

Firebelly Productions'
New Playwrights Project

Conversing Elevens

By David Cahill

Not So Soft

By Jonah Sea Knight

The Cast



Sarah Imes (Diana/Choe) recently joined Firebelly as Charlotte in the Ken Ludwig comedy *Moon over Buffalo* and is excited to continue her association with Firebelly Productions. She appeared with Firebelly in the Kennedy Center's Page-To- Stage Festival new play showcase in *Conversing Elevens* and *Dunce*. Some of her favorite past roles include Vicky in *Blackmail* (Off-Broadway), Svetlana in *Chess* (Baltimore), Rona in *Kennedy's Children* (Maryland Ensemble) and Natasha in *The Three Sisters* (Los Angeles). Her training includes an MFA from California State University, Fullerton. When not on stage she devotes her time to teaching drama and acting classes as well as running a small

decorating business.



Josh Drew (Sigmund/ Riley -understudy) recently appeared as Paul in Firebelly's comedy *Moon over Buffalo*. He joined Firebelly Productions in its Page-to-Stage Festival production of *Conversing Elevens* and *Dunce* at the Kennedy Center. His previous experience includes The Shakespeare Theatre at the Kennedy Center: Young Patron in *Five by Tenn*; Actor's Theatre of Washington, Jean Bilodeau in *Lilies* The Shakespeare Theatre: The Boy/Ensemble (u/s in perf) in *The Silent Woman*; Madcap Players: The Man in *Buyer's Market*; The American Century Theatre: Bomber in *Picnic*; Trumpet Vine Theatre Company: Kidnapper # 3 in *Abducting*

Diana; Bohemian Acting Company: Victor in *Four Dogs and a Bone*; Maintenance Shop Theatre: The Thief in *Dark Ride*.

Joshua is a graduate of Iowa State University, with a degree in Acting/Directing.

Edwin Xavier (Ted/ Riley).



Conversing Elevens and *Not So Soft* marks Ed's Firebelly and Washington, DC debut. He is an MFA candidate in acting at Catholic University of America(CUA), in Washington, D.C., and expects to receive his diploma any minute now. While at CUA, some of his favorite roles have been Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*, Doc O'Connor and Rulon Stacey in *The Laramie Project*, and Jim Bayliss in *All My Sons*. Travel is not new to Ed. Last summer, Ed traveled to Dubrovnik, Croatia with the CUA company of Uncle Maroje where they performed at the 55th Annual Dubrovnik Summer Festival. Ed is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, where he earned a living as a chauffeur when he

wasn't on stage.



Guest Director **Jessica Lefkow**, (BFA Acting, Catholic University of America) joins Firebelly Productions this season after nearly twenty years' experience directing, acting and teaching across Europe and Asia. Past credits include starring in the Asian touring premier of Margaret Edson's award-winning play, *Wit*, as well as directing such American classics as *Greater Tuna*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Crimes of the Heart* for companies in New Delhi, Nicosia, and Hong Kong. Since her return to the Washington,

DC area in 2003, Jessica has directed Firebelly's 2004 entry in the Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage festival, (*Conversing Elevens* and *Dunce*, by David Cahill), several readings for the Playwrights Forum, and most recently directed *Hanukka Gelt* and *The Story of Eid* for Calliope Productions/Muslim Community School's joint production of *The Spirit of the Faiths*. She is currently working with local actress and playwright Marian Licha on her one-woman show, *Frida, Vice-Versa*, (by M. Licha & R. Dennis Green). The Hong Kong tour of Firebelly Production's *Conversing Elevens* and *Not So Soft* marks Jessica's fourth project with that city's Faust International Theatre, though her first as a touring guest at their annual Faust Festival.

Kathi Gollwitzer, Artistic Director, has been a working actor, director, and acting coach on a professional, community, and high-school level for many years. Kathi has coached numerous students, helping them gain admission into highly selective programs such as the Governors Summer Acting Program and audition-based colleges and conservatories including New York University's Tisch School, Syracuse University Musical Theatre program, the DePaul Theatre School, SUNY Purchase College Conservatory of Theatre Arts and Film, and The Juilliard School of Acting. She also coaches professional actors and teaches classes for Firebelly Productions. For nearly ten years she has been involved with the Arlington Diocesan Shakespeare Festival, a program for eighth graders. She encourages students to "play it for honesty," the ultimate form of realism, and basis of non-realistic acting. Her greatest strength lies in her ability to communicate with young actors and instilling in them a solid work ethic.

She is currently Drama Director at the Trinity School in Falls Church, VA and is also an educator with the Helen Hayes Awards Washington Theatre Legacy Project, which brings theatre to the Washington DC Public School children. For six years she directed drama at Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington, VA.