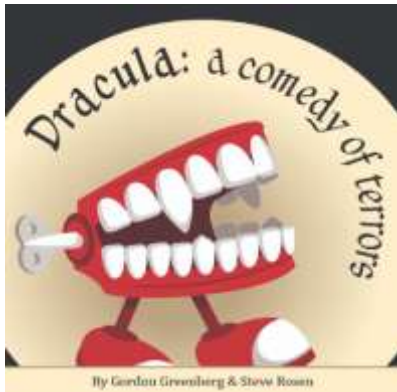


THE BACKSTAGE PASS

DRACULA: A COMEDY OF TERRORS TO CLOSE PW'S REGULAR SEASON



Players Workshop will close the official 2025-2026 season with *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors*, a hilarious, gender-bending blend of comedy and camp based loosely (very loosely) on the novel *Dracula* by Bram Stoker.

Written by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen, this version of the famous vampire story could be, according to one writer, the “love child of Mel Brooks and Monty Python;” featuring “a mix of clever wordplay, pop culture references, and absurd humor,” *Dracula, A Comedy of Terrors* “will deliver a curious appetite of laughter that audiences will simply want to sink their teeth into.”

The story follows Lucy Westfeldt and her fiancé Jonathan Harker. When Lucy’s sister Mina falls ill with a mysterious blood disease, they seek the help of famed, female vampire hunter Jean Van Helsing, to assist them. Their quest to confront Count Dracula leads to a series of comic misadventures, as six actors portray over a dozen roles.

The show is under the direction of Kara Ewinger. Adam Fauser is assistant director. Marlene Holsteen is the producer

According to the director, “In this fast-paced comedy, six fearless actors take on a ‘who’s who of who is playing who,’” as they transform “into a parade of characters throughout the night.”

The six actors are Dev Rohr (# 1), Lee Franklin (# 2), JoJo Munkee (# 3), Cody Flietner (# 4), Tyler Maddox (# 5), and Eva Salvador (# 6).

The show is slated for production on Apr. 24-26 and Apr. 30-May 3, 2026. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of the 2:00 p.m. matinees on April 26 and May 3.

PLEASE NOTE: This show is rated PG13. This production contains strong sexual content and adult humor

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

Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, NY.

FROM PW TICKET SALES COMMITTEE

JUST A REMINDER

Beginning with the 2025-2026 season, Players Workshop no longer allows patrons to use ticket stubs from previous shows (they had not attended) on other shows.

We thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

LAUGHTER VS. WINTER BLUES



For two weekends laughter won against winter’s blues as PW’s performances of *Sandy Toes and*

Salty Kisses had audiences howling at the antics of the characters inhabiting the Lovers Landing Beach Hotel.

Congratulations and thank you to the talented cast and hardworking crew of the show who made it all work. It's another feather in the cap of Burlington's only community theater. KUDOS!

THEY CAME TO THE MOUNTAINTOP



Below are excerpts from the posting on the Workshop's Facebook page that says it all:

“Huge THANK YOU to our incredible community for showing up and showing love at all three performances of “The Mountaintop” by Katori Hall at **The Capitol Theater** [sic].

“Your presence, your reactions, and your thoughtful conversations afterward reminded us why live theater matters. This powerful story landed because you were there to witness it, feel it, and carry it with you beyond the stage.”

Thanks to cast & crew and “Special thanks to Linda Lentine Clark & The John H. Witte Jr. Foundation for underwriting the cost for this production.

WE'RE HAVING A PARTY!



The honor of your presence is requested at our **2026-2027 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT PARTY!**

Players Workshop will hold its first season announcement party on April 11, 2026, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington.

The party is free and open to the public, along with invitees such as board and committee members, season ticket holders, and cast/crew of current and past PW shows.

“Mocktail Hour” will be from 4:00-5:00; guests will enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and mocktails, inspired by each production in the upcoming season, while mingling with the talented community that brings Players Workshop to life.”

The highlight of the event will be a video season-reveal on the Workshop stage, at 5:00 p.m. It will feature insights, notes, and behind-the-scene perspectives from the directors of the productions of the upcoming 2026-2027 season.

Those attending will also be given a singular opportunity: they will be able to purchase 2026-2027 season tickets at 2025-2026 season prices, **ONLY** at this party! (Note: The PW Board of Directors has voted to increase season ticket prices for 2026-2027.)

AND, the first 100 purchasers of season tickets during the party will also receive specially designed PW swag bags (one bag per household).

Please join us to “Celebrate the magic of live theatre, meet the artists behind the curtain, and be among the first to discover what’s coming next at Players Workshop!”

If you have questions,, call the Workshop at 319-753-6623, go to the PW Facebook page, or check www.playersworkshoptheater.com.

ANNOUNCING AUDITIONS



Players Workshop is announcing open auditions for the 2026 Young Actor Production *Dr. Experimentor and the League of Evil* by Charlotte Nixon.

Auditions will be held at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington, on Sun. & Mon., May 3-4, 2026, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The plot revolves around the supervillainous mastermind Dr. Experimentor and what he must do to maintain his membership in the League of Evil.

According to director Anika Morton, roles are available for a gender flexible cast of 27, and no special talent or preparation is necessary.

Dr. Experimentor and the League of Evil is scheduled for performance at the Workshop from June 25-28, 2026.

For more information, please contact director Anika Morton at 319-759-5708.

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

PLAYERS WORKSHOP'S SPECIAL MURDER MYSTERY PERFORMANCE



Players Workshop responded to an entertainment request from the Burlington Golf Club, and, on March 28, 2026, performed a readers-theatre production of a wild west mystery, which asked the audience to use their detective skills and participate in unmasking the murderer.

Under the direction of Mary Fox, the actors—Allan Allsup, Jean Ballinger, Chad Bird, Cody Flietner, Shelley Morton, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Jenna Sansone, and Renee Zaiser—took the audience back to Wyoming in the late 1800's, to the hanging of a villainous gang known as the Malevolent Seven. But, before the hanging, a murder occurs, and, in a lighthearted blend of mystery and intrigue, the players had to figure out who had done the dastardly deed.

The Golf Club gave a generous \$750 donation for the performance, for which Players Workshop extends heartfelt thanks.

SAVE THE DATE

PW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

There will be election of new members to the Board of Directors, election of the President, reports about the past season and the upcoming season, and reports about the financial status of the organization. All dues-paying members may vote.

RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED



Cindy Boyle was announced as the winner of the stained glass piece that Players Workshop raffled off in its annual Fundraising Art Raffle of this season.

The stained glass, produced and donated by PW's own Sally Price, incorporated "glass canning lids and a crystal dish, paying homage to our mothers and grandmothers who worked so tirelessly to feed their families."

Tickets were sold during the first two shows of the 2025-2026 season, and the drawing was held during the intermission of *Miracle on South Division Street* on Dec. 7. (You did not need to be present to win.)

Combining the \$1,445.00 in raffle ticket sales, and \$45.00 in raffle donations, the total came to \$1,490.00. These funds, along with the proceeds from last summer's garage sale and a generous donation from Rollen Giffin, means that the Workshop will soon be able to purchase the long-needed, new cabinets for the make-up area of the theater.

Players Workshop expresses their deep thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets; community support of the annual raffle has, in the past, helped put a new roof on the building and renovate the Workshop lobby. We couldn't do it without you.

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 pictures available. David is also donating any proceeds from the sale of his pictures to PW.

If you would like to view or purchase photos of any of our recent plays, scan the QR code below and go to www.davidbeckman.smugmug.com. If you would like photos from an earlier performance, send your request to pw6623@gmail.com, and we will see if we have photos from that show.



Please remember that these photos are copyrighted and not to be shared. Proceeds help Players Workshop.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, contact Mary Weinand (mary.weinand@yahoo.com or 319-750-4651) 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.)

PW SUPPORTING CAST 2025-2026



Players Workshop invites you to join the Supporting Cast for 2025-2026 season.

This one-time financial donation runs for the theatrical season, contributing significantly to the financial stability of PW.

All those who join will have their names listed in each play program and newsletter, as well as on the PW website, for 2025-26.

You may join the Honorary Supporting Cast for 2025-2026 by completing the form at the end of this newsletter or the form in your play program.

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 following have already joined for 2025-2026.

Director

Barb Bonnett (in memory of George Bonnett)

Rollen Giffin

George & Clara Klein

Star

Tonja & Tim Binder

Mary Fox

Lillian Rubin

Supporting Actor

Carolyn Dorting

Bonnie Downes

Barbara Drozd (in memory of Jim Drozd)

Dr. Amy Groeltz -- The Smile Shoppe

Jon & Peggy Hart

Judy Johnson

River Ridge Dental – Dr. Nathan Heubner

Brian & Sara Sink

Duane & Bev Sherbondy

Kathy & Kevin Wolfskill

Stage Crew

Cindy & Darrell Bachtell

Connie Bowen

Don & Kathy Butler

Dan & Kathy Cahill

Lois Close

Carol Copeland

Robert Haines

Kay Hanna & Tim Hutchins

(in memory of Susan Diehl & Bobbie Hillard)

Dean & Karen Hurliman

Carol Janosik

Renita Jarrett & Dave Dorethy

Mike & Karen Johnston

Cynthia Leonard

Donna & Jan Logan

Dean & Pam Marshall

Keith McNeil (in memory of Maxine)

Lori Moore

Ralph Parish

Prugh Funeral Service

Jim Raudabaugh

Chip & Dana Readinger

Carol Reed

Marlis Robberts

Tim Roberts

Kathy & John Schneider

Matt & Mary Shivers

Peggy Stott

Nancy St. Clair

Olive Sullivan (in memory of Mary Krohlow & Rod Reeves)

Henry Villareal

Kay Wilson
Merry Wiseman (in memory of Rod Reeves)
Tammy Kimmel-Wunderlich

Usher

Judith Bartachek
Jill Baumert
Sally Bird

Jackquelyn Edwards (in memory of Dave Edwards)

KC & Beth Fleming

Barbara Hahn

Zachary Hall
Scott Hartje

Karen Hassel

Melinda & Dave Hentzel

Linda Hoenig

Marlene Holsteen

Katherine Hoth

Maureen Hutchcroft

Jessica Irish

Ladonna Kitsch

Faith Krause

Shylah Lonahan

Pat Mayle

Linda Messer

Kenneth Morris

Linda Peitz

Pamela Pinkston

John & Lisa Pomberg

Connie Quee (in memory of Rod Reeves)

Jeff Rucker

Jane Sanford

Kathleen Schier

Dorothy Schulte

Anita Stapleton

Lora Turner

Kathryn Waterhouse

Martha Wolf

Calley Yaeger

PLAYERS WORKSHOP sends sincere thanks to the following who made general donations since the last newsletter: **Brad Cathcart, Joe Sattler, and John Wetteland.** Thank you so much for supporting local community theater.

FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE--

It's not too soon to start thinking about one of Players Workshop's best fundraisers, the annual



This year's event is set for July 17 & 18, 2026, at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St.

Donations will be accepted at the Workshop from July 12 through July 16.

So, start cleaning out those closets and attics now and start deciding what you would like to bring on down to the Workshop for sale.

Our garage sale is wildly popular with the community, and we couldn't keep it going without you.

PW's Officers and Board of Directors:

Officers

President: Mary Fox

Vice-President: Kent Lewis

Treasurer: Brittany Gerst

Secretary: Michelle Huppenbauer

Board of Directors

(in alphabetical order)

Gene Anderson - Joni Brainerd

Christine Claeys - Nikki Critser

Jody Ellison - Cody Flietner

Libba Flores - Amy Ford

Lee Franklin - Jayne Gobble

Carol Hinkle - Anika Morton

Njeri Patric - Anna Short



&



from the Staff of *The Backstage Pass*

Editor: Bonnie Downes (catlady60450@msn.com)

Circulation: Bonnie Downes, Mary Fox, & Mary Weinand

President: Mary Fox

Players Workshop

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Players Workshop
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Burlington, Iowa 52601

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HONORARY SUPPORTING CAST DONATION FORM

Join the **Honorary Supporting Cast** and make a one-time donation for the 2025-2026 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.