

# THE BACKSTAGE PASS

## COMING -- DR. EXPERIMENTOR AND THE LEAGUE OF EVIL



Players Workshop will present the 2026 Young Actor Production *Dr. Experimentor and the League of Evil* by Charlotte Nixon from June 25 through June 28, 2026, at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington.

*Dr. Experimentor and the League of Evil* introduces us to Dr. Experimentor, a supervillainous mastermind, who must fight to maintain his membership in the infamous League of Evil; however, membership means defeating superhero Extremo, who happens to be his best friend! To make matters worse, Dr. Experimentor faces relentless pressure from Agnes and Abigail Anarchy, ambitious upstart villains eager for his downfall. Armed with his arsenal of ingenious inventions — minions, Vegetarian Zombies, Pacifist Ninjas, and Robot Soldiers — Dr. Experimentor faces an impossible choice: defeat his superhero or suffer at the hands of the League!

The cast is as follows: Will Baker plays Extremo, and Sam Reckling is Dr. Experimentor. The League of Evil is comprised of Abram Hartje, Avery Irish, and Austyn Deutch. Quinn Pranger, Madison Mitchell, and Chloe Williams are The Minions, while Laylianna Burk-Forsyth, Noah Snyder, Regina Critser, Ian Franklin, and Harlee Ayer are The Zombies. The Mutant Ninja Bunnies are played by Gianna Vaughn, Victoria Anderson, Ella Joyce, and Alla Plein; The Robot Soldiers are played by Chloe Carter, DonnaLynne Pappalardo, Seth Hansen, Cecellia Jefferson; The Street Toughs are Isla Heckert, Journey Carr, and Nora Brakeville; and The Mad Scientists are

portrayed by Allyson Hamilton, Lily O'Brien, and George Baker.

Show director Anika Morton is assisted by Matt Poling and Zach Hite-Reckling, and by junior assistant directors Brady Lenahan, Islia Rodeffer, and Sean Hansen. Robbin Poling is the producer.

Crew members include Alexis Rosler, Steve Poling, Krystal Johnson, Sophia May, Kaitlyn Broeg, Julie Hamilton, Nikki Critser, Aurora Critser, Cori Copeland, and Dave Beckman.

Shows will be at 7:00 p.m. on June 25, 26, and 27; the June 28 show will be a 2:00 p.m. matinee.

Tickets are available for purchase online and will also be available at the door on the days of the performances. Prices are \$5.00 for students and \$10.00 for adults. The box office opens at 6:00 p.m., except for the Sunday matinee when it opens at 1:00 p.m. All seating is assigned.

*Dr. Experimentor and the League of Evil* is presented with permission of Pioneer Drama Service.

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).

## IT'S GARAGE SALE TIME AGAIN



It's time again to go through those closets, basements, and attics because Players Workshop's annual garage sale fund-raiser will run two days, July 17-18, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. each day at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., and donations are needed.

Workshop representatives will be at PW on July 12-16, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., to accept donations. Help will be needed prior to that time to help set up tables, and many hands will be needed to get ready for the sale itself, even though nothing is pre-priced—customers simply give what they feel the purchase is worth. People are asked to contact Libba Flores, if they can give any assistance.

Also, if you need help with your pickups or have to drop off your items at a different time, please text or call Libba at 319-750-3533, to arrange a time.

People with trucks and SUV's are needed on Monday, July 20, to help clean up and haul leftover merchandise to Hopefully Yours and Goodwill; again, please contact Libba Flores if you can help.

Players Workshop thanks you for your donations and your help in making this work.



## PW ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Players Workshop held its Annual General Membership Meeting on Wed., May 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop.

The following were elected to serve 3-year terms on the Board of Directors: Nikki Critser, Lee Franklin, Brittany Gerst, Anika Morton, and Njeri Patric. Congratulations to all of them. PW thanks all who ran for the Board.

Pres. Mary Fox was elected by acclamation to another 1-year term.

Cody Flietner won the coveted Cuthbert award for a very late entrance during *Something Rotten*—an entrance so late that Tommy Caruso crossed the stage in character calling for someone to distract the audience from the long wait.

Pres. Fox reported on the Workshop's successful 2025-26 year. Below are some of the highlights:

1—ALL evening performances will now begin at **7:00 p.m**

2—Ticket price increases begin with the 2026-27 season. Individual tickets are \$18/adults, \$16/seniors, and \$12/students. Season ticket prices will be \$60/adults, \$55/seniors, and \$40/students. There will also be a Throwback Thursday when individual prices will revert to \$15/adults and \$10/students.

3—Improvements: new lobby flooring, new cabinets in make-up area, widened sidewalks; handrails coming

4—Supporting Cast donations netted over \$12,000, the art raffle brought in \$1600, the garage sale resulted in \$3200, the costume sale earned \$2300, and there were miscellaneous donations of \$2000. PW also received \$1500 from Rollen Giffin for the make-up cabinets, \$1000 from Bob Klein for *Something Rotten* costumes, and \$750 from Burlington Golf Club for the murder mystery.

6—The PW Mission Statement now reads, *To enrich the cultural life of Burlington and the surrounding area and to encourage social connection by entertaining,*

*enlightening, and educating through quality live theater.* The phrase “to encourage social connection” was added.

Many attendees stayed for social time after the meeting and enjoyed treats provided by some of the board members.

**PW will be conducting an IVRS workshop on July 9. Krystal Johnson is coordinating the event. Please say “yes” when she calls—it takes a lot of people to accomplish this event and it means so much to the participants.**

## AUDITIONS ANNOUNCED FOR



Director Lee Franklin has set the audition dates for the first show of the 2026-27 PW theatrical season. Auditions for *Angel Street*, a Victorian suspense thriller by Patrick Hamilton, will be held July 26 and 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St.

*Angel Street* is the play which gave us the term “gaslight;” in fact, that was the original name of the play, which was subsequently adapted to the Academy Award nominated film *Gaslight* in 1944.

It centers around a woman manipulated into questioning her sanity, due to her diabolical husband. The woman is aided by a loyal maid and a detective, while another young maid seeks to take advantage of the woman's situation.

Roles are available for 3 adult women and 2 adult men. Male age ranges are from 30 to 50; female age ranges are from 18 to 70.

Scene clips, which will be used for auditions, will be available in early July; you may contact the director about these and any other inquiries at [gleef1966@gmail.com](mailto:gleef1966@gmail.com), or call Players Workshop at 319-753-6623.

*Angel Street* is slated for production on Oct. 2-4 and 8-11, 2026.

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

## 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



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***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.