

**RED MASK PLAYERS**

PRESENT

# The Diary of Anne Frank

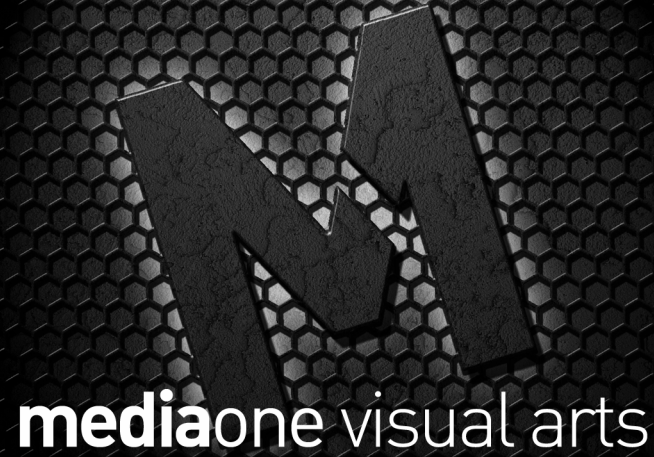
Dramatized by  
**Francis Goodrich**  
and  
**Albert Hackett**

based on the book  
"Anne Frank: Story  
of a Young Girl"



**January 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29 & 30, 2010**  
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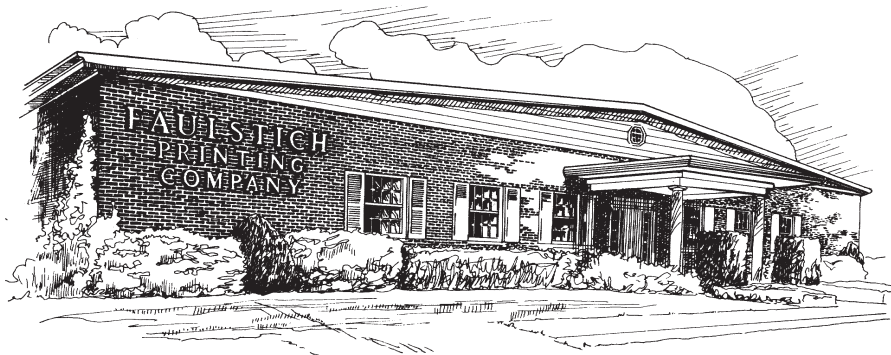
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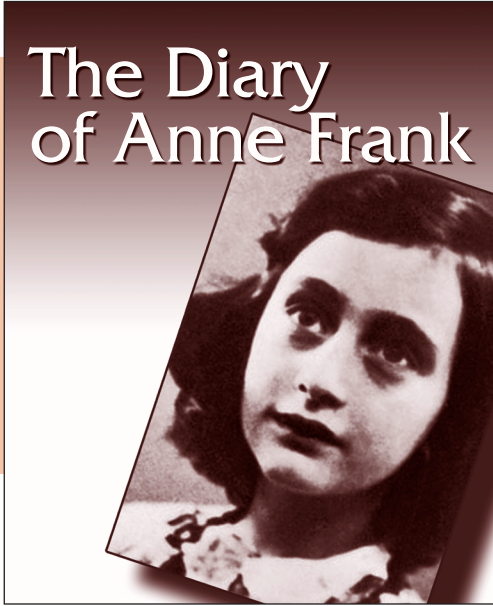


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# The Diary of Anne Frank



**Dramatized by  
Francis Goodrich and Albert Hackett**  
based on the book "Anne Frank: story of a young girl"

**Produced by Special Arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company**

**The Place: Amsterdam, The Annex**

**Act I** Scene 1 - November 1945  
Scene 2 - July 1942  
Scene 3 - October 1942

**Act II** Scene 1 - March 1943  
Scene 2 - December 1943  
Scene 3 - January 1, 1944  
Scene 4 - January 1, 1944 (early evening)

**Act III** Scene 1 - June 1944  
Scene 2 - August 1944  
Scene 3 - November 1945

*There will be a ten minute intermission between each act. 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. Also, no food or drinks will be permitted in the auditorium. Thank You.*



Red Mask Players are funded in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council and the Danville Area Arts Council.



RED MASK



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**H**ow often we take each other for granted; how carelessly we often regard our freedom. At the end of this play, you will be able to leave the theater and go home or wherever you wish to go. For that matter, you can get up at any moment and leave; no one will stop you or threaten you, and your life is not at risk (other than crossing traffic on Vermilion Street). Over the next couple of hours, you will experience what life would be like without freedom; the freedom to come and go as you please; freedom to sing, scream, cry, or laugh out loud; and the freedom to express your faith to whatever God or divine spirit in which you believe without threat of persecution or death. Anne Frank's story is one of undying faith and hope in time of great peril; it speaks profoundly to the human spirit. Even at the end, Anne Frank never lost her belief that people are good at heart. I invite you to open your minds and hearts to what you are about to experience. Come with us now as we take you into those rooms where the Franks secreted themselves and into the hearts of Anne and her family, friends, and betrayers. My hope is that you take away a renewed awareness of the blessings of freedom and a personal commitment from this moment forward to work harder at ensuring we all guard our freedom and treat each other a little better every day.

In Anne's own words, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world".

*Linda Bolton*  
President  
Red Mask Players, Inc



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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

First of all I want to sincerely thank the Red Mask Board for allowing me to direct this powerful show. I've always had a passion for it. I read the diary several times, performed on stage as Miep in high school, and after college, I visited the Anne Frank House which is now a museum. While at the museum, a deep emotion came over me when I touched the walls. The pace was both overwhelmingly claustrophobic and very lonely, a feeling I had never felt before. I also had the unique opportunity to stay with a holocaust survivor when I traveled with "Up With People". My host mother was an older woman and she opened up to me about her experience. She told me she was taken to the concentration camp, separated from her family when she was 17 years old. For one year, she was bounced from camp to camp, but her last few months were in a concentration work camp. She said that the reason she survived this terrible ordeal was because she "never gave up hope."

What does hope mean? In the dictionary, it means "the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best." We all have felt those feelings at one time or another. That's why we are able to relate to the story so well. This is a show about hope and survival of two families who were a normal as us.

As director I felt it was my responsibility for the cast to have a good understanding about the show and what lead up to the holocaust. I wanted them to understand their characters. I asked them to research their character and at each rehearsal tell me something new about them. I brought in a guest speaker, Heinrich Meuller, who was chief of the Gestapo and 4th in command under Adolph Hitler at that time. (I had an actor portray Mueuller from his memoirs and other Nazi documents to give a real account of what they were all about.) We watched *Anne Frank Remembered* and had a long discussion about it. We went to visit Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana and listened to Eva Kor, who was a holocaust survivor at Auschwitz of Nazi deadly lab experiments speak to us. The most important lesson we learned from Eva was to "forgive" and to "never give up."

I also felt it is also my duty as director for the audience to take home with them a piece of history and hopefully relay a message that we as free citizens are able to do whatever we want within limits of the laws, and knowing how history can repeat itself, we must never let this happen again. Thank you cast and crew for putting your hearts into this performance and bring it to life. Please, sit back and enjoy the experience!

*Ann Soderstrom*

Director



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ON STAGE



**Lauren Hous (Meip)** - Lauren a senior at DHS, started acting in third grade in Red Mask Children's Theater. She was involved in over a dozen Children's shows, her favorite being *Twinderella*. She then continues to act in high school. Her most recent role was Juror #4 in *Twelve Angry Jurors*. This is her first Red Mask play since eighth grade. She wants to thank her friends and family members who helped convince her to audition, and for always supporting her.



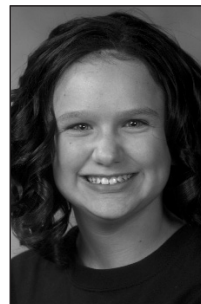
**Rick Prentice (Mr.Kraler)** - Rick would like to dedicate this performance to his mother Gloria. You may remember Rick as Justice Dowling from the most recent Red Mask production of *Tom Jones*. He has also been in such memorable shows as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Twelve Angry Men*", and *Don't Drink the Water*, just to name a few. Rick would like to thank his wife, Debbie, his father, Torch, and his brother, Duane for their love and support. Oh, yeah, and his cat Butters, too.



**Brad T. Smith (Otto Frank)** - As a Danville native and local resident nearly all his life, Brad has always loved and appreciated local theater groups. He is proud to say that he, his wife, and all four children have graced local stages at one time or another in their lives. He is very pleased to be back on the stage in Kathryn's house after a nearly 30 year absence. Otto Frank is also a special character for Brad, as he portrayed Otto as a freshman in high school. He is pleased to be able to reprise that role for this generation to enjoy.



**Mary Ann Laker (Mrs.Frank)** - Mary Ann is thrilled to be back on the Red Mask stage this season. She most recently was seen in *Tom Jones* as Harriet Fitzpatrick. Prior to that, she appeared in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* as Kate Jerome. She would like to thank Ann for the opportunity to appear in this wonderful show, Donna for being her favorite boss, and Dave for all of his encouragement and love. Mazeltov!



**Alexis Grundell (Anne Frank)**- Alexis is a 7th grader at North Ridge Middle School. She has always had a tremendous interest in the theater. Most recently she was in the Red Mask Children's Play *Scheherazade*. She has also been in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and *Guys and Dolls* through the NRMS drama club. She is very excited to be a part of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and hopes you all enjoy the show.



**Brooke Kuchefski (Margot Frank)** - Brooke is appearing in her first adult Red Mask play but is no stranger to the Red Mask Theater. Brooke has been performing since she was nine starting in the Red Mask Children's Theater. She has also done plays at St. Pauls, Schlarman High School, Danville Masonic Temple, and has appeared in the last two summer productions with Lincoln Park Theater Company. Brooke is a sophomore at Schlarman High School where she is an honor student, an ambassador of the school, and on student council. She would like to thank Ann Soderstrom for all her great advice and encouragement, and her mom for always supporting her to pursue her dreams on stage.



**Wilbur Bolton (Mr. Van Daan)** - Wilbur is proud to be a member of the cast of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He has previously appeared in *Cemetery Club*, *Flaming Idiots*, and last year's production of *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Two years ago, Wilbur won a Katy Award for this cameo performance in *Goodbye Charlie*. Most recently, he was on the stage for this year's Christmas show *Every Christmas Story Ever Told, and Then Some*. He teaches fifth grade at Northeast Elementary Magnet School and is active in several community organizations. He would like to thank his wife, Linda, the current president of the Red Mask Board of Directors, for putting up with the madness of rehearsal schedules and performances.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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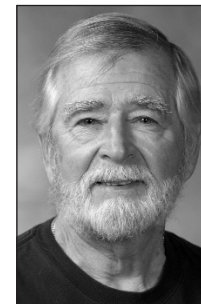
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**Gretchen Elliott (Mrs. Van Daan)** - Gretchen is thankful to Debbie, Ann, and Donna for casting her in this amazing show. It has been over 2 years since her last dance on the Red Mask stage in *Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean*. To her favorite five she loves you and thanks you for being there to support her. And to her family she says "I love you too!"



**Robert Soderstrom (Peter)**- This is Robert's debut performance for the Red Mask Theater. But this is not the first time being on this stage. When he was 5 months old, he crawled for the first time on the Red Mask stage and that is when his parents knew he was the actor in the family. Robert is 16 years old and attends Schlarman High School. He is active in Schlarman Hilltop Theater Co., swim team, band and choir. He is also an honor student, and is an assistant teacher for The Laurel School of Dance. Robert has performed in *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Disastrous Wedding*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Cats*. He is happy to be a part of such a historical production and thanks his parents for all their support.



**Sonny Downing (Mr. Dussel)** - From *Over the River and Through the Woods* in spring to *The Diary of Anne Frank* in the winter, and everything in between, Sonny has been very busy. However, he says that he is "honored to be a part of this production. This poignant story of hope in the midst of a very dark moment in history is one that should never be repeated, but is should also never be suppressed." Sonny thanks God for his talent and Sandy for her patience. He also thanks Ann and her crew for their confidence in him and their countless hours of work. Lastly, he thanks you, our patrons, for your continuing support.



**Tumblebrutus (Moushie)**

Tumblebrutus was a stray cat and was found as a kitten last January 8, 2009 on the Soderstrom driveway. The family decided to keep him. He is a very loving cat and very BIG cat. The family calls him a mountain lion. He loves to give kisses and thinks he is the head of the household. This is his first appearance on the Red Mask stage and welcomes everyone to come back stage for a "paw-tograph" after the show. He would like to thank his family for opening their home and giving him a royal life.

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# AQUA<sup>SM</sup>

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PRODUCTION TEAM



**Ann Soderstrom (Director)** - This is Ann's first time directing an adult show for Red Mask and is very honored to be directing such a historical piece. Ann directed several Red Mask Children's shows, She directed for Danville Light Opera, Lincoln Park Theater Company, DHS Players, and Schlarman Players. She is a past president for Danville Light Opera and a former board member of Red Mask Players. She was involve in the creation of Window Repertory Theater and currently she is a founding member and board member of The Lincoln Park Theater Company. Her real love is performing and some of her favorite shows have been *The Wizard of Oz*, *Cats*, *Grease*, *Crimes of the Heart* and *Alice in Wonderland*. She also has her own theatrical production at home with 4 boys, Robert, Ronald, Ryan and Ricky and of course wonderful husband and supporter Ron. She would like to thank her cast and crew for all their hard work and dedication to this show.

**Debbie Prentice (Stage Manager)** - Debbie would like to dedicate this performance to her "adopted" mother in law Judy. She is very honored to have been asked by Ann to be her stage manager. She is not a newcomer to Red Mask, but is certainly not a seasoned member only having been involved for six years. During that time though, she has done just about every aspect of the theater including serving as 2nd Vice President on the board of directors for the past 2 years. She would like to thank her husband Rick, for introducing her to the wonderful world of theater. She knows you will enjoy the show!



**Jamey Coutant (Producer)** - Jamey is thrilled to be working with friends Ann and Debbie on this show. Jamey is the current Children's Representative for the Red Mask Theater. She became involved with Red Mask many years ago performing in Children's Theater under the direction of Jean Lewis and then went on to direct children's shows. Jamey also appeared as Frannie in *Goodbye Charlie* and Deborah in *Tom Jones*. Jamey hopes that you the patrons will take away some joy and hope from this wonderful historical performance of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.





*Best Wishes on a Successful Season*



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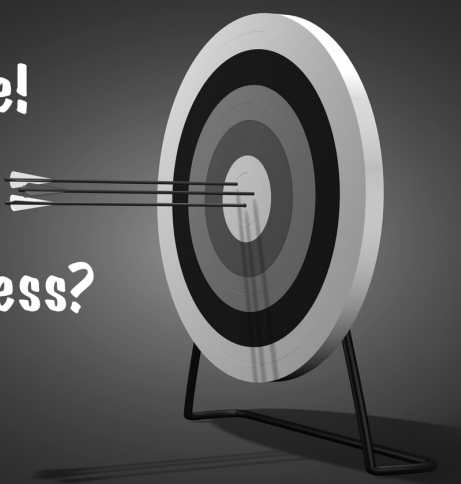



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## JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Named after the founder of Red Mask Children's Theater, the Jean Lewis Scholarship is an annual award of \$750 to a student planning a career in the theater, performing arts, or a directly related area such as speech or radio/television. Area high school students as well as university or community students are eligible to apply. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate their ongoing interest in theater by their past participation in local theater opportunities. Performing artists will be asked to audition as part of their application. Along with a completed application, those seeking the scholarship funds must submit two letters of recommendation. Completed applications must be postmarked by April 8, 2010.

Guidelines and applications are available at our website [www.redmaskplayers.com/getting-involved](http://www.redmaskplayers.com/getting-involved), and after January 8, 2010 from guidance counselors, speech teachers, or drama departments at area high schools and from the DACC Communication Department.

Mail completed applications to:

**Donna Sant**  
**Red Mask Scholarship Committee**  
 1211 N. Franklin St.  
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For additional information, email [donnaasant@gmail.com](mailto:donnaasant@gmail.com)



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Auditions for Red Mask Players Spring Show

***The Replacement***

January 31 and February 1, 2010

7:00pm

Kathryn Randolph Theater

Red Mask Valentine's Fundraiser at Sleepy Creek Winery

***Talley's Folley***

Feb 12, 13 and 14, 2010

Danville Light Opera presents

***The Spitfire Grill***

DACC Bremer Theater

Feb 12, 13 and 14, 2010

Red Mask presents their spring show

***The Replacement***

March 26, 27, and 28, 2010, April 2, 3, 9, 10, and 11, 2010



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## BEHIND THE SCENES

**Director**.....Ann Soderstrom  
**Stage Manager**.....Debbie Prentice  
**Producer**.....Jamey Coutant  
**Set Design**.....Ann Soderstrom, Kenny Harden  
**Set Construction**.....Kenny Harden, Gail Garner & crew  
**Lighting Design**.....Leslie Boedicker, Mike Boedicker  
**Sound Design**.....John Lashbrook  
**Lights**.....Gail Garner  
**Sound**.....Jim Wolfe  
**Props**.....Bev Nees, Barb Garner, Allyson Jordon,  
Larry Finley, Kristine Johnson, and cast  
**Hair and Make-up**.....Mary Ann Cecil and cast  
**Costumes**.....Nancy Henderson  
**House Manager**.....Shannon Smith  
**Box Office**.....Ron Soderstrom,  
**Casting**.....Ann Soderstrom, Debbie Prentice, Donna Sant  
**Dialect Coach**.....Tobi L. Peck  
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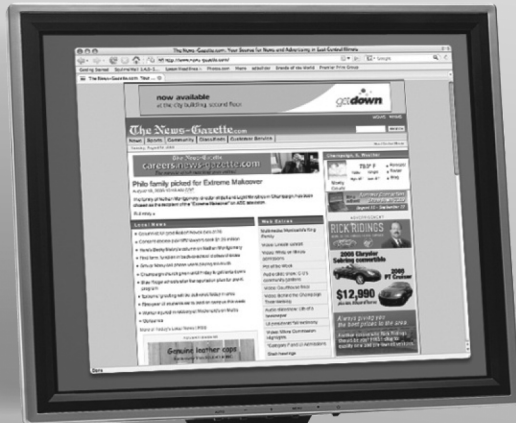
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