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Charley's Aunt

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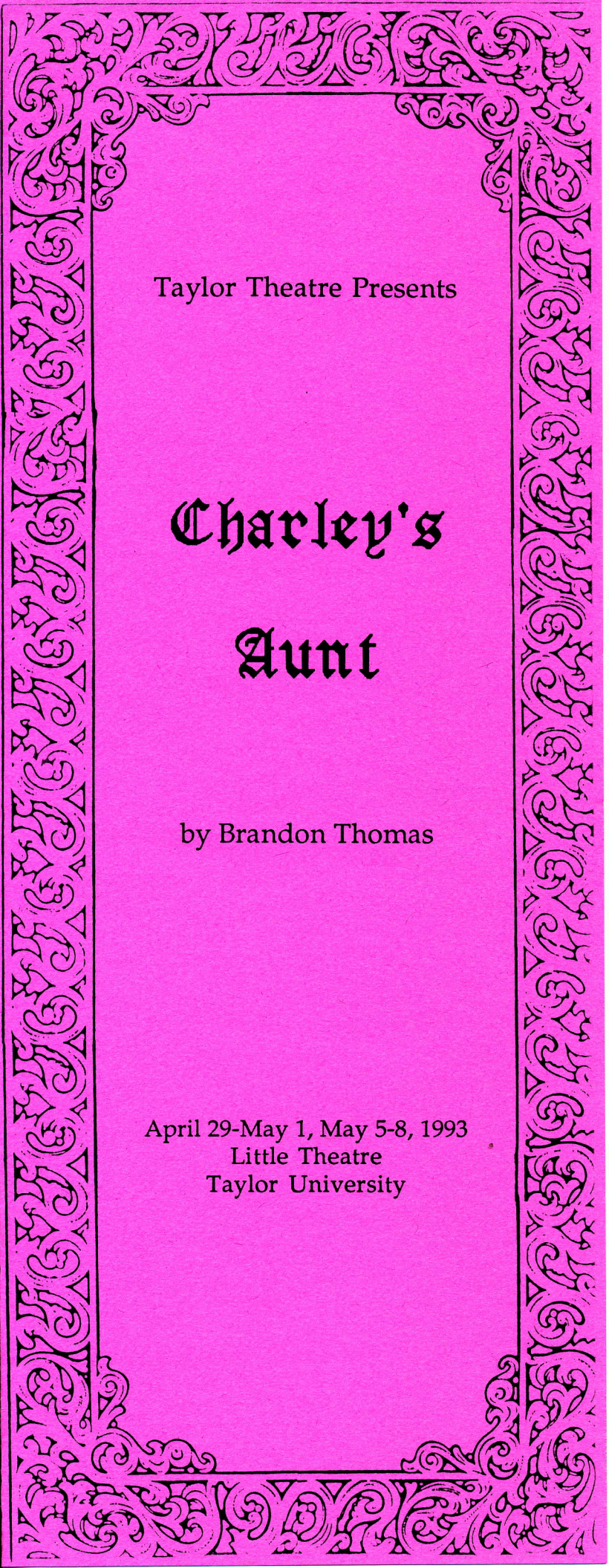


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Recommended Citation

"Charley's Aunt" (1993). *Taylor Theatre Playbills*. 145.
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An ornate, symmetrical decorative border in a dark color, featuring intricate scrollwork, floral motifs, and geometric patterns. It frames the central text area of the poster.

Taylor Theatre Presents

**Charley's
Aunt**

by Brandon Thomas

April 29-May 1, May 5-8, 1993
Little Theatre
Taylor University

From the Director

The reputations of many comic playwrights such as Moliere, Sheridan and Wilde were firmly established by their production of a large body of work. Brandon Thomas's reputation rests on one extraordinary script written a hundred years ago. Thomas successfully combines the attributes of sentimental comedy with the style of Oscar Wilde. He then creates a plot which contains many of the ingredients of farce built on a hilarious sequence of improbable possibilities. The result is *Charley's Aunt*, a world famous farcical comedy which has been done repeatedly on the professional and amateur stages of the world and has found its way to the motion picture screen more than once during the last one hundred years.

How can we account for the power of *Charley's Aunt*, for the power of comic theatre? Isn't comedy --especially farce--merely an escapist diversion, a vastly inferior dramatic genre? Isn't our taste for it prompted by the desire to turn off our intellects in favor of being entertained?

Critics and aestheticians have long pondered these questions. Here are some of their thoughts on the nature of comedy:

"The pleasure caused by laughter, even on the stage, is not an unadulterated enjoyment; it is not a pleasure that is exclusively esthetic or altogether disinterested. It always implies a secret or unconscious intent, if not of each one of us, at all events of society as a whole. In laughter we always find an unavowed intention to humiliate and consequently to correct our neighbor, if not in his will, at least in his deed."

--Henri Bergson

"Comedy is an escape, not from truth but from despair: a narrow escape into faith. It believes in a universal course for delight, even though knowledge of the course is always twitched away from under us which leaves us to rest on its own buoyancy. In tragedy every moment is eternity; in comedy eternity is a moment. In tragedy we suffer pain; in comedy pain is a fool, suffered gladly."

--Christopher Fry

"This human life-feeling is the essence of comedy. It is at once religious and ribald, knowing and defiant, social and freakishly individual. The illusion of life which the comic poet creates is the oncoming future fraught with dangers and opportunities, that is with physical or social events occurring by chance and building up the coincidences with which individuals cope according to their lights.

--Susanne K. Langer

Charley's Aunt

Directed by Dr. Jessica Rousselow

Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Jack Chesney..... Matthew Minnes
Brassett..... Nathan Smith
Charley Wykeham..... Steven Roggenbaum
Lord Fancourt Babberly..... *Jason Welch
Kitty Verdun..... *Karen Stafford
Amy Spettigue..... *Kristin Wolgemuth
Col. Sir Francis Chesney, Bart..... Bryan Parris
Stephen Spettigue..... Stefan Koch
Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez..... *Sandy Walker
Ela Delahay..... *Wendy Loney

Commenoration Week, Oxford, 1892

ACT I

Jack Chesney's Rooms in College. Morning.
"When pious frauds--are dispensations."- *Hudibras*

ACT II

Jack Chesney's Rooms. Afternoon.
"While there's tea there's hope." --*Pinero*

ACT III

Drawing Room at Spettigue's House. Evening.
"Dinner lubricates business." --*Boswell*

*There will be a fifteen-minute intermission
between Act II and Act III*

Act III Running Time: 30 minutes

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to Mrs. Madge Gaff; Mrs. Bertha Bir and Marion Civic Theatre for help with costuming; Mr. Brian Holtzleiter for the use of his piano and Mr. Harry Yeakle, and Mr. James Turner for their help in securing it; Jimmy's Used Furniture Store, 14th and South Adams Street, Marion, for furnitue items used on the set, which are also available for purchase.

A Communication Arts Department Production
Thanks for your support--see you next season!

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use
cameras during the performance.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.	Dr. Oliver Hubbard
Assistants to the Director.	*Lisa Angerer *Holly Gaff
Set Crew.	*JASON WELCH Colette Camp *Peter Marshall Bryan Parris
Light Crew.	TIM DIXON Bill Cuttino Kim Abbott Ronda Yoder
Audio Technician.	Erik Hotmire
Make-up.	KIM SPRAGG *Peter Marshall Amy Brailey *Shelly Dudelston Jena Habegger *DeAnn Ludeker Heidi Oakley Alex Patterson Jennifer Reese *Chris Thornton Mary VanVeldhuizen
Properties.	*KRISTIN WOLGEMUTH Amy Phillips* Rachel Bell Connie Schneeberger *Tricia Cable Camilla Swain Rebecca Grandi Tim McDaniel Sarah Nierman Derrick Sanford Matt Widdoes
Costumes.	*DANIELLE BEAUCHAINE APRIL HUNTER Valerie Nielsen Kristy Brandt Jeff Penn Colette Camp Jennifer Reese Becky Crumbacher Lisa Rozema Hugh Hamilton Lori Savage Heather McCready
House.	SHARON HONG Rachel Bell Rebecca Grandi *Tricia Cable Kelly Klopfenstein Tina Cornett Abby Nelson Marc Curless Jeff Penn Tracey Doude Lisa Rozema Alesa Galvin Eric Tower Jennifer Giese
Cover Design.	Laura Bernd

*Alpha Psi Omega Membership