

BACKSTAGE PASS

VIRUS POSTPONES 20-21 SEASON

With no pandemic end in sight, on July 1, 2020, the board of directors voted unanimously to postpone Players Workshop's 2020-2021 theatrical season until 2021-2022. This was not a move taken lightly, but the board felt that, for the health and safety of members and patrons, there was no other choice.

Because there will be no regular theatrical season in 20-21, there will also be no 2020-2021 season ticket sales. Notifications will go out to all season ticket holders within the next few weeks.

Pres. Mary Fox has appointed two special committees to investigate and recommend how PW can best move forward in light of this situation.

The Covid-19 Response Committee, composed of Kent Lewis (chair), Gene Anderson, Gretchen Lewis, Steve Poling, and Rod Reeves, is tasked with investigating and developing a plan as to when and how PW will be able to return to normal business.

On the other hand, The Coronavirus Pandemic Recovery Committee (CPR), with a tagline of "Breathing New Life into the Theater," will investigate and develop ideas of how to keep PW in the public eye until the theater can return to business as usual; they are to "think outside the box" for ways to present theater and bring in revenue while meeting the Covid-19 restrictions that prevent presentations in the workshop itself.

Committee members are Carol Hinkle (chair), Libba Flores, Brittany Gerst, Jayne Gobble, Kent Lewis, Steve Poling, and Mary Fox. They are already working on theatrical projects to be presented over the internet, with viewers being able to use a donate button to give financial support. There will be more specifics on this in the next edition of *The Backstage Pass*.

THE VOTES ARE IN!

The Players Workshop annual general membership meeting was held on June 24, 2020, at the workshop, where the following members were elected to 3-year terms on the board of directors: Kara Ewinger, Kevin Gobble, Duane Hartman, Gretchen Lewis, and Kent Lewis.

Current PW President Mary Fox was re-elected, by acclamation, to a third term in the office. Pres. Fox expressed thanks to outgoing board members Bill Ell and Kadie Johansson, who chose not to run again.

In her annual President's Report, Fox summarized the year's accomplishments, discussed the future of PW amid the Covid-19 pandemic, thanked all who had contributed to PW in 2019-20, and closed by saying she feels "20-21 is full of opportunities to develop creativity and talent."

THE GARAGE SALE IS ON!

Players Workshop's annual garage sale will be held at the workshop for **one day only**, Sat., July 25, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Now is the time to look in those closets, cabinets, garages, basements, attics and box or bag-up anything you don't need, want, or use; load up all those unwanted Christmas presents you planned to re-gift someday!

Take it all down to 1431 Grove Street on July 20-24 between 5-7 p.m. and hand it off to organizers Mary Fox and Libba Flores. They ask that items not be priced--the sale brings in more money when customers simply donate what they feel purchases are worth!

During this difficult financial time for PW, this is one way you can really help the theater--while helping yourself, too. For more information contact Mary Fox (750-6046) or Libba Flores (750-3533).

JOIN THE SUPPORTING CAST

The Players Workshop Supporting Cast for 2020-21 is seeking members--PW donors who give at one of- the following levels: Usher (\$25-99.99), Stage Crew (\$100-249.99), Supporting Actor (\$250-499.99), Star (\$500-999.99), and Director (\$1000+).

So far, 20-21 donors are Mary Fox; Marlene Holsteen; Kevin & Jayne Gobble; Kadie & Evan Johansson; and Alan & Cyndy Fabel (Supporting Actor), and Gene & Ann Marie Anderson (Star), in memory of Moore Anderson. Since there will be no play programs this season, donors will be recognized on the website and in *The Backstage Pass*.

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

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MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Busy! Active! A Doer! Pick one, and you are describing Wever resident Jayne Gobble, now in her 3rd year on the PW board.

Jayne is office manager for the Central Office of Community Action of Southeast Iowa but plans to retire in April; she is also a cosmetologist and operates a small shop in her home.

Although Jayne freely admits she is a “ham” and that her “favorite part of Players Workshop is being on stage,” she wanted to be on the board “to be more involved in the inner workings” of the organization and “to be a part of the decision-making for the direction of our theater.”

On the board she serves on the production committee; she says, “I wanted very badly to be on this committee to be a part of deciding what plays we do. I think it is very important that we put on plays that fill the seats, and I wanted to help guide the selection of plays to that end.” On the membership and community engagement committee, she is responsible for the community engagements, such as the murder mysteries that PW does for businesses, fundraisers, etc., and, as part of the marketing committee, she is primarily responsible for updating the website and ordering the play shirts.

When not at her job or at PW, she spends time with family—husband Kevin, children, 3 grandkids-but also enjoys sewing, volleyball, tennis, gardening, raising house plants, and traveling. And she is rather proud that “11 years out of the last 16, Kevin and I have been on a team that has won the Nauvoo Grape Festival’s Mud Volleyball tournament, including the last 6 years in a row—and it is DIRTY PIG MUD!”

Her hope: PW “continues to be progressive” and “get the word out that we are here and we are good.”

PW COMMITTEES AT WORK

Players Workshop’s **YOUNG ACTORS’ PRODUCTION COMMITTEE**, commonly referred to as YAP, began in 2018. According to chair Carol Hinkle, its mission is to “build a life-long appreciation for live theatre by involving young people in all aspects of theatre arts – onstage, backstage, and in the audience,” with a vision of “cultivating the next generation of artists and patrons in Southeast Iowa and beyond.” YAP gives kids the chance to explore the performing arts and learn poise, confidence, and teamwork in a fun, safe, and inclusive atmosphere.

YAP strives to produce a quality young actor play each summer (2020’s offering was to have been *Aladdin, Jr.*, but it has had to be postponed until 2021). The committee has also given a number of youth workshops on theatrical topics, such as auditioning, acting, make-up, the backstage experience, etc., and these will resume once PW gets back to normal, as they continue to look for more avenues for the youth in this community.

Committee members are Hinkle, Al Fabel, Brittany Gerst, Kadie Johansson, Jordyn Engel, and Scott Teater; the youth committee advisors are Zach Hite, Daniele Evert, and Jason Stivers.

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