

Kudzu Playhouse

Managing Director—Jeannie Hinds Managing Artistic Director—Wally Hinds

Presents

Taking A Chance On Love

Written by C. Robert Jones

Directed by Wally Hinds

Crew

Assistant Director David Shelton
Stage Manager Kathy Ellsworth
Set Design Wally Hinds
Lighting Design David Shelton
Costume Design Wally Hinds
Sound Design Rial Ellsworth/David Shelton/Wally Hinds
Board Operator David Shelton
Set Construction Wally Hinds, David Shelton, Corey Hinds

Cast

Ann Rauschl Margaret Rutledge
Amanda Libbey Adele Clifton Rutledge Heyward
Rial Ellsworth Edgar Rutledge
Neil Matchan Ned Rutledge
Debra Field Roxana Rutledge Gomez
Abby Avery Madeleine Moret
Laura Dietrich Solange Moret
Michael Stubbs Christille (Kiki) Moret

Setting

The entire action of the play takes place in the living room of Edgar Rutledge's house on Kiawah Island near Charleston, South Carolina.

The present

Synopsis of Scenes

Act 1 A Friday evening in early September
Act 2 Scene 1 The same, early the next morning, Saturday
Scene 2 The same, Sunday midday

Taking A Chance On Love is presented through special arrangement with Robert A. Freedman Dramatic Agency, Inc.

There will be one fifteen minute intermission

Cameras and Recording Devices are absolutely prohibited in the theatre. Also, as a courtesy to the actors as well as the other patrons, please make sure all cell phones and pagers are turned off.

Cast Biographies in order of appearance

Ann Rauschl (*Margaret Rutledge*) Ann moved to the Atlanta area five months ago from Minneapolis and came to the Kudzu in hopes of meeting more theater lovers. Her experience ranges from majoring in theater at Eastern Michigan University, teaching drama at the high school level, directing several musicals, many comedies and dramas. She has done a great deal of Community Theater over the years and is the proud co-founder of ART (Antrim Regional Theater) located in northern Michigan. Ann recently worked as the Stage Manager for Kudzu's *Anne of Avonlea*... a great experience to work with young folks again.

Amanda Libbey (*Adele Clifton Rutledge Heyward*) Amanda is thrilled to be making her second appearance at Kudzu. She was seen last year in *June Groom*. Amanda discovered the joys of acting many years ago, and was privileged to study with some very talented west coast teachers while living in Seattle for seventeen years. She is especially pleased to be cast in this production as she really was once a journalist in South Carolina. Thanks for the hard work the cast, Wally, and David have put into this production. It has been a joy! Enjoy the show.

Rial Ellsworth (*Edgar Rutledge*) Rial is overjoyed at being able to come "home" to Kudzu for this lovely show. He was last seen here in *Later Life*, *Sylvia* and *Barefoot in the Park*, but has been busy around town appearing in shows with Theatre in the Square, Stage Door Players, CenterStage North, On-Stage Atlanta, and Polk Street Players. He will be appearing this summer at the 14th Street Playhouse downtown in the hit comedy *Jewtopia*. Rial would like to extend a deeply felt "thank you" to Wally and Jeannie for being the sweetest, kindest and most wonderful people to work with in our local theatre community. He would also like to express his deep admiration and appreciation to this talented cast who have made this show so special. But above all else, he would like to thank his wife Kathy, who took a chance on him many, many years ago and has never failed in her support, patience and love. He hopes you will enjoy the show as much as he does.

Neil Matchan (*Ned Rutledge*) Neil has been acting since his first role as E.K. Hornbeck in *Inherit the Wind* five years ago. Since then he has been in over thirteen plays. Favorite roles include Felix in *the Odd Couple*, the parts of Leslie and Tom in *Sylvia* and his latest role as Clifford in *Deathtrap*. This is Neil's first time working at Kudzu Playhouse and he would like to thank Rial for inviting him to audition and Wally for giving him the chance to be a part

of the production. Thank you for coming and enjoy the show.

Debra Field (*Roxana Rutledge Gomez*) Debra is an Atlanta native. She teaches at Galloway School. Previously a neuro nurse, now a teacher for many years, she acts and sings to motivate students daily. She has been a Galloway Theater and community theater mom for several years as her daughter, Hayden is a theater child. Debra has previously performed in *Suessical*, and is excited to play the role of outrageous Roxanna. She dedicates this performance to the Directors and owners, Jeannie and Wally, David, the "smiling and encouraging" tech crew and assistant director, and her cast of friends. (A special dedication to her wonderful friend, Vorry Brand, who recently flew away to the " great theater in the sky".

Abby Avery (*Madeleine Moret*) While this is Abby's first time performing at Kudzu Playhouse she is no stranger to the stage. Favorite credits include: *Our Town, Oklahoma, Oliver, Up the Down Staircase, Hansel & Gretel, The Miser, Summer Brave and The Crucible*. Thank you Kudzu for the opportunity to get back on stage. Cast & crew, "Ned said I would like you all & he was right. Zank you." LIAHO! Thanks Mom & Dad- love you. Psalm 19:14.

Laura Dietrich (*Solange Moret*) This is Laura's first play at the Kudzu Playhouse. Her previous theatre experience includes two plays with the North Street Playhouse in Onancock, VA, both in 2007: *The Bare and the Cubbe* (Bar Patron) and *To Frame a Place* (Mrs. Wallop). Laura took an acting class at Georgia Perimeter College, taught by the very wonderful local actress Merideth Ziesse. She hopes to continue acting in the future. She lives in Atlanta with her husband, Jens, who has been so sweet and supportive about her acting. In her spare time Laura enjoys geeky activities such as game nights, surfing the web, reading, and watching old movies. She thanks her husband and family for all their belief in her.

Michael Stubbs (*Christille (Kiki) Moret*) *Taking A Chance On Love* is the 5th play for Michael. He has also appeared in *Inherit the Wind* (Mr. Meeker), *Guys and Dolls* (Brannigan), *The Odd Couple* (Manolo, female version), and he played guitar in a live band for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. He wants to thank Wally and David, and my fellow cast members. Michael would also like to send out a big hello to the Treehouse Gang. Roll Tide!!

Production Staff Biographies

Wally Hinds (*Director/Costume Design*) Wally is the co founder and Artistic Director of Kudzu Playhouse. He has been involved in theatre since the age of twelve. Wally has acted in, directed and produced more than 300 productions in the Roswell area over the past fifteen years. His experience in technical theatre includes; Cherokee Little Theatre, The Alliance Theatre, Theatre in the Square, Georgia Ensemble Theatre, Stage Door Players and

the Georgia Mountain Players. He as also written and co written with his wife Jeannie numerous children's plays and musicals, the comedy, *Mr. Hobbs Vacation*, and his long running adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. Wally would like to thank David for all his help and hard work. He could not do it without you! His wonderful and talented cast. Everyone who helped with the set, props and costumes, to all the wonderful volunteers who make this theatre possible, to his soul mate Jeannie who sometimes is able to keep his head screwed on straight, and finally, you, for coming to the show. He hopes you enjoy it as much as he has bringing it to you. Please come again.

C. Robert Jones (*Playwright*) Dr. C. Robert Jones is the retired head of theatre arts at Mars Hill College in North Carolina. A multi-talented playwright, Jones is also an actor, director, composer and college professor. His musical, *Rivals*, was honored with the David B. Marshall Award in Musical Theatre, and his drama, *Chiaroscuro* (Nocturne for a Southern Lady), premiered at Theatre Memphis, as a winner of its national play search.

David Shelton (*Assistant Director/Lighting Designer/Board Operator*) David grew up with Community Theater, his parents wanting him to have an appreciation of the arts. By the time he graduated High School, he was in love with theater. He has worked in almost all the different tech positions available while in college and volunteering at local community theaters in Michigan: included building, painting, and designing sets; being in charge of and designing the props; working with and designing the lighting for shows; and just plain having fun helping out where ever he was needed (including a couple of bit acting roles). Since moving to Atlanta, David has been extremely pleased to be welcomed with open arms at Kudzu Playhouse by all of the staff, crew, and actors he's worked with on the shows here; and thanks them all for the opportunity and happiness this has brought him. He also hopes you will come see *Charlotte's Web* for his "South of the Michigan Boarder" Acting Debut. Enjoy the show (he has).

Taking a Chance on Love premiered at Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre. Like most romantic comedies, *Taking a Chance on Love* has all the important elements: happy adventures; an atmosphere of gaiety; the play of wit and humor and sexy repartee. Veteran playwright, Jones has crafted a smart story of romance with a fresh and new angle, the May-December romance. In the play, the older/younger couplings offer plot complications, but in the end proves that there is someone out there for everyone and that love can overcome all obstacles.

"Special Thanks to Thomas Richard & Becky Shropshire"