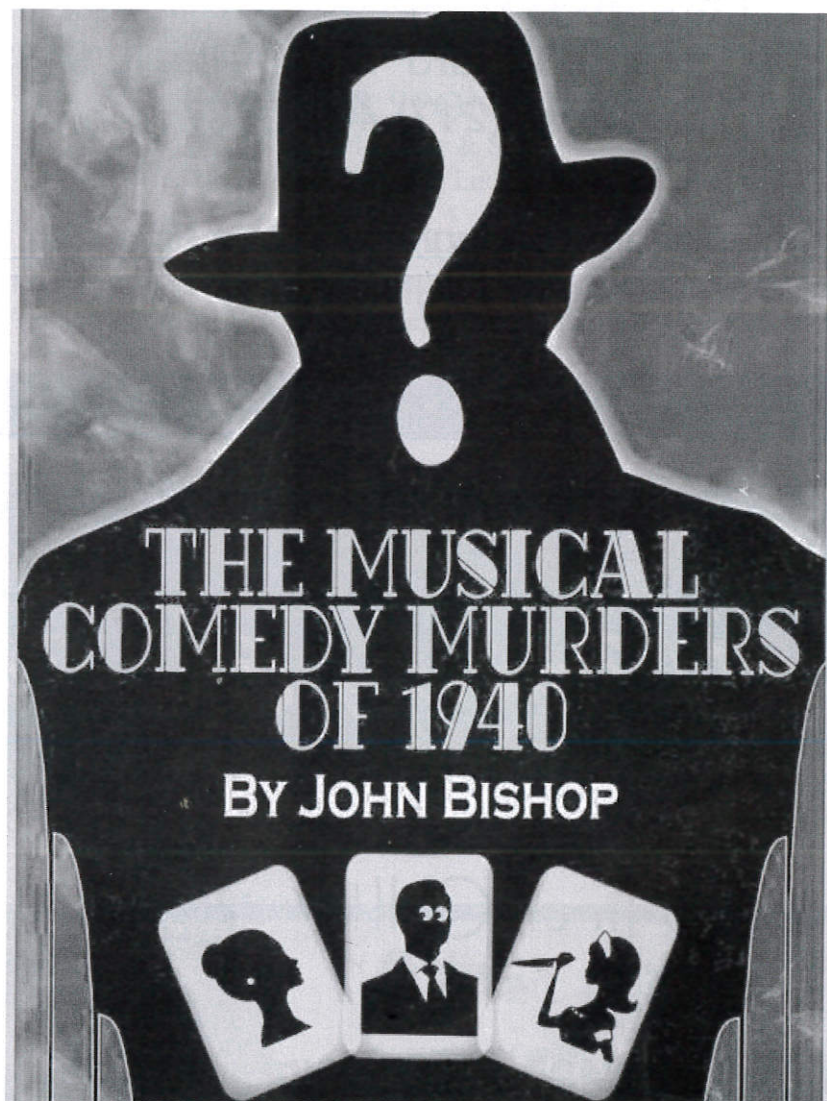


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# The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940

by John Bishop

Produced by Special Arrangement with  
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY

## A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

### Time:

December 1940

The action of the play takes place in a  
mansion in Chappaqua, New York.

There will be a 15 Minute Intermission between Acts

### CAST

Helsa Wenzel.....	Gaye Garner
Elsa Von Grossenknueten.....	Jamey Coutant
Sergeant Kelly.....	Brittini "Mac" Waites
Patrick O'Reilly.....	Tim Kirby
Ken De la Maize.....	Chad Myler
Nikki Crandall.....	Sara Todd
Eddie McCuen.....	Jacob Ault
Marjorie Baverstock.....	Leslie VanCamp
Bernice Roth.....	Nanci Heaton
Roger Hopewell.....	Bryan Schroeder



## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

Is winter over yet? Even if you are tired of venturing out into the cold, we are very happy you have decided to join us for our production of *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Hopefully, you will stay warm and comfortable while you watch and try to figure out who is the mysterious *Stage Door Slasher!*

As we continue with our 80th season, we are always looking forward. Red Mask has been a success due to the hard working people who serve on the Board, who direct our plays, and who work backstage. If you have ever thought you'd like to join us in any of these capacities, please don't hesitate to talk with any of our Board members. We will soon be looking for the next generation of exceptional, talented, and dedicated people to take us into our next 80 years.

*Donna Sant, President*

*Red Mask Players, Inc.*



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**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Thank you for attending The Red Mask Players' Winter performance. We have a good mix of performers from first time Red Maskers to veterans who we have not seen in awhile. While this show begins with the director's view and touch of how to present this play, many thoughts, opinions and suggestions were taken into account, often used. These ten individuals can take pride in knowing they had a part in scenes that the mere dialogue could not bring out. Some ideas I used, some I did not. These performers and production crew members became a team in the process. Thanks again to my cast and crew for all of your daring input and a true desire to make this show something special.

Comedy can be hard, a farce can be even more difficult. The dialogue is not enough. The delivery of the dialogue is not enough. Like a basketball offense, a double play or a closing argument in the courtroom, many more things must be taken into account. Our goal and hope is for you to leave the theater telling yourself and others, who have yet to see this show, "My gosh, that was a good time."

Have a good time,

*Mike Young*  
Director

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BIOGRAPHIES



**Jacob Ault (Eddie)** This is Jacob's first Red Mask show, and he is glad to be expanding into more community theatre. He has done 8 shows with the DACC Players including *You Can't Take It With You* and *Sense and Sensibility*. He has also appeared in the Darkhorse Theatre Company production of *August: Osage County*. "I hope everyone enjoys the show."

**Jamey Coutant (Elsa)** Jamey Coutant is no stranger to the Kathryn Randolph Theater, and has been involved on and off stage with many productions. She appeared "just a few years ago," in *Rebels and Red Coats* directed by Red Mask children's theater founder Jean Lewis. Jamey did not come back to Red Mask until many years later when her oldest child, Amanda, started in the children's shows with Red Mask, and then her youngest child, Brian, became involved. Since then Jamey has also been involved in many other production with several area theaters. Outside of theater Jamey enjoys hanging out with her grandson, Tayte, and video chatting with her granddaughter, Ana Leigh. She would like to thank all her family and friends for their support in her new adventures as she has taken "early retirement" to pursue her passion for early childhood education.



**Gaye Garner (Helsa)** Gaye is back on stage at Red Mask for the first time since role as Bessie in *Laura* in 2011. Bessie was also a domestic, so this seemed like the right role for a return. Just a new accent and more fun. The triple role is also nothing new to Gaye as she was Tom, Phyllis and Leslie in *Sylvia* for which she won a Katy award. Gaye has been involved with Red Mask in many capacities since 1983. She practiced law for thirty years and now works part time at the Danville Public Library and does some substitute teaching. Thanks to some very supportive friends and Mike, Bob and cast for putting up with crazy Helsa, Dieter, and Katerina. Not to mention Roz for forgiving me for being gone so much.

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Single and season tickets available. The DSO office is located at 715 W Fairchild St. in Danville. For more information or to charge tickets, visit [www.danvillesymphony.org](http://www.danvillesymphony.org) or call (217) 443-5300.

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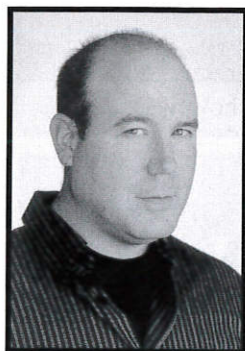
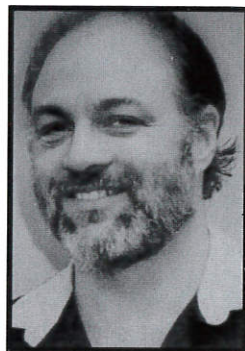


## BIOGRAPHIES



**Nanci Heaton (Bernice)** Nanci is excited to be in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. It is a farce comedy and we keep the audience on the edge of their seats. It's been a while since Nanci has been on stage, but can't wait to perform again! Nanci would also like to thank her family for their support. A special thank you to Maggie for not being upset that her mommy is away.

**Tim Kirby (Patrick)** Tim is a veteran of many stages, including Red Mask. He first appeared on the Kathryn Randolph Theater stage in *The Girls in 509*. He has since appeared in numerous other shows with Red Mask and other local theater companies. Tim has been taking a little break to concentrate on music, but the role of Patrick O'Reilly was just too good to pass up. Tim gives thanks to his boys, Tyler and Dean, for their support and to his band mates from Tin Shed, John and Willie, for giving him a little time off to do the show.



**Chad Myler (Ken)** Chad has been involved with local theatre since a 1999 production of *Damn Yankees* with Danville Light Opera. He has performed with Rantoul Theatre Group and at Parkland where he is currently obtaining an Entertainment Technology degree. He has also been a Jean Lewis Scholarship recipient. He wrote *Play On*, a one act play for Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, IL. He most recently attended a tape recording workshop with Larry Crane. Chad has also attended a recording workshop in Chillicothe, Ohio. Chad is currently involved with Rebels Fair Publishing for writing and recording. Chad would like to thank his parents for their love and support. Chad would also like to thank you for your support and attendance in helping keep the local arts and artisans alive in our community.



## BIOGRAPHIES



**Bryan Schroeder (Roger)** Bryan returns to the Red Mask stage as musical composer Roger Hopewell, a character who is certainly NOT jealous of Jerome Kern. He is grateful to his wife, Shannon, for insisting he try out for this show, though he is beginning to suspect it was just to get him out of the house.

**Sara Elizabeth Todd (Nikki)** Sara Elizabeth Todd is currently on the road to becoming a child and adolescent psychiatrist. She is a stay at home mom for her 2 year old daughter, Claire, and she is a certified Wilton Method Cake Decorating Instructor. This is her first appearance on the Red Mask stage and she is eager to make her debut. She was recently on stage at Myer's Dinner Theatre as Trenna in *Ring of Fire* and Millie in *Gone Overboard*.



**Leslie Van Camp (Marjorie)** Leslie Van Camp is a mother of two, day-care provider and studies Early Childhood at DACC. She was last seen in Gregory's Academy of the Arts' *A Christmas Carol*. Leslie's last Red Mask show was *Arms and the Man* and she is happy to be back!

**Brittni "Mac" Waites (Sergeant)** Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Brittni moved to Danville four years ago. In Houston, she modeled and acted for Neil Hammil and Page Parks Center for Modeling and Acting. In her spare time, she is a published author and enjoys photography.





## 2017 JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP

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 college 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. To obtain an application contact the Red Mask Theatre at 217-442-5858. You may leave a message and you will be contacted as soon as possible.

**Completed applications must be postmarked by March 17, 2017.**

**Auditions will be April 20, 2017 at the theater.**

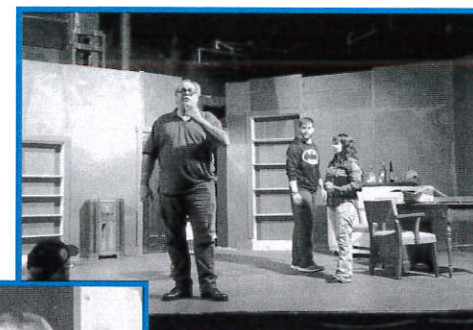
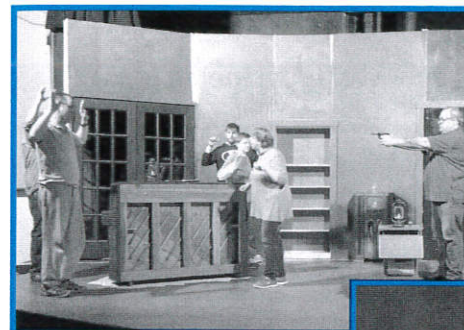
### Mail completed applications to:

Eleanor Peters

Red Mask Scholarship Committee

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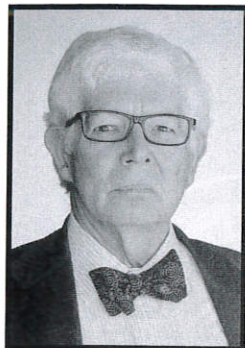
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BACK STAGE



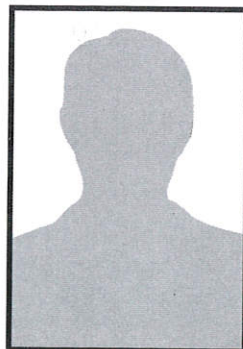
**Robert McIntire (Stage Manager)** Robert McIntire last appeared on the Red Mask stage in *Sly Fox*. His most recent theater contribution was as Ebenezer Scrooge for Gregory’s Academy, along with cast member Leslie Van Camp who played The Ghost of Christmas Past and Mrs. Cratchit. The cast of MCM had Christmas day off, but was here all the earlier the next evening.

**Joel Ferren (Producer)** Joel has enjoyed discovering theater over the past few years, and has been in several Red Mask and Lincoln Park shows. This is the first time he has dipped his toes into the Producer role. It has been a lot of fun learning the behind the scenes of how to help a show be successful. Joel also serves on the Red Mask Board and is active in the American Legion Post 210.



**Mike Young (Director)** Mike has directed the one act version of *Flowers For Algernon* as well as many comedy skits for his students at Armstrong Township High School and his theater group the Prairie Gold Players.

**George Spelvin (Dark Shadowy Figure in Act 1)** Spelvin is no stranger to the Red Mask Stage, with acting credits too numerous to list. His ability to play such a dark character in this production despite his sunny disposition, speaks volumes of his versatility and professional theatrical skills. Thanks George, it is always a treat to watch you perform.



BEHIND THE SCENES

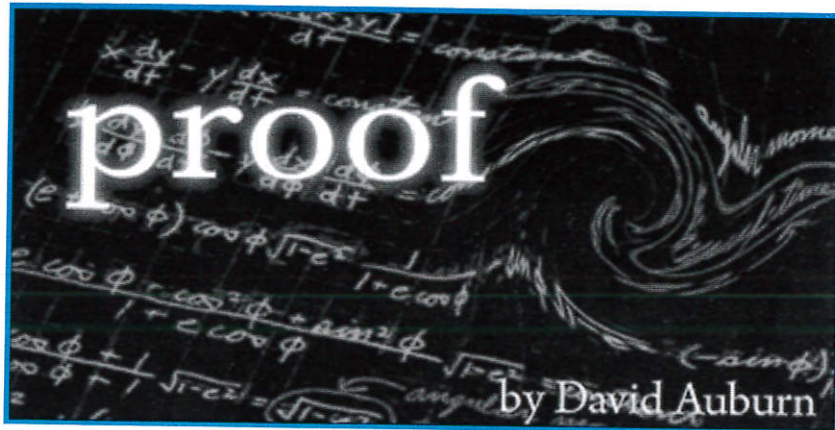
- Director .....Mike Young
- Stage Manager.....Bob McIntire
- Producer..... Joel Ferren
- Set Design..... Mike Young and Kenny Harden
- Set Construction..... Kenny Harden assisted by Aden Young,  
.....Brittni Waites and Chad Myler
- Set Painting.....Mike Young, Aden Young, Brittni Waites  
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by David Auburn

Directed by Amanda Coutant

*Auditions February 6 & 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.*

*Performances March 31; April 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9, 2017.*

On the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions; the arrival of her estranged sister, Claire; and the attentions of Hal, a former student of her father's who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that her father left behind. Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: How much of her father's madness—or genius—will she inherit?



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