



MURDER'S NEVER BEEN THIS FUNNY...

Jack Sharkey's **THE**  
**MURDER**  
ROOM



**YOU'LL**  
**DIE**  
**LAUGHING**

**APRIL 6-8 & 13-15**

2018 | DECATUR CIVIC CENTER

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Decatur, IL



# THE STORY

Mavis and her lover conspire to kill Mavis' wealthy new husband, Edgar Hollister, and it seems as though they have succeeded – or have they? The arrival of Edgar's dotty daughter, Susan, with fiancé Barry in tow, complicates everything as the mystery of Edgar's disappearance is attempted to be solved. The interfering housekeeper Lottie fails to be of any help, as well as the two bumbling members of the Harrogate constabulary, Constable Abel and Inspector Crandall.

This zany spoof of British mysteries is a spoof of crime thrillers with good clean fun and humor and physical comedy all the way through. Murder has never been this funny, and there is never a dull moment with the smart, well-timed dialog. The set features secret chambers, secret panels and trap doors galore, all operated by the most ridiculous and gloriously goofy contrivances.

Pay attention, or you might miss something! The plot has been described as a mix of Agatha Christie, Monty Python, and Abbot and Costello!



**NOTE:** Gunfire sound effects are used in this performance. Please be considerate of actors and fellow audience members and silence your phones.



*The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law. For more information, please visit: [www.samuelfrench.com/whitepaper](http://www.samuelfrench.com/whitepaper).*

# The Murder Room

*By Jack Sharkey*

*Setting: Bynewood Cottage, the Hollister residence  
Harrogate, England*

## **ACT I**

### **SCENE I**

Friday evening

### **SCENE II**

The next day

### **SCENE III**

Sunday morning

**- 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION -**

## **ACT II**

### **SCENE I**

Sunday afternoon

### **SCENE II**

Sunday evening

**- 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION -**

## **ACT III**

Shortly before midnight

## **CHARACTERS**

Edgar Hollister/Constable Abel.....Shawn Becker  
Mavis Hollister.....Carrie Lee Fox  
Lottie Molloy.....Nancy Sullivan  
Inspector James Crandall.....Zachary Hammon  
Susan Hollister.....Sarah Boline  
Barry Draper.....Kade Thoms



**Shawn Becker** - Shawn has been performing off and on for Theatre 7 for 21 years, most roles using some sort of accent. He thinks spending decades watching BBC shows on public television has contributed to this ability. When Shawn is not with his wife and daughter at Disney World, he can be found roaming karaoke bars, pretending to be an Englishman from Lavestoff named Teddy.



**Carrie Lee Fox** - Carrie originally joined the Theatre 7 family in 1989. Throughout her nearly 30 years of acting, she has been actively involved in theatre throughout Central Illinois. Carrie's greatest love is performing, and she believes that the most important people involved in any production are the audiences.



**Nancy Sullivan** - A Theatre 7 veteran, Nancy is happy to be back on stage. Nancy is happiest when in front of a crowd, whether on stage or in the classroom. Nancy would like to thank her math classes at St. Teresa High School for letting her practice her accent while teaching logarithms, and her husband Scott for fixing his own dinner while she was at rehearsals.



**Sarah Boline** - Sarah has been performing since childhood. She studied vocal and instrumental education at Millikin University and teaches music in the Decatur Public Schools. In addition to Theatre 7, she performs with the Decatur Municipal Band and the Decatur Chorale and is music director at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Sarah would like to thank the cast and crew as well as her family for their support.



**Zachary Hammon** - Zachary caught “the bug” early and managed to treat it, only to have it resurface in a church at the very edge of town. Though there is no known cure for stage fever, he has managed it with the support of friends and family. He has been given a roof over his head, a warm place to sleep, is walked three times a day and is fed two square meals a day (round ones don't fit).



**Kade Thoms** - Kade was born and raised in Decatur. He has been acting off and on since he was a child. He has been in several Cerro Gordo High School productions, including *Dracula*. Kade is a Richland Community College student and *The Murder Room* is his first Theatre 7 production. He would like to thank the cast and crew for working hard to put this production together.



**Carl Sebens, Director** - Carl has been a Theatre 7 member since 1980. He is also a long-time member of the Monticello Theatre Association and worked on plays at Richland Community College. A few shows he has directed include *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Nerd*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *Steel Magnolias*. Favorite onstage roles are Norman in *On Golden Pond* & Matthew Harrison Brady in *Inherit the Wind*.



**Kathy Zientara, Assistant Director** - Kathy is a long-time Theatre 7 member since 1979. She has worn many hats including actor, stage manager, choreographer, assistant director and director. She currently serves as President of the Theatre 7 Board of Directors. Kathy hopes you enjoy this murder mystery farce and continue to support Theatre 7.

### **Scott Magruder, Set Designer/Master Builder**

Scott first got involved in live theatre in high school where he took a class on it and built sets for the drama club. Later, he joined the Longmont Theater Company in Colorado where he did set construction and some lighting work. Now retired, Scott joined Theatre 7 in 2016 and is on the Board of Directors. He is happy to be creating sets again.

### **Dina Fryman, Costume Designer**

A Decatur native, Dina has been a member of Theatre 7 for 35 years. Although she has worn many hats for the organization, including board member, Theatre 7 President and general go-fer, her main position is that of head costumer. Of the 70 plus shows she has designed, her favorites include *1776*, *My Fair Lady*, *Ragtime*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Explorers Club* and *Spamalot*. She currently serves as Past President on the Board of Directors.

### **Jan Hooten, Producer**

Jan and her husband Bob have lived in Decatur for going on 19 years. She has been performing since the age of three, but has only been involved with Theatre 7 since 2014 - so far as a performer, assistant director and director. She also performed onstage and as crew for JeDeMi Productions in 2008 and 2009. Jan has served on the Theatre 7 Board as Member at Large - Marketing and is currently Vice President.

**Theatre 7 Board of Directors:** President, Kathy Zientara; Vice President, Jan Hooten; Treasurer, Tanya Haubner; Secretary, April Higgs; Past President, Dina Fryman; At Large-Building, Scott Magruder; At Large-Marketing, Emily Steele

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# CREW

Backstage Crew.....	Jaxson Mackling, Ashley Solano
Box Office Manager.....	Tanya Haubner
Costumes.....	Mary Wilking, Penny Williams
House Manager.....	Stacey Boline
Lighting Design.....	W.E. Create
Makeup.....	Sarah Rice
Marketing.....	Jan Hooten, Emily Steele
Painting.....	Blake Gilmore, Joe Beggin
Props.....	RuthAnn Holmes, April Higgs
Sound Technician.....	Aaron Cronkright
Set Building.....	Scott Magruder
Set Dressing.....	Emily Steele
Stage Managers.....	Cheryl Laskowski, Emily Steele

## A Special Thanks to...

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Alan and Beth Frigy, Dean Miles

## **Stage Manager — \$250**

Doug and Dina Fryman, Martin and Barbara Hipple, Jay and Shirley Poling, Mark and Kathy Sorensen, Alice Wiedrich

## **Actor — \$150**

Bob and Jan Hooten, Julie and Ernie Marsh, Ray and Judy Scrimpsheer, Abib and Lyn Tashakkor

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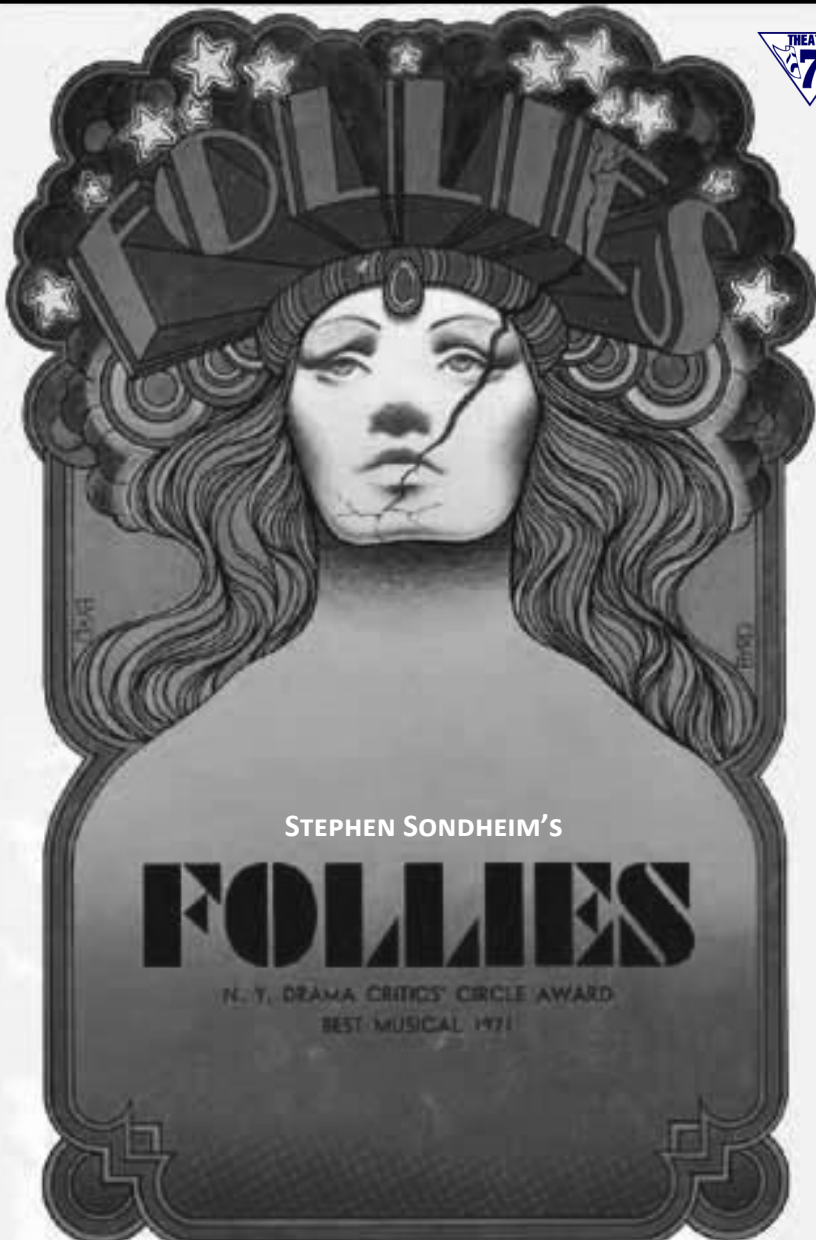
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**COMING SOON: Follies, In Concert!**

June 29 & 30 | Decatur Club Dinner Theatre



Vocal auditions in April. Details TBA on our website & Facebook.



# IN MEMORIAM



*On March 14, long-time Theatre 7 member and dear friend, Terri Tate, lost her battle with cancer. We will miss her humor, pluck, dedication, and most of all, her friendship.*

*Theatre 7 dedicates this show to Terri and to her family.*



# THEATRE 7 HISTORY

Theatre 7 is a 501(c)3 non-profit, volunteer-run organization, dedicated to fostering the theater arts in the Decatur area.



Theatre 7 started as a spinoff from another Decatur theatre group called Town and Gown that focused on the classics. A number of members wanted to do more contemporary material, so in December 1963 about 30 people organized what would formally become Theatre 7 in 1964.

For the past 54 years, our hundreds of members have presented comedies, dramas, musicals, one-act plays, mysteries, dinner theatres, variety shows and also a travel troupe to the greater Decatur area.

Our base of operations is located in downtown Decatur, at 131 N. Water Street, next to the Decatur Area Arts Council. We are a not-for-profit community theatre group who welcomes anyone and everyone interested in all aspects of putting on a show!



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*Break a leg, Shawn!*

# ABOUT THEATRE 7

**How We Do It** - Theatre 7 survives thanks to generous community supporters and the dedication of its members and volunteers.

**Get Involved** - There are many opportunities onstage and behind the scenes! We need actors, carpenters, sound technicians, directors, musicians, choreographers and more! Fill out the form in this program or attend one of our membership meetings held monthly on the second Monday at 7p.m. at 131 N. Water St.

**Support Theatre 7, Become a Patron!** Ticket sales alone do not support the production costs, or pay for the ever-escalating costs of upkeep of our aging downtown building. Individuals and organizations can help by becoming a patron, purchasing program ads, making a charitable donation or sponsoring a show.

Or, consider giving an annual gift in your name or a gift in memoriam to the Theatre 7 Endowment Fund. This endowment was generated by a generous gift from Doug and Peg Schmalz and we are working to grow it to ensure our future.

**Interested?** Contact us at [mail@theatre7.net](mailto:mail@theatre7.net) or call Board President Kathy Zientara at (217) 433-4349.



**Did you like the performance?**



Let us know by email or leave a review online! We appreciate your thoughts or any suggestions for future shows.

**Theatre 7 Decatur's Community Theatre | 131 N. Water St., Decatur, IL 62523**  
**[mail@theatre7.net](mailto:mail@theatre7.net) | [www.theatre7.net](http://www.theatre7.net) | [Facebook.com/theatre7](https://www.facebook.com/theatre7)**