

# Next Week

## Mrs. McThing

The Comedy Hit by MARY CHASE

Author of "HARVEY"

TUESDAY, JULY 5th THROUGH SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1955

A Delightful Comedy-fantasy about two kids, two witches, three gangsters and a multitude of laughs! (Wednesday performance, July 6th, sold as benefit for the Scholarship Fund of Bellport P.T.A.)

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MRS. McTHING .....	July 5—July 9
TIME OUT FOR GINGER .....	July 12—July 16
TEA AND SYMPATHY .....	July 19—July 23
THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING .....	July 26—July 30
THREE MEN ON A HORSE .....	Aug. 2—Aug. 6
THE CAT AND THE CANARY .....	Aug. 9—Aug. 13
THE MOON IS BLUE .....	Aug. 16—Aug. 20
THE CRUCIBLE .....	Aug. 23—Aug. 27
DARK OF THE MOON .....	Aug. 30—Sept. 3
TIME OF THE CUCKOO .....	Sept. 6—Sept. 10

Subject to change

## THE GATEWAY THEATRE

BELLPORT, L. I., N. Y.



By WILLIAM INGE

June 28th - July 2nd

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## The Gateway Theatre

BELLPORT, L. I., N. Y.



**SUMMER THEATRES** have long been an important factor in making America's vacations complete and enjoyable and in recent years Summer Theatres have become a major force in shaping the future of their geographic community, a force for the enlargement of the cultural scope of their intellectual community and a business of some importance in their economic community.

**SUMMER THEATRE** is a recreational attraction for tourists, it is a community project for residents and it is an outstanding example of cultural maturity in any community.

**GATEWAY** in a short seven years has grown from an ideal and a sparkle in the eyes of a small group of young actor-directors into one of the outstanding summer theatres in the East with a full Equity company and staff, an apprentice program that enrolls some twenty young actors and a theatre workshop and camp for an additional forty students. This growth has been accomplished by the generous support given to *Gateway* by the community and its visitors and friends.

**IN ALL THEATRE**, and summer theatre is no exception, there are two sides working together to produce the glamorous whole which results in entertainment. There is you, the audience and there is the company of dedicated actors and technicians.

**GATEWAY'S** ensemble for the summer season of 1955 consists of:

**Sally Pomeran** is a Gateway regular, whom you will remember for her characterization of Belinda in *Johnny Belinda* and Liza in *Pygmalion*. Miss Pomeran has appeared nationally with the Children's World Theatre, the Bellport Summer Theatre and the Putney Summer Theatre. She has been with the Martha Graham School of Modern Dance and the summer of 1953 lead the British Tour of Drama and Music Festivals. Miss Pomeran has

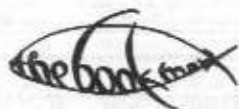
just returned from France where she appeared at the Theatre de Tetre in Paris with Pierre Sonnier and the L'Ecole Internationale de Mime.

**Alan MacAteer** made his professional Broadway debut in 1919 in the Theatre Guild's production of *The Faithful*. He was with the original Provincetown Players and in the first productions of many of Eugene O'Neill's plays, such as *The Hairy Ape* and *The Emperor Jones*. Since

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then he has performed regularly on the Broadway stage and with all of the leading stock companies in the U. S. MacAteer also made his movie debut in 1919 and was recently seen in *Gentlemen's Agreement* and *The Naked City*. A radio favorite since 1934, he has played the famous Cousin Ed on the Ma Perkins' show. Mr. MacAteer is a TV pioneer, beginning in 1938 and since appearing on all of the major dramatic shows including, *Studio One*, *Kraft*, *Hallmark* and the *Robert Montgomery Show*.

**David Sheldon** is one of the major directors of *Gateway* and this season marks his seventh season as a member of *Gateway's* artistic policy council. He has performed professionally with The Westhampton Star Theatre, the Cox Theatre and the Bellport Summer Theatre. A graduate of Yale University, he has been a director of *The Gateway Theatre School* and Workshop and currently coaches at his own professional studios in New York. Mr. Sheldon has delighted audiences at *Gateway* with such performances as McDonald in *Johnny Belinda* and Tommy Turner in *The Male Animal*

**Mary Woolverton** a favorite of

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NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

PICNIC was developed from the second play I ever wrote, which I called FRONT PORCH. . . . I resumed work on (it) in the summer of 1950, when my first New York play, COME BACK LITTLE SHEBA, was still playing at the Booth Theatre. It was refreshing to me then, for after my long concern with Sheba's gloomy interior I felt invigorated to be working with people out of doors, with people young and old who were still living their lives and not just remembering what their lives had been. . . . I have never written a play that had any intended theme or that tried to propound any particular idea. . . . I love more than anything to bring people together, to relate them in whatever way possible and find something meaningful in the relationship. . . . If I wrote plays of theme and idea, I don't think I would be able to write of people themselves as fully as I hope to do. Then my people would be props, I fear, brought on only to illustrate the fact that "Love conquers all" or "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." . . . There is no tragic and noble death, nor does any glorified and inspiring rebirth come about as the resolution of (the) conflicts, but I feel that each character in the play is brought to some new realization. If this does not sound impressive, I shall try to recommend the play as I would a short trip, to be enjoyed not for the hope of its destination, but for what one sees along the way.

"The summer's flower is to the summer sweet. . . ."  
 --Shakespeare  
 Sonnet 94

ABOUT THE PLAY

Winner of two critic's awards, PICNIC was first produced by the Theatre Guild and Joshua Logan at the Music Box Theatre, N. Y. C., on Feb. 19, 1953.  
 William Inge is author of the current Broadway hit, BUS STOP.

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The Gateway Theatre  
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**PICNIC**  
 A Summer Romance

by William Inge  
 Directed by David Sheldon

CAST:

HELEN POTTS ..... Nona Martin  
 HAL CARTER ..... Robert Duvall  
 MILLIE OWENS ..... Ruth Vickers  
 BOMBER ..... Hiram DeWitt  
 MADGE OWENS ..... Sally Pomeran  
 FLO OWENS ..... Marge Barnett  
 ROSEMARY SIDNEY ..... Mary Woolverton  
 ALAN SEYMOUR ..... Josef Sommer  
 IRMA KRONKITE ..... Marion Furman  
 CHRISTINE SCHOENWALDER ..... Pat Hirst  
 HOWARD BEVENS ..... Alan MacAteer

Designer ..... Frank Albright  
 Lighting ..... James Martin  
 Assistant to the director Muriel Eisenburg

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play takes place in a small Kansas town in the yard shared by Flo Owens and Helen Potts.

Act I: Labor Day, early morning,  
 15 Minute Intermission  
 Act II: Same day, just before sunset,  
 15 Minute Intermission  
 Act III: Scene 1: Early next morning, before daylight.  
 Scene 2: Later the same morning, after sunrise.

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## DAVIS PARK SUMMER 1955 FERRY SCHEDULE

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Leave Patchogue	Leave Davis Park	Leave Patchogue	Leave Davis Park	Leave Patchogue	Leave Davis Park
6:30 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	9:00 a.m.	9:45 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
7:15 p.m.	8:00 p.m.	10:15 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	12:00 noon	hourly until 9:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:15 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	
9:00 p.m.		3:00 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	
		6:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.		

*Subsidies Only*

Gateway audiences last season, particularly for such characterizations as Mrs. Watty in *The Corn Is Green*, Andree in *Gigi* and Ruth in *Blythe Spirit* returns for another summer season. Miss Woolverton, graduate of Pine Manor College and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, appeared for two years with the Bolton Theatre in London, England and for four seasons with one of the outstanding theatres in America, Hedgerow Theatre.

Bob Duvall returns to Gateway after a two year absence while appearing with the U.S. Army. He has been with the McLean Summer Theatre in McLean, Va. Mr. Duvall also plays the guitar and specializes in hillbilly singing. He will repeat his famous portrayal of the Witch Boy in this year's revival of *Dark of The Moon*.

Marge Barnett is truly an international theatre performer. Prior to coming to Gateway, Miss Barnett was with the American Repertory Theatre in Berlin, Germany, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, England and the Oxford Theatre in Oxford, England. In the U.S.A. she has performed with the Wareham Music Circus in Ware-

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ham, Mass. and the Crossroads Theatre in Washington, D. C.

Ruth Vickers is one the more familiar and well loved faces around Gateway and this is her seventh year in this group. Miss Vickers attended Principia College and has appeared with The Illinois Theatre and The Bellport Summer Theatre. Her most cherished portrayals have been Bessie Watty in *The Corn Is Green*; Maria in *Twelfth Night* and of course *Gigi* in the play of the same name.

Joe Sommer, a native of North Carolina, is a product of Oberlin College and Carnegie Tech. He has appeared with the Putney Summer Theatre, and the outdoor spectacle *Unto These Hills* in his home state. Mr. Sommer will also teach voice and diction in the Gateway Theatre Workshop this summer. Our audience will always remember him for his Gaston in *Gigi* and Charles in *Blythe Spirit*.

Jules Landry, one of our directors this season comes from the West Coast. He has acted and directed for the Meridan Theatre in Oakland, Cal., the Interplayers Theatre in San Francisco and across



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the waters in Bryant's Playhouse and the New Theatre both in Sydney, Australia. Mr. Landry has done extensive radio work in both countries and has taught for the John Robert Powers Studios in New York City.

**Frank Albright** is the creator of all of our delightful settings and colorful costumes. Mr. Albright has many years of professional experience with such leading theatres as the Cape May Summer Theatre and has spent some twenty years in educational theatres in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado and Connecticut.

**Joe Scully**, one of the founders of *Gateway*, will be a guest director. He is currently producing for CBS-TV. Mr. Scully is an actor, director and playwright, having one of his latest scripts produced recently by CBS-TV.

The backbone of any theatre, we proudly introduce our talented apprentice group:

Patricia Hirst, Hiram Pettit Dewitt, Phyllis Ann Jones, James Frewley, Murial Eisenburg, Walter Abbot, Marilyn Berkon, John Heilman, Leslie Poindexter, James Martin, Barbara Jo Blackwell, Gene Mara, George Greenfield and Danny Emerson.

**THEATRE STAFF:**

Producer . . . . . Gateway Enterprises, Inc.  
 Managing Producer . . . . . Jerry Blackwell  
 Art Director . . . . . Frank Albright  
 Executive Directors . . . . . Sally Pomeran  
 and David Sheldon

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