RED MASK PLAYERS

PRESENT



On Golden Pond By Ernest Thompson

November 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 2008 Kathryn Randolph Theater





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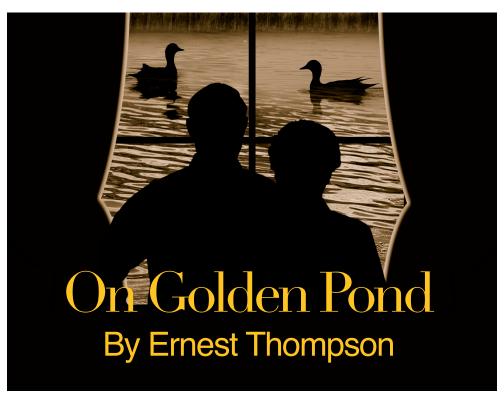
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Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc.

The setting of the play is the living room of a summer home on Golden Pond, in Maine.

The time is May through September, 2008.

ACT ONE

Scene 1: Early afternoon in the middle of May.

Scene 2: Mid-morning in the middle of June.

Scene 3: Early evening in the middle of July.

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Scene 1: Early morning in the middle of August.

Scene 2: Late morning in the middle of September.

There will be a fifteen minute intermission between Act I and Act II.
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 and no food or drinks will be permitted back in the auditorium.



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





Hello.

Welcome to the first offering of our 72nd season. We offer up a classic piece of American theatre: *On Golden Pond*. This play will more than likely make you think a bit, perhaps reflect a bit, but mostly make you laugh.

Now the odd thing about this is the main character, old Norman doesn't really believe in laughing. Do you remember in the comics when a character was mad or grumpy the cartoonist usually would draw them with a small black cloud hanging overhead? Well, if the production crew could have figured out how to do that. Norman could have had a black cloud of his very own. In the beginning Norman is your classic Captain Bringdown, but as events in his life begin to swirl out of his control, the cloud starts to shrink due to a most unlikely cause. Now I'm not going to tell you in the end old Norman is Little Mister Sunshine, but well... just watch and see for yourself.

So folks sit back relax and take a little trip out to Golden Pond with us I think you'll have a good time.

R. Hous
President



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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thirty years ago, a man – not much older than I am now – set out to write a play. He called forth to the page the quintessential "old married couple," nostalgic, cantankerous, and loving. With the story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, playwright Ernest Thompson found his first great success. The play went on to spawn a hit film, a soundtrack, and a Broadway revival. A generation fell in love with the Thayers.

Today, a generation later, *On Golden Pond* is still as funny, touching, and surprising as ever. Though the original audience has aged, the story has not. Ethel is as enthusiastic about life as ever, and Norman is still "a poop." Dear, estranged daughter Chelsea is returning to the lake once again, with straightforward Bill and precocious Billy in tow. That staple of Golden Pond's shores, Charlie is here, bringing laughter, gossip, and news of the outside world. And uniting them all in history, memory, and the light of a single, glowing summer is Golden Pond itself. In a way, the lake is the true star of the show, quietly influencing the lives of the ensemble and permeating every scene with an enduring, timeless sense of home.

Theatre is my home. Without it, I am disconnected and lost, a babe in the woods. I encountered it for the first time as a little girl, sitting in the audience with my parents and marveling at the stories unfolding in front of me. What child wouldn't love theatre? It's all the wonder of imagination and make-believe brought to life. After college, I found my way into the theatre community and found that it was exactly how I had dreamed it would be: exciting, confusing, beautiful, frustrating, and so much fun. I studied classical theatre, marveling that the words I spoke on stage had been written hundreds and often thousands of years before. And I studied new works, occasionally being granted the honor of speaking those words for the first time in history. Studying theatre is like studying the history of human emotion, and to join in a production is to feel yourself being woven into the fabric of time. I am so fortunate to have found myself at home once again.

Theatre as we know it has existed for thousands of years. Though its themes and stories change, the essence remains the same, a means of expressing ourselves beyond day-to-day communication. Some plays have felt the passage of time more than others, falling away from the collective conscious. So far, *On Golden Pond* has aged gracefully, as relevant today as it was thirty years ago. Perhaps its success has to do with the message at its heart: in the face of fleeting time, some things endure. Family, friendship, innocence, love – these are the things worth living for, because ultimately, only they will survive when we are gone.

Time is our most precious possession. Thank you for sharing yours with us.

Chelsea Collier

Director



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CAST



Jim Gilmour (Norman Thayer, Jr.) - Jim is back on the Red Mask stage after a 15 year absence, and very excited to make his return with such a great play. "On Golden Pond has always been one of my favorite shows and I am very privileged to have the opportunity to play Norman." Jim is a veteran of Red Mask, making his debut in 1980 with 6 Rooms River View which is one of his favorites. Other favorites include: Same Time Next Year, Cactus Flower, and Chapter Two. In his real life, Jim is a sales representative for Humana Market Point. "I want to thank my lovely wife, Anna Beth for her encouragement and support. She is truly my 'Ethel'."



Nancy Henderson (Ethel Thayer) - Nancy is thrilled to be back on the Red Mask stage after a six year absence. Nancy last performed with Red Mask Players as Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*. She has been active in local community theatre for 20 years, appearing with The Beef House Dinner Theatre, Danville Light Opera, and The Danville Symphony Orchestra. Some of her favorite roles include Mother in *Ragtime*, Anna Leonowens in *The King & I*, The Witch and Cinderella in Into the Woods, and Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense*. She has also been active behind the scenes directing, designing costumes, and producing many shows. She thanks her husband Lon for his support of her "hobby".



Chase Todd (Charlie Martin) - This is Chase Todd's debut performance for the Red Mask Theatre. Chase is 13 years old and is in the 8th grade at Catlin Grade School. In 2007, while living in Tennessee, Chase performed in his first production, *Godspell*, at the Boiler Room Theatre, in Franklin, TN.

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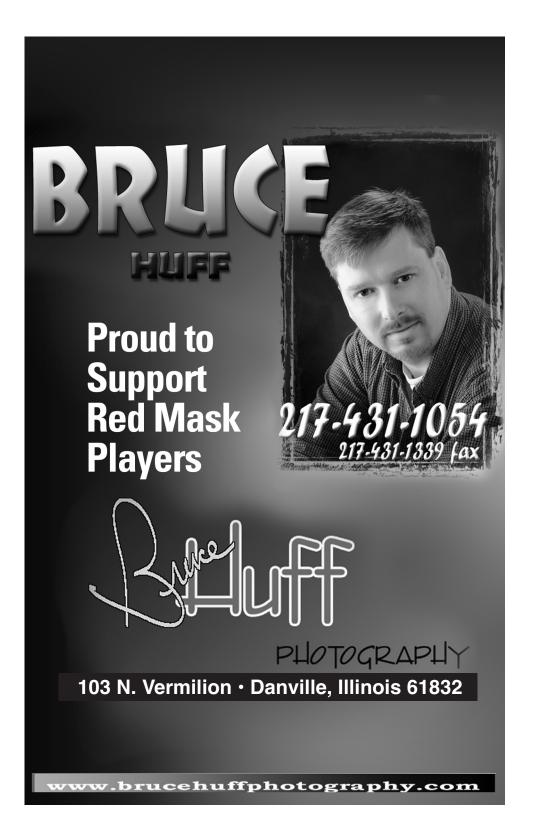
Gretchen Wesner (Chelsea Thayer Wayne) - This is Gretchen's first appearance on stage with the Red Mask Players. Her Danville theatre debut was a nun, in the chorus of Danville Symphony Orchestra's performance of *The Sound of Music*. Then in 2006, she played Amanda McKinney in Danville Light Opera's *Working*. Gretchen works in marketing and public relations for Provena United Samaritans, as well as voicing radio commercials, hosting a weekly segment on WITY radio, and performing in corporate videos. She thanks her director, Chelsea, and the casting committee for believing in her and giving her this wonderful opportunity. She also thanks her friends and family for their support, particularly her two biggest fans, her children Sammy and Jack.



Jim Wolfe (Bill Ray, Sr.) - *On Golden Pond* is one of Jim's favorite movies and he is very proud to be involved with this production. This is Jim's 30th year teaching 5th grade at Catlin Grade School. He resides in Oakwood with his wonderful wife, Toni, his Pomeranian, Cinnamon, and his 2 cats, Vincent and Thea.



Brian Coutant (Billy Ray, Jr.) - Brian is thrilled to once again be up on the Red Mask stage, where he was last seen as Eugene in Brighton Beach Memoirs. Brian has also been seen in several children and adult shows at Red Mask and Danville Light Opera. Some of Brian's most recent characters have been Toad (The Mad Adventures of Mr. Toad), and Wacky (Annie). Brian is a freshman at Danville High School, where he is a member of the wrestling team. Brian would like to thank his family and friends for their support, and Chelsea, Ann, and the rest of the production team for their support and a wonderful opportunity to be a part of this great show!





PRODUCTION TEAM



Chelsea Collier (Director) - Chelsea holds an MFA in Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature in Performance from Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA. She recently moved to Rossville after completing an internship with Civic Theatre of Allentown, PA. This is her first directing experience with Red Mask, though audiences may remember her as Wanda in Wanda's Visit this past summer. Chelsea has worked as a stage manager (Tuesdays With Morrie), AD (Christmas Carol), and stagehand (The Full Monty), but her first love is acting. Roles include Horatio (Hamlet), Gutter (The Trial Has No Name), Amy (Refuge), and Ms. Darbus (High School Musical). She thanks the cast and crew for their enthusiasm, and her family for their support.



Ann Soderstrom (Stage Manager) - Ann has been involved with community theatre for 30+ years. She has been a director, actor, or other crew member in over 50 productions. She is a past President of Danville Light Opera and former board member of Red Mask Players. She was involved in the creation of Window Repertory Theatre and currently she is a founding member and board member of The Lincoln Park Theatre Company. Some of Ann's favorite shows are *The Wizard of Oz, Cats, Leader of the Pack*, and *Crimes of the Heart*. Ann also has her own theatrical company at home with 4 boys and of course husband and supporter, Ron. Ann runs a daycare out of her home and has been doing it for 14 years.



Sarah Eliza Silverman (Producer) - A 1st time producer, Sarah is at home both on-stage and backstage. Sarah's introduction to Red Mask was as stage manager for the Children's Production *Dr. Dolittle*. She has been active with community theatres in each of her "home-towns" across Indiana and Illinois, as she moved with her husband Matthew and their 3 cats: Salem, Tobey, and Amy. So far, Sarah has found her way onto a CD and into a TV commercial, and is both a free lance artist and an inventor in the process of patenting her 1st invention. This is Sarah's 5th year with Walgreens. She is part of the MMS Team, supporting emergency maintenance for all 6,000 stores.





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JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Applications will be accepted until April 6, 2009 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 5th 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 37 of the Children's Theater productions from 1962 through 1986.

RED MASK SEEKING PLAYS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2009-10 SEASON

The Red Mask Play Reading Committee is accepting applications for directors for the 2009-2010 season. We are currently reading scripts, and we are also accepting play submissions from potential directors. We will accept director applications for comedies, dramas, classics...any play that you feel would be a great addition to our season. You may submit up to three plays you'd be interested in directing. So if anyone is interested in directing a particular play, please contact Donna Sant at 217-443-0839 or email her at donnaasant@gmail.com at for more information. Deadline for submissions is December 15, 2008.





COMING ATTRACTIONS

Festival of Trees Gala

November 14 and 15 at 7pm - David S. Palmer Arena

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Downtown Danville and Danville Rotary's Night of Lights Parade

November 20 at 6:30pm - Downtown Danville

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Auditions for Red Mask's "Moon Over Buffalo"

November 23 and 24 at 7pm - Kathryn Randolph Theater

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Holiday Lights at Bunker Hill Historic Area

December 6 from 5pm to 8pm - Kennekuk County Park

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Auditions for Danville Light Opera's "Cabaret"

December 7 and 8 - Center Stage at the Village Mall

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Christmas in the Village

December 7 from 6pm to 10pm - Downtown Rossville

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Danville Symphony Orchestra's "Christmas with Maureen McGovern"

December 13 at 7:30pm - Danville High School

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Red Mask's "Moon Over Buffalo"

January 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31 - Kathryn Randolph Theater

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Danville Light Opera's Bus Excursion to Monty Python's "Spamalot" in Chicago

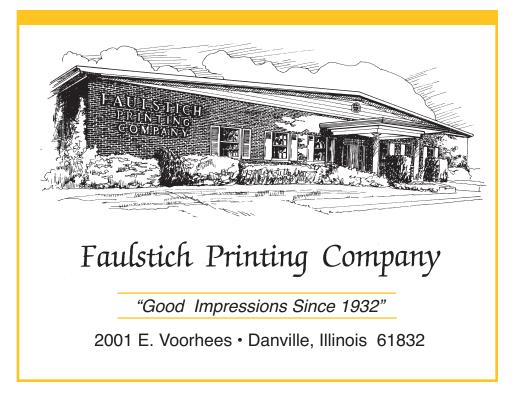
January 24 from 10am to 9pm - Reservations taken on www.prairienet.org



PRODUCTION CREW

Stage Manager..... Ann Soderstrom Set Design & Construction....Kenny Harden Light Design..... Leslie Boedicker Sound Design...... John Lashbrook Light Operator......Amanda Coutant Sound Operator......Mike Young **Props**...... Bonnie Newberry Make-Up & Hair......Chris Jacobs & Ashley Lawton Costumes......Cast House Manager..... Jamey Coutant Box Office......Ron Soderstrom Casting....... Chelsea Collier, Ann Soderstrom, & Donna Sant Publicity.....Lisa Richter **Photography**...... Bruce Huff, Bruce Huff Photography Program Design............Jeff Summers, Media One Visual Arts **Program Printing.....** Faulstich Printing Company **Program Advertising.....**Lisa Richter Intermission Refreshments.....Leslie Boedicker







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