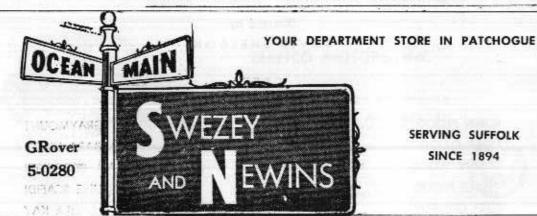
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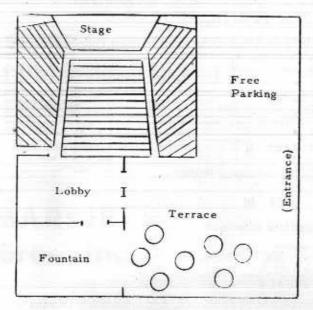
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#### ACT II

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#### ACT III

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#### Staff for "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs"

Stage Manager	Jim Thomas
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Sound	Marco Figueroa
Director's Assistant	Sue Martin

WILLIAM INGE (The Author) has been regarded as one of the three most important American Playwrights of the mid-century era (the other two being Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller, ever since his COME BACK LITTLE SHEBA electrified theatre-goers in 1950. His PICNIC and BUS STOP won him the Pulitzer Prize and New York Drama Critic's Circle Awards. Mr. Inge was born and educated in Kansas

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs" represents the shadowy quality of the future that seems so ominous and terrifying to growing children. This is the basic theme of the play. It also deals with the THINGS THAT PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT EACH OTHER. Every character in the play is afraid of something. Perhaps, suggests the playwright, there is nothing to fear if somebody is climbing the stairs with you (thru love, compassion, and understanding). Finding the right companion is the perilous task. The play is an autobiography, seen thru the eyes of Sonny.

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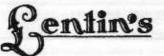
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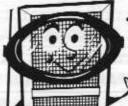
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JEFFREY LYNN has long been regarded by playgoers, movie fans, and television viewers as one of our most refreshing personalities. A comparative captive of the Hollywood sound stages, with regular excursions into the living theatre, Mr. Lynn has had his full share of success

on the Broadway rostrum including, "The Long Days" and "Lo and Behold." After a major triumph as Jerry "Two for the Seesaw" on Broadway, he flew to Hollywood to film "Butterfield 8" with Elizabeth Taylor (soon to be released). Gateway is proud to have him repeat his Broadway starring-role in Two for the Seesaw.



ELLIE ROSS has emerged as an international musical comedy per sonality in only a few years. captivating audiences in "My Fair Lady," "Showboat," "Can-"Pajama Game" and many others. Her one waman musical revues have toured all over the United States, Canada,

South America, and Nassau including the most prominent clubs and hotels. Her many New York TV appearances have included The Play of the Week, US Steel, Studio One. Ellie Ross appears as Essie in REDHEAD after scoring a success as Sharon in FIN-IAN'S RAINBOW. She is equally competent as a dramatic actress.



JOSEPH HARDY has achieved prominence on Broadway in such productions as "Detective Story," 'Mr. Roberts," "The Male Animal," and the most recent "Cut of the Axe." Having been a standby for Ralph Belamy, who has just completed filming "Sunrise at Campobello," Mr. Hardy is perhaps the most ideal candidate for the role of

Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Television audiences have seen him on "The Secret Story," "Edge of Night," and New York Confidential." He recently completed the filming of a new TV series called "The Playboy" with Steve Cochran.

JIM MARTIN is at the center of all Gateway Playhouse productions because as Stage Manager he functions as a liaison between all members of the production staff. Lighting, sound, props, rehearsal schedules, construction, assistant directing, and a hundred other elements of production are managed by him. Mr. Martin has worked in theatres across the country including the Playhouse Theatre in Houston, Texas, and the Allenberry Playhouse in Pennsylvania. He is a skilled actor and has directed such productions as LeMaientendu" by Camus, and "Bus Stop.

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BARBARA LESTER was chosen by Gateway Playhouse because of her outstanding portrayal of Olive in Alan Schneider's production of "Summer of the 17th Doll" in New York this winter. Her Broadway credits include "Legend of Lizzie" and "Pratective Custody." Barbara Les-

ter toured in the National Company of "Separate Tables and has appeared with many prominent stock companies such as the Ann Arbor Drama Festival, the Arena Stage in Washington, D. C., and the Woodstock Playhouse, Acting in many types of roles from Jennet in "Lady's Not for Burning" to Patty in "The Moon Is Blue," Miss Lester is one of the most versatile actresses on the American stage.



RONALD DAWSON is certainly a name familiar to Broadway theatregoers. His Broadway stage credits include "Witness for the Prosecution" and "The Sleeping Prince" and his many screen appearances have ranged from 'Mutiny on the Bounty" to the recent "Odds Against Tomor-

row." Mr. Dawson has been seen in over 500 major television shows including US Steel, Armstrong Circle Theatre, and the Goodyear Playhouse. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Ronald Dawson was trained in the British Empire. His stage success also include "Middle of the Night" and "Silk Stockings."



SHEILA COPELAN, acclaimed as one of the most exciting young actresses in the profession, has studied acting with Lee Strasberg (Actors Studio). She has appeared in "Member of the Wedding" and "Charley's Aunt" and her television credits include "You Are There," "Frontiers of

Faith" and "Mr. Peepers." Children will remember her as "Penny" from Storyland on the "Funny Bunny Show." Gateway Playhouse is fortunate to have Sheila Copelan direct from her successful run of "Two for the Seesaw."

FRANK SEIBERT is an accomplished musicion as well as a successful musical director, having played with a number of bands and orchestras in New York. He has appeared in many hotels, night clubs, and on television ("Masquerade Party"). Theatre audiences know Frank Seibert mainly for his musical direction of "Bells Are Ringing," and "Say Darling." He recently directed "Showboat" for Theatre 5 in Huntington and is Director of Music for Central School District No. 5. At Gateway he is staff musical director and vocal coach.

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JEANETTE SEIBERT was recently seen as Mammy Yokum in the musical hit "Li'l Abner." She has been featured in over 20 musical and dramatic productions including "Brigadoon," "Finian's Rainbow" and "Song of Norway." Gateway audiences first saw her as Mme. Dubonnet

in "The Boy Friend." Her extensive professional experience includes opera, solo work in churches, and concert appearances. A versatile comedienne, Jeanette Seibert scored a hit in "Romanoff and Juliet."



STUART GRAYMOUNT, popular television personality, is a veteran of 14 years of broadcasting. He was bit by the acting bug while in his Freshman year at Yale and later made his stage debut in "My Sister Eileen." His motion picture credits include "Viva Zapata" and recently

"Please Don't Eat the Daisies." Mr. Graymount's varied career has included staff announcing for WQXR and WNEW and three years with Young and Rubicam's advertising agency as a producer-director.



CAROLYN BILDERBACK is a prominent modern dancer as well as a gifted actress and choreographer. She appeared this winter with the Katherine Litz Concert Group in New York City and has had extensive experience including "Carmen," "Prima Donna" and numerous musical com-

edies. Her most recent acting credit was in John Hale's production of "Waltz of the Toreadors" in N.Y. Miss Bilderback was on the teaching staff of the Aspen Music School in Colorado for three summers and was associated with Marian Rich in teaching Voice in N. Y.

FRANK ALBRIGHT is one of the most dedicated craftsmen in the American theatre. As Gateway's production manager and designer he plans, executes, and coordinates all the visual components of the Playhouse productions. An officer in the American Educational Theatre Association, Mr. Albright was active in the recent AETA Convention in Washington, D. C. Creatively active as an instructor and director in the West Haven, Connecticut, school system, he has had marry years of experience in the professional theatre. His MFA degree was earned at the University of Oklahoma.

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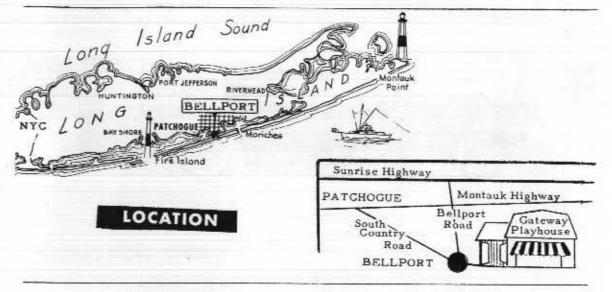
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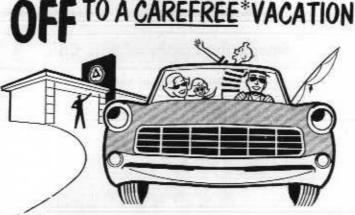
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