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OPERA THEATRE ENSEMBLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE

THE OLD MAID & THE THIEF

*FEATURING: Katie Barton, soprano, as Laetitia; Maggie Jones, soprano, as Miss Pinkerton;
Jeffrey Todd, baritone, as Bob*



Magnolia Applebottom as Radio Host



Lucia Bradford as The Old Maid

DIRECTED BY
TEAM WRIGHT, ANDERSON AND FOLGER

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MAGNOLIA APPLEBOTTOM

presents

The Old Maid and the Thief

A Grotesque Opera in 14 Scenes

by

Gian Carlo Menotti

Setting: Our action takes place in a small town on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in the studio of the popular live radio show, *On Air with Magnolia Applebottom*; Magnolia hosts several famous opera singers of the day and premieres the new radio-opera by Gian Carlo Menotti, *The Old Maid and the Thief*.

Time: 1939

CHARACTERS

Magnolia Applebottom, Host of <i>On Air with Magnolia Applebottom</i> (Inspired by Magnolia Applebottom)	Jeremy Bernstein
William Foley, Assistant to Magnolia (Inspired by the father of Foley art, Jack Foley)	Tim DeLuise
Giulietta Simonata in the role of MISS TODD (Inspired by the Italian mezzo-soprano and international diva Giulietta Simonato)	Lucia Bradford
Silvia Ponselle in the role of LAETITIA (Inspired by the vaudeville singer, silent-movie accompanist and operatic soprano Rosa Ponselle)	Katie Barton
Mimi Callas in the role of MISS PINKERTON (Inspired by the internationally renowned opera singer Maria Callas)	Maggie Jones
Boris Kozlovsky in the role of BOB (Inspired by the great Soviet lyric tenor Ivan Kozlovsky)	Jeffrey Todd

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Rumor has it that Italian-born Gian Carlo Menotti was enamored by small American towns and the secrets that lie beneath them. He made frequent trips to West Chester, PA to visit his longtime partner and music collaborator, composer Samuel Barber, and was fascinated by town gossip and familial anecdotes. Thus, one might consider *The Old Maid and the Thief* to be the representation of Menotti's perception of small-town America. *The Old Maid and the Thief* was originally conceived as a radio-opera and had its world premiere broadcast on NBC, April 22, 1939. In February 1941, the Philadelphia Opera Company successfully staged the work, which was televised two years later. Several screen versions of *The Old Maid and the Thief* do exist and the work is still staged regularly at colleges and universities, often paired with other one-act operas. For this production, we tip our hats to the work's radio roots. Think "reality radio" as you get to know host Magnolia Applebottom and a few opera singers of the day. The latter characters are based on the lives and careers of well-known opera singers in the mid-1900s.

SYNOPSIS

Miss Todd, a middle-aged spinster, lives alone with her young servant Laetitia. While she is entertaining her friend Miss Pinkerton, a handsome beggar comes to the door; Laetitia persuades Miss Todd to ask him to stay for the night. The following day, Miss Todd meets Miss Pinkerton on the street and learns that a criminal has escaped from the local prison; his description fits that of Bob, her beggar guest. But, she is already infatuated with him and determines to protect him from the police. Laetitia also loves Bob; together the two women rob a liquor store to give him spending money. Furious because Bob will not return her love, Miss Todd goes for the police, though she has discovered that he is not the escaped convict. While she is gone, Laetitia persuades Bob that his only safety lies in marrying her and running away. Together they ransack Miss Todd's house and elope in her car.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic and Stage Direction.....	John Wesley Wright
Musical Direction.....	William Folger
Technical Direction.....	Thomas Anderson
Set Design/Construction.....	Thomas Anderson
Technical Support.....	THEA 110 Class
Costume Design.....	Katherine Granzier
Costume Banshee.....	Max Levitt
Costume Special Sorceress.....	Helga Kollmar
Wig Witch.....	Jake Thereault
Stage Manager/Props.....	Carly Berkowitz
Lighting Design.....	Caroline and Tim Lewis
Sound/Sound Effects.....	Tim DeLuise
Hair/Make-Up.....	Katherine Granzier, Max Levitt, Cast Members
Box Office/Ushers.....	Diamond McGill, Prince Ojimaga, Shannon Hayes, Amanda Merryweather, Quincy Jennings, Thomas Watson, Zach Hussing, Chi Cheng, Adam Beres
Publicity.....	Sally Choquette, Cast Members
Program/Poster Design.....	Ernest Gould
Program Coordinator.....	John Wesley Wright

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

Magnolia Applebottom/Jeremy Bernstein has become a fixture at the Blue Moon, Purple Parrot and Milton Theatre drag shows in Delaware. Magnolia had a guest appearance on an episode of the Bravo show *Real Housewives of Potomac* and was featured in photographer Leland Bobbe's portraits of drag performers both in and out of makeup for *Vogue Italia*. She most recently hosted a sell-out holiday and Broadway cabaret at the Milton theatre as well as opening for internet sensation, Randy Rainbow. Magnolia is a Salisbury University graduate and is beyond excited to work again with Team Wright, Anderson and Folger!

Mezzo-soprano **Lucia Bradford** has had the pleasure of performing on stages throughout the world, including touring in Russia, Spain, the United States and West Indies. She sings a wide variety of repertoire from opera, oratorio and recital to spirituals, gospel and soul. She is a music educator in the New York City school system and a member of the internationally acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble.

Tim DeLuise is an audio engineer who can usually be found working behind the scenes at Seacrets in Ocean City and with Event Technical Services at SU. This is his second venture into the art of foley, his first being a part of the SU Music, Theatre and Dance Department's 2015 rendition of *A Christmas Carol*.

STUDENT ARTISTS

Soprano **Katie Barton** is a junior social work major with a minor in music from Wilmington, DE. She has been involved in music all her life, and over the years, she has performed in OperaDelaware's production of *The Magic Flute* and at the Kennedy Center. During her time at Salisbury, she has participated in the University Chorale and is a recipient of the Fulton Dean's Scholarship. Most recently, she was seen in the 2016 production of *Puccini and Friends* as Sister Genevieve. Katie is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Freshman National Honor Society and Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society, as well as Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Soprano **Maggie Jones** is a junior music - vocal performance major from Quantico, MD. She was seen recently in the musical *Cabaret* and in the musical revue *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* last fall. She is the second-place winner in the 2017 MD/DC NATS competition in musical theater.

Baritone **Jeffrey Todd** is a sophomore vocal performance major and native of Salisbury. He has garnered numerous awards in a very short time, including first-place wins at the state and regional NATS competitions both in 2016 and 2017, and third place at the National NATS Student Auditions held in Chicago last July.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

William M. Folger — Conductor

Flute
Sally Hendon

Piano
Alex Cooper

Oboe
Amy Sterling

Timpani
Eric Shuster

Clarinet
Scott Bunting

Percussion
Burt Talbot

Bassoon
Ken Farley

Violin
Victor Hsia

Horn I
Ken Dasher
Hannah Lewis*
*4/30/2017

Cello
David Zelinsky

Horn II
Stephanie Cyran

Thank you for attending our performance.

The audience plays an integral part in the success of our program. As an involved audience member, please take a few minutes to read this friendly reminder on concert etiquette.

A Few Helpful Reminders

of How to Be an Involved Audience Member

- Please arrive early to ensure that you will have a seat.
- Please turn off your cell phone instead of just silencing it so you will not be tempted to text during the performance. Untimely cell phone interruptions during a performance disrupt the performers and the other audience members, please be mindful of others.
- Please remain in your seat during the performance. If you must leave the concert hall, please wait until intermission. If it is an emergency, please try to leave during the applause.
- Please respect the performers by staying seated for the entire performance.
- As an involved audience member, it is polite to clap at the entrance of the performers.
- It is polite to save quiet whispering or talking, if necessary, between songs, as opposed to during a performance.

Ideas adapted from Concert Etiquette Tips from MENC's Teacher Success Kit.