



Decatur's
Community
Theatre
presents

God's Favorite



Written by Neil Simon

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**November 3-5 & 10-12, 2006
Decatur Civic Center Theatre**



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God's Favorite

Director – Doug Bishop
Assistant Director – Tim Haworth
Producer – Marla Christensen
Set Design – Jerry Johnson
Lighting Design – Anne Thompson
Costume Design – Cheryl Laskowski

- The use of cameras and sound recording equipment is strictly prohibited.
- No food or drink allowed in the theatre.
- Please turn off cell phones and pagers.

Check out Theatre 7 on the Internet
at www.decaturnet.org/theatre7/

"This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Decatur Area Arts Council and Illinois Arts Council, a state agency."

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.



Setting

The stately home of “Cardboard Box Tycoon” Joe Benjamin on the North Shore of Long Island Sound.

Scenes

Act One

Scene 1 – Midnight on a cold wintry night

Scene 2 – Two weeks later at suppertime

Intermission (15 minutes)

Act Two

The Benjamin home a few days later

A Note from the Director

For those of you who have not been involved in making a Theatre 7 production it would be hard for you to fathom the number of people, the amount time and effort that go into it. I would like to thank everyone that has devoted his or her time and efforts into making my directorial debut such a great experience. Theatre 7 is truly an asset to this community. Thank you for your patronage and enjoy the show!

Doug

Tim Haworth - Assistant Director

Tim Haworth has been involved with T7 for seven seasons. He has spent time both on stage and behind the scenes. His most recent production was *How the Other Half Loves* where he assistant directed and played the role of William Detwiler.

Cast

Andrew Curry (as Joe Benjamin)

After a twelve year absence, Andrew Curry returns to the stage in *God's Favorite*. He last appeared as Mr. Depina in Illinois State University's 1994 production of *You Can't Take It With You*. During his hiatus he has been working on his career as a theatre/English teacher at Future's Unlimited. Some other parts for Andrew at ISU included Wilbur from *Charlotte's Web* and Peter in *Romeo and Juliet*. Before attending ISU, Andrew began his acting career at MacArthur High School. Andrew would like to dedicate his performance to one of God's actual favorites, his grandfather, Earl Andrew Waymire.

Penny Williams (as Rose Benjamin)

Penny Williams has been involved in Theatre 7 for many, many years both on stage and backstage. Her most recent roles onstage were a cameo in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Mary in *How The Other Half Loves* and Opal in *Everybody Loves Opal* and backstage in *Aida*, where she was a dresser for Eli, who is now playing her son. She is currently serving on the T7 Board as secretary. In her real life, she works for Decatur Housing Authority in the Accounting Department.

Shawn Becker (as Sidney Lipton)

After almost 3 years, Shawn Becker has returned to Theatre 7 to play the wacky Sidney. While not practicing bad accents, Shawn works for the IEPA in Springfield. He would like to thank Doug for casting him in this great role, as well as the \$37.98 he has borrowed for a year's supply of Yoo-Hoo. Thanks also goes out to Tara & Riley who have missed the big lug during rehearsals.

Eli Davis (as David Benjamin)

Born and raised in Missouri, Eli Davis graduated from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. with a degree in International Business and Spanish. Eli came to Decatur in 2004 with ADM and was last seen in Theatre 7's 2005 production of *AIDA*, playing the role of Radames. You might also recognize him from the stage of Tabernacle Baptist Church, where often sings. Praise God! If it's "God's Will" you might want to check out his website at www.elijahdavis.org and get a copy of his solo album "Divine Dependence".

Laura Wilkerson (as Sarah Benjamin)

Laura is a first time cast member in a Theatre 7 production. She is a junior at the LSA High School. Last year, Laura played Anne Sullivan in LSA's production of "The Miracle Worker". She also played the part of Nanette in Storyteller Theatre's "Beauty and the Beast". Laura would like to thank her family and friend's for supporting her in her acting career. She would also like to thank God for her many blessings

Ross Moyer (as Ben Benjamin)

Ross Moyer is excited to be making his debut at Theatre 7 with *God's Favorite*. He began his theatre experiences in the Meridian School District and currently teaches at Mt. Zion High School where he also works with the drama club and scholastic bowl programs. He would like to thank his wife Susannah, who also recently made her Theatre 7 debut as a lovely equine in *The Man of La Mancha*, and the rest of his family for their love and support. He would also like to thank the cast and crew for their outstanding work that made the time away from his wife and dog, Lily, so easy.

Isabel Dayson (as Mady)

Isabel Dayson is a 2nd year Theatre 7 member. Her first show with T7 was *Aida* where she played the role of Nehebka. Isabel, who has been performing for most of her life, is a freshman at Millikin University where she is studying Theatre and Communications. She enjoys singing and listening to all types of music. Isabel wants everyone to know that her favorite color is turquoise. She would also like to thank her family for everything they have done for her. Hugs to all her friends and a very special thanks to God for his wonderful guidance in her life.

Jim Cloney (as Morris)

Jim Cloney returns to Theater 7 after debuting in the 2003 production of *Pump Boys and Dinettes* as Eddie the bass player. Jim has played various other roles in *Pump Boys and Dinettes* in Naples, Florida and in Springfield, Illinois. He has also performed music and drama improv with the Springfield group Umedia. Jim is a bassist and songwriter and has played throughout the Midwest and Florida in various bands. During the day, Jim is the Creative Services Director for Central Illinois' CW, formerly the WB television network. He thanks his wife Tina and sons Colin and Conner for their support during his theater venture.

Production Crew

Costumes *Cheryl Laskowski,*
Dina Fryman, Mary Wilking

House Manager Janet Patterson

Lobby Display Jody Byers

Make-up *Lindsay Morrison,* Nancy Sullivan

Publicity *Donna Cruce,* Craig Culp,
Cheryl Laskowski, John Snyder, Nancy Sullivan

Program Jerry Johnson

Props & Setting *Jo Ellen Tamen, Dan Cox,*
Samantha Bishop, Sue Bishop, Jody Byers,
Craig Culp, Candy Donohue, Luiz Machado
Eileen Ruski and Millie Velek

Set Construction *Steve Trout,* Gwen Baumann,
Natalie Bauman, Peter Churukian,
Doug Fryman, Dean Miles

Set Painting Jody Byers, Marda Young

Stage Manager Tim Haworth

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Theatre 7's Next Show

Thriller



by Frederick Knott

**February 9-11
& 16-18, 2007**

A sinister con-man and two exconvicts have traced the location of a mysterious doll, to the

apartment of Sam Hendrix and his blind wife, Susy. When a woman is murdered, the con-men convince Susy that the police have implicated Sam in the woman's murder and the doll is evidence. A deadly game of cat and mouse ensues.

Audition Dates:

Monday & Tuesday, December 4 & 5, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

Theatre 7 Headquarters Building, 131 N. Water St.

Cast Requirements:

6 men (includes 2 very minor roles) ages: 30-60

1 woman age: 25-35

1 girl age: 10-14

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Jo Ellen Tamen
Elvira Will

We regret if some names may not appear due to program deadlines.