



COMMUNITY PLAYERS CURTAIN CALLS

Vol. 7.3

September, 2011

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And Then There Were None Returns to Players

by John Lieder

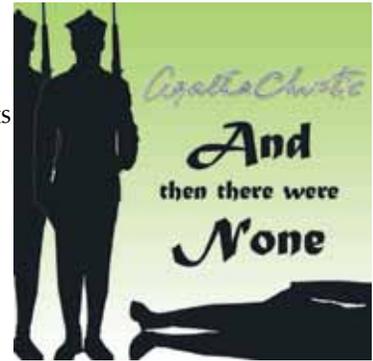
Agatha Christie's story about a series of craftily orchestrated murders on a remote island comes to the Players stage for the third time. Or is it the first? Well, actually, Community Players performed the story in 1947 and again in 1993, but with the title *Ten Little Indians*. First published in 1937, the story in its various titles ranks in the top ten in most "best-selling novels" lists, with over 100 million copies sold, so it must have something going for it. And indeed it does.

The riveting story takes place entirely in the living area of a large house on remote "Soldier Island." We are successfully transported to Soldier Island, circa 1939 via a marvelous set, designed and painted by Dave Fuller and built by Jeremy Stiller, and via special sound effects engineered by DJ LaRoque. Two temporary staff and eight guests have been lured there via various ruses by "host" U. N. Owen.

The show begins as the butler and cook, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers (played by **Allen Popowski** and **Hannah Kerns**),

discuss the guest list with boatman Fred Naracott (played by **Jay Hartzler**). After the guests arrive, a gramophone recording is played which accuses them and the Rogers of being responsible for various deaths, with the portent of coming judgment.

As the characters begin dying off one-by-one, in accord with the poem "Ten Little Soldiers," the guests (along with the audience) are left to wonder who will be the next victim and who the murderer is.



Cathy Sutliff directs this group of fine actors and **Wendi Fleming** is Producer. The remainder of the cast, busily perfecting their British accents and listed here alphabetically, are **Brett Cottone** as Judge Wargrave,

Larry Eggan as General McKenzie, **Nancy Nickerson** as Emily Brent, **Aric Rattan** as Anthony Marston, **Jeff Ready**

... continued on page 4.



CP Trivia

This season's *Blithe Spirit* will join *And Then There Were None* on the ever-growing list of shows that have been produced at Players three times. Can you name the other eight? See **page 4** for the answer.



The guests and staff of "Soldier Island" discuss the gramophone they have just heard that accused each of them of being responsible for various deaths.

Sept. - Oct. 2011

Board Meetings

Sept. 13 6:00 p.m.
Oct. 11, 6:00 p.m.
Community Players Theatre

And Then There Were None

Preview: Sept. 1
Shows: Sept. 2-4, 8-11, 15-17

Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?

Auditions: Sept. 11-13
Preview: Nov. 3
Shows: Nov. 4-6, 10-13, 17-20

Murder at the Howard Johnson's

Auditions: Sept. 19 & 20
Preview: None
Shows: Dec. 1-4



Community Players

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Newsletter Committee

Jim Kalmbach
Wendi Fleming
John Lieder
Bob McLaughlin
Sally Parry

We are always looking for writers, artists, designers and story ideas. Send comments and suggestions to kalmbach@ilstu.edu

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

For information about joining us, please contact our membership chair, Wendi Fleming at cplayersmember@aol.com.

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

Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up? Auditions

Whether it was ten years ago or half a century, we remember our grade school days as if they were yesterday. More vividly, perhaps, we remember the people who experienced those years with us—the teacher's pet, the tomboy, the nerd, the chubby kid, the teacher who scared the daylights out of you. *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* takes us back to those formative years, reintroduces us to those old friends, and reminds us what it was like to "be that young again."



Based on John Powers' novel of the same name, *Patent Leather Shoes* is a coming-of-age, musical comedy about eight Chicago children going through the Catholic school system and the teachers who guided their way. Following them from the start of elementary school through their senior prom and beyond, *Patent Leather Shoes* touches on topics such as first confession, popularity, sex education, falling in love, faith, and growing up.

Community Players will hold auditions for *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* from Sunday, September 11th through Tuesday, September 13th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. each evening (Tuesday night may be reserved for callback auditions). Director **Brian Artman** will cast five men and eight women (ages 18 and up) to play the eight school children at various ages, four nuns, and a priest.

Those auditioning will be asked to read with others from the script, to participate in a short dance audition (please, dress comfortably), and to sing a memorized piece of music. Please bring sheet music and be prepared to sing no more than 16 bars of the piece with the provided accompanist.

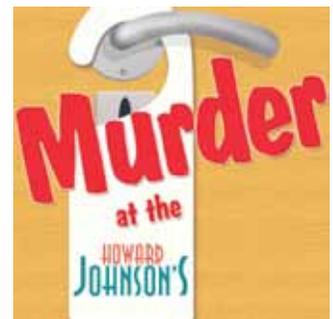
Performances for *Patent Leather Shoes* will begin with a preview on Thursday, November 3rd and continue from November 4-6, 10-13, 17-20, 2011.

Please contact the director, Brian Artman,—brian.artman.jehl@statefarm.com—with any questions.



Auditions For Murder at the Howard Johnson's

This year's fall lab theatre production is *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick. A fast-paced suspense comedy about a love triangle between a husband, Paul, his wife, Arlene, and their dentist, Mitchell, the play is set in three short acts, each on a different holiday in a different room at the Howard Johnson's Motor Inn, each with a different murder attempt that goes hilariously wrong.



Director **Dave Lemmon** will be casting two men and one woman. Auditions are September 19 & 20 at 7 pm each evening.

Performances for *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* are December 1-4.

88th Season Celebration and Reunion a Home Run!

by Wendi Fleming

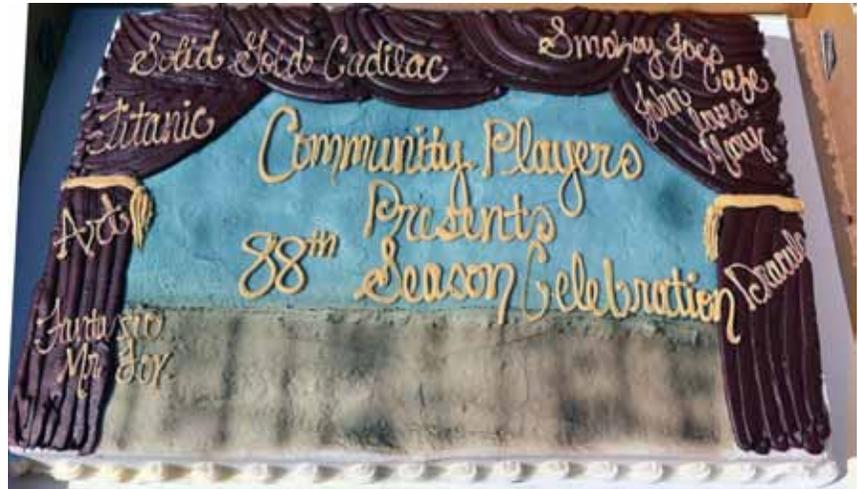
On August 14, 2011, Community Players held its annual Season Celebration and Reunion at The Corn Crib in Normal. Seventy Players family members were on hand to share in the pregame festivities. **John Lieder** manned the grill with the help of **Chuck Stuckey** on the tailgate grill, while **Jean Lieder** organized the potluck treasures brought in. And OH the treasures we had! This group can really put on a spread. No one walked away hungry from this outing. It took three tables to hold all the delicious pass around dishes. I believe we could open a dinner theater the food was so good. Everyone congregated on the lawn just outside the field in a HUGE circle of lawn chairs. It was a wonderful feeling to look around and know that everyone there knows you and you know them and yes we are a family.

The cast of *Smokey Joe's Café* was asked to sing The National Anthem to start the CornBelts game. I must say myself after having heard a partial cell phone recording, it was pretty spot on! Community Players sat together in a section behind the CornBelts dugout, and we turned that Corn Crib into a cradle because we had it ROCKING with cheers lead by **Miss Evelyn Young** and the young **Miss Lily Kirvan**.

A very special thank you to Kyle from the CornBelts for helping to arrange this quite spectacular and memorable event.

Not one single thing went wrong from the food, to the Anthem to the weather to the fabulous victory of the Normal CornBelts.

Come out and join Community Players Theater during the 89th Season, make some memories to last a lifetime, friendships that are priceless, a theater tradition that is timeless and just see how we celebrate a year from now!



Above: The Reunion Cake (it was delicious).

Below: Members of the *Smokey Joe's Café* cast singing the National Anthem (**Charles Andrews, Brian Artman, Reena Artman, Chris Bronson, Megan Clark, Wendi Fleming, John Poling, Chuck Stuckey, Austin Travis, Christie Vallella, and Evelyn Young**).



Photo by Joe Strupek.

. . . *And Then There Were Ten* preview continued from page 1.

as Phillip Lombard, **Leslie Ringger** as Vera Claythorne, **Jeremy Stiller** as Dr. Armstong, and **Kevin Woodard** as William Henry Blore. **Dan Virtue** is Lighting Designer, **Laura McBurney** is Costumer, and **Dorothy Mundy** is in charge of Properties. **Judy Stroh** is Stage Manager and **Kelly Slater** is House Manager.

The Pay-What-You-Can Preview performance is Thursday, September 1. Regular performances are September 2-4, 8-11 and 15-17.



Shows that have been produced three times by Community Players:

Charlotte's Web (1987, 1994, 2004)
Fiddler On The Roof (1978, 1993, 2007)
Guys And Dolls (1964, 1990, 2009)
Harvey (1952, 1990, 2009)
Oklahoma! (1977, 1988, 2006)
See How They Run (1974, 1988, 2002)
The Music Man (1979, 1992, 2004)
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (1997, 2000, 2007)

Players Sing for Seniors

On August 12 a group of Community Players performers offered a selection of classic show tunes for the senior-citizen residents of Heritage Manor in Normal. **Bruce Parrish** provided narration and introductions while **Chad Kirvan, John Lieder, Bob McLaughlin, Cris Ploense,** and **Christie Vellella** sang. Chad and **Sally Parry** shared accompanist duties. Players hopes to take this show on the road to other local nursing homes.



Cris Ploense serenades the seniors while Chad Kirvan accompanies on piano.

Clean Up Days Create Behind-the-Scenes Order

During the third week of July, after the successful run of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Community Players conducted its first concentrated clean up days in some time. For four evenings and several hours on Saturday, volunteers attacked the costume room and the shop, creating order out of what may seem, after a show is over, chaos.

In **the costume room**, clothes were straightened out and when necessary re-sorted to make sure like historical styles were together. Costumes were examined for wear and tear, with some pieces deemed too worn to save.

In **the shop**, all the furniture was brought down from above the north and south stairwells and out from under the prop room. Each table, chair, couch, desk, mantle, rug, sideboard, Roman pediment—Roman pediment?!—was examined, and some were consigned to the dumpster. The survivors were photographed and replaced above the stairwell or under the prop room. The photographs will provide a log of what we have and help directors and designers decide what pieces they want to use for a production and, with luck, save a lot of rummaging around.

If how much one throws away is an indication of success in cleaning up, Players enjoyed a blockbuster. Four full dumpsters, plus a little overflow, were taken away. In addition, two truckloads of discarded metal were taken to Morris Tick for recycling (and for which Players was paid).

Many thanks to the following, who volunteered their time and energy to help with clean up days: **Reena Artman, Sherry Bradshaw, Martin Coughlin, Dave Fuller, Jay Hartzler, Jean Lieder, John Lieder, Charles Maaks, Bob McLaughlin, Bruce Parrish, Kathy Parrish, Sally Parry, John Poling, Thom Rakestraw, Bridgette Richard, Carol Scott, Tom Smith, Dan Virtue, Opal Virtue, Kevin Woodard,** and **Kristin Woodard.**

Thanks to the hard work of these volunteers, Players is now better prepared to move into our fall season.