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**UA THEATRE & DANCE OPENS ALLEN BALES SEASON WITH
THE DINING ROOM ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2014**

The University of Alabama's Department of Theatre and Dance will kick off its theatrical season with the Drama Desk Award-nominee *The Dining Room* September 29, in the Allen Bales Theatre. Written by Pulitzer Prize for Drama nominee A.R Gurney (*Love Letters*, *Sweet Sue*) and directed by the department's own Steve Burch, Ph.D, *The Dining Room* continues through October 5th.

18 scenes play out across time, telling the tale of several upper-middle class families, bound only by a matching set of dining room furniture. The show illustrates the rise and decline of the WASP culture, and how lessons from this culture can impact Americans across a variety of social boundaries. The New York Times calls it "an overlapping and amusing anthology of vignettes about family and food, inherited and disowned values." The company of six actors plays more than 50 unforgettable characters, all exploring the need for family, love of tradition, and the inevitable march of progress.

When asked about the show, Burch said, "Gurney's modern drama owes much to Anton Chekhov and his famous observation, 'People are sitting at a table having dinner, that's all, but at the same time their happiness is being created, or their lives are being torn apart'. In the simplest of devices, a space to stand in for all other spaces, Gurney invites us on a journey into our own lives, our families and friends; a journey which may end in empathy and surprise."

The Dining Room is suitable for most audiences but most enjoyable for those 16 and older.

Tickets are \$14 for students, \$17 for UA Faculty/Staff & Seniors and \$20 for Adults. Tickets are available through the Department's website at theatre.ua.edu, the box office at 205.348.3400 or at the door.

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About UA Theatre & Dance

The University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance (UA Theatre & Dance) became a unified department in 1979. For the past 35 years, UA Theatre & Dance has produced student and faculty directed, performed and designed work. UA Theatre & Dance cultivates the next generation of performing arts professionals through comprehensive undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Visit theatre.ua.edu

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