

**Decatur's Community Theatre
presents**

“Play On!”

April 9, 10, 15, 16, & 17, 2011
Decatur Civic Center Theater



SOUND UPDATE

Theatre 7 recently invested in new sound equipment. Previously, Theatre 7 had its own wireless body microphones, but used the Civic Center's public address system to distribute sound. In response to input from our audience that they couldn't hear clearly, the organization decided to purchase a new sound board, speakers, and other necessary items to provide our audiences with better sound than in previous years. This new equipment was a huge investment for our little organization. If you notice significant improvement please tell us, and tell all of your friends that the sound is better.

Also, if you'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution to our sound system fund, we'd definitely appreciate it! Contributions can be sent to: Theatre 7 Sound System Fund, P.O. Box 972, Decatur, IL 62525.

Please don't forget to tell your friends to support community theatre in Decatur – urge them to come see the shows!



IMPORTANT

**Cell phones must be OFF
(not simply silenced)
to avoid interference
with the sound system. Thanks!**

NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THEATER



Written by

RICK ABBOT

Directed by

E. ANDREW CURRY

Assistant Directed by

CRAIG CULP and LAUREN ELISE TAYLOR

Set Design by

E. ANDREW CURRY

Costume Design by

CHERYL LASKOWSKI

Lighting Design by

E. ANDREW CURRY, NANCY SULLIVAN

Stage Managed by

CRAIG CULP

Assistant Stage Manager

LAUREN ELISE TAYLOR

Produced by

NANCY SULLIVAN

“PLAY ON!”

is produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc.

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SOUND RECORDING DEVICES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

ACTS & SCENES

SCENE: *The present - on stage at a small community theatre.*

Act I

Rehearsal - four days before opening night

Intermission (10 minutes)

Act II

Final dress rehearsal

Intermission (10 minutes)

Act III

Opening night of "Murder Most Foul"



THE PLAYERS

(In order of appearance)

Aggie Manville.....**MARY WILKING**

Gerry Dunbar.....**DOUG BISHOP**

Henry Benish ("Lord Dudley").....**TERRY HARU**

Polly Benish ("Lady Margaret").....**TAMARA BIVINS**

Marla "Smitty" Smith ("Doris the maid")....**JESSICA KELLER**

Saul Watson ("Dr. Rex Forbes").....**TODD VANCE**

Billy Carewe ("Stephen Sellers").....**CRISTHIAN MANCINAS**

Violet Imbry ("Diana Lassiter").....**LEAH CURRY**

Louie Perry.....**LARZ COTHERN**

Phyllis Montague.....**LESA ANDRICK**



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is the place in the program where I usually try to emphasize the moral of the play that I have directed. This particular show doesn't really have a moral, but instead shows what a collaborative art form theatre is, and how, when things start going wrong, they can snowball – as Act III of this show does. Luckily, in my five years as a member of Theatre 7, we have not, due to the hard work of many volunteer collaborators, had an experience like the actors of “Murder Most Foul” have in *Play On!*

Rehearsing a show in which two of the three acts deal with rehearsals has been interesting. We often ran into many of the same problems that the characters in the show experienced. This made quoting the show in the actual rehearsals a common occurrence, which helped us deal with the difficulties that we were facing with humor. Our rehearsals were filled with laughter. I hope that as an audience member, you get to laugh as much as we did. Also, I hope that our actual performances do NOT reflect our characters' opening night performance. Enjoy the show!

E. Andrew Curry

THE CAST



LESA ANDRICK has been a member of Theatre 7 for 20 years and has played many fun-loving characters. She was “Sister Hubert” six times in the T7 and Lincoln Community Theatre productions of *Nunsense* and *Nunsense II: the Second Coming*, for LCT in *Nuncrackers: the Nunsense Christmas Show* and for T7's *Nunsensations*. You could say it's habit-forming! Other favorite performances were as “Miss Hanigan” in T7 and Springfield Muni productions of *Annie*; “Peg” in *Bathroom Humor* and “Reno Sweeny” in *Anything Goes* for T7. She is also known as Asst. Principal at Eisenhower High School.

DOUG BISHOP began his career with Theatre 7 in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* in 1999 and over the past twelve years has appeared in seven other Theatre 7 productions and directed *God's Favorite*.

“It's great getting to work with Andrew again. This has been a fun cast to work with and I am excited to have some fresh talent introduced to T7. I would like to acknowledge my loving wife Susan for her love and support over the past 25 years!”



THE CAST

TAMARA BIVINS joined Theatre 7 in 2010 with the role of Aunt Florence in *Leading Ladies*, and opened this season as Marge in *SUDS: The Rockin' 60's Musical Soap Opera*. You may have also seen her on stage in Springfield productions of *Cowgirls*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Urinetown*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, just to name a few.

"Thank you Andrew, cast and crew of *Play On!* Also thanks to the munchkins, Chase, Caele, and Taryn - my supporting cast of characters which includes my leading man, Dave."

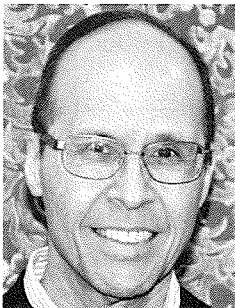
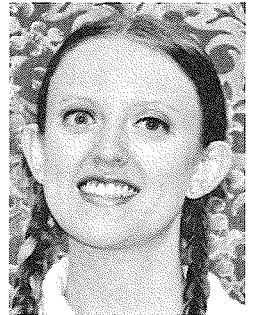


LARZ COTHERN is another new face for Theatre 7, although he's no rookie when it comes to entertaining. Larz had his own radio show for several years.

"Many thanks to my gorgeous wife Sara for believing in me and telling me that I would be great for this show. I also want to thank Mom, Dad, and handsome sons Cameron and T.J. Thanks to Shawn Becker for giving me the confidence to audition. I send lots of love to my fellow cast members, all of which are the greatest. And thanks to Andrew for allowing me to play the part of "Louie".

LEAH CURRY debuted with T7 in 2007 as "Philia" in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, where she met her husband, Andrew. She has appeared in T7 productions of *Death By Chocolate*, *The Music Man*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Baseball Show*, and most recently *Blithe Spirit*. Leah also played "Chanel" in *Bark! the Musical* for Macon Resources.

"Thanks to my parents for taking me to my first audition, and thanks to the cast of *Play On!* You made every rehearsal as fun as the first."



TERRY HARU is new to the Theatre 7 stage, but not new to acting. Terry was a member of the Grasse River Players in Canton, NY where he performed in *The Fourth of July* and *The Butler Did It*, among others.

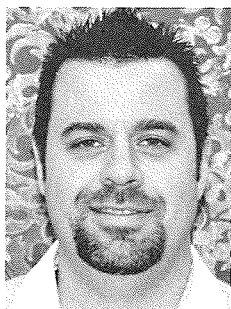
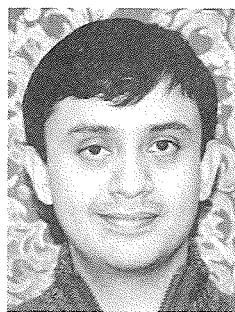
"After more than 22 years away from the stage - the last of which was as a corpse - I'm thrilled to be in *Play On!* as a walking, talking performer! I thank Judy Bitzer, who works behind the scenes at T7, for finally, successfully coaxing me to audition. Many thanks also to my partner, Elaine, for her warm and enthusiastic encouragement. Finally, I want to thank my adult children, Jennifer, Eric and Ashley, for being supportive of whatever their dad thought to dream."

THE CAST



JESSICA KELLER is a 14-year-old freshman who is home-schooled, but started taking drama classes at L.S.A. (Lutheran School Association) High School this semester. Her interests include theater, dance, sign language, fresh cookies, kitties, and texting. Jessica thanks her family and friends who came to support her, the amazing cast she gets to work with, Andrew for casting her, and everyone in the audience. She also says a special thank you to her mom for driving her to every practice!

CRISTHIAN MANCINAS is thrilled to be back on stage after a two year hiatus, although this is his Theatre 7 debut. Favorite credits include *Dracula: The Musical* (Dracula), *The Fox and the Grapes* (Aesop), *Spamalot* (Sir Robin), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Narrator), and several original plays; all of them back in Monterrey, Mexico. *Play On!* is Cristhian's first play in the U.S.A. He will try his best at singing and dancing in *Guys & Dolls* at The Muni in Springfield this July.



TODD VANCE is a newcomer to Theatre 7 who almost didn't audition. When Doug Bishop finally convinced him to get up and have a go, we all saw just what a great talent he is.

"I am just a guy who ALWAYS wanted to be in a show. So I am very thankful that Theatre 7 exists to give people like me this opportunity! Thank you... and Play on!"

MARY WILKING a Theatre 7 regular since 1982, (whether you've seen her onstage or not) is excited to be portraying "Aggie" in *Play On!* Her previous plays with Theatre 7 include *Noises Off*, *Deathtrap*, *Wait Until Dark*, *You Can't Take It With You*, and *Steel Magnolias*.



THE CREW

Costumes.....	CHERYL LASKOWSKI, DINA FRYMAN, MARY WILKING, PENNY WILLIAMS, CAROLYN WOLTER
Curtain.....	NICK KELLER
Hair.....	CHUCK LANDRUM, SR.
House Managers.....	ROSS & SUSANNAH MOYER
Lighting Crew.....	LEE CARP, JUDY BITZER, LIAM WOODWARD
Lobby Display.....	JODY BYERS, GWEN BAUMANN, NANCY SULLIVAN
Make Up.....	LAURA WILKERSON, ABBY BUJACK
Photography	HANK NORRIS
Props & Set Dressing	GWEN BAUMANN, NANCY BLOOM, NANCY MASON
Publicity.....	KATRINA WILKERSON, KATHERINE CUMPA NANCY SULLIVAN, STEPHEN TROUT
Set Construction	LEE CARP, JUDY BITZER, CRAIG CULP, DOUG FRYMAN, DREUX LEWANDOWSKI
Set Painting.....	JUDY BITZER, GWEN BAUMANN, DON BITZER, JODY BYERS, CYNTHIA HINKLE
Show Program.....	KATRINA WILKERSON, MARK HENEGHAN, NANCY SULLIVAN
Sound.....	MARLA CHRISTENSEN, DANNY BUCKLEY, KATHERINE CUMPA
Stage Crew.....	GADGE HUNT, LAURA KELLER, JANET & MIKE PATTERSON, BRYAN VALLIER, ABBY VANCE, LIAM WOODWARD

THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bill & Kathy Brown

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Voytek Falendysz

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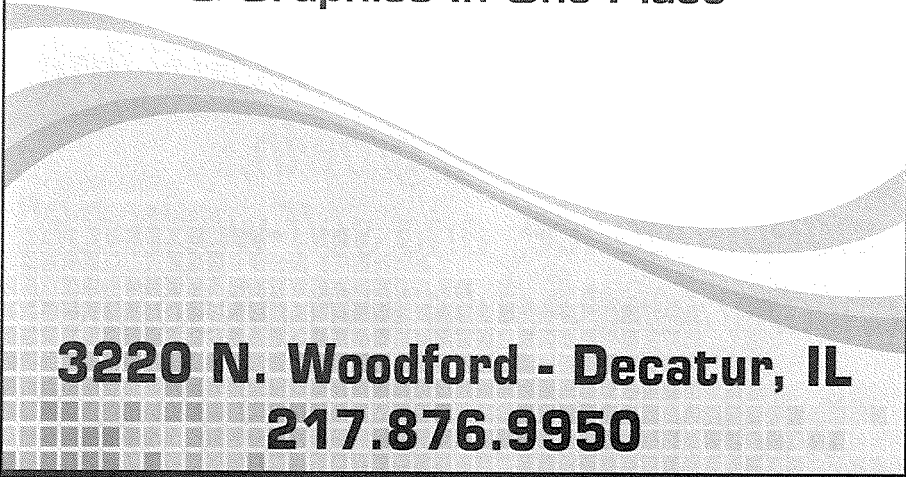
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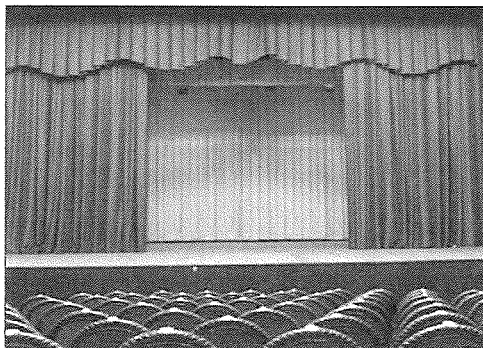
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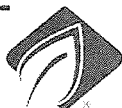
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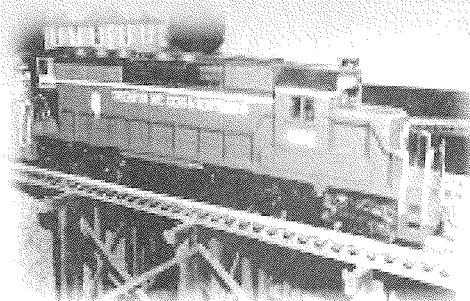


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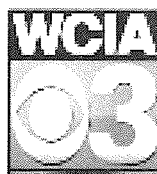
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In memory of...

Mary Ellen Hebenstreit

July 5, 1936 - March 31 2011

Mary Ellen's first involvement with Theatre 7 was twenty-seven years ago when she helped paint the set for *Music Man*. Three years later she had her debut on-stage in *Mame* as "Mother Burnside" of which she swore was also her final acting role! After that she continued to help with sets, costumes, props, ushering and anything else she was asked to do for a show in which her husband, Dick, was performing.

She was always quick with a smile and a hug. For those who were blessed to work on and off stage with her, she leaves many fond memories.



A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCER

The first time I saw "Play On" at the Lutheran School Association several years ago I nearly fell out of my seat laughing (and they had to edit out some of the best parts). What did I find so funny about this show? Well, I'm a member of a community theatre, and this show holds a "mirror up to nature," as Shakespeare would say, and reflects a lot of truth about what really happens when you peek "behind the curtain" and see what it takes to get a show to the stage.

While this play shows just 10 characters, Theatre 7 requires dozens of people helping out to produce a show. The actors, obviously, are the ones that get most of the "glory" of being on stage. But look around during the show or at intermission and take note of the "theatre people" you see helping out to make the production work. There are still others who helped with the production that don't even make it to the theater, like the people who create sound effects, the people who design posters and programs, and the people who help create costumes. Some of the jobs are not very glamorous and get little appreciation or thanks, but they are necessary in order for the production to happen, like those running the sound board, light board, opening and closing the curtain, making sure props and set pieces are where they need to be, and even those people handing out programs and helping you to your seat.

Because Theatre 7 rents space for our production, we build sets at our Headquarters Building, then (carefully) take them apart when ready, and move the sets, along with all of the needed props, costumes, set pieces, sound equipment, and other necessary items to the Civic Center. Then, over the course of two days, we reconstruct the set, put set pieces and props in place, set up the sound system, set and focus lights and create light cues, and organize the dressing rooms with costumes, makeup, and wigs. Then, we rehearse at the Civic Center for four or five days, perform 5 performances, and then tear everything down, move it back to our headquarters building on the same day after our last performance, and put everything away. It's hard work. None of us get paid to do this – we do it because we enjoy doing it, and we do it because we want you to be entertained.

When you purchase a ticket to a Theatre 7 production, you are telling us that you support what we do, and that's why we keep doing it. Revenues from the show go toward paying for our productions and toward keeping our organization going. We'd love to have you join us in producing a show. If you have ever wanted to be on stage, or if you have a desire to help out behind the scenes, give us a call or send us an e-mail and come join us!

Oh, and if you think something in the show is funny, laugh out loud. We love it when you laugh out loud!

Nancy Sullivan

Theatre 7 is a non-profit organization, dedicated to fostering an interest in all aspects of the theater, whose volunteers have provided quality entertainment in Decatur since 1964. Your support helps Theatre 7 continue to assist other theatrical arts productions in our local schools and communities.

Theatre 7 survives thanks to the hard work and dedication of its volunteers. A successful stage production requires many volunteers working behind the scenes before and during the run of the show. Everyone performing in, and nearly everyone you see working on, a Theatre 7 show is a volunteer. No one gets paid to act, direct, build sets, make costumes, or gather props.

As an all-volunteer community theatre group, Theatre 7 welcomes anyone interested in becoming involved. There are lots of opportunities in T7, both performing onstage and working backstage. Theatre 7 is fortunate enough to have a headquarters building located at 131 N. Water Street in downtown Decatur where we build sets, create costumes, store props, and rehearse. If you have never visited our building, we invite you to stop by sometime.

Whether you yearn to be a performer, or you are Interested in volunteering your time to help your community and make new friends, Theatre 7 has a place for you. On our website, you can find information about the auditioning process for our shows, learn about becoming a member, or join our mailing list to keep yourself up-to-date on all Theatre 7 events. Please visit us at www.theatre7.net or call 217-423-2107.





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