

THE BACKSTAGE PASS

SOMETHING ROTTEN OPENS "A PERFECT POTPOURRI OF PLAYS"



Players Workshop opens the 2025-2026 theatrical season, "A Perfect Potpourri of Plays," with the musical farce *Something Rotten*, written by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell with music and lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Karey Kirkpatrick.,

Set during the Renaissance in "merrie olde England," *Something Rotten* introduces the audience to the Bottom Brothers, Nick and Nigel, playwrights determined to become famous at a time when Shakespeare was the darling of the theater world. With the brothers set on creating an entirely new dramatic form to achieve their goal, this "knee-slapping, joyous celebration of everything you love about Broadway," promises a fun-filled time of laughter and music as the Bottoms do battle with The Bard.

The cast for the show is as follows: Tommy Caruso and Lee Franklin play The Bottom Brothers, and J. T. Gorham plays Shakespeare

Nikki Critser and Olivia Keller play Beatrice and Portia, respectively, the Bottoms' love interests. Adam Fauser is the theater-hating Brother Jeremiah, Cody Flietner plays the visionary Thomas Nostradamus; Njeri Patrick is The Minstrel, Jim Beres is theater producer Lord Clapham; and Joseph Harmon is Shylock the moneylender.

The ensemble is composed of Kaitlynn Broeg, Karen Cahill, Bella Clements, Brittany Gerst, Kerri Huffman, Shelley Morton, Danette Parrish, Eva Salvador, Korn Sears, Kendal Sawyer, Marshall Scott, Sara Skinner, Rayanna Thompson, Katie Tur, Kiera Wagler, and Jakob Welch.

Kent Lewis is the director. Steve Poling and Kara Ewinger are assistant directors. Jason Guyton and Carmen

Lachnitt are rehearsal music directors, and Cody Flietner is the choreographer, Robbin Poling is the producer.

Dan Haughey will be the stage manager. Randy Wischmeier designed the set and lighting. The set construction crew consisted of Wischmeier, Kent Lewis, Steve Poling, Bill Ell, Korn Sears, Adam Fauser, Dan Haughey, and Al Fabel. Anika Morton will run sound and lights, while Amethyst Biggs and Robbin Poling will handle props.

Nikki Critser and Cyndy Fabel are the costumers; Suzie Bray; Krystal Johnson, and Anna Short are in charge of hair and make-up; and David Beckman is the official photographer.

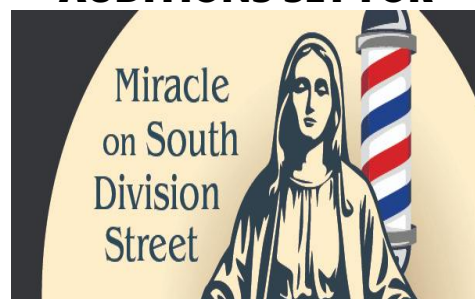
Something Rotten will run on Sept 19-21, 26-28, & Oct 2-5, 2025, at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St. All performances of *Something Rotten* are at 7:30 p.m., except for the 2:00 p.m. Sun. matinees on Sept. 21, Sept. 28, and Oct. 5.

The show is considered to have a PG-13 rating.

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

Something Rotten is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International, NY, and all production materials are furnished by MTI.

AUDITIONS SET FOR



Director Mary Fox will hold open auditions for Tom Dudzick's heartwarming play *Miracle on South Division Street*, on October 5-6 at 7 p.m., at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St.

Parts are available for three women and one man. One female should be in the 60-70 age range; the other females and the male should be in the 30-40 age range.

The play tells the story of the Nowaks of Buffalo, NY. Clara and her 3 grown kids have always known they

were “special,” ever since the miraculous Christmas Eve in 1942, when the Blessed Mother appeared to Grandpa in his barbershop! Now daughter Ruth unveils her plan to write and star in a one-woman show about the family miracle so the “whole world will know!” However, as her plans for theatrical immortality unfold, the family’s faith is shaken to the core, with heartfelt and hilarious results.

Miracle on South Division Street will be the Workshop’s Christmas offering for 2025, running Dec. 5-7 and 11-14. It is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com).

If anyone would like an audition packet with additional descriptions of the characters and a copy of the readings that will be used at auditions, text Mary Fox at 319-750-6046. Information about auditions is also available at www.playersworkshoptheater.com or on the Facebook page.

A PLEA FROM THE PRESIDENT:

To All the Friends and Members of Players Workshop—we desperately need your help! Recently, PW mailed out two items—our season ticket order forms and the regular newsletter. We sent these items through non-profit bulk mailing, in order to reduce mailing costs. Because they are mailed in this manner, they, unfortunately, CANNOT BE FORWARDED, even if you have already given the post office your new address. Instead, when the undeliverable mail is returned, PW is charged a fee for every returned item. This time around 35 pieces came back, costing us nearly \$50! To help us avoid those extra expenses, we would be so grateful if you could LET US KNOW when you move. Just drop us a quick note at pw6623@gmail.com--thank you for keeping us up-to-date.

Mary Fox, President

PW’S HUGE COSTUME SALE! JUST IN TIME FOR HALLOWEEN!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OCT. 10-11

Players Workshop’s costume committee has been working for over a year sorting, organizing, and sizing the vast inventory of clothing/costumes in the upstairs costume closet. According to Cyndy Fabel, “we have totes and totes of items that we no longer want to store, so we are having a free will donation ‘Costume Sale.’”

The event will take place on Oct. 10-11, 2025, at Unity Lutheran Church, 3109 Sunnyside (next to Aldo Leopold School)—and they need a lot of help!

- On the afternoon of Wed., Oct. 8, volunteers are needed to help load and transport the totes and garment racks over to the church;
- On Oct. 9, volunteers are needed to arrange the clothes on tables/racks at the church;
- Oct. 10-11—volunteers are needed to work 3-hour shifts during the sale;
- Also Oct. 11—clean-up crew and trucks are needed to transport unsold items, totes, racks, etc.

From Cyndy: “If you can help on any of these dates or you have a truck and you are willing to transport totes and racks, please contact Cyndy Fabel, 319-671-1228. Either a text or phone call is fine. Specific times to be determined.”

The costume committee has really worked hard to make this happen—now is your time to help them finish the job—a nice way to make money for the Workshop and to thank this committee for undertaking a monumental task!

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.)

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 above 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.

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.

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.

Star

Tonja & Tim Binder

Supporting Actor

Barbara Drozdz (in memory of Jim Drozdz)

Dr. Amy Groeltz -- The Smile Shoppe

Jon & Peggy Hart

Brian & Sara Sink

Duane & Bev Sherbondy

Kathy & Kevin Wolfskill

Stage Crew

Connie Bowen

Dan & Kathy Cahill

Robert Haines

Dean & Karen Hurliman

Mike & Kren Johnston

Cynthia Leonard

Donna & Jan Logan

Keith McNeil (in memory of Maxine)

Lori Moore

Prugh Funeral Service

Jim Raudabaugh

Chip & Dana Readinger

Kathy & Kevin Schneider

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

Kay Wilson

Merry Wiseman (in memory of Rod Reeves)

Peggy Stott

Matt & Mary Shivers

Usher

Judith Bartachek

Jill Baumert

Sally Bird

Jacquelyn Edwards (in memory of Dave Edwards)

KC & Beth Fleming

Zachary Hall

Pat Mayle

John & Lisa Pomberg

Scott Hartje

Marleen Holsteen

Karen Hassel

Linda Hoenig

Maureen Hutchcroft

Faith Krause

Shylah Lenahan

Pat Mayle

Linda Messer

Kenneth Morris

Linda Peitz

Pamela Pinkston

Connie Quee (in memory of Rod Reeves)

Jeff Rucker

Anita Stapleton

Lora Turner

Calley Yaegar

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.

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.

PLAYERS WORKSHOP thanks these additional patrons for their financial donations to Players Workshop: **Jaimie Bigger, Dawn Schulte, Tanya Dunlap, Stanley Erwin, Ruby Gerdes, Donna Logan, Sarah Williams, Connie Schlieff, Marie Milfort, Claudine Capps, and Kris Knoke.**

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From the Staff of *The Backstage Pass*

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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.