

SOUTH VALLEY CIVIC THEATRE



Limited Engagement

Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 pm

January 15,16,22,23,29,30

by

Jay Presson Allen

Direction by

Carol Harris &

Matthew Hendrickson

Production by

Scott Lynch



Bill Tindall as
Truman Capote

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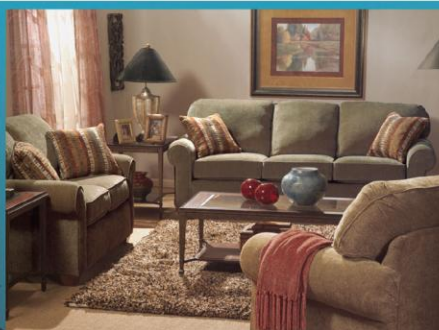


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A message from SVCT's President

Entering its forty-eighth year, South Valley Civic Theatre offers a variety of shows to appeal to our audience. SVCT is pleased to offer an "extra" show this season as we present *Tru*, the 1990 Drama Desk Award winner for Outstanding One-Person Show.

Adapted from the words and works of Truman Capote, *Tru* takes place in the writer's New York City apartment during the week before Christmas, 1975. An excerpt from Capote's infamous novel *Answered Prayers* has recently been published in *Esquire* and the author's friends, recognizing the characters as thinly veiled versions of themselves, have turned their backs on the man they once considered a close confidant.

"It is two hours spent on the edge, balancing precariously between comedy and tragedy, between laughter and tears, between the raucousness of exuberant performance and the quiet whimpers of inner torment...Any who remember Capote's look-at-me flamboyance...would have to wonder if he would continue to exist without an audience. That you are watching Capote face the prospect of such a life while you are a member of an audience just adds a touch of surreality...The only real problem is that, as must have been the case with most evenings spent in Capote's presence, it ends all too soon." - *The Baltimore Sun*

Coming next month is our Teen Musical – *Leader of the Pack: The Ellie Greenwich Story*. This hit Broadway musical retrospective was a 1985 Tony Award nominee for Best Musical and celebrates the life and times of Ellie Greenwich, whose doo wop sounds soared to the top of the music charts in the 1960's. We hope you will join us for this high energy show as our talented teens dance and sing their way to some of your favorite songs of the time.

Please consider supporting South Valley Civic Theatre by joining our theatrical family. There are many opportunities to be on stage, back stage, behind the scenes or to become a member. You may pick up a membership brochure in our lobby and choose the tax deductible membership that is best for you. If you own a business, please consider purchasing a program ad. For more details on advertising, visit our website at www.svct.org.

Thank you for coming.

Greg Colbert
President, South Valley Civic Theatre



Bill Tindall ~ *Truman Capote*

Bill hales from the Mississippi Delta where he was loved by a huge extended family during his formative years in the 60's and 70's. His family was full of real characters who embraced life on their own terms. Growing up at ground zero of the Civil Rights Movement and experiencing all the passions of that period has given Bill insight into people and the emotions they experience while facing extreme situations. He draws from these wonderful people for his characters on stage.

Bill has lived in California since the age of 24 and has worked as an interior designer all those years. He is the proprietor of Brotin Design Inc., a design firm serving the Bay Area since 1988. The acting bug bit him ten years ago when he first appeared in a local production of *Boeing, Boeing*. The infection grew as he portrayed numerous roles in area theaters, playing everyone from the greedy Potter in *It's a Wonderful Life* to the cantankerous Aunt Pearl and ten other characters in *Tuna Christmas*. Bill played a homophobic dad in *Norman, Is That You?* followed by a lovable grandfather in *You Can't Take It With You*. Bill has brought numerous other characters to life, not only on SVCT's stage, but also at Limelight Actors Theater and Pintello Comedy Theater.

The role of Truman Capote is a dream come true for Bill. He saw the original Broadway version in the 1990's and later in 2010 he saw a great production in Palm Springs. He is thrilled to portray this iconic figure of American literature here at SVCT and would like to thank the Board for this opportunity to be the first "one man show" on their stage. Watch what you wish for! Bill thanks his producer, Scott Lynch, for "going above and beyond what is expected" and his directors, Carol Harris and Matthew Hendrickson, for "their relentless and loving direction." Bill credits Carol and Matthew with making him a truly better actor. Finally, Bill wants to extend a big thanks to all the line coaches that spent hours at Peet's coffee helping him memorize ~ Judy Grant, Christine McElroy, Amy McElroy, Jennifer Tate, Johanna Gil, and Abbey Lynch "I adore you, too." Finally, Bill dedicates his performance to all those whom he loves and "Love me back every day." "On with the show, this is it."

"I don't care what anybody says about me as long as it isn't true."

Truman Capote

Special Thanks

South Valley Civic Theatre is a not-for-profit organization run by dedicated volunteers and is funded by ticket sales, memberships, and generous sponsors and advertisers. Their combined contributions of money, talent, and time bring great theater to the South Valley. Thanks to all.

But mostly, thank you, our audience!

Judy Grant & Mark Hansen for their special support and encouragement.

Memorization Coaches **Judy Grant, Christine McElroy, Amy McElroy, Jennifer Tate, Johanna Gil, and Abbey Lynch**

Anthony Hand for helping us with new and innovative ways to promote *Tru*
Carol Romo, Doug Werner & Doug Stewart for their assistance with our use of image projection.

Banning Upholstery in Gilroy for their generosity in re-upholstering furniture for our set.

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church for promoting *Tru* to the Morgan Hill community through their fundraiser for the church's International Relief Fund.

Lance LaShelle for his assistance in developing the characterization of Truman Capote.

Rosy's at the Beach Restaurant, our caterer, for making *Tru* an even more enjoyable South Valley Civic Theatre event.

Excel Auto Body & Paint - our Opening Night Reception sponsor.

Rosso's Furniture for their long-standing support of SVCT and for loaning furniture for our sets.

Johnson Lumber for making our set construction materials and paint more affordable.

Morgan Hill Community Center and staff
for the use of the Community Playhouse and for their ongoing support.

Martin Baccaglio for making warehouse space available ~ affordably.

Mainstreet Media (The Gilroy Dispatch, The Morgan Hill Times and Out & About Magazine), **Morgan Hill Life & Gilroy Morgan Hill Today** for giving our shows special consideration in their publications.

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for their generous grant as a part of their Employee Community Grant Program.

*"The better
the actor the
more stupid
he is."*



"You see, I was so different from everyone, so much more intelligent and sensitive and perceptive. I was having fifty perceptions a minute to everyone else's five. I always felt that nobody was going to understand me, going to understand what I felt about things. I guess that's why I started writing. At least on paper I could put down what I thought."

Truman Capote

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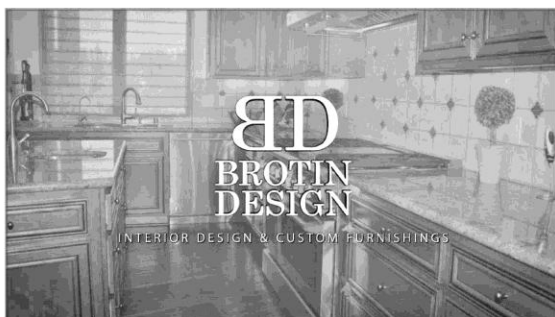
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The Staff

Producer	Scott Lynch
Director	Carol Harris
Assistant Director	Matthew Hendrickson
Costumer	Zana Vartanian
Hair & Make-up	Robin Church
Set Designer	Matthew Hendrickson & Scott Lynch
Master Carpenters	Roy Zamaripa & Frank Chantos
Stage Manager	Cara Kaiser-LaFaille
Sound Design	Matthew Hendrickson
Sound Technician	Megan Griffin & Dennis Heinz
Lighting Design	Matthew Hendrickson & Peter Mandel
Lighting Technician	Joyce Bedard
Hospitality	Robin Bezanson & Judy Grant
Properties	Lori Foster
Program Design	Scott Lynch
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Matthew Hendrickson ~ Assistant Director,
Lighting Design, Sound Design

Matthew Hendrickson has been involved with community theater both on and off stage for just over 35 years. He has worked with Gilroy Community Theater (GCT), Center Stage, South Valley Civic Theatre (SVCT), Limelight Actor's Theater, Children's Musical Theater San Jose (CMTSJ), Theater Rhinoceros and StirFry Theater. He gives special thanks to his parents Russell & Nancy Hendrickson for starting him on this crazy path called theater. Working on this show with his close friend Bill Tindall has been a great experience. Matthew would like to dedicate this show to the memory of Pinky Bloom and Leila Arias.

A conversation is a dialogue, not a monologue. That's why there are so few good conversations: due to scarcity, two intelligent talkers seldom meet.

Truman Capote



Carol Harris ~ Director

For the past thirty years Carol has been involved both on the stage and behind the scenes in SVCT shows as well as performing with City Lights in San Jose, and Center Stage, Odyssey Theater, Pintello Comedy Theater and Limelight Actors Theater in Gilroy. Having acted on stage with her friend Bill Tindall in *Arsenic and Old Lace* (SVCT), directed him in *It's a Wonderful Life* (SVCT), and played his wife on stage in *Weekend Comedy* (Limelight Actors Theater), she is honored to again work with this talented actor.

"TRU has been an incredible journey for everyone involved with the show," she comments. "From designing the set to shaping the character we have strived to engage the audience in the emotional roller coaster of Truman Capote's colorful and complicated life."

Carol would like to thank Scott, Matthew, Christine, Zana, Lori and Judy for making the journey. Break a leg, Bill!



Scott Lynch ~ Producer

Tru marks Scott's fifth time as a producer for SVCT, *Curtains* in 2010 being the first followed by *Out of Order*, *Oliver!* and *The Producers*. For the last several years, Scott has served as SVCT's Vice President responsible for publicity. Otherwise, his time has been on stage. One of his favorite roles was "George Bailey", playing opposite to Bill Tindall as "Potter", in the 2008 holiday production of *It's a Wonderful Life*, directed by Carol Harris who is one of the directors of *Tru*. Scott also had the privilege of sharing the stage with Bill in SVCT's production of *You Can't Take It With You*. He played "Reverend Brown" in *Inherit the Wind* in 2011 and most recently, "Yvan" in Limelight Actors Theater's production of *ART*. Scott thanks his family and coworkers for their tolerance of his passion for theater and a very special thanks to his good friend Bill Tindall for the privilege of assisting in this production.

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Who's Who In Tru's World

Black and White Ball, 1996: Truman's masquerade ball held at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. The ball was in honor of *The Washington Post* publisher Katharine Graham. Throwing the party for himself would have been viewed by his society friends as vulgar. "Truman called me up that summer and said, 'I think you need cheering up. And I'm going to give you a ball.'...I was...sort of baffled....I felt a little bit like Truman was going to give the ball anyway and that I was part of the props." Five hundred people attended - even so, there were numerous exclusions. "If you weren't invited - you left town."

Babe Paley, Lady 'Slim' Keith, Marella Agnelli, C.Z. Guest, Gloria Vanderbilt, Gloria Guinness, Lee Radziwell: Truman's "Swans" - he called them this 'for their beauty, their charm, and not surprisingly because they all seemed to be endowed with long necks.' George Plimpton

Billy Redant (real name is John O'Shea) : New York banker, married with four children, Truman's lover. Truman became close with O'Shea's wife and family - even having his youngest daughter live at his NY apartment with him. Temperamental, violent and manipulative - O'Shea worked for Truman and traveled with him. Attempted to take control of Tru's literary and business interests.

Colette: French novelist nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1948. Also an actress, mime and journalist. Truman wrote a short story about her (1970) called "The White Rose".

Gerald Clarke - Truman's biographer - his highly acclaimed book was published after Truman's death.

Gianni & Marella Agnelli - He: Lawyer and Chairman of Fiat, (referred to as "Avvocato"). She: Italian noblewoman, socialite, style icon.

Irving "Swift" Lazar: American talent agent and dealmaker, representing both movie stars and authors. Renowned for his annual post-Academy Award party - the place to be. His event was widely regarded as the most important Oscar celebration, and those who received invitations were regarded as the inner circle.

Jack Dunphy: American author and playwright. He and Truman met in 1948 and were lovers for 3 years and remained close for 35 years. Truman's first and only love. Dunphy was more private and reserved than his partner. "I never went on anyone's yacht, even though I was invited. I think I would have become a drunk or a terrific pleaser if I had."

Liz Smith - American gossip columnist. Wrote piece in Feb. 1976 *New York* magazine about Truman's *Answered Prayers* - his fall from grace.

Princess Pignatelli - Italian socialite who was a social arbiter and a jewelry designer. Married two very wealthy men.

Quo Vadis: One of New York's most fashionable Continental restaurants.

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blame a
writer for
what the
characters
say.**

**Truman
Capote**

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- Other Voices, Other Rooms* (1948, novel)
A Tree of Night and Other Stories (1949, short stories)
Local Color (1950, collection)
The Grass Harp (1951, novel)
The Muses Are Heard (1956, collection)
Breakfast at Tiffany's (1958, collection)
Selected Writings (1963, collection)
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"My major regret in life is that my childhood was unnecessarily lonely."
Truman Capote

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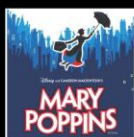
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