

Community Players Productions

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 • You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, 2011 - Dracula, 2012, My Son is Crazy, but Promising • Twelve Angry Men, 2013 - Murder on the Nile, 2014, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum • A Doll's House, 2015 - Harvey, 2016 - Oliver!



Tuesday, February 28, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary, featuring the "SOUND HOUNDS", a local band playing jazz and big band music.

CUMC, along with 26 other churches, is raising money to build a home with Habitat for Humanity for an Aurora family. Money raised will be matched by Thrivent Financial.

Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students. Children under 10 are FREE. Purchase advance tickets Sunday mornings at the church or at communityunitedmethodist.org/donate.

Tickets will be \$20 at the door.

Paradise

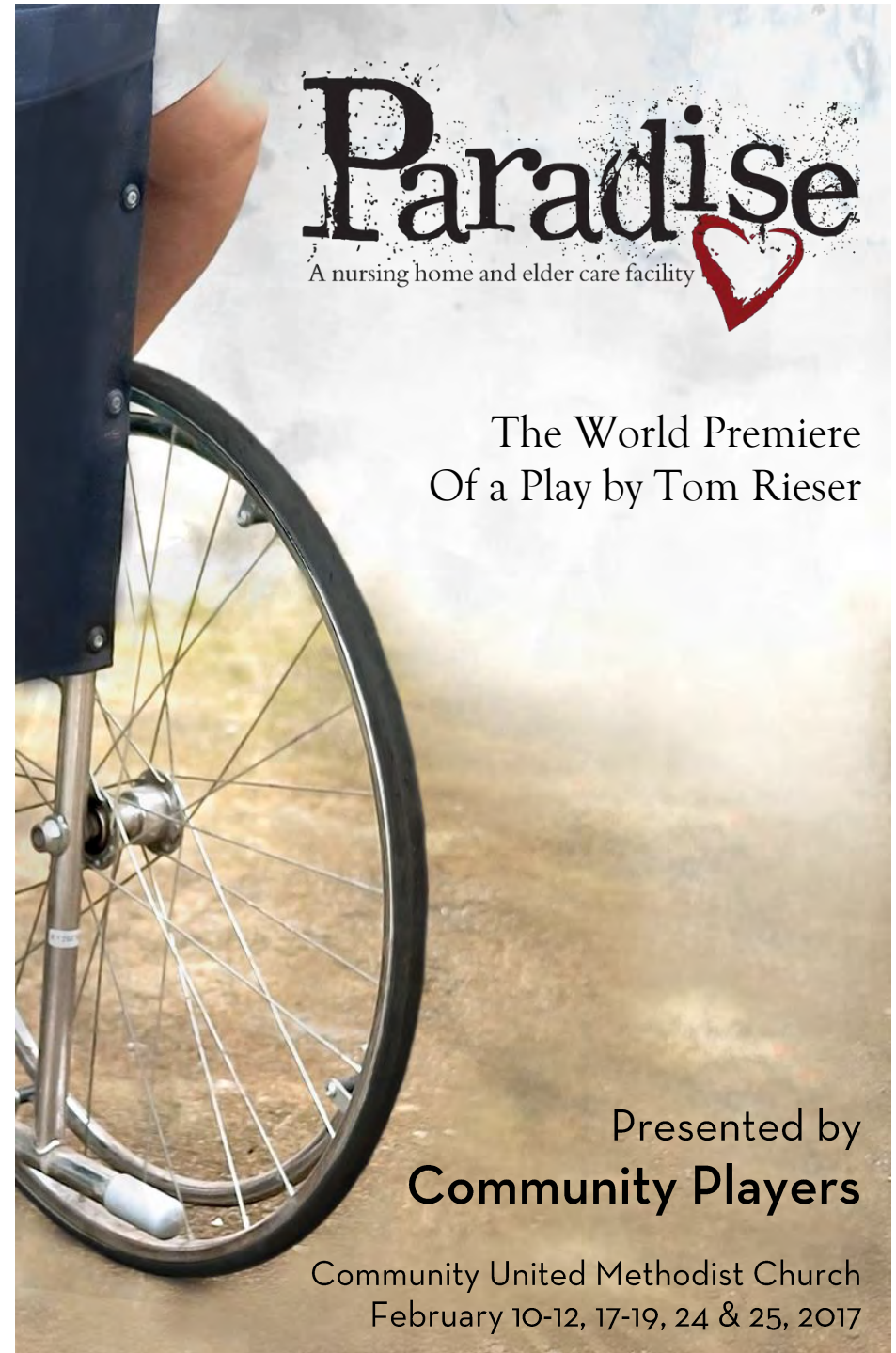
A nursing home and elder care facility



The World Premiere
Of a Play by Tom Rieser

Presented by
Community Players

Community United Methodist Church
February 10-12, 17-19, 24 & 25, 2017



Directors Note

On a warm September afternoon in 1995, I was escorted from my home by Jim Best and Dale Zimmerman, “encouraged” to get into a car, where I joined two other gentlemen, also commandeered for the afternoon, and told I was going to be auditioning for a show because they needed more men. After a very quick and impromptu meeting with the director, and then a quick line reading, I was given the part of Richard in *The Lion in Winter*. This was my first show with Community Players.

Three years later I decided to spread my wings and try my hand at directing. Only problem was, I didn’t have a show to direct. I didn’t have a ton of theatrical experience at this point, and didn’t have a passion for any show in particular. The group suggested a number of shows, and I ended up directing *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. This was also my first time working with Beth Buffington and Jean Morris, along with many others.

Almost 18.5 years later, here I am, still doing shows. Still trying to find shows to direct that speak to me, and hopefully, to our audiences as well. So imagine my surprise when I run into Tom Rieser last summer and he asks me to read a couple of plays that he has written. The first, *Ordinary Time* was a story about 4 sisters dealing with loss and life. Excellent script. And then I read the second one, *Paradise*, and was floored. It spoke to me on a very personal level. Tom told me that it had not yet been produced anywhere, and asked if we would be interested in doing it. It did not take much convincing for Community Players to agree to be the first theater group to produce this show.

Thank you, Tom, for bringing this play to me and trusting me to direct it. I am proud and honored to have been a part of this premiere production of your play. Thank you, everyone in the cast for taking the words on the pages of the script and creating such real characters. Thank you, my cast and crew for helping to build an inviting set where these characters can live. Thank you, all of my old friends that came out and auditioned for this show and then agreed to be part of something special. Thank you, Kyle Markwell for agreeing to make your stage debut in this show. And thank you, June, my lovely wife, for spending time with me, helping to make this production a reality.

Ed Green

Kyle Markwell (*RUSSELL*)

This is Kyle's first appearance on stage with a speaking role, though he has been behind & under the stage, working with crew and pit on dozens of productions in high school theatre, with the Summer Place theatre, and Community Players. When not involved with theatre, Kyle is the Music Director for the contemporary service at CUMC, and a member of the band “Every Day Grace” which plays shows around Chicagoland.

Jean Morris (*THELMA*)

Jean is thrilled to be back on stage with Community Players, a pleasure she has had since 1982. This opportunity is unique. The cast is wonderful, filled with talented people, long-time friends and those newly acquired. Being back on stage with Beth, Amy and Carol and working under Ed’s direction again add to the joy of being a part of this production. Special thanks go to Tom Rieser for writing such an amazing play and for allowing Community Players the privilege of being the first to perform it. To all those mentioned, Thelma/Jean would say, “You challenge me. You make me think.” And, as always, thanks to Bob for supporting my love for theatre.

Acknowledgements

CUMC Staff
BDI Design & Celebrations
Dave Jenkins
Paula Overstreet
Video Impressions

About Community Players

Community Players is celebrating its 37th year of quality community theater, with its 54th production, “Paradise, A nursing home and elder care facility”. If you’d like to receive emails about upcoming auditions/shows, please contact suzanne@willsfamily.org. For more information, please visit www.communityplayersnaperville.com.

Mark Furlong (MUNCIE)

After a 20-year hiatus, Mark returns to the stage, Mr. Reiser's play too powerful a lure to resist. Throughout the '80s Mark appeared prominently at Summer Place, Ad Hoc Theatre, and the Albright Theatre. He was a co-founder of The Mystery Shop and, in the late '70's, acted throughout the Denver area. Mark hopes his performance may offer humble thanks to those who served our country during a time when gratitude was shamefully scarce.

Marjorie Gustafson (PEARLINE)

Margie is happy to be in her first show with Community Players. Other shows include *The Boys Next Door* (Sheila), *Twelfth Night* (Maria), *Tartuffe* (Dorine), *The House of Blue Leaves* (Little Nun), *Bobby Gould in Hell* (Interrogator's Assistant), *Lysistrata* (Lysistrata), *Steel Magnolias* (Clairee), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena/Flute), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Sexton/Seacoal), *Love's Labours Lost* (Jaquenetta), *Taming of the Shrew* (Tailor/Others) and *Shakespeare in Hollywood* (Ensemble). Margie's book of poetry, "Haiku Very Much" is available online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. All her love to Craig, her amusing muse.

Stephanie Hild (LENA)

Stephanie is glad to be back on the Community Players stage and excited to play the role of Lena, nurse's assistant, in Paradise. Stephanie was in the previous Community Players productions of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Bleacher Bums*. She thanks her family for their support and love! Side note..... even though she loves "Larry" in the play, she's very happy she doesn't really need to empty any collection bags!

Amy Hollander (MICHELLE)

Amy has been an active member of Community Players since 1991 both on and backstage. She was last involved as the director of the musical *Oliver!* in the fall. Her last on-stage role was with LMCT playing Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*. She sings with the On Center band. Amy is a science teacher at Kennedy Junior High and coaches the Science Olympiad team. She thanks her family, friends, and coworkers who allow her to indulge her creative side.

Characters

THELMA STONEGATE	Jean Morris
BELINDA BRITTEN	Beth Buffington
SALLY COMPOSTELA, R.N.	Carol Craig
PEARLINE CHANDLER	Margie Gustafson
RUSSELL WEST	Kyle Markwell
DANIEL "MUNCIE" DOMGARTENSTRASS	Mark Furlong
MICHELLE WINSTON	Amy Hollander
NOREEN SUMMERS	Linda Cunningham
LARRY JEPSON	Bob Cappetta
GRACE	Linda Cunningham
LENA OGDEN	Stephanie Hild

Scenes

The action takes place in a small sitting room in a nursing home over the course of several months.

Act One

Scene 1: Tuesday, September 2, 2008, about 3:30 p.m.
Scene 2: Thursday, November 27, 2008, about 7:00 p.m.

15 Minute Intermission

(refreshments available in the hallway)

Act Two

Scene 1: Thursday, January 22, 2009, about 8:30 a.m.
Scene 2: Wednesday, March 4, 2009, about 1:00 p.m.

Production Staff

PRODUCER	David Hollander
DIRECTOR	Ed Green
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	June Green
HOUSE MANAGERS	Eddie Green, Sarah Hollander
SET DESIGN	Ken Cox
LIGHTING DESIGN	Graham Wills
LIGHTS & SOUND	Dean Craig
PROPERTIES	Kay Lawson
COSTUMES	Carol Craig, Stephanie Hild
LOGO DESIGN	Beth Buffington
PROGRAM DESIGN	Ed Green
TICKET SALES	Dean Craig, Ken Cox
PUBLICITY	Ken Cox, Ed Green, David Hollander
SET CONSTRUCTION	Ken Cox, Beth Buffington, Nate Burke, Bob Cappetta, Carol Craig, Dean Craig, Bill Denwood, Mark Furlong, Ed Green, Eddie Green, Stephanie Hild, Garth Lawson, Jean Morris

About The Playwright

Tom Rieser began his professional writing career with interactive murder mysteries for adults and puzzle-solving one acts for general audiences. The participatory mysteries have been in production since 1991. He has also written various liturgical one acts and monologues, which have been performed at churches in Florida, North Carolina and Illinois.

Ordinary Time, his first full-length drama, was the 2015 Metropolitan Atlanta Theater Award Winner for Original Work. Mr. Rieser is currently working on another full-length play, as well as contest one-acts while directing/acting on the community level.

Cast Bios

Beth Buffington (BELINDA)

Beth is back on the Community Players stage, and is happy to be part of such a wonderful cast. It has been a few years since she enjoyed rehearsing for a production. In the past, she has been Rosa in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Sally in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, to name a few favorites. During the day, Beth works as marketer and designer at BDI Design & Celebrations. She sends a hello to all friends and family (eat a gummy frog for me) who are here this evening.

Bob Cappetta (LARRY)

Bob has been very busy. In the last year he has performed in *50 Years of Musicals* with Naperville's Summer Place Theatre, Studio Theatre Performance with Theatre of Western Springs, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with North Riverside Players, *39 Steps* with Theatre of Western Springs and he is currently in rehearsal for *Kiss Me Kate* with North Riverside Players. During the day Bob performs before hundreds of undergraduates as a mathematics lecturer at UIC. He sends his love to his wife Kathleen and thanks her for all of her support.

Carol Craig (NURSE SALLY)

Carol is very excited to be a part of this World Premiere Production. This is her 8th time on stage with Community Players. So far, this is her favorite role. You can usually find Carol backstage somewhere when not cast in a role. In real life Carol is the business manager for Edward Health and Fitness Center. Her free time is spent working out, biking or running. Carol is thankful for the love and support of her husband, Dean, who she coincidentally met through Community Players.

Linda Cunningham (NOREEN/GRACE)

Linda is delighted to be making her Community Players debut as part of this talented cast and crew. She has been acting for more than 25 years with roles in 50-some productions at theaters such as BrightSide, The Summer Place, Theatre of Western Springs, Grove Players, and Vortex Theatre, of which she was a co-founder. Other credits include film, murder mystery dinner theater, and Chicago's Lyric Opera as a supernumerary. Linda thanks Ed and Tom, acting pals from long ago, for this opportunity.