

Community Players Proudly Presents



by

Tom Griffin

Friday, November 14, 8:00 pm
Saturday, November 15, 8:00 pm
Friday, November 21, 8:00 pm
Saturday, November 22, 8:00 pm

Community Players
Community United Methodist Church
20 N. Center Street, Naperville, IL

Amateurs

by Tom Griffin

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Director's Note

As regular attendees of Community Players' productions will attest, I like to direct shows that aren't that well known. Heck, you can see "The Odd Couple" and "Death of a Salesman" almost anywhere. What I like to do is scan the drama catalogues for plays that sound interesting, and that meet a number of criteria, not the least of which is a strong, relevant story. So, naturally, when I found this show about a community theatre troupe at their opening night cast party, I was intrigued. I read the script and immediately connected with the characters and some of the troubles they were enduring. The only problem was – the language. To say that it was peppered with mild-expletives would be putting it nicely. And so, I struggled with whether or not this was a show that Community Players could do, and if we could, then how. I passed the script around to a number of people in our group, and they all had the same reaction – good show, rough language.

Ultimately, I decided that the story was too good to pass up. So we modified the script to remove the offensive language, and replace it with acceptable alternatives. I did feel it necessary to leave certain phrases intact for the integrity of characters, based on the situations they were in. I sincerely hope that no one will be offended by these minor occurrences. I truly believe that the adjustments we've made don't adversely affect the characters personalities, or the plot, and make it a more watchable show.

In the actors' scripts we highlighted any changed text by surrounding it with [] brackets. For instance, if the offending word was "blue" we replaced it with [green], so the actors would know which words had been modified from the original. The use of the brackets in our speech during rehearsal became very commonplace, as the actors would use their hands to form brackets around certain words, similar to the way people use air quotes. It's things like that that draw a cast together and help them develop and strengthen their relationships on stage. Once everyone started doing it, I knew we were going to have a great cast. As I've told my actors, I've never directed a show before where the characters' personalities were so readily apparent to me so early on in the rehearsal process.

Amateurs is, on the surface, the story of a community theatre troupe at a cast party on the opening night of their show. Things are said and done that might be typical of any gathering of this type. And then something happens that changes all of them. They are forced to look at themselves as they really are, and control their emotions while trying to deal with the event. At its heart, "Amateurs" is about hopes and dreams, love and loss, failure and success, and the relationship between risk and need.

I would like to thank my entire cast and crew for their tireless dedication to this production, and their desire to do it as many times as it took to get it right. Especially my assistant director, Debbie Craig, whose help was [incredibly] invaluable.

We hope you enjoy tonight's performance as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.

- Ed Green

Production Crew

Producer	Dave Hollander
Director	Ed Green
Assistant Director	Debbie Craig
Stage Manager	Evie Burke
Set Design	Ron Van Buskirk
Costumes	Pam Smith
Horace Costume	Amy Hollander
Lighting	Dean Craig
Sound Design	Ed Green
Props	Kay Lawson
House Managers	Mary Wu, Jan Mahlstedt
Publicity	Beth Buffington, Dave Hollander
Photography	Toni Reiss, Graham Wills
Program Design	Toni Reiss
Logo Design	Beth Buffington
Tickets	Ken Cox
Set Construction	Beth Buffington, Nate Burke, Ken Cox, Dean Craig, Debbie Craig, Kristen Dunlap-Berg, Ed Green, Dave Hollander, Bob Jaynes, Dave Jenkins, Sr., John Klein-Collins, Garth & Kay Lawson, Joy Sobczak, Ron Van Buskirk, Kristin Willard, Suzanne Wills, Rick Wojtowicz

Cast of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Dorothy Beth Buffington
Charlie Dave Jenkins
Nathan Monroe Nate Burke
Wayne Seabury Rick Wojtowicz
Jennifer Collins Suzanne Wills
Irene Chilmark Joy Sobczak
Ernie Chilmark Dave Hollander
Paul Cortland John Klein-Collins
Mona Williams Kristen Dunlap-Berg

Synopsis of Scenes

Time: The present.

Act I: Friday evening, October.

Intermission (Cookies and water will be available.)

Act II: An hour later.

Rodger's and Hammerstein's

The Sound of Music

Coming this spring.

See back page for more information

Obituaries

(in alphabetical order)



Beth “Dorothy” Buffington, supported (patiently—with unlimited good humor) by husband Thomas; daughters Emily and Corinne. Beth has been viewed in many Community Players productions, and last portrayed Phillippa Haymes in “A Murder is Announced”. Her fondest memories from stage have been with the ensemble casts of “Quilters” and “Godspell”. In life she celebrated life each day with her design/illustration business, weekend biking, the rare family dinner, and Tension Tamer Tea. In lieu of flowers, please send caffeine to Buffington Design and Illustrations.



Nate “Nathan” Burke, born November, beloved husband, son, and Friend of Many. Best remembered for his numerous rolls in community players shows since 2001. He has spent the last several years as a network engineer for a local ISP. Nate was also involved in many musical groups in the Church and Community. In lieu of flowers, your continued attendance at Community Players shows is requested.



Kristen “Mona Williams” Dunlap-Berg, of Nashville, TN, loved her family, friends and Jesus. She never had a husband but she owned a lot of cats. She will be fondly remembered as Miep Gies in “The Diary of Anne Frank” and Lynn McCarthy in North Central College’s production of “Red Herring”.



Dave “Ernie Chilmark” Hollander, Loving husband to Amy, devoted father to Sarah and Nathan, in life a history teacher and coach, David first appeared on stage in Community Players’ 1991 production of “South Pacific”. Also preceding his Ernie Chilmark were Matthew Brady in “Inherit the Wind”, the White Rabbit in “Alice in Wonderland”, Ralph Rackstraw in “H.M.S. Pinafore”, and Algernon Moncrief in “The Importance of Being Earnest”. Thanks to Ed Green and Debbie Craig for being supportive during this difficult time.



Dave “Charlie” Jenkins, of Naperville, IL, went to that Great Theatre in the sky. After many years among the Community Players, it was obviously his time. Pall bearers included Faker Englund, Bobbie Franklin, Teddy Brewster, Bazzard and TweedleDee. Memorials may be made to the Home for Overacting.



John “Paul” Klein-Collins’ experience with the Community Players was limited to just two shows, Inherit the Wind, in which he played an illiterate juror, and his final production, “Amateurs”, in which he played a literary critic. He demonstrated some semblance of range. John is survived by Becky, his wife of 16 years, and his triplet sons, Luke, Seth, and Jonah. John would also like to thank Ed Green and Debbie Craig for pushing him far beyond his comfort zone.



Joy “Irene Chilmark” Sobczak A favorite daughter, splendid sister, amazing aunt and fantastic friend was last seen on stage at Grace UMC Fools Fall in Love Madrigal Dinner. Born in LaCrosse,WI, raised outside of Woodstock, IL , Naperville is her 2nd home, having lived here for over 12 years plus the North Central College years. While not searching for the right job or the right “Ernie”, she enjoys running, biking, cooking and reading.



Suzanne “Jennifer Collins” Orla Wills was born in Dublin, Ireland, the fifth of six siblings. She married Graham in 1989 and moved to the States in 1992. Her theatrical passion started in 1993 and ran the gamut from acting to running lights for numerous shows, to directing A Murder is Announced in 2006. In her lifetime, Suzanne participated in Tae Kwon Do, Sprint Triathlons, soccer, D&D conventions, and worked as a website designer. Slán, gach duine.



Rick “Wayne Seabury” Wojtowicz was very pleased to be in Amateurs this fall. Too bad he wont be around to read the reviews! This marks Rick’s 12th show with Community Players, his 6th on stage. His other passion, Opera, found Rick on stage with DuPage Opera Theatre and Elgin OPERA in over a dozen productions since 2000. Were it not for his untimely demise, he would have thoroughly enjoyed his next project: the role of Harry Paddington in DuPage Opera Theatre’s The Beggar’s Opera, this coming February. Still, there is hope he can “phone it in” from beyond the grave. Anyone know a good (Tenor) channeling medium?

Special Thanks

The cast and crew of *Amateurs* would like to graciously thank the following people:

Jan Erickson

Diane Eisele

Ted and Eleanor Hollander

The Community Players Present

Community Players will be presenting Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* this spring directed by Ollie Taylor. The performances will be on March 13th, 14th, 20th, and 21st. Auditions will be held here in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 4th at 2:00 pm and Monday, January 5th at 7:30 pm with callbacks on that Wednesday if needed. Please come out and join us.

On behalf of the entire troupe at Community Players, we would like to thank you sincerely for your patronage and encourage you to join us again very soon. If you should have an interest in working with this group, in any capacity, please fill out the information requested at the bottom of this page and give it to one of the ushers before you leave the theater.

Name: _____

Telephone (with area code): _____

Email Address: _____

Would you like to be included on our email list?

Yes ____ No ____