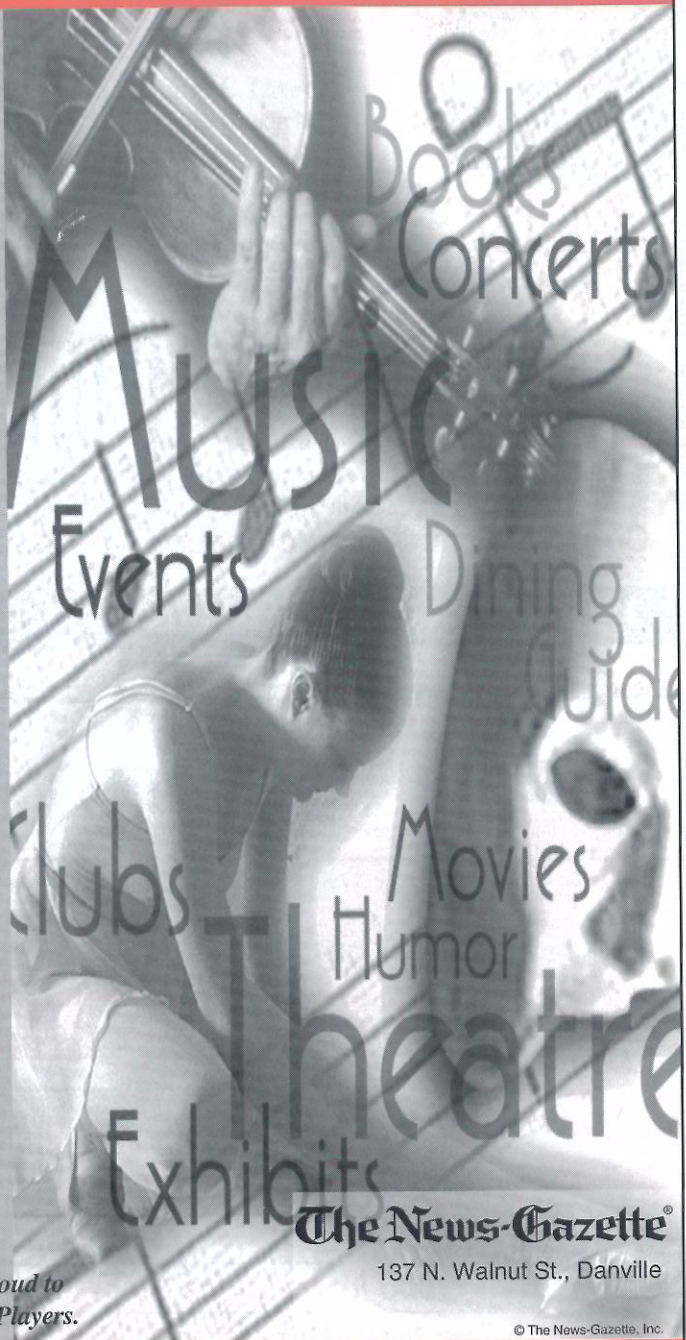


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Red Mask Players
PRESENT

BELLES



A play in two acts
and forty-five phone calls
by

MARK DUNN

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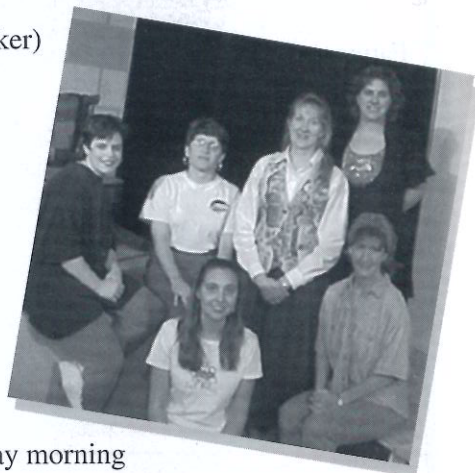
THE BELLES

Peggy Reece, Memphis, Tennessee, (Area Code 901) - Milia Bergkoetter
Aneece Walker, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, (Area Code 215) - Gaye Garner
Roseanne Johnson, Atlanta, Georgia, (Area Code 404) - Mary Ann Laker
Audrey Hart, Collierstown, Mississippi, (Area Code 601) - Jami Curtis
Sherry "Dust" Walker, Elk Run, Washington, (Area Code 206) - Jennifer Dixon
Paige Walker, Austin, Texas, (Area Code 512) - Sheila Hosseini

(The voice of Mike Kozlowski - Mike Boedicker)

WHERE THE BELLS RING

Peggy Reese's sitting room
Aneece Walker's sitting room
Roseanne Johnson's kitchen
Audrey Hart's den
Sherry "Dust" Walker's "living space"
Paige Walker's studio apartment



WHEN THE BELLS RING

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RED MASK



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first production of our 65th Season! That sounds wonderful, doesn't it? Some of you have been attending our plays for many of those 65 seasons - and many of you are just now getting to know us. Let's hope we can all get together like this for many, many more!

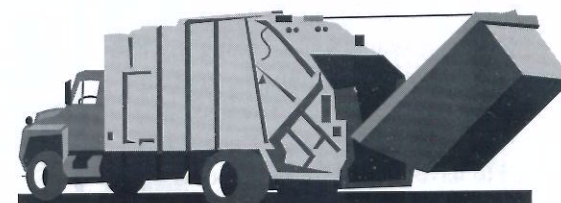
The ladies you see on stage have a varied history with Red Mask. We have a first timer (Welcome, Sheila); a returning player (Glad to have you back, Jennifer); two let's-do-it-again-because-the-first-time-was-so-much-fun (Milia and Jami); one "You'll never get me onstage - backstage is just fine" (Mary Ann); and one lady whose long and diverse Red Mask career finally forced her, last year, to try something just a little more challenging - like playing a man! - (our dear Gaye).

Then there's Mr. Laker - he goes way back! Many of you may not know that he was the very first Jean Lewis Scholarship winner - 25 years ago! And he's been lurking around ever since. His expertise with make-up is second to none (Anyone need a really good scar?); his sense of humor is.....well, we won't go there; and his love of the theater shows in everything he does.

I wish all of these folks a great show! And I wish all of you welcome - and we'll see you next time.

Donna Sant

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Many people believe that the process of putting on a play starts with and is driven by the director. Now normally this is a true statement and one I whole-heartedly agree with. Unfortunately,I guess I'm just not that type of director. I consider myself lucky if I can get anyone to listen to some of my more outlandish ideas. I feel that putting on a play is for the most part a collaborative effort. The process may start with the director, but the finished product always ends in the hands of the actor. No matter what the director does (or doesn't do) it's the actor who puts the rehearsal process together and places it in front of the audience.

I have been blessed with six very good, indeed wonderful, actresses that not only believe in this show, but wanted to do this show perhaps more than I wanted to direct it. Thank you, ladies. You have been, and are, wonderful. To my tech crew, thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. To Ken Harden, Dave Downing, and Chuck Pundt, I in particular want to thank for their tireless efforts on behalf of this show. (The beer is on me, guys.) To Sara Hunt, my producer, who did all the little things I couldn't do. And to my stage manager, Leslie Boedicker, the true unsung heroine of this show. Leslie did so much and kept this show going with her energy, talent and enthusiasm. Thank you, Leslie, I owe you much.

Lastly I thank Samuel Kern, Laura, Tina, Ryan and Josh, my brothers and sisters. I hope they know that the events in this play do not reflect their lives (or mine), but that the love, respect, and friendship that I have for them helped inspire me to do this show; if only just to say thank you for being my brothers and sisters. As it has been often said, "You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your relatives." I've been blessed to have the best of both worlds.

Thank you,
David E. Laker

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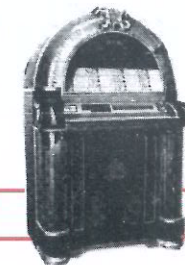
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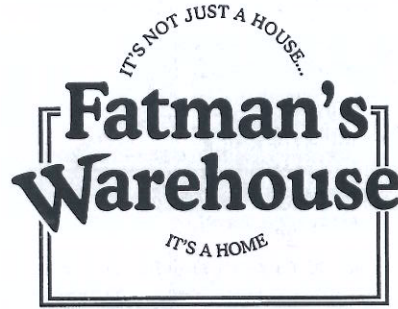
Milia Bergkoetter Peggy

When the theater bug hits, sometimes it's contagious. Milia is appearing in her second Red Mask play along with her daughter, Sheila. "I couldn't have imagined in my wildest dreams that I'd ever be in a play with my daughter, as her sister." Milia first appeared in the Red Mask production of *Never Too Late* two years ago. She has also been in church productions of *Godspell* and *Going Home*. She thanks her husband, Vern, for his support and encouragement, and her son, Shawn, for his patience with microwave food.

Gaye Garner Aneece

Gaye is a past board member and participant and member of Red Mask since 1983 when she moved to Danville. Community theater is her avocation and the practice of law is her vocation, which she currently pursues as Assistant States Attorney. She has performed, directed and stage managed for Red Mask and other local groups. She counts among her favorite roles Mrs. Paddy in *The Curious Savage*; Gert in *Lost in Yonkers*; and Tom, Phyllis, Leslie in *Sylvia*. Her year old toy poodle, Katy, is her best buddy, excluding all the terrific people that she has been blessed to work with at Red Mask over the years. Where else can you go to find five new sisters as great as these, not to mention the terrific director, stage manager and crew? Thanks to a really supportive family and group of friends.

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Mary Ann Laker Roseanne

An eight year veteran of Red Mask, Mary Ann last appeared as the sweet, but very vague, Reba in *Last Night of Ballyhoo*. When not at the theater, she works at Carle Gift Shop with the best boss in the whole world (No, Donna, I am not trying to get more time off.) As always, she wishes to thank her husband, Dave, along with all the sisters in her life for their love, support, and inspiration.

Jami Curtis Audrey

Jami has been actively involved in both Red Mask and DLO for the past three years, most recently performing in *School House Rock, Live*. She would like to thank her two favorite-most-favorite boys for giving up some of their "mommy and me" time so she can pursue her favorite hobby, and the cast and crew of *Belles* for the encouragement and freedom to discover "Audrey" and "Huckle" (on account of his IQ being 473).

Jennifer Dixson Dust

After a ten-year absence, Jennifer is thrilled to return to the Red Mask stage and be welcomed back among her "stage family". Since last seen onstage in 1991's *Romantic Comedy* as Phoebe, Jennifer has received two college degrees, married and moved nine times. Happy to be stable and not packing or unpacking, Jennifer fills her days with freelance marketing and public relations, and also substitute teaches in Vermilion County. She lives in rural Danville with her husband, Dwain, a software engineer for Motorola, and their five cats.

Sheila Hosseini Paige

This is Sheila's first time appearing in a Red Mask play. Sheila is not new to Red Mask, however. In previous seasons she has helped with props. Sheila has appeared in several high school productions. She is currently in her second year at DACC and hopes to transfer to a four-year college to pursue her interest in nursing. Sheila wishes to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

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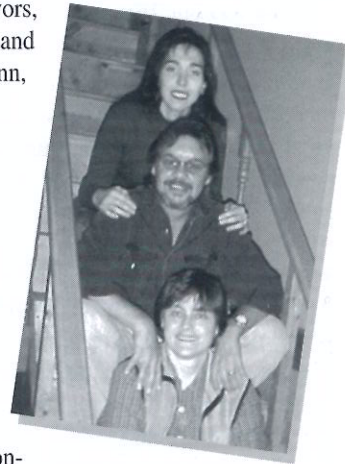
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RED MASK

PRODUCTION TEAM

David E. Laker *Director*

Belles marks David's third show directing for Red Mask (four, if you count a one-act from a few summers ago.) Dave previously directed *Wait Until Dark* and *Never Too Late*. As a performer Dave was most recently seen as John Adams in *1776* this past summer at the Beef House Dinner Theater. When not involved in theatrical endeavors, Dave spends "real" life working at the Danville Correctional Center and at Danville Book World. Quality time with his lovely wife, Mary Ann, and cat, Omaha, is spent living in scenic Fithian at their spacious home, Hydra Estates (one problem solved, two more spring up.)



Leslie Kuhn Boedicker *Stage Manager*

This is Leslie's second show with Red Mask, having appeared in *Last Night of Ballyhoo* last November. A recent arrival from Binghamton, NY, she has appeared in such favorites as *Man of La Mancha*, *Pajama Game*, and *Company*. Locally she has appeared in DLO's *Nunsense 3* and the Beef House production of *Gypsy*. Leslie earned her Master's Degree in Theater from SUNY-Binghamton, has taught theater, and has worked in various capacities on hundreds of shows. She looks forward to a continuing relationship with Red Mask. Special thanks to Mike, Leslie Sr., and Nikki.

Sara Hunt *Producer*

When asked by director David Laker to produce *Belles*, Sara jumped at the chance to work with him again. He was Stage Manager when she made her acting debut as Luella in *Diviners*. They also had a good working relationship when serving together on the Red Mask Board of Directors. Besides, she is one of the few people in Danville who can decipher his handwriting! Sara's "real" job is teaching third grade at Cannon School. She currently serves as Secretary for the Red Mask Board. She would like to thank the handsome guy in the sound and light booth (her husband, Henry, but you're pretty cute too, Chuck!) for all his love and being so supportive of all her activities.

We Salute Red Mask on Another Great Year.

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JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP

The Board of Directors of the Red Mask Players have announced plans to present their annual JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP to a student planning a career in theater or a related field such as speech, oral interpretation, or radio/television. Area high school seniors, college and community college students are eligible to apply.

Auditions and interviews with the scholarship committee will be held in the theater in February or March with the winner to be announced soon after.

Additional information and application blanks are available from the guidance counselors and speech teachers at area high schools and from the Danville Area Community College Communications Department. The deadline for Applications is **January 15th, 2002**, and students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

The scholarship is named for Jean Lewis, who directed all 37 of the Children's Theater productions from 1962 through 1986.

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MEET THE ARTISTS - NOVEMBER 9TH

Come meet the actresses on November 9th. The entire cast will be going to The Java Hut after the show on Friday, November 9 to answer questions and mingle with the patrons. The Java Hut will be offering a menu of desserts and beverages that evening for your purchase.

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

Director David Laker has spoken to Playwright Mark Dunn. Mr. Dunn was pleased to learn that Red Mask Players is presenting *Belles*. He informed Mr. Laker that the play is also being performed in Austin, Texas and Akron, Ohio this fall. He extends his encouragement to the cast and crew.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Festival of Trees - David S. Palmer Arena..... November 10 - 14
featuring Red Mask Players' Children's Theater in *The Toy*
Connection, November 10, 11, 12

Auditions for *I Hate Hamlet*..... November 18 & 19
Kathryn Randolph Theater, 7PM

Danville Symphony Orchestra - "Sing Hallelujah"..... December 8
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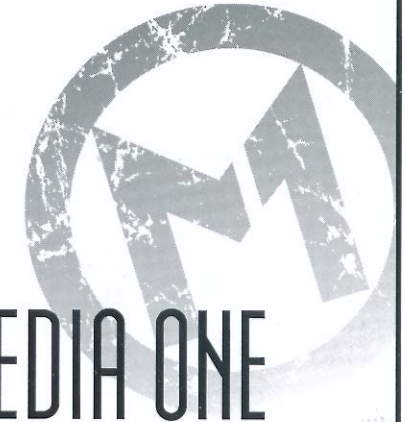


BEHIND THE SCENES



Director..... David E. Laker
Stage Manager..... Leslie Boedicker
Producer..... Sara Hunt
Set Design and Construction..... B.J. Harvey, Cast and Crew
Telephone Technician..... Dave Downing
Lights and Sound..... Chuck Pundt, Henry Hunt
Props..... Annie Wright, Megan Herman, Bev Nees
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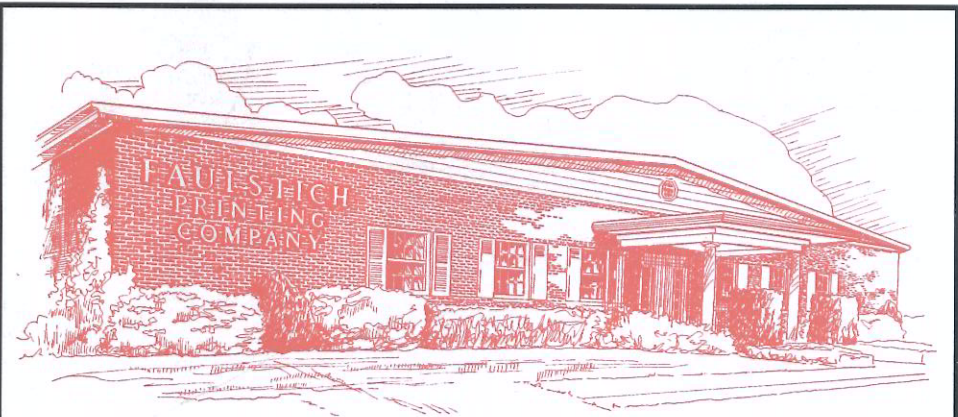
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