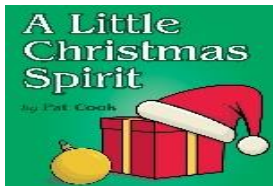


BACKSTAGE PASS

PLAYERS WORKSHOP HOLIDAY MAGIC 2023



A big thank you and job well done to the cast and crew of the Christmas fantasy *A Little Christmas Spirit* for starting off Players Workshop holiday season in a positive and entertaining fashion. Audiences not only laughed but also were moved by this enchanting story.

PLAYERS WORKSHOP'S KIDS STAR IN LIVING WINDOWS



Holiday magic continued when 16 young actors from PW were seen in the windows of PTV Accounting during the annual downtown Living Windows on Dec. 7

Under the guidance of Carol Hinkle, the self-created skit featured youth in Santa's Workshop, where the worker elf put the finishing touches on some wind-up toys. Then a toy inspector arrived to check things out—each toy needed a little more work of some kind; then the elf wound up each toy, and each toy did some kind of movement associated with that toy.

Since Living Windows ran for 3 hours, 3 groups of students each took an hour shift, so the toys varied; they included a princess fairy, a penguin, Supergirl, Superman, a dancing doll, a parrot, a storm trooper, a cowboy, and an alligator.

The students included Avery Irish, Allyson Hamilton, Aila Plein, Kara Plein, Lily Newsberry (1st shift), Aurora Critser, Derrik Martin, Brady Lenahan, Regina Critser, Alexis Roesler (2nd shift), Zach Joyce, Sean Hansen, Seth Hansen, Ella Joyce, Sarah Hansen, and Madigan Kennedy (3rd shift).

The audiences were large and appreciative, and PW extends its thanks to the participants and to Pete Vonivich and PTV Accounting for allowing the use of their window.

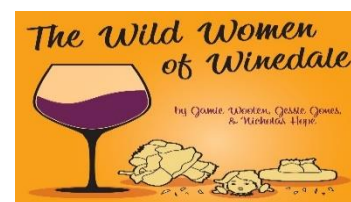
DATE SET FOR PW'S ANNUAL



Players Workshop concludes its holiday season with the annual holiday party on Jan. 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., when Workshop members and guests will gather at the home of Libba Flores, 1604 River St., Burlington.

Libba will make her homemade chicken noodle soup, and each person is asked to bring a food to share, his/her own drink, and a gift to pass along to a male, a female, or either. No RSVP needed—see you there.

FIRST SHOW OF 2024 SET TO GO!



Players Workshop will open the exuberant and touching comedy *The Wild Women of Winedale*, by Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones, and Nicholas Hope, on Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the Workshop.

Directed by Mary Fox, assisted by Catherine Hansen and produced by Al Fabel with Matt Poling stage managing, the play focuses 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 they really need each other now as Fanny experiences

a hilariously inappropriate reaction to her 60th birthday while Willa is so stressed-out from her nursing job she resorts to vodka and speed-knitting to cope and Johnnie Faye, determined to put her year of fraught widowhood behind her, desperately tries to find a man – preferably a man with a house since hers is somewhere at the bottom of a Florida sinkhole.”

The Wild Women of Winedale are Jayne Gobble of Wever as Fanny Wild Cantrelle; Jody Ellison of Carthage as Willa Wild; and Amy Ford of Mediapolis as Johnnie Fay (Jef) Wild.

Commentating monologues throughout the play will be performed by Carole Halicki (Doreen), Melissa Wood (Betty), Joni Brainerd (Nora), Liz Ebbing (Edith), Marie May (Flo), and Mary Weinand (Glenda); all are from Burlington.

Among the actors, Jayne Gobble, Jody Ellison, Carol Halicki, and Liz Ebbing have been on the PW stage before; the rest are newcomers to PW.

Other production staff are Kaitlynn Broeg and Christine Claeys, stage crew; Bill Ell, set design; Libba Flores, set decoration; Ell, Randy Wischmeier, Fabel, Steve Poling, and Kent Lewis, set construction; Nikki Critser, props and costumes; Wischmeier, light design; Lewis, sound design; Erin and Paulina Aguilera, light/sounds techs; Dawn Ebbing, hair; Julie Hensley, make-up; Ann Marie Anderson, book holder; Jennifer Fenton-Shuster, Njeri Patric, and David Beckman, photos.

Previous Jones, Hope, Wooten comedies done by the Workshop 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. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m., except for the two Sun. matinees on Feb. 11 and 18, when starting times are 2:00 p.m.

The Wild Women of Winedale is produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

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



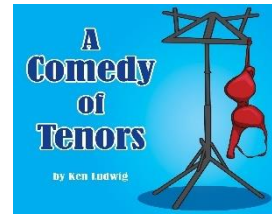
NEW INFO ABOUT ONLINE TICKET SALES – PLEASE READ!!

From Box Office Manager Mary Fox: Players Workshop will be using new ticketing software for the remaining two shows of the season. There were numerous complaints, not only from patrons, who were having difficulty purchasing tickets online with the previous provider, but also from those in the box office who were having problems making the program work correctly; “therefore, we decided to research other providers and

think we have found the right provider for us in Ludus. Ludus seems to be easier to navigate and much more user-friendly. We [also] hope to be able to offer more options with this new software next season.”

Patrons can find the link to order tickets online by going to the PW website, playersworkshoptheater.com, and clicking on “Purchase Tickets,” as they have done in the past, OR patrons may go directly to playerworkshop.ludus.com. Anyone experiencing any difficulty purchasing tickets with the new system is asked to please call the box office at 319-753-6623.

AUDITIONS SET FOR SPRING SHOW



Director Steve Poling has announced the audition dates for Ken Ludwig’s farce *A Comedy of Tenors*. Auditions will be on Feb. 18-19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop.

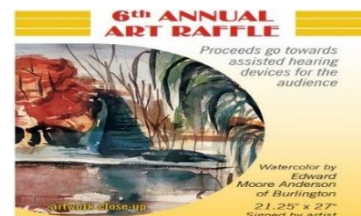
The following parts are available: 2 men in their 50’s (one must be able to sing); 3 men ages 30’s-40’s (all must be able to sing); one woman in her 50’s; 2 women in their 30’s (one must be able to sing).

A Comedy of Tenors is a sequel to Ludwig’s Tony award winning *Lend Me a Tenor*. The plot involves “one hotel suite, four tenors, two wives, three girlfriends, . . . a soccer stadium filled with screaming fans,” and mistaken identities leading to hilarious misunderstandings. The show is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

For more information contact the director at 319-750-0335 or at email 4polings@mchsi.com, check the website www.playersworkshoptheater.com, or go to the PW Facebook page.

ART RAFFLE PRODUCES FUNDS

The untitled water color painting of Lake Starker in Crapo Park, pictured below,



Painted by the late Moore Anderson and donated to the Workshop by Moore’s brother, PW member Gene

Anderson, brought in over \$1550 from raffle ticket sales, money which will be go toward the purchase of hearing assistance devices for Players Workshop patrons.

Tickets were sold during performances of *Sister Act* and *A Little Christmas Spirit*, with the drawing being held during intermission of the Dec. 10th performance. The winner was Betty Jo Kennedy of Farmington.

According to fundraising chair Mary Fox, during the last weekend of *A Little Christmas Spirit* “another organization loaned us their hearing assistance devices as part of our research into the best system for us. Those who tried the devices were very pleased with them.”

Players Workshop is still accepting donations for the hearing assistance devices; simply send a check to Players Workshop, P. O. Box 793, Burlington, IA 52601, and be sure to include a note that you would like your donation to go to this fund.

Players Workshop extends profound thanks to Gene Anderson for his generous donation, and a huge thank you to all the patrons for their generosity and support.

FROM THE PRESIDENT: “I need volunteers to serve on this year’s nominating committee for the election of board members and president at the annual meeting in May. If you are interested in serving on this committee or have questions, please contact me at kwlawyer@msn.com or 319-759-1414.”

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+

Names of all those who have joined since the November issue of *The Backstage Pass*, are listed in **bold-faced type**.

Star

Briann & Lynese Isom (hearing assistance sys.)
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
Lunning Chapel – Chip & Dana Readinger	
River Ridge Dental Care—Dr. Nathan Heubner	
Carolyn Schenk	Fred & Martha Wetzel

Stage Crew

Jeff Abell – *The Burlington Beacon*

Sandra Allgood

BNSF Railway Foundation (match K. Liles don.)

Cindy & Darrell Bachtell Dan & Kathy Cahill

Barbara Drozd (in memory of Jim Drozd)

Damon Gray

Dr. Amy Groeltz/Smile Shoppe

Carole Halicki Bettina Jones

Tricia Klinger and Associates

Russell & Annette Kuhlemeier

Gerhardt & Carmen Lachmitt

Cynthia M. Leonard

Kevin Liles Donna & Jan Logan

LPL Financial Services – Greg Miller

Marie May

Barbara McRoberts (in memory of Susan Diehl)

Linda Messer Milton & Laurine Paule

Lisa Pomberg

Prugh Funeral Service – Lindsay Freuhling

Tim & Criss Roberts **John & Kathy Schneider**

Mark & Teresa Shaffer

Matthew & Mary Shivers

Standard of Beaverdale

Earl & Peggy Stott Olive Sullivan

Rita Vineyard **Anita Wagner**

Mike & Renee Zaiser **Dorothy Zeazer**

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

Two Rivers Bank and Trust/Eric Benne

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.

Editor: Bonnie Downes (catlady60450@msn.com)

Circulation: Gretchen Lewis, Bonnie Downes, Mary

Fox

President: Kent Lewis

Players Workshop

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

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.