

Lost cities. Brutal expeditions. Warrior monks. Deadly cobras.
And the worst bartender in London.

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Theatre 7 presents

THE EXPLORERS CLUB

WRITTEN BY Nell Benjamin
DIRECTED BY Jayson Albright

STARRING

Rachel Albrecht Jayson Albright Doug Bishop Josh Hammon Jerry Johnson
John D. Poling Joshua Sisson Josh Sowa Mitchell VanZant

LIVE in thrilling color at Shilling Auditorium!

OCTOBER 16 - 25 2015

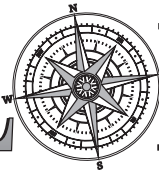


Decatur's Community Theatre

(217) 423-2107

theatre7.net

THE EXPLORERS CLUB



Written by **Nell Benjamin**

Licensed by **Dramatists Play Service, Inc**

Directed by

Jayson Albright

Assistant Directed by

Rachel Albrecht

Set Design

Jerry Johnson

Costume Design

Dina Fryman

Lighting Design

Jennifer Theis

Stage Managed by

Katie Eytchison

Adam Lewandowski

Produced by

Tanya Haubner

Please turn off all cell phones and/or like devices.
There is no food or drink allowed in Shilling Auditorium.

**DUE TO COPYRIGHT LAWS THE USE OF CAMERAS OR SOUND
RECORDING DEVICES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**

Act 1 15 Minute Intermission Act 2

PLACE

London, The Explorers Club, bar/lounge area

TIME

1879

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"I've got a dream... about singing and dancing and making people happy. It's the kind of dream that gets better the more people you share it with." —Kermit the Frog

This show means more to me than I've let on to anyone during the course of this production.

It's been twenty years since I first took to the stage with Theatre 7 in *Bathroom Humor*. Ten years since I last directed for Theatre 7 with *How the Other Half Loves*. And not for nuthin' it's been one year since being in the trenches with this show's cast and crew for Theatre 7's production of *Spamalot*. Basically, my mind has been filled to the brim with some really great memories throughout this production. So, with that in mind...

Here's to twenty years of sharing the dream with so many wonderful and talented folk, both on stage and off. To this cast and crew, an ideal cross-section of older and newer faces, THANK YOU for unknowingly celebrating this milestone with me in the absolute best way possible: jumping all-in and putting on a show!

TO SCIENCE!

—Jayson Albright

THANK YOU...

Bunn, Coney McKane's, Decatur Area Arts Council, Goodfellas, Herald & Review, Ryan and Libby Kirkland, David Ozier and his team at Lowe's, Randall Gnut of the Pahatlabong Preservation Society, Orv Graham, Richland Community College, Talk 101FM, Thrive Entertainment Guide, WAND, WSOY

THE CAST

RACHEL ALBRECHT as Phyllida Spotte-Hume/Countess Glamorgan



Rachel was last seen on the Theatre 7 stage as the Lady of the Lake in last season's production of *Spamalot*. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.A. in Theatre & Drama (with an emphasis in scenic painting). Past roles include Adelaide (*Guys & Dolls*), Marian Paroo (*The Music Man*), Janet Weiss (*The Rocky Horror Show*), Lily St. Regis (*Annie*), and many more. Rachel thanks this fantastic production team for volunteering their time and talents, and her deepest thanks go to her family and friends for their continuous love and support. www.kablooeygroup.com

JAYSON ALBRIGHT as Lucius Fretway



Jay has officially been a member of Theatre 7 for twenty years now. He has directed three previous shows for the group — *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Epic Proportions*, and *How the Other Half Loves* — and performed in many T7 favorites over the years, including a string of recent hits: *The 39 Steps*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. In addition to *The Explorers Club*, Jay has been busy working with Jerry, Doug, and Rachel on an all-original musical through their feshly formed creative collective The Kablooeey Group (kablooeygroup.com). He's on the fence whether or not to keep the mustache after this show ends.

DOUG BISHOP as Professor Walling



Doug is extremely excited to work with this great cast! He is a Theatre 7 veteran, first appearing in 1999 as Patrick O'Reily in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Since then he has appeared in *Barefoot in the Park*, *Epic Proportions*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Sylvia*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The 39 Steps*, and last year in *Spamalot*. He lives in Decatur with his gorgeous, loving wife Susan. He is the proud father of two grown "Kids", Alex and Samantha. He is also grandfather to a future star, Bailey. He is a Director of Product Management for Bunn in Springfield.

THE CAST

JOSH HAMMON as Professor Cope



Born in the age of technology but left behind by the era of common sense, Josh has always been one olive short of a mojito...

Or maybe a margarita...

No we'll go with a greek salad.

Anyway, luckily for you he's in this show. But enough about Josh; let's talk about you. How are you? Where are you from? (For the ladies) How do feel about going to a wedding?

JERRY JOHNSON as Professor Sloane



Jerry Johnson has appearances in over 40 local theatre productions over the past 30 years, including Theatre 7, Richland Community College, and JeDeMi Productions. He is also an accomplished director and set designer. Jerry received a Master's degree in theatre from Illinois State University. He currently serves as Executive Director of the Decatur Area Arts Council.

JOHN D. POLING as Sir Bernard Humphries



The Explorers Club is John's third Theatre 7 production in the past year. In January he was Bobby in *Hallelujah Girls*. Last October he was the Minstrel in *Spamalot*. Eagle-eyed Decatur audiences may also remember John as Booth in *Assassins*, Sid in *The Pajama Game*, Johnny Angel in *Suds-The Musical*, and Paul in *You Can't Take It With You*. John has also directed several times and has had two of his short plays produced. He recently portrayed newspaper publisher William O. Davis in Bloomington's Evergreen Cemetery Walk. John would like to thank Jayson and this outstanding cast and crew for such a delightful experience on stage.

THE CAST

JOSHUA SISSON as Luigi



This is Josh's second production with Theatre 7 and his fourth attempt at tribal body modification. Preparing for *The Explorer's Club* has been a long road for Josh. A longtime proponent of method acting, his attempts to achieve the proper look and smell of his character led to a terrible addiction to toad jerky and blueberries. Now that he's back on the toad wagon and has learned that not all blue berries are, in fact, blueberries, he's excited to help bring the action, adventure, and aroma of *The Explorer's Club* to you!

JOSH SOWA as Irish Assassin/Beebe



Josh is excited to take the stage for the third time with Theatre 7, having previously acted in *Spamalot* and *Leaving Iowa*. Josh also directs the musicals for Sangamon Valley High School and has been in multiple shows with Richland Theatre. He would like to thank his wife for putting up with his hectic schedule and his son Owen for allowing Theatre 7 to "steal" daddy for the past couple months.

MITCHELL VANZANT as Harry Percy



When Mitch isn't off exploring the far reaches of the globe he can be found living the adventure that is everyday life with his awesome wife and three children. "Believe me, " he says, "cleaning their rooms can lead to some hidden mysteries." Born and raised in Decatur, Mitch got started in acting with Theatre 7 and MacArthur High School, continuing in college and now, once again, with Theatre 7. "It is always a great experience."

PRODUCTION CREW

...as of our print deadline

- Set Construction.....Brian Haubner
Rachel Albrecht, Debbie Albright, Rick Albright, Doug Bishop,
Thomas Byler, Doug Fryman, Tanya Haubner, Jerry Johnson,
Matt Shaffer, Joshua Sisson, Mike Stubblefield
- Set Painting.....Rachel Albrecht, Jerry Johnson
Debbie Albright, Jayson Albright, Teddi Albright,
Aidan Haubner, Tanya Haubner, Jerry Johnson
- Costumes.....Dina Fryman
Barb Hipple, Cheryl Laskowski, Mary Wilking, Penny Williams
- Hair, Makeup, & Facial Hair.....Cast
Hair (Phyllida).....Lauren Roberts
Makeup (Luigi).....Brian Haubner, Tanya Haubner, Joshua Sisson
- Props.....Jayson Albright, Tanya Haubner
Rachel Albrecht, Debbie Albright, Teddi Albright, Dina Fryman,
Brian Haubner, Jerry Johnson, Joshua Sisson
- Rosie the Snake.....Jayson Albright, Flo Coombes, Barb Hipple
Steampunk Coffee Machine.....Jacob Perry, Chuck Clark
- Set Dressing.....Jayson Albright, Tanya Haubner
Rachel Albrecht, Brian Haubner, Jerry Johnson
- Lighting.....Jennifer Theis
Josh Sowa, Steve Trout
- Technical Director for Shilling Auditorium.....Evan Duckworth
- Stage Crew.....Brian Haubner, Tanya Haubner, Hayley J Shaffer
- Production Assistant.....Adam Lewandowski
- House Manager.....Janet Patterson
Box Office Manager.....Robert Lowery
- Publicity.....Jan Hooten, Jerry Johnson
- Program Design.....Jayson Albright, Jerry Johnson
Additional Program Coordination.....Joshua Sisson
Show Poster.....Jayson Albright
- Show Photography/Filming.....Hulida Productions
Alida Sullivan, Hugh Sullivan
- Consulting Producer.....Dreux Lewandowski

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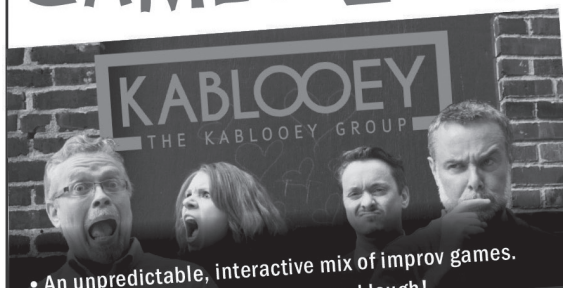
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- Props, photo boards, and other stuff.
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BTW... IT'S BYOB

(Popcorn is complimentary but no beverages provided.)

**Fri., Nov. 13
7:30-9:30 p.m.**

3rd floor, Madden Arts Center,
125 N. Water St.
\$10 in advance or at the door
Online at www.decatuarts.org
or call 217-423-3189

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Theatre 7 gratefully acknowledges the support of its 2015-16 patrons

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Dean Miles

Stage Manager

Dan & Jo Caulkins

Mark and Kathy Sorensen

Doug and Dina Fryman

Mary and Elmer Turner

Martin and Barb Hipple

Alice Weidrich

Mrs. August Mormino

Actor

Bob and Jan Hooten

Julie and Ernie Marsh

Sam and Helen Kershaw

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Friend

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Rise Davis

We regret if your name does not appear due to program deadlines.

The Farce Awakens!

Jan. 15-17 and 22-24, 2016



unnecessary farce

*Written by
Paul Slade Smith*

*Directed by
Andrew Curry*

Two inept police officers, helped by an accountant who seems to be having trouble keeping track of her clothes, are at a motel on an undercover sting operation to find proof that the town's mayor has embezzled millions. Things get complicated when a Scottish hit man shows up.

The cast includes...

- Shawn Becker
- Doug Bishop
- Cassandra Corbin
- Josh Hammon
- Adam Lewandowski
- Amber Montgomery
- Mary Wilking

Find us online at www.theatre7.net
and www.facebook.com/Theatre7Decatur