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Present

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The  
RAINMAKER

Kathryn Randolph Theatre

March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 & April 3, 4, 1998



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N. RICHARD NASH'S

The RAINMAKER



Cast List

H.C. CURRY..... Leonard "Sonny" Downing  
NOAH CURRY..... Peter Blackmon  
JIM CURRY..... Chad Edwards  
LIZZIE CURRY..... Lorraine Morgan  
FILE..... Steve Ward  
SHERIFF THOMAS..... James C. Williams  
BILL STARBUCK..... Robert Scott

Production Staff

DIRECTOR..... Greg Williams  
STAGE MANAGER..... Lisa Lovelace  
PRODUCER..... Joe Sermersheim

Scene

The play takes place in a western state on a summer day in a time of drought.

ACT ONE • Day    ACT TWO • That evening    ACT THREE • Later the same night

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samual French, Inc.

There will be a ten minute intermission between Acts.  
No Smoking in any area of the building please.



## From the President

Welcome to our third and final show of the season, N. Richard Nash's **THE RAINMAKER**. It's always a great experience to watch a show develop. I had such a great opportunity with our last show, **DADDY'S DYIN' (WHO'S GOT THE WILL?)**. Watching a group of strangers come together and bond in such a way is always a rewarding experience, and what an experience that show was! It introduced new talent to the Red Mask stage and did a phenomenal job of bringing new and (hopefully) returning patrons to the Kathryn Randolph Theater. I had the privilege of getting to know the cast and crew of **DADDY'S DYIN'** and I know their talent will be back on our boards for years to come. Let's hope **THE RAINMAKER** cast has as rewarding of a time as the last group did.

As this is my last stint as President of Red Mask I would like to thank all of you for your commitment to quality community theater in the Danville area. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors for the projects and many hours put into making this organization work. Without their tireless commitment and invigorating and refreshing new ideas, this organization would not be where it is today! I'm sure next year's leadership will keep us pointed in the right direction.

Whenever I direct I always have the cast and crew close out the show with a little ditty from my youth that everyone knows. It goes...."I'm so glad we had this time together, Just to have a laugh or sing a song, Seems we just get started and before you know it, Comes the time we have to say, So long..... Good night everybody".

Edward S. Sant

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## From the Director

**The Brain-is wider than the Sky-  
For-put them side by side-  
The one the other will contain  
With ease-and You-beside-**

**The Brain is deeper than the sea-  
For-hold them-Blue to Blue-  
The one the other will absorb-  
As Sponges-Buckets-do-**

**The Brain is just the weight of God-  
For-Heft them-Pound for Pound-  
And they will differ-if they do-  
As Syllable from Sound-**

During a time of extreme drought in an unnamed western state, our characters—the Curry family, the deputy, the rainmaker—contend with not only the lack of rain, the parched earth, and the dying cattle but the emotional drought in their own lives—the longing, the hopes, the plans, the elusive happy ending.

What the cast has gleaned from this romance—and what we hope you, the audience, will recognize—is that life is inevitably fraught with conflict, that happy endings don't always occur when we want them, that one's attitude is paramount.

As poet Emily Dickinson, who knew about yearning, observed, the brain is, indeed, wider than the sky, for it is a link to the Creator; it knows that happiness may be just beyond the horizon or in a wisp of cloud or in a looking glass or, perhaps, in the dreams of a man or a woman. Though it may be 110 in the shade, one must believe the weather is bound to change.

N. RICHARD NASH'S  
*The*  
**RAINMAKER**



Enjoy the show!

aw

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**Michael Rortvedt**  
Director

---

**Stephen L. Wilson**  
Director

---

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# Red Mask Players



## Production Team

**Greg Williams, (Director)** Returning to Red Mask after a ten year absence, Greg previously served as director for **Bus Stop** and **The Gingerbread Lady**. He has also directed productions of **Painting Churches**, **Love Letters**, **The Shadow Box**, **The Curious Savage**, and **The Glass Menagerie**. On stage his favorite roles have included Jamie Tyrone in **Long Day's Journey into Night**, Che Guevara in **Evita**, and Big Daddy in **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**. An English and drama teacher at Danville High School, Greg is supported by his wife, Marsha, and their children Blythe, Ian, Mallory, Flynn, and Bailey.

**Joe Sermersheim, (Producer)** In **Daddy's Dyin'...Who's Got the Will?**, Joe was transformed from mild-mannered tavern owner to money grubbin', wife-abusin' Orville, the son who discovered that, yes indeed, he had done "peed in his chili." Since Joe is now hooked on Red Mask and the whole community theater experience, it was easy to persuade him to lend his talents for this production. And like Joe always said, "That's what I need- more to do!" A special thanks goes to his wife, Teri, and their three lovely daughters for their support at home.

**Lisa Lovelace, (Stage Manager)** After coming into her own as the weight-conscious, pot-smokin', hippie lovin' Marlene in **Daddy's Dyin'...Who's Got the Will?**, Lisa now takes control of things backstage. Having played Big Mama to Greg Williams' **Big Daddy** in TFO Productions' **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**, Lisa has enjoyed working side by side with him again on this production. She thanks the cast and crew for the pleasure of their company. Contrary to popular belief, Lisa does have a day job. She maintains her own law practice here in Danville, specializing in criminal law.



Lisa Lovelace, Greg Williams, Joe Sermersheim

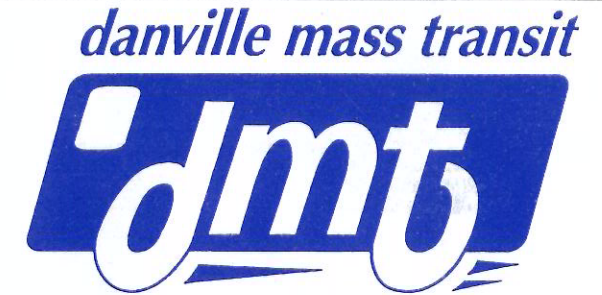
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*"climb on  
to the  
wheels of a  
good  
thing..."*



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## On Stage

**Peter Blackmon** (*Noah Curry*) A longtime protege' of Fatman, Peter now makes his Red Mask debut. He has appeared on the Bluebird stage, bringing tears to the eyes of his listeners for his moving rendition of "Maggie May." A graduate of the University of Illinois, "Boo" serves as Executive Director for Downtown Danville Inc. Peter would also like to thank Chee-z for giving him the Big One.

**Sonny Downing** (*H.C.*) After a very rewarding experience as 'Jules' in *My Three Angels*, Sonny looks forward to the role of H.C. in *The Rainmaker!* "The sound of laughter from an audience is of course, incredibly uplifting for those on stage. However, the obvious, silent response to carefully chosen words by the author, presents for me a far greater challenge. We shall see!" Sonny wishes to thank Greg for his confidence and direction. He also thanks everyone both onstage and off, for their love and hard work. (Special thanks to brother Dave). "And of course....Thanks to my wonderful wife Sandy for her tolerance, patience and support." He thanks you the audience for your faithful appreciation of our efforts. And most of all, He thanks God, who supplies the talents within every one of us.

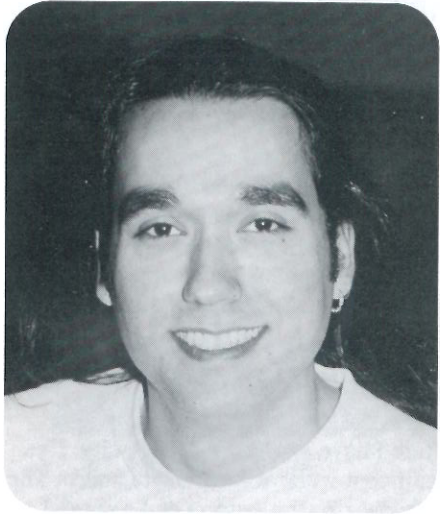
**Chad Edwards** (*Jim Curry*) I just recently moved to Danville from a small town just south of here called Westville. This is my first Red Mask play. When this is all over, I'm considering going back to Westville and spreading around all the culture I have learned in the big city. I've wanted to try acting ever since I was inspired by the magnificent work of Max Baer (*Jethro, The Beverly Hillbillies*). I would like to thank my family and friends for the support and a special thanks goes to Fatman for telling me to audition for this play.

**Lorraine Morgan** (*Lizzie Curry*) After working backstage on several productions, Lorraine made her stage debut in *Daddy's Dyin'... Who's Got the Will?* as Lurlene, the gospel singing preacher's wife. A foreigner to these parts, she and her real husband are happily making themselves at home here in Danville. Lorraine is a physical therapist in real life. She would like to thank Tootie for his love and support.

**Robert Scott** (*Bill Starbuck*) After a two year absence, Bob is pleased to be in another Red Mask production, though he was on the Red Mask stage in last summer's T.F.O. production of *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*. His two most recent roles have been as Sky Masterson in a summer Beef House production of *Guys & Dolls*, And as Tevye in last fall's Danville Light Opera production of *Fiddler On The Roof*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their time and talents and his wife, Donna, for her love and support.

**Steve Ward** (*File*) Since his return to Danville from parts unknown, this wandering minstrel has appeared as Perchik in DLO's *Fiddler On The Roof* and he was cast (some would say type cast) as Harmony Rhodes in the Red Mask production, *Daddy's Dyin'... Who's Got The Will?* Steve is grateful for the challenge of a straight role and a new director. Steve would especially like to thank his wonderful, tremendous stage manager for all her encouragement, support, and writing ability.

**James C. Williams** (*Sheriff*) A chaplain at the V.A., Jim returns to the Red Mask stage after a twenty year hiatus. He made his Red Mask debut as Roy Hubley in *Plaza Suite*. He also appeared as Ed Anderson in *Come Back, Little Sheba*, the Sultan of Bashir in *Don't Drink The Water*, and, for DLO, Judge Wilson in *1776*. He was encouraged (okay, coerced) to audition for this play by his wife, Roberta, and son Greg.



Steve Ward



Jim Williams



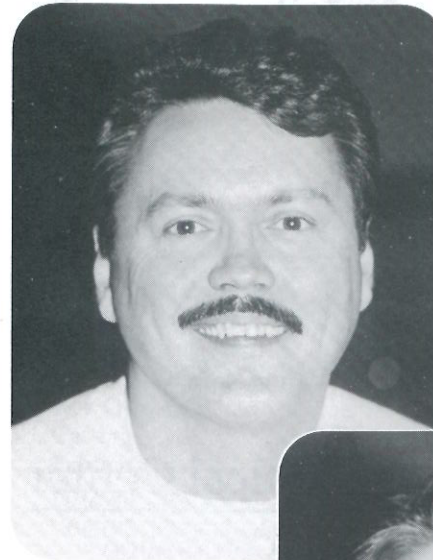
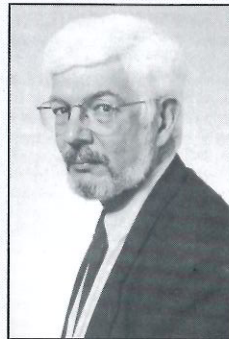
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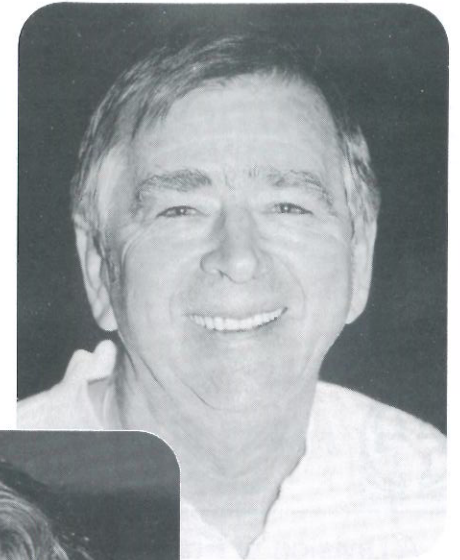
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Bob Scott



Sonny Downing



Lorraine Morgan

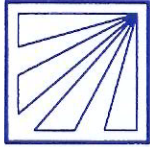


Chad Edwards



Peter Blackmon

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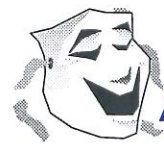
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Red Mask Players



## Behind the Scenes

Director..... Greg Williams  
Stage Manager..... Lisa Lovelace  
Producer..... Joe Sermersheim  
Set Design..... Greg Williams, David Downing  
Set Construction..... David Downing, Sonny Downing, Bob Scott, Gail Garner.  
Properties..... Tanya Golden, Shawna Atchison, Donna Scott.  
Lighting Technician..... Stephanie Fitz  
Sound Technician..... Sheryl Walsh  
House Manager..... Gaye Garner  
Make-up Design..... David Laker  
Box Office..... Donna Sant  
Casting..... Greg Williams, Lisa Lovelace, David Downing  
Publicity..... Lisa Lovelace  
Program Design..... Media One Graphic Design  
Program Photography..... Donna Scott

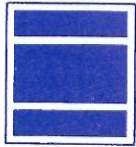


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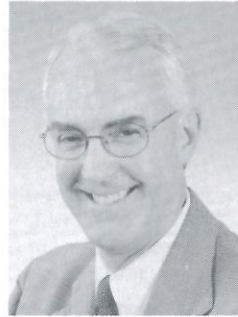
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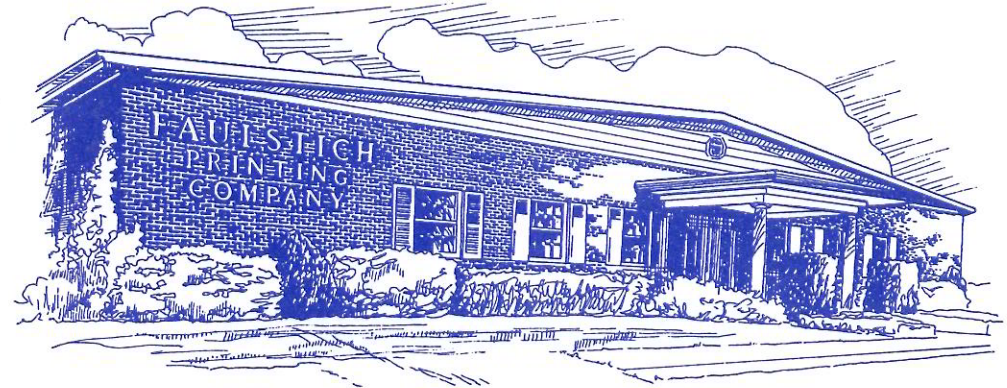
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