

Starbright Summer Festival 2010
“It’s a ‘Red Carpet’ Season”

*announces that acclaimed
four-time Emmy Award-winning actress*

MICHAEL LEARNED

*will star as Daisy Werthan in
Starbright’s production of . . .*



DRIVING MISS DAISY

written by Alfred Uhry

beginning July 17th, 2010 (for a limited engagement)

at The Imperial Theatre in Sarnia, Ontario

STARBRIGHT is proud to announce that acclaimed Broadway actress, film and four-time Emmy Award-winning TV Star **Michael Learned (Olivia Walton of “The Waltons”)** will star in the title role of *Daisy Werthan* in **Driving Miss Daisy**, written by Alfred Uhry and directed by Dayna Tekatch. Performances begin Saturday, July 17th and run in repertory until Friday, August 20th at the Imperial Theatre, 168 North Christina Street, Sarnia, Ontario.

MICHAEL LEARNED is a four-time Emmy Award-Winning Actress, three for her work as *Olivia Walton* on the acclaimed TV series, "*The Waltons*", and one for her role as *Mary Benjamin* in her own series "*Nurse*". She is also a Peoples' Choice Award Winner and four-time Golden Globe Nominee. Most recently, she has co-starred with Tom Bosley as *Ethel* in the National Tour of *On Golden Pond*; as *Delia* in Lewis Black's *One Slight Hitch* at The Falcon Theatre and as *Ouiser* in Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias* at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts in California.

The eldest of six sisters, **Michael Learned** spent her first decade on her family's farm in Connecticut. At age eleven, she moved to Austria where her father worked for the U.S. State Department. While attending boarding school in England, Michael discovered the theatre and made it her life's work. She trained at San Francisco's American Conservatory Theatre where she frequently appeared with her first husband, Canadian actor, Peter Donat, to whom she was married for 17 years and who is the father of her three sons. Michael Learned perfected her craft while acting for the Shakespeare Festivals in both Canada and the USA while simultaneously raising her family. Her breakthrough came when she was appearing in a production of Noel Coward's "*Private Lives*", where she was spotted by producer Lee Rich, who cast her as *Olivia Walton* in his new television series *The Waltons*, about a Depression era family. Godmother to Christopher Plummer's daughter, Amanda Plummer, Amanda's middle name is Michael, after Ms. Learned.

Michael Learned has appeared in various films including: "For the Love of Mary," "Life During Wartime", "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story" and "Power", directed by Sidney Lumet. Television appearances include "Law and Order: SVU", "Living Dolls", "Profiler," "A Father for Brittany", "A Walton Easter," "A Walton Wedding", "Murder in New Hampshire", "Roots: The Gift" and "All My Sons," to name a few.

During **Starbright's** second season in Sarnia, **Michael Learned** will spend the summer in the role of *Daisy Werthan* in "*Driving Miss Daisy*". No stranger to the role of Miss Daisy, **Mischael Learned** has consistently garnered rousing critical acclaim for her stage portrayal of the aging *Daisy Werthan*.

Michael Learned is looking forward to her summer in Sarnia and being part of the **Starbright** company! *Driving Miss Daisy* also co-stars acclaimed Canadian actor, **Walter Borden** (of the Order of Canada) as *Hoke*.

Driving Miss Daisy runs in repertory with **three other magnificent Starbright productions:**

- *Hollywood Sings, "Great Movie Music"*, starring Christy Adamson, June Crowley, Susan Gilmour, Marcus Nance, Cory O'Brien, Rebecca Poff and David Rogers,
- *Broadway Baritones*, starring Theodore Baerg, Marcus Nance, Mark Payne and David Rogers
- *I Dreamed a Dream* starring Broadway star, Susan Gilmour.

Starbright's summer season runs from July 16th to August 22nd, 2010. For the performance schedule and further information visit www.starbright.ca or call the box office at 1-877-344-7469. Single tickets: \$38, Groups of 20 or more: \$32 or buy three shows for \$99 or all four shows for \$125.

“It's a ‘Red Carpet’ Season”!

www.starbright.ca

1-877-344-7469

“A Parade of Hugely Talented Performers!”- *The London Free Press*

“A Thrilling Theatrical Event!” – *The Observer*