



**YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU**  
BY MOSS HART AND GEORGE S. KAUFMAN







## A Note from the Chair

Dr. Cynthia Allan

Department of Communication

Welcome to the 2014-2015 season of the Pittsburg State Theatre! This is a smaller production season than usual due to the major move into the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts complex. You can imagine what all the years of tools, equipment, costumes, lumber racks, etc. from our Whitesitt shop will be like to move across campus. Fortunately, that effort, led by Megan Westhoff and Lisa Quinteros, will be a successful one, I'm sure. This transition year for us is one of great excitement and anticipation for the opportunity to further develop and grow our theatre program.

It also gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to thank the alumni of the Pitt State theatre program. The excellent productions created by scores of previous students are, in part, what helped cement the support and belief in the theatre program and the need for a real performing arts center. Whether you currently work in the theatre profession or not, your dedication to Pitt State Theatre while a student is appreciated and respected. You are the legacy of this program and you set the bar high. We honor you and thank you.

The 2014/2015 season begins October 23-25 with *You Can't Take It With You*, by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman and directed by yours truly, Cynthia Allan. This raucous comedy, set in the days of the Depression, centers on the Sycamore family and their individualistic approach to life. It is the most famous American comedy in the canon, and is revived on Broadway on a regular basis, including a new production opening in 2015 with James Earl Jones. Come out to this entertaining event. It is the last time Pitt State Theatre will be staging a regular season play at Memorial Auditorium, and we are sorry that we are unable to take our Memorial theatre family with us. We are sure there will be opportunities for other collaborations in the future.

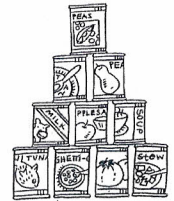
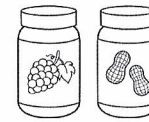
Then, on December 4-5, we continue our tradition of Theatre Unplugged with the student-directed one-act plays produced in the Studio Theatre on Joplin Street.

In the spring of 2015, Cynthia Allan, director, along with Gil Cooper and Megan Westhoff joining the cast, Linden Little as designer, and the original music of Megan McCoy and Deadeye, will present Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* from February 26 – March 1. This hauntingly beautiful piece is a contemporary re-telling of the Orpheus myth from the perspective of Eurydice, who, in Ruhl's version, descends into the Underworld to find her father. Ruhl wrote the play after her father passed away in order to have "one more conversation" with him. Touching, funny, and visually powerful, this award-winning play is a rightful introduction to the new theatre space in the Bicknell Family Center. We hope you join us.

I am sure the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Communication and PSU Theatre join me in expressing our gratitude for your support and our sincere hopes that you enjoy the 2014/2015 season.

Regards,  
Dr. Cynthia Allan

## Donate Non-Perishable Food Items for Wesley House



The cast will be collecting non-perishable food items at Memorial Auditorium before each production. All food items, especially items such as peanut butter and jelly, are needed to re-stock the shelves.

"This play, set during the Depression, is a reminder that folks must work together and support one another.

Collecting food for Wesley House is the way to demonstrate the same spirit of generosity shown by the Sycamore family of the play. It is art in action. We hope to make a dent in the needs of our local food bank with this food drive." - Director Cynthia Allan

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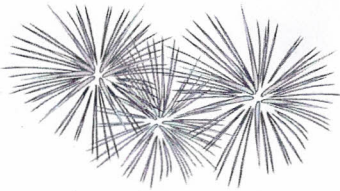
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# Director's Notes

Dr. Cynthia Allan



This production brings to an end our regular season use of Memorial Auditorium, and I wanted to select something that would appeal to our whole community. I also wanted to select something light-hearted as a tonic against these concerning times and also to celebrate the wonderful relationship we have enjoyed over the years with the remarkable management and technical crew here at Memorial. What better, then, than to direct one of the most charming American comedies ever written, *You Can't Take It With You*, winner of the 1937 Pulitzer Prize and written by two legends of the American stage.

The play celebrates many things I think of when I think of the American spirit – free, independent, willing to try new things, full of whimsy and energy. The Sycamore family reminds us that we can't let the worries of the day ruin the fun of life or take away the precious time we have with our loved ones. We should live and let live – and just “relax”, in Grandpa's words. Why should we kill ourselves with stress pursuing the almighty dollar? After all, he reminds us, “you can't take it with you.” Enjoy everything, every day, and everyone that comes into your life – even if they move in for 8 years. In this play, there is literally room at the table for everyone!

There is, of course, a historical context to this play, written during the Great Depression. But that is one reason I have enjoyed directing this production, because I honestly believe this gentle comedy is every bit as relevant today as the day it was written. And as an artist who has spent a career studying American theatre and investigating the complexities of the family life, this play was a classic that just had to be on my bucket list.

It is also exciting to work with such a diverse group of actors. This cast is comprised of many experienced Pitt State actors as well as many new students. We even have two faculty members joining us on stage. The energy and interest in theatre at this time in Pitt State history is quite exhilarating and we hope our audiences experience the same spirit in which we bring this production to them.



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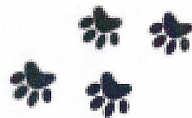
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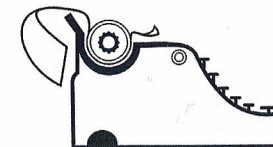
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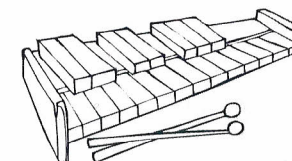
## Property Notes

Olivia Ellison



Considering the Sycamore family's eccentric ways, it is no surprise that they have so many odd things, from Grandpa's snakes, Penny's pigeons (originally kittens, but pigeons are pretty cool, too), Ed's printing press and xylophone, Donald's accordion, to even smaller things like Paul and De Pinna's fireworks and the family's skull full of candy.

Since You Can't Take It With You is such a prop heavy show, there was no way I could do it alone so I would like to thank all the PSU faculty, fellow students, and local businesses who helped wrangle in live animals, a printing press, a typewriter, and everything else this play needed. I am so thankful to have this opportunity and work with everyone to get the job done.



To the cast and crew,

## Break a leg!

*Sincerely,*

President Taylor Elliott  
Vice President Carl "CeeJay" Bachus  
Business Manager Bobbi Jo Smith  
Secretary Brianna "Breezi" Hancock

## ALPHA PSI OMEGA

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# You Can't Take It With You

by Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman

Directed by Cynthia Allan\*  
Set Design by Byrne Blackwood  
Technical Direction by Joey Pogue  
Lighting Design by Linden Little  
Costume Design by Lisa Quinteros

## Characters (in order of appearance)

Penelope Sycamore ..... Taylor Elliot\*  
Essie ..... Carly Hyer  
Rheba ..... Jamera Allen  
Paul Sycamore ..... Kevin McNay  
Mr. De Pinna ..... Lawrence Burry  
Ed Carmichael ..... Logan Qualls\*  
Donald ..... Leo Hudson  
Martin Vanderhof ..... Austin VanBeceleare\*  
Alice Sycamore ..... Haley Higgins  
Henderson ..... Sam Hardy\*  
Tony Kirby ..... Jeremiah Jones  
Boris Kolenkhov ..... Josh Letner  
Gay Wellington ..... Ila Phelps  
Mr. Kirby ..... Mason Bayliss  
Mrs. Kirby ..... Lindsey Lockhart\*  
G-Men ..... Ryan Urban, Joshua Lindsey, Sam Hardy\*  
Olga ..... Megan Reed

**The scene is the home of Martin Vanderhof, New York**

Act I  
A Wednesday evening (During this act the curtain is lowered to denote the passing of several hours).

Act II  
A week later

**Intermission - 15 Minutes**

Act III  
The next day

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

**No flash photography or video recording is permitted during the performance due to copyright law.**

## Production Staff

PSU Technical Director ..... Joey Pogue  
Production Manager ..... Megan Westhoff\*  
Dramaturg ..... Caitie Almond  
Stage Manager ..... Breezi Hancock\*  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Devin Fitzgerald  
Prompter ..... Hope Gardener  
Set Construction & Painting .... COMM 363 Technical Production I Class, Olivia Ellison\*, Jacob Christensen  
Sound Design ..... Calvin Pulliam  
Sound Board Operators ..... Calvin Pulliam, Joey Pogue  
Light Board Operator ..... Lauren Barlows  
Property Masters ..... Olivia Ellison\* & Caitlin Martin  
Property Crew ..... Jennifer Letner, Lawrence Burry, Taylor Elliott\*  
Costume Construction .. Barbara Davis, Eric Davis, Ithaca Marlier, Ada Zhang, Stephanie Powers, Celia Xie, Hope Gardener  
Hair Design ..... Danni Pollard  
Make-up Design ..... Bobby Jo Smith\*  
Make-up Crew ..... Ben Bristley

*The technical staff wishes to thank all the cast members who contributed their time and energy to help paint, construct costumes, build props, and lend their moral support to this undertaking.*

## Theatre Staff

PR/Advertising Manager ..... Alison Smith  
Poster/Program Art ..... April Huninghake  
Production Photographer ..... McKenna Hightower

## Special and Sincere Thanks to:

Mimi Little  
JBW  
Springfield Little Theatre  
Pittsburg Community Theatre  
Jason Huffman and the Memorial  
Auditorium Staff  
Debbi Fischer  
Kutz Music  
Michael Doue

Dan Younger  
Jim Clanton and the PSU  
Department of Music  
Linda Timme  
Alan Ross  
CLAW PAWS  
Alison Smith  
Zach Stoppel

\*Indicates member of Alpha Psi Omega, Theatre Honor Society

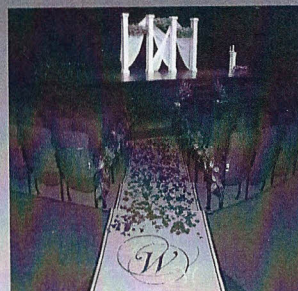


**Pitt State Theatre  
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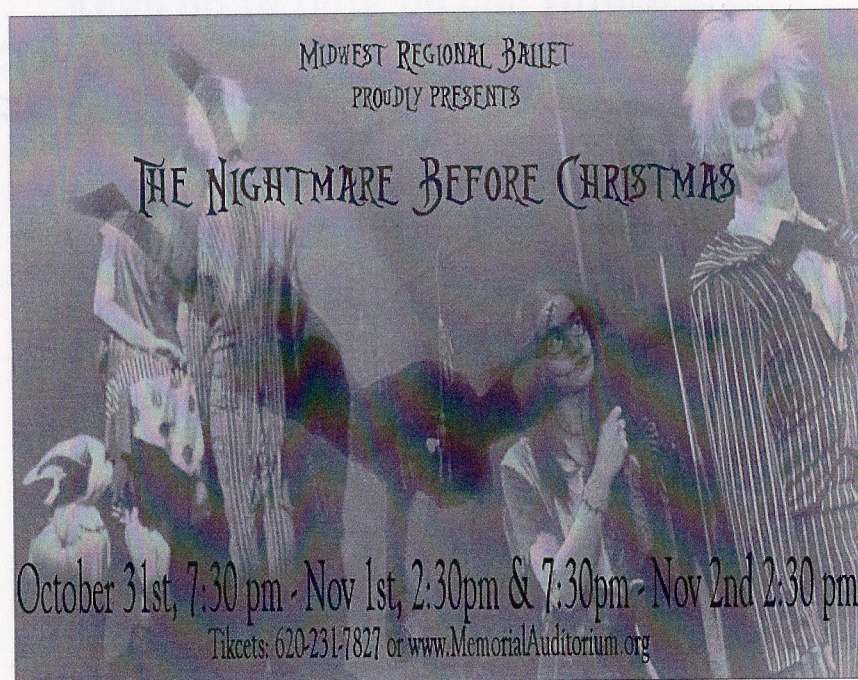


# Set Design Notes

Joey Poque, Set Constructor



Building the scenery for *You Can't Take It With You* has provided PSU's technical theatre students with a solid pedagogical experience. This creative opportunity would not have been possible without the help of designer Byrne Blackwood, Professor Emeritus at Missouri State University. Besides designing the set for the show, Dr. Blackwood visited the Tech Production class a number of times where he worked alongside students, showing them a variety of techniques for building scenery. With a doctorate earned from University of Kansas, Dr. Blackwood has been a designer for over 50 years. His career includes teaching and designing at University of Mississippi, University of Arkansas, Northwestern University at Evanston, IL; University of Missouri, Stetson University, and Missouri State University. Besides designing over 300 shows, he has participated in five USO tours. He is also the recipient of two TA-Kennedy Center design awards. We have worked together on a variety of shows over the years. I am deeply grateful for his mentorship.

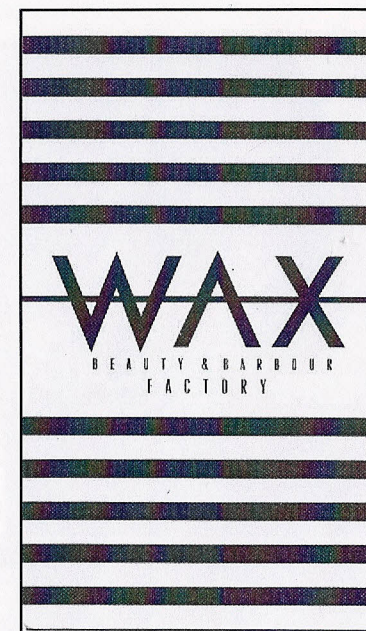


# Costume Design Notes

Lisa Quinteros



The costume for *Can't Take It With You* is a combination of 1920's fur and flair, the soft flounces and flowers of the 1930's, precursor fashions of the 1940's, creative theatricality, and a healthy dose of Russia and the Ballet Russe. Often the 30's are a forgotten fashion era, as the Depression placed a large dent in the ability of many families to indulge in new things. Film, theatre, ballet, and the rise of the Glamour Girl starlets, these were the outlets people used to escape for a small fee into a different world. High fashion was recognized via these outlets, but in regular day to day living, people made their own clothing, then re-made it, bought minimally from places like Sears, or just continued wearing whatever they had from the past. It was quite a mixed bag, just like all the characters in this play. By 1936, living was improving, and many could see a light at the end of the Depression tunnel. It seems as if the Sycamores and family always tried to live in that light, and even if it threw them a bit out of step with the rest of the world, they lived a fairly happy existence. Who could blame them!? I find it interesting that their world, what they like to do, practice and play with, coincides with what we brainstorm and develop with tech and production for a theatre performance...I think we could have had production meetings at the Sycamore house and felt pretty comfortable there... bet they would have had some great ideas! Many thanks to my great costume crew!





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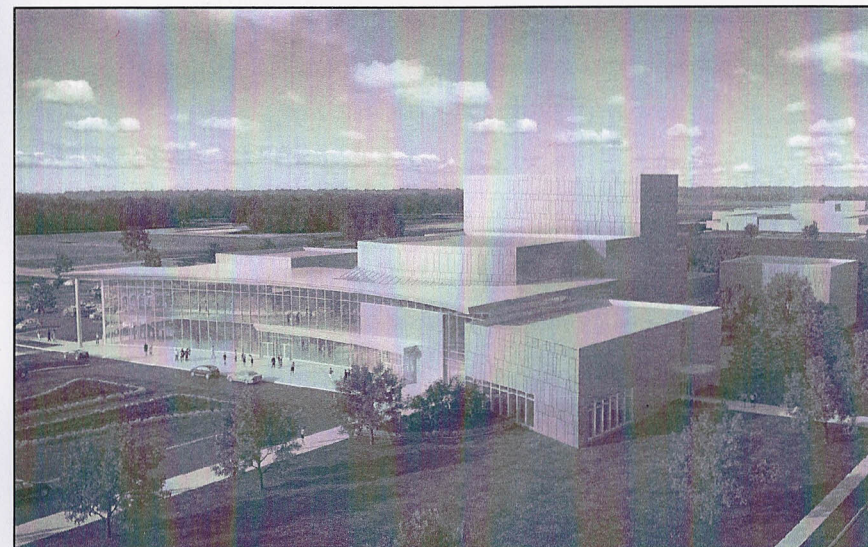
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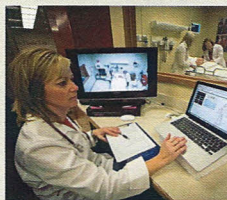
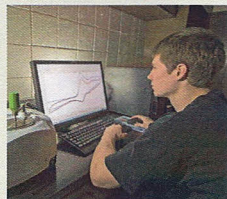
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