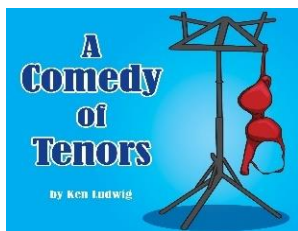


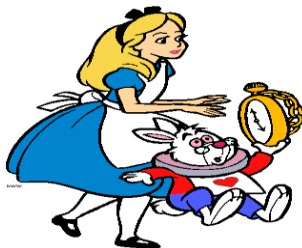
BACKSTAGE PASS

LAUGHS ABOUND AS "TENORS" END REGULAR SEASON



Congratulations and many thanks to the entire cast and crew of *A Comedy of Tenors*, who brought a spectacular, laugh-filled conclusion to the 23-24 regular show season. From positive reviews to spectacular performances night after night, this show demonstrated what good community theater is all about. What a wonderful way to end the season! Bravo for a job well done!

REHEARSALS UNDERWAY FOR PW'S SUMMER PRODUCTION OF *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*



More than 90 area youth turned out to audition for the PW Young Actor Production of *Alice in Wonderland*, adapted from the Lewis Carroll classic by Joni Brainerd, Christine Claeys, Libba Flores, and Carol Hinkle. Hard decisions had to be made, but the following were chosen for the June performance:

Alice: Avery Irish
Mary: Koertlynn Korver
White Rabbit: Ella Joyce
Caterpillar: Audrey Howe
Tweedle Dee: Zach Joyce

Tweedle Dum: Sean Hansen
Cheshire Cat: William Baker and George Baker
Hatter: Derrick Martin
March Hare: Brady Lenahen
Dormouse: Regina Critser
Humpty Dumpty: Mason Schaley
Queen of Hearts: Evelyn Yenchko
King of Hearts: Thaddius Boak
Jack of Hearts: Grayson Kershner
Cook: Madigan Kennedy

Flowers: Lily Newberry, Austyn Deutch, Macy Tate, Georgia Riffel, Aurora Critser, Justine Schaley, Annemarie Baxter, Kaya Plein, Claire Yenchko
Cards: Allyson Hamilton, Aila Plein, Sarah Hansen, Islia Rodeffer, Hayden Covert, Gretta Hoth, Hudson Covert, Seth Hansen

All these beloved Lewis Carroll characters are scheduled to come to life on the PW stage on June 21 and 22 at 7:00 p.m. and on June 23 at 2:00 p.m. **(Please note the special show times for the evening performances!)**

The show will be directed by Christine Claeys, assisted by Carol Hinkle and Libba Flores. Mary Fox will produce the show.

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for students and are now available for purchase online; otherwise, they may be purchased at the door. **There is NO reserved seating.**

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

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING HELD MAY 8



Players Workshop's annual general membership's business meeting was held at the Workshop on May 8, 2024, with Pres. Kent Lewis

presiding. Thirty-six dues-paying members were present to vote. There was no electronic voting.

Pres. Lewis presented the annual “State of the Theater” report. Below are some of the highlights.

- 2024 saw a total audience attendance of 4044.
- Season ticket sales totaled 670 and over 1600 tickets were sold online.
- Supporting cast donations totaled almost \$14,000 for 2023-2024.
- Exterior signage was upgraded, the exterior of the theater was painted, and the garage door on the storage building was replaced and a cattle gate installed in front of it, to discourage future vandalism.
- Ludus became the new online ticket vendor system and has worked much better than the former one.
- PW has joined with other art organizations in Southeast Iowa, to participate in the Southeast Iowa Arts Collective, which is designed to promote all of the arts in this area.
- Because Dan Meade, who has faithfully distributed the Workshop’s promotional posters for years will no longer be able to continue this, volunteers are needed to replace him.

Pres. Lewis concluded by saying “I am grateful for all of the work that you as members do to contribute to our theater in whatever capacity you have been able to contribute. It takes a village to run a theater and you are our village.”

The following individuals had accepted nominations to run for the PW Board of Directors: Gene Anderson, Christine Claeys, Jody Ellison, Amy Ford, Michelle Huppenbauer, Chris Jackson, and Christa Ruther. Karla Mundt later asked that her nomination be withdrawn. Member Jeffrey Rodriguez was nominated from the floor. Each of the candidates briefly presented their reasons for running.

Congratulations to the five who were elected to serve 3-year terms on the Board: Gene Anderson (incumbent), Christine Claeys, Jody Ellison, Amy Ford, and Jeffrey Rodriguez.

Players Workshop thanks outgoing board members Hadley Flener, Chris Jackson, Karla Mundt, and Randy Wischmeier for their service to Players Workshop and the Board of Directors.

Incumbent President Kent Lewis and former PW President Mary Fox both ran for the office of President. Both gave oral presentations about what they felt they had accomplished in the past and what their projected goals were for the future of Players Workshop. When the votes

were counted, Mary Fox was the new President of Players Workshop.

The Board of Directors of Players Workshop extends its gratitude and many thanks to Kent Lewis for his service as President; he will now assume the office of Vice-President.

The Board of Directors extends thanks to the nominating committee of Bill Ell (chair), Libba Flores, Mary Fox, and Merry Wiseman, for their hard work.

Jayne Gobble was presented with the Cuthbert Award, for her hilarious turn in *The Wild Women of Winedale*, when she kept accidentally throwing objects into the audience instead of to her castmates.

The Board of Directors thanks all the members who gave of their time to attend the meeting.

BOBBIE HILLARD AND CAROL HINKLE HONORED WITH COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS



The awards luncheon for the 2024 Mayors' Volunteer Awards was held at the Cornerstone Event Center, Burlington, on Saturday, April 13, 2024, and two of Players Workshop’s finest, Bobbie Hillard and Carol Hinkle, were honored.

The Mayors’ Volunteer Awards, begun in 2009, were started to “shine a spotlight on the exceptional volunteers who make a difference every day,” according to their Facebook page. Organized annually by the Community Volunteer Alliance, a coalition of area volunteer coordinators and the Burlington United Way, their shared mission is to “cultivate a strong community volunteer base and recognize those who exemplify the spirit of giving back.” Awards are available in seven categories. Bobbie and Carol were both nominated by Players Workshop.

Bobbie Hillard, PW stalwart, was named the winner in the Cultural/Performing Arts category, which “honors individuals whose passion and commitment to cultural enrichment and performing arts have significantly enhanced the artistic landscape, fostering creativity and community engagement.” Bobbie has spent a lifetime contributing to the Workshop, whether through acting, singing, directing, producing, attending— wherever and whenever she was needed, Bobbie was there. Her vibrant laugh and sparkling personality lit up a room and made the shyest person feel welcome. This is certainly an honor well-deserved.

Carol Hinkle was named the recipient in the Education category, which “recognizes the outstanding dedication and impactful contributions of individuals who have generously volunteered their time and expertise in schools and other education-focused organizations, enriching the learning experiences and fostering academic success for students.” Carol was honored for her work in children’s theater; she not only was the guiding force behind the development of PW’s Young Actor Productions, but also works with area schoolchildren, to foster their interest in acting, creating future generations of theater lovers and participants. Carol is a worthy recipient and deserving of having her work recognized by the community.

Players Workshop is so proud of these two ladies for shining a spotlight on the value of theater in the community.

AUDITIONS

AUDITION DATES SET FOR FIRST SHOW OF 2024-2025

Director Lee Franklin will hold open auditions for *Little Shop of Horrors*, which will kick off the 2024-2025 season of Players Workshop, on July 21, 23, and 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St.

Little Shop of Horrors is a horror-comedy rock musical, featuring music by Alan Menken with book and lyrics by Howard Ashman. It tells the story of the nerdy Seymour and an unusual plant with a personality all its own.

Parts are available for 3 males, 4 females, and, of course, the Plant. Further breakdown from the director is as follows: 3 African-American females, 18-40ish; 2 males, 18-40ish; 1 male, 40-70; 1 female, 18-40ish; 1 Unique voice for the Plant.

All those auditioning must be ready to sing; however, music will be provided.

For more information, contact the director at (319) 931-0820 or gleef1966@gmail.com.

Little Shop of Horrors is slated to run at the Workshop Sept. 20-22, 27-29, and Oct. 3-6, 2024.

It will be presented through special arrangements with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com



ANNOUNCING THE 2024-2025 SEASON!

The Board of Directors is pleased to present the following slate of shows for Players Workshop’s 2024-2025 season:

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



horror-comedy rock musical

Music by Alan Menken

Book & Lyrics by Howard Ashman

A nerdy flower shop assistant acquires a seemingly harmless plant that changes his world—but for the better????

Sept. 20-22, 27-29, Oct. 3-6, 2024

Lee Franklin, Director

Cody Fleitner, Assistant Director

Scott Teater, Music Director

Presented through special arrangements with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

ON THE FARCE DAY OF CHRISTMAS



comedy
by Ken Levine

A woman pays her ex-husband to pose as her spouse during the holidays to keep her religious mother from knowing they are divorced—hilarity ensues.

Catherine Hansen, Director

Gene Anderson, Assistant Director

Dec. 6-8, 12-15, 2024

Presented through arrangements with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by TRW Plays 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640 New York, NY 10036. www.trwplays.com

THE HALLELUJAH GIRLS



comedy

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten
Hilarity abounds when the feisty females of Eden, Georgia, decide to shake up their lives at an abandoned church turned day spa.

Feb. 21-23, 27-28, Mar. 1-2, 2025

Libba Flores, Director

presented through arrangements with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Broadway Licensing Group 440 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor New York, NY 10016. www.broadwaylicensing.com

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS



mystery drama

by Ken Ludwig, Agatha Christie

Master detective Hercule Poirot works to solve a murder on a snowbound train, in this adaptation of Agatha Christie's classic novel.

Steve Poling, Director

Marlene Holsteen, Assistant Director

May 2-4, 8-11, 2025

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com.

NEWS FROM TICKET SALES



The ticket sales committee announced some changes at the May Board of Directors' meeting.

First, because it felt that the timeline for ordering season tickets needed to be extended, the season ticket order forms for 2024-2025 will be mailed out July 26th, with a return deadline of August 23rd.

Also, in a new twist, during the second play of the season **ONLY**, PW will sell one-half a season ticket; this would be a ticket for each of the last 2 shows. Cost would be \$25 for adult and \$15 for student for the ½ season ticket. This would also be a great gift idea.

Beginning with the 24-25 season, season ticket holders will no longer be allowed to use any unused tickets from a previous show on a current show.

Season ticket holders who purchase their season tickets online will also be able to reserve their own seats through the Ludus program; in addition, any person mailing in for or buying season tickets in person will be allowed to also make their own reservations as long as PW has an email address and cell phone number. They would be added to the program and then they can reserve. Of course, those wishing to still call in and get their reserved seating may still do so.

It is hoped these measures will help to streamline the reservation process for all our valued season ticket holders.



PLAYERS WORKSHOP SETS DATE FOR ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Winter is done, and it is time for Players Workshop's annual fundraising garage sale! The garage sale will be held at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., on July 20, 2024, and donations are desperately needed.

What you consider junk may be just what another person is searching for, so clean out your closets, drawers, attics, and garages and contribute to the cause.

However, due to other events taking place at the Workshop, nothing can be brought in until after July 11! Also, both Libba Flores and Mary Fox will be present on July 15-19 from 7-9 p.m., to take your items.

Also needed are people to help set up and assist at the sale, so, if you have a few hours to contribute, your help is very welcome.

For more information, call or text Libba Flores at 319-750-3533 or Mary Fox at 319-750-6046.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, contact Bonnie Downes (catlady60450@msn.com or 319-752-4688) 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.)

SUPPORTING CAST 2023-2024



A final **thank you** to the Honorary Supporting Cast of Players Workshop whose one-time donations to Players Workshop's during 2024-2025 contributed significantly to PW's financial well-being. Donations could 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 last issue of *The Backstage Pass*, are listed in **bold-faced type**.

Director

Carole Theesfeld (for technology)

Star

John Holtkamp

Briann & Lynese Isom (hearing assistance sys.)

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 Judith Johnson

Donald Kellar Russ Leuck

Lisa & Edward Ortiger

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

Diewold Klingner and Associates

Tricia Klingner 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

Keith Turill

Henry Villreal

Rita Vineyard

Anita Wagner

Kathy Wolfskill

Mike & Renee Zaiser

Dorothy Zeazer

Usher

Chad & Sally Bird

Dan & Lynne Carter

Lois Close (in memory of Elsie McLaughlin)

Carol Copeland

Jeffrey Davis

Sharon Eisenmayer

Mary Fickel

Russ Fry

Jon & Sharon Graham

Barbara Hahn

Harry & Linda Hoenig

Marlene & Keith Holsteen (David Miller Mem.)

Wayne & Dee Johnson

Kathy Leicester-Wolfskill

Pat Mayle

Judy Pendleton

Nancy Purchase

Betty Raines

Kendra Robertson

Mary Saye

Nancy St. Clair

Judy Stevens

Harold & Garnet Swanson

Two Rivers Bank and Trust/Eric Benne

Mary Weinand

Kay Wilson

Eunice Winters

PW invites them and everyone else to please donate to the Supporting Cast for 2024-2025, so that we may continue to bring quality community theater to Burlington. All those who join will have their names listed in each play program and newsletter, as well as on the PW website, for 2024-25. Thank you again for your support.

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: Bonnie Downes, Mary Fox

President: Kent Lewis

Players Workshop

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HONORARY SUPPORTING CAST DONATION FORM

Join the **Honorary Supporting Cast** and make a one-time donation for the 2024-2025 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.