

THE
BACKSTAGE PASS



**THE ENCHANTED BOOKSHOP
 CLOSES TO GREAT APPLAUSE**

Players Workshop's Young Actor Production of *The Enchanted Bookshop* clearly demonstrates that the future of Players Workshop is in great hands, as youth of all ages came together to present an enchanting story that had audiences raving!

Congratulations to cast and crew on a job well done—you represented PW to the max!



**TICKETS ON SALE FOR SEASON OF
 "MUSIC, LAUGHTER, & FANTASY"**

Players Workshop season tickets for the 2023-2024 season, called "A Season of Music Laughter, and Fantasy" are now on sale, at the same price as last year, four full-length shows for \$45 for adults (\$30 for students through high school age) for the season. Since the regular price of an individual show ticket is \$15 for adults (\$10 for students through high school age), season ticket holders will be receiving a bargain of four shows for the price of three, with the added perk of being able to make advance reservations.

According to season ticket chairperson Jean Ballinger, ticket sales for the 2023-2024 season are being done differently from the past. She says "Like you, we [PW] are experiencing increased costs due to inflation, but we have found a way to keep our ticket prices from increasing for the upcoming season." Now current season ticket holders will be sent a letter and a ticket order form, enabling them to order their tickets and send payment; only after receipt of payment, will the purchaser be mailed the tickets in the amount ordered; included with the tickets will be a theater seating chart and directions for making advance reservations. In addition, season tickets may be ordered online by going to the Workshop website

www.playersworkshoptheater.com/ and clicking on "Purchase Tickets." As a bonus for those ordering season tickets online, Players Workshop will cover the processing fee, if those online tickets are purchased by Aug. 31, 2023!

ALL season tickets ordered, for which payment has been received by Sept. 10, 2023, will be mailed by Sept. 15, 2023, in plenty of time for the opening performance of *Sister Act*, the first play of the season. Tickets for which payments were received after Sept. 10, 2023, will be available at the "Will Call" at the theater.

(If people do prefer to purchase single tickets for a particular play, they can do so online, beginning the Wednesday of opening week for each play, and bringing the printed or digital receipt to the box office when arriving for the show.)

Players Workshop's season of "Music, Laughter, and Fantasy" is as follows:

Sister Act

Music by Alan Menken & Lyrics by Glenn Slater
 Book by Bill & Cheri Steinkellner

Additional Material by Douglas Carter Beane
 Sept. 22-24, 29-30, Oct. 1, 5-8, 2023

Pres. through spec. arr. with Music Theater International with all additional materials provided by MTI

A Little Christmas Spirit by Pat Cook
 Dec. 1-3 and 7-10, 2023

Pres. by spec. arr. with Eldridge Plays and Musicals
The Wild Women of Winedale

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten
 Feb. 9-11 and 15-18, 2024

Prod. by spec arr. with Dramatists Play Service
A Comedy of Tenors by Ken Ludwig
 April 19-21 and 25-28, 2024

Pres. by spec. arr. with Concord Theatricals

For your convenience, an order form is enclosed on the following page, if you wish to use it.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, contact Gretchen Lewis (319-753-0470 or kwlawyer@msn.com) 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.)



Season of Music, Laughter & Fantasy

SEASON TICKET ORDER FORM

Please send me the following season tickets for the 2023-2024 Season:

Adult tickets # of Tickets _____ @ \$45 each = \$ _____

Student tickets (high school & younger) # of Tickets _____ @ \$30 each = \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

Total payment enclosed \$ _____

Please mail my tickets as follows: (PRINT CLEARLY)

Name: _____

Address: Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

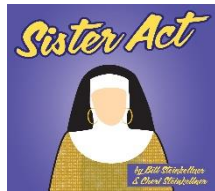
Email: _____

Or buy tickets online at <https://www.playersworkshoptheater.com/>

Note: Tickets will not be mailed until payment is received.

If you prefer to purchase your tickets at the theater, bring this completed form with your payment.

SISTER ACT OPENS "SEASON OF MUSIC, LAUGHTER & FANTASY"



Welcome to the convent, where you'll meet a most unusual "nun," as Players Workshop opens the 2023-2024 "Season of Music, Laughter, and Fantasy" with the musical comedy *Sister Act* on Sept. 22, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Based on the hit 1992 comedy film of the same name, originally starring Whoopi Goldberg, the musical *Sister Act* has great original music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Glenn Slater, book by Bill and Cheri Steinkellner, with additional material provided by Douglas Carter Beane. (Due to copyrights, none of the music used in the movie is in this play.)

Set in Philadelphia in the 1970's, the music ranges from Motown to soul and funk to gospel to disco. *Sister Act* is centered around Deloris Van Cartier, a nightclub singer who witnesses her boyfriend and his "crew" commit a murder. Terrified, Deloris runs to her old friend, Eddie, a policeman, who decides to put her into witness protection by parking her in a place he thinks Jackson will never think to look—a convent! But, once she is in the convent, she discovers the crusty Mother Superior actually expects her to follow the rules of the sisterhood—talk about culture shock!—and mayhem follows.

Director Matt Poling has announced the following cast for *Sister Act*: The part of Deloris Van Cartier will be played by Njeri Patric, and Mother Superior will be played by Nikki Critser. Playing the nuns are Anika Morton as shy Sister Mary Robert, Hadley Flener as perky Sister Mary Patrick, Susie Bray as choir leader Sister Mary Lazarus, Kaitlynn Broeg as quirky Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours, and Christa Ruther as elderly Sister Mary Theresa. Steve Poling portrays Monsignor O'Hara, who is trying to keep the financially-strapped convent open.

Jeremy Henman is good cop Eddie. Joe Harmon is Curtis Jackson, and his "crew" is played Tyler Boelter as TJ, TBD as Joey, Gene Anderson as Pablo, and Arjun Sundar as Ernie. Deloris' back-up singers Michelle and Tina are played by Phoebe Hicke and Carley Petersen, respectively.

Members of the ensemble include Sarah Spears, Kaitlin Hicke, Arjun Sundar, Phoebe Hicke, Carley Peterson, and Renee Zaiser, many of whom play a variety of minor roles.

Dale Kurth is assistant director, Karen Hassel is musical director, Nancy Vedder provides the music, Njeri Patric is the choreographer, and Bill Ell produces.

Others on the production staff are Linda Garwood (stage manager); Joanne Crouner (asst. stage manager); Randy Wischmeier (set design); Steve Poling, Bill Ell, Kent Lewis, Al Fabel & Randy Wischmeier (set construction); Robbin Poling (props); Matt Poling (light design); Chris & Carol Hinkle (light/sound tech); Gretchen Lewis and Cyndy Fabel (costumes); Libba Flores (hair/makeup); Linda Giffin (book holder); Dave Beckman (photo archives/cast); and Njeri Patrick (social media).

This "feel good" comedy runs at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., for three weekends: Sept. 22-24, Sept. 29-30 plus Oct. 1, and Oct. 5-8, 2023. All performances are at 7:30, except for 2:00 Sunday matinees on Sept 24, Oct. 1, and Oct. 8.

Sister Act is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International, New York, with all additional materials provided by MTI.

For more information call 319-753-6623, check out Players Workshop Facebook page, or go to the PW website www.playersworkshoptheater.com.

SUPPORTING CAST 2023-2024



The Honorary Supporting Cast of Players Workshop is a list of people who make a one-time donation which will be acknowledged in each newsletter and play program of 2023-2024 and will also be listed on the PW website. Donation may be made in one of the following categories:

Usher \$25-\$99 Stage Crew \$100-\$249
 Supporting Actor \$250-\$499 Star \$500-\$999
 Director \$1000-\$2499 Producer \$2500+

The latest individuals to join the new Honorary Supporting Cast, since the last issue of *The Backstage Pass*, are listed in **bold print**:

Star

Dr. Nathan & Stephanie Heubner

Supporting Actor

Bonnie Downes John Hart – Edward Jones
Mary Fox **Kevin & Jayne Gobble**
Colleen Heibner **Kadie & Evan Johannson**
KILJ **Kenneth McNeil**

Christopher & Christa Parry

River Ridge Dental Care—Dr. Nathan Heubner
Fred & Martha Wetzel

Stage Crew

A Next Degree Communication Company
Laura Arms **Michael & Beth Ash**
 Dan & Kathy Cahill **Barbara Drodz**
Libba Flores **Chuck & Ellen Fuller**
Jane Gustafson Bettina Jones
 Donna & Jan Logan Linda Messer
Sandy Murphy Milton & Laurine Paule

A Brief History

Players Workshop traces its history to the formation of the Burlington's Drama League in 1922 by a group of women. In 1927, the ladies were given use of the rear carriage house of the late Col. H. B. Scott which became known as "The Little Theatre on Grove Street".

Around 1932, men were admitted into the organization and the name Players Workshop was adopted. The group began a gradual withdrawal from the sponsorship of the Women's Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce and became its own entity. In the 1960s, the carriage house was replaced by the current building, which has been added to and remodeled several times throughout the years.

When you become an active member, you are joining the cumulative community effort to ensure that Players Workshop continues providing quality, live theater for cultural enlightenment and entertainment in the Burlington area.



There are lots of volunteer opportunities: performers, technicians, backstage assistance, facility maintenance and concessions to name a few.

Everyone is important to our operations.

If you don't have the experience but have the desire, we can teach you!

Whether it's for a few hours here and there or every day during a production,

We need you!

For more information about membership, contact Catherine at 319-601-1291 or any board member.



2023-2024 Active Membership Information

We need you!

Community Theater is made possible because of community support and involvement.

You can learn new skills, make new friends and share the magic of bringing stories to life. Be a part of your community theater.

Burlington's Live Theater Since 1932

**1431 Grove Street
Burlington, IA
319-753-6623**

www.playersworkshoptheater.com

Active Member Benefits

Becoming an active member means committing to participation in operation of Players Workshop. You may choose your preferred activities from the list on the application or if you see a need, bring it to the attention of a board member. We love inventive, creative people!

Annual membership dues are only \$20.00.

Members receive our newsletter with updates on Workshop activities. More time sensitive announcements and notices will be sent to you at the email address provided in your application.

You are given the opportunity to attend all regular season shows at no cost. As an active member you also have voting rights at the annual membership meeting, held in May, for board member selection, major corporate decisions, and yearend reporting.

You will have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping to promote high quality live theater in Burlington.

Funding & Governance

Operational costs of Players Workshop, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, are primarily met through ticket sales. Memberships dues, occasional small grants and contributions, and other fundraising activities also play a vital role.

PW is administered by a board of directors which meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Board members are elected by the membership to serve three-year terms.

Members are welcome to attend board meetings and may request that the minutes be sent to them.

Active Membership Application 2023-2024

Check all areas of interest

PLAY PRODUCTION

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performer | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound Tech/Lighting Tech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Properties Manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair Designer/Stylist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Director/Choreographer | <input type="checkbox"/> Makeup Designer/Artist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Producer | <input type="checkbox"/> Costume Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stage Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Seamstress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backstage Crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Book Holder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set Designer | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set Construction Crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Voice Coach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sound Designer | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light Designer | <input type="checkbox"/> Concessions |

ADMINISTRATIVE

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archives Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Design/Updates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House & Grounds Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work Days | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member & Community Engagement Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Box Office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Season Ticket Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Requests | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Reservations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Coordination | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play Selection Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sale |

Check areas of interest and mail or bring to the theater during the first show with your \$20 dues. If mailing, make your check payable to Players Workshop and send to:

Players Workshop
Attn: Membership
PO Box 793
Burlington IA 52601.

If you mail your application and check, you can pick up your membership card and receipt at the membership table during the first show.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Please check box if you would like to be notified of meetings by email instead of by post

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Do you have any special skills or experience you would like us to know about?

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 2023-2024 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.