

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, please

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LINDA DANO AND ANNA STUART SET TO STAR IN BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION OF *MAME*

In what is sure to be one of the highlights of the Bucks County Playhouse 2005 Season, *Mame* starring two of daytime television's favorite actors, **LINDA DANO** and **ANNA STUART** hits the stage for a two week run. Set to begin on Wednesday, June 8, 2005, the musical comedy will continue through Sunday, June 19, 2005.

LINDA DANO, the Emmy Award winning actress, talk-show host, designer and author, makes her musical stage debut in the title role of *Mame*, the sharp witted zippy comedy about a woman who lives life to the absolute fullest. In words spoken by "Mame Dennis," Life's a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death, a sentiment that could have easily been spoken by "Felicia Gallant," the flamboyant romance novelist Ms. Dano played on NBC's "Another World" for over 17 years (currently seen on ABC's 24-hour cable channel, SOAPnet) and for which she received an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress.

Under an unprecedented television contract, Linda most recently playing "Gretel Rae Cummings," a character she originally created for ABC's "One Life to Live" in 1978. The character moved through each of the ABC Daytime Dramas including "One Life To Live," "All My Children," "General Hospital" and "Port Charles". Linda Dano has also hosted two shows for Lifetime Television, the award winning "Attitudes" and, more recently, "Lifetime NOW!"

Along with Ms. Dano, **ANNA STUART** will appear as Vera Charles. Ms. Stuart also spent over a decade on "Another World" as Donna Love and can currently be seen as Mary Smythe on "All My Children". Ms. Stuart's career in daytime television has also included roles on "General Hospital", "Guiding Light" and "The Doctors" where she spent a 6-year stint as Toni Ferra Powers.

With music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, the story of *Mame* centers on the character of Mame Dennis. Stepping back in time to the roaring 1920s, a 10-year-old orphan boy is delivered to his swinging, eccentric Auntie Mame while she is hosting a cocktail party for her wildly flamboyant friends including her "bosom buddy", Vera Charles. Thus begins 18 years of fantastic adventures as she proves that life can be a banquet and that in order to experience it fully, a new door should be opened every day. The Jerry Herman score includes "If He Walked Into My Life," "We Need A Little Christmas" and the title song, "Mame".

The Bucks County Playhouse production of *Mame* starring **LINDA DANO** and **ANNA STUART** opens on Wednesday, June 8, 2005 and continues through Sunday, June 19, 2005. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 2 PM and 8 PM, Friday at 8 PM, Saturday at 4 PM and 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM. Ticket prices range from \$22.00 to \$24.00. **A "Day of Show" discount is available to students ages 21 and under and all active military.** Discounts are available day of only with valid identification. For information and reservations, call the Box Office at 215-862-2041. The Bucks County Playhouse is located at 70 South Main Street in historic New Hope, Pennsylvania.



**Bucks County
PLAYHOUSE**
The State Theatre of Pennsylvania

P. O. Box 313
New Hope, PA 18938

Box Office (215) 862-2041
Business Office (215) 862-2046

www.buckscountyplyhouse.com



Linda Dano Biography

According to Webster's Dictionary, "versatile" is defined as "having several skills or abilities, implying breadth of interests as well as a variety of talents." Versatile best describes Linda Dano – an accomplished television and feature film actress, television talk-show host, designer, spokesperson, entrepreneur, columnist and novelist.

The Emmy winner for Outstanding Leading Actress, Linda Dano starred as the flamboyant romance novelist, "Felicia Gallant" on NBC's daytime drama, "Another World" for over sixteen years. She has received six additional Emmy nominations as well as numerous Soap Opera Digest and MVP Awards.

Under an unprecedented television contract, Linda most recently playing "Gretel Rae Cummings," a character she originally created for

ABC's "One Life to Live" in 1978. The character moved through each of the ABC Daytime Dramas including "One Life To Live", "All My Children", "General Hospital" and "Port Charles". In addition, she makes frequent appearances on the ABC's hit show "The View".

For six years, Linda gained further recognition as host of Lifetime Television's highly popular, Emmy and ACE nominated show, "Attitudes".

Her unique interviewing style covered the gamut from candid celebrity interviews to topical advice on fashion, health, nutrition and personal relationships. It was often spoofed on Saturday Night Live – one of the highest compliments any show can receive. Vogue magazine said, "If you must stay home, this is the show to watch."

For the 2001-2003 TV seasons, Dano returned to Lifetime as the host of "Lifetime Now", a weekly woman's lifestyles and information talk show.

Linda began her acting career at 20th Century Fox and has appeared in several feature films including: *Hello, Dolly!*, *Wishbone Cutter* and *Somewhere In The City* as well as starring in *The Boston Strangler* and *Somewhere In The City*.

In addition, she has starred in dozens of primetime TV dramas, comedies and movies: "Homicide: Life On The Streets", "The Fess Parker Show", "Charlie's Angels", "CHiPS", "The Six Million Dollar Man", "The Nancy Drew Mysteries", "The Montefusco's", "The Rockford Files", "Police Woman", "Peyton Place", "The Perry Mason Series", "Petrocelli", "Nurse Killer", "Starsky & Hutch", "War of the Worlds", "See Jane Date", "Lifeboat", "When The Vows Break" and "Rage of Angels".

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An outspoken, witty, energetic woman who enjoys role model status, Linda is in demand as a celebrity guest by many of the popular talk and award shows. She's a favorite guest on: "The Rosie O'Donnell Show", "The View", "Live with Regis & Kathie Lee", "Oprah", "The Caroline Rhea Show", the Emmy's, Soap Opera Digest Awards shows and "Phil Donahue."

She has been interviewed, featured on and invited to speak about a variety of newsworthy subjects on key media outlets including: "Good Morning America", "Today", "CBS This Morning", "20/20", A&E's "Biography", "48 Hours", "Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous", "Larry King LIVE", "An Intimate Portrait" and CNBC.

A fashion major at California State University at Long Beach, CA, Linda still maintains a strong affinity for fashion and design. Looking Great with Linda Dano, her exclusive line of fashion accessories for QVC, was created in 1993 for cost conscious women who enjoy quality, style and variety in their wardrobe.

Linda Dano is the recipient of 1999 ACE Award for Accessories Council Excellence.

Strictly Personal, the New York based fashion consulting business creates complete wardrobes to match a specific client's taste and personality. Linda has been President and CEO for more than a decade.

Linda began her writing career in 1984 when she co-authored a Harlequin Romance novel Dreamweaver, with her Another World alter ego, Felicia Gallant. Her 1997 best seller for G.P. Putnam's Sons, LOOKING GREAT...It Doesn't Have To Hurt was wildly successful and followed by the Spring 1998 release of LIVING GREAT. Fashion/style features by Linda Dano appear monthly in Soap Opera Digest .

Linda is the year 2000 recipient of the Women's Health Leadership Award, an Honorary Chair for the National Alzheimer's Association, a spokesperson for the National Osteoporosis Association, leading a campaign on behalf of caregivers and a member of the Board of Directors for HeartShare Human Services.



Anna Stuart Biography

Anna Stuart's lifelong desire to be part of the musical theatre is being realized in this production. Although, her very first performance was on stage as Luisa in *The Fantasticks*, audiences best know her as one of daytime television's most popular divas for over 30 years. She was best known for her portrayal of Donna Love on NBC's long running daytime drama, "Another World". Currently she can be seen as the formidable Mary Smythe on ABC's highly rated series, "All My Children".

Her career has varied from appearances on Primetime Television and Films to commercials and off-Broadway. Theatre credits include such roles as Corrie in *Barefoot in the Park*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Helena in *Look Back in Anger*, Linda in *The Impossible Years*, and many others.

Anna prefers the outdoor life on her farm in New York State where she resides with her dogs, cats, and the love of her life, Tony Crisafulli. She is a passionate supporter of the Humane Society and animal rescue causes. She is strongly devoted to family, friends and her Yoga practice. This opportunity to be on the musical stage again, brings her back to a place she loves.

A Brief History of *Mame* . . .

The original New York run of *Mame* ran for 1,508 performances at the Winter Garden Theatre and 443 performances in London at the Drury Lane Theatre.

Once Mary Martin had turned down the title role in *Mame*, some 40 other actresses had to be eliminated before the part went to Angela Lansbury - who quickly established herself as one of the reigning queens of Broadway. Her vehicle, the fifth longest running musical of the Sixties, was an adaptation of Patrick Dennis' novel, *Auntie Mame*, which had also been the basis of the 1954 play. The show's musical-comedy lineage, however, could be traced to *Hello, Dolly!*, since it again spotlighted an antic, middle-aged matchmaking widow, and it again had a bubbling score by Jerry Herman including another strutting title song.

Angela Lansbury wowed audiences in the title role, winning her first Tony for Best Actress playing the eccentric heiress who liberates her orphaned nephew from a stodgy upbringing. Beatrice Arthur's hilarious performance as the bitchy actress Vera Charles brought her a Tony for Best Featured Actress.

Set mostly in and around Mame's home at 3 Beekman Place, New York, the tale covers the period from 1928 to 1946. Firmly dedicated to the credo that "Life is a banquet and most poor sons-of-bitches are starving to death," Mame Dennis brings up her orphaned nephew Patrick in an aggressively permissive atmosphere as she urges him to live life to the fullest by opening a new window every day. After being wiped out by the stock market crash, Mame lands a part in - and manages to ruin - a musical comedy starring her bosom buddy Vera Charles, then recoups her fortunes by marrying Southern aristocrat Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside. Even Beau's death climbing an Alp cannot deter the indomitable Mame, whose final triumph is steering Patrick out of the clutches of a birdbrained snob and into the arms of a more appropriate mate.

During the Broadway run, Miss Lansbury was followed by Celeste Holm, Janis Paige, Jane Morgan and Ann Miller. Heading the four road companies were, respectively, Miss Holm, Miss Lansbury, Susan Hayward and Janet Blair. Miss Lansbury also starred in a 1983 Broadway revival which had a brief run. The 1974 Hollywood version found Miss Arthur repeating her original role in a cast headed by Lucille Ball and Robert Preston.

Mame
Fact Sheet

WHAT: The Bucks County Playhouse production of **Mame** with book by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, direction by Michael Moeller and choreography by Stephen Casey.

Mame centers on the character of Mame Dennis. Stepping back in time to the roaring 1920s, a 10-year-old orphan boy is delivered to his swinging, eccentric Auntie Mame while she is hosting a cocktail party for her wildly flamboyant friends including her “bosom buddy”, Vera Charles. Thus begins 18 years of fantastic adventures as she proves that life can be a banquet and that in order to experience it fully, a new door should be opened every day. Michael Moeller directs and Stephen Casey choreographs this musical comedy.

WHERE: The Bucks County Playhouse, 70 South Main Street, New Hope, Pennsylvania

WHO: Direction by **MICHAEL MOELLER**
Choreography by **STEPHEN CASEY**
Musical Direction by **JESSICA BRADISH**
Costume Design by **LINDA BEE-STOCKTON**
Scenic and Lighting Design by **ERIK H. REID**
Sound Design by **DANIEL LITTLE**
Wig Design by **JASON HAYES**

CAST: Mame Dennis **LINDA DANO**
Vera Charles **ANNA STUART**
Patrick Dennis, age 10 **JOHN DiFERDINANDO**
Agnes Gooch **TRESSA McCALLISTER**
Ralph Devine **EDWARD EGAN**
M. Lindsay Woolsey **PHILIP KATZ**
Ito **DAMIAN BARTOLACCI**
Dwight Babcock **LOUIS PALENA**
Gregor **MATTHEW CLINE**
Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside **BOB MARCUS**
Sally Cato **AIMEE MILLER**
Mother Burnside **SKIP AVALANCHE**
Patrick Dennis, age 19 – 29 **PATRICK LUDT**
Junior Babcock **PETER MARTINO**
Mrs. Upson **MELISSA HAMMANS**
Mr. Upson **SKIP AVALANCHE**
Gloria Upson **ASHLEY DAVIDSON**
Pegeen Ryan **JESSICA BRADISH**
Mame’s Friends and Ensemble **JESSICA BRADISH**
MATTHEW CLINE
ASHLEY DAVIDSON
EDWARD EGAN
NICOLE FARINA
PETER MARTINO
JILL PALENA
LOUIS PALENA
EDDIE RABON

more . . .

TICKET PRICES: Tickets range from \$22.00 to \$24.00.

WHEN: ***Mame***
June 8 thru June 19, 2005

OPENING PERFORMANCE: Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at 2 PM

Wednesday thru Saturday at 8 PM

Saturday at 4 PM

Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 2 PM

CLOSING PERFORMANCE: Sunday, June 19, 2005 at 2 PM