NEWS RELEASE
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THEATRE TUSCALOOSA PRESENTS DRIVING MISS DAISY
TUSCALOOSA – Theatre Tuscaloosa will present the play “Driving Miss Daisy” by Alfred Uhry, April 23 – May 2, at the Bean-Brown Theatre on the Martin Campus of Shelton State Community College, 9500 Old Greensboro Road.

The production teams theater veterans Drew Baker and Charles Prosser with stage newcomer Dave Rogers. Tickets, $17-adult; $14-seniors (60+); $10-students with I.D. and Shelton State employees; and $5-Shelton State students, are available through Theatre Tuscaloosa’s Web site, www.theatretusc.com, or by calling the ticket office at 205.391.2277. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are also available.

Uhry’s “Driving Miss Daisy” premiered in 1987 as an off-broadway story about the relationship that a strong-willed, Southern Jewish widow, Daisy Werthan, shares with her African-American chauffeur, Hoke Coleburn, over the span of several decades. At first Daisy is not the least bit happy about a loss of independence when her son, Boolie, hires an unemployed black man into her service. Despite their obvious and latent individual differences, the scenes play out and the two grow ever closer to and more dependent on each other through their experiences together. The play won Uhry a Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1988. The 1989 Warner Bros. film by the same title won the 1989 Academy Award for Best Picture.

Charles Prosser (Boolie) once made a list of 25 musicals and non-musicals in which he would like to act before "shuffling off this mortal coil," and “Driving Miss Daisy” was one of them. He is thrilled to be on stage with one of his favorite acting partners, Drew Baker, and the process has been a magical one since the very first rehearsal. With talented newcomer to the Theatre Tuscaloosa stage, Dave Rogers, playing Hoke and veteran actor, Jeff Wilson, directing this classic of the modern American theatre, the journey has been all the more enjoyable.

Drew Baker (Miss Daisy) won a T-Earle award for best supporting actress in her last appearance on the Bean Brown stage as Charlotte in “A Little Night Music.” Other credits include “Dearly Departed,” “Rumors,” “The
Music Man,” “Steel Magnolias,” “Arsenic and Old Lace,” “Moon Over Buffalo,” and “Plaza Suite.”

While Dave Rodgers (Hoke Coleburn) has experience in commercial voiceovers for local radio and television, his introduction to theatre came last year when Executive Producer Tina Turley plucked him out of the Shelton hallway to play the role of Preacher in James Weldon Johnson’s “God’s Trombones.” “Tina said that she liked my voice and the next thing I knew I was on the stage,” says Rogers. Dave recently retired after over 34 years of service for the United States Army and is now the Assistant Director of Corporate Training for TEBI at Shelton State.

Theatre Tuscaloosa audiences know Jeff Wilson’s work as an actor. His versatility has allowed him to play a multitude of characters over the last 20+ years, including Father Flynn in “Doubt,” Stanley in “Smoke on the Mountain,” Salieri in “Amadeus,” Stanley in “A Streetcar Named Desire,” Thomas Jefferson in “1776,” Atticus Finch in “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Willie Loman in “Death of a Salesman,” and most recently various roles in the two-man zany comedy “Greater Tuna,” and the entire 60 year life-span of Andrew Makepeace III in “Love Letters.” Director is a new role for Wilson and Theatre Tuscaloosa is delighted that “Driving Miss Daisy” will be his directing debut for the organization.

Theatre Tuscaloosa welcomes back Tuscaloosa native, Wheeler Kincaid, to design scenery and lights for the production. Kincaid grew up in Tuscaloosa and was involved as designer and actor for Tuscaloosa Children’s Theater, University of Alabama Theater, and Theatre Tuscaloosa. He designed the critically acclaimed “Doubt” last year. Kincaid currently lives and works as a designer in New York City.

Tina F. Turley is the Executive Producer and Sound Designer for the production; Jeanette Waterman is the costume designer; Simon Levy serves as Technical Director; and Ashlyn Lambert is the Stage Manager.

“Driving Miss Daisy” opens Friday, April 23, 2010, at the Bean-Brown Theatre. The production runs Saturday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 25 at 2 p.m.; Wednesday, April 28 at 2 p.m.; Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.; and closes Sunday, May 2 at 2 p.m.. Tickets may be purchased by calling 205.391.2277 or online at www.theatretusc.com.

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