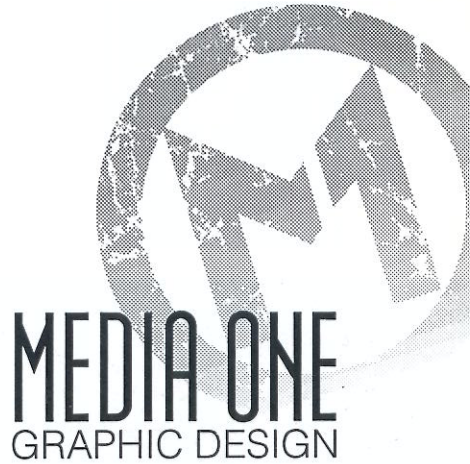
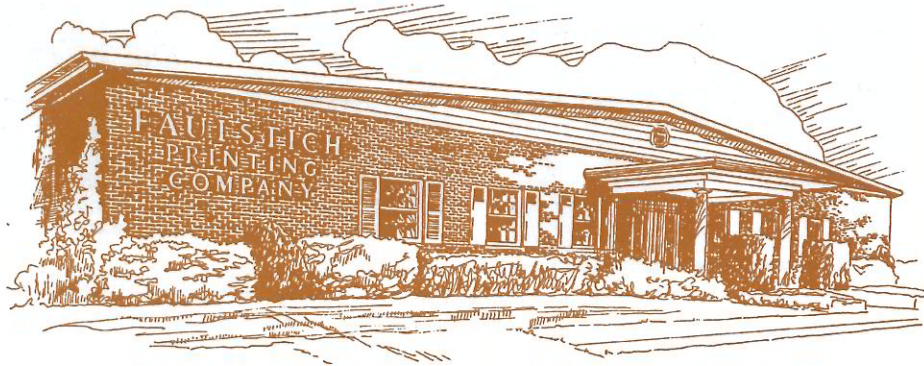


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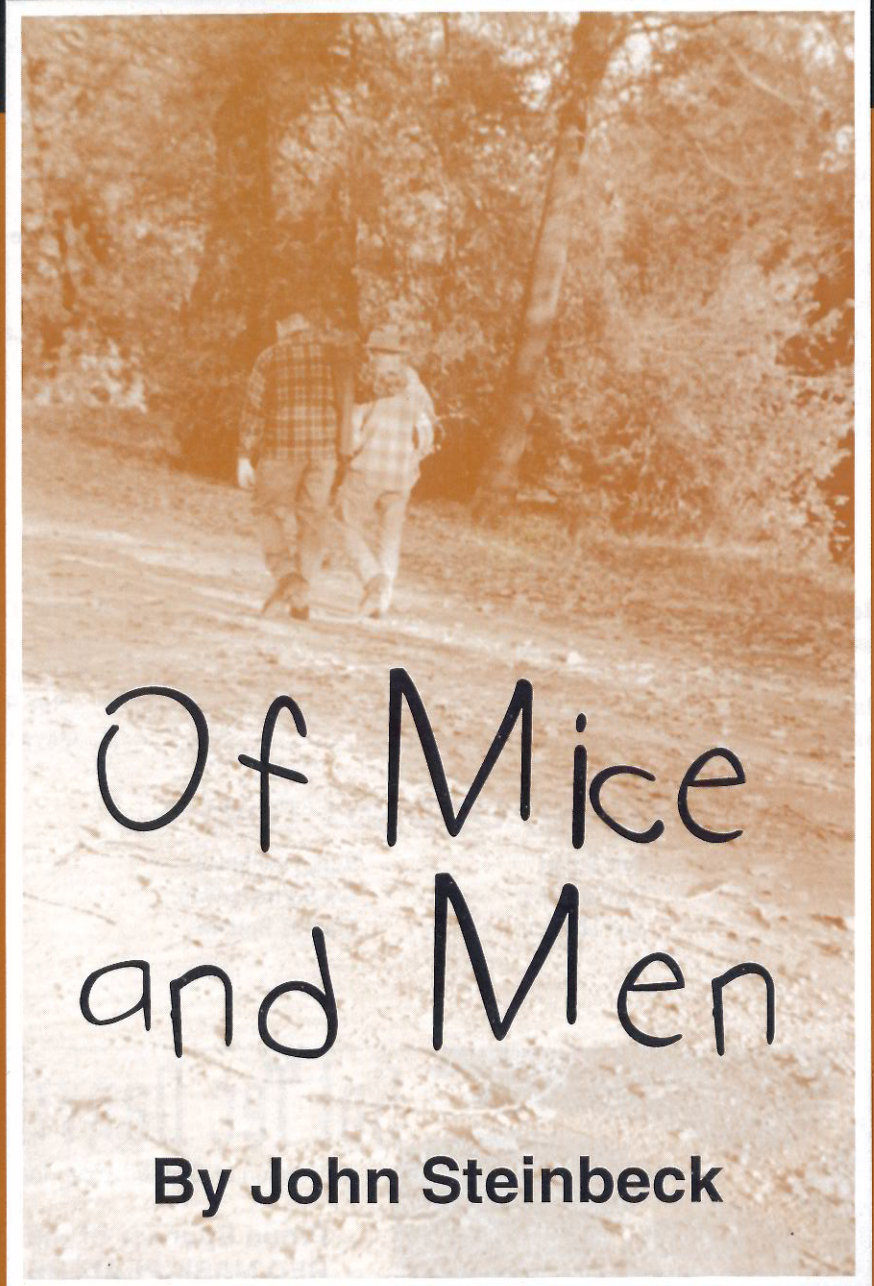


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Of Mice and Men

By John Steinbeck



Back Row L to R: Ed Devore, Bryan Schroeder, Joe Sermersheim, Darren Kilbury, Terry Colby, Ron Ball Sr.

Front Row L to R: Ron McDaniel, Leonard "Sonny" Downing, Malissa Weiser, Chuck Pundt

CAST OF CHARACTERS

George..... Darren Kilbury
Lennie..... Joe Sermersheim
Candy..... Leonard "Sonny" Downing
The Boss..... Ron McDaniel
Curley..... Chuck Pundt
Curley's Wife..... Malissa Weiser
Slim..... Bryan Schroeder
Carlson..... Terry Colby
Whit..... Ed Devore
Crooks..... Ron Ball

Act One..... Scene 1: A sandy bank of the Salinas River. Thursday night.
Scene 2: The interior of a bunkhouse. Late Friday morning.

Act Two..... Scene 1: The bunkhouse. About seven-thirty Friday evening.
Scene 2: The room of the stable buck, a lean-to. Ten o'clock Saturday evening.

Act Three..... Scene 1: One end of a great barn. Mid-afternoon, Sunday.
Scene 2: A sandy bank of the Salinas River. Sunday night.

Time..... The late '30s.
Place..... An agricultural valley in Northern California



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was first introduced to the Red Mask Players during the 74-75 season after joining the drama club in Westville Junior High School. One of the qualities that has been constant since that time, and even before, was that if not every year at least every other year the organization has brought a classic production to our hometown stage. In recent years we've had "The Curious Savage", "The Odd Couple", "The Rain Maker", and "Harvey." To the junior high and high school students this is often their first exposure to the classics or to theater, period. To the tenured members it's a welcome reminiscent evening of a long-cherished work. Not surprisingly, it is as rewarding to be able to bring these works to the stage, both as a board member and an actor, as it has ever been to witness their performances.

This year the organization brings a literary classic to life in "Of Mice and Men." Dave Downing and his ensemble have been diligent in all their efforts not just to bring the work to life on stage, but to put you in the center of the bunkhouse, the stable and the river. An effort I'm sure you will find that pays off in explosions of emotion and understanding.

On a personal note, I wish to thank all of you for the positive feedback and comments I have received this season. You help to influence the decisions made in the operation of this organization by doing so. I would also like to thank my friends and fellow board members for a great effort in the continuing tradition of the Red Mask Players. Finally a thank you to my wife Jamie for her support and tolerance of the often time-consuming and numerous tasks associated with being President of this organization. Now in my 26<sup>th</sup> season of association with the Red Mask Players, it is my true desire that we, the general membership, continue to enjoy the best in Community Theater from new works to classics - a wish I know is already coming true.

*Ed Devore,  
President*

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### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### DREAMS

To quote Humphrey Bogart in The Maltese Falcon, "the stuff dreams are made of;" that in actuality is an incorrect quote. The original came from William Shakespeare's The Tempest, and it was "stuff dreams are made on" not "of." Regardless, either quote does apply to this production of Of Mice and Men. Most of the characters in this play tell of their dreams at one time or another. Lennie and George have their dream of "living off the fat of the land" and having their own little farm. They in turn share their dream with old Candy. Curley's wife has her dream of going to Hollywood and "being in pitchers." Slim has his dream of cussing his own string of mules, and Crooks has a dream of simply having someone to talk to.

If we all didn't have our dreams to keep us going, every day would be just another day. In directing this play, I have realized one of my own dreams; of directing a drama on the Red Mask stage. However, I never dreamed this could be the wonderful experience that it has become. I am so very proud of my cast and crew, and everyone who has been involved with this play.

So sit back, relax and come dream our dreams.

*Dave*

### THANK YOU

Salty and Carolyn Towell, Frieda Colby

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Danville Light Opera:** "Nunsense Country Jamboree", May 5,6,7
- Sunshine II Production:** Comedy TBA, June 23,24,25,29,30,31, July 1  
"Hello, Dolly" July 21,22,23,27,28,29
- Beef House Dinner Theater:** "6 Rms. Riv. Vu.", June 30, July 1,2,7,8,9  
"Gypsy!", August 2,3,4,5,6.

*Wishing Red Mask Players  
Another Wonderful Season.*

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ON STAGE

**Darren Kilbury George**

Darren is a native of Danville, but spent most of his “growing up” in northwest Arkansas. Recently he returned from a two-year period in New York City where he tried stand-up comedy, acting, dance and anything else he could sucker people into paying him for. Professionally, Darren has done a national tour of “A Christmas Carol” as Bob Cratchit, Jigger in “Carousel”, Action in “West Side Story” and others. Locally, you might have seen him again in “Carousel” or as Young Joe in “Damn Yankees” at the Champaign-Urbana Theater Company. This is Darren’s first Red Mask production besides the summer one-acts where you might have seen him stumbling around stage in “Blind Date.” He wanted to thank Red Mask for its talent, presence, and making him feel at home - as well as for pairing him with a bar owner!

**Joe Sermersheim Lennie**

Joe is very happy to be a part of the Red Mask community, where he has had the privilege to work with several of the best actors in Danville. Joe was in last season’s production of “The Curious Savage” as Hannibal and this year’s first production of “Never Too Late” as Foley. Working very hard at trying to crack people up, he in fact cracked himself up! Joe would like to thank his family and friends for all of the love and support they have given him since working on the Red Mask stage.

**Leonard “Sonny” Downing Candy**

Someone once said, “The pleasures of life are represented only by pleasurable experiences.” Sonny is pleased to have the opportunity to once again experience the pleasure of performing on the Red Mask stage. He wishes to thank God for the talents He has given to each of us. He also thanks Sandy for her love and exceptional tolerance; the cast and crew of “M&M” for their confidence in his ability; and you, our faithful patrons who continue to support our efforts, “humble” as they may be.

**Ron McDaniel The Boss**

Ron is pleased to return to the Red Mask stage in a drama with such a great director and cast. Previous Red Mask roles were in “Advise and Consent”, directed by the late Kathryn Randolph, and “Whose Life Is It, Anyway?” He directed Red Mask’s “Come Back, Little Sheba”, “Under Papa’s Picture”, and “Night Watch.” Ron has appeared in more than thirty Danville Light Opera productions, most recently “Annie Warbucks”, and directed DLO’s “On A Clear Day You Can See Forever” and “Gypsy.” He has also acted in shows for the Beef House Dinner Theater and Gregory Productions. Ron spends his days editing high school and college textbooks as Vice President - Editorial of Interstate Publishers, Inc.

**Chuck Pundt Curley**

After working with Red Mask for thirteen or so years, Chuck has had the chance to be involved with many classic shows. Some of his favorites are “Harvey”, “Wait Until Dark”, and “The Odd Couple.” Now he adds another and cannot possibly be happier as



John Steinbeck is perhaps his favorite author of all time. Many thanks to Dave D. for an once-in-a-lifetime chance to perform in one of the most enduring shows in the history of theater.

**Malissa Weiser Curley’s Wife**

This is Malissa’s first theatrical performance. A Danville native, she spends her time working part time at Leon’s Restaurant and raising her three daughters alongside her husband of eleven years. Malissa would like to thank the members of Red Mask for making this such an enjoyable experience and welcoming her into the organization. She would also like to thank her family, friends and “customers” for all their encouragement and support.

**Bryan Schroeder Slim**

Having successfully survived Y2K, Bryan donated the use of his generators to run the lights for the show (a key reason he may have been cast). Marking his fourth Red Mask regular season production, Bryan is balancing his thespian hobby with a full-time job as a U.S. Postal employee, continuing his education and the addition of a new member to the family. All this being made possible by the support of his wife Shawn, who cares for their two daughters Sarah (2) and Alyson (4 mo.) while assisting him with lines.

**Terry Colby Carlson**

Terry’s first taste of community theater was four years ago in Sunshine’s production of “Phantom of the Country Palace”. Since then he has been involved in three DLO shows and an additional Sunshine effort in “Not Now, Darling.” This show will be Terry’s first Red Mask endeavor. Terry is a Danville native. He is active in his church choir and teaches the adult Sunday school class at Danville United Church of Christ. He attended Indiana University in the mid-70s where he played football and baseball. Terry is currently employed with District 118 as a teaching assistant at Southview Middle School.

**Ed Devore Whit**

Last seen in a regular season production three years ago, Ed has kept busy doing summer shows and as a board member. This cast has given him the opportunity to work with some of its members for the first time and with others in ways different than previously. “All in all each and every show brings new challenges and experiences and this one adds to many friendships and memories I’ve gained through the theater.” A special thank you goes to his wife Jamie for encouraging him to be a part of this show and her support.

**Ron Ball Sr. Crooks**

Ron is a native of Philadelphia and this is his first Red Mask production. He has performed in small productions during his career in the Marine Corps. Most recently Ron performed with the Laura Lee Fellowship House Players in “The Meeting” under the direction of the late Madeline Creek. Ron is employed at the Veteran’s Administration Medical center and lives in Danville with his wife Linda and their four children.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Dave Downing Director

"Of Mice and Men" marks Dave's fourth opportunity to direct for Red Mask. Dave previously directed "Ravenscroft", "Rumors", and "The Odd Couple," as well as "Once Upon A Mattress" for DLO. Dave is a Past President of the Red Mask board and a veteran of many productions in the Danville area. He is currently working on his thirty-first year with Ameritech. Dave is the father of five and grandfather of seven. Dave sends his love to the prettiest third grade teacher in town, his bride, Marty.

Sheryl Walsh Stage Manager

Sheryl has been involved in community theater since the summer of 1989, when her daughter Heather passed the theater bug on to her. She has been stage manager, props chairman, set construction, light and sound technician and on stage for over thirty-five shows for Red Mask, Danville Light Opera, Sunshine Productions, Greg Duckett's Academy, and the Beef House Dinner Theater. She is also on the technical support team at Second Church of Christ. Much love and thanks go out to Heather for her love and support.

Gail Garner Producer

Mr. Garner has led a tragic life but eventful life. He was kidnapped at birth by a troupe of traveling patent medicine peddlers. His childhood was spent running from town to town avoiding the authorities, hawking Dr. Feelgood's Muscle Relaxant. At the age of 6 he ran away and joined a commune in southern Maine where he raised wild cranberries for his meager existence. Finally at age 12 he was adopted by a kindly school teacher in Danville, Illinois. From that point on he led a typical Midwestern life, BORING, with the occasional escape offered by community theater.

Robert McIntire Producer

This is Bob's first assignment as producer for a Red Mask show. He has previously stage-managed the Red Mask Children's Theater production of "Anne of Green Gables" and has appeared in "The Wisdom of Eve" and "Harvey." Bob has also appeared in shows for Danville Light Opera, TFO Productions, The Station Theater, Beef House Dinner Theater, and Gregory's Academy, most recently as Clifton Feddington in DLO's "1940's Radio Hour." Thanks to Dave for the chance to work on a great production of a classic.



Clockwise from top left: Gail Garner, Robert McIntire, Sheryl Walsh, Dave Downing

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**Stage Manager**..... Sheryl Walsh  
**Producer**..... Gail Garner  
**Producer**..... Robert McIntire  
**Set Design**..... Dave Downing  
**Set Construction**..... B.J. Harvey, Gail Garner, Joe Sermersheim, Sonny Downing, Cast and Crew  
**Props**..... Wendy Barnes  
**Lights**..... Warren Frank  
**Sound**..... Henry Hunt  
**House Manager**..... David and Gaye Garner  
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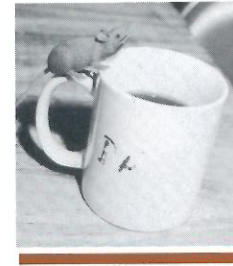
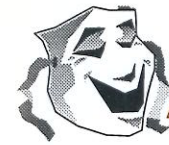
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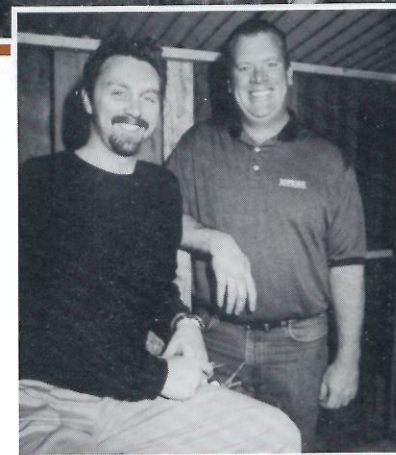
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