

RED MASK PLAYERS

PRESENT

Over the River
and
Through the Woods



By Joe DiPietro

**March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, April 3, 4, 2009
Kathryn Randolph Theater**

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Leslie Boedicker	Lisa Richter
Jamey Coutant	Ron Soderstrom
Sonny Downing	Julia Sullivan



By Joe DiPietro

Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.

Place and Time:

The Gianelli home in Hoboken, New Jersey. Most of the action of the play takes place several years ago.

ACT ONE

Inside the home of Frank and Aida Gianelli

ACT TWO

Same location, a few days later.

There will be a fifteen minute Intermission between Act1 and Act2. 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.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome,

Well, we have arrived at the third and final stop on this 72nd season tour through the Northeast. We started out with a stop at Golden Pond, up in Maine, then over to Buffalo, and now we end up in New Jersey to spend some time with Nicky and the Grandparents. Now, as Nick says, he never considers time spent at the Grandparents relaxing, but I assure you it will be entertaining.

This is my last “Presidential Moment” for a program due to the fact that my second year as president of the Board of Directors is drawing toward a close, but it has been perhaps my favorite one to compose. I have had the great pleasure of serving in the capacity of stage manager for this show and I must say it has been a good time. The cast has been a joy to work with since the first read through. They have taken a great story and brought it to life. Couple this with the fact that some of my oldest and dearest friends are part of this production, and, well, it has been a ton of fun.

Sit back, relax, and get ready to have a good time as we take you on a little trip *Over the River and Through the Woods!*

R. Hous
President

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tengo famiglia! It loses something in its translation from Italian to English. There is a passion that transcends words, a sense of belonging, of having value and worth that helps define the Gianelli and Cristiano families.

When I first read *Over the River and Through the Woods*, I immediately identified with the Gianellis and Cristanos. They have an honesty about them; an everyman quality that resonated with me and that I believe will resonate with you, the audience. The conversations are rich, the interactions between the characters dynamic, with several layers of both humor and ethos. This is a play that you can identify with. When you leave the theater you will have not only been entertained, but also reaffirmed and refreshed.

So sit back and enjoy an evening of good food, engaging conversation and a round of **Trivial Pursuit** that will leave you scratching your head.

Gail Garner

Director



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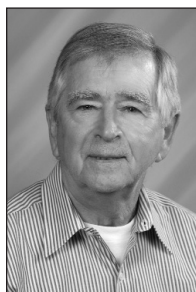
ON STAGE



Jason Asaad (Nick) - Jason is very happy to be back on the Red Mask stage! He was last seen in Red Mask's production of *Good-Bye Charlie* in the winter season of 2008, and has performed other shows with the Red Mask Players. Jason just finished up Danville Light Opera's production of *Cabaret* in February. He would like to thank everyone involved in this production for their hard work and dedication, and his family and friends for their continued support. Also, Jason would like to thank everybody in the audience for attending! Enjoy the show!



Mary Anne Cecil (Aida) - This is Mary Anne's first appearance with Red Mask Players, though she is not new to theater. She has been in wonderful productions over the years in both California and Texas. Some of her favorite characters have included the fainting mayor's wife in *Bye, Bye Birdie*, Madam Turreau in *Murder at Café Noir*, Sister Hubert in *Nunsense*, Bella in *Lost in Yonkers*, and Abby and Martha Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Christmas, 2007, Mary Anne played Mrs. McDougall in the original production of *Hope for Desperate Housewives* through the Hill Country Bible Church in Austin, Texas. She hopes to become more active with the Red Mask group. Mary Anne is dedicating her performance to her family: Thank you for all your support.



Leonard D. "Sonny" Downing, Jr. (Frank) - Sonny is excited to be returning to the Red Mask stage. He was last seen as Sidney Redlitch in *Bell, Book & Candle*, and not quite "seen" in *Flaming Idiots*. Sonny thanks God for his talents, his wife, Sandy, and all his family for their love and support, and you, our loyal Red Mask audience. Sonny dedicates this performance to his brother, Dave, who Sonny says has proven himself to be a far stronger performer than Sonny could ever hope to be. And to Dave's wife, Marty, Sonny says, "Thank you for always being there for Dave."



Bev Nees (Emma) - Bev is thrilled to be playing Emma in this very funny and yet poignant show. She is a Red Mask veteran who has been involved onstage and backstage for many years. She was last seen in *Don't Drink the Water* as the Ambassador. This is not her first time playing an "older woman". She performed in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *The Foreigner*. Bev is glad to be working with Gail Garner and Bob Hous once again. She wants to thank her wonderful husband Rod for supporting her in her hobby.



Wilbur Bolton (Nunzio) - Wilbur is happy to be back on the Red Mask stage with his fellow paisans in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. He has previously appeared in *Communicating Doors*, *Cemetery Club*, and *Flaming Idiots*. Last year, Wilbur won a Katy Award for his cameo performance in *Good-Bye Charlie*. This summer, he was on the stage for a tour de force in the one act play *The Actor's Nightmare*. Wilbur met his wife, Linda, when they both appeared in the Red Mask production of *East Lynn* in 1971. He teaches fifth grade at Northeast Elementary Magnet School and is active in several community organizations.



Amanda Coutant (Caitlin) - Amanda is excited to be performing for the first time on the Red Mask stage since doing children's theater. She has been seen in several productions with local community theater groups. She has been seen in DLO's *Chicago* (Annie), *Nunsense* (Robert Anne), and *Into the Woods* (Lucinda). Amanda also currently serves on the Lincoln Park Theater Company board, and will be directing this summer's show of *Alice in Wonderland*. Besides performing on stage, Amanda has also been seen working behind the scenes as stage manager, and working sound or lights. Amanda would like to take this time to thank Gail, Bob, Barb, and Linda for putting together an amazing show, and her amazing cast mates for always making it an amazing experience each time we walk on stage!

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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RED MASK



PRODUCTION TEAM



Gail Garner (Director) - Gail has been active in community theater for many years, working backstage for Sunshine Productions, Danville Light Opera, as well as Red Mask. He is most at home behind the scenes, having served as producer and stage manager for a number of community productions. He enjoys creating an environment that supports the actors/actresses and allows them to do their very best. This is his first opportunity to direct a play. He would like to thank his good friend Bob Hous for introducing him to this wonderful play and to his wife Barb for her support and understanding.



Robert Hous (Stage Manager) - Robert has been involved with Red Mask Players since the early 1980's. He last appeared on stage in *Meet My Husbands* a few seasons ago and for the last two years Robert has served as president of the Board of Directors of Red Mask. "Over the River is a great show and I know our audiences will enjoy themselves. I have had a lot fun serving as stage manager for this fine cast and crew and having a hand in bringing this outstanding show to the Red Mask stage."



Linda Bolton (Producer) - Following her first directing opportunity in the summer one act *Wanda's Visit*, this is Linda's first time producing. She says it has been a great experience. The Bolton household has been awfully busy for the last couple of months, but Duffy the Cat has been leaving the light on for them at home. Linda and Wilbur just celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, having first met at Red Mask. She is the Community Relations/Health Education Coordinator for the Vermilion County Health Department, and is Secretary for the Red Mask Board of Directors. Linda applauds a really amazing cast of wonderful characters who have truly brought *tengo famiglia* to life.



Barbara Garner (Producer) - Barb returns to Red Mask, this time as a producer. Her first Red Mask role was "Countess Wilhelmina" in *Don't Drink the Water*. She has really enjoyed working with her fellow producer, Linda, and is grateful for the opportunity to work with such a great cast and crew. She especially thanks her husband, Gail, for his love and support.



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JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Applications are now being accepted for the 2009 Jean Lewis Scholarship to be presented by the Red Mask Players. Local high school seniors and community college students who are theater majors or who have an expressed interest in pursuing a field of study directly related to the theater are encouraged to apply. Applications will be available by January on the Red Mask website (www.redmaskplayers.com) and from area high school guidance counselors. Applications and letters of reference must be postmarked no later than April 6, 2009. For information contact:

**Linda Bolton, Scholarship Chairperson
431-1050**

The scholarship is named for Jean Lewis, who directed all of the Children's Theater productions from 1962 through 1987.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Red Mask's Children's Theater

March 22 & 23 - Auditions for Doc Doc Goose Goose
Performances: May 15-16

Danville Light Opera

April 24, 25, & 26 - *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*

Danville Symphony Orchestra

May 5 – Children's Concert – Danville High School Auditorium – 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
May 9 – *With Strings Attached* – 7:30 p.m.

Lincoln Park Theater Company

July 17, 18, & 19 – *Alice in Wonderland* – Lincoln Park

Danville Light Opera Youth Musical

July 24, 25, & 26 - *Flapper!* - DACC

BEHIND THE SCENES

- Director**..... Gail Garner
- Stage Manager**..... Robert Hous
- Producers**..... Linda Bolton, Barbara Garner
- Set Design**..... Gail Garner, Robert Hous
- Set Construction**..... Cast and Crew
- Light Design**..... Leslie Boedicker
- Lights**..... Debbie Prentice
- Sound**..... Ann Soderstrom
- Props**..... Suzie Harmon, Rick Prentice
- Make-Up & Hair**..... Chris Jacobs
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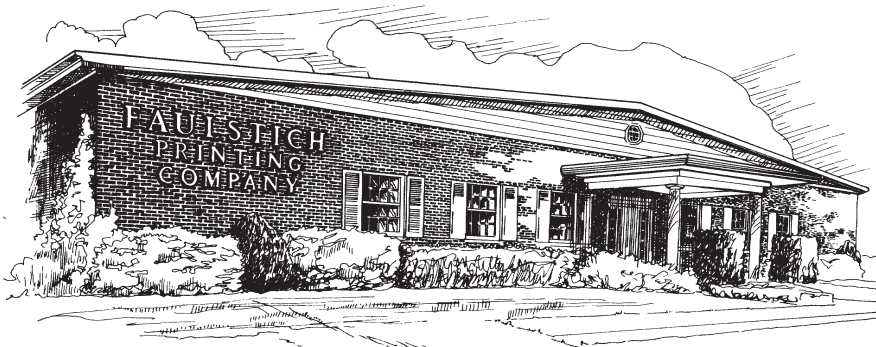
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