

THE

BACKSTAGE PASS

VIRUS LOCKDOWN BEATS A FOX ON THE FAIRWAY

A Fox on the Fairway, which was to have closed PW's 2019-20 season, fell victim to the coronavirus and had to be cancelled because of the governor's directive.

The show was well into rehearsals when the order came down, and PW would like to acknowledge the efforts of those who were already committed: Directors-Bonnie Downes and Ron Teater; Actors-Gene Anderson, Kaitlynn Broeg, Karen Cahill, Aleksandr Frevert, Jayne Gobble, and Kevin Gobble; Crew-Bill Ell and his construction crew, Marlene Holsteen/Cyndi Sharpe/Carol Rutenberg (props), Mary Fox (stage manager), Mary Krohlow (producer) and any others who had already committed to this project.

KUDOS

TO THE TALENTED CAST AND CREW OF *THE RADIANT* FOR "RADIATING" WITH AN AUDIENCE ENTHRALLED BY THIS COMPELLING STORY! YOU DID PLAYERS WORKSHOP PROUD THIS WINTER.

CAN YOU HELP?

(1) The House & Grounds Committee is looking for operational, flat screen TV's (22" to 40") for the Workshop, to be put in areas where actors/crew need a clear view of the stage when they are not on the stage itself; Contact Gene at 319-759-2655.

(2) The Archives Committee is looking for copies of the following PW newsletters: Dec. 1982; Aug.-Jan. plus March, 1983-84; Jul./Aug., 1987; all from 1988-89 season through 1997-98 season; May/Jun., 1999. If anyone has copies, please contact Mary Krohlow.

ANNUAL MEETING COMING UP?

Covid-19 strikes again, forcing the board of directors to change the annual general membership meeting from the normal time of the third Wednesday in May. With the hope that meeting restrictions will be lifted,

the board has TENTATIVELY set the annual general membership and election of members to the board of directors for Wed., June 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the workshop, where social distancing can be maintained if necessary.

ANNOUNCING 2020-2021 SEASON!

PW's Board of Directors is excited to announce the 2020-2021 season. **(This is the plan at this time.)**

Opening the season will be the widely acclaimed Benny Andersson/Bjorn Ulvaeus musical comedy, *MAMMA MIA!*, on Sept. 25-27, Oct. 2-4, and Oct. 8-11. Matt Poling will direct with Scott Teater as musical director.

THE OUTSIDER, a political satire by Paul Slade, is a timely, hilarious comedy which skewers politics and celebrates democracy. It runs Dec. 4-6 and Dec. 10-13, with Libba Flores as director.

Mary Fox will direct *PASSENGERS*, a dramatic comedy by Sam Bobrick, consisting of eight scenes, both comic and poignant, in which the characters are awaiting the "final bus." It is slated for Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 25-Mar. 1, 2021.

Closing the season is the hilarious comedy *THE KITCHEN WITCHES* by Caroline Smith. Directed by Ron Teater, the play involves two television chefs who are both competitive and combative. Imagine a chaotic combination of Martha Stewart meets Jerry Springer! It will run April 23-25 and April 29-May 2, 2021.

Season tickets are currently set to be mailed in early August.

ALADDIN, JR. POSTPONED!

The Youth Actors Theater's summer production of the musical *Aladdin, Jr.* is another victim of the virus pandemic. Citing health concerns, the PW board is postponing the production until July of 2021.

****THANKS TO A GENEROUS DONATION FROM THE BURLINGTON FINE ARTS LEAGUE, PW WILL BE PURCHASING A NEW STAGE CURTAIN! THANKS, BFAL!**

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

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

Address Service Requested

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

The Backstage Pass is continuing a series profiling members of the PW Board of Directors.

CAROL HINKLE is a clown! She became a leader of a 4-H clown club when her kids were little, and her “love of theatre bloomed from there.”

In her 4th year as a member of the board, she serves as chair of the Youth Theater Committee, which has established the Young Actors Summer Productions, now in its 3rd year. Her goal--“have the youth in the community explore all the aspects of theatre.” She is on the membership committee, where she is responsible for documenting all member data, and has volunteered in virtually every area of PW, both on and off stage.

In her non-theatre time, she works as an office manager/administrative assistant for Louisa and Muscatine County Farm Bureaus; she enjoys kayaking, loves planes, and volunteers with an aviation camp in Wisconsin each summer.

Of PW she says: “It takes a team to make a show happen, and it is rewarding to be a part of that team.” And, if you ask nicely, she will ride her unicycle for you!

PW COMMITTEES AT WORK

The Backstage Pass is continuing a series of articles about PW’s standing committees, to encourage others to become more involved in the Workshop.

The **MARKETING COMMITTEE** uses as many communication channels as possible to reach as many people as possible and let them know about PW. Chaired by Kadie Johansson, the committee oversees the “branding” of the organization, to main-

tain a consistent and memorable message in all areas of the Workshop, i.e., helping the fundraising committee by designing brochures for their fundraising campaign, the membership committee with handouts for membership recruitment, and the youth theatre committee by creating flyers for their many events.

The main duty is to fill the theater with audience members—says Johansson, “What is theater without an audience?” To that end, they utilize digital and social media, radio, print, and word of mouth, to market performances and events.

They now work with a graphic designer to take PW posters and print materials to the next level, creating a consistent look and feel. They have revamped the web site, established a new logo, begun writing the newsletter; grown PW’s social media presence; and audited their marketing dollars, to get the “most bang for the buck.”

But word of mouth is the best advertising, and Johansson encourages everyone to promote PW on social media, bring friends to the productions, update contact info with PW, and donate when they can, so PW can continue “to promote quality, live theatre for everyone in Southeast Iowa.”

Members of the committee are Bonnie Downes, Pres. Mary Fox, Jayne Gobble, Steve Hexom, JoJo Johnson, Kent Lewis, and Matt Poling.

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