



COMMUNITY PLAYERS

CURTAIN CALLS

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March, 2009

No Argument Here, *Squabbles* Entertains

by John Lieder

After a long, cold winter, things are finally heating up. Well, at least they are heating up on the weekends as Marshall Karp's hilarious living room comedy *Squabbles* makes its way to the Players stage. The cantankerous Abe Dreyfuss has moved in with his daughter Alice and son-in-law Jerry due to a heart condition. When Jerry's mother moves in with them after her house burns down, conflict, humor and surprises ensue as the headstrong in-laws square off.

Players veteran **Dave Lemmon** portrays the obstinate Abe, and **Dana Spies** is the equally argumentative Mildred Sloan. **Hannah Kerns** continues her busy season as Abe's daughter, Alice. (Excluding the lab show, she has been on stage for every production during the season and through the magic of live

theater, Hannah is pregnant for the second time in five months!)

John Bowen plays her jingle-writing husband, Jerry.

Squabbles

Making his Players debut, **John Gahm** is natural and comically smooth as the Sloan's Puerto Rican handyman, Hector Lopez. **Jeremy Stiller** portrays Abe's coffee-loving neighbor, Sol Wasserman, and **Nancy Nickerson** rounds out the cast as the governess, Mrs. Fisher.



Dave Lemmon, Dana Spies, John Gahm and John Bowen admire a toy rocking horse in rehearsals for *Squabbles*.

Jeremy Stiller's set transports the audience into the Stamford, Connecticut, living room of Jerry and Alice Sloan. The set is structured downstage and, to the delight of the actors, brings the cast forward, almost to the point where they could shake hands with Row A. The multi-level set includes a dinette set, sofa, piano and a kitchen that is complete with everything, including the kitchen sink.

The production is directed by **Brian Artman** with assistance from **Reena Rhoda**. **John Lieder**

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COMMUNITY PLAYERS
Calendar

March - April 2008

Board Meetings

Mar. 10 6:00 p.m.
April 14, 6:00 p.m.
Community Players Theatre

Squabbles

Preview: Feb. 26
Shows: Feb. 27 - March 1,
March 5-8, 12-14

Urinetown

Auditions: March 15-17
Preview: April 30
Shows: May 1-3, 7-10, 14-17

Tickets can be ordered online at
www.communityplayers.org.
Click on "Online Ticket Sales."



Community Players

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Newsletter Committee

Jim Kalmbach
Barb Lemmon
John Lieder
Bob McLaughlin

We are always looking for
writers, artists, designers and
story ideas. Send comments and
suggestions to lieder78@yahoo.com

Curtain Calls is published six
times a year for the voting mem-
bers of Community Players.

For information about joining us,
please contact our membership
chair, Barb Lemmon at
barb.lemmon@comcast.net.

Back issues of *Curtain Calls*
are available on the Commu-
nity Players web site. Click on
"Newsletter Archive."

Why would we do *Urinetown, the musical*?

That's a good question but let me see if I can explain.

My husband and I have some great friends who used to live and work in New York. Although they've been residents of central Illinois for a long time, their hearts are still there in the theatre district. They manage to see at least one performance of all the shows on Broadway and quite a few off- or off-off-Broadway. They always bring us programs and tell us what they've seen.

Imagine my surprise and hesitation when they mentioned back in 2003 that they saw a delightfully original, funny musical called *Urinetown, the musical*. Based on what they said I was sure that it was funny and the music was engaging but I was eating dinner at the time so I wasn't overly enthused.

Then they said the magical words, John Cullum. I have admired Mr. Cullum's work for years and love to hear him sing. The fact that he took a role in this awful sounding show made me curious. So curious that the following spring while in New York my family and I went to see the show for ourselves.

I don't know what I was expecting exactly but I found myself laughing as soon as Officers Lockstock and Barrel hit the stage. I love satire and puns so I was in Heaven with the dialogue, character names and songs. It had everything—25 adults playing all sorts of ages including children, the young lovers, hidden relationships, murder, greed, conniving megalomaniacs, I mean, what's not to love? And, underneath it all, is a very important message about maintaining sustainable water supplies.

Now we're bringing it here to share with you. I'm excited about who will audition to be in the cast. It needs approximately 25 adults who must all sing and dance (some only move). Our producers are **Opal Virtue** and **Sherry Bradshaw** with **Kyle Freesen** as musical director and **Sherise Kirvan** as choreographer.

Auditions are March 15-17 at 7 p.m. each night. We will require everyone to bring a prepared piece of music to sing (no acappella or pre-recorded disks) and our show accompanist will be available each evening.

I encourage you to put aside your assumptions about the title and audition or attend this very witty show. Performance dates are April 30-May 17.

Urinetown
THE MUSICAL

Community Players Revives Sponsorship Program with Reception at *Harvey*

by Cathy Sutliff

Community Players has initiated an ad hoc Fund Development committee to establish systems and procedures to increase revenue for the theatre while enhancing our relationships with our patrons. **Herb Reichelt** and **Joe Strupek** have graciously agreed to co-chair the committee. In May, at the annual membership meeting, we will vote on making Fund Development a permanent standing committee.

The committee's first project was to revive Community Player's Sponsorship program. The production of *Harvey* became the flagship for the sponsorship program with the generosity of **John Contarino**. After rehearsals were underway, John heard that the new Fund Development committee was looking to re-initiate the sponsorship program. John, a long-time supporter of Community Players on both sides of the footlights, saw this as a marvelous opportunity to introduce his friends to the theatre and jumped at the chance to be the first sponsor.



John Contarino chats with Carol Scott and Dave Kagel



Herb Reichelt passes out door prizes

As a thank you to John for all his support, a reception was held after a show in the second weekend of the run. Over eighty of John's closest friends joined us to thank John, tour the theatre, partake in a door prize drawing and enjoy food from the Garlic Press Market Café. **Nancy Kagel** and **Barbara Reinagle** won the door prizes of *Harvey* coffee mugs, toy bunnies and tickets for future productions.

The sponsorship program will continue in the new season. If you would like to learn more about sponsoring a production and introducing your friends to fun at Community Players please contact **Herb Reichelt** at herb564@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Elections for the Board of Governors

Community Players will be having our yearly members' meeting on Tuesday, May 5th at 6 p.m. All members are invited to attend, vote in the elections, and get caught up with the activities of the theatre. An e-mail reminder will be sent out to members the week prior to the meeting.

The seven positions on the Board that are up for election and the members who are running are as follows:

Vice President	John Lieder
Secretary	Alan Wilson, Cris Embree
Box Office	Kameron Cox
Theatre Craft	Carol Plotkin
Marketing	Chris Strupek
Playreading	Deb Smith, Tom Smith
Fund Development	Herb Reichelt

Fund Development is a new position for Community Players and is much needed as the support for the arts by outside funding agencies lessens. It will replace an ad hoc committee currently chaired by Herb Reichelt and Joe Strupek. Fund development will create an annual fund development program, coordinate development training and training materials, identify current and potential donors; and work to solicit donors and sponsorships, among other duties.



... *Squabbles* preview continued from page 1.

is producer. **Eddy Arteman** is in charge of costumes, **Dan Virtue** is doing lights and **Carol Plotkin** is doing properties. **Rich Plotkin** is doing the sound design, but Artman will be manning the sound board. **Judy Stroh** is once again stage manager and **Jean Lieder** is house manager.

The Pay-What-You-Can Preview Performance is Thursday, February 26. Regular performances are February 27 – March 1, March 5-8 and March 12-14. As usual, all evening performances begin at 7:30 and Sunday matinées begin at 2:30.

Be sure to get there early. Dan Virtue has recorded some special entertainment that will be played during pre-show.

Producers and Directors for Next Season Announced

The Board of Governors approved the following directors and producers for next season. There are a couple of first-time producers and directors, which should help to make for an exciting season. Please contact them if you're interested in working on their productions.

Les Misérables School Edition

Director: Alan Wilson

Co-Producers: Alan Wilson and Cathy Sikyta

Lost in Yonkers

Director: Opal Virtue

Producer: Sherry Bradshaw

The Pajama Game

Director: Deb Smith

Producer: Gary Strunk

Oleanna

Director: Cris Embree

Producer: Dorothy Mundy

Dearly Departed

Director: Brian Artman

Producer: John Lieder

Play It Again, Sam

Director: Kameron Cox

Producer: Tom Smith

Side by Side by Sondheim

Director: Sherise Kirvan

Producer: Ted and Becky Ichniowski

The Producers

Director: Marcia Weiss

Producers: John and Jean Lieder



Author Silas House Reading at Community Players!

Author Silas House will be reading from his book *The Coal Tattoo* at Community Players on Thursday, April 16, at 7 p.m., as part of the A Tale for Two Cities program hosted by the Bloomington and Normal Public Libraries.

For more information contact Rhonda Massie at RhondaM@BloomingtonLibrary.org or 309 828-6091 ext 219.