

NEWS RELEASE



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ASF Comedy *Over the Tavern* a Proven Performer

“Absolutely enchanting... a little bit of heaven!”

-Richard Christiansen, *Chicago Tribune*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, AL (Tuesday, February 12, 2008) The Alabama Shakespeare Festival takes a hilarious look at family, growing up and God in *Over the Tavern*, playing March 7 – April 6 on the Octagon Stage. This beguiling family comedy by Tom Dudzick premiered at Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo, New York (where the play is set) and created such a clamor for tickets that the theatre brought the play back for three consecutive seasons. ASF is hopeful that Montgomery audiences will be just as eager to see this nostalgic and heartwarming show.

In *Over the Tavern*, 12 year old Rudy Pazinski feels that God put us on earth to have fun, and can't understand why his family isn't having any. At Catholic school, a ruler-wielding nun, Sister Clarissa, insists that he learn his catechism. At home (the apartment above his father's tavern) his father is “in a bad mood” and his long-suffering mother is exhausted. His sister Annie is suffering through the confusion of sexual awakening while his rebellious teen brother Eddie has his own life to live, leaving Rudy with the responsibility of watching over his brother Georgie, who is mentally disabled. Rudy's quick wit and precocious nature amidst the family struggles make this comedy set in 1950's Buffalo, New York a surprisingly funny and touching night of theatre.

ASF is excited to have as director Gavin Cameron-Webb who directed the world premiere production of *Over the Tavern*. He is leading a cast that includes ASF favorite Greta Lambert as Ellen Pazinski, Thomas W. Borrillo (Colorado Theatre Guild Henry Award for Outstanding Performance) as Chet Pazinski, Celia Howard (*The Importance of Marrying Wells*, Lucille Lortel Theatre, NYC) as Sister Clarissa, Seth Meriwether (*Richard III*, ASF) as Rudy, Trey Christopher (*The Music Man*, Auburn Jr. High School) as Georgie, Jeremy Rishe (*Jewtopia*, Off-Broadway) as Eddie and Elizabeth Bemis (*South Pacific*, Montgomery Academy) as Annie.

Tickets to *Over the Tavern* are on sale now. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$19 to \$42. Tickets for patrons between ages 6 to 18 are \$20 and ages 19 – 25 are \$26. Special ticket rates are available for groups of 10 or more. For more information, call the ASF Box Office toll free at (800) 841-4273 or go online at www.asf.net.

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount's gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Fact Sheet

Over the Tavern

By Tom Dudzick

2007-2008 Season

Produced by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival

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Dates: **Previews:** March 7 & 8, 2008 **Opening:** March 9, 2008

Regular Performances: Tuesday – Saturdays at 7:30 PM, Saturday and Sunday at 2PM

Prices: Preview performance and Opening only \$19! Regular tickets are \$42. Tickets for patrons between ages 6 to 18 are \$20 and ages 19 – 25 are \$26. Special ticket rates are available for groups of 10 or more. To purchase, call the ASF Box Office at (334) 271-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-841-4273. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.asf.net.

Website: www.asf.net

Location: The Octagon Stage in the Carolyn Blount Theatre, home of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, located in the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park, on Woodmere Boulevard just off East Boulevard.

Production Staff:	<i>Director</i>	Gavin Cameron-Webb
	<i>Costume Designer</i>	Beth Novak
	<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Tom Rodman
	<i>Sound Designer</i>	Richelle Thompson
	<i>Dramaturg</i>	Susan Willis
	<i>Stage Manager</i>	Mark D. Leslie*
	<i>Production Assistant</i>	Kerrie Reiber**

Cast:	<i>Chet Pazinski</i>	Thomas W. Borrillo*
	<i>Ellen Pazinski</i>	Greta Lambert*
	<i>Rudy</i>	Seth Meriwether
	<i>Georgie</i>	Trey Christopher
	<i>Eddie</i>	Jeremy Rishe*
	<i>Annie</i>	Elizabeth Bemis
	<i>Sister Clarissa</i>	Celia Howard*
	<i>Understudy for Rudy</i>	Trey Christopher

* *Member Actors' Equity Association*

** *Member Master of Fine Arts Stage Management Program*

Audience: **Recommended for ages 13+.** All patrons must have a ticket, regardless of age. Babes in arms not admitted into the theatre.

Synopsis: In this beguiling family comedy 12 year old Rudy Pazinski thinks that God put us on earth to have fun and doesn't understand why his family isn't having any.

Setting: The Pazinski apartment above their father's tavern. Buffalo, New York

Sponsors: Candy and Bob McMillan

Co-Sponsors: Drs. Cindy and Gaeton Lorino
Maureen and Tom Moore

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