

THE BACKSTAGE PASS

MYSTERY TO OPEN NEW SEASON



Players Workshop will open the 2026-2027 theatrical season with *Angel Street*, a suspense thriller by British author Patrick Hamilton.

According to director Lee Franklin, "The entire action of this play occurs in a gloomy house on Angel Street located in 1880 London. The action opens with a kindly, handsome Mr. Manningham and his seemingly fragile wife who appears to be forgetting things that have happened. She is convinced that she may be succumbing to the same fate as her mother who died in an asylum. She is then visited by a strange detective that awakens her to another possible reality. A reality that will shock her and force her to face the demons plaguing her. The action culminates in tales of murder, treasure, and ultimately justice. It is a thrilling and exciting melodramatic game."

In 1940 *Angel Street* was adapted into a film in England, but it wasn't until the 1944 American adaptation under the title *Gaslight* that the piece achieved cinematic history as one of the best of the *film noir* genre. It was nominated for 7 Academy Awards, winning for Best Production Design and for Best Actress for Ingrid Bergman in the role of the wife. It is also the play that gave rise to the term "gaslighting," a form of mental torture defined as "the practice of psychologically manipulating someone into questioning their own sanity, memory, or powers of reasoning."

Appearing in *Angel Street* are Adam Fauser as Jack Manningham and Kara Ewinger as Bella Manningham. Estel Walker portrays Inspector Rough, while Dorothy Schulte and Kiersten Cox portray the servants Elizabeth and Nancy, respectively. All are from Burlington, except for Schulte, who comes from Ft. Madison.

Director Franklin is assisted by Dev Rohr, and Michelle Huppenbauer is producing. Franklin also

gives a "big thank you to our crew and set folks. Without their dedication this show wouldn't be possible."

Angel Street will run at The Workshop, 1431 Grove St., on Oct. 2-4 and 8-11, 2026. All shows are at 7:00 p.m. except for 2:00 p.m. Sunday matinees on Oct. 4 and 11.

Angel Street is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

For more information, call the Workshop at 319-753-6623, go to the Workshop's Facebook page, or go to www.playersworkshoptheater.com.

THROWBACK THURSDAY!

On Thursday nights only, individual ticket prices will be rolled back to last season's rates—just **\$15 for adults** and **\$10 for students** for the show that night!

FROM PRES. FOX: Someone WILL be available at each performance of *Angel Street*, to sell season tickets or take your membership dues.

Of course, you can save time by not standing in line if you mail the fee for season tickets or membership to Players Workshop at PO Box 793, Burlington,.

Season tickets are \$60 for adults, \$55 for seniors over 65, and \$40 for students through high school. Membership is \$25 and all the volunteer work you want.

Season tickets can also be purchased online; however there will be a processing fee. Simply log into the PW website www.playersworkshoptheater.com and click "Ticket/Reservations" on the top of the home page.

AUDITIONS SET FOR DEC. SHOW



Players Workshop will hold open auditions on Oct. 11-12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop, 1431

Grove St., Burlington. for its holiday offering *Let Nothing You Dismay* by Topher Payne.

Director Gene Anderson is looking for a minimum of 8 actors—specifically, 4 men and 4 women, of varying ages. These 8 actors will portray 22 characters in a lightning-paced holiday farce about a young couple awaiting the arrival of their first child!

For more information contact director Gene Anderson at geneanderson3318@hotmail.com, go to www.playersworkshoptheater.com or the FB page.

Let Nothing You Dismay is produced through special arrangement with Best Idea Wins Inc.

SUPPORTING CAST 2026-27



The Players Workshop Supporting Cast is one of the primary fundraisers of the organization; donors will have their names listed in every program and newsletter, and on the website, for the season. Donations may be made in the following categories:

Usher \$25-\$99 **Stage Crew \$100-\$249**

Supporting Actor \$250-\$499 **Star \$500-\$999**

Director \$1000-\$2499 **Producer \$2500+**

The following have already joined the Supporting Cast for 2026-2027.

Star

Kevin & Angie Liles
Gail Sullivan

Supporting Actor

Gene & Joy Anderson
Carolyn Dorting
Bonnie Downes
Dr. Amy Groetz (Smile Shoppe)
Jon & Peggy Hart
Colleen Heibner
Kathy Schneider

Stage Crew

Cindy & Darrell Bachtell
David Beckman
Russell & Suzanne Benischek
Chad & Sally Bird
Robert & Connie Bowen
Dan & Cathy Cahill
Darla Fisher
Roger Griswold
Susan Hart
Ann Hass
Karen Hassel
Henry & Sue Hentzel

Terri Huddleston

Carol Janosik
Denise Johnson
Mike & Karen Johnstone
Tammy Kimmel-Wunderlich
Dorothy Leazer
Kevin & Diane Moeller
Ralph Parrish
Prugh Funeral Home
Mark & Teresa Shaffer
Jim Raudabaugh & Pauline Spees
Nancy St. Clair
Peggy Stott
Megan Wind

Usher

Judy Bartachek
Cindy Boyle
Tristan Brooks
Donna Carlsen
Dan & Lynne Carter
Jacquelyn Edwards
Russ Fry
Ruby Gerdes
George Gruenther
Robert Haines
Scott Hartje
Brian Haymond
Laurie Hempen
Dave & Melinda Hentzel
Harry & Linda Hoenig
Dean Hurliman
Faith Krause
Marilyn & Gerald Lancaster
Sandra Lee
Jean Link
Michael Miller
Lori Moore
Cheryl Noble
Linda Peitz
Pamela Pinkston
John & Lisa Pomberg
Robert Roy
Jane Sanford
Valerie Sanford
Karen Schumaker
Anita Stapleton
Lora Turner
Christine Williamson
James Wilson
Kay Wilson

You may join the Supporting Cast by filling out and returning the form at the end of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your support of Players Workshop.

PLAYERS WORKSHOP sends thanks to the following who made general donations since the last newsletter: **Margie Gossage, Kevin Levins, Lori Muntz, Kerri Neil, Doug Peters, Emma Reynolds, Mallory Vance.** Thank you for supporting local community theater.



DON'T FORGET SMUGMUG

SmugMug is an online platform (website) for photographers to store, share, and sell their photos.

This includes longtime PW photographer **DAVID BECKMAN**, and he has many PW production pictures available. David is also donating any proceeds from the sale of his pictures to PW.

If you would like to view or purchase photos of any of our recent plays, scan the QR code below and go to www.davidbeckman.smugmug.com. If you would like photos from an earlier performance, send your request to pw6623@gmail.com, and we will see if we have photos from that show.



Please remember that these photos are copyrighted and not to be shared. Proceeds help Players Workshop.

PW OFFICERS/DIRECTORS 26-27

Pres. Mary Fox

Vice-Pres. Kent Lewis

Secretary Michelle Huppenbauer

Treasurer Carol Hinkle

Gene Anderson

Joni Brainerd

Christine Claeys

Nikki Critser

Jody Ellison

Cody Flietner

Libba Flores

Amy Ford

Lee Franklin

Brittany Gerst

Jayne Gobble

Krystal Johnson

Anika Morton

Njeri Patric

Anna Short

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, contact Mary Weinand (mary.weinand@yahoo.com or 319-750-4651) to have your name removed from the mailing list. (Prefer an email version? Contact pw6623@gmail.com, to have the newsletter converted to electronic format.)

Calling All Actors, Zombies & Creatures of the Night!



Players Workshop has been invited to participate in Downtown Burlington's **first-ever Night of the Living Windows** on **Thursday, October 22, from 5:00–7:00 p.m.**, when downtown storefronts will come alive with spooky, funny, creepy, and theatrical characters—and we're looking for **volunteers** to bring some of that magic to life!

Volunteers could participate as actors in Halloween-themed storefront windows, spooky sidewalk characters interacting with guests, performers for the haunted carriage rides, or as Zombies in the **"Thriller" flash mob at 5:30 & 6:30 PM!** There is no set number of volunteers needed, so whether we have a handful of performers or enough to haunt half of downtown, we'd love for you to be involved!

Most window performers will not require formal rehearsals. "Thriller" participants will have practices beforehand, and carriage/storytelling characters will have a separate meeting to prepare, but it is all very doable.

This is a brand-new Downtown Burlington event, and creativity is highly encouraged. Whether you want to act, dance, scare, entertain, or simply get dressed up and have some fun, help bring Downtown Burlington to life...or perhaps, back from the dead!

For more information, contact Amy Moyner at amoyner@greaterburlington.com, call the office at 319-752-6365, or call her direct at 319-208-0056. Or contact PW's Cody Flietner at cruisemaster10@yahoo.com.

Editor: Bonnie Downes (catlady60450@msn.com)

Circulation: Bonnie Downes, Mary Fox, &

Mary Weinand

President: Mary Fox

Players Workshop

1431 Grove St. PO Box 793, Burlington, IA 52601

(319) 753-6623

Players Workshop
P. O. Box 793
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Post PD.
Burlington, Iowa
Permit 757

Address Service Requested

HONORARY SUPPORTING CAST DONATION FORM

Join the **Honorary Supporting Cast** and make a one-time donation for the 2026-2027 season.

Six Donor Levels Available:

Usher \$25-\$99

Stage Crew \$100-\$249

Supporting Actor \$250-\$499

Star \$500-\$999

Director \$1000-\$2499

Producer \$2500 +

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Donation Amount _____

I prefer my gift remain anonymous. _____

I wish to make a donation but do not wish to be listed in the Honorary Supporting Cast. _____

Send completed form to Players Workshop, PO Box 793, Burlington, IA 52601

You may also contribute by clicking on the DONATE button at the top of the PW website
(playersworkshoptheater.com) or using the link on the PW Facebook page.

Players Workshop is a 501(c)3 organization.