

The North Fork Community Theatre

presents

The Best Man

by Gore Vidal



May - June 1992

For the last time as President of the North Fork Community Theatre, I would like to extend a warm welcome to each of you. During the past two years, I have had the honor and privilege to work with some of the most talented folks our community has to offer. The director of this show, *The Best Man*, has been one of them. I am sure the efforts of Bob Erland and his staff will provide you with a wonderful evening of theatre.

Some past Presidents have used this final message as a thank you to fellow board members. I, too, would like to thank someone — you, our patrons. As members of the North Fork community, you have time and time again supported our endeavors here at the NFCT. The time, effort, materials, and monetary donations given by our local businesses are also truly appreciated. So, as my term as President comes to an end, I thank you all again and may God bless.

- Jim Barney, President

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The Best Man

by Gore Vidal

DIRECTED BY: Bob Erland

PRODUCED BY: Sue Kalin

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Todd Bibey

***Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service Inc.
440 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016***

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Place: A Presidential Convention in New York

Time: Summer 1976

ACT I

- Scene 1 An Americana Hotel Suite.
Scene 2 Senator Joseph Cantwell's Suite. The same evening.
Scene 3 William Russell's Suite. The following morning.

INTERMISSION

ACT II

- Scene 1 Cantwell Suite. A few minutes later.
Scene 2 Russell Suite. A few minutes later.
Scene 3 Cantwell Suite. A few minutes later.
Scene 4 Russell Suite. The next morning.

The Best Man was first presented by The Playwrights'
Company at the Morosco Theatre, New York City
on March 31, 1960.

CAST

Dick Jensen	.....	Anthony Gocha
First Reporter/Delegate	.....	Glenn Abramowitz
William Russell	.....	Rob White
Second Reporter/Delegate	.....	Ray Gurriere
Third Reporter/Delegate	.....	Jeanne Lane
Alice Russell	.....	Scarlett Leas
Woman Assistant	.....	Chatty Allen
Mrs. Gamadge	.....	Rosemary McCamish
Arthur Hockstader	.....	Harry Farrell
Mabel Cantwell	.....	Phyllis Holt
Don Blades	.....	Ed Zaborowski
Joseph Cantwell	.....	Todd Bibey
Senator Carlin	Paul Borsman
Dr. Artinian	Laura McBride
Sheldon Marcus	Bill Corry

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Bob Erland
Assistant Director	Jim Barney
Producer	Sue Kalin
Stage Manager	Larry Tuthill
Set Design	Paul Borsman
Set Construction	Paul Borsman, Chatty Allen
Make-Up	Phoebe Rey
Lighting Design	Tony Gocha
Lighting	Rob Dowling
Lighting Crew & Sound	Kathy Carter
Props	Lorna Musnicki, Theresa Linder
Costume Coordinator	Debbie Kruel
Publicity	Dan McCarthy
House Manager	Danette Kelly
Refreshment Manager	Mary Ann Sieczka, Michelle Sieczka
Program & Poster Design	Rob White
Photos	Glenn Abramowitz
Tickets	Judy Utter
Box Office	Judy Utter, Anne O'Donohoe
Rehearsal Prompter	Jana Young

BIOGRAPHIES

Glenn D. Abramowitz (*Reporter One/Delegate*) — Glenn is appearing in his third production here at NFCT. He was last seen as Indio in the 1991 Youth Production of *West Side Story*, and just before that as Payne (et al) in *Mister Roberts*. Also catch him occasionally on Cablevision's (Channel 25) *Slow Children at Play*.

Chatty Allen (*Woman Assistant*) — They said it would happen but she didn't believe 'em. Well, after two seasons of working behind the scenes at NFCT, Chatty is on stage. Most recently, Chatty did props, sets and worked with the stage crew for *The King and I*. She has enjoyed working with the cast and crew of *The Best Man* and she just loved playing Mabel.

Todd Bibey (*Joseph Cantwell/Assistant Director*) — In his tenure at NFCT and with Orient Point Players, Todd has enjoyed challenges in acting, set design, set constructing, make-up, and directing. These contributions are most evident in the recent productions of *The King and I*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, *Bus Stop*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Todd is currently serving as vice president of NFCT. When not on stage, Todd resides in Greenport with his wife Betty and son Jeremy.

Paul Borsman (*Senator Carlin*) — Paul started his NFCT career as a "stage father" for his daughter Tara in *Oliver!* After a brief appearance in *Sweet Charity* he is making his debut in his first speaking role. Paul resides in Wading River with his wife Carol and daughters Tara and Corrinne.

Bill Corry (*Sheldon Marcus*) — This is Bill's second appearance with the NFCT. He was previously seen as Stuff in *Sweet Bird of Youth*. He has also worked with The Heights Players as well as some college productions.

Harry Farrell (*Arthur Hockstader*) — Harry is a retired school administrator who lives in Greenport with his wife Charmian. This is his third play with our group — the first being *The Crucible* and the second as Doc in *Mr. Roberts*.

Tony Gocha (*Dick Jensen*) — I thought the government stopped drafting. Which character am I? Do I need to take a physical? Who's running for president?

Ray Gurriere (*Second Reporter/Delegate*) — "Move over Lois Lane!"

Phyllis Holt (*Mabel Cantwell*) — Phyllis was last seen in NFCT's production of *The King and I* as a royal wife and is delighted to be working again with this wonderful cast and company. Phyllis received

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her theatrical and musical theatre training at HB Studio and made her off Broadway debut in *Unfinished Business*. Most recent credits include *The Drunkard*, *Carnival*, *Sugar Babies* and *Beauty and the Beast*. She resides in Calverton with her husband, two sons, three cats, and her dog. She especially wants to thank Bob Erland and her bottle of Clairol! Hi Bernetta!

Jeanne Lane (*Third Reporter/Delegate*) — First and last seen at NFCT as one of the king's wives in *The King and I*, Jeanne has long agreed with Flannery O'Connor that "A good man is hard to find." She couldn't resist the opportunity of being a reporter in search of *The Best Man*.

Scarlett Leas (*Alice Russell*) — Scarlett is very excited to be making her NFCT debut. She recently appeared in Columbia's Playwrights Festival in two of their contemporary works. She would like to thank her family who have given her so much support over the past several weeks.

Laura McBride (*Dr. Artinian*) — Laura worked in professional theatre many years ago. Dr. Artinian is her first role with the NFCT, but not the last, she hopes.

Rosemary McCamish (*Mrs. Gamadge*) — Rosemary first appeared in the NFCT 1990 production of *Witness for the Prosecution*. She is happy to be back working with the many wonderful friends she has made and hopes you enjoy *The Best Man*.

Rob White (*William Russell*) — According to Rob, one of the beauties of acting, unlike real life, is the lightning speed with which one can get ahead. Two months ago, Rob was a lowly slave in *The King and I* and now he is a Democratic candidate for President. He hopes the acting in *The Best Man* compares favorably to that of the actual candidates. Enjoy the show!

Ed Zaborowski (*Don Blades*) — Ed is politically "pleased as punch," to quote Hubert Horatio Humphrey, to be back on the NFCT stage for this most timely excursion into the electoral process. He is a long-time NFCT member, most recently seen here in the title role of *Mister Roberts*. (Last time he'll drink coffee in the wardroom!) Ed manages the Entertainment Emporium Video/Music store in Riverhead. In his spare time, besides doing fun things with his girlfriend Sue (this show's producer), he hosts a sports call-in show on Channel 25. Whether you like the political scene or not, please vote this year. It does matter!

Sue Kalin (*Producer*) — Sue has been a member of the theatre for almost 10 years. She has produced *Blithe Spirit* and *Never Too Late*.

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Last June she directed *Mister Roberts*. She has enjoyed working with Bob, the talented cast and an excellent crew and wishes to thank all of those who made this production possible.

Bob Erland (*Director*) — Having appeared in NFCT productions of *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Light Up the Sky*, *The Crucible*, *Sweet Bird of Youth*, and *The Rainmaker*, and having worked behind the scenes in several others, Bob felt ready to try directing, thus proving the truth of the adage that "fools rush in . . .!" It has been a fantastic experience. Whatever success *The Best Man* has is due to a wonderful script, a most talented cast and a marvelous production crew. Special thanks to Sue, Todd and Larry. Gratitude to J.T. for getting Bob to the NFCT.

SPECIAL THANKS

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and all who contributed to this production

AUDITIONS

for our summer youth production,
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,
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