

The Dining Room

by A.R. Gurney

SETTING – An elegant dining room – somewhere in a
New England limbo.

TIME – The 20th century

ACT I – CAST

Agent:	Adriane Wiggins
Client:	Amanda Beasley
Arthur:	Paul Ferguson
Sally:	Tara Ferguson
Annie:	Marcy Bonebright
Father:	Ray Brown
Boy:	Kyle Thede
Girl:	Morgan Chamberlain
Mother:	Mary Carelli
Ellie:	Maria Munn
Howard:	Ryan Pest
Grace:	Adriane Wiggins
Carolyn:	Latrice Johnson
Michael:	Chase Griffin
Aggie:	Mary Carelli
Architect:	David Meigs
Psychiatrist:	Ray Brown
Peggy:	Sara Jo Ryberg
Ted:	Steffan Rost
Winkie:	Katelyn Bradford
Sandra:	Miranda Ferguson
Billy:	Foster Tomlin
Boy:	Foster Shamblin
Grandfather:	David Meigs
Nick:	Kyle Thede
Dora:	Tara Ferguson
Paul:	Paul Ferguson
Margery:	Marcy Bonebright

Old Lady:	Mary Carelli
Stuart:	Steffan Rost
Nancy:	Latrice Johnson
Ben:	Ryan Pest
Fred:	Ray Brown
Beth:	Kristin Jones

Intermission – 15 minutes

ACT II – CAST

Sarah:	Kristin Jones
Helen:	Morgan Chamberlain
Kate:	Tara Ferguson
Gordon:	Steffan Rost
Chris:	Chase Griffin
Aunt Harriet:	Mary Carelli
Tony:	Ryan Pest
Jim:	David Meigs
Meg:	Maria Munn
Standish:	Steffan Rost
Emily:	Amanda Beasley
David:	Kyle Thede
Claire:	Sara Jo Ryberg
Bertha:	Adriane Wiggins
Harvey:	Ray Brown
Dick:	Chase Griffin
Ruth:	Adriane Wiggins
Annie:	Marcy Bonebright

PRODUCTION STAFF

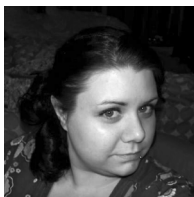
Director Designer:	David Harwell
Assistant Director:	Maria Munn
Advising Director:	Patricia Kiley
Costume Design:	Nia Hunter
Wig and Make-up:	Ian Hunter
Sound Design:	Johnna Doty
Graphic Design:	Susan Altman
Tickets/Administration:	Donna Lamp
House Manager:	Anna DeScheppa
Technical Director:	John Dolloff
Light Board Operator:	Matt Stanbro
Sound Board Operator:	Carl Bonebright
Public Relations:	Glo Okirie Courtney Goodine Sharitedra Gracie Marcy Bonebright
Program Editing:	Julie Early
Ushers:	Students from CM 122 – Theatre Appreciation
Stage Crew:	James Parkes Jarrod Parkes Kenneth Throop Ricky Fernandez David Vail Stephanie Perna Michelle Hopkins Latrice Townsend Heather Speegle Emily Girty Shelby Lindley Chase Griffi Taylor Martin Ashley Alleman

The PRODUCERS



David Harwell - Director/ Set and Light Design

David is the assistant professor of theatre at UAHuntsville. He received his BFA in theatre at the University of Montevallo and his MFA in scene design from the University of Illinois, Champaign/ Urbana in 1991. After many years of professional theatre in NYC, Boston, and regionally, he is happy to be back in Huntsville, his hometown. He started UAH Theatre in 2005 and serves as its director.



Costumes – Nia Hunter

Nia is a senior at UAHuntsville and is looking forward to pursuing her true theatrical love - costuming - on the graduate level very soon. While at UAH she designed and/or built costumes for twelve productions, making her the official costumer of UAH Theatre. Nia would like to thank everyone for coming out to support us; as well as the entire cast and David Harwell for his support and encouragement over the years.



Johnna Doty - Sound Design

A graduate of the University of Montevallo in music, Johnna earned a sound design Master's from Boston University in 1994. She has worked professionally in NYC and regionally and was an assistant professor at the City University of New York - Borough of Manhattan Community College. A native of Florence, Alabama, she now resides in Huntsville. This is her fourth sound design sound for UAHuntsville Theatre.



Ian Hunter - Hair and Make-up

This is Ian's first year officially assisting with UAH Theater. He is currently pursuing a degree in mathematics and biology with career goals in biostatistics. He has a broad range of theatrical cosmetology experience, mainly from his recreations of movie and political icons. Ian currently practices the art of mid-underwater basket weaving in his spare time. Many thanks go to his family for allowing him the opportunity to explore his dreams, and set his own goals.

The CAST



Adriane Wiggins (Agent – Grace – Bertha – Ruth)

Adriane is a senior at UAHuntsville. She has performed in a few church skits, but this is the first time she has stepped on the big stage. After she graduates she plans to teach English in either Huntsville or Birmingham. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Amanda Beasley (Client – Emily)

Amanda has been doing theatre since high school. She was the lighting operator for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and worked on sets backstage until finally stepping center stage for her performance in *A Christmas Carving*. Since then she has worked in haunted houses and theatre showcases, but perhaps her biggest performance was in *Sleeping Beauty: Legend or Briar Rose*. This is her third major play and she is excited to be working with such talented cast and crew. Amanda is a computer engineering major with a double minor in mathematics and computer science. This nerd's heart will forever rest with theatre and wants to thank everyone who has supported her throughout.



Paul Ferguson (Howard – Paul)

Paul Ferguson is delighted to be performing in *The Dining Room*. This is his first production at UAHuntsville, but not his first time on a stage. He is a senior studying chemistry and biological sciences. When he is not working in the laboratory or performing on stage, he spends his time with his wife, Tara, and two children, Miranda and Sebastian.



Tara Ferguson (Sally – Dora – Kate)

Tara Ferguson is back onstage after a fourteen-year hiatus. She is a mother of two and a senior majoring in earth system science at UAHuntsville.



Marcy E.T. Bonebright (Annie – Margery)

Marcy is a senior English major at UAHuntsville. She has been active in the Huntsville theatre scene since moving here three years ago, but this is her first show with UAH. She would like to dedicate her performance to her wonderfully patient husband and son.



Raymond Brown (Father – Psychiatrist – Fred – Harvey)

Ray recently relocated from Sierra Vista, Arizona. In real life, Ray is a software engineer with SAIC. He would like to thank his lovely wife, two children still at home, and UAHuntsville Theatre for the opportunity to be a part of this show. Ray's two older children are serving the country: Gabriel as a singer with the Navy Seventh Fleet in Japan, and Nathanael as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.



Kyle Thede (Boy – Nick – David)

Kyle Thede is performing in his first stage production at UAHuntsville. He is a freshman aerospace engineering major from Normal, IL. Kyle performed in Normal Community West High School's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* his senior year. This is his first non-musical role.



Morgan Chamberlain (Girl - Helen)

Morgan Chamberlain is a senior in civil engineering. She has been involved in various aspects of theatre since childhood and is delighted to have the opportunity to perform in a production at UAHuntsville before she graduates in December.



Mary Carelli (Mother – Aggie – Old Lady – Aunt Harriet)

Mary Carelli is excited to be back on a college campus again, working on a degree in education. And she is excited to get back in touch with her creative side. Mary has a background in music and theatre. She took on several parts and then progressed to learn all aspects of staging through community theatre. She credits the support, especially, of college professors who have encouraged her; thus, she has really enjoyed working with Director David Harwell, and she feels it a privilege to work with the student cast members.



Maria Munn (Ellie – Meg – Stage Manager)

Maria is a senior at UAHuntsville, studying communication arts. This is Maria's first time performing for UAH Theatre. She is thrilled to be working with all the great actors and David Harwell on this play. Enjoy the show!



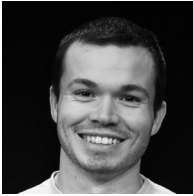
Ryan Pest (Howard – Ben – Tony)

Ryan Pest graduated with a BA in music-vocal performance from UAHuntsville in December, 2009. He has been very active with UAH Theatre the past four years, including roles in several plays and musicals. Ryan plans to attend graduate school in the fall of 2011 to pursue a master's in performance. Many thanks go to David and the cast for harboring a stage-hungry alum.



Latrice Johnson (Carolyn – Nancy)

Latrice has had no prior theatre experience. *The Dining Room* is her first play. Latrice is a junior biology major at UAHuntsville, and she is a member of the UAH track team. Her parents, Cabrena and Joccephus Johnson, and her younger sister, Brittany, are very proud of her.



Chase Griffin (Mike – Chris – Dick)

Chase is a junior pursuing his degree in philosophy. He is a former Marine with ambition to proceed to law school with an interest in international law. This is his first appearance in a UAHuntsville production.



David Meigs (Architect – Grandpa – Jim)

David is happy to be performing at UAHuntsville for the first time. He played FDR in the musical *Annie*, summer 2008 with Huntsville Community Chorus and Dan in *Almost, Maine* this year with Theatre Huntsville. David provides embedded software support for GE Intelligent Platforms. He thanks his wife Linda for all her love and support!



Sarah Jo Ryberg (Peggy – Claire)

Sarah Jo has been involved in theatre since high school. She now plans to major in English and minor in theatre. She is excited to perform in her second UAHuntsville production and hopes you enjoy the show.



Steffan Rost (Ted – Stuart – Gordon – Standish)

This is Steffan's third year at UAHuntsville where he is pursuing an English major and a theatre minor. He has taken part in various UAH plays, Huntsville High's *Les Miserables* and *Inherit the Wind* at Theatre Huntsville. He'd like to thank his family and beautiful girl friend Brianna for the best support ever.



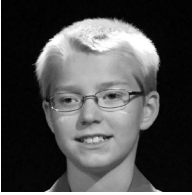
Kristian Jones (Beth – Sarah)

Kristian is a UAHuntsville sophomore majoring in psychology. This is her second show here, but she has been working in theatre since she started high school. Her favorite role was Amelia in *Amelia Once More*. She would like to say thank you to her son and fiancé for all their support and to UAH Theatre for allowing her to live out her love for the stage.



Katelyn Bradford (Winkie)

Katelyn is a third grader at Madison Cross Roads Elementary School. She is very excited to perform in her first production. She would like to thank the staff at UAH Theatre for giving her this opportunity.



Foster Tomlin (Billy)

Foster is proud to be performing in his first play at UAH. He is in the fifth grade at Challenger Elementary school where he has received two visual arts awards. He would like to thank his uncle, David Harwell for giving him a great part in *The Dining Room*.



Miranda Ferguson (Sandra)

Miranda Ferguson is in the second grade and already in her third play. This year she performed in *The Wizard of Oz* as a flower and was in the children's chorus of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.



Foster Shamblin (Brewster)

Foster is a second grade student at Jones Valley Elementary school. He loves acting and has worked with the Fantasy Playhouse for the past three years. Foster's favorite holiday is Halloween and his favorite movie is *The Wizard of Oz*.

Our STORY

UAHuntsville Theatre was revived in September 2005 when the university hired a full-time theatre lecturer in the department of Communication Arts. Soon after, a crude production of *Medea* opened on the former east steps of the University Center. In 2006, the Theatre Minor/Cognate was established along with Morton Hall Studio 106, our black-box theatre. It has been the venue for eight shows to date including *Crimes of the Heart*, *Rantoul and Die* and *The Country Club*. The Chan Auditorium in the Business Administration Building has hosted thirteen productions including *A Doll's House*, *Suburbia*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, the world premiere of *Four Spirits*, plus three musicals, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. We have also co-produced two operas with the Music Department in Roberts Recital Hall and open a third Opera Extremes production here in the Wilson Theatre at the end of the month.

Students have traveled to NYC twice, performing at the Tribeca Performings Arts Center with the Borough of Manhattan Community College. A two-week summer stock internship took four students to Urbana, Illinois for an intensive production experience thanks to the generosity of Mark Roberts, the executive producer and lead writer of the television show, *Two and a Half Men* and creator of *Mike and Molly* on CBS. UAH Theatre has produced two of his original plays and hosted him on campus twice with the assistance of the Department of Humanities. Theatre minor Becky Purcell received an MFA Acting assistantship at West Virginia University for 2009. Heath McClain, James Desta, Melissa Cavins and Megan Thompkins received Irene Ryan Acting Nominations in 2009 from the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival for their performances with UAH Theatre last fall.

Tonight, we open the Wilson Theatre, a beautiful addition to Wilson Hall, the College of Liberal Arts, and the entire UAHuntsville campus. It was conceived by Dean Glenn Dasher and Larrell Hughes, our campus architect, and was carried out as a part of the renovation of Wilson Hall. Completed last January, the space has already changed the tone of our work and is certain to provide a bright future for UAHuntsville Theatre. This evening we offer *The Dining Room* by A.R.Gurney. We hope you enjoy this unique play, this generous cast and our new home on campus.

"To us." – A.R.Gurney

David C. Harwell - Director
UAH Theatre - Assistant Professor

The DONORS

SHOW-STOPPER (\$1000 and above)

Dr. Robert Evan James
Drs. Henry and Gaylen Pugh
Mr. and Mrs. Lee A. Rhoads
Dr. and Mrs. John R. Scales
Mrs. Linda J. Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Weiner
Dr. and Mrs. David B. Williams
Alan and Debra Jenkins

PRODUCER (\$500)

Mr. Robert F. Harwell
Ms. Charlene Graham (Industrial Properties of the South)
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Morley
Dr. and Mrs. John K. Severn
Mr. and Mrs. William Shinn

DIRECTOR (\$250)

Mr. Mark Eccleston
Mr. Martin Folgmann (Accurate Machine and Tool Corp)
The Honorable and Mrs. Parker Griffith
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Harwell, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. David Johnston
Ms. Patricia Kiley
Mr. and Mrs. Byrd Latham
Lieutenant General and Mrs. James M. Link
Dr. Brian Martine
Dr. Mabry Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hinton Wise

CAST (\$100)

Ms. Sara B. Batson
Mr. and Mrs. David Branham
Ed Buckbee & Associates
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Dasher
Ms. Lynn Jones
Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Lester
Dr. and Mrs. William F. Munson
Mr. and Mrs. Guy J. Spencer, Jr.
Ms. Emily Vandiver
Mrs. Amy M. Wagner

CHORUS (\$50)

Dr. John Gregory
Ms. Jennifer Liddle
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Parnell
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Stewart

If you would like to become a donor,
please call 256-824-6909 or send your tax deductible donations to:
UAH Theatre, Morton Hall, room 342, Huntsville, AL 35899

About THE DINING ROOM

The Dining Room is a play set in a single dining room. A real dining room. The sort of room in which a long wooden table is accompanied by a matching hutch, buffet, and beautifully carved chairs. It's the type of room in which manners are of the utmost importance, and the rules of behavior are as uncompromising as the crystal water glasses.

In some ways, the dining room table and chairs become a character in this play. Indeed, they are only fixtures that remain constant from scene to scene. There are fifty-seven different characters who perform 17 scenes throughout the course of a "day." The play takes place in a dining room--or rather, many dining rooms. The same dining room furniture serves for all: a lovely burnished, shining dining-room table; two chairs at either end; four more along each side, as if to define the walls of the room because a sense of void surrounds the room. It might seem as if it were on display in some museum, many years from now.

Gurney parades scene after scene before us, conducting an anthropological demonstration on what one of his characters describes as a "vanishing culture . . . the WASPs of the Northeastern United States. You can learn a lot about a culture from how it eats. . . ."

Gurney is making us look and think. In the space of ninety minutes, the actors take on roles of stern parents, servants, senile adults, five-year olds at a birthday party, teenagers sneaking alcohol, and professionals conducting business in a room fraught with memories. You'll be treated to a wide range of humanity. The result is a comedy in which we may all recognize ourselves and our families – with warmth, appreciation, and new insight.

SPECIAL THANKS

Rob and Suzanne Conway
Railroad Antiques

Glenn Dasher
Dean of Liberal Arts

Patricia Ferrier Kiley

Terry Jackson
for the dining room table!

Ron Harris
Joel Lonergan

Donna Lamp

Jodi Weiner
Gaylen Pugh

*Thank you Suzanne and Rob and congrats on your
new baby boy!*

RAILROAD STATION
Antiques & Interiors



315 N. Jefferson St. Huntsville 256-533-6550

The COGNATE

UAH is proud to announce the Theatre Cognate. This interdisciplinary minor offers a variety of courses and opportunities geared to students' interests and talents. It is an exciting complement to any major. Classes vary from theatre history and production elements, to acting and design. Any career that requires presentation or performance can benefit from theatre training. Acting builds confidence and understanding. Theatre technology adds artistry to the engineering process and gives students an edge in the marketplace. From a business and management standpoint, theatre offers the unique challenge of working in a fast-paced situation that demands flexibility, creativity and focus. Marketing students can learn how to promote public events with print material, advertising, and press.

The cognate requires twenty-four credit hours; twenty-one of those are available in direct theatre study in the Department of Communication Arts, while the rest are offered in the Departments of Music, Art, English, Philosophy and Foreign Language.

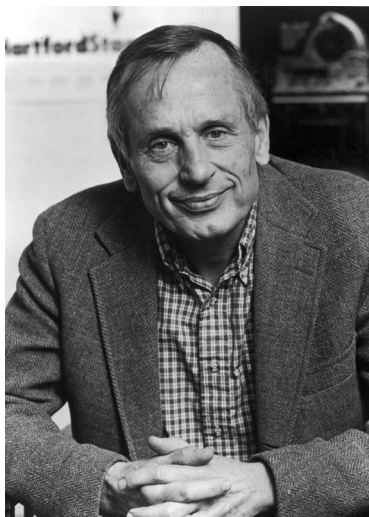
Talk to your advisor or call 256-824-6909 and enroll now!

Auditions for
Sunday in the Park with George
the Spring Musical at UAHuntsville

November 4th at 6:30p.m. in the Wilson Theatre

You will sing
~~~  
*Bring sheet music*

**get involved in UAH THEATRE**  
**256-824-6909 or [www.uah.edu/theatre](http://www.uah.edu/theatre)**



**A.R. Gurney**, less formally known as “Pete,” is one of the most prolific and produced playwrights in America. His work focuses primarily on the issues and realities of middle-class American life and has been produced on international theatre stages for more than thirty years.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts from Williams College in 1952, Gurney joined the United States Navy during the Korean War, writing shows to entertain the military personnel. Following his discharge in 1955, he enrolled in the Yale School of Drama where he received his master’s degree in playwriting. Later he joined the faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge where he taught until 1987.

In 1958, Gurney wrote *Love in Buffalo*, which was the first musical ever produced at Yale. His first play, *The David Show*, was produced in New York in 1968. In 1970, *Scenes from American Life* received its world premiere at the Studio Arena Theatre in Buffalo. During the 1970s, he wrote two novels and several plays, including *Children*, which premiered in London, England in 1974.

His breakthrough success came in 1982 with *The Dining Room*. Other award-winning plays include *The Middle Ages*, *Richard Cory*, *The Golden Age*, *What I Did Last Summer*, *The Wayside Motor Inn*, *Sweet Sue*, *The Perfect Party*, *Another Antigone*, *The Cocktail Hour*, *Love Letters*, *The Old Boy*, *The Fourth Wall*, *Later Life*, *A Cheever Evening*, *Sylvia*, *Overtime*, *Let’s Do It* (a Cole Porter musical), *Labor Day*, *Far East*, *Darlene* And *The Guest Lecturer*, and *Ancestral Voices*.

*Love Letters*, written in 1989, has enjoyed tremendous success for many years with its two-character cast who read the play side by side at a desk. The characters are a man and a woman who exchange letters in a warm and complicated friendship lasting fifty years. The play’s co-stars have included Richard Thomas and Swoosie Kurtz, Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick, Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, among others. In 1991 he adapted his own novel, *The Snow Ball*, for the stage; it premiered at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. His other novels include *The Gospel According to Joe* and *Entertaining Strangers*. In the fall of 1999, Gurney wrote the libretto for *Strawberry Fields* with music by Michael Torke, as part of the Central Park Opera trilogy presented by the New York City Opera.

Gurney is the recipient of many awards, notably a Drama Desk Award in 1971, a Rockefeller Award in 1977, and two Lucille Lortel Awards in 1989 and 1994. He has also received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the New England Theatre Conference. He and his wife, Molly, have four children and six grandchildren.