

# Walden Happenings

## Stage Right of Texas Presents Classic "HARVEY" At The Historic Crighton Theatre - April 22nd

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By Doc Fennessy

Mary Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "HARVEY" has been entertaining audiences since 1941, and the movie starring Jimmy Stewart since 1950. Actually, there were two movie versions of the Broadway play; the first starring Jimmy Stewart as Elwood P. Dowd, and the later version with Harry Anderson and Leslie Nielsen. Understandably, the play comes across as somewhat lightweight and dated in 2011, but, it is still joyful - guaranteed to raise some chuckles and maybe even two or three outright guffaws. The multi-award winning classic play will be presented by the Stage Right of Texas theatrical troupe at the Historic Crighton Theatre in Conroe, Texas. "HARVEY" is fun family entertainment suitable for all ages. The show will run every Friday and Saturday from April 22nd until Sunday May 8th, with 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinees on May 1st & 8th. This is a must see comedy. Tickets are at reasonable family prices and now available by calling Kim Kelly daily in the theatre Box-office between 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. at: (936) 441-7469 - OR - on line at: [www.crightontheatre.org](http://www.crightontheatre.org).

"HARVEY," By Mary Chase, is a play about acceptance. Elwood P. Dowd is a likeable man that is sweet and affable who never met a creature he didn't like including his unseen friend "HARVEY!" "HARVEY," - whom Elwood describes as a six-foot, three-and-one-half inch tall "palooka" resembling an oversized rabbit!!!

Mary Chase's Pulitzer Prize winning "HARVEY" is a true piece of American theatre history and a rare occasion to experience it since it is of the 1950's era. The characters, sets and costumes will not be the same as they were in the movies, because Director Sam Martinez can't do that, but Sam will create the world of Elwood, Veta Louise and Dr. Chumbley that you can vicariously imagine as somewhat reality because Sam is doing something unique in that his vision of the production is quite unique and a bit challenging; he wants to make the stage and scenes appear like the old original Jimmy Stewart black and white movie. Everything is in black, white and shades of gray! It will look stunning. There is a wonderful 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinee on Mother's Day, May 8th and this show would be a terrific gift to see just before ya'al take Mom out to

dinner!!!

Stage Right's Gerald Livingston does a remarkable job in his role of Elwood P. Dowd who is a genial drunk who drives his sister Veta to distraction. Maria Sirgo plays Elwood's social set obsessed sister Veta Louise Simmons. Well, technically, it's not Elwood that Veta has a problem with - it's "HARVEY," the 6-foot tall white rabbit that accompanies Elwood everywhere. It seems that only Elwood can see "HARVEY," making the family a laughingstock and endangering the chances of Veta's single daughter Myrtle Mae, played by Meredith Zaritski, as Veta's marriage-minded daughter to score a husband. As the play progresses; Elwood introduces HARVEY, to the bewilderment of everyone he meets. Veta, his snooty and social-climbing sister, finds his eccentric and weird social behavior increasingly embarrassing. In an attempt to spare her and her daughter from further embarrassment, Veta takes drastic action and attempts to have her brother Elwood committed to a mental health sanitarium, an act

around him. Stage Right's Gerald Livingston should light up the audience every time he appears on stage as he plays the role of Elwood so thoroughly and naturally. He has such a warm and welcoming smile that you can't help but feel he's not acting but simply being himself.

As the truth comes out, the search is on for Elwood and his invisible "Bunny" friend with some hilarious and belly-laughing actions.

Elwood's apparent delusion has a strange influence on the staff, including Doctor Chumbley, played by Will Radcliffe and his medical partner Doctor Sanderson, played by Mike Anderson and Cindy Tippens as the snooty Ethel Chauvenet. Other Stage Right actors that do a fine job of portraying principal characters in this somewhat "Looney" comedy are: Steve Murphree as the Judge, Renee Cannon as Ms Johnson/Betty Chumbley, Willard Radcliffe, Travis Bryant as Duane Wilson and new to the Stage Right troupe is Steven Dowell who plays the cab driver E. J. Lofgen who has great insight on the meaning of

to say other than in one scene in which she is interviewing Elwood, but whenever she is on stage (usually in the background), her facial expressions convey her emotions - especially when she knows her professional superiors are dead wrong, but being a lowly nurse, she can't express it.

As the truth comes out, the search is on for Elwood and his invisible "Bunny" friend with some hilarious and belly-laughing actions. Eventually, Elwood shows up at the sanitarium looking for his lost friend "HARVEY". Just before Elwood is to be given an injection that will make him into a "perfectly normal human being," does Veta realize that she'd rather have Elwood the same as he's always been - carefree and kind - even if it means living with "HARVEY". "HARVEY" is fun family entertainment suitable for all ages. This is a must see comedy. Tickets are at reasonable family prices and now available by calling Kim Kelly daily in the theatre Box-office between 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. at: (936) 441-7469 - OR on line at: [www.crightontheatre.org](http://www.crightontheatre.org)



Can you believe this "Loony Tune" group can actually act? Well you better believe it because it is the Stage Right Theatrical Troupe's hilarious cast for the prize winning classic comedy "HARVEY" opening at the Crighton Theatre in Conroe on Friday, April 22nd.

that goes horribly and hilariously awry. Interestingly, through a comedy of errors, the doctors mistakenly commit Veta instead of Elwood to the facility.

Actually, Elwood is a classically eccentric character. He's a moderately well-off drunk who never gets too drunk and a lovable man who loves everyone and is never perturbed by anything, living by a simplistic philosophy of life that serves him well and seems to uplift everyone

life. Veta as played by Maria Sirgo, is the most complex character of all. She's haughty, stuck up, an unlikable social climber whom you nevertheless like, and despite her frustration and embarrassment over her brother's mental condition (seeing and believing in a giant rabbit who talks only to him), but makes it abundantly clear that she truly loves her crazy brother. Also very entertaining is Megan Nix as Ruth Kelly R.N.. She doesn't have a lot

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