NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“A man walks into a bar, approaches the bartender, and says…”

This well-known anecdote is the starting point for Steve Martin’s play *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, which inventively imagines a meeting at Parisian cabaret the Lapin Agile (or the Nimble Rabbit) between Spanish painter Pablo Picasso and German physicist Albert Einstein in 1904. The year is significant; in 1905 Picasso will memorialize the nightclub in a painting called “At the Lapin Agile” and Einstein will publish his “Special Theory of Relativity.” Furthermore, in 1907 Picasso will attain immortality with his painting “Les Demoiselles d’Avignon,” so both men are poised to change the twentieth century.

First produced in 1993, the play is more than twenty years old; nevertheless, it explores themes that remain entirely relevant today. Our production, which includes an extended meditation on creative processes, anticipation about the future of humanity, and role of subjectivity in defining beauty, is especially appropriate as UAH Theatre celebrates its ten year anniversary—both looking forward to the future while remaining indebted to our past. In the four years I have been working with UAH Theatre, I am consistently inspired by our students’ commitment in presenting productions that exemplify the very best traits of theatre: collaboration, artistry, and truth. This production in our tenth anniversary season is even more meaningful because so many UAH alumni returned to work on this play—you have probably seen these talented actors at other Huntsville theatres, and knowing that they chose to return to UAH makes me confident that our program, under David Harwell’s wise tutelage, must be getting something right.

I hope you enjoy the show.

Dr. Chad Allen Thomas

Director
CAST
(In Order of Appearance)

Freddy           Charlie Rogers
Gaston           Ron Harris
Germaine         Megan Tompkins
Einstein         Eric McCowan
Suzanne          Kailey Burkhardt
Sagot            Shawn Tracey
Picasso          Chad J. Burkhardt
Schmendiman      Kyle Thede
The Countess     Alex Beck
Female Admirer   Alex Beck
A Visitor        Eric Soden
CREATIVE TEAM

Director            Dr. Chad Allen Thomas
Asst. Director      Shawn C. Murdock
Producer/Set Designer David Harwell
Technical Director  Tom Gray
Sound Designer       Johnna Doty
Asst. Sound Designer Taylor Acker
Projection          Vincent Argentina
Production Stage Manager Karen Baker
Stage Manager       Logan Osborn
Asst. Stage Manager Laura Martin
Props               Logan Osborn
                   Maci Hladky
                   Kate McNeil
Costumes            Kate Russell
                   Nia Hunter
                   Ron Harris
                   Tammy Jones
Asst. Sound Technicians Carmen Childers
Marketing           Zachary Patrick
                   Eric McCowan
Box Office/Administration Donna Lamp

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UAH THEATRE PROGRAM BY VISITING US AT UAH.EDU/THEATRE OR 256-824-6871.
CHARLIE ROGERS – FREDDY
Charlie is thrilled to return to the stage with UAH Theatre. His previous appearances have been in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Where the Great Ones Run*, and *The Consul*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their amazing support, and his family for keeping him confident -- especially his long-suffering wife.

RON HARRIS – GASTON
Ron was last seen on the Wilson stage with Mark Robert’s *Where the Great Ones Run*, and now with another barfly role in Steve Martin’s *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Ron is waiting for the third drunk role...we know that “bad news comes in threes.” He will keep practicing at home and at bars around town to get it right next time.

MEGAN TOMPKINS – GERMAINE
Megan is thrilled to be participating in a show written by the great Steve Martin, easily one of the greatest comedians of all time. If you disagree, then what are you even doing here? Megan has appeared in numerous shows with UAH Theatre, Rocket City Shakespeare, and Theatre Huntsville. Thank you for your support and please enjoy the show!

ERIC MCCOWAN – EINSTEIN
Eric is a graduate of the UAH Theatre Cognate. He has acted in past productions at UAH such as *Spoon Lake Blues* and *A Bright New Boise* as well as other productions in the Huntsville community. By day he serves as the Creative Director for Sharp Auction Engine Inc., but “at night... at night the stars come out.”

KAILEY BURKHARDT – SUZANNE
A junior English major/Theatre minor, this is Kailey’s second appearance on the UAH stage, making her debut last season in *Spoon Lake Blues*. She has been a part of Huntsville’s community theater for over ten years and is pursuing a career in theater education. She thanks the entire cast and crew for a phenomenal experience, and her beloved Picasso for being “mine forever.”
SHAWN TRACEY – SAGOT

Shawn is ecstatic to return to UAH for this performance of Picasso at the Lapin Agile. In years past he played Jeff in Suburbia and Cook in Mother Courage and Her Children. Since his time at UAH he has performed at various community theaters as well as acted in film and television. He is incredibly proud to join UAH for its 10th anniversary theater season!

CHAD J. BURKHARDT – PICASSO

As a 2014 alumni, Chad is thrilled to be returning to the UAH stage. His past roles include Owen in Where the Great Ones Run and LeRoy in A Bright New Boise. Last spring, he took a step backstage by being assistant director for All My Sons. Chad would like to thank Dr. Chad for the opportunity to return to the stage, his cast and crew for the hard work and good times, and most of all his wife Kailey for her unlimited support and patience.

KYLE THEDE – SCHMENDIMAN

A graduate of UAH, Kyle’s performances at the university include the 2014 musical productions of Anything Goes and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, the fall 2010 production of The Dining Room, and Charger Theatre Club’s fall 2013 reading of Election Day. Enjoy the show!

ALEX BECK – THE COUNTESS/FEMALE ADMIRER

Alex is a UAH graduate with a degree in Civil Engineering. She works as an engineer at Madison Utilities and attends grad school part-time at UAH. Picasso at the Lapin Agile is her second show with UAH Theatre.

ERIC SODEN – A VISITOR

Eric is excited to be on stage in his first UAH production. Other recent performances include Theatre Huntsville’s Arsenic & Old Lace and 5 Women Wearing the Same Dress. Eric would like to thank director Chad Thomas, assistant director Shawn Murdock, and producer David Harwell for casting him in this fantastic play and allowing him to work with such a talented cast and crew. Special thanks to his wife Nina for her love and support.
CHAD ALLEN THOMAS – DIRECTOR

Dr. Chad Allen Thomas is an assistant professor of Shakespeare and dramatic literature in the English Department at UAH. His work with Theatre at UAH has included The Comedy of Errors (2011), The Tempest (2012) and All My Sons (Joe Keller, 2013.) He will direct A Midsummer Night’s Dream in spring 2015 (come to auditions in early January!)

SHAWN C. MURDOCK – ASST. DIRECTOR

Shawn studies English at UAH. The majority of his theatrical experience is with acting. Most recently he played Silvius in Rocket City Shakespeare’s production of As You Like It. He would like to thank the cast and crew of Picasso at the Lapin Agile, David Harwell, and UAH’s Theatre Department for making this wonderful show possible.

DAVID HARWELL – PRODUCER/DESIGNER

David is an associate professor of Theatre at UAH. 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 working in professional theater in NYC, Boston, and regionally, he is happy to be back in Huntsville, his hometown. David started the UAH Theatre in 2005 and serves as its director.

JOHNNA DOTY – SOUND DESIGNER

A graduate of the University of Montevallo in music, Johnna earned a sound design MFA 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 and teaches at UAH.

TAYLOR ACKER – ASST. SOUND DESIGNER

Taylor Acker is a UAH alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with a minor in music technology. He would like to thank the cast and crew for letting him be a part of this great team for a fun and unique show. He would especially like to thank Johnna Doty, whose creativity, intuition, and understanding are always inspiring.
VINNY ARGENTINA – PROJECTION

Vinny Argentina is not a native of Huntsville. He likes most things brown. Sometimes green, but in the big picture, really not so much. He makes things with ones, zeros, bits, bytes, beeps, and boops, but also - though much less often - with some of the messier stuff too.

KAREN BAKER – PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Karen is thrilled to be joining the UAH Team. She received her MFA in directing at The University of Alabama. Some of her favorite directing projects include: City of Angels, Children of Eden, Fefu and her Friends, and The Baby Dance.

LOGAN OSBORN – STAGE MANAGER

Logan is a junior at UAH. He previously worked on Anything Goes last spring and was on the props crew for How to Succeed. Logan would like to thank David Harwell and Chad Thomas for giving him the opportunity to stage manage his first show. Logan is looking forward to being a part of future shows.

LAURA MARTIN – ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Laura, a freshman at UAH, has done theatre since her freshman year of high school, eventually appearing in NACC’s productions of Blood Brothers and Les Misérables her junior and senior year. She would like to thank her loving family, dedicated teachers, and amazing friends, especially Andrew, for supporting her.

TOM GRAY – TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

This is Tom’s ninth show with UAH. Tom recently returned from a summer of working in New York for the Production Resource Group. With PRG Tom worked on a number of sets including the 2014 Tony Awards, “The Price is Right”, and “America’s Got Talent” in Radio City. Tom also worked on the new Broadway show On The Town, Wicked, The Book of Mormon, and others. Tom is glad to get the chance to pursue his new passion for stage automation. Tom would like to thank his family for their constant support. Lastly Tom would like to stress the importance of the Laws of Physics. No matter how many springs or how much gaff tape you put on something, physics will still be a buzz kill.
KATE RUSSELL – COSTUME DESIGNER
Kate is happy be back at UAH after costuming How to Succeed. She was involved with the Stuttgart Theatre while living in Germany. She was Mrs. Cratchit in A Christmas Carol and designed costumes for Spamalot. She was in the original cast of Jones Hope Wooten’s comedy Til Beth Do Us Part and Dixie Swim Club. She would like to thank her family and friends who have supported her efforts by sending costumes pieces or just listening to her crazy ideas.

NIA HUNTER – COSTUME ASSISTANT
Nia is a UAH alumna who received her BA in art history in 2011. She has worked closely with UAH Theatre for the past 7 years and is excited to be involved with this fabulous production. She would like to thank David Harwell for the continued opportunity to pursue her passion; Lisa Ordway for her support and enthusiasm; the hard working cast and crew; and you, the audience, for making this wonderful production possible.

CARMEN MICHAEL CHILDERS – ASST. SOUND TECHNICIAN
Carmen Michael is a 22 year old Jasper, Alabama native. He is a Senior music technology major. This is his third production, previously being a part of Anything Goes and How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying. When he is not assisting with theater productions as a member of the sound crew, Carmen Michael can be found spending his time recording in the studio or singing with his band, Throne of Eden.

ZACH PATRICK – ASSISTANT SOUND TECHNICIAN
Zach is a sociology major with a double minor in music technology and theatre. He will graduate in the Spring of 2015! He would like to thank David Harwell and Johnna Doty for their patience with him, and his friends for not disowning him when he disappeared into rehearsal-land for months on end!
SPECIAL THANKS

Arab Musical Theatre for costumes
Cindi Brasher
Lyndsey Torok
Marilyn Coffey
Lyndsey Byrge

Jeff Nelson
Dr. Clarke Rountree
Donna Lamp
Jessica Bailer
Jennifer Cheatom
Glenn Dasher

All My Sons
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