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BY

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AMATEURS

BY

TOM GRIFFIN

A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

Time:

The time is the present.

Place:

The action takes place in October in a New England home.

There will be a 15 minute intermission between each act.

At this time restrooms and refreshments are available in the lower level of the theater. Gift items are also available for purchase in the lower level during intermission. We request that there be no smoking in any area of the building. Also, no food or drinks will be permitted in the auditorium. Thank you.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

It is the responsibility of the President not only to lead and be the spokesperson, but to champion the organization and each show presented. That's extremely easy with this organization and this particular show. You are about to be treated to a cast and production team that has assembled talented veterans at every function, on stage or back stage, as well as less experienced performers that have demonstrated a quick grasp of the art and command of the stage.

On a personal level, this play was difficult for me not to be involved in. I had a desire to direct. I had an extreme desire to perform. This show possesses all the things a performer and an audience member seek: humor, drama, depth, something to make us laugh and to think, and something to challenge us even though we may not realize it until it's over. In the end, it was best that I simply enjoy it with the rest of you.

I wish also to take the time to acknowledge one of our own that has passed on. A recent Board member, Jim Crain, was a wonderful individual that loved the theater, the performing arts, and above all demonstrated a concern and appreciation for all persons. He will be missed not just on the stage, but everyday in all things.

Enjoy,
Ed DeVore

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

As a director, I find myself attracted to a certain type of play. *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Curious Savage* and now *Amateurs*. They all have something in common. Each play combines tragedy and comedy. Apparently, I like a mixture of guffaws and grief, insanity and anger, pratfalls and passion, hilarity and humanity...well you get the point. The humorist, Erma Bombeck, once wrote that, "There is a thin line that separates laughter and pain, comedy and tragedy, humor and hurt". I believe that line is, more often than not, blurred.

I'm more likely to side with the philosopher and poet, Kahlil Gibran, who said that, "Your joy is your sorrow unmasked". I know that there are theater patrons who prefer light comedies and there are audience members that love a nice, meaty drama. "Some of you say, 'joy is greater than sorrow', and others say, 'Nay, sorrow is the greater', but I say unto you, "they are inseparable." (Gibran) It strikes me as ironic that the theater is symbolized by comedy and tragedy masks when, so very often, theatrical productions, as well as life, are a blend of both.

Lisa Lovelace



Randal P. Ashton, D.D.S.

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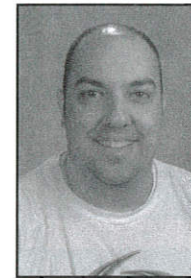
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ON STAGE



Jason Asaad (Paul) Jason last appeared in *Tom Jones*, but his favorite role was Peachy Weil in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. Jason is happy to be reunited with a great director and happy to be part of such a stellar cast. In real life, Jason is employed at DACC, attempting to guide impressionable minds.

Shelley Stine-Kennedy (Jennifer, aka Bubbles)

A Danville native, Shelley is excited to get back to the theater in her first Red Mask production. Her favorite accomplishment is being mom to four kids (Tyler, Landon, Andy & Addison) and never strangling any of them. She asks you to remember "A day without laughter is a day wasted". (Charlie Chaplin)



Darren Kilbury (Nathan) Before being held at "gunpoint" and forced to return to family in Danville, Darren was a professional actor in New York City, Chicago and briefly in Los Angeles. He now is a hairstylist at Angel's Salon & Spa in Covington and cries periodically.

David E. Laker (Charlie) With this production, David celebrates his 40th year of "Amateur" status. Recently retired (or paroled) from the Danville Correctional Center, David is very happy to return to the Red Mask Theater, working with old friends and a few new ones as well. David thanks his friends and family (including the furry kind) for all of their love and support.



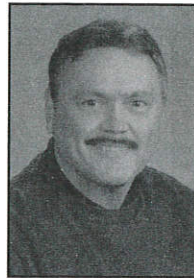


ON STAGE



Maureen K. Niedenthal (Mona) Maureen recently got married, moved to Danville and started Neidmoe Jewelry. She's excited to be making her first appearance on the Red Mask stage and appreciates the support of Lisa, Bev, Ann and the cast. Maureen would like to thank her husband, Mark, for his love and constant support.

Bob Scott (Wayne) Bob is excited to be returning to the Red Mask stage – “it’s been too long”. Some past roles have been the Chief in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* and John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet*, among others. Thanks to the cast and crew for their talent and hard work and to Donna for her love and support.



Joe Sermersheim (Ernie) Joe is very excited to be back on stage, especially this time doing a show with his wife Rhonda!

Rhonda Sermersheim (Irene) Rhonda is making her second appearance on stage, her first performance being in *The Replacement* in 2010. She first became involved with Red Mask in 2004, supporting the talents of her daughters, Grace and Meredith, during Children’s Theater. Rhonda has enjoyed playing Irene both on and off stage with her husband and best friend, Joe!



Suzy Smalley (Dorothy) Being on stage performing is how Suzy LOVES spending her free time! Since her two girls are away at college and her fiancé is always “working on the railroad”, why not? This will be her third Red Mask show and she is thrilled to cross over to the play side again, after having been involved in over 22 musicals since 2003.



Congratulations on 77 years!!!



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PRODUCTION TEAM



Lisa Lovelace (Director) After practicing criminal law in Chicago and southern Illinois, Lisa returned to Danville and the Kathryn Randolph Theater in time to direct *Amateurs*. She previously directed a number of plays for Red Mask, including *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. A Katy Award winning actress, Lisa last appeared on stage here as Marlene in *Daddy's Dyin...Who's Got the Will?* and starred most recently as Kate in *Brighton Beach Memoirs* for Looking Glass Playhouse.

Beverly Nees (Stage Manager) Bev is thrilled to be involved with this show. She has stage managed, directed and been on stage with numerous productions. She appeared in *Zara* last season and *The Girls in 509* the year before. *Arms and the Man* was her last foray into directing. Bev thanks her wonderful husband, Rod, for his understanding and encouragement and her dog, Eddie, for putting up with me being gone in the evenings.

Ann Soderstrom (Producer) Ann is pleased to be helping produce *Amateurs* for Red Mask Players. She is a veteran of Community theater and will do any job if asked. She directed Red Mask's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Her favorite acting roles include Miss Fancy in *Sly Fox* (Red Mask Players) and Abby in *Arsenic & Old Lace*. Ann is co-founder of Lincoln Park Theater Company.



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BEHIND THE SCENES

Director Lisa Lovelace
Stage Manager.....Bev Nees
Producer.....Ann Soderstrom
Set Design..... Lisa Lovelace & Kenny Harden
Set Construction.....Kenny Harden, Cast & Crew
Lighting DesignJ. Edward DeVore & Leslie Boedecker
Lighting Technician June Techtow
Sound Technician Shelby Heaton
Props.....Andrew Puhr, Mimi Myers-Saylor
Costumes..... Cast
Make-up & Hair..... Cast
Casting Lisa Lovelace, Sue Harden, Bev Nees
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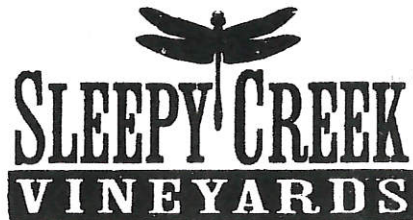


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