

SHOREARTS

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CASTING A VOTE FOR jazz

THE RUN-UP TO SECOND ANNUAL SALEM JAZZ & SOUL FESTIVAL BEGINS



TOM ULLNER PHOTOS

OW-OW- OW! — The Boston Horns with special guest Barrence Whitfield will be in the house for the Salem Jazz and Soul Festival fundraiser on April 12. He'll be performing with Henley Douglas Jr. and Garret Savluk, below, and the Boston Horns. Also on the bill will be the Ken Clark Organ Trio, above, and the Mystix.



Jazz can be magic. It can happen right on the spot. Sudden inspiration — heck, even mistakes — can change everything. Jazz festivals? Well, not so much.

They don't just come together. They're like presidential campaigns. Except that they that they don't numb your soul, make you feel cheap and dirty or require deals with the devil. Fact is, as soon as one campaign, or festival, is over, planning starts for the next. And when we say planning, we mean putting together enough cash to make it happen.

And that's what the folks at the Salem Jazz and Soul Festival are up to: They're calling it a fund-raiser, but they can call it a great fun-out. Dig it, in one night you can see the Ken Clark Organ Trio, the Mystix and the Boston Horns with special guest Barrence Whitfield. It all takes place from 8 p.m. to midnight, April 12, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 94 Washington Square, Salem.

It may seem like a long way off, but, hey, everyone who saw Barrence and the Horns doing that James Brown set last summer at the Willows is already buying tickets, so, well, maybe you should take the hint and get in line. After us. No

cuties, back or front. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance (a good idea, considering the line-up) at In a Pigs Eye, 148 Derby St., Salem, or through the festival web: www.salemjazzsoul.com.

There'll also be an auction whose prizes will include a party package, featuring a DJ and music; hors d'oeuvres from the Pig's Eye; Bartending Service; an hour of flight time on Linear air lines or two round trip tickets to the island of Nantucket; an KHS Westwood Folding bike from Salem Cycles; and a signed original concert poster of the band Boston from the 1970's.

And this year's festival, which takes place in August at the Salem Willows, what's that going to be like?

Bigger and better, they say: 10 days of events and performances in clubs and restaurants in the city.

And who's gonna be playing?

Can't say right now, but count on it: The lineup will include some of the hottest jazz and soul performers on the North Shore and greater Boston area.

And, by the way, if you want to donate items for the auction, send an email or swing old-school by calling 978-979-8146.

—J.C. Lockwood

Just served!

Family fodder leads to meaty script in 'The Dining Room.'

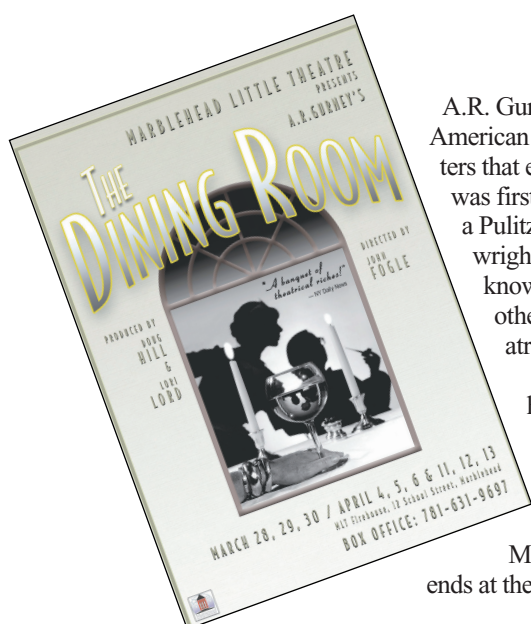
By Charlene Peters

A.R. Gurney put to good use the elements of an ordinary American family dinner and wrote a play with a cast of characters that evolved over several decades. "The Dining Room" was first performed in New York in 1981 and ended up with a Pulitzer Prize nomination. Gurney, an American playwright and novelist who lives in the New York area, is also known for "Love Letters" and "The Cocktail Hour," two other simplistic situations he turned into interesting theatrical entertainment.

With John Fogle directing, Doug Hill and Lori Lord have co-produced Gurney's play as the third installment of Marblehead Little Theatre's "New England Trilogy." (The first two were "Our Town" and "On Golden Pond," which Lord and Hill co-produced as well.) "The Dining Room" is set for a Friday,

March 28, 8 p.m. The opening and will run for three weekends at the Firehouse Theatre on School Street in Marblehead.

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COURTESY PHOTOS BY JOHN FOGLE

Mischief in the dining room: Pictured are, clockwise from bottom right, Kristina Walker of Marblehead, Liam Madigan-Fried of Swampscott, Miles Hartfelder of Salem, Karl Fried of Swampscott and Hazel Grenham of Marblehead.