

# Community Players Presents



## Written by

Roberta Custer, Richard Fire, Dennis Franz,  
Stuart Gordon, Josephine Paoletti,  
Dennis Paoli, Carolyn Purdy-Gordon,  
Michael Saad, Keith Szarabajka  
and Ian Williams

**Friday, April 16, 8:00 pm**  
**Saturday, April 17, 8:00 pm**  
**Friday, April 23, 8:00 pm**  
**Saturday, April 24, 2:00 pm**

## Community Players

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

# **Bleacher Bums**

Revised 1998 Version

Conceived by

Joe Mantegna

Written by

Roberta Custer, Richard Fire, Dennis Franz,

Stuart Gordon, Josephine Paoletti,

Dennis Paoli, Carolyn Purdy-Gordon,

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and Ian Williams

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## **Special Thanks**

Kennedy Jr. High School

Mike Dockum

## Director's Note

It's that time of year again – time to clean out the garage, wash the cars and start praying that this could be the year. The year for what? For the Cubs to win the World Series! It seems like every year is "the year". What makes this year any different? Well, for starters, they had beautiful weather for their home opener (which they won handily), and Community Players is performing an homage to the endless spirit and positive thinking of Cubs fans, in the guise of "Bleacher Bums". Sure, you might say, "how can Community Players' production of 'Bleacher Bums' help the Cubs win it all this year?" To which I would reply, quite simply – it couldn't hurt!

Let's face it, the Cubs can use all the help they can get, and what better way to help than to do a show about what perennial losers they are? But "Bleacher Bums" isn't about that – it's about hope springing eternal and continued optimism in the face of certain defeat. It's about coming together to face a common foe. It's about community. But most importantly, it's about baseball – the "Great American Past-time".

I would guess that most of us grew up watching our favorite home team play ball year after year, hoping to finally have a winning season. The White Sox finally got theirs in 2005. So, now it's the Cubs' turn, right? I mean, what's going to stop them (besides poor pitching, hitting and fielding)? Over the years, my attention has waned from baseball and found a new favorite sport in football (da Bears!), but I still remember coming home from school and watching the Cubs on a black and white television, and thinking "this could be the year". And it could be too. All it takes is a little faith (and all that pitching, hitting and fielding we talked about earlier). You just have to believe. After all, eventually they will win, and you'll want to be able to say, that you knew that "this was the year".

So, sit back, relax, and enjoy the game. And even if things don't turn out the way you had hoped, there's always next year.

Go, Cubs, Go!

## **Production Crew**

Producer .....	Dave Hollander
Director .....	Ed Green
Assistant Director .....	Irene Servose
Stage Manager .....	Dean Craig
Set Design.....	Ken Cox
Costumes .....	Irene Servose
Lighting Design .....	Graham Wills
Lighting.....	Graham Wills, Mary Wu
Sound Design .....	Ed Green
Sound.....	David Green
Organist .....	Mavis Streyfeller
Props.....	Kay Lawson
Scoreboard Operators.....	Garth Lawson, James Morrow
House Manager.....	Jill Morrow
Publicity .....	Beth Buffington, Dave Hollander
Photography.....	Toni Reiss
Program Design .....	Toni Reiss
Logo/Poster Design .....	Beth Buffington
Tickets .....	Ken Cox
Set Construction.....	Nate Burke, Ken Cox, Dean Craig, Justin Craig, Carol Gerhardt, David Green, Ed Green, Eddie Green, Stephanie Hild, Dave Hollander, Dave Jenkins, Sr., John Klein-Collins, Jonah Klein-Collins, Seth Klein-Collins, Kevin Lapham, Garth & Kay Lawson, Irene Servose

## **Time And Place**

The action takes place in the Wrigley Field bleachers,  
Chicago, Illinois, mid-summer, 1998.

Performed in nine-innings without an intermission.

There is a seventh-inning stretch.

## Cast of Characters

Melody .....	Stephanie Hild
Greg .....	Nate Burke
Zig .....	David Hollander
Decker .....	David Jenkins
Richie .....	Ken Cox
Marvin .....	Kevin Lapham
Cheerleader .....	Eddie Green
Rose .....	Carol Gerhardt
Kid 1 .....	Jonah Klein-Collins
Kid 2 .....	Seth Klein-Collins
Guard .....	Dean Craig

The following snacks will be available from members of the youth group as a fund-raiser for their summer work trip to the Rosebud reservation in Mission, SD, in lieu of our regular intermission fare:

Sprite, Coke, Water, Mug Rootbeer

Hot Dogs

Peanuts, Almonds, Cashews

Peanut Butter Crackers, Cheese Crackers

O'Henry Candy Bars

If you'd like an item, please raise your hand and use your fingers to indicate the desired number. After the show the youth will be collecting donations in the lobby. The suggested amount is \$1.00 per item.

## Trading Cards

### Directors

**Edward Green**



Ed is excited to be directing his 5th show for Community Players. While not a great baseball fan, he has been a Cubs fan since he can remember. It's been a pleasure to direct my son, Eddie, in his last performance before going off to college in the fall. Now who will we cast as the really loud character? Thanks to my ever-patient and indulging wife, June, and my other son David, who humors me when I ask for his help. Oh, well, there's always next year.

**Director**

**Irene Servose**



Irene is making another debut with Community Players, this time as Assistant Director. She was last seen as Truvy in "Steel Magnolias" with CP, her very favorite role to date. She is also a board member and frequent costume designer at The Artistic Home in Chicago and has appeared in a variety of stage, film & movie extra roles. She wishes to thank Ed and the wonderfully fun cast and crew of Bleacher Bums for another great experience with Community Players. "Yes, Really!"

**Assistant Director, Costumes**

## Cast

in alphabetical order

**Nate Burke**



Nate is excited to be on stage again with the Community Players. He was last seen as the Loyal butler of the Von Trapp Family in "Sound of Music". When he is not on stage, Nate enjoys 'making the internet go' working at an Internet Service provider.

**Greg**

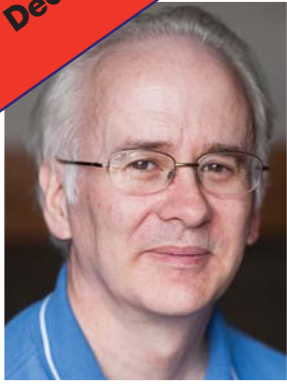
**Ken Cox**



Ken is pleased to once again be on stage with the Community Players. He has previously appeared as Jonathan Brewster in "Arsenic and Old Lace", Gribble, in "Room Service", Trevor in "Bedroom Farce", Edmund in "A Murder is Announced", the Mock Turtle in "Alice in Wonderland", and Ross in The Scottish Play, among others.

**Richie**

**Dean Craig**



Dean is making his first on stage appearance with Community Players since Sound of Music last spring. He has been involved with Community Players in a variety of functions in too many shows to remember the number of shows. Unlike a number of the members of the cast, he is a life long Cubs fan. Go Cubs!

**Guard**

**Carol Gerhardt**



Carol is very pleased to be in her third show with Community Players. Her other appearances were Mrs. Swettenham in "A Murder is Announced" and part of the nun's chorus in "The Sound of Music". Maybe someday there will be a show where we get to see her real hair.

**Rose**



**Eddie Green**



Eddie is excited to be with Community Players in this great Cubs comedy. He last appeared as Rev. Paris in "The Crucible" at Waubonsie Valley HS, and has also been in "Arsenic and Old Lace", "Bye Bye Birdie", "The Diary of Anne Frank", and others. When not in plays he enjoys long walks on the beach and sitting down with a good book... unless of course he's busy doing anything else at all.

**Cheerleader**

**Stephanie Hild**



Stephanie is glad to be back on the Community Players stage doing "Bleacher Bums". Not being an avid baseball fan she learned a lot from those in the play who are! In the past Stephanie performed in many high school plays. More recently she was in Community Players "Arsenic and Old Lace". It's great to be among the talented! Thank you to her patient and flexible family.

**Melody**

**David  
Hollander**



Dave is pleased to be back on stage after directing the Community Players' production of "Steel Magnolias". His favorite role with the Players was Matthew Harrison Brady in "Inherit the Wind". Despite the challenge of being a lifelong Sox fan playing a Cubs fanatic in this show, he appreciates the chance to better understand his mother, a die-hard Cub follower. He thanks Amy, Sarah, and Nathan, for their patience with him during this show.

**Zig**

**David  
Jenkins**



Dave has been a long time member of Community Players, and played crazies in his last two performances, Charlie in "Amateurs" and Teddy in "Arsenic and Old Lace", but this may be the craziest of them all, a long suffering Cub fan. "I hate the Cubs!!! I better get a Tony nomination for this performance. GO CARDINALS!!!!"

**Decker**

**Jonah  
Klein-Collins**



Jonah's pursuit of acting leads off with Bleacher Bums. Jonah's double-play partner and fellow acting rookie, his brother Seth, looks forward to this cup of coffee in the theatrical big leagues. Jonah would like to thank his mother and father for driving him to and from rehearsal. He would also like to thank his brother, Luke, even though he's a Sox fan. He hopes you enjoy the game...err..the show.

**Kid 1**

**Seth  
Klein-Collins**



This is Seth's rookie outing as a professional actor, but he has lots of playwriting and production experience in the amateur LSJ Underground Theatre. When asked what he thinks of working with adults, Seth says, "Scary. But in a good way. Because they say weird stuff that I don't understand." Seth likes to collect baseball cards, and he has an original Mark McGuire. Seth would like to thank his brother Luke for teaching him how to play and understand the game of baseball.

**Kid 2**

**Kevin Lapham**



This is Kevin's first show with Community Players. Be gentle. Previous credits include numerous school musicals, plays and reader's theater, and, a couple of 2nd City training improv shows. As a lifelong White Sox fan, Kevin balked when he heard this was a play about the Cubs, but was relieved when he realized that Marvin was betting against them. Kevin lives with his wonderful family here in Naperville - wife Katie, and children Brian, Megan, and Danny.

**Marvin**

## About Community Players

Community Players is celebrating its 30th year of quality community theater with its 44th production, BLEACHER BUMS.

### Our Shows

**1981** The Fantasticks **1982** You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown  
**1983** Arsenic and Old Lace **1984** Two-by-Two **1985** The Mousetrap  
**1986** The Music Man **1987** A Majority of One **1988** Snoopy  
**1989** Spoon River Anthology **1990** You Can't Take It With You  
**1991** South Pacific **1992** Life With Father **1993** Brigadoon  
**1994** Showstoppers Review **1995** The Dining Room • The Lion In Winter  
**1996** Kiss Me, Kate • Community Cabaret **1997** Ten Little Indians • Godspell  
**1998** Oklahoma • The Importance of Being Earnest **1999** The Crucible •  
Schoolhouse Rock, Live! **2000** The Secret Garden • Room Service  
**2001** Macbeth • The Best Christmas Pageant Ever **2002** The Mystery of  
Edwin Drood • Bedroom Farce **2003** Dogsbreath Devereaux, the Dastardly  
Doctor or...Nurses Foiled Again! • Quilters **2004** HMS Pinafore • Let's Murder  
Marsha **2005** Alice's Adventures in Wonderland **2006** Bye, Bye, Birdie! • A  
Murder is Announced **2007** Inherit the Wind • The Diary of Anne Frank  
**2008** Arsenic and Old Lace • Amateurs **2009** The Sound of Music • Steel  
Magnolias **2010** Bleacher Bums