

West End Players Guild  
Big Theatre in a Small Space



For immediate release – 11/1/9

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## West End Players Guild presents Neil Simon's *I Ought To Be In Pictures*

ST. LOUIS (November 1, 2009) – “She tells me I’m not what she expected. A strange kid walks in here in a mountain-climbing outfit, talks like Marlon Brando, tells me she was sent out here by her dead grandmother in Brooklyn and *I’m* not what *she* expected!”

So says a somewhat bewildered Herbert Tucker (played by Mark Abels), setting the stage for the West End Players Guild’s production of Neil Simon’s *I Ought To Be In Pictures*, to be presented November 13-22 at the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Boulevard. Fay McKenna directs the show for WEPG.

Tucker is a middle-aged Hollywood screenwriter whose best days seem to be behind him. The “strange kid” turns out to be his 19-year-old daughter Libby (played by Chrissy Young), whom Herb last saw 16 years earlier when he walked out of the family’s Brooklyn apartment, never to return. Libby has come to Hollywood to get Herb to make her a star.

In the course of two hours Herb and Libby learn to stop being strangers and become father and daughter again, while Herb and his on-and-off girlfriend Steffy (played by Jane Abling) go through some important changes in their own relationship. The play sparkles with Neil Simon’s trademark wise-cracking humor, leading up to an unexpected but mostly happy ending.

*I Ought To Be In Pictures*, one of Simon’s later works, premiered on Broadway in April, 1980, and ran for 324 performances. Ron Liebman, Dinah Manoff (as Libby) and Joyce Van Patten were the original Broadway cast. Manoff reprised her role in the 1982 feature film, with Walter Matthau and Ann Margret as Herb and Steffy. Manoff’s Broadway portrayal of Libby won her the 1980 Tony award for best featured actress.

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Performance times for *I Ought To Be In Pictures* are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$18 and may be reserved by calling 314/367-0025 or may be purchased on-line at [www.WestEndPlayers.org](http://www.WestEndPlayers.org).

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Libby Tucker (played by Chrissy Young, R) is having heart palpitations after learning that her new friend Steffy Blondell (played by Jane Abling) is on the phone to Columbia Pictures, where Steffy is employed. Libby has hitchhiked from New York to California to find her estranged father and look for her big break in the movies. It's all part of Neil Simon's *I Ought To Be In Pictures*, presented by West End Players Guild Nov. 13-22. For tickets and more information, visit [www.WestEndPlayers.org](http://www.WestEndPlayers.org) or call 314/367-0025. (PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN LAMB)



Libby Tucker (played by Chrissy Young, R) arrives on her father Herb Tucker's (played by Mark Abels) doorstep after a 16-year estrangement and sparks fly in the West End Players Guild's production of Neil Simon's *I Ought To Be In Pictures*, Nov. 13-22 at the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Blvd., St. Louis. For tickets and more information, visit [www.WestEndPlayers.org](http://www.WestEndPlayers.org) or call 314/367-0025. (PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN LAMB)

NOTE TO EDITORS: JPG files of these and other production photos can be obtained by e-mail at [wepgnews@westendplayers.org](mailto:wepgnews@westendplayers.org) or by phone at 314/504-0844.