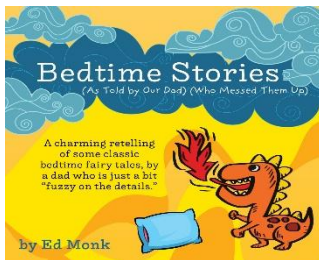


BACKSTAGE PASS

YOUNG ACTOR PRODUCTION LAST WEEKEND IN JUNE



Players Workshop's annual summer Young Actor Production is now in rehearsals under the direction of PW veteran Carol Hinkle.

The 2025 YAP production is the Ed Monk comedy *Bedtime Stories (As Told by Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up)*. It's Dad's turn to tell bedtime stories to his 3 rambunctious kids, but, when he gets a little "fuzzy" on the details, the stories take on unexpected twists.

The story-telling Dad will be portrayed by Sam Reckling of West Burlington; the 3 children are Wally (played by George Baker), Ashley (Regina Critser), and Katie (Ella Joyce)—all are from Burlington.

The 3 stories told from Dad's perspective are "The Princess and the Pea," "The Boy Who Cried Dinosaur," and "Rumpelstiltskin." Following are the casts for those stories.

"The Princess and the Pea"

Prime Minister ----- Noah Snyder, Burlington
Queen ----- Sophia May, New London
Prince ----- Brady Lenahan, Lomax, IL
Princess # 1 ----- Gianna Vaughan, Burlington
Princess # 2/Cow ----- Sarah Hansen, Burlington
Mindy ----- Avery Irish, Burlington

"The Boy Who Cried Dinosaur"

Wilbur ----- Antonio Morris, Burlington
Sheep ----- Zella Scott, Media, IL
Sheep ----- Chloe Williams, Ft. Madison
Sheep ----- Reese Johnson, Middletown
Sheep ----- Harlee Ayer, Burlington
Horace ----- Abram Hartje, Burlington
Mayor ----- Allyson Hamilton, Burlington

Mom ----- Viktoria Anderson, New London
Father ----- Jackson Scott, Burlington
Captain ----- Hayden Covert, Lomax, IL
Militia ----- Seth Hansen, Burlington
Militia ----- Kai Garrett, Burlington
Militia ----- Grayson Kershner, Danville

"Rumpelstiltskin"

Prince ----- Sullivan Harlan, Burlington
Poor Old Woman ----- Madison Mitchell, Burlington
Daughter ----- Journey Carr, Burlington
Rumpelstiltskin ----- William Baker, Burlington.

Hinkle's directing assistants are Christine Claeys, Anika Morton, and Kaitlynn Broeg. Al Fabel is the producer.

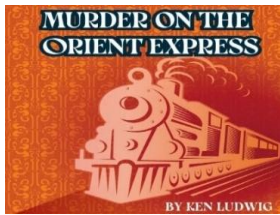
Set designer is Bill Ell; Ell, Fabel, Kent Lewis, Steve Poling, & Randy Wischmeier will construct the set. Lighting/Sound Design is being done by Matt Poling & Anika Morton; Light/Sound technicians are Natalyn Blakeman and Aurora Critser. Sean Hansen is stage manager, assisted by Alexis Roessler. Parker Fritz & Koertlynn Korver will serve as stage crew with Shelley Morton as backstage supervisor. Costumer is Nikki Critser; Dawn Ebbing, Libba Flores, & Marlene Holsteen will do hair; Julie Hensley & Krystal Johnson will do make-up.

Linda Giffin is the book holder. Mary Fox & Libba Flores will do social media photography, and David Beckman will do cast/archives photography.

This year will see 4 presentations of the "kids" show, instead of 3. *Bedtime Stories (As Told by Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up)* will be presented at the Workshop, 1431 Grove Street, on June 26, 27, and 28 at 7:00 p.m. and on June 29 at 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for evening shows and 1:00 for the matinee.

In a change from previous years, ALL SEATS ARE RESERVED! Reserved tickets may be purchased online at www.playersworkshoptheater.com. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for students (through high school). For more information, call the Workshop at 319-753-6623 or go to the Workshop's Facebook page. Tickets will also be sold at the door on the day of the performance. Unused season tickets cannot be used for this production!

Presented by special arr. with Playscripts, Inc.



WHEN THE ORIENT EXPRESS PULLED INTO THE STATION FOR THE FINAL TIME, IT BROUGHT A MOST SATISFYING ENDING TO THE PW SEASON. KUDOS AND MANY THANKS TO THE ENTIRE CAST AND CREW FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

WORKSHOP ANNUAL MEETING REPORT



Players Workshop's annual general membership business meeting and election of members to the board of directors was held Wed., May 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St.

Pres. Mary Fox was re-elected by acclamation for another one-year term.

Eight candidates ran for 5 positions on the PW Board of Directors. Elected to 3-year positions on the Board were (in alphabetical order) Joni Brainerd, Libba Flores, Jayne Gobble, Carol Hinkle, and Anna Short. Congratulations to them.

The Board would like to thank candidates Jim Brand, Linda Garwood, and Christa Ruther for running in the election.

The Board of Directors and Players Workshop extends a major thank you to Linda Garwood for her many years of service on the board and as past president. We will always be grateful for everything she has done and continues to do.

Congratulations to Anna Short on winning the Cuthbert Award for her performance in *The Hallelujah Girls*.

Pres. Fox gave the annual President's Report. Below are some of the 2024-2025 PW highlights.

- The year was a financial success; all shows made a profit, and both general donations and Supporting Cast donations increased over the previous year.

- More than 4000 audience members saw the regular season shows.
- Last year's garage sale brought in more than \$2000; because the sale has proven so popular, it will be held over 2 days in 2025.
- PW recently received a grant of \$2500 for sidewalk improvement, courtesy of the Des Moines County Community Foundation.
- Because last summer's YAP production of *Alice in Wonderland* sold out online for all 3 shows, the 2025 YAP production of *Bedtimes Stories (As Told by Our Dad) (Who Messed The Up)* will run for 4 performances, with reserved seating instead of general admission.
- PW will again participate in an outreach program with IVRS (Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services); this year's event will be on July 9 at the Workshop; volunteers needed; contact Carol Hinkle.
- The costume committee (C. Fabel, N. Critser, A. Cogrove, and C. Claeys) have been working nonstop to attain their goal of sorting, weeding, and organizing the costume area; great strides have already been made, and they are considering hosting a costume-only garage sale.
- The lobby has a new refrigerator; we are still on track to replace the lobby floor with commercial grade flooring; there also plans to open up the box office area.
- The season ended with 70 paid members; dues will increase to \$25 for 2025-26. The committee will provide entertainment for the Iowa Red Hat Convention on June 14.
- More people are being added to the set building crew so the same guys don't have to keep doing it. This needs to continue so new and younger people can learn these special skills, as building a set is different from any other type of carpentry.
- Merry Wiseman has agreed to chair the Archives Committee for the remainder of this year.
- The board approved a motion to elect plays 18 months in advance instead of only 6 months, so a transition plan to do this was put into place.
- House and Grounds Committee major projects include replacing lobby floor, box office revamp, & sidewalk improvements (including new fence), in addition to their regular duties.
- PW is a member of the SEIA Arts Collective; as part of that Kent Lewis will be directing *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall, a re-imagining of events the night before the assassination of MLK, Jr. It will be presented during Black History

Month, Feb. 2026; this is a joint project between PW and the Capitol Theater.

- The Board announced the season for 2025-26.

Following the meeting, a group photo was taken of the 24-25 board members and the 25-26 members for the PW archives.

A final human interest story from Pres. Mary Fox. This occurred during the run of *The Hallelujah Girls*. During intermission of one of the performances, a lady brought a diamond ring to the box office, saying she had found it in the restroom. The next day, someone called, asking if we'd found a set of wedding rings. They were ecstatic to learn that we had them. When the daughter came to pick them up, she told us they belonged to her mother, who had been devastated when she realized they were missing. She had been married to her husband for 63 years, and the day she lost them was the anniversary of his death. They sent a card and a donation to us, saying they had "always known how wonderful Players Workshop people are . . . now they know just how wonderful," and thanking us for making their mom whole again. Pres. Fox stated "I hope the lady that turned in the rings at the box office reads this and learns how much this little act of kindness meant to someone." We hope she does, too.

ANNOUNCING!



PLAYERS WORKSHOP SEASON 2025-2026

Players Workshop is pleased to announce the new theatrical season for 2025-2026. Below are the 4 plays selected for presentation.

Something Rotten (Musical Farce)

Book by Karey Kirkpatrick & John O'Farrell
Music & Lyrics by
Wayne Kirkpatrick & Karey Kirkpatrick
Director: Scott Teater

Sept 19-21, 26-28, & Oct 2-5, 2025

Synopsis: Welcome to the Renaissance as the Bottom Brothers are desperate to write a hit play, but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as "The Bard," aka Shakespeare.

(Pres. through spec arr. with MTI, NY)

Miracle on South Division Street

(Comedy/Drama)

by Tom Dudzick

1m/3w

Director: Mary Fox

Dec. 5-7, 11-14, 2025

Synopsis: The Novak family have always known they were special, ever since the Christmas miracle of 1942; however, when daughter Ruth reveals her plan to tell the family secret to the world, the family's faith is shaken to the core.

(Pres. through spec. arr. with Playscripts, Inc., NY.)

Sandy Toes and Salty Kisses

(Comedy)

by Michael Parker & Susan Parker

4m/3w

Director: Libba Flores

Feb. 20-22, Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2026

Synopsis: When Audrina inherits the Lovers' Landing Beach Hotel, she discovers that hotel manager Uncle Bubba is running a variety of "extra-curricular activities," at this popular wedding destination site.

(Pres. through spec. arr. with Concord Theatricals, NY)

Dracula: A Comedy of Terror

(Comedy "Scarefest")

by Gordon Greenbert & Steve Rosen

Cast 5-20 (any gender)

Director: Steve Poling

Apr. 24-26, Apr. 30-May 3, 2026

Synopsis: Take the legendary vampire tale and toss it in a blender with Mel Brooks, Monty Python, and *The 39 Steps*, and you have a laugh-out-loud romp, as Lucy Westfeld and fiancé Jonathan Harker enlist the aid of vampire hunter Dr. Jean Van Helsing to find a cure for a mysterious "blood disease."

(Pres. through spec. arr. with Concord Theatricals, NY)

All shows will be presented at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St.; evening shows will be at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees will begin at 2:00 p.m.

PLAYERS WORKSHOP ANNUAL



Players Workshop will hold its annual garage sale at the Workshop, 1431 Grove Street, on July 18-19, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Please note the sale is

running for TWO days this year, since it has proven to be so popular with our customers.)

Most items are not pre-priced—customers simply give what they think the purchase is worth—and a \$1.00 bag sale runs on Sat., July 19, from noon until 2:00 p.m.

Donations of all kinds are needed to make the sale a success, so gather up those unused, still-in-great-shape items in your closets, garage, and basement, load up your car, and bring your donations to the Workshop, on July 13-17, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. OR, if you need help with your pickups or have to drop off your items at a different time, just text or call Libba at 319-750-3533, and she will be happy to assist you.

(As a reminder, we cannot accept televisions or computer equipment.)

Helpers are needed to set up the sale, work during the sale, and tear down after it's all over, so, again, contact Libba Flores at 319-750-3533, to volunteer—even a few hours will help.

As in the past, proceeds from the sale will go toward updating the theater—in this case, replacing the old lobby floor.

Thank you in advance for helping us build a bigger, bolder theater.

PW LOSES A GENTLE GIANT



Players Workshop has lost another member—Rodney “Rod” Reeves passed away on April 26, 2025.

The tall, bearded, burly guy with the ever-present grin was a former member of the board of directors and had served on several committees. He was currently responsible for securing volunteers to man the phones and take reservations in the week leading up to and during the runs of PW shows. I remember when I had that responsibility and wanted to pass it on to someone else, Rod stepped up and agreed to do it, with that ever-present grin.

He wasn't interested in acting in shows, but he was always there to help in the “front of the house,” whether taking tickets or working concessions—I don't know how many people he taught to use what was, at one

time, the temperamental coffeemaker in the concession stand, but I was one of them. He had a lot of patience!

An Iowa farm boy and 4-H member, he graduated from the U of I in 1975. A lover of the arts, he played in a band, was a radio broadcaster, was a theater manager, and loved to sing—he was a font of music trivia so you always wanted him on your trivia team! He was a published poet and a longtime member of both The Society of Great River Poets and the Iowa Poetry Association.

Rod loved people and believed in giving back to his community. He could be counted on to drive people to church and doctor appointments when they couldn't drive themselves (he did so for me numerous times). He was a member of RSVP and Des Moines County Historical Society, and volunteered with Transitions. He gave blood his entire life and was justly proud of the many gallons he had donated over the years.

Rod always believed in helping where he could and was always there when you needed him. PW was lucky to have had him as long as they did—he will be sorely missed.



GET YOUR PICTURES HERE!

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.)

REMEMBER: The USPS charges PW for every returned newsletter; they also will not automatically forward your newsletter, so, if your address changes, please inform Mary Weinand, so changes can be made to the mailing list. It saves us money and ensures you continue to receive *The Backstage Pass*.

PW SUPPORTING CAST 2024-2025



Players Workshop wishes to thank all who joined the Supporting Cast for 2024-2025.

Names of all those who have joined since the last newsletter are listed in bold face type.

Director

Barbara Bonnett **Mary Eipert & Steve Rowland**
Carole Theesfeld

Star

Tim & Tonja Binder

BNSF Railway Foundation (matching Kevin Liles' donation)

Mary Fox **Shirley Lindell**
Kevin Liles Lillian Rubin

Supporting Actor

Sandra Allgood David Beckman
Dan & Kathy Cahill Carolyn Dorting
Bonnie Downes Eva Ann Elmer
Jon Hart Wayne & Colleen Heibner
Nathan & Stephanie Heubner Marlene Holsteen
Judith Johnson Donald Kellar
Carol Kennedy Russ Leuck
Chip & Dana Readinger Tim Roberts
Fred & Martha Wetzel Kimberly Wittkamp

Stage Crew

Barb & David Acord Allan G. Allsup Joy Anderson
Cindy & Darrell Bachtell Connie Bowen
Joni Brainerd Jim & Sandy Carter
Lois A. Close Carol Copeland
Barbara Drodz (in memory of Jim Drodz)
F & M Bank and Trust Mary & Bill Fortin
Becky Foy Roger & Lori Griswald
Dr. Amy Groeltz – Smile Shoppe Robert Haines
Carole Halicki Barbara J. Hand
Harry & Linda Hoenig Dean & Karen Hurliman

Kaye Hanna & Tim Hutchins

Char James

Carol Janosik

Denise Johnson Gerhardt & Carmen Lachnitt

Cynthia M. Leonard (in memory of Mark T. Leonard)

Tammy Lohmann Mary Marsh Ronald Marshall

Linda Messer Paula S. Peterson

John & Lisa Pomberg Milton & Laurie Paule

Carol J. Reed Rheinschmidt's Flooring America

Carol Rutenbeck (in memory of Bobbie Hillard & Dan Reppert II)

John & Kathy Schneider Teresa, Mark, & Pat Shaffer

Sara Sink Pauline Spees & Jim Raudabaugh

Nancy StClair Wayne & Nancy Tolander

Keith Turrill Peggy & Earl Stott

Kathy Wolfskill Renee Zaiser-Razzle Travel

Usher

Ericka Anspach Judy Bartachek Russell Benischek

Chad & Sally Bird Lynne Carter

Lois Close (in memory of Sandra Nolte)

Joyce & Paul Dennison Jaquelyn Edwards

Sharon Eisenmayer Mary Fickel Lori Fry

Russ Fry Susan Geren Lyle & Janice Gibson

Barbara Hahn Katherine M. Hoth

Cami Hudson Maureen Hutchcraft

Dee & Wayne Johnson Krystal Johnson

Dorothy Leazer Pat Mayle Mary McManis

Lucinda Milder Ryan Nagrocki Kendra Robertson

Kathleen Schier Keith Schultz, Sr.

Bev & Duane Sherbondy Brett Shollenbarger

Jyll & Paul Sly Laura Sly Anita Stapleton

David Teater Larry & Linda Turley

Henry Villareal Christine Williamson

Kay Wilson Eunice Winters

All those who joined had their names listed in each play program and newsletter, as well as on the PW website, for 2024-25.

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.

PLAYERS WORKSHOP thanks these additional patrons for their financial donations to Players Workshop: **Sarah Smith, Meg Rose, Laura Crawford.**

IN MEMORIAM.....

Thank you to the following for their memorial donations: **RALPH AND NANCY MONTRONE** in memory of **Rod Reeves;**

Editor: Bonnie Downes (catlady60450@msn.com)

Circulation: Bonnie Downes, Mary Fox, Mary Weinand

President: Mary Fox
Players Workshop

1431 Grove St. PO Box 793, Burlington, IA 52601
(319) 753-6623

Players Workshop
P. O. Box 793
Burlington, Iowa

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 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.