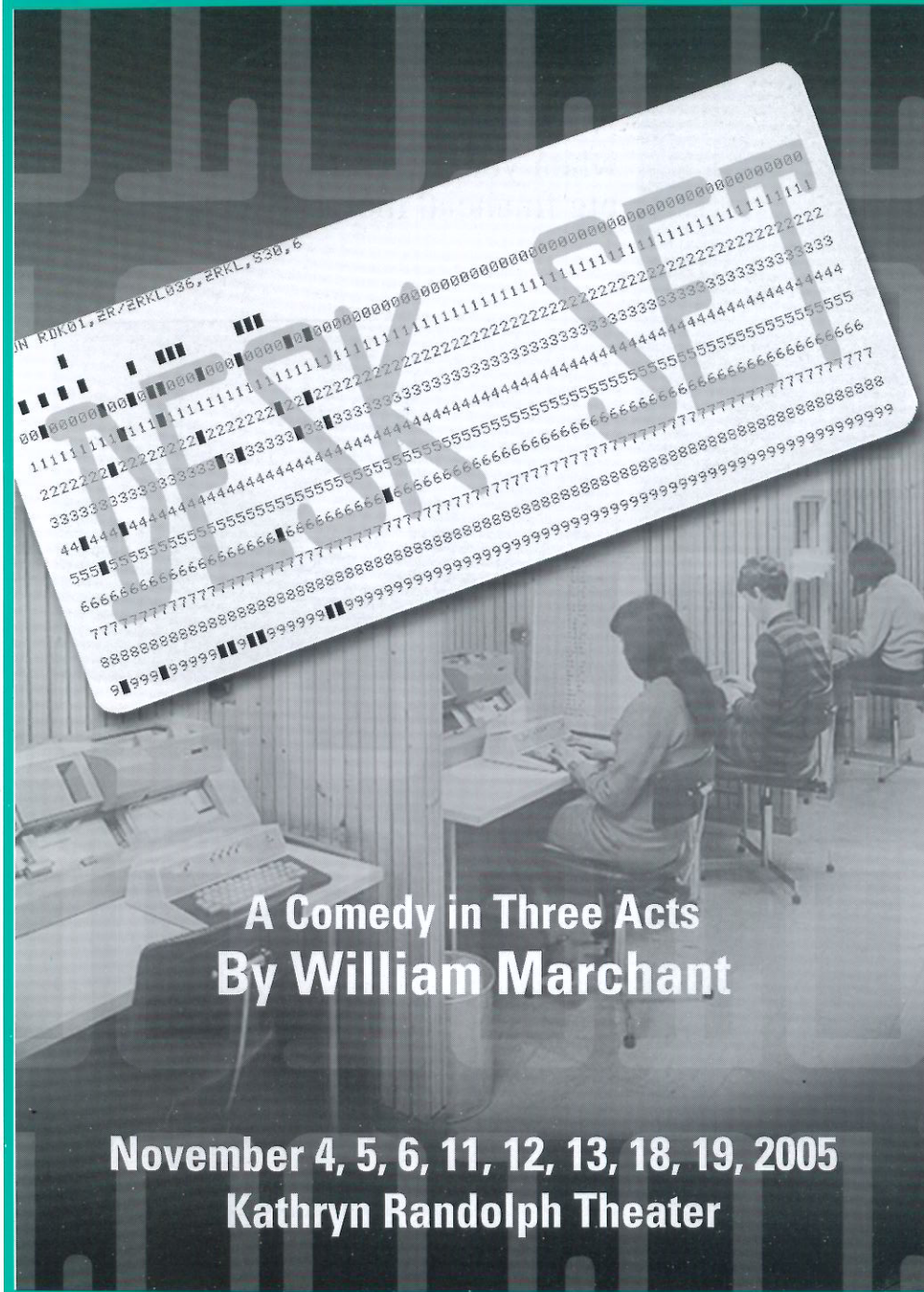


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A Comedy in Three Acts
By William Marchant

November 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 2005
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DESK SET

**A Comedy in Three Acts
By William Marchant**

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Place

The action of the play proceeds in the Reference Department of a large radio and television broadcasting company in midtown Manhattan.

Act I

Early December morning

Act II

The Day before Christmas, midday

Act III

Four weeks later

There will be a fifteen-minute Intermission between Act II and Act III. At this time restrooms and refreshments are available at the lower level of the theater. We request that there be NO SMOKING in any area of the building.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first production of our 69th Season! When I read *Desk Set* I hoped the Board would choose it and they did! Not only is this a funny play, but it tells how “electronic brains” are being installed to do the work of people. Change is good, but for Bunny Watson and her department, they show there are certain things people can do that machines can’t.

Under the direction of Bev Nees, with the assistance of Vern Bergkoetter stage manager and Jennifer Dixson producer, this talented cast will present a look at modernization and the people who are affected by it. You’ll recognize faces that you’ve seen in the recent past; faces that we welcome back after long absences; and brand new faces to the Red Mask family. If you walk out after this performance and wonder what happened to the good of’ days, then the actors have done their job by entertaining you and taking you to a place outside the craziness of today.

So, sit back (in comfort might I add) and enjoy the show. Laugh and laugh loud. The actors really do like to hear laughter.

Sue Harden

President

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to our presentation of *Desk Set*. Some of you have probably seen the movie that was based on this play. In adapting this play to a movie, some things were changed. We have kept the original play with all of its jokes and humor.

This play is set in the 1950's in a research department of a radio/broadcasting company. Bunny is supervisor of Peg, Sadel and Ruthie. These women have great memories and quick research skills. They have just found out that they may be replaced by Emmarac (or an "electronic brain" as some people called them at that time.) The fun ensues as they try to prove they are better than any machine. Along with Richard the Methods Engineer, Kenny the mail clerk, Elsa the office flirt, the mysterious old lady and others, this show will have you laughing all evening.

Our cast includes some new faces to our stage and returning veterans. They have been hard at work for the last eight weeks in order to bring you this very humorous show. They have learned their lines and worked on the characters until they have perfected it. I know that you will thoroughly enjoy their take on this show.

Please enjoy the show and laugh often. As always, you are welcome backstage after the performance to meet the cast.

Beu Nees

Director



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ON STAGE (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



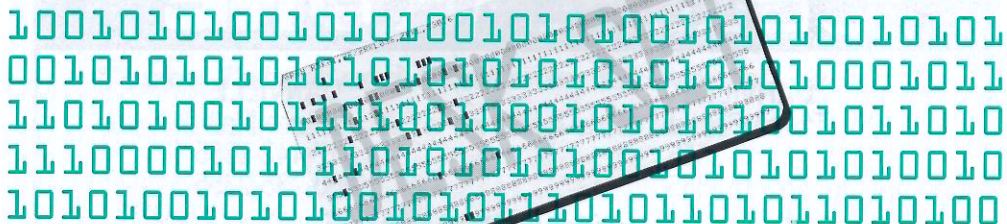
Gretchen Elliott – Sadel Meyer

After moving to Danville in the winter of 2004 she often thought of venturing into the Red Mask Theater to see what it was all about. After some coaxing by friends and family she did come to audition for a part in THE DESK SET. Her previous theater experience has been from years ago in school performing in DIRTY WORK IN A HIGH PLACE, SOUTH PACIFIC, OKLAHOMA, NIGHTS ON BROADWAY, and THE MUSIC MAN. More recently she has been a part of the Easter Drama, I AM HE, performed by the members of the Apostolic Center in Mattoon IL. She also has been a part of the Apostolic Center’s Dinner Theater, which is performed during the Christmas season, for 3 years. This love of theater and the performing arts is what brought her to Red Mask Players once she moved to Danville. She is ever thankful to her family, church family, and friends in their support of her endless pursuit to try new and adventurous things. A big thank you goes out to Jennifer Dixon, whose daily presence helped facilitate Gretchen’s return to the stage. God bless you all, thank you for attending and please continue to support this wonderful theater company!



Janet Lewis – Peg Costello

Janet is thrilled to be performing with such a talented cast and crew. She has just recently portrayed the roles of a Pinhead and a Duchess in the theatre’s fundraiser THE ELEPHANT MAN. Her past performances have been in GEORGE WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE, MEET MY HUSBANDS, SCROOGE LIVES UPSTAIRS and COMMUNICATING DOORS. She is thrilled to be working with both past and new co-stars. She wishes to thank her director for selecting her for the part of Peg. Janet also wishes to thank her family, especially her husband, Bob, and friends for their continued love and support.



Annie Roach – Ruthie Saylor

Annie is glad to be back on the Red Mask Stage after more than a year away from Danville. She just moved back from the Chicago area where she was involved in a number of shows, favorites being FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (Chava) and the world premier of LIGHTS OVER EUROPE (Adriana Sinclair), a new play written by Lorrissa Julianus. Other favorite roles include Fran Wharton in the Red Mask Players production of MEET MY HUSBANDS and Anne Anderson in SHENANDOAH with the Danville Light Opera. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and encouragement, without which she would not be up here on the stage today.



Anthony Roach – Richard Sumner

Anthony is glad to be back home after two years in the Chicago area. While this is his first show with Red Mask, he has participated in two Danville Light Opera shows – SUGAR as “Joe” and SHENANDOAH as “James.” He is glad to be on stage again and thanks his wife for her support.



Donna Sant – Bunny Watson

With this production, Donna marks her 24th season with Red Mask. The experience has given her the opportunity to meet some of the best friends anyone could ask for. “The camaraderie is one of the main reasons I stay involved. The people are so amazing and supportive – it’s hard to stay away!” Donna began working backstage, has served on the Board of Directors and has appeared in numerous productions including LOST IN YONKERS, CRIMES OF THE HEART, GEORGE WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE, and BAREFOOT IN THE PARK. She has directed many children’s plays and branched out to directing adult shows, with 12 ANGRY MEN and will direct this season’s third show, ANGEL STREET. She sends much love to her husband who just finished directing Red Mask’s fundraiser, THE ELEPHANT MAN and DLO’s CHICAGO. “See ya in December, Ted!”

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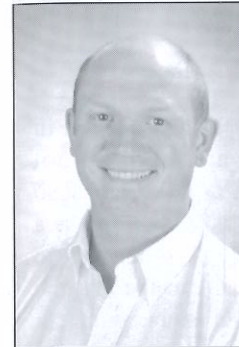
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PHOTOGRAPHY

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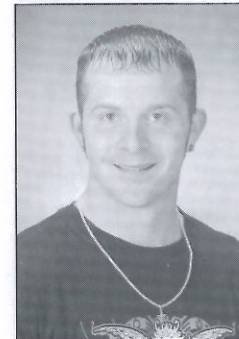
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RED MASK



Mike Young – Abe Cutler

This is Mike's rookie season with the Red Mask Players. He is appearing in his first play since East Park Middle School's 1985 production of RANSOM OF RED CHIEF in his eighth grade year. A graduate of Bismarck-Henning, Danville Area Community College and Illinois State University, Mike is a physical education teacher, basketball coach and member of the Vermilion Voles vintage baseball team. He is excited and appreciative to be a part of such an experienced and enjoyable cast and crew.



Chad Combs – Man in the Shirt-Sleeves

After playing John Merrick in his sophomore effort, THE ELEPHANT MAN, Chad is back again for the first show of the season, THE DESK SET. Once again being lucky enough to be graced with a talented cast and crew, Chad would like to thank them all for being who they are. Most importantly, Chad would like to thank you, the people who keep this theater going year in and year out. Enjoy the show!

We Salute Red Mask on Another Great Year.

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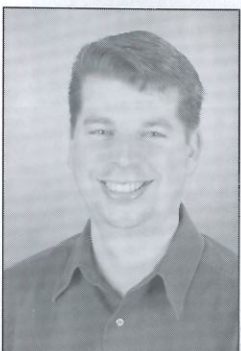
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Trevor Walker – Kenny

This is Trevor's first Red Mask Play. He has been involved in several productions through middle school and high school including BURGER WARS and A CURIOUS SAVAGE. He is also a student at DACC where he is a cheerleader and is studying to be a high school choral teacher. He would like to give a "shout-out" to his family and friends and a special thank you to Amanda and the cast and crew for making him feel welcome as well as his mom for believing in him.



Dwain Dixson – Mr. Bennett

Dwain makes his Red Mask debut in THE DESK SET. While Dwain's schedule is quite hectic in his work at Motorola as a software tester and global standards representative, he hopes that this won't be the last time he appears onstage. Dwain has been hanging around the Red Mask periphery for some years while his wife, Jennifer, has strolled across the boards many times. He is willing to admit, if pressured, that all of the people who had told him it was only a matter of time before he would be sucked into the fray, were right. Dwain would like to thank his wife and "mee two" for their encouragement to take a break from work and re-live part of his past. Bliful Lives!



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Lisa Richter – Elsa

Lisa is no stranger to the Red Mask stage. She has been in theater since she was twelve years old and has appeared onstage and worked backstage with most theater companies here in Danville, and she can't seem to do a Red Mask show without Donna Sant (Love you Donna!) Lisa's dreams came true this past year when she played two of her all-time favorite characters; Corie in BAREFOOT IN THE PARK here at Red Mask and Lina Lamont in SINGIN' IN THE RAIN at Myers Dinner Theater. Lisa has an undergraduate degree in theatre from Illinois State University and a Master's degree in Education from St. Xavier University. She currently teaches drama at Edison Middle School in Champaign. She gives all her love to her two biggest fans – her children, Demi and Drew.



Suzie Harmon – Mrs. Rumpel

Suzie is fairly new to the theater scene and she loves it. Although THE DESK SET is her 2nd walk-on at Red Mask, she prefers to hang out backstage with fellow "Prop Tarts." For the last three seasons she worked with the best on sets of THE CEMETERY CLUB, DR. COOK'S GARDEN and WEB OF MURDER, to name a few. She is very proud to be a part of the cast of THE DESK SET and thanks everyone for their love and support.



Tammy Bush – Ms. Warriner

Tammy is thrilled to be involved in her third Red Mask show. Having served as stage manager for THE ELEPHANT MAN and having helped with lights for WEB OF MURDER, Tammy is honored to share the stage with such a fine company. Her acting credits also include; THE RIMERS OF ELDRITCH, TOYS IN THE ATTIC, and JOURNEY PROUD, which was included in a regional theatre competition. She is a member of Alpha Psi Omega and is proud to have found a home with Red Mask Players. Tammy sends her heartfelt thanks to her parents who have been her loudest and proudest cheerleaders. She thanks her personal peanut gallery for always being there, and her pets for filling every day with laughter. She would like to dedicate her performance to her grandmother, Vivian Bolling.

RED MASK



Rick Prentice – Reporter

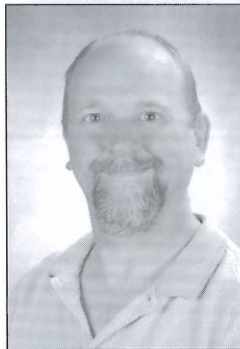
Rick dedicates his 6th Red Mask show to his late mother Gloria and his father Torch Prentice, loyal family Duane, Carla, Evan and Chris, and his loving wife Debbie and cat Butters.

PRODUCTION TEAM



Bev Nees - Director

This is Bev's third foray into directing. She has previously directed MY 3 ANGELS and I HATE HAMLET. She has been actively involved at Red Mask for many years. Her credits include Producing, Stage Managing and being a past board member. She has been seen in THE FOREIGNER, HARVEY, ARSENIC AND OLD LACE & ROMANTIC COMEDY among others. Bev wants to thank her wonderful husband and dog, Eddie, for allowing her this hobby.



Vern Bergkoetter – Stage Manager

Vern has appeared in several Red Mask productions, including THE ODD COUPLE, THE DIVINERS and I HATE HAMLET. He proudly serves on the Red Mask Board of Directors and is thrilled to have a chance to be the stage manager for The Desk Set. Enjoy!



Jennifer Dixson - Producer

Jennifer's activity with Red Mask Players has not slowed down since the last time you saw her (and heard that awful voice) in WEB OF MURDER. She was behind the tables for THE ELEPHANT MAN and is currently serving year number two of her term on the Red Mask Board of Directors. She is thankful for those of you who, through your support, continue to allow Red Mask to occupy an important place in Danville's artistic landscape. She encourages you to invite your friends and nurture your children to have the same appreciation. She wouldn't have the freedom to come out and play and enjoy the life she leads without her husband Dwain and the six "children" at home. To her friends and her family – new and old – she wants you to know that life wouldn't be the same without you.




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The Red Mask Board of Directors has announced plans to present its annual Jean Lewis Scholarship to a student planning a career in theater or performing arts or a directly related area such as speech, oral interpretation or radio/television. Area high school seniors, as well as university or community college students are eligible to apply. Please watch upcoming publications for more information or contact **Mary Ann Laker, Scholarship Chairman**, c/o Red Mask Players, P. O. Box 814, Danville, IL 61832. The scholarship is named for Jean Lewis, who directed 37 of the Children's Theater productions from 1962 through 1986.

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All events for Red Mask take place at the Kathryn Randolph Theater

- Nov 20 & 21, 2005 - Auditions for *Come Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*, 7pm
- January 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 2006 - *Come Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*
- January 29 & 30, 2006 - Auditions for *Angel Street*, 7pm
- March 24, 25, 26, 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 2006 - *Angel Street*
- April 4 and 5, 2006 - Children's Theater auditions for the spring production (TBA), 7pm

DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA

- December 11 & 12, 2005 - Auditions for *Working*, Center Stage at the Village Mall
- Feb 17, 18, 19, 2006 - *Working* - DACC Bremer Theater
- May 5, 7, 2006 - *Cinderella* - DHS Auditorium

DANVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

- December 18, 2005 - *Christmas with the Von Trapp Children*, 3:30pm, Danville High School Auditorium

SWEET ADELINES

- November 5, 2005 - *Good Ol' Acapella* 3:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. at Bremer Conference Center - DACC.

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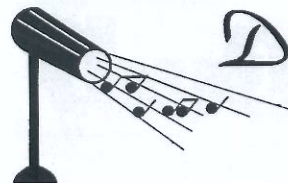
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BEHIND THE SCENES

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Stage Manager.....	Vern Bergkoetter
Producer	Jennifer Dixson
Set Design.....	Bev Nees
Set Construction	Kenny Harden, Mike Boedicker, Dwain Dixson, Bob Lewis
Set Painting	Cast and Crew
Lighting Design	Leslie Boedicker
Lights.....	Julia Megan Sullivan
Sound.....	Amanda Allhands
Props	Suzie Harmon
Hair Design.....	Renata Wise
Make-Up.....	David E. Laker, Cast & Crew
Costumes	Cast
House Manager.....	Debbie Prentice
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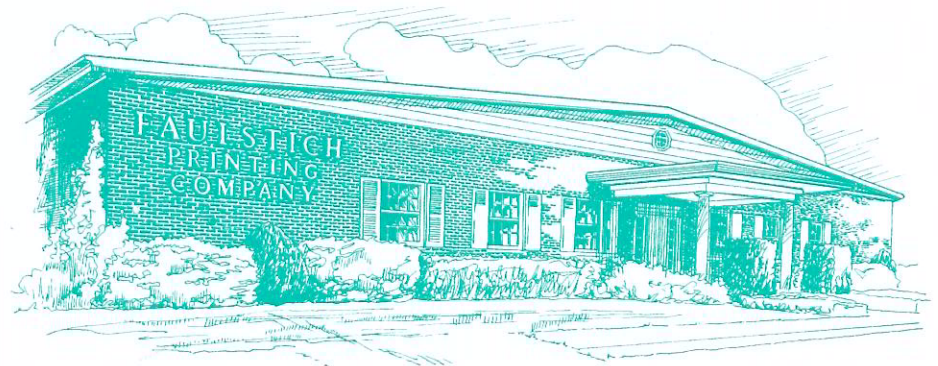
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