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Neil Simon's

The Gingerbread Lady



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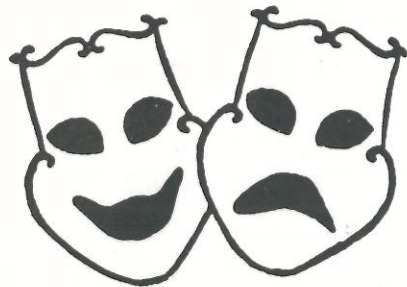
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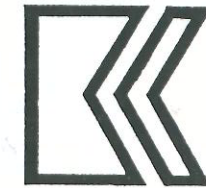
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From the President.

Let me welcome you all to a winter evening at Red Mask as we bring you Neil Simon's *The Gingerbread Lady*.

As we begin the New Year I want to thank each of you for your fine support. You, our membership, make all the long hours and hard work worthwhile. The 1986-87 season which will begin July 1st will be our 50th anniversary year, and we at Red Mask are looking forward to bringing you some great entertainment to celebrate our 50th.

Tryouts for our spring play *A Bad Year for Tomatoes* will be held on February 2 and 3 at 7:30 P.M. here at the Kathryn Randolph Theatre. Let me invite you to stop in and see how we go about selecting the cast for our plays. Tryouts, of course, are open to the public, so any of you who have a secret desire to "smell the greasepaint" are welcome. On stage or off it's an exciting experience!

Now it is time to enjoy as Red Mask Players bring to life *The Gingerbread Lady*.

Jim Stuart
President

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Director's Notes.



Humor Me.

Theatre today should educate as well as entertain. Here's a little etymological information: the word *educate* comes from the Latin *educare* meaning "to lead out." To lead out from that which is known. To lead the learner out beyond the self. And doesn't theatre do that? It leads the audience beyond themselves by teaching life. Life as it is. Life as it could be. Okay, sometimes the lessons we learn through the life depicted on stage aren't what we want to see. But for theatre to go anywhere, for theatre to grow, it must be in the experience expanding business.

Some years ago Neil Simon challenged himself to write a more serious theatrical piece about alcoholism and wearing masks. And *The Gingerbread Lady*, in turn, will challenge you with some ideas that might aggravate and stun, with some characters that might shock. Be prepared — it is a moving story.

I am a fan of *St. Elsewhere* and *Hill Street Blues*, two of the most important shows to ever appear on television. They educate viewers, and not just about medicine or law enforcement. They are about people, about communication and conflict and pain and joy. And, as my wife can verify, at the end of every episode I say "what a show!" For I am a better person for following these two splendid dramas.

The Gingerbread Lady deals with these things. Simon, with irony, pathos, laughter and tears, has created a gentle and often disturbing portrait of three "clowns" who laugh on the outside but cry within. Our hope is that, at the end of tonight's performance, you'll say "what a show!" and feel a better person for being in attendance.




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Director.

Greg Williams

When not teaching communication courses at DACC and coordinating the tutoring program at the Center for Children's Services, Greg divides his time between his family, Red Mask, and watching *St. Elsewhere*. A fan of Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, and actor Ed Flanders, Greg has previously directed Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite* and *The Odd Couple*, as well as this past fall's production of *Bus Stop*. On stage he has appeared in *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Godspell*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and last summer's *Show Boat*. Greg and his wife Marsha have two children, Blythe, 3, and Ian, 1. Since auditions for *Bus Stop*, Marsha has raised the kids nearly single-handedly but Greg is taking time off from theatre following *The Gingerbread Lady* to stay at home and do his part.

Stage Manager.

Gail West

Gail has served in a major backstage role for *Heaven Can Wait*, *Chapter Two*, *On Golden Pond*, *No Sex Please, We're British*, *Whose Life Is It Anyway?*, *Sly Fox*, *Night Watch*, and *Bus Stop*, and was the recipient of last season's special Katy for backstage work. She is currently Red Mask Treasurer and a member of the Board. When not at the theatre, Gail is Principal of St. Paul's School.



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THEATRE

Producer.

Liz Miller

Liz has directed eight and performed in eleven Red Mask productions, as well as serving backstage and on Red Mask committees. She is currently a member of the Board and is active in Amalgamated Unicorn. Liz is employed as a speech/language therapist with the Early Childhood program at South View School. Her daughter Marti attends Eastern Illinois University and her son Matt and daughter-in-law Karoun, both environmental educators at Pine Mountain, KY, will soon make her a grandmother.



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Synopsis of Scenes.

The action of the play takes place in a brownstone apartment in the West Seventies of New York City.

ACT I

Mid-November — Late Afternoon

ACT II

Three weeks later — about 9:00 P.M.

ACT III

The following morning

There will be one 15-minute Intermission between Acts II and III. At this time restrooms and refreshments are available at the lower level of the theatre. We request that refreshments be confined to the lower level and that there be NO SMOKING IN ANY AREA OF THE BUILDING.

Thank you.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.



Cast of Characters.

(In Order of Appearance)

Jimmy Perry	Edward Sant
Manuel	Darrin Deck
Toby Landau	Sue Ann Crick
Evy Meara	Marty Howrey
Polly Meara	Lisa Gilmour
Lou Tanner	David E. Laker



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On Stage.

Edward S. Sant (Jimmy): Ed has been extremely active in the backstage areas. During his experience with the theatre his work has included *Bus Stop*, *Sly Fox*, *Chapter Two*, and *Show Boat*. Set designing is not all that he does. A newly elected member of the Red Mask Board, he also works with Amalgamated Unicorn. He and his wife Donna, who was last seen as Grace in *Bus Stop*, have been active with community theatre for five years and plan to be active for many years to come.

Darrin Deck (Manuel): This is Darrin's second appearance on the Red Mask stage. He worked backstage for *Bus Stop* and appeared in *No Sex Please, We're British*. Some of his favorite past roles include: Charlie in *Flowers for Algernon*, Danny in *Grease*, and Caligula in *The Robe*. When not working at the theatre Darrin is the manager of the Corporate Department at Williams Travel Firm.

Sue Ann Crick (Toby): Sue Ann has been involved in community theatre for the past five years. She has appeared in Red Mask's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Heaven Can Wait*, *Tribute*, and most recently in last season's *Nightwatch*. She also enjoyed being in Sunshine II's *Caught in the Villain's Web* — even if she did get pelted with assorted veggies! Currently serving on Red Mask's Board of Directors, Sue Ann is also very active in the Danville Symphony Guild. When not "volunteering" her time in community activities, she is busy trying to keep up with husband Ron (also active in community theatre) and children, Joshua and Jennifer.



Marty Howrey (Evy): Marty, who just finished producing the fall show *Bus Stop*, is appearing in her sixth Red Mask show (if you count the mute nun in *Heaven Can Wait*). Also involved with Sunshine II, her favorite roles have been Jenny in *Chapter Two*, Claire in *Whose Life Is It, Anyway?*, and Gloria in *Everybody Loves Opal*. Marty is secretary for the Red Mask Board, a volunteer in the Lakeview Hospice program, and enjoys tennis and bridge in her spare time. She and husband Dave have two teenagers, John and Meg.

Lisa Gilmour (Polly): Lisa returns to the Red Mask stage once again having just finished playing in Red Mask's *Bus Stop*. Lisa, a Danville High School senior adds D.H.S. Theatre Guild, music department and speech club activities, Danville Light Opera, and three previous Red Mask seasons to her repertoire of theatre activities. Lisa's main goal in life is to become "the most to ever come out of Danville," but then she loves Red Mask and all the people involved with it, especially her father Jim.

David E. Laker (Lou): After more than a decade of playing nice guys (the one exception being the villainous Mordred in DLO production of *Camelot*), Dave states: "It's nice to get a chance at playing a louse (although I suspect my Aunt Helen won't think so). Also to be able to be back on the Red Mask stage with so many friends on stage as well as off." Some of Dave's past shows include *The Curious Savage*, *Play It Again, Sam*, *The Restaurant*, and *The Paisley Convertible* for Red Mask, the last one being a Katy winner for Best Actor. Several shows for DLO have included his most recent as Moonface Martin in *Anything Goes*. Dave is employed at O'Leary's Pub as a waiter and lives in Fithian. Dave will be getting married in the summer of '86 to Mary Ann Sedlmayr, even though he still can't get her to audition for a show.



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Behind the Scenes.

Director Greg Williams
 Stage Manager Gail West
 Producer Liz Miller
 Set Construction Larry Fitz, Debbie Fitz
 Scenography Harold French, Pat French, Gaye Bergschneider, David Garner
 Stage Art Edward S. Sant
 Props Dena Nass, Cyndi Deck, Margie Yee
 Furnishings Duane Prentice
 Make-Up David E. Laker, Debby Vinyard
 Lights Donna Sant, Brian Rudnicke, Ed Grove
 Sound Darrin Deck, Hank Unck
 Vocal Marsha Williams
 Publicity Maryann Brandy
 Advertising Design Cydra Christensen
 Tickets and Box Office Barbara Cavanaugh
 House Managers Marge and Jim Stuart
 Casting Committee Greg Williams, Fred Legg, Debby Vinyard

Jean Lewis Scholarship.

Red Mask's Board of Directors is happy to announce that, once again, Red Mask will be awarding the *Jean Lewis Scholarship*, in the amount of \$500 to an area high school senior, junior college, or college student planning, or already pursuing, a major in theatre or a directly related field (speech, oral interpretation, radio/television). The Scholarship Committee consists of Susan Frick, Barbara Vinson, Bob Tolliver, Liz Miller, and Bill Schatz, Chairman.

Information and application blanks can be obtained from area high school counselors, Speech and Drama Department at Danville Area Community College, or by writing Bill Schatz at 1610 Franklin Street, Danville, or calling 446-9020. Deadline for applications is March 31, 1986. Auditions will be scheduled in April or May.

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Coming Attractions.

A Bad Year for Tomatoes - Red Mask presents a comedy by John Patrick
Audition dates - February 2 and 3; 7:30 P.M.
Performance dates - March 21, 22, 23, 28, 29; April 3, 4, 5

New Voices - Child's Play Touring Company presents plays based on stories and poems written by Danville area children
February 8 - 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. (two performances)

Cole - Danville Light Opera presents a Cole Porter Revue
February 20, 21, 22 at the Civic Center

The Very Great Grandson of Sherlock Holmes - Danville High School Theatre Guild presents its spring semester production
February 21 and 22 at 7:30 P.M.; February 23 at 2:30 P.M. at D.H.S.

Red Mask Spring Children's Play To Be Announced
May 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 (Afternoon performances for school groups; one evening performance on May 9)

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Amalgamated Unicorn.

Amalgamated Unicorn continues to meet every other Monday at 7:00 P.M. at the theatre. *Jules Pfeiffer Looks at Life* was given as the entertainment at the First Nighter's Dinner. The next program to be presented will be at Temple Israel on February 8. All Red Maskers college-age and older are invited to participate in *Unicorn* activities.

Child's Play.

The Child's Play Touring Company will return to the Kathryn Randolph Theatre on February 8 to present two performances of *New Voices*, plays based on stories and poems submitted by Danville and area children following the workshop held in November. Performance times will be 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. The names of children whose plays will be included will be announced previous to the performance date. To obtain tickets call Susan Frick (442-1538) or Liz Miller (446-2364).

Danville Area Arts Council.

The Danville Area Arts Council must match funds received from The Illinois Arts Council for promotion of arts in our community. The Council depends on local support to do this. The attached form can be used to become a member of this organization:

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