

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2003

THE FALCON THEATRE

presents

GRETTY GOOD TIME

By John Belluso

Directed by Joe Regalbuto

Starring

Ann Stocking, Jay Underwood
& Eileen Brennan

OPENING APRIL 12TH, 8pm

Closing out the Falcon Theatre's Inaugural Subscription Season is an intense drama, which was developed at the Mark Taper Forum's Writers Lab. Set in a nursing home in 1955, the play tells the story of German-born Gretty, a unique young woman with an irascible sense of humor, an irrepressible life force... and a death wish. Frustrated by her dependent life, Gretty escapes into a surreal dream world where she confronts the horrors of her past and the painful reality of her future.

Ann Stocking
(Gretty)

Ann Stocking recently appeared as "Helen" and "Emmy" in John Belluso's *The Body of Bourne* at the Mark Taper Forum. She appeared as "Gretty" in the workshop production of Belluso's *Gretty Good Time* during the play's early development as part of the Taper's New York Festival. Ann graduated in March from UCLA's Master of Fine Arts Acting Program where her roles included "Olga" in *The Three Sisters*, "Mrs. Candour" in *The School for Scandal* (directed by Michael Langham) and "Grandma" in Albee's *The American Dream*.

Jay Underwood

(Dr. Henry/Capt. Robert Lewis/Puppy)

Jay Underwood was first seen last year as a conniving network executive opposite Isaiah Washington in the HBO feature *Dancing in September*. Prior to its airing on the cable network, the Reggie Bythewood directed film enjoyed a run at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival. On the other side of the spectrum, Underwood was very proud to have worked with Billy Graham's company, World Wide Pictures, on the road trip comedy *Road to Redemption*. In the film, Underwood plays a buffoonish "Alan" opposite Pat Hingle and Julie Condra. The picture debuted on television in June of last year and is looking forward to a great run on video and DVD.

Some of Underwood's stage credits include, "Geoffrey" in *The Lion in Winter*, Pasadena Playhouse, "Smitty" in *Fortune in Men's Eyes*, Coast Playhouse and numerous shows at the Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company. He also has performed and studied at The Sundance films, *Dead Dogs*, *Valerie Flake* and *Possums*, Alan Rudolph's *Afterglow*. "Bug" in *Uncle Buck*, *Desert Bloom*, and the title role in *The Boy Who Could Fly*. For television, Underwood starred as Sonny Bono in the ABC movie *And the Beat Goes On, the Sonny and Cher Story*, "Chip" in Disney Channels *Not Quite Human* trilogy, Ernest Hemingway in *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, and "Chris Marshall" in the NBC mini-series *Blind Faith*. Guest star roles include *The X-Files*, *ER*, *The West Wing*, and *Millennium*.

Married in October 1993, Underwood lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two young sons. His passions (besides his family) include fly-fishing with his dad and father-in-law, garage sales and directing/performing with his church drama group. He is very pleased and proud to be part of the Falcon Theatre and especially *Gretty Good Time*.

Eileen Brennan

(McCloud)

This striking character player made her feature-film debut in *Divorce American Style* (1967), and subsequently became one of the screen's most prominent supporting actresses. In *The Last Picture Show* (1971), *Scarecrow*, *The Sting* (both 1973), *Daisy Miller* (1974), and *FM* (1978), Brennan played a succession of saucy, earthy, sometimes vulgar but usually sympathetic women. A favorite of director Peter Bogdanovich, he was the only one to ever make use of her musical talents, which had first gained her prominence off-Broadway; alas, those talents were squandered in the director's musical flop *At Long Last Love* (1975). In *Private Benjamin* (1980) she had the Oscar-nominated role of Goldie Hawn's mean commanding officer, "Captain Doreen Lewis," and later reprised the part in a TV series spinoff (1981-83), for which she earned an Emmy. Seriously injured in a 1984 auto accident, she returned to work three years later. OTHER FILMS INCLUDE: 1985: *Clue* (filmed before her accident); 1988: *Rented Lips*, *Sticky Fingers*; 1990: *Stella*, *Texasville*, *White Palace*.

Joe Regalbuto
(Director)

Joe Regalbuto has displayed an impressive versatility as both an actor and director, scoring success on stage, television and film. The Emmy-nominated actor enjoyed 10 seasons on television's top-rated and critically applauded series, *Murphy Brown*, starring as ace reporter "Frank Fontana."

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Regalbuto set his sights on an acting career after viewing his high school's production of *Brigadoon*. Working his way through the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Joe earned a scholarship to the New York University School of the Arts. Upon graduation, Mr. Regalbuto landed his first stage assignment and has worked steadily ever since, appearing in productions with the New York Shakespeare Festival, the Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Cincinnati Playhouse, the Guthrie Theatre, the Mark Taper Forum, the Old Globe in San Diego on the Broadway Stage.

Mr. Regalbuto has also made his mark on both the small and big screens. Landing roles in such films as *Missing*, *Raw Deal*, *Star Chamber*, *Honkytonk Man* and *The Sicilian*, Mr. Regalbuto soon segued his success to television, appearing in dozens of top-rated series, including *Matlock*, *Cagney and Lacey*, *Knots Landing*, *Golden Girls* and many others. He has also appeared in numerous motion pictures-for-television, including *Beyond Obsession*, *The Queen of Mean*, *Fatal Judgment*, *Hoover* and *Divorce Wars*, to name a few.

Since making his way behind the camera, Mr. Regalbuto, besides directing several episodes of *Murphy Brown*, has helmed episodes of *Friends*, *Titus*, *Nikki*, *Veronica's Closet*, and more. Mr. Regalbuto lives with his wife, Rosemary, in Santa Monica. They are the proud parents of three children.

John Belluso
(Playwright)

John Belluso's most recent productions include *The Body Bourne* at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, and *Henry Flamethrower* (commissioned and developed by A.S.K. Theatre Projects, premiere production by Trinity Rep in Providence, currently being produced by Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago). Other plays include *The Rules of Charity*, *Traveling Skin* and *Body Songs*, a collaboratively written theatre piece created with legendary theatre director Joseph Chaikin and featuring text by John and music and lyrics by Elizabeth Swados. Screenplays include *Tru-Life Tales* and *Crazy Arms*. His one act play *Knot Stew* won the Moving Arts Theatre Premier One-Act Competition, and was produced by Moving Arts Theatre in Los Angeles and the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York, where it starred Kyra Sedgwick.

John has received numerous playwriting awards and honors. He is the Co-Director of the Mark Taper Forum's *Other Voices* Project and is a member of the Taper Writer's Workshop, New Dramatists and Ensemble Studio Theatre.

Mr. Belluso received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts Dramatic Writing Program. He was born in Warwick, Rhode Island and is currently living in Los Angeles.

GRETTY GOOD TIME opens Saturday, April 12th and runs through Sunday, May 4th, 2003, with Preview Performances beginning on April 9th. Performances are Wednesday – Saturday, at 8pm, and Sundays at 4pm. Ticket prices for adults range from \$25.00 to \$37.50.

The Falcon Theatre is located at 4252 Riverside Drive, Burbank.

For more information or to make reservations please call **818-955-8101**.
www.falcontheatre.com

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