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**Red Mask Players
Present**



Humble Boy

By Charlotte Jones

Directed by Amanda France



**January 27-29 & February 3-5, 2023
at the historic Kathryn Randolph Theater**



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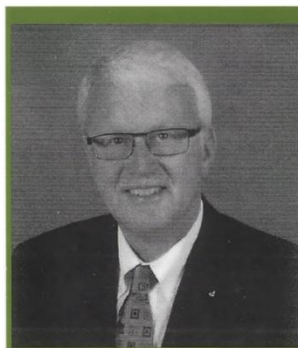
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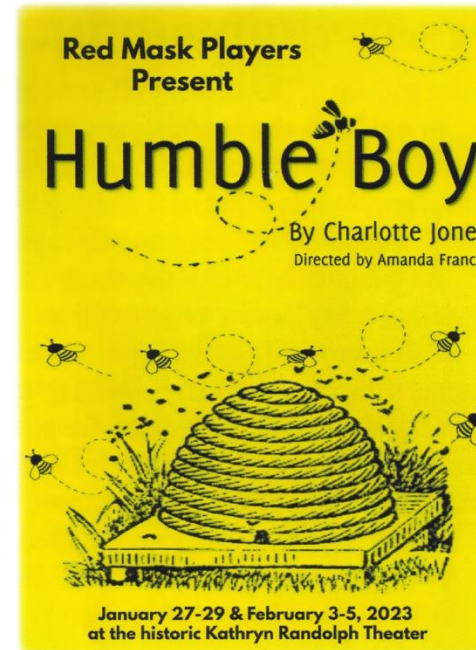
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— CAST OF CHARACTERS —

Felix Humble – Nathan Henderson
 Flora Humble – Nancy Henderson
 George Pye – Jim Gilmour
 Rosie Pye - Lisa Strain
 Jim – Paul Strain
 Mercy Lott – Donna Sant

— SETTING —

A modest garden in the Cotswolds, 1998
Act 1, Scene 1: mid-day, early June
Act 1, Scene 2: three weeks later
Act 1, Scene 3: mid-July
Act 1, Scene 4: same day at sunset
Act 2, one month later

There will be a 15 minute intermission between Act 1 and Act 2



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Humble Boy... what can I say? This show means so many things to me, and each time I read it, or watch the amazing actors that will portray the characters on the Red Mask Stage, I find something new that makes me fall in love with the show. When I initially read this show I loved the connection to the bees. I love honey bees and always wanted to have a bee hive of my own. As I dug deeper into the show and author Charlotte Jones' inspiration for this show, I knew I had to direct it. I love that Jones takes inspiration from Shakespeare's Hamlet (without the tragic bits) and uses the family dynamic to create this funny and heartwarming play about life. I have been planning this show in my head for so long that it almost seems like a dream, and I now have the dream cast! Nathan Henderson brings such seriousness and likability to Felix Humble. I sympathize with Felix, as at times, I also feel like my life has not equated to much as I reach my mid 30's. Then there is Flora Humble, who is difficult, demanding and self-centered. Those things Nancy Henderson is not, but she plays her perfectly. Nancy is one of the kindest and most caring individuals I have ever met. Then we have George Pye, played by the energetic Jim Gilmour. Jim brings such ease to the loud and fun George. Seeing him and Nancy on the stage together again has been magical each rehearsal. Lisa Strain taking on the role of Rosie Pye, playing the onstage daughter to her real-life father, is such a joy to watch. I love the line where George says "She's not a looker but she's got character and I love her." I know that Jim means those words, not that she isn't a looker, because Lisa is a stunning beauty, but I love her part! You can see how his face lights up when talking about his daughter. Paul Strain who plays Jim the gardener brings such a passion to the role, and if I close my eyes I can see every garden area that he describes with such excitement. Then we have Donna Sant, who is the only cast member who isn't directly related to someone in the show, although she has always been like another mother to me. Donna plays Mercy Lott who is such a sweet soul, but not the brightest. Donna's comedic timing in the role of Mercy is flawless. All of these actors play their characters so skillfully, that it has been a joy to guide them through this process. My crew has been amazing in this journey



FROM THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED...

also. Jamey Coutant, my mother, as my producer, has helped me with the tedious parts of putting on a show and kept me on task with deadlines. My student stage manager Isaiah Easton has been a great addition to the team, and I am glad he has been able to watch these veteran actors and learn from them. The rest of the crew came in and learned, helping with props and adding unique technical elements to the show. Lastly, my partner in crime, Eric France, my husband, agreed to stage manage for me. All of these amazing people have been a bit like the *Humble Boy* characters, they have made us laugh, cry, get frustrated, and sometimes want to scream! What family doesn't have those moments? I hope that you enjoy the comedic moments, the serious moments, and the heartfelt moments of this show, as much as I have from the moment I read it. And welcome to the family!

Amanda France, Director

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Aerodynamically, it should be impossible for bumble bees to fly and yet their too small wings manage to lift their fat little bodies off the ground. Financially, it should have been impossible for a small community theater group to survive a pandemic and yet we managed. Red Mask Players survived and, thanks to patrons like you, we thrive. Thank you for attending our shows. Thank you for supporting our cast and crew. Thank you for your donations that help keep the lights on.

Oscar Wilde regarded theatre as the greatest of all art forms, referring to theatre as "the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

Thank you for sharing. Thank you for believing in the power of theater.

*Lisa Lovelace
President, Red Mask Players*



BIOGRAPHIES



JAMEY COUTANT (Producer) Jamey is thrilled that her daughter asked her to be Producer for *Humble Boy*. Jamey has been involved in community theater for many years. She is currently the Children's Representative for the Red Mask Players Board of Directors, and secretary for DLO Musical Theatre Board of Directors. Jamey was last seen in Red Mask Players Christmas show *A Dicken's Christmas Carol* which she also directed. She has been seen onstage and behind the scenes in many productions over the years, but her real love is youth theater and teaching the future generation to have a love of theater so that our community theater world continues to thrive and grow. Jamey would like to thank all of the patrons who help support Red Mask Players by attending our shows. Without all of you we would not be able to continue to do what we love!

ISAIAH EASTON (Student Stage Manager) Isaiah is a junior at Danville High School and likes being involved in every aspect of the arts. He has called Red Mask his home for many years, having grown up in children's theatre and even being in some adult shows recently. His most recent role at Red Mask was the Young Creature in *Playing with Fire: After Frankenstein*. He also played Jean-Michel in DLO's production of *Cinderella*. This is his first time stage managing for Red Mask, and he is so happy to be involved with such an amazing show!



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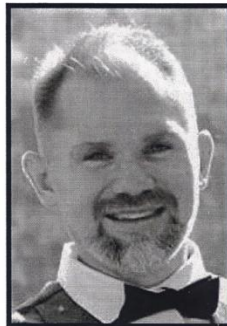


BIOGRAPHIES



AMANDA FRANCE (Director) Red Mask Players patrons are familiar with director Amanda France. Amanda has been seen in several shows over the years such as *All Because of Agatha*, *Over the River and Through the Woods* and *The Replacement*. In addition, Amanda has directed several shows, including *Proof*, and several youth shows, such as *Robin Hood*, and recently *The Never Ending Story*. She has also directed and acted with DLO Musical Theater and their youth program, as well as with The Beef House Dinner Theater. It has been Amanda's pleasure to support Red Mask Players for many years. After participating in her first youth production of *Dr. Dolittle*, she developed a love of the theater. Afterward, Amanda joined the drama department and show choir at Danville High School. When Amanda graduated, she became more involved with Red Mask's adult shows, and eventually joined the board as the children's representative. During the past 15 years, Amanda has served on the board in various positions, including several terms as president, and is now the 1st Vice President. Amanda has loved her time on the board, and thanks her family for allowing her to spend as much time as she has there. Amanda is grateful for the opportunity to direct *Humble Boy* and the fantastic cast and crew that she has been able to work with. Amanda would also like to thank her husband Eric, for being her sounding board, and helping her build such amazing shows together.

ERIC FRANCE (Stage Manager) Eric has been working in the performing arts for more than 25 years. He has spent the majority of his professional theater portfolio on the technical side of the stage. He cut his teeth on stage at DLO and Red Mask in the late nineties and early two thousands. He has many professional stage credits in stage lighting design and engineering, sound design and engineering, scenic design and construction, as well as stage management and technical directing. Over the past five years he has worked with Red Mask Players in some technical capacity for almost all of the shows. Working in the volunteer theater community is still a passion for him, especially when he gets to work with his nuclear family unit as well as the theater family of Danville. Currently, Eric, sits in residence as the Technical Director for The Beef House Dinner Theatre.



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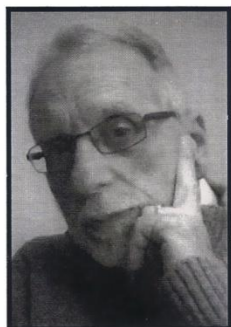
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BIOGRAPHIES



JIM GILMOUR (George Pye) Jim Gilmour got into acting “accidentally”. In college, he needed a 3 hour class and he chose “Introduction to Acting” thinking it was a theory class, reading and studying the craft of acting, boring, but an easy class. It was not until the first day of class he realized it was an actual acting class, not just theory. The rest, as they say, is history. He got the “acting bug” and has been involved in theatre ever since. He has appeared in Red Mask productions and DLO musicals.

Among one of his favorite plays is *On Golden Pond* which he played opposite the most talented Nancy Henderson and has the pleasure of working with her again. Jim says, “I am so excited to be in this show, not only working with this most talented cast, but having an opportunity to play Lisa Strain’s father, a role I proudly have in real life. I want to thank my wife, Anna Beth for her help and much appreciated support. The cast, your’re one of the best, and a big thank you to our director, Amanda France for her patience and encouragement.”

NANCY HENDERSON (Flora Humble) Nancy has been involved with almost every local theater organization for over 30 years, having taken on just about every behind-the-scenes job, as well as appearing onstage in a wide variety of roles. A few favorites include *Ragtime* (Mother), *Into the Woods* (The Witch & Cinderella), *The King & I* (Anna), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (Nurse Rached), and opposite fellow *Humble Boy* cast member Jim Gilmore, whom she was paired with in *On Golden Pond* and *The Gin Game*. She is excited to again be playing mother to her real-life son, having done so on two other shows, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Trip to Bountiful*. It’s also an absolute joy to be onstage with some of her other favorite actors. Nancy is a past president of DLO Musical Theatre and served on the Red Mask Board of Directors for many years. She is thankful to have the opportunity to be on the Red Mask stage again.

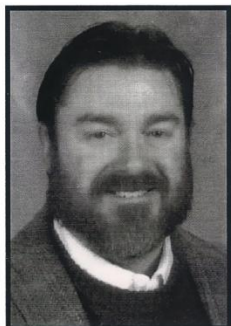


BEHIND THE SCENES

- Director** Amanda France
- Stage Manager**Eric France
- Student Stage Manager** Isaiah Easton
- Producer**..... Jamey Coutant
- Board Liaison**Sue Harden
- Set Design** Amanda and Eric France
- Lighting Design**.....Eric France
- Sound Design** Amanda France
- Light and Sound Operator**Eric Rosson
- Set Construction** Eric France, Nathan Henderson,
..... Amanda France
- Costumes**.....Cast
- Props Manager**..... Rachelle Abner
- Props** Cast and Crew
- Program** Brooke Kuchefski
- Program Design and Printing**..... Kelly Printing Co., Inc
- Publicity**..... Brooke Kuchefski, Jamey Coutant,
..... Nancy Henderson
- Box Office** Jamey Coutant and
.....Red Mask Player Board Members
- House and Concessions**.....Sue Harden



BIOGRAPHIES



NATHAN HENDERSON (Felix Humble) *Humble Boy* marks Nathan's first time on the Red Mask stage as an adult. He did children's theater many years ago and has appeared onstage with DLO Musical Theatre and The Beef House Dinner Theatre. He currently teaches at Danville High School. He has also been the DHS Players sponsor and director for several years, where he just finished directing *The Haunting of Hill House* this past October. Nathan currently serves on the Red Mask Board of Directors and did stage managing duties for Red Mask's production of *Superior Donuts* (directed by his mother).

DONNA SANT (Mercy Lott) Donna has been involved in Red Mask since 1982. This show seems to bring her full circle...For her first Red Mask show, she worked backstage on *Chapter Two*, which starred Jim Gilmour. A couple of years later, her first onstage role was alongside Lisa Gilmour Strain, in *Bus Stop*. Last year, she returned to the stage after a number of years away, appearing in *The Trouble with Cats* and *Bleacher Bums*. "I always knew this was a special place. And it is wonderful to be back. Thank you to Amanda and the crew. As always, I love to see who's in the audience!"



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THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME- Nov. 2022
GHOST the Musical - Feb. 2023
SEUSSICAL - May 2023



COMING ATTRACTIONS

Red Mask Players

The Play That Goes Wrong

Auditions - February 6 & 7, 2023

Show Dates - March 31-April 2 & April 7-9, 2023

DLO Musical Theatre

Ghost: The Musical

February 10-12, 2023

Seussical

May 19-21, 2023

KottrGrimm Theatrical Storytellers

Clue

Auditions - February 2 & 4, 2023

Beef House Dinner Theatre

Teen Angels

April 14-16, 2023

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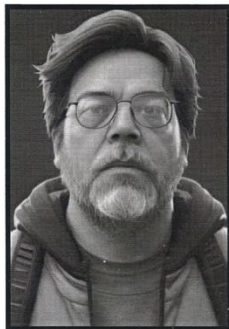
BIOGRAPHIES



LISA STRAIN (Rosie Pye) Lisa has grown up around theater her whole life. She practically grew up at Red Mask, at first going to rehearsals with her father, Jim Gilmour, and then acting in plays herself. This led her to getting a Theater degree at ISU and a career in teaching, and directing school plays. Theater also led her to meet her husband, Paul Strain, and together they have created a wonderful life being active in almost every aspect of theater. Lisa last appeared on the Red Mask stage as Mrs.

Robinson in *The Graduate* and as Randy in *Superior Donuts*. She is getting ready to direct *Almost, Maine* at Westville High School and will direct *Seussical* for DLO Musical Theatre in the Spring. She is so excited to be in this play with both her dad and her husband, and to actually play Jim's daughter, something she has always wanted to do. Lisa is also thrilled to be involved in the show with people that she has known for many years, and considers to be her theater family.

PAUL STRAIN (Jim) Paul Strain has been active in the performing arts for over 35 years in just about every capacity. Believe it or not, this is his first time being cast and performing a scripted part on the Kathryn Randolph Theater stage. No better place to start than surrounded by family, good friends, and a fine troupe of actors! It is a privilege to share the stage with them. All theater is collaboration and this is an amazing group with whom to collaborate! Paul thanks his lovely bride, Lisa, for being his constant collaborator and inspiration, and director Amanda France for putting them together onstage!



SPECIAL THANKS

**Beef House Dinner Theatre
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