

THE BACKSTAGE PASS

THE OUTSIDER COMING TO PLAYERS WORKSHOP IN DEC.

Players Workshop will open the hilarious political satire *The Outsider* by Paul Slade Smith in Dec. at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington. It will run Dec. 3-4 and 9-11 at 7:30 p.m., and on Dec. 5 and 12 at 2:00 p.m. The box office opens at 7:00 p.m., except for matinees, when the box office opens at noon. The play is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com).

The Outsider, which “skewers politics and celebrates democracy,” will have audiences rolling as it shares the story of Ned Newley, possibly the worst candidate to ever run for a political office—unless, of course, people are looking for the worst person ever to run for political office! *Broadway World* called it an “insightful, witty satire about modern American politics. Funny, timely, and - dare we say - entirely possible”

The cast for the show is as follows: Wade O’Neal portrays the hapless Newley, the reluctant candidate who is “book smart” but totally clueless about people. Jodi Ziovi of Dallas City is Paige Caldwell, a professional pollster who sees politics as a “series of contests to be won.” Playing Dave Riley, Newley’s earnest, but politically naïve, chief of staff, is Tim Lundgren. Anna Short plays executive assistant Louise Peakes, a woefully inept, but very confident “temp.” Chad Bird portrays Arthur Vance, one of the most experienced and successful political consultants in the country. Jody Ellison, Carthage, returns to the PW stage as Rachel Parsons, an inquisitive TV reporter sent to interview Newley, and Kevin Gobble rounds out the cast as A. C. Petersen, the TV cameraman who has a “low tolerance for idiocy.”

Director of PW’s *The Outsider* is Libba Flores; assistant director is Jayne Gobble, and Carol Hinkle is producing.

The author, Paul Slade Smith, is a writer and actor based in Brooklyn, New York. His play *Unnecessary Farce* won 9 regional theatre awards, and *The Outsider*, originally produced at Peninsula Players Theatre in Wisconsin, earned 7 Milwaukee Awards nominations and won 3 including Best Play of 2015.

Following CDC recommendations, masks will again be required and social distancing observed.

FALL SHOW PROVIDES LAUGHS

Congrats to a talented cast-- Micah Stewart, Kelsey Bush, Paul Elledge, Eric Folkers, JoJo Johnson, and Karen Cahill-- & crew--Carol Hinkle, Christine Claeys, Linda Garwood, Robbin & Steve Poling, Marlene Holsteen, Kent Lewis, Al & Cyndy Fabel, Randy Wischmeier, Eric Smith, Patrick Fee, Chris Hinkle, and Starr Sattler, who opened PW’s 2021-2022 season with a successful presentation of Ken Ludwig’s comedy *A Fox on the Fairway*.

It was a great way to start the season!

AUDITIONS SET FOR PASSENGERS

PW will hold open auditions for Sam Bobrick’s *Passengers* on Dec. 12-13 from 7-9 p.m. at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St.

Both male and female actors, ranging from late teens/early twenties to retirement age, are needed to make this play work successfully, due to the play’s unusual structure. A minimum of 2 males/2 females is a necessity; it can be a great chance for actors to “stretch” themselves.

Set in a midwestern bus station, *Passengers* is a series of eight, short, interconnected plays, varying from comedic to poignant, which move quickly from one to another, until they are tied together in the last scene.

The play will be presented Feb. 18-20 and 24-27, 2022. Contact the director, Mary Fox, at 319-750-6046, if you have any questions.

PW GRATEFUL FOR ONGOING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Players Workshop has received donations from the following since the last issue of *The Backstage Pass*: Bettie Raines + Chip Readinger; Lois Close, Chery Kosmann, Bryan & Margaret Close, + Marti & Pat Walsh, all in memory of Carolyn Bouquet; Chris Kelly and family + Pat Mayle, in memory of Mary Ann Kelly; Olive Sullivan in memory of Susan Diehl;

PW THANKS YOU SO MUCH!

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, contact Gretchen Lewis (753-0470 or kwlawyer@msn.com) 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 list.

Players Workshop
P. O. Box 793
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Post PD.
Burlington, Iowa
Permit 757

Address Service Requested

JOIN PW'S SUPPORTING CAST

Thank you to the following who have joined
Players Workshop Honorary Supporting Cast for 2021-
2022:

Supporting Actor
David Beckman-Beckman Law
Bonnie Downes
Kevin & Jayne Gobble
Wayne & Colleen Heibner
Stage Crew
Chad & Sally Bird
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, go to the
PW website or contact PW Pres. Mary Fox
(pw6623@gmail.com or at 319-750-6046).

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Now in his second year as a member of PW's
Board of Directors, Duane Hartman, a driver's license
supervisor in Burlington/Ottumwa, came to PW when his
daughter was cast in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*
(he even ended up playing one of the firemen). He said
"I liked seeing the joy the kids had on their faces. . . . I
wanted to be a part of creating this joy for the kids and
adults through any way I could."

That is one reason he is on the youth theater
committee. He believes in fostering creativity in kids, and
feels bringing more kids to the theatrical experience now,
will, ultimately, ensure the future of the theater.

He is also on the house and grounds committee;
he wants to help maintain and modernize the theatre "to
make sure it is around for future generations to enjoy."

As for other pursuits, Duane is an avid Cubs and
Hawkeyes fan, enjoys spending time with his wife and
daughter, challenging himself with home improvements,
and co-directing the Puppet of Praise at his church.

A self-proclaimed "people pleaser,"
Duane admits he struggles with saying "no." PW feels
very lucky that Duane didn't say "no" to them.

DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

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.

Send completed form to
Players Workshop, POB 793, Burlington, IA 52601
Players Workshop is a 501(c)3 organization.

Editor: Bonnie Downes (catlady60450@msn.com)
Circulation: Gretchen Lewis, Rebecca Teater,
& Bonnie Downes
President: Mary Fox
Players Workshop
1431 Grove St. POB 793, Burlington, IA 52601
(319)753-6623