

DECATUR'S COMMUNITY THEATRE
PROUDLY PRESENTS



Ken Ludwig's



Leading Ladies



FEBRUARY 20-21 & 26, 27, 28, 2010
DECATUR CIVIC CENTER

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's good to laugh. Over the last couple of years, in these troubled economic times, there sometimes hasn't been a lot to laugh about. Tonight you will laugh, though. The cast and crew have chuckled a lot over the last six weeks in putting this show together. It's been a lot of work, but there have been a lot of funny moments too. Many thanks go to them for their dedication and hard work. Many thanks go to you, our audience, for supporting community theater. Thank you and enjoy the laughter!

John Poling

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 over last season, please tell us so that we know this investment was worth it, and tell all your friends that the sound was 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.

Don't forget to tell your friends to support community theatre in Decatur – urge them to come see the show!



IMPORTANT

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

NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED IN THEATER

Ken Ludwig's



Leading Ladies



Directed by
JOHN POLING
Assistant Directed by
PENNY WILLIAMS

Set Design by
DREUX LEWANDOWSKI

Costume Design by
DINA FRYMAN

Choreography by
ASHLEY SHEHORN

Lighting Design & Stage Managed by
NANCY SULLIVAN

Produced by
DREUX LEWANDOWSKI

Originally Produced by

The Cleveland Play House

and

Alley Theatre

Michael Bloom, Artistic Director

Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director

Dean Gladden, Managing Director

Terry Dwyer, Managing Director

on September 7th 2004

on October 15th 2004

LEADING LADIES is produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc.

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SCENE & ACTS

1954 York County, Pennsylvania. The majority of action takes place at the largest home in the city of York, the home of Florence Snider.

ACT ONE

Scene 1

Evening, the living room of Florence's home.

Scene 2

That same evening, Shrewsbury, PA Moose Lodge.

Scene 3

A train car the next morning.

Scene 4

Phone calls from separate places.

Scene 5

Living room of Florence's home.



INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Scene 1

Living room, three days later.

Scene 2

Living room, ten days later.

Scene 3

Ten days later, a house party.



THE CAST

Meg.....	CATHRYN ECCLESTON
Leo.....	SHAWN BECKER
Jack.....	E. ANDREW CURRY
Audrey.....	LAUREN TAYLOR
Duncan.....	JOE DAVIES
Florence.....	TAMARA BIVINS
Doc.....	PETER CHURUKIAN
Butch.....	ROSS MOYER
Moose Frank.....	ADAM LEWANDOWSKI
Moose Members.....	JODY BYERS KEVIN COLLINS-BROWN DEAN MILES DEB NILES LINDY PERRYMAN
Dancers.....	KEVIN COLLINS-BROWN ADAM LEWANDOWSKI DEB NILES LINDY PERRYMAN
Train Conductor Voice.....	CARL SEBENS



PRODUCTION CREW

Costumes.....	CHERYL LASKOWSKI, MARY WILKING, PENNY WILLIAMS
Dressers.....	JODY BYERS, KEVIN COLLINS-BROWN, LEAH CURRY, DEB NILES
Hair Stylist.....	CHUCK LANDRUM, SR.
House Manager.....	MARLA CHRISTENSEN
Lighting Assistant.....	STEVE TROUT
Lobby Display.....	JODY BYERS, STU BASS
Photography	JULIE CARTER
Props	NANCY BLOOM
Publicity.....	KATRINA WILKERSON, DREUX LEWANDOWSKI, NANCY SULLIVAN
Set Construction & Crew.....	LEE CARP, STU BASS, DOUG FRYMAN, JERRY JOHNSON, ADAM LEWANDOWSKI, JUDY BITZER
Set Dressing.....	GWEN BAUMANN
Set Painting.....	CYNTHIA HINKLE, JODY BYERS, STEVE TROUT
Show Program.....	KATRINA WILKERSON, MARK HENEGHAN, NANCY SULLIVAN
Sound.....	CHERYL LASKOWSKI
Sound Effects.....	LYN & MANLEY MALLARD
Stage Crew.....	ELEANOR WOOD



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ken Ludwig

An internationally acclaimed playwright, Ken Ludwig has had a number of hits on Broadway, in London and throughout the world. He has won the coveted Laurence Olivier Award, London's highest theatre honor, in addition to two Tony Award nominations and two Helen Hayes Awards.

"Leading Ladies" premiered in 2004 directed by the author. Mr. Ludwig's works include "Crazy for You," which won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical, "Lend Me a Tenor," which won two Tony Awards, "Moon Over Buffalo," "Twentieth Century," the Broadway musical "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," the play "Shakespeare in Hollywood," "Sullivan & Gilbert" and



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

John Poling

"Leading Ladies" is John's first foray into directing. Previous acting credits include Sid in the November 2009 production of "The Pajama Game," Officer Barrel in "Urinetown," and Paul Sycamore in "You Can't Take It With You." John would like to thank his outstanding production crew and cast for all their hard work. Special thanks to Dreux and Penny for their kindness in guiding a "newbie."



CAST BIOS

Shawn Becker

After an eighteen month tour of the Netherlands with *Death by Chocolate – the Musical*, Shawn returns to Theatre 7 for his 10th production. About *Leading Ladies* he says, "This is the second most fun I've ever had wearing women's clothes."

Tamara Bivins

A resident of Sherman, Tamara is CEO of Wabash Memorial Hospital Association. After a 30 year absence, Tamara returned to the stage in 2008 performing in the Springfield productions of "*Urinetown the Musical*," "*All Shook Up*," "*Thoroughly Modern Millie*," "*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*," "*The Odd Couple Female Version*," "*Fiddler on the Roof*," "*Shakespeare Shorts*" and "*Rocky Horror Show*." She thanks her children Chase, Calean and Taryn for their understanding and support of her mid life theatre crisis and John, Penny and the cast and crew for a wonderful welcome to Decatur community theatre.

Peter Churukian

Peter first "trod the boards" at the ripe age of 6 playing the part of Dopey in "*The Queen of Hearts*" in Paris, IL. He wanted this part because he didn't have to learn and say any lines. He took a self-imposed hiatus until his senior year at Millikin in 1972/73, where he did backstage work in a couple of shows and got to say one line in "*The Skin of Our Teeth*." Peter has been involved with Theatre 7 since 1976, acting (last seen in "*The Man Who Came to Dinner*" in Feb., 2006), directing ("*Cabaret*" and "*Noises Off*"), assistant directing, stage managing, props, set construction, president, treasurer (for 9 years), and general go-fer. He's participated in over 140 productions including local community theatres in Springfield, Monticello and Tuscola, and summer theatre at Millikin.

E. Andrew Curry

This is the fourth time Andrew has been on stage for Theatre 7. His past roles were in "*God's Favorite*," "*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*," and "*Death by Chocolate*." He has worked backstage on four other shows as house manager, stage manager, director, and assistant stage manager. In July, he married Leah Brown who he met during T7's production of "*...Forum*."

Joe Davies

Joe celebrates the second anniversary of his association with Theatre 7 with his appearance in *Leading Ladies*. He first appeared on the Civic Center Stage in February of 2008 as Sam in "The Cemetery Club." This role marks Joe's 7th play in Decatur since that time. Joe thanks Theatre 7, the theater-going community and especially his family for their support.

Cathryn Eccleston

Cathryn is thrilled to have had the chance to perform with such a wonderful group of people. Originally from Michigan, she is new to Decatur, so this is her first show with Theatre 7. However, she has been involved with theater both on and back stage since high school. Favorite roles include Aphra in "*Children of Eden*" and Mrs. Haggett in "*The Late Christopher Bean*."

Ross Moyer

Ross is extremely excited to be working with Theatre 7 again! After appearing in "*God's Favorite*," "*Death By Chocolate*," and "*You Can't Take It With You*," Ross is really starting to feel like a T7 veteran. He also appeared in "*The Boys Next Door*" for Macon Resources this past summer. Ross would like to thank the cast and his family for their support. He would also like to give a special thank you to his beautiful (and pregnant) wife Susannah for letting him out of the house to play.

Lauren Taylor

Lauren Taylor was raised in Florida, where at 13 she began to be interested in theater. Moving up to Decatur almost two years ago, she started to get involved with Theater 7 during "*Steel Magnolias*" when she played Annelle. She is happy to be back and in "*Leading Ladies*" performing her own daring feats of roller-skating and stair-climbing (things no clutz should ever do!). While many of her cast-mates would agree that she should stay off stairs, as they say in showbiz...

"BREAK A LEG!"



THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Russ Gowin

Millie Velek

Brice Hallam

The Business Journal

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Theatre 7
Actor



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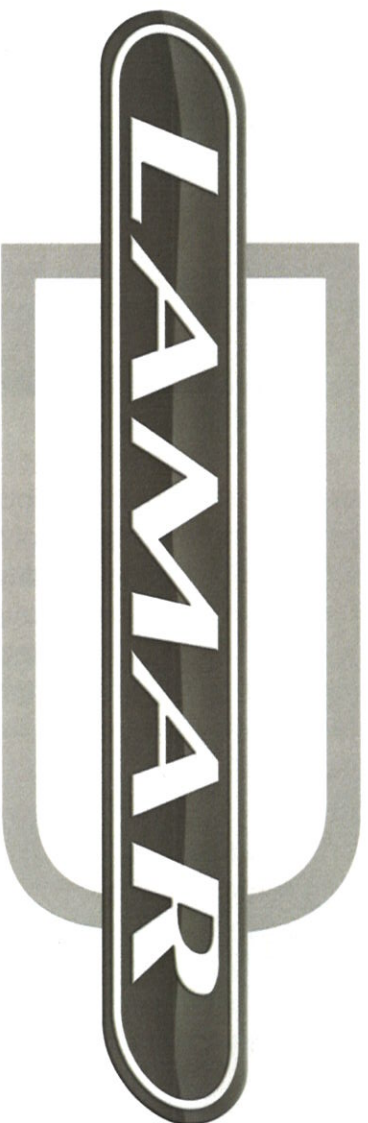
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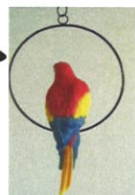
ABOUT THEATRE 7

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 the Decatur area 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.



For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/ When the Rainbow is Enuf

By Ntozake Shange

Directed by Michelle Stephens

February 19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m.

February 21 and 28 at 3 p.m.

Richland Community College
Shilling Auditorium

Written and produced in 1975, Shange's epic choreopoem, laced with music and dance, follows seven African American women through journeys into their past, the hurts and the triumphs, and in the end comes together in an inspiring, soaring, and electrifying performance that changes the way we look at women on stage and their stories. Contains adult language.

Tickets: \$7-\$10

For ticket reservations, call 217.875.7211, Ext. 6888,
or email theatre@richland.edu.

For more information,
email mstephen@richland.edu
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COMING SOON



Theatre 7's 46th Season Finale:



April 17-18 & 23-25, 2010

"The Baseball Show" is an American tale about pine tar, bleachers seats, and hometown heroes written by Cynthia Mercati. A zealous umpire leads the audience through a lively and diverse collection of vignettes, all taking place in and around a hometown minor league baseball field. Taking the field is a collection of characters from the past and present. A grandfather introduces his daughter to the game. A couple of businessmen risk getting fired for skipping work to make opening day. Three old ladies heckle a pitcher. The ghost of Shoeless Joe Jackson gives batting tips to a struggling player. A self-proclaimed klutz on a corporate ball team has a chance to make the play of the game. From the singing of the national anthem to the exciting conclusion in the ninth inning, this is a play for anyone who ever swung a bat...or thought about it.

Open auditions for this production will be held on February 22 and 23, right here, in the Decatur Civic Center Theater. Auditions will begin at 6:30 p.m. and run until approximately 9 p.m. Auditioners may attend both nights, but it is not required. Men and women of all ages are encouraged to audition as the cast requirements are somewhat flexible. There are three good parts for children who can be played as male or female. Attendees will be asked to read short scenes with other auditioners, however, many of the best parts are monologues. Performing a pre-prepared brief monologue is optional. Those auditioning can also get into the spirit of the show by wearing their favorite team's baseball attire, but doing so will not affect casting decisions.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.Theatre7.net