



# Doin' It for Sugar

By Bob McLaughlin

There's something about a man in a dress that's always funny. Think of Milton Berle, the Monty Python troupe, Harvey Fierstein in *Hairspray*, Anthony Perkins in *Psycho*. Well, *almost* always funny. Anyway, not one man but two men in dresses are at the heart of screenwriter-director Billy Wilder's comedy movie classic *Some Like It Hot*, which is the inspiration for Community Players' second show of the season, *Sugar*.



Jason Strunk (Joe/Josephine), Abby Gnagey (Sugar Kane), and David Vilmin (Jerry/Daphne) rehearse a dance number from *Sugar*.

*Sugar*, a 1972 Broadway hit with score by Jule Styne and Bob Merrill (*Funny Girl*) and book by Peter Stone (1976), is the story of two hapless jazz musicians, Joe and Jerry—Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in the movie, Tony Roberts and Robert Morse on Broadway—who become inadvertent witnesses to the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Desperate to get out of Chicago before gangster Spats Palazzo's goons can rub them out, they pick up the only gig they can—with an all-girl band

on their way to Miami, which means, you guessed it, that Joe and Jerry become Josephine and Daphne. Their escape is complicated when they meet and fall for the band's vocalist Sugar Kane—Marilyn Monroe on screen, Elaine Joyce in New York. To impress her, Joe adopts yet another disguise (kind of an alter-alter ego) as the heir to a fortune who suffers from, um, an inability to be aroused by the opposite sex. If only he could find the right girl to cure him! The escape is further complicated by Jerry making his own conquest: eccentric millionaire Osgood Fielding, Jr., who thinks Daphne is hot stuff. The escape is still further complicated by the arrival in Miami of Spats and his gang. Will they recognize Joe and Jerry? Will Joe and Sugar find true love? Will Jerry shake off Osgood? Will Sweet Sue and her Society Syncopaters be able to finish this gig? We won't know till the second act curtain!

Director **Deb Smith** has assembled a terrific and talented cast to bring these wacky situations to life. Joe and Josephine are played by **Jason Strunk**, Jerry and Daphne by **David Vilmin**. Sugar is played by **Abby Gnagey**. Osgood is played by **John Lieder**, Spats by **Charles Maaks**, and Sweet Sue by **Karen Clark**. Playing assorted musicians, gangsters, and millionaires are **Elizabeth Aronson, Nathan Bortoff, Kameron Cox, Dave Lemmon, Karrah O'Daniel, Chuck Palm, Justin Palm, Joy Ralston, Cathy Sikyta, Cathy Sutliff, Mariano Tolentino, and Alexis Wood**.

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November - December 2006

**Board Meetings**

November 7, 6:00 p.m.  
December 12 6:00 p.m.  
Community Players Theatre

**Sugar**

Preview: Nov. 2  
Shows: Nov. 3-5, 9-12, 16-19.  
Community Players Theatre

**Noises Off**

Auditions: Nov. 13-14.  
Preview: Jan. 11  
Shows: Jan. 12-14, 18-21, 25-27.

*All evening shows  
begin at 7:30!*



**Community Players**

201 Robinhood Lane  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-663-2121  
www.communityplayers.org

**Newsletter Committee**

Jim Kalmbach  
John Lieder  
Bob McLaughlin  
Roland Spies  
Joann Yant

We are always looking for writers, artists, designers and story ideas. Send comments and suggestions to [lieder78@yahoo.com](mailto:lieder78@yahoo.com)

*Curtain Calls* is published six times a year for the voting members of Community Players.

For information about joining us, please contact the membership chair, Roland Spies at [roland.spies.ggt9@statefarm.com](mailto:roland.spies.ggt9@statefarm.com).

Back issues of *Curtain Calls* are available on the Community Players web site.

## NOISES OFF Auditions

When Michael Frayn's classic farce *Noises Off* first arrived on Broadway in 1983, it was hailed by some New York critics as "the funniest play ever written" and was the recipient of four Tony Award nominations, including Best Play. With a breakneck pace, hilarious plot-line, and a rich gallery of characters, it's easy to see why this hysterical comedy has become a favorite of audiences and actors alike.



A clever twist on the play-within-a-play format, *Noises Off* follows the on- and off-stage antics of a touring theatre company as they stumble from a bumbling dress rehearsal to the disastrous final performance of the British farce *Nothing On*. As the tour progresses and the tempers within the cast and crew flare out of control, the performances onstage become secondary to the battles taking place behind the scenes.

Auditions for *Noises Off* will be held on Monday, November 13th and Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 pm at Community Players Theatre. *Noises Off* will have roles for five adult men and four adult women (ages 18+). Auditioners will be asked to fill out an audition form and read from the script. Attendance on both audition nights is welcomed, but not mandatory.

Director **Brian Artman** is looking for energetic actors and actresses who are willing to commit to a very fun, yet physically and mentally demanding production. Performances will be January 12-14, 18-21, 25-27, 2007 with a preview performance scheduled for January 11, 2007.

If you are unable to attend either of the scheduled nights of auditions and need to arrange for a private audition, or if you would like more information about the show, please contact Brian Artman, [opiedope@hotmail.com](mailto:opiedope@hotmail.com), or visit the Community Players website: [http://www.communityplayers.org/shows\\_noises.html](http://www.communityplayers.org/shows_noises.html).



### New Director for *Big River*

**Joe Penrod** has reported that State Farm is transferring him to Austin, Texas, in the near future, and so he will have to step down as director of the spring musical, *Big River*.

**Marcia Weiss** will step in to take up the directorial reins. Deb Smith continues as producer.

*Big River*, the Tony Award-winning musical version of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, will have auditions March 18-20, 2007 and performances May 3 (preview), May 4-6, 10-13, 17-20, 2007.

Community Players sheds a collective tear at Joe and Sylvia leaving us, and we wish them the best of luck in Austin.

# Community Players Announces 2007-2008 Season

At its October meeting, the Community Players board approved the 2007-2008 season (pending availability): *Mister Roberts*, *Crazy for You*, *The Mousetrap*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Father of the Bride*. The season will also include a non-subscription Halloween show, *The Woman in Black*, a ghost story that has been running for years in London. Playreading Committee chair **Sally Parry** offers the following descriptions.

## ***Mister Roberts*** (Comedy)

by Thomas Heggen and Joshua Logan

19 men, 1 woman

Auditions: July 23-24, 2007

Preview: Sept. 6; Performances: Sept. 7-9, 13-16, 20-22, 2007 (10 shows)

This rowdy, realistic saga of a group of American sailors aboard a Navy ship in the Pacific during World War II shows the crew suffering deadly boredom as they sail from Apathy to Tedium and back again. Mister Roberts, a lieutenant, wants to be transferred into combat, but has to deal with his cantankerous Skipper, the hijinks of Ensign Pulver, and the rest of the restless crew before his transfer can be approved.

## ***Crazy for You*** (Musical)

Book by Ken Ludwig, Music by George Gershwin,  
Lyrics by Ira Gershwin

15 men, 14 women (there can be some doubling)

Auditions: Sept. 9-11, 2007

Preview: Nov. 1; Performances: Nov. 2-4, 8-11, 15-18, 2007 (11 shows)

This energetic musical comedy is an updated version of the Gershwin brothers' *Girl Crazy* and includes classic songs like "Someone to Watch Over Me," "I Got Rhythm," and "Embraceable You." Bobby Childs, a young banker, heads west to a dude ranch and helps convince the folks in a sleepy Western town to put on a show. Lots of great singing and dancing ensues.

## ***The Woman in Black*** (Drama)

by Stephen Mallatratt

2 men, 1 woman

Auditions: Sept. 24-25, 2007

Preview: Oct. 22; Performances: Oct. 23-25, 2007 (3 shows)

Thriller about a lawyer who tells an actor about one of the most frightening times of his life in a possibly haunted house. He hires the actor to act out the story, with surprising results. This long-running British hit comes just in time for Halloween and will be done for one weekend only as a lab show.

## ***The Mousetrap*** (Drama)

by Agatha Christie

5 men, 3 women

Auditions: Nov. 12-13, 2007

Preview: Jan. 10; Performances: Jan. 11-13, 17-20, 24-26, 2008 (10 shows)

Eight people are trapped in an isolated hotel because of a heavy snowstorm. One of the guests is killed. Is another guest the murderer? Who done it? This classic murder-mystery has run for decades in London.

## ***Fiddler on the Roof*** (Musical)

Book by Joseph Stein, Music by Jerry Bock, Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

14 men, 10 women, plus chorus

Auditions: Jan. 13-15, 2008

Preview: Feb. 28; Performances: Feb. 29-Mar. 2, 6-9, 13-16, 2008 (11 shows)

This is the warm and touching story of Tevye, the dairyman, and his five loving and exasperating daughters. Tevye's precariously balanced traditional life in Tzarist Russia is challenged by his family and the politics of the outside world, but he still manages to keep a wry sense of humor about himself, his family, and his God. The show contains such memorable numbers as "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," and "Tradition."

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... 2007/8 Season continued from page 3.

**Father of the Bride** (Comedy)  
by Caroline Francke

11 men, 7 women minimum  
Auditions: Mar. 17-18, 2008  
Preview: May 1; Performances: May 2-4, 8-11, 15-17,  
2008 (10 shows)

Stanley Banks learns that his beloved daughter Kay is going to get married to a young man whom he hardly knows—and that the couple just wants a simple wedding with a few friends. Watch what happens as the small wedding gets bigger by the day with caterers, florists, furniture movers, and dressmakers all adding to the fun. Based on the classic Spencer Tracy-Elizabeth Taylor film.

The hardworking members of Sally's Playreading Committee are **Eddy Arteman, Brian Artman, Karen Clark, Bruce Parrish, Joe Penrod, Deb Smith, Tom Smith, Cathy Sutliff, and Alan Wilson.**

This season the Playreading Committee will be trying something different in order to encourage people to become involved with directing, producing, musical directing, and all the other backstage roles including props, sets, lights, costumes, etc. Applications for directing and staff roles will be available on the Community Players website <http://www.communityplayers.org> as well as at the box office. Application information will also be included in upcoming programs. We hope to encourage more people to get involved.

The deadline for applications is January 2, 2007.



*At a recent rehearsal, John Lieder captured the cast of Sugar showing off their locks as they prepared for what is sure to be a rollicking good time at Community Players.*

... Sugar preview continued from page 1.

Deb is supported by a first-rate staff: Producer **Kelli Beal**, Assistant Director **Theresa Kerber**, and Stage Manager **Judy Stroh**; Music Director **Melody Palm** and accompanists **Kim Snyder** and **Ellen Hagen**; Choreographer **Kathy Taylor**; Set Designer **Stuart Cartwright** and Master Builder **Bruce Parrish**; Lighting Designer **David Flanders**; Sound Designer **Rich Plotkin**; Costume Designer **Eddy Arteman**; Prop Master **Sherri Scott**; House Manager **Jean Lieder**, and Makeup Designer **Penny Wilson.**

*Sugar* has a pay-what-you-can preview on Thursday, Nov. 2, then runs Nov. 3-5, 9-12, and 16-19, with Thursday, Friday, and Saturday performances beginning at 7:30 and Sunday matinees at 2:30.

The show promises to be a singing and dancing return to the days of jazz, bathtub gin, tommy guns, and men in girdles and high heels.

