

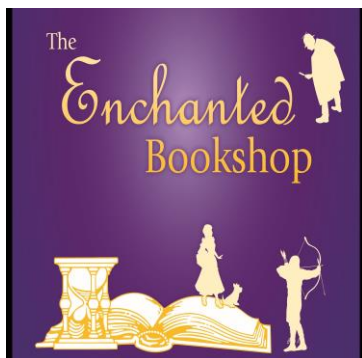
THE
BACKSTAGE PASS

**RIPCORD A HIT AS IT CLOSSES 2022-
2023 SEASON**



Congratulations to the cast & crew of *Ripcord*, who closed out the regular season with a hit performance done in readers theater format. Reviews included comments like “beautifully done,” “I wasn’t sure what to expect, but I would see it again.,” and “this was so entertaining and funny.” Kudos to all involved.

YAP SHOW OPENS IN JUNE



Players Workshop will present a Young Actor Production of Todd Wallinger’s *The Enchanted Bookshop* (the non-musical version).

This delightful play takes you to a seemingly ordinary bookstore called A Likely Story, which, at night, turns into a magical place where characters from famous works of literature come to life! Meet Dorothy Gale, Robin Hood, Tom Sawyer, Heidi, Sherlock Holmes, and others as they try to help bookshop owner Margie save her struggling store.

The cast for the play is as follows:

- Bookshop owner Margie – Koertlynn Korver
- Margie’s cat Bombalurina – Regina Critser
- Mom (a customer) – Madigan Kennedy
- Book hater Tammy – Sarah Hansen

- Robin Hood – Sean Hansen
- Tom Sawyer – Mason Schaley
- Sherlock Holmes – Alexis Roessler
- Dorothy Gale – Aurora Critser
- Heidi – Lily Newberry
- Pollyanna – Judith Mansheim
- Book Fairy – Avery Irish
- Lady in Red (mysterious customer) - Allyson Hamilton
- Fagin – Hayli Strange
- Long John Silver – Islia Rodeffer
- Office Ketchum -- Audrianna McCann
- Fingers, a jewel thief – Brady Lenahan
- Eddie, a jewel thief – Derrik Martin
- Doctor Doolittle – Kassydee Newsom
- Queen of Hearts – Ella Joyce
- Frankenstein – Beckett Kennedy
- Wicked Witch – Aila Plein
- White Rabbit – Claire Marmion
- Toto -- Seth Hansen
- Hopalong Cassidy -- Zachary Joyce

The youth involved come from several different towns. Korver is from Middletown; Schaley, Roessler, Strange, & Rodeffer come from Stronghurst; McCann is from Mediapolis, Lenahan is from Lomax, Newsom hails from Winfield, Martin comes from West Burlington, Marmion is from Wever, and the rest are from Burlington.

The Enchanted Bookshop is being directed by Carol Hinkle, assisted by Christine Claeys and Kaitlynn Broeg. Bill Ell is the producer.

The Enchanted Bookshop will be performed on June 23-24 at 7:00 p.m. and on June 25 at 2:00 p.m. at the Workshop, 1431 Grove St., Burlington.

There are no advance reservations; seating is on a first come, first served basis. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth. The box office will be open ONE HOUR prior to each show. (Please note this is different from regular season shows.) You may order general admission tickets online, beginning June 5; check the PW website for the link.

For more information call 319-753-6623, check out Players Workshop Facebook page, or go to the PW website www.playersworkshoptheater.com.

The Enchanted Bookshop is produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Denver, Colorado.

JOIN THE SUPPORTING CAST FOR 2023-2024



The Honorary Supporting Cast of Players Workshop has begun accepting donations for 2023-2024.

This is a one-time donation which will be acknowledged in each newsletter and play program of 2023-2024 and will also be listed on the PW website.

Your donation 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 individuals have already joined the new Honorary Supporting Cast:

Supporting Actor

Bonnie Downes

River Ridge Dental Care—Dr. Nathan Heubner

Stage Crew

Dan & Kathy Cahill

Bettina Logan

Donna & Jan Logan

Usher

Kay Wilson

You may join the Honorary Supporting Cast by filling out the form at the end of this newsletter or the form in your play program.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, contact Gretchen Lewis (319-753-0470 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.)

Also, if your address changes, PLEASE notify Gretchen Lewis. The USPS charges PW for every forwarded or returned newsletter.

Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

The Backstage Pass extends heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected members of the Players Workshop Board of Directors:

Nikki Critser
Brittany Gerst (incumbent)
Catherine Hansen

Njeri Patrick
Kevin Titus

Kent Lewis agreed to serve as Players Workshop President for another year.



for your willingness to serve.

PLAYERS WORKSHOP HOLDS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING



Players Workshop held the annual general membership and business meeting on May 10, 2023, at the Playhouse, with 32 members and one non-member in attendance.

New members of the board of directors were elected to serve 3-year terms: They are Nikki Critser, Brittany Gerst, Catherine Hansen, Njeri Patric, and Kevin Titus. Gerst was the only incumbent; the others were elected to the board for the first time. Their terms will begin July 2023. Kent Lewis was re-elected PW President for another year.

Directors of the 2022-23 shows nominated the following for the Cuthbert Award (the award given to a person who gave the audience the most memorable and unexpected moment in a show): Cody Fleitner (*Mamma Mia!*) for changing the name of his husband's lover to his own husband's name; Christa Parry (*Lost (and Found) in IKEA*) for hitting her husband Chris so hard on stage she made him bleed; Renee Zaiser (*Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes*) for changing her line from "Oh, dear" to "Oh, s_t;" JoJo Johnson (*Murder by the Book*) for forgetting to plant the scarf in the dead man's hand; and Kevin Titus (*Ripcord*) for slamming a stage door so hard it got stuck and delayed the show. And the winner was . . . KEVIN TITUS!

The 2023-2024 season was announced:

Sister Act (Musical Comedy)

Sept. 22-24, 29 & 30; Oct. 1, 5-8, 2023

Matt Poling, Director

A Little Christmas Spirit (Yuletide Fantasy by Pat Cook)

Dec. 1-3, 7-10, 2023

Libba Flores, Director

The Wild Women of Winedale

(Comedy by Jones, Hope, & Wooten)

Feb. 9-11, 15-18, 2024

Mary Fox, Director

A Comedy of Tenors (Farce by Ken Ludwig)

April 19-21, 25-28, 2024

Steve Poling, Director

Pres. Kent Lewis gave his “State of the Workshop” Report for 2022-2023.

- PW is financially solvent, and the Supporting Cast program has really helped PW become financially viable.
- PW presented 5 successful productions. Attendance was as follows: *Mamma Mia!* (1782), *Lost (and Found) in IKEA* (861), *Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes* (935), *Murder by the Book* (724), and *Ripcord* (729).
- This was the Workshop’s 90th year. The membership and community engagement committee was combined with the 90th year celebration committee for a variety of activities to help us celebrate. Merry Wiseman was chair; committee members were Carol Hinkle, Jayne Gobble, Rod Reeves, and Brittany Gerst. Among the events they conducted were an open house, designing and selling commemorative shirts, radio promotions, promotions/presentations at the downtown Farmers Market, a Halloween party, a Christmas party, participation in downtown’s living windows, and conducting five “Coffee and Stagecraft” workshops. All of this community engagement helped us to have 82 active members in 2022-2023.
- A successful garage sale garnered over \$1700; the funds were used to purchase a new cork display board and matching waste cans in the lobby. The rest will be used, along with memorial funds for Mad Hatter, for new signage, which should be ready by this fall.
- As part of the season ticket drive last fall, we did a direct mailing to around 15000 households; we think it had a lot to do with our selling a total of 854 season tickets.
- The Youth Theater Committee is set to restart the drama club with Edward Stone Middle School in the fall.
- The light booth camera was upgraded, and the picture/sound on the backstage/lobby monitors is much improved.
- The art raffle brought in over \$1500.
- The marketing committee has increased PW’s presence on social media, giving PW greater public visibility.
- Online ticketing sales have improved and have a more professional look with the new ticket printer.
- New stage teasers have been purchased and installed.

Pres. Lewis concluded by saying “I think we had a very successful season for our 90th year We have garnered a great deal of support from members of the public and our patrons” He thanked all committees/personnel who helped make it happen.

PAT ANDERSON



In Memoriam

PW lost one of the last of its beloved old-timers, Pat Anderson, who died April 14, 2023, at the age of 96, in Troutdale, OR.

Pat became involved in PW in the early 1950’s when she tried out for *The Women*; she proved to be a talented comedic actress, appearing in shows such as *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Brewster sister), *Harvey* (Vera), *Blithe Spirit* (Mme. Arcati), *The Madwoman of Chailot* (Countess Aurelia), and *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser). Dramatic roles were in *The Miracle Worker* and *I Never Sang for my Father*. She preferred to hold out for choice roles rather than padding her 32-page stage resume with lesser parts. Her final role at PW was in *Daddy’s Dyin,’ Who’s Got the Will?* in 1990.

Pat was not just an actress; she was also a 12-play director, taking on a wide variety, ranging from *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *The Glass Menagerie* to *Wait Until Dark* and *Dracula* to *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Ah, Wilderness*.

According to Players Workshop Archives Chair Mary Krohlow, prior to Pat’s death, she could be found “holding court” at her care facility in Oregon, and Mary says, “Those of us who knew her can only assume that her spirit is continuing to hold court and entertaining those around her.”

AUDITIONS SET



PW will hold open auditions for the musical comedy *Sister Act* on July 23-24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the workshop.

Parts are open for 7 males, 9 females, plus an ensemble, all ages late teen and up.

For more info, contact director Matt Poling (319-750-0334 or matsmp1981@mediacombb.net).

Sister Act was written by Bill & Cheri Steinkellner, with music by Alan Menken & lyrics by Glenn Slater, and additional material by Douglas Carter Beane. (Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International)

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HONORARY SUPPORTING CAST DONATION FORM

Join the **Honorary Supporting Cast** and make a one-time donation for the 2023-2024 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.