Players Workshop Theater

Volume XLVII, No. 3
November 2026

THE BACKSTAGE PASS

PW OFFERS HOLIDAY CHEER WITH *LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY*



The holidays are here, and Players Workshop celebrates with Topher Payne's comedy *Let Nothing You Dismay*, which *The Atlanta Constitution* called "Laugh-out-loud funny, and a touching reminder of how much more alike we are than we realize."

You may need a scorecard to follow the plot: "It's Christmas, and Kevin and Allie are about to become parents—they're just waiting for a phone call. And though they've asked their families to keep their distance until they bring the baby home, of course no one keeps their distance. Kevin's father visits with his much-younger wife and their extended clan, followed by Kevin's mother with her veterinarian, her upstairs neighbor, and her favorite author, and then Allie's family invades, including her ultra-competitive sister, her Bubbie, and Bubbie's "gentleman friend." You get the idea!

Under the direction of Gene Anderson, assisted by Sally Price, the cast is as follows (note several actors play more than one part):

Allie/Lizze.....Eva Salvador
Kevin/Leonard.....Nathan Edwards
Kaitlyn/Angela.....Aimee Rippenkroeger
Brianna.....Vinnie Daigle
Dennis/Jerry/Rich.....Tyler Maddox
Tawny/Linda.....Kathy Wolfskill
Deb from Upstairs.....Megan Mickael
Paul/Dr. Tim.....Kevin Wolfskill
Mr. Yarmowich.....Jakob Welch
Noreen.....Jean Ballinger
Charlotte/Bubbie.....Melissa Wood
Milford/Ivan/Oscar.....Jim Beres

Carol Hinkle is the show's producer.

Let Nothing You Dismay runs at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington, on Dec. 4-6 and 10-13, 2026. Evening shows are at 7:00 p.m.; there will be 2:00 p.m. matinees on Dec. 6 and 13.

Let Nothing You Dismay is produced through special arrangement with Best Idea Wins Inc.

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

DON'T FORGET ABOUT
THROWBACK THURSDAY
On Thursday nights **only,** individual ticket prices will be rolled back to 2025-2026 rates:
Just **$15 for adults and $10 for students** for the show that night!
COME ON THURSDAY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SAVINGS

AUDITIONS FOR WINTER SHOW



Director Nikki Critser will hold open auditions for the musical fantasy *How I Became a Pirate*---book, music, and lyrics by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman---on Sun., Dec 6, and Mon., Dec. 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington.

Parts are available for 8 actors (either gender) one of whom can play a 10-year-old boy. Based upon the book *How I Became a Pirate* by Melinda Long, illutrated by David Shannon (performed by arrangement with Hougton Mifflin Harcourt and The Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency), the play is about a band of comical pirates who are looking for an expert digger to join their crew as they look for the perfect spot to bury their

treasure. The play will be performed on Feb. 19-21, 25-28, 2027.

For more information on the auditions, contact the director at 319-572-1406.

How I Became a Pirate is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide, NY (www.theatricalrights.com).

SEASON OPENER IS A HIT!



"The gaslights have dimmed, the secrets have been revealed, and the final curtain has fallen . . . " and **congratulations** are in order to the cast and crew of *Angel Street*, PW's 2026-27 season opener, which got rave reviews! "This was an OUTSTANDING performance!" "Unbelievable talent!" "Powerful. Mesmerizing. Excellent performances!" "This cast had me forgetting where I was." "You truly never know what someone is going through behind closed doors." Many were also appreciative of the fact that this was presented during October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Superb season opener, and PW is proud of all involved.

WORKSHOP REPRESENTS AT ART CENTER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY



When the Art Center of Burlington celebrated its 60th anniversary on Sept. 19, 2026, Players Workshop was there to help. A group of PW members and friends provided a flash mob style rendition of the Beach Boys' *Good Vibrations.* Pictured above, from left to right, are Nancy Roed, Dave Roed, Nikki Critser, Tim Noll, Kent Lewis, Steve Poling, Sara Skinner, Katie Tur, and Cody Fleitner.

Thanks, guys, for doing such positive outreach for Players Workshop.

SUPPORTING CAST 2026-27



The Players Workshop Supporting Cast is one of the primary fundraisers of the organization; donors will have their names listed in every program and newsletter, and on the website, for the season. Donations may be made in 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 the Supoorting Cast for 2026-2027. Newcomers are **in bold-faced type.**

Director
Lillian Rubin

Star
Tim & Tonja Binder
BNSF Railway (Kevin Liles)
Mary Fox
Alice Hilyer
Kevin & Angie Liles
Gail Sullivan

Supporting Actor
Gene & Joy Anderson
Carolyn Dorting
Bonnie Downes
Barbara Drozdz (in memory of Jim Drozdz)
Dr. Amy Groetz (Smile Shoppe)
Jon & Peggy Hart
Colleen & Wayne Heibner
Chip & Dana Readinger
Kathy Schneider

Stage Crew
Julie & Paul Anderson
Cindy & Darrell Bachtell
David Beckman
Russell & Suzanne Benischek
Chad & Sally Bird
Robert & Connie Bowen
Dan & Cathy Cahill
Genee Figueras

Darla Fisher
Roger Griswold
Susan Hart
Ann Hass
Karen Hassel
Henry & Sue Hentzel
Terri Huddleston
Carol Janosik
Denise Johnson
Mike & Karen Johnstone
Carmen Lachmitt
Cynthia Leonard (in memory of Mark T. Leonard)
Dorothy Leazer
Donna & Jan Logan
Tammy Kimmel-Wunderlich
Kevin & Diane Moeller
Ralph Parrish
Prugh Funeral Home
Carol Reed
Marlis Robberts
Mark & Teresa Shaffer
Matthew Shivers
Jim Raudabaugh & Pauline Spees
Nancy St. Clair
Peggy Stott
Megan Wind

Usher

Judy Bartachek
Bobby & Melissa Bence
Cindy Boyle
Tristan Brooks
Donna Carlsen
Dan & Lynne Carter
Carol Copeland
Kas Cox
Jacquelyn Edwards
Russ Fry
Ruby Gerdes
George Gruenther
Robert Haines
Scott Hartje
Brian Haymond
David Hazen
Laurie Hempen
Dave & Melinda Hentzel
Harry & Linda Hoenig
Dean Hurliman
Jessica Irish
Betty Jaeger
Faith Krause
Marilyn & Gerald Lancaster
Sandra Lee
Jean Link
Michael Miller
Lori Moore
Cheryl Noble
Linda Peitz
Pamela Pinkston
John & Lisa Pomberg
Robert Roy
Jane Sanford
Valerie Sanford
Karen Schumaker
Anita Stapleton
Lora Turner
Nancy Vedder
Christine Williamson
James Wilson
Kay Wilson

You may join the Supporting Cast by filling out and returning the form at the end of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for your support of Players Workshop.

PLAYERS WORKSHOP also sends a big thanks to the following who made general donations since the last newsletter: **Victoria Alvarado, Tanya Dunlap, Cali-Ray Gallegos, Peter Klees,** & **Linda Turley.** Thank you for your support of your local community theater.

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE, A GIFT OF LEGACY



Players Workshop would like to acknowledge a recently received "planned gift" from longtime member and volunteer, Mary Krohlow, who passed away in January of 2025.

Mary's living legacy in Burlington included a 50+ year history of participation with PW, where she directed multiple plays (plus co-directing, assistant directing, and producing), served on our board and chaired, at one time or another, almost every committee. Mary's volunteer duties included managing the box office, leading the charge on season tickets, the newsletter and printed programs, organizing our library

of published plays, and, as a prolific historian, assisting with the extensive Players Workshop Archives.

So many words describe Mary Krohlow during her time with us. Intelligent, kind, pleasant, loyal, detail-oriented and organized, successful, persistent, meticulous, frugal and deliberate, as well as unflappable, diplomatic, even-tempered and persuasive. A "workhorse" of a volunteer, she tirelessly did what needed doing. She paved the way for others by creating extensive instructions to be guiding aids when duties got passed along. Mary's generous servitude in life – one lived simply, frugally, devotedly – led her to include Players Workshop in her estate planning. Mary Krohlow's "bequest" will be utilized as we believe she intended: for the long-term sustainability of the Players Workshop Theater she so loved.

'TIS THE SEASON...



As the end of 2026 fast approaches, if you're stressing over fulfilling your **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)**, this reminder is for you:

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** directly from your IRA to a qualified nonprofit – like Players Workshop!

A QCD satisfies your RMD for the year while excluding the donated amount from your taxable income – thus making it a smart, tax-free way to support causes you care about. Contact your IRA custodian or financial advisor soon for more details and to ensure your transfer is processed in time for the year-end deadline.

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@2gmail.com to have the newsletter converted to electronic format.)

(If your address changes, PLEASE let us know—the post office returns all undeliverable newsletters and charges PW for it.)

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 below 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 HAS CHANCE FOR OUTREACH AT GBP ANNUAL DINNER



Emily Holland, Events Manager for the Greater Burlington Partnership, has a unique opportunity for Players Workshop to participate in their upcoming Annual Dinner on. Jan. 29, 2027.

The event will feature an Atlantis theme, and Emily is looking for three women willing to channel their inner "mystical oracles" to mingle and interact with guests throughout the evening.

If you would like to be a part of this unique opportunity to showcase your theatrical talent and have some creative fun, you would need to be available for a 5:00-6:30 p.m. commitment on Jan. 29.

Please contact Emily Holland at 319-208-0040 or eholland@greaterburlington.com, for more information. This is a great chance for some Players Workshop community outreach.

AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE



In this season of thankfulness, Players Workshop extends its heartfelt appreciation to all of YOU – our patrons, volunteers, members, and donors – for your support of our mission to bring quality live theater to the Burlington area.

Countless people give of their time and talents, they participate in and/or attend shows, they purchase season tickets year after year or, perhaps for the very first time, and their philanthropic donations help us to do all that we do. Please know we are grateful for it all.

PW OFFICERS/DIRECTORS 26-27

Pres. Mary Fox
Vice-Pres. Kent Lewis
Secretary Michelle Huppenbauer
Treasurer Carol Hinkle

Gene Anderson	**Joni Brainerd**
Chad Bird	**Christine Claeys**
Nikki Critser	**Jody Ellison**
Cody Flietner	**Libba Flores**
Amy Ford	**Lee Franklin**
Brittany Gerst	**Jayne Gobble**
Krystal Johnson	**Anika Morton**

Njeri Patric

AND A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL

From The Staff of *The Backstage Pass*

Happy Thanksgiving



Merry Christmas



Happy Hannukah



Joyous Kwanza



&

Happy New Year



Editor: Bonnie Downes (catlady60450@msn.com)
Circulation: Bonnie Downes, Mary Fox, & Mary Weinand
President: Mary Fox
Players Workshop
1431 Grove St. PO Box 793, Burlington, IA 52601
(319) 753-6623

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

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HONORARY SUPPORTING CAST DONATION FORM

Join the **Honorary Supporting Cast** and make a one-time donation for the 2026-2027 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.