



*Decatur's Community Theatre
presents*

MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS

of 1940

by John Bishop



Sponsored by



November 5, 6 & 12, 13, 1999 - 8:00 p.m.

November 7 & 14, 1999 - 2:00 p.m.

Decatur Civic Center Theatre





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Community
Theatre
presents

Musical Comedy Murders

of 1940

By John Bishop

Dedicated to Jim Kleckner

The Setting

Act I, Scene 1

The library in the mansion
of Elsa Von Grossenknueten,
Chappaqua, New York,
1940, midnight

Act I, Scene 2

Same place, next morning

Act II

Same place, same day
5 o'clock in the evening.

Director - Angela Bayler

Asst. Director - Penny Williams

Producer - Steve Trout

Director's Note

"Directing this amazing group of actors has been an entertaining experience. I have truly been blessed to work with all of them. Thanks guy and gals for all of your hard work. Also, thanks to all of the technical people who made this show a reality. You're all great! God bless."

Produced on Broadway by Bill Wildin.

Originally produced by The Circle Repertory Company, New York City.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Cast

Lesa Andrick portrays Bernice Roth, the lyricist. She has played Sister Hubert in *Nunsense I & II* for Theatre 7 and Lincoln Community Theatre, Miss Hannigan in *Annie* for T-7 and Springfield Muni and Peg in *Bathroom Humor*. Lesa is currently serving as Theatre 7 President and is involved in the Travel Troupe shows. Her “day job” is Dean of Students at Eisenhower High School. She enjoys anything theatrical and says the challenge of this role is spending a lot of time in stage and not saying much. Lesa says, “I love working with the T-7 people – the old friends, as well as meeting new ones . . . they always make me laugh (especially after some stressful days).”

Doug Bishop plays Patrick O’Reilly. He is a newcomer to Theatre 7. Doug has been in 15-20 church plays and skits. He attends Central United Methodist Church and enjoys soccer, model rockets and his family. Doug believes “the characters in this play are very complex, with several hidden motivations. Playing the part of Patrick O’Reilly is very interesting. I get to act out a character who is also acting out different characters. It also allows me to use several accents, which I love doing.”

Dick Borders plays Roger Hopewell, the composer. What’s Dick been doing lately? Well . . . after directing T’7’s *Nunsense II* last season he appeared as Juan Peron in the Lincoln Square Theatre production of *EVITA*, then as Male Singer #1 (or was it #2?) in the Richland Dinner Theater production, *Jacque Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, then back to the Lincoln Square Theatre to appear as The Duke in *Man of La Mancha*. What does Dick do in his spare time? Ya . . . right . . . what spare time!

Peter Churukian portrays Michael Kelly. He has appeared in *Seven Year Itch* as Richard Sherman and directed *Cabaret* and *Noises Off* for Theatre 7. Peter has been involved in Theatre 7 for many years in many different capacities.



Another T-7 newcomer is **Kayce Cummings**, who plays Nikki Crandall, a chorus girl. Kayce was last seen as Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* at the Lincoln Theatre this summer. She has also appeared in *The Threepenny Opera* as Betty at Millikin University and as Anne Ballew in *Juvie* at the Indiana Repertory Theater. She is a sophomore music theatre major at Millikin University and says that music theater majors aren't allowed to have hobbies or interests, but she enjoys reading plays, singing, dancing, and making her own clothes. Of this part, Kayce says "I've never gotten the chance to play the 'wide-eyed ingenue', and I'm really excited to have the chance." She would like to dedicate her performance to Reggie, "a young man who supports me through it all (even when I'm screaming at him)."

Tim Haworth plays Eddie McCuen, the comedian. He too is a newcomer to Theatre 7 but has appeared in many church productions and is a member of Central United Methodist Church. Tim is Operations Specialist/Disaster Coordinator for the Macon County Mental Health Board. He enjoys biking, writing, and travelling. He has close ties with Russia, having lived there for a time.

Kari Morris plays Elsa Von Grossenknueten. She has portrayed Baroness Schrader in *The Sound of Music* and Patty Simcox in *Grease*, both at Blatt's Dinner Theatre in Pennsylvania this summer, and Laurie in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at Millikin University. Kari is a junior acting major at Millikin. She is involved in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and Alpha Psi Omega for which she serves as business manager. In her spare time, Kari enjoys writing plays, tap dancing, Shakespeare, movie trivia, acting, and singing. She says "I have been so blessed working on this show and I've really enjoyed working with such sweet people. I would like to dedicate my performance to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Ann Morrow plays Helsa Wenzel, the maid. She has been seen in *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well . . .* for Richland Players, Stepmother in *Into The Woods* for The Little Theatre on the Square, and Belinda/Flavia in *Noises Off* for Theatre 7. She is a wife (to David), a mother (to Lauren), and a community volunteer. She is a Junior Welfare associate member and a member of the Decatur Symphony Orchestra Guild Board member.

Rick Smith is Ken De La Maize, the director. Rick has been seen in T-7's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as Rubin, *Into The Woods* as the Mysterious Man, and *Brigadoon* as Jeff Douglas. He works for Air Caster Corporation and is the keyboard player for the band Rock of Ages. Rick also plays keyboard and guitar for the Fabulous Thesboz. When not working on a show or practicing with the band, Rick enjoys power walking, golf, and motorcycle riding. He believes theatre is a “good, clean way to have fun and hang with my pals.”

Anne Thompson is Marjorie Baverstock, the producer. She has been involved in Theatre 7 in various capacities since 1972. She has portrayed Ethel Thayer in *On Golden Pond*, directed *Odd Couple – Female Version*, and was lighting designer for *Joseph*. In addition to being on stage for this show, she is heading up the make up crew. She is a Sunday school teacher at Unity Church and a merchandiser at ADM. She says “she truly enjoys working with this wonderfully eclectic group of exceptionally talented people.”

The director of *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* is **Angela Bayler**. She works for the Decatur Park District as Assistant Supervisor of Cultural Arts and Director of Storyteller Theatre. Angela been involved with Theatre 7 for a number of years assist directing *Into the Woods* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and performing as Renee in *The Odd Couple-Female Version*.



Crew

Director	Angela Bayler
Producer	Steve Trout
Assistance Director	Penny Williams
Stage Manager	Brittany Kok
Back Stage Crew	Donna Borders, Stephanie Kok, Susan Kok, Ruth Ann Shum, Natalie Walker, Rache; Walker
Costume Crew	Dina Fryman & Delia Larkins
Fight Consultant	Kirby Wahl
Hair	Chuck Landram, Sr.
House Manager	Donna Borders
Lighting Design	Angela Bayler
Lobby Display	Jody Byers
Make-up	Anne Thompson & Cast
Music	Hopewell, Roth, and De La Maize
Photographer	Julie Lycan
Program	Jerry Johnson
Props	Karen Wade & Rise Davis
Publicity	Jerry Johnson & W.E. Create
Set Construction	Lee Carp
Set Dressing	Molly Shade & Donna Borders
Set Painting	Cynthia Hinkle
Set & Paint Crew	Dick Boland, Donna Borders, Doug Fryman, Jerry Johnson, Lauren Morrow, Molly Shade, Jeanne Seal, Penny Williams, Marda Young, and Cast
Sound Effects	Delia Larkins
Video	Larry Larkins

Acknowledgements

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Theatre 7

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www.decaturnet.org/theatre7



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