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## ZARA, or Who Killed the Queen of the Silent Screen?

by Angela Randazzo

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# ZARA, or Who Killed the Queen of the Silent Screen?

by **Angela Randazzo**

Produced by special arrangement with  
**THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY**  
*of Woodstock, Illinois*

**A PLAY IN TWO ACTS**

**Time:**  
 1985 and 1925

**Place:**  
 The California beach house of Martin and Susan James  
 (Formerly the home of Zara St. Cyr)

*There will be a 15 minute intermission between acts.*

At this time restrooms and refreshments are available in the lower level of the theater. Gift items are also available for purchase in the lower level during intermission. We request that there be no smoking in any area of the building. Also, no food or drinks will be permitted in the auditorium. Thank you.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT..

“One person can change the world, and everyone should try.” – *John F. Kennedy*

As I anticipate the curtain for the final production of the 76th season, it's exciting for me to know the Red Mask Players continues to be an organization that is up to any challenge. Whether that challenge is adapting to the needs of the community or performing everything from timeless classics to new material, we've met it, and with success.

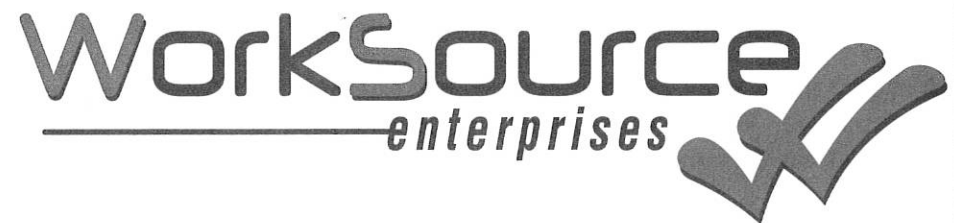
The change in our traditional schedule has benefited performers and audience members. Classic pieces have resonated with audiences for the depth that each reached, and now a new piece will be given a body and history with its performance in the Kathryn Randolph Theater.

The immediate challenge at hand is to elect new Board Members to serve next season, so... season members, please take some time to do so either before or after the show, or during intermission. Your Board Members work hard to make the productions you see possible and to keep the Red Mask Players a positive attraction for a growing Danville.

It is also time to thank the current Board Members for a job well done and the work that continues. This is a volunteer organization and a working board. Therefore, the only reward for said volunteers is to know that we have made a difference. Take just a moment to look for the names of the Board Members in this program and thank them.

The future is bright, and I'm excited for the challenges that we will use to shape that future.

Thank you,  
*Ed DeVore*



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Who killed Zara? Was it the jealous secretary or chauffeur, the money hungry nephew of the Baron, or how about the Baron himself? Maybe it was the jilted director. No, it had to be Zara's aunts, or maybe not. My fantastic cast will keep you guessing until the very end! If it's suspense, comedy, mystery and a good old "who done it" that you like, you have come to the right place.

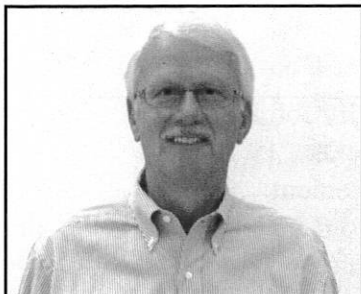
I want to thank the Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to bring this show to the stage for you. As this is the first time this show will be presented on the Red Mask stage, I am honored and humbled to have been chosen to bring it to you.

I am very blessed with a talented cast. You will recognize veterans and be introduced to new faces. They have worked very hard to bring you a great show, and for that I thank them with all my heart.

And, last but not least, I want to thank my crew, Ann Soderstrom, who is not only my hard working Stage Manager, but my very dear friend, and Nancy Henderson, my left hand, right hand and all around favorite Producer. And whether it be designing a special costume, designing and building this awesome set, setting up or running lights and sound, doing a photo shoot on a Saturday afternoon, running the house, doing hair, makeup or setting props, I want to thank everyone who had a hand in helping me.

Most of all, I thank YOU, our patrons, for supporting Red Mask so that I can continue to do what I love. Without you, we would never know who killed Zara! So, please sit back, relax, clear your mind and have fun trying to figure out "Who done it"?

*Debbie Prentice*



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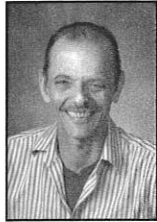
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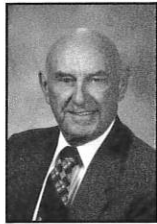


ON STAGE



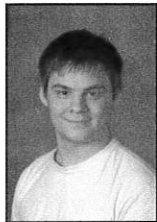
**Greg Apple (Max Dragonette)**

This is Greg's second Red Mask Production. He recently appeared in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He thanks the casting committee for another round of fun; "it is a blast working with this group of people!" Greg is excited to be playing Max, as he says "this is the first role where my *smartcasm*" can come in handy. BOOYAH!" He thanks you, the members of the audience, and Red Mask, for helping to make the performing arts a vital part of our community. Greg says meeting and becoming friends with all the fantastic people associated with the art of theater has truly been a blessing for him.



**Jim Crain (Baron Dashiell Dragonette)**

Jim is happy to be part of this exciting production! He has appeared in several Red Mask productions, including *Inherit the Wind*, *The Girls in 509* and most recently *To Kill a Mockingbird*, after returning home to Danville from Southwest Florida. Jim owns an antique and used furniture store at 2409 Georgetown Road. He sends thanks to Deb, Ann and Nancy and the entire cast and crew of *Zara* for their support.



**Shanon Houg (Martin James)**

Shanon, "International Man of Mystery", first received word of *Zara* from Tim Kirby. Being no stranger to the performing arts, he took this opportunity to take a break from...whatever it is he does...(man of mystery after all). This will be Shanon's ninth onstage performance, and first with Red Mask, and he is pleased to welcome you to *Zara*.



**Ashley Kirby (Susan James)**

Ashley is happy to be appearing in her first Red Mask Players production. She has been acting for four years, having started during high school. She is currently a senior at Jamaica High School. She would like to thank her family for their love and support.

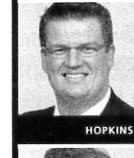


**Jennifer Lee (Zara St. Cyr)**

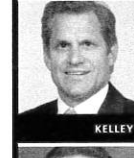
Jennifer returns home to the Red Mask stage after last being seen in 1999's *The Diviners* and 2000's *I Bet Your Life*. During her absence, she earned her BA in Theater from EIU and worked for Walt Disney World. Jennifer is proud to be the 2001 Jean Lewis Scholarship winner. She would like to thank Debbie, Ann, Nancy and the cast for the great experience and Mom, Noelle and Nick for their support.



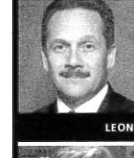
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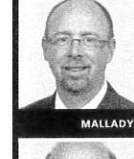
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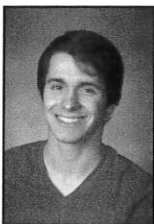


ON STAGE



**Bev Nees (Vilma Violetta)**

Bev has been tripping the boards at Red Mask for twenty-five years. Recently she's been seen onstage in *The Girls in 509*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, as well as last summer's one act *Graceland*. She has also directed *Arms and the Man* and *Laura* among other shows. She is active backstage doing props and stage managing. Bev presently serves on the Red Mask Board of Directors. She is married to her wonderful and understanding husband Rod and has an 11 pound guard dog named Eddie.



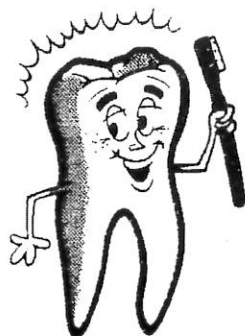
**Tyler Russell (Carlo Bontifiori)**

*Zara* marks Tyler's second time onstage, his first role was Fagin in *Oliver* at Schlarman Academy. In his first Red Mask production, he is excited to be part of *Zara*. He hopes to continue acting well into the future. He would like to thank the casting committee for this wonderful opportunity to bring his character to life. Tyler takes his acting inspiration from Michael Fassbender and Daniel Day-Lewis, two living legends.



**Donna Sant (Verla Violetta)**

This is Donna's first onstage appearance in over 7 years (not counting the Silver Bell in last December's Christmas play). Even though she hasn't been seen, she has been active behind the scenes in a variety of roles. Donna began her tenure at Red Mask over 30 years ago (she started as an infant!), and has considered her time spent in this wonderful building as some of the best times in her life. "You find life-long friends here, and it also makes you proud to be a member of the Arts Community in Danville". Thanks to Debbie, Ann and Sue for thinking she could play this aging, mediocre diva!



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## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Debbie Prentice (Director)**

Debbie has been a part of the Red Mask family for almost ten years. She has been involved in nearly all aspects of the theater from ushering to lights, sound, directing, writing, acting and serving on the Board of Directors. She loves directing, *Zara* being her fourth adult show. Her first was *Don't Drink the Water* in 2007. She has also directed and co-directed two children's shows and is running for the Children's Representative seat on the Board of Directors. Debbie would like to thank her husband Rick, her sister Lisa, father-in-law Torch and brother-in-law Duane for their continued love and support.

**Ann Soderstrom (Stage Manager)**

Ann is thrilled to be working as stage manager for her friend Debbie. She is not a newcomer to Red Mask. Ann directed *The Diary of Anne Frank* for Red Mask and considers that show a success. Ann also directed Red Mask children's shows in the past and she is a former Red Mask Board member. She is a founding member and Board Member of The Lincoln Park Theatre Company and she is a past president of DLO. Currently, Ann is directing for Schlarman Academy Players. She has performed many backstage duties for all the theater companies, but her real love is performing. Ann would like to thank her family for all their support.

**Nancy Henderson (Producer)**

Nancy has been active in community theatre, both onstage and off, for over 25 years. She has been the costumer for many Beef House Dinner Theater, Danville Light Opera and Red Mask productions as well as produced and directed for DLO, Red Mask and DHS Players. Nancy was most recently seen on the Red Mask stage in last season's *All My Sons*, for which she won best actress honors. Other favorite roles include Anna in *The King & I* and Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. She is looking forward to singing again in DLO's upcoming musical *Promises, Promises*. Nancy sends thanks to her husband Lon for his support.

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