

# THE BACKSTAGE PASS

## A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT!



The laboratory has closed, but Players Workshop applauds the success of the Young Actors' Production of *Dr. Experimentor and the League of Evil* by Charlotte Nixon.

It truly was a "youth" production!! Not only were the actors made up of area kids, but there were 3 junior assistant directors (young actors from previous YAP shows), and theater "kids" worked on set crew, stage management, hair and makeup, costuming and other backstage areas, which help make the onstage show run smoothly. We also send out a kudos to all the adults who made it happen.

The future of community theater in Burlington would appear to be in good hands.

## 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.

Set in 1880 Victorian London on Angel Street, in the Pimlico District, the play is a dark tale of a marriage based on deceit and trickery, as Jack Manningham tries to drive his fragile wife Bella insane, in order to conceal his own illegal activities.

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, Dorothy Schulte portrays the sympathetic servant Elizabeth, and Kiersten Cox is the flirty servant Nancy. All are from Burlington, except for Schulte, who comes from Ft. Madison.

Lee Franklin is directing, assisted by Dev Rohr. Michelle Huppenbauer will produce.

*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](http://www.playersworkshoptheater.com).

## TICKET SALES UPDATE—2026-27

Now is the time to buy your season tickets for Players Workshop's 2026-2027 theatrical season.

Although mailings have gone out to previous year's season ticket holders, you can get yours online or by sending back the filled-out form on the following page. Your season ticket covers all four main season shows: *Angel Street*, *Let Nothing You Dismay*, *How I Became a Pirate*, and *Silent Sky*. (It does not cover the youth summer show.)

Due to increasing production costs, the prices have increased slightly for 26-27. Costs for the season tickets are as follows:

Adult - \$60.00

Senior Citizen (new category) - \$55.00

Student - \$40.00

Individual prices for a season show are \$18 (adults), \$16 (senior citizen), and \$12 (student). Ticket prices for the summer youth production remain at \$10/adults and \$5/student.

Also, don't forget **Throwback Thursday**. On Thursday nights only, individual ticket prices will be rolled back to last year's rates—just **\$15 for adults** and **\$10 for students** for the show that night!

## Order Your Tickets to Adventure in 2026-27!

### Order tickets online

[www.playersworkshoptheater.com](http://www.playersworkshoptheater.com)

There is a small fee for debit/credit payments.

-OR-

### Order tickets by mail

Mail your check with this order form to:  
Players Workshop, PO Box 793,  
Burlington, IA 52601

**Yes! I want 2026-2027 season tickets!**

☐ Adult #\_\_\_\_\_ x \$60 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Senior #\_\_\_\_\_ x \$55 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(age 65 as of purchase date)

☐ Student #\_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(high school & younger)

☐ Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_  
(optional, but appreciated)

.....  
**Total** \$\_\_\_\_\_

.....  
**Send my tickets to** (print clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Required if you want to make reservations online*

*Cut here to return form*

**All tickets will be mailed in mid-September  
if payment is received by September 10.**

Patrons are reminded that **all evening shows will begin at 7:00 p.m.** The box office will open 60 minutes before the show. Matinees will continue to start at 2:00 p.m.

For more information on season tickets, please contact season ticket committee chair Jean Ballinger at [jean@myiowacpa.com](mailto:jean@myiowacpa.com) or at 319-759-3617.

## 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 the holiday offering *Let Nothing You Dismay* by Topher Payne

Needed are a minimum of 8 actors—specifically, 4 men and 4 women (varying ages)-- for a production that has these 8 actors playing 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](mailto:geneanderson3318@hotmail.com), go to [www.playersworkshoptheater.com](http://www.playersworkshoptheater.com) or the FB page.

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

## NEWS FROM THE COSTUME TEAM



Cyndy Fabel reports that significant progress has been made in cleaning and organizing the costume closet. Thanks to Christine Claeys, Steve Poling, and Kent Lewis for their construction/engineering expertise that allowed the crew to organize curtains, bedding, and pillows for the stage designers.

Although much has been done, much remains to do, so they are still NOT accepting new donations right now—"unless you have something truly unique which you think we NEED." Also, please DO NOT leave items on the stairs at the Workshop.

They also need more volunteers--specifically people who can help put costumes away after a production--they will train you.

Please contact Nikki Critser (319-572-1406), Christine Claeys (319-759-4512), or Cyndy Fabel (319-671-1228) with inquiries or help.

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SALE!



According to Garage Sale Chair Libba Flores, this year's event was "Another amazing success!!! She extended thanks to all who donated, helped with set-up/teardown, sorted, worked the sale, and, of course, made purchases. "We couldn't hve done it without you!!" All unsold items were donated to local charities.

The proceeds of \$2,310.30, will be used for projects to improve the PW theater. Last year's proceeds went to helping replace the lobby floor.

From Players Workshop--Thank you to everyone who gave of their generosity, time, and energy,

## 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 Supoorting Cast for 2026-2027.

### Supporting Actor

**Gene & Joy Anderson**      **Jon & Peggy Hart**  
**Colleen Heibner**      **Kathy Schneider**

### Stage Crew

**Prugh Funeral Home**      **Mike & Karen Johnstone**  
**David Beckman**      **Robert & Connie Bowen**  
**Darla Fisher**      **Roger Griswold**  
**Karen Hassel**      **Carol Janosik**  
**Denise Johnson**      **Dorothy Leazer**  
**Jim Raudabaugh & Pauline Spees**      **Peggy Stott**

### Usher

**Faith Krause**      **Sandra Lee**  
**Dave & Melinda Hentzel**      **Judy Bartachek**

**Donna Carlsen**  
**Russ Fry**  
**Robert Haines**  
**Jean Link**  
**Linda Peitz**  
**Jane Sanford**  
**Anita Stapleton**

**Jacquelyn Edwards**  
**George Gruenther**  
**Scott Hartje**  
**Michael Miller**  
**Pamela Pinkston**  
**Valerie Sanford**  
**James 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: **Cindy Boyle, Mary Fickel, Jane Housewright, Amy Sykes, Jennifer Davis, Donna Pindell, Marie Milfot, Joni Hartje.** Thank you for supporting local community theater.

**\*\*From new PW Treasurer Carol Hinkle**—If there are errors or needed corrections, please contact her at [pwtreasurer@outlook.com](mailto:pwtreasurer@outlook.com).

## FROM WORKSHOP PRESIDENT MARY FOX . . .

Players Workshop's online ticketing software recently added an option for patrons to round up their ticket order as a donation to Players Workshop. We offered this opportunity during our recent youth production, and we were thrilled to see how many people took advantage of it!

Fifty-six patrons rounded up their purchases, contributing a total of \$191 to Players Workshop.

We want to take this opportunity to say **thank you** to everyone who chose to round up their purchases. Your generosity helps support the many things that go into bringing theater to our community, from productions and costumes to sets and everything in between.

One dollar may not seem like much, but when many people give a little, it can make a big difference. We hope you'll consider rounding up your purchase the next time you order tickets.

**Every little bit helps, and every donation is appreciated!**

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## 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](http://playersworkshoptheater.com)) or using the link on the PW Facebook page.

Players Workshop is a 501(c)3 organization.