

BACKSTAGE PASS

PW'S YOUNG ACTORS' PRODUCTIONS TO PRESENT DISNEY'S ALADDIN JR!



Players Workshop invites the audience to come on a magic carpet ride to a “whole new world” when the Young Actors’ Production of Disney’s *Aladdin JR* opens at the Workshop on June 24, 2022.

Featuring music by Alan Menken, with lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice, and Chad Beguelin, who also wrote the book, the musical, which runs slightly over one hour, is based on the Disney film written by Ron Clements, John Musker, Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, and directed and produced by John Musker and Ron Clemens.

Set in the mythical Agrabah, and featuring songs such as “Proud of Your Boy,” “These Palace Walls,” “Friend Like Me,” and “A Whole New World,” the story follows Aladdin, a poor street urchin longing to make his mother proud; when he is trapped in a cave, he finds a magic lamp inhabited by an imprisoned, wisecracking Genie, whom Aladdin sets free. In return, the Genie grants Aladdin three wishes, giving him the chance to achieve his dreams of finding great wealth and winning the love of Princess Jazmine, who is being forced by her Sultan father to marry against her will. Opposing Aladdin at every turn is the evil Jafar, assisted by his pal Iago, who is determined to overthrow the Sultan and seize power.

Brayden Bowers will portray Aladdin, Carley Petersen is the Genie, Addison Anderson plays Princess Jazmine, while Kyle Conne and Asher “Ash” Bleim portray Jafar and Iago, respectively. Christianna “CZ” Ziegler, Lauren Allen, and Sydney McElhinney play Aladdin’s penniless pals, Babkak, Omar, and Kassim, and Kendal Sawyer is Jazmine’s Sultan father. Rounding out the cast are Shannan Skeens, shop owner/villager; Ace Whalen, Razoul/Prince Abdullah; Audrey Sawyer, Guard #1/Abdullah’s Attendant; Natalyn Blakeman, Guard #2/Abdullah’s Attendant; Juliet Vail, Beggar #1/Villager; Izabella Eloisa, Apple Vendor; Emily Kayser,

Fortune Teller; Kaitlyn Hicke, Isir (Jazmine’s attendant)/Villager; Claire King, Manal (Jazmine’s attendant)/Villager; and Phoebe Hicke, Rajah (Jazmine’s Attendant)/Villager.

All cast members are from Burlington schools, with the exceptions of Carley Petersen and Sydney McElhinney, who attend school in Mediapolis, and Lauren Allen and Natalyn Blakeman, who are students at West Burlington.

Carol Hinkle, Chair of PW’s Young Actor Production committee, is directing Disney’s *Aladdin JR*, with musical conductor Scott Teater. Assistant directors are Christine Claeys and Amy Unglaub. Al Fabel is producing.

Disney’s *Aladdin JR* will run at Players Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington, the evenings of Fri.-Sat, June 24-25 at 7:00 p.m. and the afternoon of Sun., June 26 at 2:00 p.m. **There are no reservations being taken; seating is on a first come-first served basis.** Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children/students through high school. The box office opens at 5:30 p.m. for evening performances, and at 12:30 p.m. for the matinee. General admission tickets may also be ordered online starting June 1; those wishing to purchase tickets online may go to www.playersworkshoptheater.com and click on the link.

Disney’s *Aladdin JR* is produced through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY.

For more information. call 319-753-6623, go to the Players Workshop Facebook page, or visit the PW website at www.playersworkshoptheater.com.

PW'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING RESULTS

Outgoing Pres. Mary Fox presided over Players Workshop’s annual general membership business meeting on May 11, 2022, at the Workshop.

Nineteen members were present for the first totally in-person membership meeting since the Covid pandemic. Although there were over seventy paid members for 2021-2022, the nineteen present made up the

percentage needed for a quorum, according to the Players Workshop's by-laws.

Kent Lewis was elected to a one-year term as president for 2022-2023, and the following were elected to three-year terms on the board of directors: re-elected were incumbents Libba Flores, Linda Garwood, Jayne Gobble, and Carol Hinkle, along with new board member Starr Sattler. All elections were by acclamation. Congratulations to them all.

The five newly elected board members will serve as the nominating committee for 2023-2024.

The Cuthbert Award was presented to Jayne Gobble and Christa Parry for the "Twinkie" scene in *The Kitchen Witches*. (The Twinkie fell under the counter, and Christa crawled around trying to locate it so it wouldn't get squashed; unfortunately, she started laughing at the situation, Jayne followed, neither could get themselves under control, so, eventually, they both left the stage laughing, abandoning Scott.)

The meeting ended with a round of applause for Pres. Fox for her work in that office for the last four years.

PRES. FOX GIVES ANNUAL REPORT



Pres. Mary Fox gave her final President's Report at the annual general membership meeting on May 11, 2022; overall, Players Workshop had a successful year in the first full year of shows since the Covid pandemic.

Following are some of the highlights of 2021-22:

- As of April 30, donations, grants, memorials, garage sale, and supporting cast brought in a total of \$16,377 to PW's treasury.
- Box office successfully learned a new online ticketing program. Gretchen Lewis and Robbin Poling have announced they will be retiring from running the box office after the fall 2022 production of *Mamma Mia!* Mary Fox is learning the ropes, to be able to assume their responsibilities; she would like anyone who is interested in learning to work the box office to contact her.
- Average attendance for the four main shows was 623, with numbers growing during the season as Covid restrictions were lessened.
- Mary Krohlow is handing over the reins of season tickets to Jean Ballinger.
- Marketing committee is turning more and more to social media as a way of promoting shows.
- To celebrate the 90th year of Players Workshop, the 2022-23 season will consist of 5 shows, instead of the usual 4.

- The youth committee is in full gear, to present *Aladdin JR* in June 2022, following a 2-year postponement due to Covid, and will also slip in other youth events whenever possible. They are also seeking ideas for their summer show for 2023.
- House and grounds committee scrambled to keep the theater clean throughout the past year, due to Covid.
- An air exchanger was installed in the back of the auditorium, and a second one will be installed during the summer.
- Hand sanitizer stations were purchased and installed.
- A 52" TV has been installed in the lobby.
- Surveillance cameras were installed in the lobby and in the auditorium.
- Gutters were replaced, and parking lot stripes were repainted.
- The script library has been completed, and plays are available for checkout.
- A new lobby committee was formed.
- The CPR committee met its goal of keeping PW in the hearts and minds of the public by producing 92 videos (on Facebook and You Tube) involving 110 different people; the committee has now been disbanded.
- The Covid-19 response committee monitored covid levels and continues to do so, as restrictions have lessened.
- The goal of the Theater Handbook Committee is to document the way PW does things, as an aid in training new people to assume existing positions; sections completed so far (and approved by the board) include producer, director/asst. director, stage manager, book holder, photographer, and lobby committee. The work will continue into 2022-23.
- A 90-year Celebration committee was formed, to plan events commemorating this PW milestone. Merry Wiseman will chair the committee, which is composed of Carol Hinkle, Jayne Gobble, and Rod Reeves.

A great deal was accomplished by many people this year as the Workshop successfully got back to regular business. A big "thank you" to all who helped make this happen!

AS A FAVOR, PLEASE

If you are receiving a paper copy of *The Backstage Pass*, if your address changes, PLEASE notify Gretchen Lewis asap; this helps keep our address database current and prevents the USPS from returning the newsletters and charging the Workshop for doing so. Thank you so much.

PW GRATEFUL FOR ONGOING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Players Workshop expresses great appreciation to the following for the most recent donations in 2022: Dale Edmonds, Jane Gustafson, Kim & Ron Smith, Bettie Raines (2).

PW THANKS YOU SO MUCH!

FINAL SUPPORTING CAST OF 2021-2022

Thank you to the following who have joined Players Workshop Honorary Supporting Cast for 2021-2022—the newest members are listed in **bold-faced type**:

STAR--Kyle Warren Ahrold, John & Judi Gram.

SUPPORTING ACTOR—Anonymous, David Beckman-Beckman Law, Bonnie Downes, Mary Fox, Kevin & Jayne Gobble, **Wayne & Colleen Heibner**, Judy Johnson, Chip & Dana Readinger.

STAGE CREW—Mrs. Donald Algood, Chad & Sally Bird, Dick & Vicki Dillon, Alice Hillyer, **Milt & Laurie Paule**, Earl & Peggy Stott.

USHER--Lois Close, Harry & Linda Hoenig, Donna & Jan Logan.

Their gifts will be recognized in *The Backstage Pass*, in each play program, and on the PW website.

For more information on how to join The Supporting Cast for 2022-23, go to the PW website.

AND A BIG



**TO ALL WHO GAVE FINANCIAL
SUPPORT OF ANY KIND TO
PLAYERS WORKSHOP DURING
THE 2021-2022 SEASON!**



GARAGE SALE RETURNS!

It's summer, and that means garage sale season is in full swing, and that includes Players Workshop!

The Players Workshop garage sale will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2022, at the Workshop, 1431 Grove

St. It runs from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., with a dollar bag sale beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Time to clean out your attics, garages, closets, storage units—wherever you collect the items that no longer “bring you joy” or that you no longer use, but which are still too good to be tossed out. What might appear worth nothing to you may be just what someone else has been needing or wanting. “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

Libba Flores and Mary Fox will be at the Workshop to take your donations from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on July 4-8. **Note to those who have keys: NOTHING can be dropped off before July 1, due to a private event behind held at the theater on June 30.** If you do have a key, you may drop off items any time from July 1 through July 8.

Remember—nothing needs to be marked, as buyers simply donate what they think their purchases are worth. Ironically, the past has proven that the sale produces more income using this method, than if the items have been pre-priced.

In recent years the garage sales have helped pay for remodeling the lobby, updating the bathrooms, re-roofing the building, and getting through the pandemic.

According to chair Libba Flores, “We take all things—as long as they are in good, usable condition. We appreciate the community’s support in donating items and coming to our sale.”

Anyone with questions or needing to drop off items at other than the scheduled times may contact Libba Flores at 319-750-3533 or Mary Fox at 319-750-6046.

AUDITIONS ANNOUNCED FOR OPENING SHOW OF 2022-2023



Players Workshop will kick off its 90th anniversary season with the popular musical *Mamma Mia!*, featuring lyrics by Bjorn Ulvaeus & Benny Andersson and book by Catherine Johnson.

Audition dates have been set for Sunday through Tuesday, July 31-August 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop at 1431 Grove St., Burlington.

Mamma Mia!, a romantic comedy about a mother, raised in the 70’s, and her daughter, raised in the 90’s, and their differing views on the life they have lived on their isolated Greek island, is told through the songs of pop group ABBA, as the daughter prepares for her upcoming wedding. A big problem arises when the daughter becomes determined to discover the identity of

her father, so he can “walk her down the aisle,” and her mother’s determination to keep her past “in the past.”

The directors are looking for people ages 15-70, to fill 13 principal roles (6 female and 7 male), and a mixed ensemble of 12 or more people.

While no special preparation is required to audition, tryouts will include readings, songs and choreography from the play, all of which will be provided by the directors, so auditionees need not bring anything except their talent.

Director for *Mamma Mia!* is Matt Poling. Kent Lewis is assistant director, Scott Teater is music director, and Bobbi Huebner is the choreographer. Robbin Poling will produce.

Performances of *Mamma Mia!* are scheduled for Fri., Sept. 23, 2022 to Sun., Oct. 9, 2022 (3 weekends).

For more information, contact either the director, Matt Poling, at 319-750-0334 or via email at matsmp1981@mediacombb.net, or the producer, Robbin Poling, 319-750-1724 or at 4polings@mchsi.com.

Mamma Mia! is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theater International, New York, NY, 212-541-4684 mtishows.com.



CORRECTION FOR 2022-23 SEASON!

Your editor made a mistake in the last issue of *The Backstage Pass*, so please note the correction in the date for *Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes* for the 2022-2023 season. Below are the correct shows and dates.

***Mamma Mia!* (6M/6F/10N)**

musical comedy-music/lyrics by Bjorn Ulvaeus & Benny Andersson; book by Catherine Johnson
Sept. 23-25, 30/Oct. 1-2, 6-9, 2022

Director Matt Poling/Music Director Scott Teater
Presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theater International, New York, NY, 212-541-4684 mtishows.com.

***Lost (and Found) in IKEA* (5F/5M)**

comedy/drama by Gary Ray Stapp
Dec. 2-4, 8-11, 2022
Director Libba Flores

Presented by arrangement with Heuer Publishing

***Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes* (6F/1M/1 boy)** comedy/drama by Sandra Fenichel Asher

Director Scott Teater

Jan. 27-29, Feb. 2-5, 2023

Presented by arrangement with Dramatic Publishing

***Murder by the Book* (2F/3M)**

mystery/thriller

by Duncan Greenwood & Robert King

March 24-26, 30-31, April 1-2, 2023

Director Kent Lewis

Presented by arrangement with Concord Publishing

***Ripcord* (3F/3M)**

comedy by David Lindsay-Abaire

To be Presented in Readers Theater Format

April 28-30, May 4-7, 2023

Director Jayne Gobble

Presented by arrangement with Dramatic Publishing

Look for season tickets for 2022-2023 to go on sale in August!



COME PARTY WITH US! PW'S TURNING 90!

Players Workshop will kick off its 90th Year Celebration with an open house at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington, on Sunday, August 14, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

All people interested in live theater—in any capacity—are invited to this **FREE** event.

According to event chair, Merry Wiseman, “It doesn’t matter whether you want to actively participate in live theater (on or offstage) or just want to sit in the auditorium and enjoy it.”

Do you want to know what goes on behind the scenes? We will be giving backstage tours and answering all your questions about how shows are produced.

There will also be everything from performances of skits to short presentations on running light and sounds during a performance (and many other aspects of a production).

Whatever interest you have, PW looks forward to entertaining you and celebrating with you by sharing refreshments and a birthday cake in the lobby.

The committee is looking for current, active members to give tours and presentations; if anyone is

interested in volunteering, call Merry Wiseman at 319-750-2957 (please leave a message if no answer).

Following the tour, attendees will be eligible to register for prizes:

1st Prize: Two (2) 2022-2023 season tickets; \$50 gift certificate to The Drake Restaurant (donated by The Drake Restaurant); preferential seating for *Mamma Mia!*

2nd Prize: Two (2) 2022-2023 season tickets

3rd Prize: Two (2) tickets to *Mamma Mia!* with the right to call in and reserve seats before tickets go on sale online (usually reserved only for season ticket holders)

*NOTE: You need to be present to register, but not to win! People who have been paid, active members in either or both of the past 2 years, their significant others, and minor children are ineligible to register for prizes.

Committee member Jayne Gobble has designed Players Workshop “Since 1933” logo apparel for anyone interested in showing their support for the Players Workshop. T-shirts, in purple with white lettering, and other items are available.

Please order and pay online by going to www.playersworkshoptheater.com and clicking on the link under “Logo Apparel.” Online orders close on June 30, 2022.



ALL participating members are encouraged to buy a logo T-shirt to wear on Aug. 14.

PW will also have an informational space at the Jefferson St. Farmers Market, Burlington, on June 9 & 16, July 28, Aug. 4 & 25, and Sept. 1; season tickets will be on sale on the last 2 dates. Be sure to stop by and say hello.

Other events are being planned—stay tuned!

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Meet Gretchen Lewis, one of Players Workshop’s longest serving board members. Gretchen, a

retired teacher and school librarian, has served on PW’s board of directors for “35+ years.”

She states she wanted to be on the board ‘to help provide quality theater for the area, to help Players Workshop grow, and to help attract new members and talent to the theater.’ She has remained active for so long because “Players Workshop has always been like a family, supporting each other both as part of the theater and in life. I’ve become friends with many people I might never have met otherwise.”

But, you won’t see Gretchen on the stage! She says, “The only time I’ve ever appeared on stage was during Players Workshop Children’s Theater when I was 7 or 8 years old.” Gretchen prefers to work behind the scenes.

If you come to a show at the Workshop, chances are you have seen Gretchen in the box office, which she has been running for over 30 years; however, after such a run, she deserves a break and has announced that she will be retiring from the position after the fall production of *Mamma Mia!* Her goal was to find someone to take over this position, and thinks she has found someone who “will be able to continue what has been started.”

Gretchen is chairman of the ticket sales committee and wants to continue to refine the online ticket sales process, increase sales, and encourage greater attendance at productions. She is responsible for the Workshop’s costume closet and does costumes for many of the plays. She also works on the circulation end of *The Backstage Pass*, keeping the address database up-to-date and printing the mailing labels.

When she is not at the Workshop, Gretchen enjoys reading, crocheting, traveling, and attending plays and musicals in other locations, usually with her husband Kent. She is also a grandmother to one grandson, with whom she enjoys spending time.

As for the future of PW, she “hope(s) the Workshop continues the tradition of providing a variety of quality productions and is able to attract new people to ‘our family’.”

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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 Cast \$250-\$499
Star \$500-599 Director \$1000-\$2499 Producer \$2500 +

Name _____

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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, POB 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.