The Man Who Came to Dinner
By Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman
Directed by Joe Theissen

Nov. 6. - Dec. 13, 2009
Thursdays - Saturdays at 7:30 PM (new time!)
Sundays at 7 PM, Nov. 8, 15 & 22
Sundays at 2 PM, Nov. 15, 19 & Dec. 6, 13
Tickets: $26 Adults, $24 Students/Seniors

Written in 1939, this light-hearted comedy has relevance for today’s audience as it takes a look at the private lives of celebrities when they’re not on the stage.

Sheridan Whiteside (Tobias Andersen) comes to dinner at the home of the Ohio social couple Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Scott Malcolm and Jane Fellows) during the Christmas season. Unfortunately for the Stanleys, Sheridan slips and falls on the ice of the homestead steps fracturing his hip. The local doctor (Tim Park), who is also a frustrated playwright, plops him in a wheelchair and the long term patient becomes the house guest from hell. The playwrights have patterned this personality after Alexander Woollcott, a celebrated critic and radio personality known for his wit and worldly manner.

What happens to the Stanleys shouldn’t happen to a dog. Whiteside, who gives new meaning to the word curmudgeon, takes over the living room and all sorts of celebrities show up to wish the famous man a joyful holiday. Hart and Kaufman have patterned these folks after famous entertainment figures of the day. Professor Metz (Brian Allard), a look alike of Albert Einstein, brings a glass-enclosed miniature city of 10,000 cockroaches; Beverly Carlton (Samuel Hawkins) comes tap dancing in as a Noel Coward figure; stage star Lorraine Sheldon (Margie Boulé), comes slinking in like Gertrude Lawrence and Banjo (Garland Lyons), a zany comedian resembling Harpo Marx, stops by to visit his old pal and celebrate the holidays. Maggie Cutler (Jill Westerby), Whiteside’s personal assistant, manages all the appointments but even she gets frustrated when some ex-convicts get invited to dinner and four penguins unexpectedly show up from Admiral Byrd.

Others in the cast include Ellen Bloodworth, Matt Brown, Daniel Bunten, Mary Anne Glazebrook, Jeff Gorham, Anne Hargreaves, Andy Lee-Hillstrom, Megan Misslin, Christopher Mullens, Cheryl Nelson, Bob Rindt, Alyssa Roehrenbeck, Shea Mackinnon, Cole Jackson and Todd Tschida.

Stage direction for The Man Who Came to Dinner is by Joe Theissen. Set design is by Robert Vaughn, lighting design is by Kurt Herman, costume design is by Allison Dawe, properties are by Samuel Hawkins, the stage manager is Jessica Downs and the producer is Kay Vega.

Pictured: Tobias Andersen as Sheridan Whiteside, Anne Hargreaves as Nurse Preen and Jill Westerby as Maggie Cutler.