

# THE BACKSTAGE PASS

## LITTLE OLD LADIES IN TENNIS SHOES COMES TO PW STAGE



Players Workshop opens 2023 with the Sandra Fenichel Asher comedy *Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes*. The production will run Jan. 27-29 and Feb. 2-5, 2023; shows begin at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of Sunday matinees on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5—those performances begin at 2:00 p.m.

*Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes* is the story of Kate Corrigan, a successful, single, thirty-something career woman who “has it all together,” she thinks. When she moves into a new home in the suburbs, she discovers it is populated by a large number of elderly widows, led by the sarcastic Molly Blumenthal; as she meets these quirky ladies, she comes to realize that the life she has found looks a lot like the life she has been running from, forcing her to question her life choices.

The cast features Catherine Hansen as Kate, Shelley Morton as Molly, Derek Martin as Jeff Bernstein (Molly’s gentle, sensitive 11-year old grandson), Christa Ruther as Marsha Bernstein (Molly’s high-strung, meticulous mother), Karen Cahill as Mrs. Petrelli (referred to by Molly as Miss Fanny Feathers), Linda Giffin as Mrs. Feldman (obsessed with all things medical), Renee Zaiser as Mrs. Davis (the nervous, shy lady who sits by her window all day), and Kevin Titus as Bill Clayton (Kate’s boss and occasional boyfriend).

Winner of the Charlotte B. Chorpenning Playwright Award, *Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes* has been described by critics as “A sensitive comedy about friendship between generations” (*The Stanford Mail*); “Full of wit and laughter” (*The Sierra Madre News*); “You’ll become totally immersed in the lives of these folk . . . eminently suitable for the entire family.” (*Palm Beach Condo News*)

The show is directed by Scott Teater; assistant director is Brayden Butler, and producer is Brittany Gerst.

For more information call the Workshop 319-753-6623, go to [www.playerworkshoptheater.com](http://www.playerworkshoptheater.com), or check out the PW Facebook page.

Presented by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

## ATTENTION, IKEA SHOPPERS!



THE STORE IS NOW

Congratulations to the excellent cast, production staff, and crew who entertained PW audiences during 7 performances of the delightful *Lost (and Found) in IKEA*. And a big “thank you” to all who attended these performances.

## YARD SIGN HELPERS NEEDED

The Marketing Committee is tremendously grateful for all those who have supported Players Workshop by displaying this PW yard sign before each show.



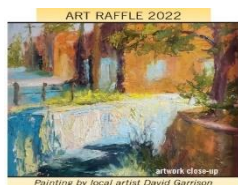
These eye-catching red, white, and black signs are a great promotional tool, to make people aware of PW productions.

The committee still has a number of these signs available to people who live on busy streets and can commit to placing the signs in their yards on the Monday before a play opens, and then removing and storing them on the last Sunday of each production.

In addition, sturdier yard stakes have been ordered, so, if anyone has a broken stake, it can easily be replaced. If anyone needs a new stake or would like to start displaying a yard sign, please notify committee member Mary Fox by phone or text at 319-750-6046.  
**Thank you from Players Workshop Marketing**

## RESULTS OF ART RAFFLE

PW congratulates **Carolyn Schenk**, raffle winner of the David Garrison painting.



Past raffle proceeds have helped to replace the roof and helped the organization survive the pandemic. The proceeds of \$1523 from this raffle will go toward new outdoor signage and improving the exterior of the building. The workshop sincerely thanks all who purchased tickets.

## SUPPORTING CAST: 2022-2023



Players Workshop announces additional members of The Supporting Cast. Those who have joined since the last issue of *The Backstage Pass* are listed in bold type:

### Producer

Barb Bonnett (George Bonnett Memorial)

### Director

John & Judith Gram

### Star

**Lillian Rubin**

### Supporting Actor

H. Eugene & Joy Anderson

**Anonymous**

**Dr. Anil Dhuna & Sadhna Jani**

**Judy Johnson**

Carolyn Dorting

Bonnie Downes

Eva Ann Elmer (in memory of Jim Elmer)

Mary Fox

Jayne & Kevin Gobble

**Wayne & Colleen Heibner**

Russ Leuck

Chip & Dana Readinger

Fred & Martha Wetzel

### Stage Crew

**Sandra Allgood**

Tim & Tonya Binder

**Madi Case**

**Vicki & Dick Dillon**

Barbara Drozd (in memory of Jim Drozd)

**Robert Haines**

**Thomas Hansen**

Betty L. Harter

**Alice Hillyer**

**Kela Lehman**

Donna & Jan Logan

**Barbara McRoberts (in memory of Susan Diehl)**

**Milton & Laurine Paule**

Marlis Robberts

Tim Roberts

Earl & Peggy Stott

Olive Sullivan

### Usher

Anonymous

Bray-Deutch Family (in memory of Mel Bray)

Lois Close

Russ Fry

Karen Hassel

Marilyn Henderson

Pat Mayle

Lori Moore

Morning Sun Community Volunteers (c/o Connie Gentry)

Mary Saye

**Nancy St. Clair**

Harold & Garnett Swanson

Kathi Waterhouse

Kay Wilson

Their gifts will be acknowledged in each newsletter and play program of 2022-23 and will also be listed on the PW website.

You may still join by filling out the form at the end of this newsletter or in the brochure included in your play program; or go to the PW website [www.playersworkshoptheater.com](http://www.playersworkshoptheater.com).

**Players Workshop extends sincere gratitude to all members of The Supporting Cast.**



## ANNOUNCING AUDITIONS FOR MYSTERY THRILLER

Director Kent Lewis will hold open auditions for a British thriller, *Murder By The Book*, written by Duncan Greenwood and Robert King, on Sun., February 5, and Mon., Feb. 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the workshop.

There are 5 characters in the play. Selwyn Piper (fortyish) is a novelist who writes murder mysteries. Christine Scott (twenty-something) is his secretary. Imogen Piper (fortyish) is Selwyn's estranged wife. Peter Fletcher (twentyish) is Selwyn's next-door neighbor, and John Douglas (in his sixties) is Selwyn's publisher. According to Lewis, all ages can be "fudged a little."

The play involves Selwyn's struggle to find a plot for a new novel. It is a "crisp, light-hearted" story that "unfolds a series of unexpected plot twists" and is filled with "witty word duels."

The show runs March 24-26, 30-31, and April 1-2, 2023, and is presented by arrangement with Concord Publishing.

For more information on auditions, contact the director at 319-759-1414 or 319-753-0470. Information is also available on PW's Facebook page and at [www.playersworkshoptheater.com](http://www.playersworkshoptheater.com).

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, contact Gretchen Lewis (319-753-0470 or [kwlawyer@msn.com](mailto:kwlawyer@msn.com)) to have your name removed from the mailing list. (Prefer an email version? Contact [pw6623@gmail.com](mailto:pw6623@gmail.com), to have the newsletter converted to electronic format.)

## CHRISTMAS 2022!



PW's participation in Downtown Burlington Windows event on Dec. 8 (PW was in the window of PTV Accounting) was a great hit! Co-chairs Carol Hinkle and Merry Wisemen wrote and directed the skit of Mrs. Santa Claus, elves, and a jack-in-the-box, who "comes to life" with the application of fairy snow.

Jack's box, built by Kent Lewis & Randy Wischmeier, with decoration by Karla Mundt & Mary Fox, displayed "Players Workshop—90 Years of Live Theater!"

Three casts worked in rotation: Cast 1 was Nikki Critser, Aurora, Regina, & Carson Critser, and Kendal Sawyer; Cast 2 was Merry Wiseman, Willow, Stella, and Liam Wiseman; Cast 3 was Jadi Zioui, Allena Kellum, Ripley Mena, and Sunshine Zioui.

The young actors had such a great time they want to do it again next year! Stella Wiseman (age 5) exclaimed, "I've waited my whole life for this!"

Brittany Gerst assisted by taking photos while Kent and Gretchen Lewis handed out brochures announcing upcoming PW events.

Overheard viewer comments included, "This is the best window!" and "The Players Workshop really has it going on!"

*The Backstage Pass* sends congratulations and thanks for such positive representation of Players Workshop.

**PW's annual Christmas party was a mellow gathering, with good fellowship and food in abundance. Many thanks to host Jim Beres who opened his home for the Dec. 17 gathering. Santa**

**Claus (Gene Anderson) coordinated the gift exchange, and a good time was had by all.**



## COFFEE AND STAGECRAFT

Players Workshop has begun a series of free, monthly training sessions on stagecraft in 2023. Anyone, whether a member of PW or not, is welcome to attend and learn what it takes to put together a successful stage production.

The presentations will begin in the PW lobby (1431 Grove St.) with hot coffee and an introductory overview, and then move on to backstage area.

"Costuming—From Conception to Stage" goes up on Sat., Jan. 14, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until noon, under the guidance of Gretchen Lewis and Cyndy Fabel. Attendees will learn all about coordinating the costumes to final presentation (including sewing, if necessary) for productions at PW.

On Sat., Feb. 18, from 10:00 a.m. until noon, Kent Lewis and Steve Poling will present "Set Design and Construction."

The remaining dates and topics will be announced at a later time. Text/call Merry Wiseman at 319-750-2957, for more information.

## THINK ABOUT IT

### From Member & Community Engagement Comm.

Because it is important to have as much experience as possible working at the theater, every person who is doing a job at PW--stage manager, props, producer, light/sound tech., etc.—is encouraged to invite a person interested in working in that aspect of theater to be their apprentice for the run of the rehearsals/show. Once a person has apprenticed several times, the person may be considered to take on that job in a future production.

Also, if you are volunteering at the theater in some capacity and have not become an "official" member, you can still join PW as a dues-paying member for the 2022-2023 season, by paying your \$20 dues and reaping extra benefits.

For information on how to do either of these things, text/call Merry Wiseman 319-750-2957.

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***HONORARY SUPPORTING CAST DONATION FORM***

Join the **Honorary Supporting Cast** and make a one-time donation for the 2022-2023 season.

**Six Donor Levels Available:**

Usher \$25-\$99      Stage Crew \$100-\$249      Supporting Actor \$250-\$499  
Star \$500-599      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.