Production Personnel

Director......................................................................................................John S. Sebestyen
Stage Manager............................................................................................Emily Ward
Assistant Director..........................................................................................Heidi Sebestyen
Production Assistant/Chief Dramaturg........................................................Kate McLaurin
Stage Crew.................................................................................................Nathanael Strauch, Lori Van Beveren
Sound Designer............................................................................................Jacob Szafanski
Light Operator...............................................................................................Keith Kosmal
Sound Operator.............................................................................................Joshua Arnold
Set Construction Crew Head.........................................................................Nathan Vis
Set Construction Crew................................................................................Joshua Arnold, Aaron Carpenter, Caitlin Cisek,
                    Amy Dockendorf, Jamie Fuller, Elizabeth Groen, Sarah Hoeksema,
                    Brenden McCormack, Tim Ridderbos, Rick Schuler, Jake Szafanski,
                    Lori Van Beveren, Rebecca VanderWilt, Zach Vis, Aaron Visser
Costume Crew Head....................................................................................Liz Groen
Costume Crew..............................................................................................Amanda Schuler, Whitney Stafford, Brooke Wilson
Make-up Crew Head....................................................................................Lindsey Doornbos
Hair Crew Head............................................................................................Madiseida Horton
Make-up / Hair Crew...................................................................................Bryna Miedema, Janice Mosho, Whitney Stafford
                      Heidi Pedersen, Anna Poll, Renae VanderMolen
Properties Mistress.....................................................................................Tegan Swift
Props Crew.................................................................................................Kendra DeBoer, Joannah Lodico, Kate McLaurin, Kate Messier,
                    Jenny Miller, Rosalia Portillo, Emily Ward
Publicity Crew Head...................................................................................Jennifer Miller
Publicity..........................................................................................................Cast & Crew, Tim Ridderbos, The Courier
Poster and Program Designs.........................................................................Peter Clevering, Jennifer Miller
House Manager............................................................................................Grace Visker
Assistant House Manager............................................................................Leah Zumdahl
Tickets............................................................................................................Cast & Crew, Larryl Humme, Karen Slager,
                      Kara Bruxvoort, Switchboard personnel

Special Thanks...

Department of Communication Arts: Annalee Ward, Craig Mattson, Sherry Barnes
Maintenance Staff, including Jan Kosmal, Jeremy Junkin, and Tim Timmons
Props Loans: Music Department, Ginny Carpenter, Cal & Betsy Hulford, Rose
Malinowski, Mark & Candace Peters, Liz Rudenga, Heidi Sebestyen, Rick Snoeyink
Admissions Staff
Dave Jousma, A/V department
Creative Dining
Campus Security
The director, cast, & crew of the November 1993 production of YCTIWY at GRBC (now
Cornerstone University)
Teresa TerHaar
All Dressed Up Costumes
Pass It On Thrift Store
Bibles for Missions Thrift Store
You Can’t Take It with You
by Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman

directed by John S. Sebestyen
produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

April 19-21 & 25-28, 2007
Fireside Room, 7:30 p.m.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(in order of appearance)

Penelope Sycamore..........................................................Rosalia Portillo
Essie Carmichael............................................................Kate Messier
Rheba........................................................................Rachel Dlugopolski
Paul Sycamore...............................................................Aaron Visser
Mr. DePinnas..................................................................Ian Adema
Ed Carmichael...............................................................Aaron Carpenter
Donald...........................................................................Zach Vis
Martin Vanderhof..........................................................Drew Van't Land
Alice Sycamore.............................................................Allison Backous
Wilbur C. Henderson....................................................Brenden McCormack
Tony Kirby......................................................................Jake Szafinski
Boris Kolenkho..............................................................Rick Schuler
Gay Wellington..............................................................Brooke Wilson
Mr. Anthony Kirby.........................................................Alex Walsh
Mrs. Miriam Kirby........................................................Joannah Lodico
The Man...........................................................................Prof. Bill Boerman-Cornell
Mac..................................................................................Dr. Yudha Thianto
Jim..................................................................................Michael Burr
Tank...............................................................................Dr. Mark Peters
Olga Katrina .....................................................................Amy Dockendorf
Cameo.............................................................................Elizabeth Groen
Cameo...............................................................................Jennifer Miller
Understudy.......................................................................Eric Downs (Tank)

Jacob Szafinski (Tony) SO. English. Avon, OH. Jake acted in Quiet In The Land, The Miser, The Valiant, and designed sound for A Plague of Angels. Jake also acted in YCTIWY in high school, playing Ed. YCTIWY is one of his favorite productions, and he is thrilled to be part of the show again. Jake thanks his family, the directors, cast, and crew of the show for helping his love for theatre continue to grow and for making every practice fun and enjoyable, and, of course, thanks to God for all the goodness He’s done.

Yudha Thianto (Mac) Theology. Previous theatre experience includes roles in high school and college performances in Indonesia, Mendelsohn’s opera “Elijah,” and TCC’s production of the shortened version of Guys and Dolls (as “Harry the Horse”). Dr. Thianto enjoys when he gets to point a finger at some characters in the play. “Thank you John Sebestyen, for giving me this role, and all Trinity’s faculty for giving me encouragement.”

Drew Van’t Land (Grandpa) FR. Political Science. Hull, IA. At Boyden Hull High School, Drew acted in 4 plays and 2 musicals, playing Doody in Grease, and Perchik in Fiddler on the Roof. Drew enjoys defying Henderson, the tax collector, and saying “That is...my mother.” Thanks to John, Heidi, Emily, Kate McLaurin, and crew.

Zach Vis (Donald) FR. History. Sheboygan Falls, WI. Zach acted in eight shows in high school, including Oklahoma (Slim), Tom Sawyer (Tom), and The Mousetrap (Mr. Paravicus). One of Zach’s favorite lines in this performance is “That’s nice.” Zach thanks John Sebestyen for casting him, and everyone who helped him along in this performance.

Aaron Visser (Paul) SR. Theology. Oak Lawn, IL. This is Aaron’s 6th and final play at Trinity. He has acted in Two Noble Kinsmen, Antigone, God’s Favorite, The Valiant, and The Miser. He also worked set build for Quiet in the Land. He has thoroughly enjoyed all of his roles and will miss Trinity theatre. He thanks his family, God, his fiancée Kate, and Jeremy Junkin. His final words are “goodbye, and thanks for all the fish.”

Alex Walsh (Mr. Kirby) FR. Comm.Arts. Canton, CT. Alex performed in 4 high school plays, including West Side Story (Diezel) and Oklahoma (Will Parker). He was seen at TCC in A Plague of Angels. “I thank Rick Schuler for my favorite moment in the play since he very willingly throws my view on life to the ground. I thank all my friends and family for giving me so many unique views on life. You have all been a joy to me.” Alex dedicates his performance to his friend Ryan Duff (11.11.05).

Brooke Wilson (Miss Wellington) JR. Psychology. Grand Rapids, MI. “This is my first ‘real’ acting experience since 8th grade, when I played Adelaide in Guys and Dolls. I love this play because it’s accessible and genuine and absolutely hysterical. My favorite part about my role is that I get to be myself – loud and silly. I’d like to thank all the people involved in this play for making it so easy to love and laugh, and my family for driving here from Michigan to see me act like I’m a drunken.”
Although theatre was never on my agenda when I first came to Trinity, I soon found out how exciting theatre really is. I want to give thanks to everyone that has made my theatre experience worth the while, especially to John who has forged me into an actor I never thought possible. I also want to thank my fiancée, Laura, for sticking with me for so long and supporting my efforts. Hope you all enjoy the show; trust me, it’s good!"

Kate Messler (Essie) SO. Elementary Ed. Olympia, WA. Kate played Kate in *Quiet in the Land* and Frostone in *The Miser*. Kate loves peace and quiet and good tilled earth, is fond of simple jests at all times, and of six meals a day (when she can get them). Her favorite line is ‘Oh, I don’t care. I’m willing if Grandpa is.’ She thanks the “cast, crew, and production team for all the hard work they put into this show. You guys rock! I’d especially like to thank my fiancé for dealing with all the long hours and difficult schedules.”

Jenny Miller (Cameo) SR. Art & Music. Plainfield, IL. Jenny is thrilled to be a part of this semester’s comedy. At TCC, she has played Simone in *The Miser*, and Mary Mallon in last semester’s *A Plague of Angels*. She would like to say thank you to her parents for always supporting her and her boyfriend Rick for always being there for her.

Mark Peters (Tank) Music. “This play represents my attempted comeback after a highly successful dramatic career spanning 9th and 10th grades. Thanks to John for the opportunity to be part of this production and to all the students involved in YCTITY for their hard work and for their welcoming us faculty members into the world of Trinity theatre. Playing the character of Tank has really inspired my teaching and has given me a lot of good ideas on new ways I could approach classroom management.”

Rosalia Portillo (Penny) SO. Comm. Arts/Theatre. Aurora, IL. “It’s been another crazy year with crazy people! I have really enjoyed this show but there is no way I could’ve done it without God’s calming spirit and grace. Thanks to my family for being my steady rock. I am truly blessed to know each and every individual in this show and to be able to see their characters be molded and shaped. From crazy hip-cams to having my daughter be engaged to my husband (figure that one out!) it’s truly been an awesome experience I won’t soon forget no matter how hard I may try.”

Rick Schuler (Kolenkhov) JR. Comm. Arts/Film Studies. Tinley Park, IL. Favorite roles include Christy Bauman in *Quiet in the Land* and Harpagon in *The Miser*. Rick enjoys the moment in this show is when he gives Mr. Kirby the of’ Russian Turnbuckle Thrust. Rick thanks his family, The Wonderful Schulers, and his lovely girlfriend Jenny “the killer” Miller. He dedicates his performance to his grandmother Jeanette Schuler. Lastly, a Back to the Future quote: “I just wanna say one thing, God bless America.”

Time and Place

The living/dining room of Martin Vanderhof’s New York City home. Late spring/early summer, 1938.

Act One
Scene 1 – A Wednesday evening.
Scene 2 – Later that night

Act Two
A week later.

Act Three
The next day

There will be one fifteen minute intermission in the middle of Act 2.

Dramaturgical Notes

“Wild & wacky collides with stuffy & snobby” in this hilarious American comedy of the 1930s. *You Can’t Take It with You* is one of the most well-known and most frequently-produced plays written by Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman. Other plays that they wrote together include *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (1939) and *George Washington Slept Here* (1940). They also wrote plays with other individuals and/or alone, but the three plays mentioned above are arguably their best-known works.

Written in 1936, *You Can’t Take It with You* ran for two years on Broadway, opening at the Booth Theatre on December 14, 1936 and closing at the Imperial Theatre on December 3, 1938. The production featured Henry Travers as Martin Vanderhof and Josephine Hull as Penny Sycamore. The play was revived on Broadway twice in the 1960s and once in the 1980s.

The play has inspired several film adaptations. The first, in 1938, was directed by Frank Capra and featured Jimmy Stewart as Tony Kirby and Lionel Barrymore as Grandpa. This film won the Academy Award for Best Picture that year, and Capra won the Best Director Oscar, as well. The most recent film version was made in 1984, starring Jason Robards and Colleen Dewhurst.

You Can’t Take It with You won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1937. Some critics have credited this play for inspiring countless sitcom premises. In fact, the play itself was briefly a television sitcom in 1987, with Harry Morgan as Martin Vanderhof. Just over 70 years after the play’s premiere, this show continues to be an American classic.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

This play holds a special place in my life. The very first role I ever played in a piece of “legitimate” theatre was Boris Kolenkhov in You Can’t Take It with You when I was a college freshman. My great experience with that production really ignited within me a passion for theatre. This is the first time that I have ever directed a show in which I once acted, and it has been fun and nostalgic to revisit this script in such depth.

In You Can’t Take It with You, Kaufman and Hart have crafted a play that has stood the test of time as a surefire audience pleaser. The stage is filled with eccentric and likable characters who are wholeheartedly involved in interesting pursuits. Some of these endeavors seem more than a bit silly, but all of them appear meaningful and enriching to the participants.

This is the fourth play that Trinity Theatre has produced this year with the common theme of “reconciliation.” Though You Can’t Take It with You may not engage this theme in as serious a manner as last fall’s A Plague of Angels, I believe that this play does a good job at conveying the concept of finding unity through diversity. YCTIWyW chronicles the meeting of two seemingly disparate families, showcases their differences, and ultimately explores what can potentially connect them with each other. This story can serve as a model for all of us to strive to both appreciate diversity and pursue true community in our everyday circumstances.

My hope for you is that you will catch the contagious spirit of joy that this show has to offer. Perhaps you will be challenged, as I have been, to examine where your energies and time are spent. May our production tonight encourage you to be good stewards of all that you have been given.

And, who knows?, perhaps it’ll also reawaken a spark within you to take up an old hobby, long forgotten. I imagine that revisiting these hobbies, like my revisiting this play, will bring back some fond memories while creating more of the same.

Enjoy the show,

John S. Sebestyen

WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

Ian Adema (DePinna) SO. Comm.Arts/Film Studies. Lawrence, KS.
Ian is double minor ing in theatre and in music. Last semester, Ian played Dan Wilson, the Jailer, in The Valiants. Ian also served on stage crew for last year’s Quiet in the Land.

Allison Backous (Alice) SR. English & Philosophy. Sauk Village, IL.
Allison acted in Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast, The Two Noble Kinsmen, and Antigone. “I think that Alice is one of my favorite roles because she’s a challenging combination of maturity, sweetness, and Sycamore eccentricity.” Allison loves the line “Did you wear tights, Mr. Kirby?” “Thanks to my family for being excited about my last play, my roommates for putting up with me rehearsing lines in the shower and being gone at rehearsals, and to the whole YCTIWyW crew for letting me play Alice and have fun.”

Bill Boerman-Cornell (The Man) Education. Previous shows include The Emperor’s New Clothes, The Hobbit, The Merchant of Venice (as Solonio, often mentioned as the most unmemorable character Shakespeare ever created). He directed at Illiana Christian High School for nearly a decade. He enjoys the sense of power he gets from being backed up on stage by physically intimidating government thugs. Thanks to his wife Amy for her forbearance, his daughter Frances for her patience in doing without her Papa some evenings, and his daughter Kathryn for her advice on learning lines.

Michael Burr (Jim) SO. Bus. Communications. St. Louis, MO.
Michael is making his stage debut with this play. He enjoys the warm-ups that happen before each rehearsal. “I would like to thank Mr. John Sebestyen for keeping the brotha in it, and God and my Moma for holding me down.”

Aaron Carpenter (Ed) SO. Psychology. Palos Heights, IL. Aaron has acted in Quiet in the Land, The Miser, and worked backstage for A Plague of Angels. “Did you ask Grandpa about us having a baby?” - What a line. Thank you to my family and friends for putting up with me (and thank you, Mama, for the banjo!)”

Rachel was seen last fall in Visitor from Forest Hills, and she played the part of “Ms. DePinna” in her high school’s production of YCTIWyW. “I’d like to thank the cast and crew for making this such a wonderful and fun-filled semester, my parents for coming to see the show, Pete, for his unending encouragement, and my best friend Charleen, my theatrical sister and supplier of support. Hope y’all enjoy the show!”

Amy Dockendorf (Olga) FR. Biology & Chemistry. Shingle Springs, CA. “I’ve been on stage my whole life, even though there hasn’t always been an audience. My favorite role that I have played is Florence from The Other, Other Woman (though Olga is growing on me). How often do you get to be a Grand Duchess? Love to my family back home and adopted family at Trinity, and special thanks to Grandma Joan who instilled a love for this fantastic art in me.”

Liz Groen (Cameo) SR. Vocal Performance. Byron Center, MI.
Liz has participated in Trinity theatre for all 8 semesters of her time here, both onstage & off. She played Alice in Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast, and also acted in Two Noble Kinsmen, Antigone, God’s Favorite, and Quiet in the Land. This past fall, she played Dr. Saltzer in A Plague of Angels.

Joannah Lodico (Mrs. Kirby) SO. Music. Midland, MI. Joannah participated backstage and onstage at her community theatre during high school, which included playing the evil dwarf in The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe. Last spring, she played Elise in The Miser. Her favorite line is “Yes. Lovely.” “I would like to thank my parents, sister and friends who love and support me for who I am.” She enjoys spirituality, garden shows, human emotions, Hot Springs, …