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by Phil Olson

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Tickets \$25
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A NICE FAMILY GATHERING is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

Playbill designed by Holly Sherwood
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- 2026 -

A Bad Year for Tomatoes
by John Patrick

A famous actress escapes Hollywood
but quickly realizes that small-town
charm isn't providing the retreat
she hoped for and hilarity ensues.

September 18th - 26th, 2026



Valerie Theatre | 207 Courthouse Sq., Inverness, FL 34450 | (352) 341-7850

A BAD YEAR FOR TOMATOES (AMATEUR PERFORMANCE RIGHTS) is presented by
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LEWIS & YOUNG ENTERTAINMENT

PRESENTS



A Small-Town Comedy

with

Rachel Vazquez

Alan Stewart

Janet Torcello

Mary Ellen DePetrillo

Freedom

Holly Sherwood

Rex Young

The Production Team

Director.....	Harry Lewis
Producer.....	Rex Young
Stage Manager.....	Tim Stuart
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Kim Stuart
Set & Technical Design.....	Harry Lewis
Construction Coordinator.....	Gary Boesch
Set Construction.....	Harry Lewis & Tim Stuart
Set Painting.....	Holly Sherwood & Tim Stuart
Wardrobe, Decor & Props.....	Cast & Crew
Advertising.....	Rachel Vazquez
Usher.....	Nelson Rodriguez
Printing.....	Lordco Pack-Ship-Print

* Special thanks to the SALSA QUEEN for the canned "tomatoes."

Director's Notes

As director of *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, I'm thrilled to share this fun, lighthearted comedy with you! Filled with on-stage hijinks, unexpected moments, and plenty of laughs, this show introduces a wonderfully zany collection of characters — some of whom you may recognize from your own life!

I want to give a huge thank you to our wonderful cast and crew. You have been absolutely amazing to work with, bringing incredible energy, dedication, and enthusiasm to every rehearsal and performance. Thank you for always being committed to entertaining our audiences!

Harry Lewis, Director

About the Playwright

John Patrick (1905 –1995) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenwriter. His many Broadway plays include *Hell Freezes Over* (1935), *The Willow and I* (1942), *The Hasty Heart* (1945; adapted for the screen in 1949), *The Curious Savage* (1950) and *Lo and Behold* (1951).

He is perhaps best known for his 1953 stage adaptation of Vern J. Sneider's novel *The Teahouse of the August Moon*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play. Patrick adapted the play for film in 1956 and for the musical stage under the title *Lovely Ladies, Kind Gentlemen* in 1970.

He wrote numerous screenplays, including *Three Coins in the Fountain* (1954) and *Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing* (1955). He also wrote dozens of one-act plays and full-length comedies, including *Everybody Loves Opal* and its many sequels, all of which remain popular with community theatres.

The John Patrick Collection, including the playwright's books, letters and manuscripts, is held at the Rare Book Department of Boston University.

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Harry Lewis

Director

Harry loves nothing more than telling a great story. Born and raised right here in Inverness, he spends his working hours providing critical components to the aerospace industry via his high-tech machine shop. When not keeping the Air Force flying, he is a proud nerd who loves science fiction, anime, board games, and robotics. He lives with his lovely wife, two horses, four poodles and an Italian greyhound. Harry would like to thank The Valerie Theater and this amazing cast and crew for making this show possible.



Tim Stuart

Stage Manager

Tim Stuart is the Production Manager for Lewis and Young Entertainment. He is a 50-year veteran of live theatre, both in Florida and in his native state of Tennessee. You may remember him as the beleaguered “Sam” in *Amy’s Wish* this past September. Earlier in the year, he portrayed “Vinnie” in our production of *The Odd Couple* and served as Stage Manager for *The Savannah Sipping Society*. In 2024, he was Stage Manager for *Steel Magnolias* and directed *The Odd Couple, Female Version*.

For the last 2 years, he has created 1/12 scale models of our sets, initially to assist with the planning phase of construction, but ultimately to reflect the actual set as closely as possible (just for fun). Check out his handiwork at the back of the auditorium, on a scale model of the Valerie stage.

Tim was a teacher in the Citrus County School System, retiring after a 39-year career.



Kim Stuart

Assistant Stage Manager

Kim is happy to be the Assistant Stage Manager again for *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, alongside her husband, Tim (Stage Manager). She last assisted with *Love, Lies & The Doctor’s Dilemma* in the spring. She has also been involved in *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser), *Savannah Sipping Society* (Dot), *The Odd Couple* (Assistant Stage Manager) and *Always a Bridesmaid* (Sedalia). When she is not on stage, Kim enjoys being Grandma/Damaw to her 7 grandkids, a part-time receptionist at a local CPA firm, and church pianist at First Baptist Church Inverness. Kim is thankful for

another opportunity to work with her talented friends at Lewis and Young Entertainment.



TIME

1970s.

PLACE

Living room in Beaver Haven, Vermont.

ACT I

Scene 1: One spring day.

Scene 2: The same, a few hours later.

- INTERMISSION -

ACT II

Scene 1: A couple months later

Scene 2: The next day.

Scene 3: The same, half hour later.



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THE CAST OF *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*

(In Order of Appearance)



Rachel Vazquez

as *Myra Marlowe*

Rachel, a native Floridian, was involved with theatre in many ways for many years in South Florida. She stopped to have two beautiful daughters. Years later, she followed her parents to the Nature Coast and tested the waters with her talented daughter, Rylee, in a one-act festival. There she met Rex, and then Harry, and then Holly, and was pulled into Lewis & Young Productions where she found a home. Since then, she has performed in several productions and has become a core member of this crazy, loving family and looks forward to many, many more adventures! When she is not onstage or rehearsing, she is a Property Manager with Great American Realty in Inverness.



Alan Stewart

as *Tom Lamont*

Originally from South Jersey, Alan now calls himself a Floridian. He's been involved with the live theater scene all over the county for many years. Alan is so happy to be back on stage and to have a full-circle moment: Alan is reprising his role as Tom 20+ years later! Alan was last on stage here at The Valerie in *On Golden Pond*. He thanks everyone for all the support of his many roles over the years. Enjoy the show!



Janet Torcello

as *Cora Gump*

Originally from New York state, Janet has been keeping herself busy in Florida for over thirty years, the last thirteen right here in Inverness. A veteran of the Valerie stage, she has appeared in several productions including *Always a Bridesmaid*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Bill W. and Dr. Bob*, *Summer of Suspense*, *Honeymoon From Hell* and *Odd Couple - Female Version*. Not one to keep her talents to herself, she regularly supports many local production companies and charitable organizations. She would like to thank her wonderful husband for all his love and support. Janet thanks you all for being here and asks that you please support our local charities when possible.



Mary Ellen DePetrillo

as *Reba Harper*

Mary Ellen DePetrillo has spent decades making audiences laugh through the art of stand-up comedy. As a Christian comedian, she travels the country sharing humor, hope, and faith with churches and Women's events. While she's comfortable with a microphone in hand, this production marks her very first experience in live theater. Trading solo performances for an ensemble cast has been both humbling and rewarding, and she's thrilled to be part of the Lewis and Young entertainment family. She hopes you enjoy the performance as much as she's enjoyed this exciting new chapter.

THE CAST OF *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*

(In Order of Appearance)



Freedom

as *Piney*

Hitting the stage like an atom bomb, Freedom -- Lewis and Young's favorite escaped mental patient -- is excited to be back on stage. Actor, guitarist, local businessman and self-proclaimed indigenous species, he has been rocking the Valerie stage for years now. Freedom says that it's the wonderful people you work with in theater that makes it exciting, but it's the audience that makes it real and special. Away from the Valerie, Freedom can be found at Vuja Dae Salon in Floral City where he is known as the Rembrandt of Hair. Freedom would like to thank LYE for his stage time, his family for their love and support, and God for his wonderful life.



Holly Sherwood

as *Willa Mae Wilcox*

Holly is LYE's Executive Secretary, Desktop Publisher, Proofreader, and basic coordinator/organizer. She has been in over fifty stage productions and even a few short films. She has performed with the Kansas City Ballet, The Ocala Civic Theatre, and many other community theaters in Florida. She has played roles as diverse as the hell hound in *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* -- along with 14 other characters; a talking baby doll; M'Lynn and Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*; Ethel Thayer in *On Golden Pond* and Marlaface Mosely in *The Savannah Sipping Society*. She is most proud to have been the "Storyteller" in the one-woman show, *Every Brilliant Thing* last summer.



Rex Young

as *The Sheriff*

Returning to the stage after a short sabbatical, a minor existential crisis, and a "possible" UFO encounter, Rex is excited to be afforded the opportunity to entertain such a wonderful audience... and to be off the "No Fly" list. After his last role as a small-town sheriff in the South, he was happy to accept this role as a small-town sheriff in the Northeast, or to quote him directly, "I gotta get a better agent". In order to add "new life" to his career, Rex will be playing the father this November in the Lewis and Young Entertainment production of *A Nice Family Gathering*.

A Special Thanks To:

