University of Florida Performing Arts

presents

YOU SAY TOMATO, I SAY SHUT UP!

A New Comedy About Love and Marriage

By Annabelle Gurwitch and Jeff Kahn

Tuesday–Friday, January 8-11, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 12, 2013, 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Squitieri Studio Theatre

Sponsored by HOME
Living in the Heart of Florida
By Annabelle Gurwitch and Jeff Kahn

Written and Created by:
Annabelle Gurwitch and Jeff Kahn

Cast
Jeff: Jonathan Van Dyke
Annabelle: Gabrielle Mirabella

Direction by
Patrick Walsh

Based on Original Direction by
Darren Katz

Additional Writing by
David Koteles

Production Stage Manager
AJ Mattioli

General Management
Nicole Hatcher/Kelly Hess

Press Agent
Joe Trentacosta

Production and Costume Design
Gillian Albinski

Sound Design
Jeff Montgomerie

Lighting Design
John Hartness

Assistant Director
Izik Mishan

Photographer
Christian Busath

Exclusive Tour Direction
OBB/Off Broadway Booking

Let’s Call The Whole Thing Off by George and Ira Gershwin
Arranged, Produced and Sung by Gary Stockdale

Produced by:
OBB/Off Broadway Booking, Blumenthal Performing Arts Center,
Anthony Dinapoli, Downstairs Cabaret Theatre and
The David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts

The performance runs 80 minutes with no intermission.

The plays travels through time and to various locations where
Annabelle and Jeff loved (and sometimes hated) each other.
Biographies

JONATHAN VAN DYKE (Jeff) — most recently appeared in Boeing Boeing (Bernard), Holiday Inc. (Elfton John) and I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change. National Tour credits include Bye Bye Birdie (Albert Peterson) and co-starred with Gennifer Flowers in Oh, Calcutta! Regional credits include The Music Man (Harold Hill), The Full Monty (Jerry), White Christmas (Phil Davis), The Last 5 Years (Jamie), and Thrill Me: The Leopold and Loeb Story (Richard Loeb). Film credits include Prime of Your Life (Nick) and The Glass Window (William). He is also the Carrier Air Man in their national TV commercials. A member of The Dramatists Guild, he is the writer of the award winning Spring at the Willowbrook Inn which recently premiered in NYC, Totally Electric and Holiday Inc. Love and thanks to mom and dad for their love and support. He is a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

GABRIELLE MIRABELLA (Annabelle) — is a Florida native with a degree from the Manhattan School of Music. After studying in NYC for both theater and opera, she is currently cramming as many new and wonderful opportunities into her career as possible. Gabrielle is thrilled to be a part of such a fun and original project. Some of her favorite regional theater credits include Velma in Hairspray, Laura in Swing! and numerous original MattocS productions in the Tampa Bay area including New York Nights and A Joyful Noise. Thank you to her supportive and loving parents, family and to Alex.

ANNABELLE GURWITCH (Creator/Writer) — first gained a wide comedic following during her years co-hosting Dinner & a Movie on TBS. Annabelle turned her experience of being canned by Woody Allen into the Off-Broadway play, touring show, book and documentary film Fired. Her film premiered on Showtime and has been screened everywhere from The South by Southwest Film Festival to The Department of Labor. She’s been a regular commentator on NPR and a humor columnist for TheNationMagazine.com.


She has hosted television shows on ABC, VHI, Style and HBO. Acting credits include Medium, Boston Legal, Seinfeld and films Shaggy Dog, Melvin Goes to Dinner and Daddy Day Care. Her work Off-Broadway garnered a place in The New York Times’ Top Ten Performances in Theatre, 2002. Her essays have appeared in The L.A. Times, Child, The Jewish Journal, Glamour and two anthologies: Note to Self and Rejected! She hosts WA$TED! On The Planet Green Network. This is her second book and second marriage.

JEFF KAHN (Creator/Writer) — is a writer/performer who began his career on MTV’s The Ben Stiller Show. A few years later, he won an Emmy award for writing on FOX’s The Ben Stiller Show, it was a moment so unexpected and shocking that he literally cried. Jeff has written on several other shows including, Later with Greg Kinnear, Austin Stories and Dilbert. His essays can be read online at FreshYarn.com and in his wife’s terrific and very funny book, Fired! He also has written and produced numerous television pilots, in particular, a spin-off of All American Girl starring Margaret Cho. He can be seen on HBO reruns of Curb Your Enthusiasm, Entourage and The Larry Sanders Show, and has been seen in films including, Tropic Thunder, 40-Year-Old Virgin, and The Cable Guy. Online, Jeff is featured on the show, The Writer’s Room. This is his first book and first marriage.
They live in Los Angeles with their 12-year-old son, Ezra, and their 18-year-old cat, Stinky. Jeff and Annabelle have written together for *Marie Claire*, *Real Simple*, *Men’s Health*, and write a monthly relationship column at the MSN/Elle Magazine sponsored web site GLO.

**DAVID KOTELES** (Additional Material) has had plays produced on the east and west coasts, including his award-winning, GLAAD-nominated comedy *Bald Diva!: the Ionesco Parody Your Mother Warned You About. Bald Diva!* was later published in NYTE’s anthology *Playing with Canons: Explosive New Works from Great Literature by America’s Indie Playwrights*. It was listed on numerous end-of-the-year (Best of the Season) lists for best play of 2004. David has enjoyed numerous New York productions, workshops and readings of his work at the Ensemble Studio Theatre, Manhattan Class Company, The Rattlestick, Alice’s Fourth Floor, Primary Stages, The Perry Street Playhouse, Manhattan Theatre Source, Clemente Soto Velez, the Fresh Fruit Festival, the Homogenious Festival, Cherry Picking, the Red Room, and the Westbank Café. A graduate of the Columbia University School of the Arts, David has studied playwriting with Theresa Rebeck, Anne Bogart, Eduardo Machado, Leslie Ayvazian, Frank Pugliese and Kelly Stuart. He was also honored with the Richard Rodgers Scholarship and a Howard Stein Fellowship while at Columbia. David graduated summa cum laude from Queens College, where he was made Phi Beta Kappa and earned the John Golden Award for Playwriting. He has also written several (as of yet unproduced) film scripts and TV pilots, and David was a finalist for the Writer’s Lab at the Sundance Film Festival. He’s a staff writer on the webisode sitcom, *Ernie’s Girls*. He currently lives in Los Angeles, where he is desperately trying to be a Hollywood sell-out.

**PATRICK WALSH** (Director) — has been a theater director in renowned places and plays such as, Hangar Theatre’s *Macbeth, The Empty Ocean, The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon; Chautauqua Theatre Company’s The Brothers Size; Victory Gardens’ Push Comes To Shove; Rubicon Theatre Project’s Lucy Dreaming; Theatre Building Chicago’s Fifth of July, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest; Bailiwick Repertory Theatre’s Two Spoons, Haram Iran; Mad Hatter Theatre Productions’ Chicken Bone Beach; Props Theatre’s Close and Trail’s End Theater’s Into the Woods, A Midsummer Night’s Dream. He has also served as assistant director in Guthrie Theatre; Goodman Theatre; Dallas Theatre Center; Steppenwolf Theatre Company; Chautauqua Theatre Company; and Next Theatre. Patrick is a member of the 2009 Lincoln Center Directors Lab; the recipient of an SDC Foundation Observership, as well as a Chautauqua Theatre Company Directing Fellowship, and a Drama League Directing Fellowship.

**DARREN KATZ** (Original Director) — is currently a resident director for *The Lion King* on Broadway. Recent directing credits include *I Got Sick Then I Got Better* at New York Theatre Workshop (co-directed with James Lapine), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (2nd National Tour), *Happy Sunshine Kung Fu Flower* (The Zipper Factory), and the development of original shows at Pace University and NYU/Strasberg Studios. He is directing and developing numerous new theater pieces, including *Sunrise At Hyde Park* by Tom Wilson Weinberg and Peggy Stafford; *Sexurity* by Yuval Boim (Joyce Soho); *The Birthday Boy* by Wes Webb; and *The Wasp Woman* by Phillip Chernyak and Blake Hackler (NYTE).

**GILLIAN ALBINSKI** (Costume and Production Designer) — is currently the prop master for the hit Showtime series *Homeland*, having previously served as the prop master for Season 5 of the Lifetime series *Army Wives*. A graduate of the theatre program at Penn State, Gillian has spent the last 15 years working in the film industry and her credits include such projects as *The Strangers, Shallow Hal, The Royal Tenenbaums, Leatherheads* and *He Got Game*. For
Blumenthal Performing Arts, she has designed Les Lankhorst’s: *Red, Hot & Swing, Embraceable Me* and *Charlotte Squawks*. In 2011, she celebrated her 15th anniversary happily married to Douglas Young.

**JOHN G. HARTNESS** (Lighting Designer) has directed, designed and performed in dozens of shows in Charlotte and surrounding areas. Among his favorites are *RENT, Corpus Christi, Hamlet, Much Ado About Nothing, The Taming of the Shrew, Anna Karenina, Jeffrey* and *Ragtime*. When away from the theatre, John is the author of the best-selling urban fantasy novels *The Black Knight Chronicles*.

**JEFF MONTGOMERIE** (Sound Designer) — Every time Jeff thinks he has retired from the theatre, something seems to lure him back. In previous lives he has designed sound, projections and lighting for Davidson Community Players, Off Tryon Theatre, Innovative Theatre, The Cleveland Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Chelsea Stage and Geva Theatre. He has also mixed live performances by Wynton Marsalis, Doc Watson, Jerry Jeff Walker, Koko Taylor, BeauSoilie and Loonis McGlohon. He currently manages the North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia branches of Barbizon Lighting Company, selling theatrical, filmmaking and television equipment. Thanks to Anna, Quinn and Emma for giving me the time to work on TOMATO.

**AJ MATTIOLI** (Production Stage Manager) — is delighted to be coming back to his roots of stage management for TOMATO! Mattioli has stage managed more than 25 shows in NYC. Most notable credits is *Facespace, Lecture with Cello* and *See How Beautiful I Am*. At Queens Theatre, he has worked on more than 200 shows since he began working there in 2007. Recently, AJ opened his own company called Mattioli Productions, LLC which serves the LGBTQ community as a media specialist. As quoted by *Times Square Gossip*, (AJ) “could very well be considered the voice of the LGBT community in the independent film world.” The May 2011 issue of *The Advocate* included Mattioli in their issue of Forty People Under 40 to Look Out For. With his films *An Affirmative Act, Lady Peacock* and his mini-series *The Coffee Shop* it is obvious that this transmale is definitely making his mark.

**OBB/Off Broadway Booking** (Producer and Booking Agency) — was established in 2005 as a booking agency dedicated to the promotion and awareness of Off Broadway as a brand of excellence in theater to audiences outside of New York City. Since that time, OBB has grown into a full service booking agency and production company placing Broadway and Off Broadway productions, special events, and award-winning solo shows in theaters across the country and the world. Past and current shows include *The Aluminum Show, Footloose, The Wedding Singer, Blast, Celebrity Autobiography, The Improvised Shakespeare Company, Judy Gold’s 25 Questions for a Jewish Mother, Robert Wuhl’s Assume The Position, My Mother’s Italian, My Father’s Jewish and I’m in Therapy, Dixie’s Tupperware Party, One Man Star Wars, Irving Berlin’s I Love a Piano, ‘S Wonderful and many more*. www.obbnyc.com.

**BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS** (Producer) — Under the leadership of President Tom Gabbard, BPA operates six venues that offer diverse arts presentations and education programs in Charlotte, North Carolina. As a member of the Independent Presenters Network (IPN); BPA has been a producer for a number of Broadway, national tours and London productions including *Monty Python’s Spamalot, The Color Purple, Legally Blonde, Frost/Nixon, RED, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Matthew Bourne’s Edward Scissorhands, Matthew Bourne’s Cinderella, 9 to 5, La Cage aux Folles and Ragtime*. BPA is currently represented on Broadway with *The Mountaintop* (starring Samuel L. Jackson and Angela Bassett) and off-Broadway with the hit *TRACES*. www.BlumenthalArts.org
DOWNSTAIRS CABARET THEATRE (Producer) — (DCT) is a not-for-profit (501-c-3) professional theatre. It produces, co-produces with other regional theatres, and books theatrical events in a year-round repertory schedule. DCT is constantly developing new projects including world and regional premieres (most notably the world premiere of *Forever Plaid*) as well as producing contemporary dramas, comedies, musicals and cabaret artists on its four stages in Rochester, N.Y. DCT has been involved in the transfer of productions directly to and from off-Broadway, and has produced several regional and national tours including the anniversary tours of *Snoopy: The Musical* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* (directed by Ken Page), *Shout: The Mod Musical*, and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. Under the producing director leadership of Christopher F. Kawolsky since 1992, DCT has produced 275 different productions, offering as many as 400 performances of 20 different shows each year.  www.DownstairsCabaret.com.

THE DAVID A. STRAZ, JR. CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (Producer) — The Straz Center for the Performing Arts (formerly the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center) opened its doors in July, 1987, and since that time has welcomed more than 10 million guests!

The Straz Center is located downtown on a picturesque nine-acre site along the east bank of the Hillsborough River. As the largest performing arts complex south of the Kennedy Center, the 335,000 square-foot Straz Center provides an environment for a wide variety of world-class events. It boasts one of the nation’s leading Broadway series and is nationally respected for producing grand opera, as well as presenting a wide variety of concerts, performances and events. In a typical season, more than 600,000 patrons attended 4,000+ events at the Straz Center.

The performing arts complex consists of five distinct theaters, a performing arts Conservatory, a rehearsal hall, boutiques, and three on-site restaurants and banquet facilities. The five individual theaters at the Straz Center are Carol Morsani Hall (2,610 seats), Ferguson Hall (1,042 seats), the Jaeb Theater (268 seats), the TECO Energy Foundation Theater (250 seats) and the Shimberg Playhouse (130 seats).

With the addition of the Patel Conservatory, the Straz Center added 45,000-square-feet for its extensive education programs. The Conservatory features 20 studios, including two dance studios with spring floors, a sound/lighting laboratory, technical theater workshop, rehearsal hall, costume shop, isolation/sound booth and a state-of-the-art black box theater. Annually, the Conservatory reaches more than 75,000 students with educational activities and classes.

For more information on the Straz Center, visit http://www.strazcenter.org/.

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As a courtesy to fellow patrons and actors, please turn off all cellular phones and electronic devices prior to start of show.