



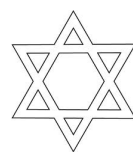
## ALFRED UHRY

is distinguished as the only American playwright to have won a Pulitzer Prize, an Academy Award, and two Tony Awards. A graduate of Brown University, Uhry began his professional career as a lyric writer under contract to the late Frank Loesser. In that capacity he made his Broadway debut in 1968 with *Here's Where I Belong*. His first major success came when he collaborated with Robert Waldman on a musical adaptation of Eudora Welty's *The Robber Bridegroom*, which opened at the Mark Taper Forum in 1976 and went on to Broadway, winning

Mr. Uhry his first Tony nomination. He followed that with five re-created musicals at the Goodspeed Opera House.

His first play, *Driving Miss Daisy*, opened at Playwrights Horizons Theatre in New York in 1987. It moved subsequently to the John Houseman Theatre where it ran for three years and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988. The film version, starring Morgan Freeman and Jessica Tandy, won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 1990. The film also won the Best Picture Award. His next play, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, was commissioned by the Cultural Olympiad for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. It opened on Broadway the next year where it ran for over 500 performances and won Uhry the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Drama League Award, and the 1997 Tony Award for Best Play.

His book for the musical, *Parade*, directed by Harold Prince, music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown, won the Tony Award in 1999. A revised production at the Donmar Theatre in London won Mr. Uhry an Olivier Award nomination and went on to Los Angeles, where it opened to rave reviews in October, 2009. His play, *Without Walls*, starring Laurence Fishburne, opened at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles in June, 2006. His next play, *Edgardo Mine*, played the Tyrone Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis in 2006. His book for *LoveMusik*, a musical about Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya, directed by Harold Prince, ran on Broadway in 2007 and won Mr. Uhry another Drama Desk nomination.



GONE WITH THE WIND OPENING NIGHT AT THE LOEW'S GRAND THEATRE, ATLANTA GA. 1939

## NOTE:

Jews have lived in Atlanta since its founding. Their businesses met important economic needs, and they contributed substantially to the cultural, educational, and political well-being of the society. Their history also reflects a rich cultural diversity not typically recorded in southern history.

During the nineteenth century Atlanta's Jews created social clubs as well as self-help organizations, including men's and women's Hebrew Benevolent Societies. The Concordia Society, forerunner of the present Standard Club, was a Jewish social organization founded in 1866.

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

While having won the 1997 Tony Award for Best Play, it may be more significant to point out that Alfred Uhry's *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* was commissioned by the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta, GA, and presented by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, Cultural Olympiad for the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival. It is truly amazing to consider how the original production of this play was intended for such a unique event, to share a cultural experience with those representing various countries around the world. *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* is indeed a special play. It is an American play, a Southern play, and a Jewish play. It presents an exceptional story about family, society, and faith, rich with culture and character. The world of the play is set in December, 1939 Atlanta, GA, around the time of the world premier of the film *Gone with the Wind*. This is a time of excitement and complexity, as a wealthy Jewish family struggles with their values while trying to find their place in a Christian-dominant society. Factors of discrimination within the Jewish society itself also present conflict, as the Standard Club Jews hold poor regard toward the "other kind," or those Jews "East of the Elbe." While we know from history what is about to happen in the world as Hitler grows in power, Ballyhoo provides a slice of life of the Freitag family dealing with many conflicts from differences that predate the horrific events of the holocaust. I find *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* to be a beautiful, powerful and humorous story which will touch the heart of the audience through understanding the importance of developing a strong commitment to heritage, beliefs and values.



Keone Fuqua



## THE ATLANTA PREMIERE OF GONE WITH THE WIND. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1939

"Spotlights swept the sky with huge beacons of light. Peachtree at Pryor Street was closed to traffic. An enormous crowd, numbering 300,000 people according to the Atlanta Constitution, lined the streets on this ice-cold night in Atlanta. Car after car paused at Loew's Grand Theater as the stars came out. Wild cheers greeted each celebrity as they braved the cold to participate in a brief radio interview." ngeorgia.com

## CAST FOR THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO

Adolph.....Neil Henderson  
Boo.....Ashley Sutter  
Reba.....Devin Patrick  
Lala.....Christina McCarty  
Sunny.....Meliah Scarbrough  
Joe.....Carlo Freda IV  
Peachy.....Evan Wilson

## ARTISTIC STAFF FOR THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO

Director .....  
.....Keone Fuqua  
Scenic & Lighting Design  
.....Lyle B. Miller  
Costume Design.....  
.....Rebecca F. Britton  
Poster Design  
.....Constance R. Smith

"Everything falls into place in this... wonderful crafted script" Variety



"Alfred Uhry's achingly beautiful comedy *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* {is} luminous and powerful. It will most likely find a place in the American canon alongside Uhry's *Driving Miss Daisy*... Uhry draws his characters with so fine a pen, on such solid foundation, that the story takes on the sharp poignancy of life. The Los Angeles Times

"Alfred Uhry's charming Broadway comedy (sort of) *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*... has a subtext and undertow of thought. It is a delightful comedy freighted with uncomfortable message." The New York Times

## Ticket & Box Office Information

The Box Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and one hour before each performance. The Box Office is located in the lobby of the Laidlaw Performing Arts Center on the main campus of the University of South Alabama. (251) 460-6306

Ticket for *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*

General: \$12.00, Faculty/Staff & Sr. Citizens: \$10.00, Students: \$8.00



Department of Dramatic Arts  
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*Last Night*  
of  
**BALLYHOO**

by Alfred Uhry

February 19-20, 25-27 @ 7:30 PM

February 21 @ 2:00 PM

Laidlaw  
Performing  
Arts Center

University of South Alabama  
Theatre  
www.usouthal.edu/drama  
(251) 460-6305