



College of
Arts & Sciences
Department of Theatre and Dance



Fried Green Tomatoes

DINAH WASHINGTON CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

April 7th, 2019 2:00pm

UA Theatre and Dance Presents:
Fried Green Tomatoes
A Staged Reading

Kelley Schoger
DIRECTOR

Fannie Flagg,
Jon Avnet
SCREENWRITERS

Allison Millwee
STAGE MANAGER

Based on the novel *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* by
Fannie Flagg

Presented with permission of Fannie Flagg and NBCUniversal with support from the
Alabama Bicentennial Commission and Tuscaloosa 200.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Fried Green Tomatoes is set in Alabama and goes back and forth in time between present day and the 1930's. Writer Fannie Flagg based this story on stories her great-aunt told her about the Irondale Cafe, the restaurant her family owned outside of Birmingham. She states that, "particularly during the Depression, people pulled together and loved each other." In her novel *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*, and then later in the screenplay, she wrote of gathering people together during fractured times with such humor and grace. The strong women at the core of this intergenerational tale create a community that I hope will inspire you to create your own, as we need community more than ever. Sharing our stories and memories connects us through time and space, and keeps with us the spirit of those we've loved and lost. The actors bringing this story to life are all students. I believe that Ms. Flagg gets at the heart of what makes us young – love and friendship – so it seemed appropriate to me to cast these young actors, even in the role of wise, 82 year old Ninny, whose memory is long but whose heart is young, and whose spirit is made new through the sharing of her story.

Thank you for gathering today to hear this story...for coming to the Whistle Stop Cafe, where all are welcome and where deep loyalty, kindness, and enduring friendship abide. You will hear the story of how a group of people were transformed and united in a lasting bond, and how an unlikely duo in the present day also were because of the telling of it. Perhaps, today, you will be too.

Kelley Schoger
Assistant Professor of Acting and Movement
UA Department of Theatre and Dance

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CAST & CREW

KELLEY SCHOGER (Director) is Assistant Professor of Acting & Movement in the graduate and undergraduate theatre programs at The University of Alabama. She is also an actor, movement specialist, and nationally certified teacher of the Alexander Technique. She performed professionally in New York City for ten years as an actor and puppeteer (including MCC Theater, La Mama E.T.C., Theatre for the New City, Mabou Mines). As a movement specialist, she has coached, and created ensemble movement sequences, at Arena Stage in DC, other various theatres regionally, and internationally with physical theatre company, Complicite. Recently, Kelley wrote, choreographed, and performed a short solo movement piece, *Her Destined Port*, at La Mama Experimental Theatre Club in New York City. In December 2018, she presented a new piece, *Beauty, Identity, Release*, at an interdisciplinary arts conference in Austria, and will perform this piece at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer in a showcase hosted by Dance-Forms Productions. She holds a BA in Theatre from Virginia Tech and an MFA in Theatre & Movement Pedagogy from Virginia Commonwealth University, and is a certified Alexander Technique practitioner through the American Society for the Alexander Technique.

ALLISON MILLWEE (Stage Manager) is a sophomore Theatre Major from Houston, TX. Previous UA credits include *The Drowsy Chaperone* (ASM), *Suddenly, Last Summer* (ASM), *A Bright Room Called Day* (ASM), and *August: Osage County* (PA). She thanks her family and friends for their continued support.

CAILEY MIZE (Ninny Threadgoode) is from Gulf Shores, AL. She is a Junior studying Theatre at The University of Alabama. This is her first production through UA. She would like to thank her friends and family and her cat for their support. She would also like to thank Kelley for this exciting opportunity.

EVAN ABEL (Smokey Lonesome/Defense Lawyer/Kirby) is a Junior Mathematics and Theatre Double Major from Huntsville, AL. Previous UA credits include *I Gelosi* (King Charles IX). He would like to thank Kelley for this awesome opportunity as well as his family, friends, and the cast and crew for their unwavering support of his artistic endeavors! He hopes you enjoy the show!

CHASITY BANKS (Sipsey/Janeen/Sue Otis) is a Freshmen BFA Theatre Major with an Acting Concentration. She has been seen in productions of *The Yellow Boat* (Mother), *A Soulful Noel: A Message of Hope* (Mrs. Get-Up/Ensemble), and *The 9 Worst Breakups of All Time* (Eve Tonsil).

DANIEL BASKINS (Grady Kilgore) is a Junior BA Theatre Major with a Musical Theatre Concentration and is loving every minute of his second staged reading at the Dinah Washington. A few of his favorite credits include: *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (O.J. Berman), *Smoke on the Mountain* (Dennis), *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble/us. Toby), *25th...Spelling Bee* (Swing), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Dance Captain). He would like to thank Kelley for her incredible guidance, his family for their love and support, and God for his continuing blessing. John 1:5 @daniel_baskins

SHELBY BILLMAN (Assistant Director) is a Junior Double Major in Theatre and Telecommunications & Film from Madison, AL. Past credits as AD include UA's production of *Bakkhai*. She is excited to be a part of this project and wants to thank Kelley especially for including her in something so special.

CATHERINE BRADWELL (Ruth Jameson) is a Senior Theatre Major with a Concentration in Musical Theatre from Montgomery, AL. Previous UA credits include: *The Christians* (Vocalist), *Vinegar Tom* (Singer), *A Chorus Line* (Tricia; Maggie/Diana u/s), *Our Tuscaloosa* (Swing), and *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Swing). She sends a huge thank you to Kelley for this wonderful opportunity!!

LILY DISILVERIO (Narrator) is a Senior Double Major in Theatre and Economics, and will be pursuing her MS in Finance following graduation. She is excited to help bring this classic piece to life! Favorite UA Credits include *I Gelosi* and *The Philadelphia Story*.

TERRELL GRANT (Big George) is currently in his senior year at The University of Alabama. Grant is a Public Relations Major, and minoring in Theater and Psychology. This production of *Fried Green Tomatoes* is Grant's first on stage role at the UA. Grant will be graduating this upcoming fall semester, and he plans to be a voice over artist.

EVAN HART (Rev. Earl Scroggins/Curtis Smoote/UA Dean) is a first year MFA Candidate with a Concentration in Acting. Past UA credits: *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Little Women*. Select Regional credits: *Cabaret*, *Godspell*, *King John*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Anything Goes*, *Assassins*, *Chicago*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *110 in the Shade*, and others. He has performed regionally with George Street Playhouse, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Fort Wayne Civic, Arena Theatre, and others. He has also performed in three world premieres.

ANNA LEE HAWKINS (Evelyn Couch) will be graduating this spring from UA with a BA in Theatre with a Musical Theatre Concentration. Her previous credits include *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Suzy), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne), *Vinegar Tom* (Betty), and *The Christians* (Jenny). After graduation, she will be working at Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota where she has a year long contract. She is so thankful to Kelley for this opportunity.

J.R. JAHN (Buddy Threadgoode/Buddy Jr./Mean Boy) is a Freshman BFA Theatre Major from Anderson, SC. Other credits include: *That Midnight Rodeo* (Bo), *Rabbit Hole* (Howie), and *Suddenly Last Summer* (George Holly).

EMILY MCGUIRE (Child Idgie/Ruth's Mother/Girl #2) is a Sophomore Theatre Major and Psychology Minor from Tuscaloosa, AL. She has most recently been seen as "Spirit of Lost Love" in *Sweeney Todd*. Other UA credits include "Jean" in *August: Osage County*. She would like to thank Kelley for this opportunity.

NICHOLAS REESE (Mr. Dunaway/Julian Threadgoode/Judge) is a Junior Vocal Performance Major from Enterprise, AL. Before transferring to UA, Nicholas attended Enterprise State Community College where he made his theatrical debut in the ensemble of *South Pacific*. He has, since then, been seen in roles from *Godspell*, *Marooned on Madagascar*, *Freedom and Fire!*, *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *A Hand of Bridge*, *Sweeney Todd*, *West Side Story* and *Die Fledermaus*. Nicholas is a part of the UA Opera Theatre Program as well as the UA Theatre and Dance Department.

ALARIC ROHL (Frank Bennett/Prosecutor) is a Senior Mathematics and Theatre Major from Castle Rock, CO. Professional credits include *Tree Army* (CCC 6). Previous UA credits include *Equivocation* (Armin), *Arcadia* (Gus/Augustus), *La Ronde* (Young Gentleman), *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Expert), *Vinegar Tom* (Jack), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Rugby/Fight Captain), and *Bakkhai* (Pentheus). Alaric would like to thank his parents and his cat Ms. Kitty. Rohl Tide!!!

JACK SKEEAN (Ed Couch/Papa Threadgoode/Hooded Man) is a Junior BA Theatre Major with a Musical Theatre Concentration. Previous credits include Cliff in *Cabaret*, Ensemble in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and male swing in *Forever Plaid*. He is thrilled for the opportunity to work with director Kelley Schoger for the first time, and would like to thank her for this opportunity.

BREANNA SWEENEY (Mama Threadgoode/Complete Woman #1 Teacher/Nurse) is a Senior Theatre Major from Wichita, KS who is delighted to be making her acting debut at UA! She would like to thank Kelley Schoger for giving her this opportunity as well as all the wonderful people who make this performance possible.

HANNAH VILLINES (Leona Threadgoode/Eva Bates/Complete Woman #2 Teacher/Girl #1) is a Junior Theatre Major from Fayetteville, AR. She is so excited to be making her UA Theatre and Dance debut and wants to thank Kelley for giving her this amazing opportunity.

CLARICE WESTOVER (Idgie Threadgoode/Missy) is a Senior Theatre Major with a minor in Creative Writing. Her previous UA credits include; *Bakkhai*, *I Gelosi*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, and the *Breakfast at Tiffany's* staged reading. She is so excited to close her time at UATD with an outstanding cast. Thanks Mom and Dad!

2018-2019 Season What's Next?

Gnit April 8-14 Allen Bales Theatre

Sense and Sensibility April 16-21
Marian Gallaway Theatre

Dance Collection April 19
Morgan Auditorium

SummerTide Theatre: *Forever Plaid*
May 31-June 28
(Tuesday through Sunday)
George C. Meyer Performing Arts Center