

# The Member of the Wedding

by Carson McCullers

*"The most beautiful  
American play of the  
last 25 years."*

## THEATRE 3

This production made possible by a special grant from The Mobil Foundation.



# The Member of the Wedding

by Carson McCullers

**TIME:** August, 1945  
**PLACE:** A small Southern town

**Act I** — A late afternoon in August  
**Act II** — Afternoon of the next day  
**Act III** —  
Scene 1 — The wedding day — afternoon of the next day following Act II  
Scene 2 — 4 a.m. the following morning  
Scene 3 — Late afternoon, in the following November

## THE CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

BERENICE SADIE BROWN	IRMA HALL
FRANKIE ADDAMS	MARY ELLEN ALEXANDER
JOHN HENRY WEST	KYLE KROMER
JARVIS ADDAMS	TRAVIS DEAN
JANICE	CECILIA FLORES
MR. ADDAMS	RAY LE PERE
MRS. WEST	DONNA ADAMS
HELEN	SARA JACOBMEYER
DORIS	TRACI THOMAS
T. T. WILLIAMS	THEODORE (TED) MITCHELL
HONEY CAMDEN BROWN	GEORGE NETTLES
BARNEY MacKEAN	GREGG FLETCHER/RICKY McKNIGHT*

\*MR. FLETCHER and MR. McKNIGHT will alternate in the role of BARNEY.  
The off-stage character of SIS LAURA will be played by GLORIA CROWDER.

The Action of the Play is Divided by Two Ten Minute Intermissions

Produced with the special assistance of Susan Schulman of I.C.M.

## PRODUCTION STAFF FOR "THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING"

Director	NORMA YOUNG
Director's Assistant	ELLEN ZITTERBART
Set design	CURT SLEIGHT
Design Co-ordination	JOAN ECKLES
Set Construction, Design Development	DAVID OPPER
Lighting Design	JOAN ECKLES
Sound Design	DAVID OPPER
Costume Design	PATTY GREER
Production Stage Manager	KIMBERLY WEBB
Production Co-ordinator	JAC ALDER
Light Console Technician	LYNN MORRIS
Sound Console Technician	STEVE FLACH
Properties	LYNDA SLANKARD, KIMBERLY WEBB
Construction crew	TRAVIS DEAN, LYNN MORRIS, STEVE FLACH
Running crew	LYNDA SLANKARD, ELLEN ZITTERBART

# Notes from the director

"The Member of the Wedding" is surely one of the most beautiful pieces of stage literature ever produced by an American author. Working on it can only be a pleasure, especially when the company is such a fine one, because every rehearsal reinforces the real-ness of what it is to be a human being. This play explores so well and so understandingly the joys, sorrows, trials, successes, heartbreaks, triumphs and (sometimes) emptiness of the human experience common to us all that one cannot but keenly feel the "reflection of life" the play evokes. Indeed, it is true that this year is 1975 and this place is what is now known as The Metroplex (a term that is at least better than "The Urban Sprawl"!), but "The Member of the Wedding", set in 1945 in a small Southern town, only underscores how little human *nature* changes. Carson McCullers indeed possessed a thorough and compassionate understanding of humanity.

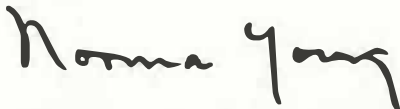
Theatre Three wishes to most gratefully acknowledge The Mobil Foundation for the grant that is underwriting

this production of an American classic. Our thanks for believing in our work (going back to last season's grant for "Purlie").

I would also like to thank all the fine people both on-stage and off, who have worked so long and well and have given so much of themselves to make "The Member of the Wedding" live on Theatre Three's stage. My real and abiding appreciation to every one of you.

Finally (or perhaps I should have said "Firstly"), Theatre Three's thanks to our audiences for coming to share this experience with us. After all, without *you* there is no theatre!

Sincerely yours,



Norma Young,  
Artistic Director

# About the Author

Carson McCullers was born in Columbus, Georgia, in 1917 and started writing at the age of sixteen. However, her first interest was music and the pursuit of a career as a concert pianist brought her to New York at the age of seventeen to study at the Juilliard School of Music. This laudable intention died virtually aborning when she lost her tuition money in the subway during her second day in that city.

In 1937 she married Reeves McCullers (to whom "The Member of the Wedding" is dedicated by the author), began her writing career with short stories and, in 1940, published her first novel, "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter", which won her high critical acclaim. This first novel was followed by "Reflections in a Golden Eye", "The Member of the Wedding" (published in 1946 and adapted by Ms. McCullers for the stage where it appeared in 1950), and "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe". Her

literary output earned her, in addition to literary praise, two Guggenheim Fellowships and membership in the American Academy of Art.

Playwright McCullers wrote about her dramatization of "The Member of the Wedding", that she was not writing a "conventional" or "literal kind of play." It was, she declared, "an inward play," in which the conflict was inward and the antagonist was not a person, but "a human condition." Her theme is realized, she said, with "the weight of time, the hazard of human existence, bolts of chance."

Tragically dead at an early age, Carson McCullers' work lives and she will retain her position as one of this century's most gifted American writers. Her dramatization of "The Member of the Wedding" won both the New York Critics Award and the Donaldson Award as the Best American Play of 1950.



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- \*The Fire Marshall prohibits smoking in the auditorium.
- \*The House Manager prohibits refreshments in the auditorium.
- \*The Stage Manager prohibits photographing or recording the performance.
- \*However, the actors have been known to encourage laughter and applause.
- \*Playgoers leaving their seats during the performance must be re-seated in available seating specified by the House Manager.



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## About the Actors

**CECILIA FLORES** (Janice) joined Theatre Three last season as the cheerful party girl in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and then proved her versatility by moving into the role of the hard Nurse Ratched for the latter half of that play's run. For the Celebration of Life Theatre in San Francisco, she played Carita in "Getting to Know the Natives" and played Sandy in "Jack Ruby — All American Boy" at the Dallas Theater Center. She also played Gertrude in "Hamlet ESP". She played Clarisse in Theatre Three's "Red Ryder", this season's opener. Her drama teaching career includes classroom work for the D.I.S.D. and the San Francisco Public Schools in addition to appearing on educational television on series in English and Literature courses.

**IRMA HALL** (Berenice) is a published poet, a teacher, a produced playwright, a veteran performer for the mediums of radio, television, films and stage. She has been active with the Dallas Minority Repertory Theatre from its beginning and has been named a Contributing Artist with that organization. Her play "Gentle Fires" is an on-going presentation with DMRT. Ms. Hall is well-remembered by Theatre Three playgoers as the warm and wonderful Missie in last season's production of the musical "Purlie".

**SARA JACOBMEYER** (Helen) is another student at Kimball High. She recently completed the demanding assignment of Jean Brodie in the all-school production of "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie". She is a singer, active in the choir, and is making her initial appearance on our stage.

**KYLE KROMER** (John Henry) is not a newcomer to the acting arts despite his young years. Master Kromer has done television commercials, film work, and was seen last summer in the Dallas Summer Musicals production of "Peter Pan" with Sandy Duncan. The role of John Henry marks his debut on our stage, and we are indebted to his real-life cousin Camilla Carr for bringing him to the director's attention.

**RAY LE PERE** (Mr. Addams) is a well-known broadcaster at KRLD and a television commercials personality who is rapidly becoming indispensable to Dallas' legitimate stages. His initial Theatre Three performance was as Ol' Cap'n Cotchipee in "Purlie", an assignment immediately followed by a featured role in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and the just completed "Red Ryder". Additionally, he has toured in the leading role in Neil Simon's "The Last of the Red Hot Lovers".

**RICKY MCKNIGHT** (Barney) who will alternate with Gregg Fletcher as Barney during the run of "The Member of the Wedding", is a Kimball High School student. He belongs to his school's chapter of the International Thespian Society, being active in the Speech-Drama program, and is making his debut with Theatre Three.

**THEODORE (TED) MITCHELL** (T. T.) has been a leading figure in Dallas dramatic activities for many years. His long association with Theatre Three dates back to this same acting assignment in the 1962 production of "The Member of the Wedding". He created the role of Gitlow in the comedy "Purlie Victorious" in 1963, worked in children's theatre productions, was Arab in "The Time of Your Life" and the Chief in "The Emperor Jones" (twice!). His considerable talents make "In White America", "The Skin of Our Teeth", "Bus Stop" and "The Cave Dwellers" special memories for Theatre Three. Most recently he has appeared in the nationally praised Preston Jones trilogy for the Dallas Theater Center.

**GEORGE NETTLES** (Honey) is a newcomer to Dallas. He came here from Memphis where he worked for four and a half years with the Memphis Drama and Art Society. His onstage appearances there include a role in "Don't Bother Me — I Can't Cope". Trained as a dancer, he has also pursued community and religious drama activities as well as learning stagecraft from assignments on many show crews. He has done professional photography and runway modeling. The role of Honey is his Dallas debut.

**TRACI THOMAS** (Doris) came to Theatre Three through the open audition calls. She goes to Skyline High School as a member of the pre-professional music cluster. A member of the twelve-singer Choraliers, she's in hopes that that group can accept summer invitations to appear in Europe.

**DONNA ADAMS** (Mrs. West) is well known to Theatre Three audiences both as an actress and as a director. Previous appearances on our stage include her Arsinoe in "The Misanthrope", Liz in "The Philanthropist", Mrs. Petrano in "And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little", the Landlady in "Scuba Duba", Lavinia in "Family Album", Mrs. Rockett in "Fumed Oak" and Mlle. Supo in "The Irregular Heart of M. Ornifle". As a director she has staged two children's shows: "Make Believe" and "Tom Sawyer". Most recently, she was Associate Director with Norma Young for "When You Comin Back, Red Ryder?". Ms. Adams is a native of Victoria, Texas, and a Theatre Arts graduate of Baylor University.

**MARY ELLEN ALEXANDER** (Frankie) studied in Dallas' unique pre-professional drama program at Skyline High School for three years. Her debut on the professional stage was in Theatre Three's production of Moliere's "The School for Wives" as Agnes, playing opposite Larry O'Dwyer. Other classical roles include Cassandra in "The Trojan Women". Educational assignments in contemporary plays such as "Things That Go Bump in the Night" have also prepared her for her stage career. An accomplished guitarist and singer, she has also appeared as a professional musician in various clubs.

**GLORIA CROWDER** (voice of Sis Laura) appeared last season as the electro-shock technician in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". She spent her summer as a staff member of The Power of the Young group and directed its second major production "The Zue". (The Power of the Young was a joint venture program for minority teenagers co-sponsored by Theatre Three and the Office of Human Development that performed for younger disadvantaged children.) She serves on the staff as a reservationist and as the House Manager.

**TRAVIS DEAN** (Jarvis) began working professionally with Theatre Three last season when he appeared as Acaste in "The Misanthrope". Later last season, he played the major role of Billy Bibbit in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". Now on Theatre Three's staff, Mr. Dean was seen in this season's opener "When You Comin Back, Red Ryder?" in the challenging role of Stephen/Red. A native of Amarillo, Texas, he studied for his theatrical career at West Texas State University. During his academic days, he won Best Actor Awards for his portrayals as Hamlet, Edwin Booth, and Sir Thomas More in "A Man For All Seasons".

**GREGG FLETCHER** (Barney) is, like Ricky McKnight with whom he will alternate in the role of Barney, a student at Kimball High School where he is active in the Speech-Drama program. He is debuting at Theatre Three with this production, but holds membership in the International Thespian Society at Kimball.





### THEATRE THREE STAFF

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Production Stage Manager ..... KIMBERLY WEBB  
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Business Manager ..... ART SELLEVOLD  
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Subscription Secretary ..... SHARRON MORGAN  
Associate Administrators ..... WILMA PETERS, LYNDA SLANKARD  
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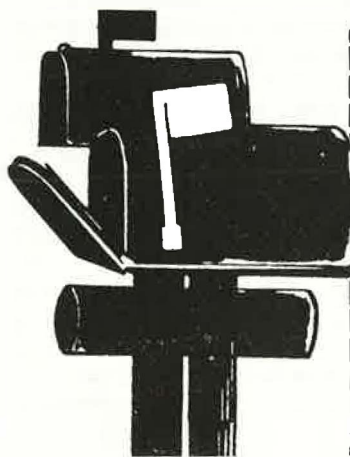
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**SPECIAL THANKS** for assistance on "Wedding" to our volunteer usher corps; Lee Distributing, Sam Smith and The Ad Company for promotional assistance; George and Lavonna Hitz for photography; Ms. Pat O'Neal for production assistance; Billie Stotts for graphic design; representative Barbara Jameson and artist John Hanna for cover illustration; KRLD; and Ann Hughes for artwork for the up-coming Backstage Bonanza.



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