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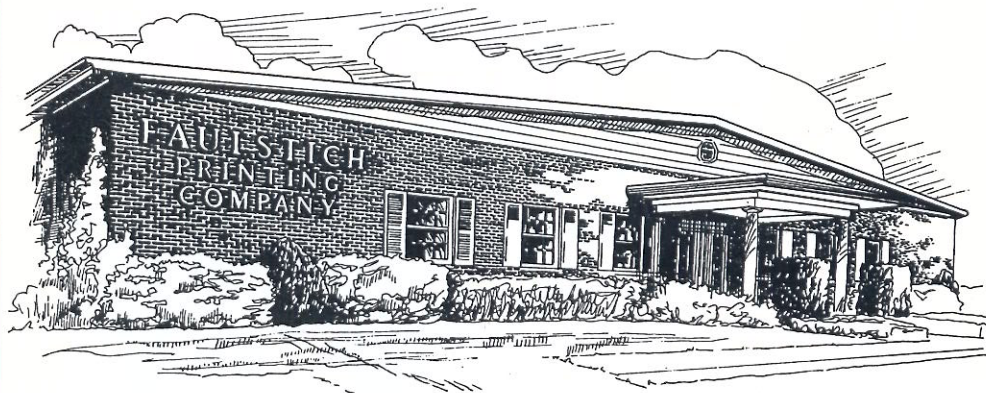
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Red Mask Players Presents

Murder in the Magnolias

By Tim Kelly

Kathryn Randolph Theater

March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 1994

1994



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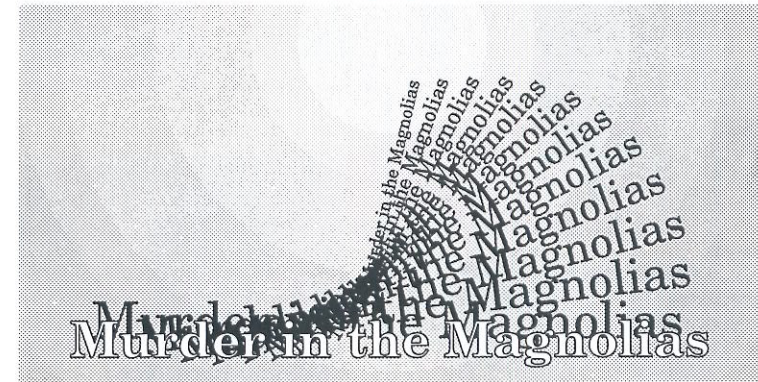
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PRESENTS



STARRING

Lisa Lovelace Alice Downing Tammi Fitzgerald
David E. Laker John Dowers Robert Scott Chuck Pundt Darla Finley
Lee Diveley Leonard "Sonny" Downing Donna Sant
and Colonel Rance Chickenwing

Director: Warren Frank

Producer: Ed Poletti

Stage Manager: Jennifer Collins

Makeup: Sue White, David E. Laker

Set Construction: Cast & Crew, Sonny Downing, Larry Norton

Set Decoration Consultant: Edward S. Sant

Props: Bev McCallister, Heather Walsh, Mary Ann Laker

Lights: Warren Frank, Ed Poletti

Sound: Sheryl Walsh

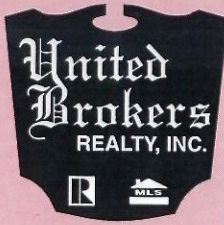
House: Gaye Garner

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Casting Committee: Warren Frank, Karen Boothe, Jennifer Collins

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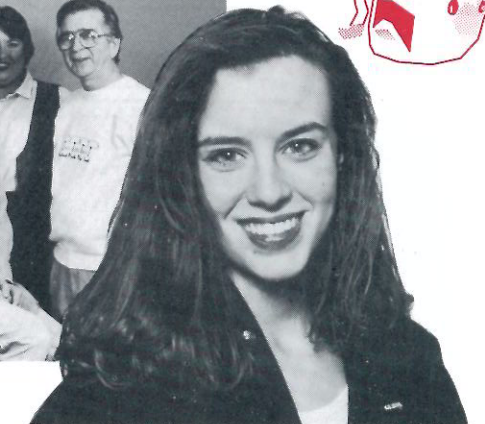
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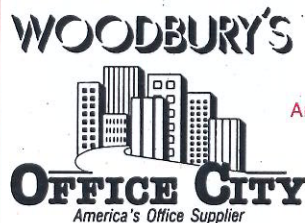
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From The President

Since this is the last letter I'll be writing as this year's board president, I somehow feel it should be witty, thoughtful, and sentimental. However, I'll spare everyone and just share some of my thoughts.

The 1993-94 season has been one of new board members, new actors, new directors, new doors, new back walls, new computers, new season members, new sponsors and new friends. I'm proud of all of the improvements made to our theater, and of the great selection of plays we've been able to bring to you this year.

Before I go, figuratively and literally, I'd like to thank this year's board for their support and hard work in helping to keep our building in standing order. You're the best!

Thank you so much everyone for a great year! And thank you, E.S.S., for *all* your support. I know you'll miss this even more than I will.

Donna Sant, President

From The Director

It's hard to keep people interested in the "Old South" when you're in the middle of winter in central Illinois. But y'all might be surprised how Southern we've become. We speak with southern accents, throw southern expressions around as naturally as a 'pig takes to slop', wear cowboy boots everywhere, have tossed a cow chip or two around backstage and on stage, and we have enjoyed the taste of a mint "julep" when the occasion arose. In short, we are those southerners in **MURDER in the MAGNOLIAS!** And now it is time for you to sit back, open a bag of pork rinds, uncap a couple of longnecks, put your feet up (but not on the stage), enjoy yourselves, and let us show you exactly what we've been doin' for the past few weeks.

We're as proud as a speckled pup to have you here with us tonight and, rest assured, we're givin' it our all to entertain y'all.

Enjoy the show!
Warren Frank



Production Team

Warren Frank (Director)

As his good friend, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, described him, "a small man with a very high head, a bristle of (grey-blond) hair all around the fringe of it, and a bald, shining scalp which shot out from it like a mountain peak from fir trees." Warren is principal at Danville Lutheran School where his lovely and (understanding) wife, Ann, teaches kindergarten. Three year old beagle, PJ, completes their family.

Ed Poletti (Producer)

Ed has been involved in Red Mask for the last six years, mostly off stage. He is 38, single, enjoys reading, movies, dining out, country music, etc. and is looking for a single female between ages 35-45 who is interested in a meaningful relationship. He will send a picture also. He works at the VA Medical Center and lives with his dog, Bailey.

Jennifer Collins (Stage Manager)

Fresh from the annals of the Krannert Center in Urbana, Jennifer is glad to be back home with Red Mask behind the scenes. Jennifer was last seen as P.J. Craddock in "Romantic Comedy" in 1991. In her "free time" Jennifer is a University of Illinois junior, works at JBJ in Champaign, and is a member of the Falling Illini. Jennifer sleeps at home with her parents, Jim and Darlene, and four cats.



Who's Who in the Cast

(In alphabetical order)

Col. Rance Chickenwing (As Himself)

The Colonel does not normally like to brag but he is shore 'nough proud of the political victory which brought him to the United States Senate. It was a tough race against an opponent whom everyone said died three weeks before the election. Since his voluntary retirement, he likes to appear at cultural events such as this one.

Alice Downing (Amanda Chickenwing)

Alice has never met a character role she couldn't play. Her comic portrayals have included Lady Bracknell in "The Importance of Being Earnest" for Red Mask Players and Miss Maple in "The Butler did the Singing" for Danville Light Opera. Amanda fits nicely into the zany collection and Alice is glad to be back under the lights here once again. She wants to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

Lisa Lovelace (Jezabel)

This is Lisa's second appearance on Red Mask's stage. She was last seen as Tallyho Thompson in "The Wisdom of Eve." Lisa enjoyed that experience so much that she decided to come back for more. She thanks all of the Red Mask veterans for their warm welcome. Lisa has been an Assistant Public Defender here in Danville, since 1990.

Tammi Fitzgerald (Voodoo Woman)

Tammi J. Fitzgerald is quite happy to be back with the Red Mask Players. Her last Red Mask performance was as Gillian in "Ravenscroft", and she was recently one of the Geminae in the Danville Light Opera production "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum". Miss Fitzgerald would like to thank her family for their patience, and her fabulously fat cat, Fatty.

David E. Laker (Pete Bogg)

"Murder in the Magnolias" makes the eighth time Dave has been on the Red Mask stage and the eighteenth production overall, starting with "The Curious Savage" in 1974. Dave was last on stage in this season's first production, "Social Security", which was a favorite as it was the first time Dave's wife, Mary Ann, was also on stage as well. When not involved with Red Mask, Dave works at the Danville Correctional Center and part time at Danville Book World. Dave and Mary Ann (also known as Miss Long Suffering) live in Fithian with their "children", Tasha (the dog) and Omaha (the cat).

John J. Dowers (Thornbird Chickenwing III)

John is happy to be back onstage at Red Mask after a brief hiatus, during which he acted in productions for Sunshine II and Danville Light Opera, and made his directorial debut with our winter show, "The Wisdom of Eve". When not chewing the scenery, John works in the Customer Service Department of The Commercial News.



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Robert Scott (Bubba Kamrowski)

Robert's last appearance with Red Mask Players was in last season's production of "Ravenscroft". Since that show, Robert has appeared in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" with the Danville Light Opera. In December, he played Alfred P. Doolittle in Champaign-Urbana Theater Company's production of "My Fair Lady". Robert would like to thank his family for their much appreciated love and support.

Darla Finley (Lorraine Carruthers)

Darla returns to the Red Mask stage after a two year absence in which she kept busy directing the Catlin High School Drama club. Darla is in her third year of teaching at Catlin, where she leads the early childhood special education and C.A.R.E. preschool programs. Darla thanks best friend, Pau, I and dog Kady, for their patience and support.

Chuck Pundt (Lawyer Possum)

In the past, Chuck has played a handyman with a bad bladder, a loser who can't quit lying, a stupid swim coach, a really bad plastic surgeon, and an old amorous artist. He maintains this fine tradition of fine roles with Lawyer Possum. Any quotes? "I always wanted to do a really dramatic death scene." Well...

Lee Diveley (Princess Lotta Kargo)

This role is Lee's second involvement with Red Mask this season, first being Stage Manager for the opening show of the season "Social Security". Her last performance on stage was with Jim Beebe's Sunshine II's production of "Out of Order". Lee is very pleased that this is a new show that her daughters, (Lauren, Heather, & Natalie) will be able to see and hopefully understand better why Mom has had to be away and miss bedtime story hour so much! A big thanks to Steve for your help and support.

Leonard "Sonny" Downing (Sheriff Billy Jerk)

"Murder in the Magnolias" marks Sonny's third appearance of the Red Mask stage having enjoyed previous roles in "A Company of Wayward Saints" and "Lu Ann Hampton Lavery Oberlander". A late-bloomer to community theater, he began a few years ago with Sunshine II and has remained active with them as well as participating in Danville Light Opera productions. He presently serves on the Red Mask board and enjoys set construction. He thanks his lovely wife, Sandy, for all her understanding and patience.

Donna Sant (Blanche Du Blank)

This is as close to the real Blanche in "Streetcar Named Desire" (Donna's favorite play) as she's ever going to get! This character is one of Donna's favorites-up there with Grace ("Bus Stop"), Tessie Mahoney ("Miss Firecracker Contest"), and of course, the voluptuous and well-upholstered lady of the manor in last year's "Ravenscroft" for which she won a Katy. While not at the theater, Donna and First Husband, Ed, are busy running two businesses and one schnauzer.



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, community college, or college student planning to, or already pursuing, a major in theater or a directly-related field, such as speech, oral interpretation, or radio-television. Information and application blanks can be obtained from area high school counselors, or speech and drama teachers. At Danville Area Community College, application blanks are available from the Communications Dept., the Counseling Office, or the Financial Aid Office.

Further information can also be obtained from:
Evelyn Miller, Scholarship Chairman, c/o Red Mask Players,
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Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

Col. Rance Chickenwing.....As Himself
Amanda Chickenwing.....Alice Downing
Jezabel.....Lisa Lovelace
Voodoo Woman.....Tammi Fitzgerald
Pete Bogg.....David E. Laker
Thornbird Chickenwing III.....John Dowers
Bubba Kamrowski.....Robert Scott
Lorraine Carruthers.....Darla Finley
Lawyer Possum.....Chuck Pundt
Princess Lotta Kargo.....Lee Diveley
Sheriff Billy Jerk.....Leonard "Sonny" Downing
Blanche Du Blank.....Donna Sant

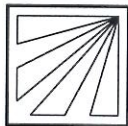


Crew

Two-thirds of your production team. Absent-Ed Poletti.

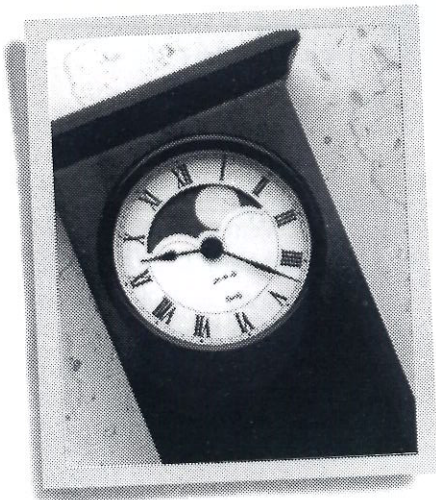
DirectorWarren Frank
Stage ManagerJennifer Collins
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Make upDavid E. Laker, Sue White
Set ConstructionSonny Downing, Larry Norton, Cast & Crew
Set Decoration ConsultantEdward S. Sant
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Casting CommitteeWarren Frank, Jennifer Collins, Karen Boothe
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Coming Attractions

Danville Light Opera

"Two by Two" - April 29, 30, May 1, 1994

Red Mask Spring Children's Show

"The Wizard of Oz" - May 13, 14, 1994

Synopsis of Scenes

Place: Main sitting room of Belle Acres, a once gracious mansion in the Ole South.

Time: Present

PROLOG

Midnight

ACT I

Scene 1: One week later. Day. **Scene 2:** That evening.

ACT II

The following day.

ACT III

Scene 1: Later **Scene 2:** Early Evening

There will be a short intermission after Act I and Act II. At this time restrooms and coffee are available at the lower level of the building.

We request that there be NO SMOKING in any area of the building.

Murder in the Magnolias is produced by special arrangement with Baker's Plays, Boston, Mass.