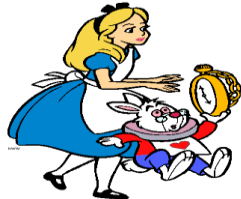


**THE
BACKSTAGE PASS**

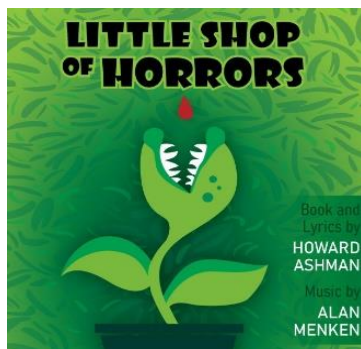
**ALICE IN WONDERLAND
PLAYS TO PACKED HOUSES**



If Players Workshop's Young Actor Production of the adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* is any example, the future of community theater in the Burlington area is safe! The more than 30 "kid" actors on the PW stage proved that, playing to sold-out houses, with "spot on" performances, aided by fantastical make-up, costuming, and sets.

Congratulations to both cast and crew for an absolutely superb representation of community theater!

**MUSICAL LITTLE SHOP OF
HORRORS OPENS 2024-25 SEASON**



Players Workshop will open the season with *Little Shop of Horrors* on Sept. 20, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at the theater at 1431 Grove St., Burlington, IA.

Little Shop of Horrors is a dark comedy. rock musical, featuring music by Alan Menken with book and lyrics by Howard Ashman. It tells the story of the nerdish Seymour and an unusual plant named Audrey II, which has a personality all its own.

Seymour Krelborn is a poor man working in Mr. Mushnik's Skid Row flower shop; Seymour loves his co-worker, the beautiful Audrey, but she is dating the sadistic

dentist Orin Scivello. One day, after a sudden eclipse of the sun, Seymour finds a mysterious plant, which he takes to the shop and names Audrey II, in honor of his love. As Audrey II begins to thrive, the shop suddenly enjoys great financial success, and Seymour suddenly has a chance with Audrey, while, throughout it all, the street "urchins" offer musical commentary on the events.

The following cast has been selected:

Seymour Krelborn – Tommy Caruso

Audrey Fulquard – Elias Gerling

The Urchins – Olivia Keller

Bella Clements

Njeri Patric

Mr. Mushnik – James Brand

Audrey II (The Plant) – Jason Guyton

Orin Scivello, D. D. S. – Adam Fauser

"Everyone Else" – Hayden Roberts

Master Puppeteer (Audrey II) – Matt Poling

Lee Franklin will direct, assisted by Cody Flietner; musical director is Scott Teater, assisted by Carolyn C. Blair. Christa Ruther will produce.

Steve Poling is in charge of scene and lighting design, Nikki Critser is costume designer, and Robbin Poling will be props master.

The show will run three weekends, Sept. 20-22, 27-29, Oct. 3-6, 2024. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., except for 2:00 p.m. Sunday matinees on Sept. 22, 29, and Oct. 6.

Little Shop of Horrors is presented through special arrangements with Music Theatre International (MTI), and all authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

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

**UPDATE ON SEASON 2024-2025
TICKETS AND PLAYS**

Players Workshop has an amazing roster of shows on tap for 2024-2025, and Jean Ballinger, chair of season ticket sales, says season ticket mailings are going out soon, so everyone should be watching for them.

Prices remain the same as last year for season ticket holders, so, basically, those purchasing them will get 4 top quality shows for the price of 3!

The shows are as follows:

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Music by Alan Menken

Book & Lyrics by Howard Ashman

Sept. 20-22, 27-29, Oct. 3-6, 2024

Presented through special arrangements with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.com

On the Farce Day of Christmas

by Ken Levine

Dec. 6-8, 12-15, 2024

Presented through arrangements with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by TRW Plays 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY
www.trwplays.com

The Hallelujah Girls

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten

Feb. 21-23, 27-28, Mar. 1-2, 2025

presented through arrangements with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Broadway Licensing Group 440 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor New York, NY
www.broadwaylicensing.com

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

by Ken Ludwig, Agatha Christie

May 2-4, 8-11, 2025

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

According to Ballinger, “One of the big changes [in ticket sales] this year is that people will be able to reserve seats themselves online if they provide us with their email when they order, so we can set up an online account for them showing they have paid for their season tickets.”

If you did not order season tickets last year, but would like to do so for 2024-2025, send your information to Jean Ballinger at jeanballingercpa@myiowacpa.com, or you can keep checking the Players Workshop website www.playersworkshoptheater.com for the online order form, which will be posted soon.



PW GARAGE SALE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

The 2025 Players Workshop garage sale is in the books, and the results are the best ever recorded since it began 10 years ago!

A total of \$2000 was realized as the generosity of the community was on full display, both in the number and variety of donated items and the monetary donations of the shoppers who attended.

The event took place at the Workshop on Grove St., on Sat., July 20. All items for sale were unmarked, with sale goers urged to simply make donations for the items they selected. Items included books, clothing, kids' games, bikes, holiday décor, golf clubs, home furnishings and kitchenware of all kinds, and some specialty items sold at silent auctions. In fact, there were so many donations they almost didn't have room for it all!

Co-chairs Libba Flores and Mary Fox would also like to give a “special shout out to all the people who

volunteered to help with the sale, including setup ahead of time and cleanup after the sale.”

Proceeds from this year’s auction are earmarked to help pay for new flooring in the lobby area of the theater.

Players Workshop wants to thank the many people who generously brought donations and also those who made generous donations for the items they wished to own.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, contact Bonnie Downes (catlady60450@msn.com or 319-752-4688) 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.)

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Meet the “lunch lady,” one of PW’s newly elected board members. This is Christine Claeys, who was elected at this year’s annual meeting.

Originally from Wataga, IL (near Galesburg), she currently works in food service at the Burlington School District—hence, the “lunch lady” moniker.

Since she became active in PW, Christine has been unstinting in her support for the Young Actor Program. One main reason for running for the Board was to “help build the youth program;” she recently directed PW’s successful summer production of *Alice in Wonderland*, and she serves on the Youth committee. Two of her goals on that committee are to have next summer’s play chosen before November and to have a play selection committee for the youth plays organized before March.

What she most likes about being a part of Players Workshop is “being part of the creative process and learning about all the aspects of putting on a play.”

Christine brings her enthusiasm to PW, where, in the future she would like to see PW continue to grow and “add new people to our numbers. Get more volunteers to learn how to hang and program lights, build sets, do hair and/or makeup and costumes.”

When not involved in Workshop business, she spends a lot of time with her 3 grandkids, meeting friends for coffee, doing crafts, and crocheting.

Active and energetic, Christine Claeys is a welcome addition to PW’s Board of Directors.

SUPPORTING CAST 2024-2025 DONORS NEEDED



As the 2024-2025 season begins for Players Workshop, so, also, begins the Supporting Cast Donor list for the year.

This is a one-time financial donation to Players Workshop, which will run for the theatrical season, and contributes significantly to the financial stability of PW.

Donations 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+

Names of all those who have already joined for 24-25 are listed below. Won’t you join them?

Director

Star

Tim & Tonja Binder

Supporting Actor

David Beckman

Bonnie Downes

Wayne & Colleen Heibner

Stage Crew

Denise Johnson

Teresa, Mark, & Pat Shaffer

Usher

All those who join will have their names listed in each play program and newsletter, as well as on the PW website, for 2024-25. Thank you in advance for your support.

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.

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HONORARY SUPPORTING CAST DONATION FORM

Join the **Honorary Supporting Cast** and make a one-time donation for the 2024-2025 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.