

ABET

FOUR OLD BROADS

By Leslie Kimbell



November 8 - 24, 2024

WELCOME

It is a great honor to serve as the Consulting Artistic Director and Strategist for ABET, entrusted with helping to guide this beloved organization to its next steps, securing its identity and a clear, exciting vision for the future.

As we look ahead, imagine with me: securing a permanent space for this cherished organization; helping it grow deeper into the hearts of people in the area; becoming an indelible part of theatre in the city, a beacon for artists, and a treasure for the wider community.

We are committed to fostering a diverse community and building a legacy that will continue to enrich lives for generations to come, as ABET seeks not to “be the best”, but to bring out the best in others.

Places, please.

Jason Woods

Consulting Artistic Director & Strategist



SUPPORT OUR MISSION

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ALL BEACHES EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE & JOHN and BEVERLY JOHNSON present

FOUR OLD BROADS

Written by LESLIE KIMBELL

Directed by CATHERINE DOOLEY

Lighting Design
BEN SPARTANBURG

Prop Managers
HEATHER GOLIBER
KATARINA GOLIBER

Stage Manager
JESSIE TRUDNAK

Sound Design
SUSAN ROCHE

TOM BARR
BRIAN JOHNSON
MEGANNE JOHNSON

Set Construction
GEORGE KRUER
DAN KYLE
JIM MCGUFFIN

PAM QUINCY
MEGAN QUINCY

Four Old Broads is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Four Old Broads premiered at the Winder Barrow Community Theatre in Winder, Georgia in March 2017 under the direction of Léland Downs Karas. The first professional production premiered at Centre Stage Greenville in Greenville, South Carolina in September 2017.

THE CAST



SIMONE
ADEN-REID



MEGANNE
JOHNSON



JEANNIE
LIJOI



CAROL
NASH



BLAKE
OSNER



HAZEL
ROBINSON



SUSAN
ROCHE

Featuring voice over work by Erin Barnes, Matt Barnes, and Amy Farmer.

ABOUT THE TEAM

Simone Aden-Reid (Beatrice Shelton) is a Jacksonville native who graduated with a BFA in Theatre from Florida State University and also studied with acting teacher Stephen Wanhg at NYU. She recently retired from Duval County Public Schools after teaching Theatre and English for 30 years at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. Favorite roles in local theatre productions include Sister Aloysius in *Doubt*, Ms. Thorn in *Ruthless*, Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Dotty Otley in *Noises Off*, A Lady of Letters from Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*, and Sonia in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Simone's other time in an ABET production was last season's *Alabama Story*.

Catherine Dooley (Director) is a Georgia native and has been involved in the performing arts for over 45 years. She has worked in television, film, radio and stage. Cathy holds a BA in vocal performance and has taught in both the public and private education system. She has entertained on cruise ships and jazz clubs in D.C., been a soloist with the Air Force Reserve Band, and a former member of the Atlanta Symphony Chorus, Opera Memphis Meistersingers, and the Virginia Choral Society. Here in Jacksonville, she has directed for *Players by the Sea*, ABET, and SET Studios. She recently directed ABET's production of *Snoopy the musical* and was also seen on stage as Clairee in *Steel Magnolias* and Cumie in *Bonnie and Clyde*. A huge thank you to ABET for the opportunity put on the directing cap. "What a delight it has been to work with this incredibly talented and gifted cast and production team. Last but not least, thank you to my loving and supportive husband, Alan."

Meganne McCawley Johnson (Imogene Fletcher) is delighted and honored to be appearing on stage for ABET with this staggeringly talented cast. Heartfelt thanks to our stupendous director, Cathy Dooley for her patience and vision and unwavering belief in each of us. Some of Meganne's previous favorite roles include Annie Nations (*Foxfire*, *Limelight*), Vera Joseph (*4000 Miles*, ABET), Yenta (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *Castaways Rep.*), Linoleum (*Trailerpark*), Gilmer (*Godspell*), and Morgan Le Fey (*Camelot*). Meganne sends love and thanks to Brian, Devan, and Hailey for their constant support. And she sends a very special shout out to all her sisters/friends, "You make my life rich with laughter and love; Let's grow old together!"

Jeanie Lijoi (Maude Jenkins) is excited to return to the ABET stage. Her acting career, which began in the last century, includes a long and diverse range of stage roles, as well as film and radio projects. As a character actress, she delights in bringing to life unique, quirky, and often eccentric roles. Playing a villainess is on her wishlist of many characters, as she would like to explore the 'dark side' in her acting endeavors. Holding a BFA in Painting and Drawing, Jeanie also channels her creativity onto the canvas. Her artwork has been exhibited in numerous galleries, both domestically and internationally. She expresses deep gratitude to her family for their unwavering love and support on her artistic paths. She also extends her thanks to the cast and crew of *Four Old Broads* for a tremendously rewarding and enjoyable experience.

ABOUT THE TEAM

Carol Nash (Ruby Sue Bennett) is ecstatic to be on the ABET stage with these funny and talented "Old Broads". Favorite credits include *Grease* (Miss Lynch), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Martha Bailey), *The Music Man* (Mrs. Paroo), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fruma-Sarah), and *Of Mice and Men* (Curley's Wife). She performed 40s music as a vocalist with "The Nostalgics" in Texas and sang on the Showboat in Nashville. As a voiceover artist, Carol was the Voice of American Airlines for many years. Carol owns SwimAmerica Jacksonville where she teaches babies, kids and adults to love the water! "Thank you always to my sweet family: Mel, Melvin, Kathryn, Thomas and Oslo too. Thanks Cathy for your kind and fun direction!"

Blake Osner (Sam Smith) is a well-recognized singer, actor, director, and producer having performed with various organizations in the NE Florida area. This production marks his 12th show with ABET. Most recently ABET audiences may remember Blake on stage in the productions of Broadway Bash, *Phantom*, or *Bright Star*, or his direction of *Xanadu*. He has been busy this theatre season in productions of *Mame!* and *Just Deserts* (Theatre Jacksonville), as well as *Hands on a Hardbody* (Limelight Theatre). Other favorites from past seasons include, *Sylvia* (Players by the Sea), *Patsy Cline* (Limelight), *Love, Valor, Compassion!* (The 5 & Dime), and *Rocky Horror* (RHSLive Productions). "Cheers!"

Jessie Trudnak (Stage Manager) is a graduate of Hillsdale College with a BA in Spanish/Theatre Arts. After a thirty year hiatus and raising a family, she is excited about returning to the world of theatre as the Stage Manager for *Four Old Broads*. Jessie would like to thank her husband Jeff and her daughters Madeline, Melanie, and Marlena

for their continued support and encouragement. She looks forward to being a part of ABET.

Susan Roche (Nurse Pat Jones) is nervously stepping back on stage to be a part of this hilarious comedy after an almost five-year hiatus. She has been volunteering at ABET for the last 16 years as an actor, singer, musician, photographer, videographer, board member, tech, stage manager, house manager and assistant director. Favorite roles as an actor include Joanne (*Company*, OPCT), Sister Mary Lazarus (*Sister Act*, TJ), Marge (*Bridges of Madison County*, PBTs), Officer Randy (*Superior Donuts*, PBTs), Robert Anne (*Nunsense*, ABET), and Hannah (*Spitfire Grill*, Limelight). Away from the theatre, Susan raises her two dogs, Dakotah (AKA Midget) and Kiera, and works as Lead Technical Analyst III. "Many thanks to these old broads for all the laughs and 'Depends moments,' to my friends Teri, Judy, Jan, Evan, and Lee for the push to get back on stage, and to my folks for their unwavering support. Welcome to Magnolia Place; hope you're ready for the ride!"

Hazel Robinson (Eaddy Mae Clayton) has a Master of Fine Arts in acting and spent years performing in NYC before moving to St. Augustine fourteen years ago. Hazel has been seen onstage at the Limelight theatre in many plays including *The Roommate*, *Talking With*, and *Lost in Yonkers*. Hazel has been directing plays over the last few years, including *Bus Stop*, *A Shayna Maidel*, and *Over the River and Through the Woods* (Limelight Theatre). She recently directed *POTUS* at the 5 & Dime Theatre. Hazel is very excited to be making her ABET debut with this hilarious play, and this wonderful staff, crew, and cast.

ABOUT ABET

The mission of All Beaches Experimental Theatre (ABET) is to bring the excitement of live theatre to diverse audiences. An emphasis is placed on new and original plays, neglected classics, and on developing new talent.

ABET is a not-for-profit theatre registered with the state of Florida. ABET is funded in part by the City of Jacksonville and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc., The Tom Nehl Fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, and other private foundations and individual donations.

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