The Gunn High School Theatre Department Proudly Presents:

The Man Who Came To Dinner

by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

Gunn Studio Theatre

Opening Night Gala November 12th
6:45 PM $20

Other Performances November 13th,
14th, 19th, 20th, 21st 8PM

Students: $8  General: $10

Matinee Wed Nov. 18th 3:30 PM $5

Tickets available www.Gunntheatre.org, at the SAC, or at the door.
Notes from the Director

George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart won the Pulitzer prize for their heartwarming 1937 comedy You Can’t Take it With You, and collaborated two years later with The Man Who Came to Dinner, placing at the center of this piece a decidedly more prickly pear of a protagonist, Sheridan Whiteside. Based on the erudite theatrical critic Alexander Woollcott, the good friend of both Kaufman and Hart who was renowned both for his literary skills and his acid tongue, our Mr. Whiteside had arrived at the lovely home of factory owner Ernest Stanley for dinner, and before he could even enter the house slipped on a patch of ice outside the front door, injuring his hip. We find him now convalescing at the Stanleys, an unexpected and unwilling guest. Thus trapped, Whiteside’s world descends on the unsuspecting Stanleys, and that’s where we come in.

This classic comedy opened on Broadway seventy years ago(!), on October 16th, 1939, and has been afflicting the comfortable (and inflated) ever since. Kaufman and Hart were writing at a time of challenging economic times with rumblings of war over the horizon. (Hmmm...) Their intention was clearly to divert, delight and entertain, and we hope that tonight we can accomplish that as well.

Thank you for coming out to the theatre and we hope you enjoy visiting Mesalia, Ohio as much as we did (and a great deal more than Mr. Whiteside)!

[Signature]
The Gunn Theatre Department Presents:

The Man Who Came to Dinner

by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

Director: James Shelby
Student Director: Sarah Alcubes
Stage Manager: Rahul Kerur

Scene: The home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley, in a small town in Ohio

Act I. Scene 1. A December morning.
Scene 2. About a week later.

Act II. Another week has passed. Christmas Eve.

Act III. Christmas Morning.

There will be two ten-minute intermissions. Refreshment sales benefit Gunn's Thespian Society.

PLEASE:
No eating, drinking or flash photography in the theatre.

Don't be a frozen custard or a mildewed pusbag: Turn off your cell phone NOW!
Cast

Mrs. Stanley       Michelle Lalonde
Miss Preen         Sneha Bathina
Richard            Jordan King
June               Alice Walton/Emily Simon*
John               Ben Goldman
Sarah              Angela Marcinik/
                   Sarah Powell*
Mrs. Dexter        Kayla Neumeyer/
                   Liane Chabansky*
Mrs. McCutcheon    Catherine Volpe/
                   Tiffany Chen*
Mr. Stanley        Austin Lewis
Maggie             Leilani Graham
Dr. Bradley        Blake Vesey
Sheridan Whiteside Daniel Wallach
Harriet Stanley    Sophia Christel
Bert Jefferson     Josh Kelly
Professor Metz     Matt Mallory
Lorraine Sheldon   Ronit Roodman
Sandy              Conrad Claassen
Beverly Carlton    Nick Ziebell
Westcott           Tiffany Chen/
                   Catherine Volpe*
Banjo              Sam Putney

*alternating in the role
Luncheon Guests
Convict Michaelson  Ishan Sharma
Convict A           Paymahn Mofidi
Convict B           Jonah Kaye
Convict C           Nikhil Kumar
Baker               Conrad Claasen

Expressmen:
Fiona Flynn  Rachel Freeman

Radio Technicians:
Paymahn Mofidi  Jonah Kaye
Nikhil Kumar    Ishan Sharma

Choir:
Rachel Freeman  Fiona Flynn
Kayla Neumeyer/Liane Chabansky*
Tiffany Chen/Cat Volpe*

Plainclothesmen:
Ishan Sharma    Jonah Kaye
Paymahn Mofidi  Nikhil Kumar

*alternating in the role
Crew

Assistant Stage Managers:
Nikolaj Sorensen and Rebecca Kah
Dramaturge: Karen Reitman
Set Design & Construction Consultant: Andy Hayes

Construction
Head- Daniel Brouillet
Dale Anderson  Eran Brandeis  Paige Fitzmorris
Matt Mallory  Galen Poulton  Karen Reitman
Patrick Ruehl  Lukas Schleuniger  Nikolaj Sorensen

Costumes
Head- Shany Albalak
Morgan Beggs  Mariya Guryeva  Britt Jensen
Emily Powell  Hannah Wolfert

Lights
Head- Lukas Schleuniger
Mira Bertsch  Eran Brandeis
Rebecca Kah  Cecilia Wong

Makeup
Head- Reade Levinson
Aria Airo  Bayley Azevedo
Eve Kelly Hannah Wolfert

Paint
Head- Amber Khan
Mariam Helmy  Neulyn Moss  Lindsey Wallach
Reade Levinson Karen Reitman

Props
Head- Jessy Cherry
Holt Bowmer  Rebecca Kah

Publicity
Head- Cecilia Wong

Sound
Head- Karen Reitman

House Manager: Galen Poulton
Poster Design: Danielle Wenocur
Notes from the Dramaturge:

The Man Who Came to Dinner is chock full of obscure references to popular culture of the late thirties. In producing this piece it was vital for us to accurately portray both the text and the style of the play. Thus, hours on my computer and 131 references later, the cast and crew now know who William Beebe was and that nylon was not available for stockings in 1939. Herewith follows a tiny sample of the type of the fascinating and sometimes obscure material we have come to comprehend:

Dr. Dafoe: He became a celebrity after ensuring the survival of a mother and her quintuplets in 1934.

Calf's Foot Jelly: a savory jelly made with gelatin obtained by boiling calves' feet... It was thought to be a restorative for invalids.

Katharine Cornell: Considered to be the most charming actress of her time (called the "First Lady of the American Theater"). In 1939, she was performing in No Time for Comedy with Olivier.

Elsie Dinsmore: Exceedingly virtuous little girl who was the main character in 28 of over 100 novels written by Martha Finley under the pseudonym of Martha Farquharson from 1867 to 1905. The stories were incredibly popular, but even by 1900, she was referred to as a "nauseous little prig."

Hattie Carnegie: Fashion designer and entrepreneur. Her establishment at East 49th Street at one point employed over 1,000 people. She was the most fashionable American dress designer in the 1930s and 1940s.

Zazu Pitts: an American film actress who starred in silent dramas, although later, her career digressed to comedy sound films. She overcame her unglamorous looks and wallflower personality by using them to create her stage and screen persona in many comedies.

Please join us and enjoy, as we have an eventful Christmas with Sheridan Whiteside!

Karen Reitman
Special Thanks

Don Anderson
Tim Farrell
Frank Flynn
Jessica Hawkins
Kristen Lo
William Liberatore
Gay Richard
Amy Christel and all the great
Gunn Theatre Boosters!

TheatreWorks
Stanford Department of Drama
Peet's Coffee and Tea - Charleston Ave.
Kaufmann's Cameras - San Mateo
Ice Skates courtesy of:
Nazareth Ice Oasis
Redwood City, CA

Coming Attractions!

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night
In Spangenberg theatre
March 11th, 12th, 13th,
17th, 18th, 19th, 20th 2010
Student directed One Acts
May 13th, 14th, 15th,
19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd 2010