

*"I had rather have a fool to make me merry than experience  
to make me sad." – Shakespeare*

**A FARCE IN TWO ACTS  
By Tom Rooney**

**January 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 2007  
Kathryn Randolph Theater**



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A FARCE IN TWO ACTS  
By Tom Rooney

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Place

A restaurant kitchen.

Act I

Act II

*There will be a fifteen-minute Intermission between Act I and Act II. 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.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Old Man Winter is here and so is the second production of our 70th season, *Flaming Idiots*. Be prepared to laugh and I mean laugh a lot! When I read this play I couldn't stop laughing. This production is sure to chase those winter blahs away and warm your funny bones.

Second time director, Sharon Tipsword, has worked her magic again, with the help of Gretchen Elliot as stage manager, and Beth Lashbrook as Producer. A talented cast of faces that you've seen in the recent past; faces that we welcome back after long absences; and brand new faces to the Red Mask family will show you that slapstick comedy is still alive and kicking.

Come join Carl and Phil at their newly opened restaurant, along with the other zany characters and see how two former postal workers try to make a go at being entrepreneurs. I guarantee you'll be rolling in the aisles.

*Sue Harden*

President

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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Noel Coward said that “True wit always has a bit of cruelty in it.” We don’t have any wit in *Flaming Idiots*. Nor any cruelty. Unless being witless hurts. Nor do we have any particular message. Unless it’s that laughter is therapeutic. Is that a message or is that a prescription?

Are you still young at heart? How long has it been since you wished upon a star? Or imagined swinging from one? Do you still dream of a glamorous job, or to be filthy rich, or to be besotted with love? Do you yearn to disregard being sensible and to act reckless? Too smart for that? We aren’t.

Are you ready to find out what happens when Phil and Carl quit perfectly good jobs as postal workers and go into the restaurant business? The following questions are worth repeating.

- Does Phil need a rock dropped on his head?
- Is Carl smarter when he doesn’t listen to Phil?
- Will anyone hear the “inner voice” of Bernadette, the impaired gourmet chef?
- Will serendipity step in and give the dedicated waiter/actor Eugene a nose job?
- Will Ernesto Santiago, the busboy, chose love over money and Norway?
- Will Officer Task ever make detective, skip a meal, or get a girl?
- Does Jayne, the local newspaper reporter, long for a Flaming Idiot to take her away from it all?
- Should the elderly Louie move to Florida ... if he could find it?
- Who the devil are Giamamoni, Wozenchinski, Manamalancia and Mr. Zippy?
- Will the spirited police horse, Good Girl, come to the rescue?

We are thrilled you have joined us for *Flaming Idiots* to watch eight Sparkling Silly People and a smart-alecky horse give you the answers to these burning questions. I know you will appreciate these dazzling actors who give this show its heart and soul, and the clever crew that make program, sound, set, light and prop magic. I know I do. Over and over and over.

Take our prescribed medicine. And laugh.

Playfully yours,

**Sharon Tipsword**  
Director



 Congratulations to Red Mask for Another Successful Season.

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ON STAGE (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)



**David Laker** Phil - an average guy

Shattering the myth that you can't go home again, David returns to his second home at Red Mask after appearing in *Angels in America* this past spring at Parkland Community College. Danville audiences will remember David as eccentric Victor Velasco in the Red Mask production of *Barefoot in the Park*, and the imperious Dr. Treves in *The Elephant Man*. David is excited and grateful to be part of another wonderful Red Mask production with a great cast and crew of friends (old and new). Thanks for all the support. Thanks also to my loving wife, Mary Ann, and the fuzzy children, George and Gracie.

**John Dowers** Carl - Phil's average friend



John is happy to be celebrating his 20th anniversary with Red Mask Players. Active in children's theater prior, John made his debut as a "grown up" in *You Can't Take It With You* in the fall of 1986. Since that time he has performed many duties on and off stage, most recently as an actor in Red Mask's production of *Dr. Cook's Garden*. Many thanks to those of you reading this who allow us the opportunity to indulge in our hobby.

**Wilbur Bolton** Task – Officer of the mounted patrol unit



*Flaming Idiots* offers Wilbur his fifth opportunity to perform on the Red Mask stage. His previous roles have included Julian in *Communicating Doors* and Sam Katz in *Cemetery Club*. He met his wife of 34 years, Linda, when they both appeared in the Red Mask production of *East Lynne* in 1971. He teaches third grade at Northeast Elementary Magnet School and is active in several community organizations. He would like to thank his fellow "idiots" for their humor and support, as well as his wife for putting up with him during rehearsals (and the rest of the year, too, for that matter).

**Bryan Schroeder** Eugene – An actor/slash/waiter



Who is that clean-shaven "new guy"? He's not new at all! He's baaaaaaaaaack! Bryan has most recently been onstage with DLO (Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*) and the Lincoln Park Theater Company (*Godspell*). But he is absolutely thrilled, after a much too long, seven-year absence, to be back on the stage that started it all! (Remember *The Odd Couple* and *Of Mice and Men*?) When not waiting tables/slash/acting, Bryan teaches Science to 8th Graders at South View Middle School. He also sponsors the Drama Club. Since "retiring" from the Post Office (I empathize, Carl and Phil!) on Aug 12, 2000 (but who's counting), Bryan has stayed busy by earning his Master's Degree, expanding his horizons, and spending as much time as he can with his equally artistic daughters, Sarah (C-N Halloween story winner) and Alyson (whatta voice and stage presence!). Hi girls! Thanks to everyone who welcomed me back to Red Mask (except you, Giamamoni), and thank you all for sharing your evening with us.

**Jason Asaad** Ernesto – A mysterious Norwegian national



After watching the *Mask of Zorro* a few times, Jason is now ready to present to you, ERNESTO SANTIAGO! Jason was previously on the Red Mask stage as "The Man" in last season's *Web of Murder*. He has also performed with DLO and the Beef House Dinner Theater. Jason would like to thank the director, cast and crew, his family, friends, and Chris for all of their support! Enjoy the show!

**Julia Megan Sullivan** Bernadette – An impaired natural foods chef



Julia Megan Sullivan has enjoyed a resurgence of activity with the Danville performing arts scene since returning to the area over two years ago. After graduating from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, she attacked the professional theatre scene, working in theatres all over the country and touring nationally. Most recently, Julia has appeared in several productions including *Chicago* (DLO) and *...Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean* (Red Mask). She is very much looking forward to directing Red Mask's final show of the season, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Julia would like to thank everyone for helping make Red Mask's 70th anniversary season memorable.

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RED MASK



**Diane Rew** Jayne Fryman – A reporter for the Daily Local News Dispatch Vigilant Courier

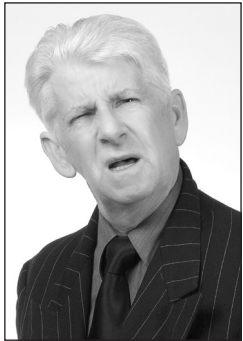
This is Diane's very first time on stage...ever! She recently worked back stage on *Bell, Book and Candle* and learned quite a lot from all the wonderful cast members. Diane has always wanted to give acting a try, so after receiving her Masters last year, she decided to "go for it!" When Diane is not on stage, she is employed by Danville District #118 as the Pre-Kindergarten Coordinator for Vermilion County. This whole new experience has been an "eye opener", but the fun and laughter that has come with this production, has made rehearsals very easy for her to attend. The cast has been great to work with and very patient with the "newcomer". Many thanks go to her wonderfully supportive family; husband, Greg, daughter, Lauren and son, Sean. She promises dinners will be better after the show is completed.

We Salute Red Mask on Another Great Year.

AQUA<sup>SM</sup>  
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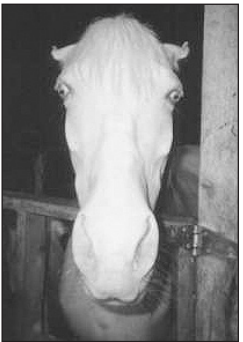
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**Dave Downing**

Louie – A professional hit-man beyond retirement age


Dave is a Red Mask veteran of more than 20 years. He was last on the Red Mask stage portraying another “Lou”, a “mafia” member in the production of *Breaking Legs*. Dave has been in many productions over the years, as well as producing, stage managing, props, lighting and sound. He has also directed six productions for this organization, his last being this season’s opener – *Bell, Book and Candle*. Dave recently retired from “the phone company” after 38 years of service and now is the resident “phone guy” for the theater. He would like to thank Sharon for casting him in such a fun role, and the rest of the great cast for sharing the stage with him. Special thanks to his lovely wife, Marty, for her love and support, and to all of the special friends he has made in theater and at Red Mask.



**Whinnyfrid**

Good Girl – The horse

Whinnyfrid was named for a little known Norse horse goddess... who was also the protectress of goats, oats, dirt roads, and amusing cats. Although Whinnyfrid does not actually appear on stage, she does give a vigorous performance off stage. If she could, she would probably say “Hi” to Frigga, give many “Gebersniks” to her adored horse wranglers, and invite you to get a KICK out of the show. Have an enjoyable ride.



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**Sharon Tipword**

Director

After over 35 years in professional theatre, Sharon admits she is happily through with all that. Except... when Red Mask allows her to play. Or when a little film part comes along. Or when the playwright monster jumps on her back and shouts “Write”. (Yes, a monster, not a muse.) Sharon resides in Georgetown and has acted in several Red Mask productions as well as directed the 2004 *Meet My Husbands*. Once again she is surrounded by accomplished talent and a terrific production team. “When the metaphorical curtain comes down on this show, I will miss them enormously. Their playful inventiveness. Their big hearts. They are almost as much fun as kittens with a ball of yarn. I would like to thank them for making my smile noisy. What a great bunch of flaming idiots.”

**Gretchen Elliot**

Stage Manager

This is Gretchen’s 5th adult show. Let’s see, first there was *Desk Set* as Sadel Meyer, then Juanita in *Come Back to the Five and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, and then she did props and costumes for *Angel Street*. (Take a breath) Most recently she was the stage manager for *Bell, Book and Candle*. In between adult shows she has directed and stage managed two of the children’s shows. Not to mention the church dramas and puppet ministry she heads up at her church. (Do you think maybe some intervention is required?) Anyway, she wanted to

# RED MASK

mention, none of this would have been possible had it not been for her dear friend (is that what you call her?) Jennifer Dixon, and don't forget the Vegas girls, too. She wants to send her thanks and love out to Sue, Donna, Janet, and Mark. By the way, the season's not over, yet. Hang around to see what she does next! The best way to do that is to purchase a season membership. (There, got that plug in, too!)

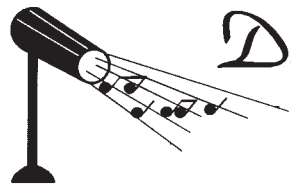
**Beth Lashbrook**

Producer

Beth sneaks in the back door every once in a while to see what havoc she can create! She got her start as one of the grown-ups (backstage) with Children's Theater and has found a little time to continue in that vein with the adult theater. During the day, Beth is a Special Ed teacher at Edison School. She is thankful that the directors of *Dr. Cook's Garden* and *Flaming Idiots* had the patience to allow a rookie onto the production crew of their shows. She is also thankful to be married to John -- he shows her the way!

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The Red Mask Board of Directors has announced plans to present its annual Jean Lewis Scholarship to a student planning a career in theater or performing arts or a directly related area such as speech, oral interpretation or radio/television. Area high school seniors, as well as university or community college students are eligible to apply. Please watch upcoming publications for more information or contact **Lamar Hull, Scholarship Chairman**, c/o Red Mask Players, P. O. Box 814, Danville, IL 61834. The scholarship is named for Jean Lewis, who directed 37 of the Children's Theater productions from 1962 through 1986.

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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### RED MASK

All events for Red Mask take place at the Kathryn Randolph Theater

- January 28 & 29, 2007 – Auditions for *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, 7pm
- March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31, April 1, 6, 7, 2007 – *Brighton Beach Memoirs*
- Spring 2007 Children's Theater – *Puss in Boots*  
March 26 & 27, 2007 – Auditions  
May 14-19, 2007 – Performances

### DANVILLE LIGHT OPERA

- Feb 16-18, 2007 – *Nunsense*, St. James Church
- April 28, 29 2007 – *Into the Woods*, Danville High School Auditorium

### DANVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

- March 10, 2007 – featuring Rachel Barton Pine – world class violinist, 7:30pm, Danville High School Auditorium

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- Stage Manager**..... Gretchen Elliott
- Producer** ..... Beth Lashbrook
- Set Design**..... Sharon Tipsword
- Set Construction** ..... Kenny Harden, John Lashbrook,  
Leslie Boedicker
- Set Dressing** ..... Leslie Boedicker, Cast & Crew
- Lighting Design** ..... Leslie Boedicker
- Lights**..... Chad Myler
- Sound**..... Gail Garner
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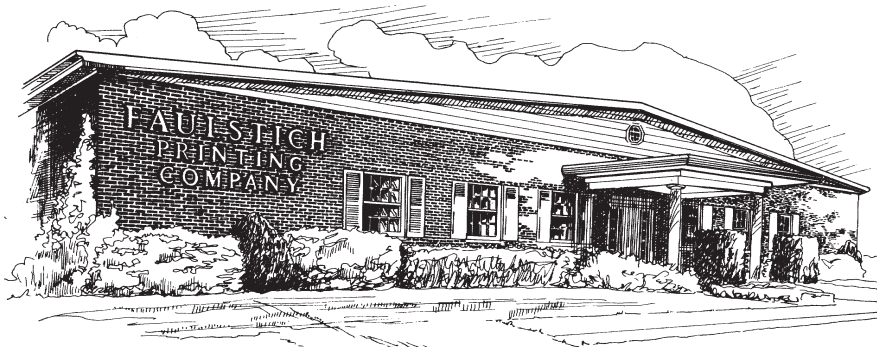
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