

SOUTH CAMDEN
THEATRE COMPANY



Presents

John Henry Redwood's



The Old Settler

Directed By
Theresa Devine Banford

October 22 – November 7, 2010



SOUTH CAMDEN THEATRE COMPANY

Anchoring a neighborhood rebirth

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Waterfront South Theatre
400 Jasper Street
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helped to get us to this place.



Funding has been made possible in part by the Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



CAST

Elizabeth..... Dawn S. Christopher
 Quilly..... Connie Norwood
 Lou Bessie/Charmaine..... Alexandra Mays Ford
 Husband..... Kim E. Brown

CREW

Theresa Devine Banford..... Director
 Brad Reiter Assistant Director
 Ashley Chambers Stage Manager
 Erika Kampfe Assistant Stage Manager
 Adrian Rooney..... Lighting Designer
 Jim Guckin..... Lighting Engineer
 Katie Sommers Sound Board
 Robert Bingaman Set Design
 Randall McCann Set Construction

THEATRE COMPANY STAFF

Brad Reiter Acting Managing Director
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 Robert Bingaman..... Website/Marketing
 Jim Guckin..... Website/Waterfront South Theatre
 Margie Coyle, Hayden Prouty, Ian Smith and Deb Dennis Volunteers

The Old Settler
By John Henry Redwood

All the action takes place in the apartment of Elizabeth Borney,
in Harlem, New York.

ACT 1

Scene 1

Spring 1943, Thursday, late afternoon

Scene 2

2:25 a.m., the next morning

Scene 3

8:20 a.m., Friday morning

Scene 4

The same day, late afternoon

Intermission

ACT 2

Scene 1

Saturday, two-weeks later, mid-afternoon

Scene 2

9:30 a.m., Sunday, the next day

Scene 3

Twelve days later

Scene 4

The same day, Friday, early evening



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ABOUT THE ACTORS



DAWN S. CHRISTOPHER (Elizabeth) is a native Philadelphian. She has lived in Wilmington, Delaware for 20 years. This is Dawn's second opportunity with the South Camden Theater Company. She previously performed in the one act play, *Hung Jury* as the Judge. Her theater credits include The New Freedom Theatre, *Get Up and Get Into It* (Laverne), *Day of Absence* (Operator, Clubwoman), *Amen Corner*, *Adult Showcase* (Margaret), *Word Alive Drama Ministry God's Grace* (Grace), *Fruit of their Labor* (Retta), as well as other productions of *The Wiz* (Evilene) and *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Charlane). Dawn's love for the arts extends beyond the theater. She has been granted opportunities in radio (voiceovers), television (local commercials) and background work in film. She wears many hats. Dawn is a wife, mother, grandmother and ordained minister. As Founder/CEO of New Dawn Ministries International, she is committed to healing and deliverance of the whole person, spirit, soul and body. She extends special thanks to her family, church family (New Life Ministries International) and friends for your support. Most of all, thank God without whom none of this would be possible.



CONNIE NORWOOD (Quilly) Is proud to be returning to South Camden Theater Company's production of *The Old Settler*. Connie has worked with some of the best directors in Philadelphia: Walter Dallas, Bob Hedley, Jan Silverman just to name a few. Her roles have varied from the infamous Ma Rainey in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* to being a preacher's wife in *Back to the ole Landmark*. Connie is a resident of SW Philadelphia and a graduate of Temple University. She has worked in the theater since 1968 as a Performer and Director. She has added another talent to the theater, writing. *In Due Season*, a gospel musical, performed in 2006 at the Prince Music Theater. Connie has directed dramas and comedies including *According to Plan*, *Welcome Home Eddy, Tom, Dick, and Harriet* and *Back to the Old Landmark* among many others. She has directed several of Rev. Johnny Thompson's Productions, including *Anointed to Sing the Gospel*, *Grand Ole Night*, *Master, I Want to live*, and the one-woman shows *Black Sistah with a Capitol B* and *Coconut Therapy*. She served as Guest Artist of Temple University Main Stage Productions from 1998-2001. She also served as Associate Artistic Director and as Director of Youth Productions of the Point Breeze Performing Arts Center from 1993 - 2001. She has served continuously as Director /Dramaturgy/Actress for the Philadelphia Young Playwrights Festival /The Philadelphia Company from 1989 to the present and as Temple Reading Series 1989-Present, *A Place to Be*, *It's Hard Work Being A Playa*, *Peoples Property*, *No Place like Home*.



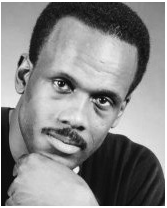
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ALEXANDRA MAYS FORD (Lou Bessie/Charmaine), was recently seen as 'Oney Judge' with Historic Philadelphia. Her recent credits include, 'Elizabeth Bennet' in Camden County College's production of *Pride & Prejudice*. 'Ms. Pollintanio' in Montclair State University's production of *The Meadowlands Project*, and as a 'Scenester' in Pig Iron's production of *Payup* at Montclair State University. She would like to thank her friends and family for their continuing support and love.



KIM E. BROWN (Husband) This New Orleans native has been seen in a variety of productions in numerous venues. *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Smokey Joe's Café* – Barnstormers Theater; *Twilight Time* – Hedgerow Theater; *Schoolhouse Rock* – The Players Club Theater of Swarthmore; *Konvergence* – Brushfire Theater of Performing arts; and most recently *Verbalized Ink* – The Adrienne Theater. A very talented and creative actor, you are sure to enjoy his portrayal of the character Husband.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I seldom see a movie twice, although there are some I would see again and again: *Gone With the Wind*, *The African Queen*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *Julia* and *3 Men and a Baby* (no comments...it makes me laugh.) Watching these films, I feel happy and excited and comfortable, all at once – like being with an old friend you don't often see, but always have a great time with, no matter how many times you re-live the same old stories.

It is not quite as easy to re-connect with a favorite play, especially as director or actor; not like popping a DVD into the player. So I have been in a happy state of anticipation since it was decided that *The Old Settler* would be the second play of South Camden Theatre Company's first season in the beautiful, new Waterfront South Theatre. A month ago I opened the box of props I had stored away in May, 2008, and noticed how carefully I had wrapped each dish and cup and candlestick – with the same care I would give my grandmother's china or my mother's cranberry glass. Precious things. Family things.

It has been a great joy to spend time once again with Elizabeth, Quilly, Husband and Lou Bessie. In my notes from SCTC's 2008 production, I thanked the actors for embracing these characters "in all their fragile, flawed humanity." I would say the very same to Dawn, Alex and Kim. And to Connie, for taking the "A train" with me once again, I can only say, "We're sisters, right.....shoot!"



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ABOUT THE CREW

THERESA DEVINE BANFORD (Director) is thrilled to be once again directing *The Old Settler* with SCTC. She is delighted to be working with new cast members - Dawn, Alex and Kim - and to be reunited with Connie as the irrepressible Quilly. Theresa has acted in SCTC's productions of *Last Rites* and *Exonerated*. She directed *Asparagus* and the 2008 production of *The Old Settler*. She was Assistant Director for *Indoor Picnic*. Theresa has acted in the Philadelphia area as well as in Boston. She is the Director of Development at Sacred Heart School and is a Trustee for SCTC.

BRAD M. REITER (Assistant Director) is proud to again be working with the South Camden Theatre Company. He has worked on many SCTC productions including *Hughie*, *Indoor Picnic*, *The Exonerated*, *That Championship Season*, *Old Settler*, *Mass Appeal*, and *Belmont Avenue Social Clu*. He was given his first opportunity to direct for SCTC in 2009 for *Hung Jury*. He also served as assistant director on the most recent production of *Last Rites*. He has also performed in such SCTC productions as *Last Rites*, *Make War Not Love*, *A Community of Two*, and *Laramie Nights*. Brad would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work, Joe and Theresa for their confidence, and Bob for working so hard to make all this possible. Special thanks to the Stage Manger and his Fiancé Ashley for being there through everything.

ASHLEY CHAMBERS (Stage Manager) is elated to continue working with her second family at the South Camden Theatre Company. She has previously worked on the SCTC productions of *Fortune Cookies*, *That Championship Season*, *Old Settler*, *Youth in America*, *Mass Appeal*, *And Justice for All*, *Go Irish! – The Purgatory Diaries of Jason Miller*, *Slave Narratives Revisited*, *Belmont Avenue Social Club*, and *Last Rites*. She can find no words to describe her love for this company, her faith in its mission, and her feelings of hope and excitement for its future in Waterfront South. She thanks Brad for his love and undying effort, Joe for his passion, dedication and Kitchen Fridays, Erika for everything, always, Theresa for her creativity and insight, Jim and Katie for never failing to make her laugh (and, of course, for their hard work), and Bob, without whom none of this would ever be possible – thank you.

ERIKA KAMPFE (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working once again with SCTC. She has worked as assistant stage manager in shows such as *And Justice for All*, *Belmont Avenue Social Club*, *Slave Narratives Revisited*, and the most recent rendition of *Last Rites*. She would like to thank Ashley and Brad for their friendship and support, Katie and Jimmy for being amazing, always, Joe for making her a part of this family and realizing this huge dream, Bob for all of his hard work, and Theresa for being a fantastic director. She would also like to thank the rest of the cast and crew for working so hard and making this possible, and the audience and community for their support.



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JIM GUCKIN (Lighting Technician) has been with SCTC for 3 years now. His most recent work with the Company was as Assistant Director for SCTC's performance of *Belmont Avenue Social Club*. He has made many new lifelong friends working for and on this theatre. Jim would also like to extend a special thank you to his girlfriend Katie, without whom, all this would be worthless. To the cast, thanks for all the hard work; to Theresa, great work; and to Brad, Ashley and Erica, stay sexy! Jim hopes to continue his reign of terror in the Waterfront South Theatre. It has been an exciting experience to watch this theatre grow from an old building, to a hole in the ground, to finally a real theatre and is lucky to have a hand in it, and when you look at any imperfections no matter how small...there I shall be.

KATIE SOMMERS (Sound Technician) is glad to be back with the South Camden Theatre Company for her 3rd year and is excited to be working during the historic opening of the Waterfront South Theatre. She is glad to have made many close friends and is happy to be able to work with her one true love, Jim. She has enjoyed watching the construction and working on the theatre. Katie also works as a Registered Medical Assistant, and she also spends time educating young teens. She would like to thank her cousin Lisa for getting involved in the theatre, and to the wonderful cast that we continue to have. Thank you Joe for all these wonderful seasons, and thank you for being who you are and continue to be. Theresa, all I have to say is "amazing." Ashley, Erika and Brad, you guys are extraordinary.

ADRIAN ROONEY (Lighting Designer) Adreian is a lighting designer based out of the Philadelphia area. Recent works include *Maybe Even Tammy* (The Flea), *Greater Tuna* (Northern Stage) and the world premier of the musical, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*.

ROBERT BINGAMAN (Set Designer) Bob has been enjoying theatre from the audience's perspective for many years until Joe "invited" him into this creative group of talented people. Having jumped head first into the set design for SCTC's production of "Last Rites", he is happy to be working on a set that doesn't move. I am truly blessed to be in the company of so many talented individuals and look forward to working on set design and construction whenever possible. Thanks to Randy for his great talent and direction in the construction of the set and to Gene for his help, too.



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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

JOHN HENRY REDWOOD III, playwright, actor, librettist and lyricist whose work reflected different racial and ethnic experiences in America. Mr. Redwood gained national recognition with his bittersweet romantic comedy "The Old Settler," which became a theater staple in the late 1990's. Another success was "No Niggers, No Jews, No Dogs," which opened in 2000 in Philadelphia and was nominated for a Barrymore Award for best new play. It was presented Off Broadway in 2001.

He was born in Brooklyn, and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School there. He left the University of Kansas, served in the Marines and returned to New York, where he graduated from St. John's University and earned a master's degree at Fordham University.

His "Old Settler," about a woman battling spinsterhood, opened in Manhattan in 1998 at Primary Stages. It received an American Theater Critics Association Award, among other honors, and was listed in American Theater magazine as one of the 10 most-produced plays in the United States for the subsequent two seasons.



From left to right: Josephine Sliwowski, Councilman Spearman, Pastor Parker, Helene Pierson, Joseph M. Paprzycki, Father Doyle, Mayor Dana Redd, Councilwoman Burley, Councilwoman Polk, Liz Paprzycki, Robert Bingaman in rear.



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We applaud and thank them for their support.



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