

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Jeff Winner and After Dark Award Winner to perform in classic screwball comedy, *The Solid Gold Cadillac*.**

*Open Eye's Spring Production about corporate corruption in 1950's America proves that some things never change, especially in business.*

**Chicago, IL, January 2009-**

*"This is a fairy story--the story of Cinderella and the Four Ugly Corporation Directors. Once upon a time, not so long ago, Cinderella went down to Wall Street. Not in a golden coach drawn by six white horses, but in the I.R.T. subway..."*

These words, spoken by **Dean Peerman** as the story's Narrator, will raise the curtain on Open Eye's Spring production of the classic 1950's Kaufman & Teichmann play, *The Solid Gold Cadillac*.

Peerman, a self-described "77-year old workaholic," is a magazine writer and editor, as well as an accomplished actor with 60+ Chicago-area shows under his belt. He will be returning to Open Eye Productions for the first time since his 2004 role of Grandpa Vanderhof in Open Eye's production of *You Can't Take It With You...* a role that won him not only the hearts of audiences, but an After Dark Award.

Sharing the stage with Peerman will be **Sara Sevigny**, Open Eye Co-founder and winner of the 2007 Equity Jeff Award for Best Supporting Actress in her role as Sara Jane Moore in Porchlight Music Theatre's *Assassins*. Sevigny will be playing *Cadillac's* lead role of Mrs. Partridge, the loose cannon Big Business never saw coming.

Corporate corruption is nothing new to today's audiences, who are sadly all too familiar with scandals like Enron, AIG, the Big Three, Lehman...the list goes on for far too long. As it turns out, things in the early 50's were not so different:

The innocuously-named, bigger-than-big, business giant "General Products Corporation" is operated by four men who appear to take turns voting each other in and out of each others' offices, but not much else; all while giving themselves generous salary increases for doing so. When one small-time stockholder, the unassuming Mrs. Laura Partridge, actually attends a shareholders' meeting and dares to question these men, their motives, and (most importantly) their salaries, the status quo is thrown out the window, and all hell breaks loose. Has Crooked Corporate America met its match? Here's how to find out:

*The Solid Gold Cadillac* by Howard Teichmann & George S. Kaufman  
Directed by Chris Maher, Open Eye's Artistic Director  
at The Athenaeum Theater: 2936 N. Southport, Studio 3  
March 5 through April 5  
Thursdays-Saturdays at 8PM; Sundays at 3PM  
\$20; \$18 Students/Seniors  
312-902-1500 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

Featuring John Blick, Rachel Crane\*, Kevin Grubb\*, Dean Peerman, Jon Sevigny\*,  
Sara Sevigny\*, Neal Starbird, Marika Stiles, Steve Welsh\*, and Larry Wiley

\*OEP Ensemble Members

**About the play** (from [george-kaufman.com](http://george-kaufman.com)):

*The Solid Gold Cadillac* was Kaufman's first stage collaboration with Howard Teichmann, who went on to write Kaufman's biography in 1973. As his last big hit, *Cadillac* was a huge personal triumph for Kaufman. The play was also made into a successful film in 1956, with Judy Holliday playing Laura Partridge.

**About the company** ([www.openeyeproductions.org](http://www.openeyeproductions.org)):

Open Eye Productions was founded in 1996 and over the years has received 3 Jeff Recommendations, 1 Jeff Award and 2 After Dark Awards.  
Open Eye's mission is to tell good stories, with theatrical devices coming second to what is really important; compelling characters, relationships and conflicts.

**About the Director:**

*The Solid Gold Cadillac* will be Chris's sixth production directing for Open Eye. Open Eye directing credits include critically acclaimed productions of *Trust* by Steven Dietz (Jeff Recommended), *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* by Dale Wasserman (Jeff Recommended), *Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim at the Storefront Theatre, *You Can't Take It With You* by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, and *Titanic* by Christopher Durang. He also directed the Midwest premiere of Robert Schenkkan's *Lewis and Clark Reach The Euphrates* (Jeff Recommended) for Infamous Commonwealth Theatre last year.

An accomplished actor, Chris has worked with companies including OEP, Appetite Theatre, Backstage Theatre Company, East Window Theatre Company and The Factory Theater. Prior to joining Open Eye, Chris was the Artistic Director of East Window Theatre Company. Originally from Palatine, IL, Chris graduated from Illinois State University in 1997, with his BFA in Theatre Performance.

Interviews and photographs (forthcoming) provided on request.

For more information, please contact Melissa Tropp at Curious Relations: 312-316-1736,  
[tropy@curiousrelations.com](mailto:tropy@curiousrelations.com)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Open Eye Productions presents classic screwball comedy,  
*The Solid Gold Cadillac*, by Howard Teichmann & George S. Kaufman  
Chicago, IL, February 2009-**

*"This is a fairy story--the story of Cinderella and the Four Ugly Corporation Directors. Once upon a time, not so long ago, Cinderella went down to Wall Street. Not in a golden coach drawn by six white horses, but in the I.R.T. subway..."*

Open Eye's production about corporate corruption in 1950's America weaves together film and theatre to prove that some things never change, especially in business.

The innocuously-named, bigger-than-big, business giant "General Products Corporation" is operated by four men who appear to take turns voting each other in and out of each others' offices, but not much else; all while giving themselves generous salary increases for doing so. When one small-time stockholder, the unassuming Mrs. Laura Partridge, actually attends a shareholders' meeting and dares to question these men, their motives, and (most importantly) their salaries, the status quo is thrown out the window, and all hell breaks loose. Has Crooked Corporate America met its match? Here's how to find out:

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[troppy@curiousrelations.com](mailto:troppy@curiousrelations.com)

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# The Solid Gold Cadillac- Fact Sheet

Media Contact: Melissa Tropp  
312-316-1736; [troppy@curiousrelations.com](mailto:troppy@curiousrelations.com)

**WHAT:** Open Eye Productions presents *The Solid Gold Cadillac* by Howard Teichmann & George S. Kaufman, directed by Chris Maher

**WHERE:** The Athenaeum Theater: 2936 N. Southport, Studio 3

**WHEN:** March 5 through April 5; Thursdays-Saturdays at 8PM; Sundays at 3PM

**TICKETS:** \$20; \$18 Students/Seniors, 312-902-1500 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

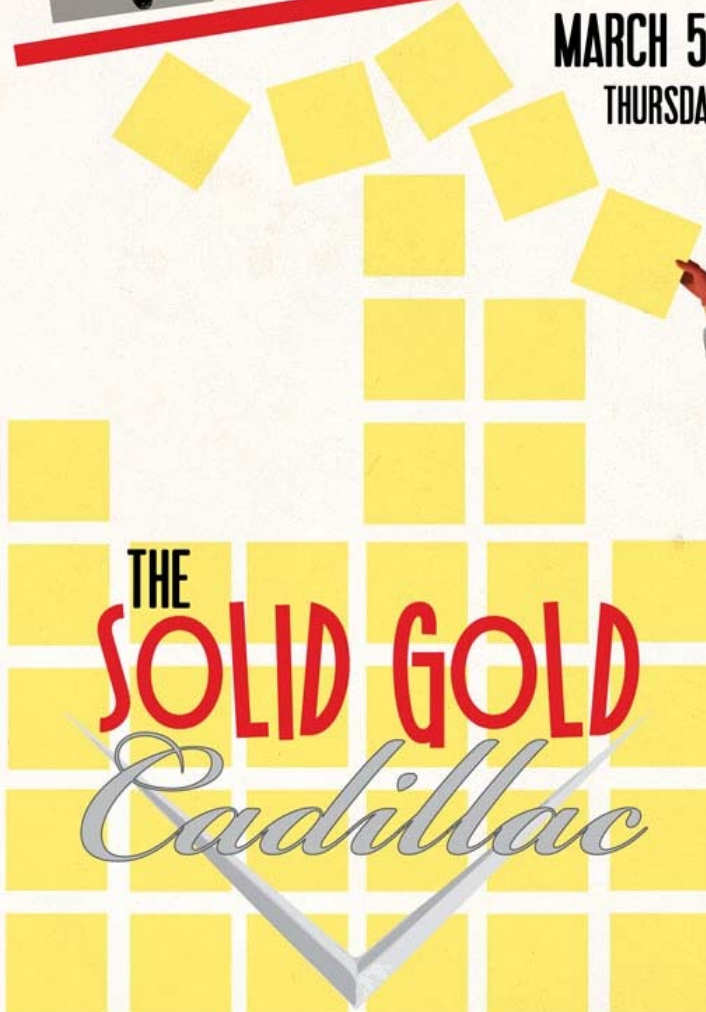
**CAST:** John Blick, Rachel Crane\*, Kevin M. Grubb\*, Dean Peerman, Jon Sevigny\*, Sara Sevigny\*, Neal Starbird, Marika Stiles, Steve Welsh\*, and Larry Wiley

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**MARCH 5 - APRIL 5, 2009**  
**THURSDAYS - SATURDAYS AT 8PM**  
**SUNDAYS AT 3PM**



**THE**  
**SOLID GOLD**  
*Cadillac*



**BY HOWARD TEICHMANN AND GEORGE S. KAUFMAN**  
**DIRECTED BY CHRIS MAHER**

## *The Solid Gold Cadillac- Cast Bios*

**John Blick** (Warren Gillie) This is John's first show with Open Eye. He is an artistic associate of Dog and Pony Theatre, with whom he performed in last spring's *As Told By The Vivian Girls*. He's also been seen recently with Signal Ensemble in *1776* and *Six Degrees of Separation*. John is from Wisconsin and earned a BFA in Acting from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point.

**Rachel Crane** (Ms. Shotgraven) is a farm girl from central Kansas. She moved to Chicago to pursue acting and improv. Rachel graduated the Second City's Training Center's Conservatory and Acting programs and Improv Olympic's Training Center program. She is also a graduate of ActOne's On-Camera series. She has performed on IO Harold teams and is a founding member of the Playground member team *Wing Night*. Rachel has performed in many sketch and improv shows both at the Second City's Skybox Theater and other theaters around town. She was ecstatic to join Open Eye Productions shortly after performing in their production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, her first production with them.

**Kevin M. Grubb** (Edward L. McKeever) has been with Open Eye as an ensemble member for seven years. Last seen in Strawdog Theatre Company's Jeff Citation Winning Production of *Marathon '33*, Kevin was also in OEP's productions of *ASSASSINS*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *Titanic*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*  
Worked with: Baliwick, Infamous Commonwealth, Circle Theatre

**Dean Peerman** (Narrator) credits Open Eye with giving him one of his favorite roles – that of Grandpa Martin Vanderhof in the group's 2004 revival of *You Can't Take It with You*, for which he received an After Dark Award. Other favorite roles of his: Captain Shotover in *Heartbreak House* and Weller Martin in *The Gin Game*. Over the years he has appeared in 60-some Chicago-area shows and has worked with such groups as Pegasus Players, Organic Theatre, European Repertory Company, Theo Ubuque, Northlight, Interplay and Candlelight Dinner Playhouse. Peerman describes himself as a “77-year-old workaholic” (he still has a day job as a magazine editor and writer). He hails from the small downstate town of Benton, site of the last public hanging in Illinois (shortly before he was born) and the hometown of another (and better known) actor, John Malkovich.

**Jon C. Sevigny** (Mark Jenkins) co-founded Open Eye Productions with his wife, Sara, in 1996. A Boston native, Jon moved to Chicago to study at Second City, and has been seen in such OEP shows as *Psycho Beach Party* & *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Now OEP's Executive Director, Jon served as the Artistic Director for six years, directly most of their productions during that time. Directing and acting throughout Chicago with such companies as Back Stage Theatre and Factory Theater, he was last seen in Will Act For Food's production of *Frankenstein in Love*.

**Sara R. Sevigny** (Mrs. Partridge) hails from Evanston, Illinois. Co-founder of Open Eye, she has been seen in such productions as *Assassins*, *You Can't Take It With You*, and *Tom Foolery*. Winner of the 2007 Equity Jeff Award for Best Supporting Actress in her role as Sara Jane Moore in Porchlight Music Theatre's *Assassins*, Sara was last seen with TimeLine Theatre Company's remount of *Fiorello!* and as Mrs. Peachum with The Hypocrites production of *The Three Penny Opera*. She has also worked with Circle Theatre, Defiant (RIP), Back Stage Theatre Company, & is an ensemble member with The Factory Theater in Chicago.

**Neal Starbird** (Clifford Snell) Originally from Arkansas (BA in Theatre from University of Arkansas) Lived 6 years in Portland, Oregon (Alumni of the Theatre Vertigo Acting Ensemble) 3 Roles: Lomov in *Chekhov's Life in the Country* (Greasy Joan, Chicago); Harper in *Ruby Wilder* (Not Waiting Productions, Chicago); Jeff in *Lobby Hero* (Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland).

**Marika Stiles** (Miss L'Arriere/Miss Logan) hails from Grand Junction, Colorado where she received her BA in Performing Arts. Marika is a founding member of The Grand Theatre Company in Winter Park, CO which is now in its 4th season and going strong. Some of her favorite roles include Sam in the *Harry and Sam Dialogues*, Corie in *Barefoot in the Park*, and Roberta in *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*.

**Steve Welsh** (Alfred Metcalfe) OEP Ensemble 7 years. OEP Productions: *Psycho Beach Party*, *Assassins*, *Titanic*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Last seen in The Hypocrites critically acclaimed production *Our Town*, he has also worked with Next Theatre Company, Defiant (RIP), and Factory Theater.

**Larry Wiley** (T. John Blessington) an Indiana native, Larry has appeared in over 120 productions in Indiana, California and Chicago area. He has seen many theatres come and go... and he is still here. Larry has received best actor awards for his portrayals of Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe* and Morris in *Gods Favorite*.

## *The Solid Gold Cadillac- Director's Bio*

**Chris Maher** (Director) *The Solid Gold Cadillac* will be Chris's sixth production directing for Open Eye. Open Eye directing credits include critically acclaimed productions of *Trust* by Steven Dietz (Jeff Recommended), *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* by Dale Wasserman (Jeff Recommended), *Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim at the Storefront Theatre, *You Can't Take It With You* by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, and *Titanic* by Christopher Durang. He also directed the Midwest premiere of Robert Schenkkan's *Lewis and Clark Reach The Euphrates* (Jeff Recommended) for Infamous Commonwealth Theatre last year.

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