

BACKSTAGE PASS

IT'S TIME FOR



Players Workshop will open the holiday season with Pat Cook's delightful Yuletide fantasy *A Little Christmas Spirit* on Dec. 1, 2023.

Directed by Libba Flores, assisted by Jean Ballinger, and produced by Carol Hinkle, *A Little Christmas Spirit* is the story of J. D. Morse, a rather bitter, old businessman who has been looking for the "right" gift for his grandson. As a last resort, on Christmas Eve he wanders into Nick's Emporium, an old-fashioned store chock-full of all sorts of gifts and knickknacks. As he attempts to explain to Nick, the proprietor, just what he is looking for, he finds himself falling more and more under the whimsical old storekeeper's spell. Just when J. D is about to make his purchase, he runs outside to chase some kids away from his car. When he returns to the store, he finds it dark and quiet; then a cop shows up to run him off, telling him the store hasn't been open for 40 years! Find out how Morse finds a way back, not only to the store, but to a time 40 years ago when he was a younger man with a very different outlook on life.

Kevin Gobble plays businessman J. D. Morse, and Greyson Burnham plays "Jerry" Morse (J. D. as a 21-year-old). Kevin Titus takes the role of Nick, the holiday-loving Emporium owner. Jayne Gobble is Mona, an older woman who is perpetually sad while Claire King plays Mona when she was 40 years younger. Michelle Huppenbauer plays Nick's kindly wife Angelina, and Simi Khinda plays Sandra, Nick and Angelina's wisecracking oldest daughter. Dakarai Bell plays Kim, J D's daughter, who worries about her dad's lack of spirit. Connie Bowen portrays Officer Niven, the cop who is just doing her job. Lauren Johnson and Macy Tate will double the role of Mary, Nick and Angelina's 8-year old daughter, and Mercedes Cox and Serenitea Boak will double the role of Jenny, their 7-year old daughter.

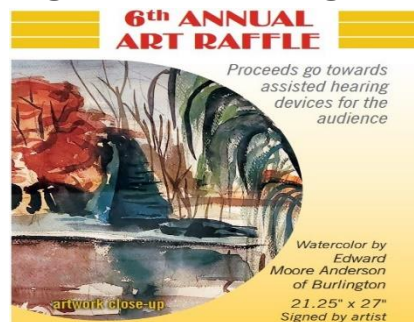
The Gobbles are from Wever, and the rest of the actors are from Burlington.

A Little Christmas Spirit will run at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., on Dec. 1-3 and 7-10, as the second entry in the Workshop's 2023-2024 "Season of Music, Laughter, and Fantasy." Performances are at 7:30 p.m., except for Dec. 3 and 10, which are 2:00 p.m. matinees.

For more information call 319-753-6623, check out Players Workshop Facebook page, or go to the PW website www.playersworkshoptheater.com. *A Little Christmas Spirit* is produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co.

"This Yuletide fantasy is full of humor and the holiday spirit and makes us all wish we could find a "Nick's Emporium" where life stands still and we can all truly enjoy *A LITTLE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT*."

PW'S ART RAFFLE IS BACK!



Players Workshop is holding an art raffle, the proceeds from which will be used to purchase assisted listening devices for our audience members.

Donated by PW member Gene Anderson, the work is an original water color painting of Lake Starker in Crapo Park, which was painted by his late brother, Moore Anderson. Moore painted it when he was quite young, in 1959. It's signed Ed Anderson because he had not yet begun going by his middle name, Moore.

The vibrantly colorful artwork is approximately 22"x27" and was recently reframed and matted by The Medium.

Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 and will be available during intermission at each performance of *A Little Christmas Spirit*. Tickets can also be purchased by sending a check to Players Workshop, PO Box 793,

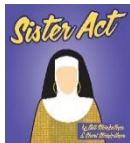
Burlington, IA 52601. (Be sure to include your address and phone number so we can contact you when you win.)

If you wish to simply make a donation toward the purchase of assisted listening devices without purchasing a raffle ticket, your donation can also be mailed to the theater's address, but be sure to include a note with your check to ensure your raffle ticket order or donation goes to the correct fund.

The drawing will be held during intermission of *A Little Christmas Spirit* on Dec 10th. You do not need to be present to win.

(*The Workshop extends deep appreciation to The Medium for the deep discount given on the matting of the artwork.*)

THANK YOU TO THE CAST & CREW OF SISTER ACT!

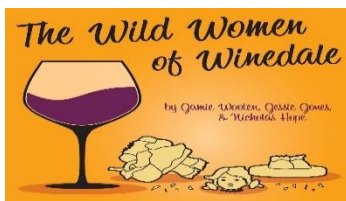


**YOU GOT THE WORKSHOP'S 2023-2024
SEASON OFF TO A ROLICKING START
WITH 10 GREAT PERFORMANCES
WHICH HAD THE AUDIENCES ROARING
WITH LAUGHTER.**

**MANY THANKS TO
THE HARRY AND VIRGINIA MURRAY
FOUNDATION
FOR THE GENEROUS GRANT WHICH HELPED
US TO PRODUCE *SISTER ACT*!!!**

AUDITIONS

SET FOR



Director Mary Fox has announced audition dates for *The Wild Women of Winedale* for Dec. 10-11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop.

Parts are available for 9 women. Auditions will take the form of cold readings from the script, and no preparation or experience is necessary.

Written by Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones, and Nicholas Hope, *The Wild Women of Winedale* is an exuberant, yet touching, comedy focused on 3 women—the Wild sisters of Virginia. This feisty, fun-loving trio of Fanny, Willa, and their quirky sister-in-law Johnnie Faye have supported each other through life's highs and

lows and now find themselves at a crossroads in their lives.

Character descriptions are as follows: Fanny Wild Cantrell is very stylish and energetic, Willa Wild is pragmatic and witty, and Johnnie Fay (Jef) Wild is a cyclone of southern energy. All are in the mid-50's and up age range.

Additional roles are monologues that may be tripled or doubled: Doreen, a powerful attorney; Betty, frantic and disheveled; sisters Glenda (somewhat overbearing and conservative) and Flo (conservative and mischievous); Nora, intense, spirited, and cheerful; and Edith, mild-mannered and hopeful. Age ranges for these roles are 40's – 60's:

Previous Jones, Hope, Wooten comedies PW has done include *The Dixie Swim Club*, *The Savannah Sipping Society*, and *Christmas Belles*.

The Wild Women of Winedale will be presented Feb. 9-11 and 15-18, 2024. It is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

For more information on auditions, telephone or text director Mary Fox (319) 750-6046; you may also go to PW's Facebook page or check out 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. Donations 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 Backstage Pass apologizes for the errors in the listing of the Honorary Supporting Cast members, which appeared in the last newsletter. Below is a corrected list; names of all those who have joined since June 30, 2023, are listed in **bold-faced type**.

Star

Carole Theesfeld (for technology)

Lillian Rubin

Supporting Actor

Joy Anderson

Beckman Law Office – David Beckman

Tim & Tonja Binder Dr. Michael Bush

Carolyn Dorting Bonnie Downes

Eva Ann Elmer Robert Hains

John Hart – Edward Jones

Wayne & Colleen Heibner Russ Leuck

Lnunning Chapel – Chip & Dana Readinger
River Ridge Dental Care—Dr. Nathan Heubner
Carolyn Schenk Fred & Martha Wetzel

Stage Crew

Jeff Abell – *The Burlington Beacon*
Cindy & Darrell Bachtell Dan & Kathy Cahill
Barbara Drozd (in memory of Jim Drozd)

Damon Gray

Dr. Amy Groeltz/Smile Shoppe

Carole Halicki Bettina Jones

Cynthia M. Leonard Kevin Liles

Donna & Jan Logan

Barbara McRoberts (in memory of Susan Diehl)

Linda Messer Milton & Laurine Paule

Lisa Pomberg

Prugh Funeral Service – Lindsay Freuhling

Tim & Criss Roberts

Mark & Teresa Shaffer

Matthew & Mary Shivers

Standard of Beaverdale

Earl & Peggy Stott Olive Sullivan

Rita Vineyard Mike & Renee Zaiser

Usher

Chad & Sally Bird Dan & Lynne Carter

Lois Close (in memory of Elsie McLaughlin)

Carol Copeland Mary Fickel

Russ Fry Jon & Sharon Graham

Barbara Hahn Harry & Linda Hoenig

Marlene & Keith Holsteen (David Miller Mem.)

Wayne & Dee Johnson Pat Mayle

Judy Pendleton Nancy Purchase

Betty Raines Mary Saye

Nancy St. Clair Judy Stevens

Harold & Garnet Swanson Kay Wilson

Eunice Winters

You may join the Honorary Supporting Cast by filling out the form at the end of this newsletter or the form in your play program.

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.)



THANK YOU to those who made financial donations to PW's general fund since the last newsletter: Kari Kulp, Karen Schumaker, Jennifer Baxter, Nicollette Dunn-Critser, Donna Pindell, Connie Schleif, Bev Sherbondy, Miriam Van Winkle, Sheree Stadler, Sandra Murphy, Judy Bartachek, and Henry & Sue Hentzel. **WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!!!**

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Fresh from her successful 10-show run as disco diva Deloris Van Cartier (aka Sister Mary Clarence) in the Players Workshop's production of *Sister Act*, meet **Njeri Patric**, one of the Workshop's newly elected members of the Board of Directors.

Hailing from Olathe KS, Njeri lists her occupation as "Chief Executive Officer/Director of Operations, Patric Family."

This is her first time serving on the Board of Directors. She wanted to serve "to help make a difference and hopefully help with youth recruitment." She currently serves as chair of the marketing committee and as social media coordinator for PW, to keep the public updated with PW events and activities via Facebook and Instagram.

She enjoys performing, but she also likes helping wherever she can. "I sincerely hope that we can get more people my age and younger involved in production and backstage positions, and increase involvement in our training. Anyone who wants to be involved in theater can learn a lot by being on the production side of things, not just performing!" She says her "husband and two daughters are my favorite people on the planet," and, when not doing theater or spending time with her family, she enjoys reading, singing, dancing (she was choreographer for *Sister Act*), video games, and learning new things like knitting and playing violin.

You can always find Njeri with a big smile and a positive attitude, and the Workshop is very lucky she has chosen to share her time and talent with them.

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Circulation: Gretchen Lewis, Bonnie Downes, Mary Fox
President: Kent Lewis
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(319) 753-6623



**From All of Us At
PLAYERS WORKSHOP**

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

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

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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.