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The Sunshine Boys

by Neil Simon Directed by Harold Judy

In the Red Mask production of "*The Sunshine Boys*", the leading characters are two old vaudevillians patterned after the famous real-life comedy team of Smith & Dale.

Joe Sulyer and Charlie Marks met in 1898. A few years later they adopted the name of Smith & Dale to fit some unused posters which were for sale cheap. In 1906 they developed a sketch called "Dr. Kronkheit". The act proved to be so popular that Smith & Dale continued to repeat it for the next 62 years. They travelled many time across the country with the sketch and presented it for the final time at a benefit performance in 1968.

Like their counterparts in "*The Sunshine Boys*", Smith & Dale spent their final years together at an old actors' home. But the parallels end here. While the play stresses the hostility between the two comedians, Smith and Dale were life long friends.



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## Notes from the Director . . .

"Smith and Dale" — "Lewis and Clark" — "Andrews and Sperling".

The last two names are our "Sunshine Boys" and in six short weeks they have transformed Neil Simon's thinly-veiled story drawn from the lives of awo real vaudevillians into an evening of pure enjoyment. They are ably supported by a cast mixing young veterans and those on the Red Mask stage for the first time.

Andrews, one who has reached the Biblical number of "three score and ten" provides the relief needed from brash Sperling. It has been such a pleasure to see them grow into the characterizations needed to illustrate the time-span of the original players.

It is our pleasure to have had a small part in bringing together this cast and backstage crew to present one of the outstanding plays of recent seasons.

Harold Judy Director

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Due to program deadlines and continued membership sales it is difficult to obtain complete listings of Sponsors and Patrons for the first play of the season. We apologize for any omissions.

Our Director ...

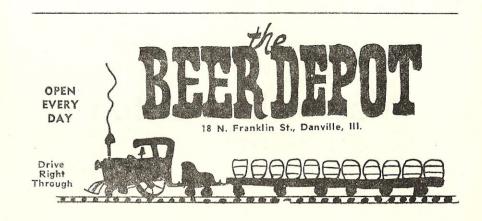
Harold Judy

"The Sunshine Boys" marks the sixth Red Mask play directed by Harold Judy. Prior to beginning his interest in directing, he had appeared in 13 theatre productions, winning the coveted "Katy" award as crotchety Sen. Seab Cooley in "Advise and Consent". His last appearance was in "Any Wednesday". He is currently a Red Mask Board Member and past president. Mr. Judy's wife, Barbara, an interior decorator, is also a past "Katy" winner. They have one son, Scott. Mr. Judy is operations manager of The Commercial-News.

Our Stage Manager . . .

Cyndy Williams

Cyndy's most recent association with Red Mask was as the Director of last spring's production of "*The Impossible Years*". She has been active back stage in many productions and has appeared on stage in "*Forty Carats*" and "*A Thousand Clowns*". A graduate of Eastern Illinois University as a theatre major, Cyndy is currently employed in the purchasing department at Time-O-Matic. She is also serving on the Red Mask Board of Directors.



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The Sunshine Boys

Synopsis of Scenes

#### ACT I

- Scene 1: Willie Clark's New York Apartment. Early afternoon, mid-winter.
- Scene 2: Willie's apartment. The following Monday. A few minutes before 11:00.

#### ACT II

Scene 1: A CBS Television Studio, One week later. Scene 2: Willie's apartment. Three weeks later. ....

A ten minute intermission will follow Act I. At this time restrooms, smoking facilities, and refreshments are provided at the lower level of the theatre. We request that smoking and refreshments be confined to the lower level.

\*

\*

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# Backstage and Behind the Scenes

Director Harold Judy
Stage Manager Cyndy Williams
Set Bob Montgomery, Bill Prast, Terry Koebrich
Lights Terry Koebrich, Ed Grove
Sound Bill Prast
Props Barb Cavanaugh, Deb Kotcher
Make-Up

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Cast of Characters

(In Order of Appearance)

Willie Clark	Max Sperling
Ben Silverman	David Van Soest
Al Lewis	Al Andrews
Patient	Terry Koebrich
Edie	Nancy Byrne
Nurse	Janet Bean
Registered Nurse	Alfreda Klingensmith



On Stage Jonight

Max Sperling (Willie)

Red Mask audiences will remember Max for his performance in last season's production of "*Last of the Red Hot Lovers*", his first acting experience. A native of Danville, Max was graduated from Danville High School and the University of Illinois. He operated his own business for 23 years prior to his present association with Mervis Industries. Max is active in the Danville Rotary Club, Congregation Israel, and is currently a Red Mask Board Member.

#### David Van Soest (Ben)

A French and Spanish teacher at East Park Junior High School, David's first Red Mask role was in last spring's production of "The Impossible Years". He also did some theatre work in high school.

#### Al Andrews (Al)

Making his debut on the Red Mask stage, Al came to Danville from LaGrange, Illinois. He retired from Peacock Jeweler's five years ago and is now affiliated with Spritz Jeweler's as a supervisor. Al's hobbies include collecting elephants and Buddhas.

#### Terry Koebrich (Patient)

Another Danville native, Terry's credits include eight Danville Light Opera shows including "Oliver", "Mame", and "The Unsinkable Molly Brown". He has done back stage work at Red Mask including lights and sound for "Plaza Suite".

#### Nancy Byrne (Edie)

This production marks Nancy's first Red Mask acting experience. A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, she is the Librarian at Jamaica High School.

#### Janet Bean (Nurse)

Janet has a B.S. and M.S. from Eastern Illinois University and is a teacher at Liberty School. She first appeared in last season's production of "Reserve Two for Murder".

#### Alfreda Klingensmith (Registered Nurse)

Another newcomer to the Red Mask stage, Alfreda teaches elementary general music in District 118. She is a member of the St. Paul's Church Choir and the Vermilion Festival Singers.

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Acknowledgements

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Coming Attractions

Red Mask Players . . .

TEN LITTLE INDIANS — Agatha Christie's chilling mystery February 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19

PLAY IT AGAIN SAM - Comedy by Woody Allen

April 29, 30, May 1, 5, 6, 7

Danville Light Opera ....

THE MUSIC MAN — April 15, 16, 17

PAINT YOUR WAGON — Fall, 1977

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Letter From The President ...

Dear Red Mask Members:

It is with pleasure I welcome you to our first adult production of the '76-'77 season. Director Harold Judy, his cast and crew have worked hard to bring you an excellent show — THE SUNSHINE BOYS.

During July our theatre hosted four fine college productions. In September Jean Lewis again did her fantastic job directing the Childrens Theatre. Red Mask recently joined the Illinois Community Theatre Association. The exterior of the building has undergone brick and metal repairs. A new roof has been installed. We have just completed a successful work day on the interior of the theatre.

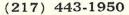
Your generous support during our recent membership drive was great! Board and committee members are working to give you a top notch season.

We are fortunate to have many fine community and school productions throughout the year. I would like to encourage you to share your enthusiasm for Red Mask with your friends and neighbors and give theatre arts in this part of Illinois your support.

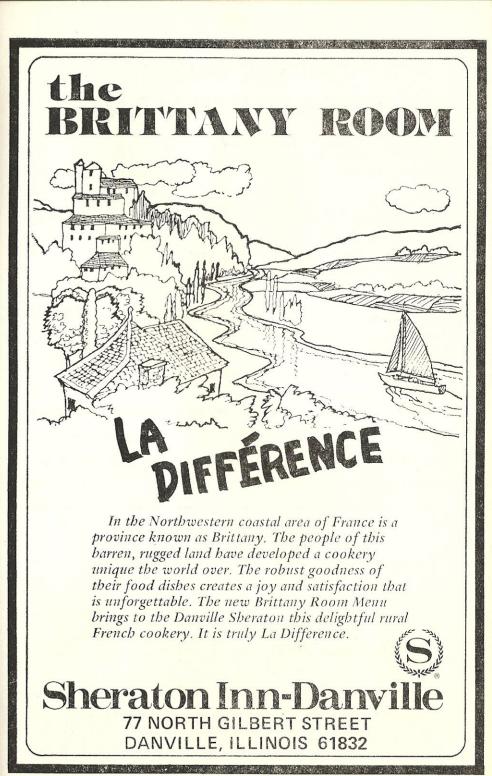
Sunshine Boys is now yours to enjoy! Have a good season.

Sincerely, James D. Beebe President, Red Mask

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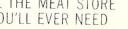
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Program Susan Frick
Program Advertising Joan Vogel

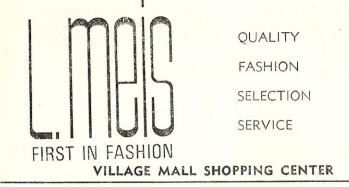
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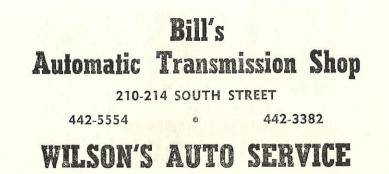
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Scholarship To Be Awarded . . .

This year Red Mask Players will be awarding a \$300.00 scholarship to a deserving student with a serious interest in theatre. Application procedures will be announced in the near future for the scholarship which will be presented in the spring.

Anyone wishing further information or desiring to contribute to the Scholarship Fund should contact Aggie Christman, Susan Frick, or Liz Miller.





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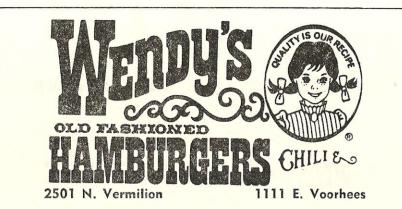
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Tryouts Set ...

Tryouts for *"Ten Little Indians"* will be held at the theatre on December 12 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. The production will be directed by Liz Miller and parts are available for eight men and three women.



An Open Invitation

Dear Friends of Red Mask,

Red Mask Players of Danville extend to you a warm invitation to join us in our exciting activities throughout the coming season.

With open arms we welcome new talent on our stage. Experienced actors and actresses are always in demand to handle major roles. And we are thrilled to have newly discovered talent make a debut on the Red Mask stage. Won't you watch the newspaper and our marquee for announcements of try-out dates.

In addition, backstage production work always has need for your skills. Would you be interested in set designing or construction, makeup, properties, costuming, publicity, ushering, programs, directing? If these or other areas as lighting, sound effects, and so on appeal to you, then come join us just "for the fun of it".

> Sincerely, Red Mask Players

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Danville Area Arts Council



Welcome Super Sixty!



Red Mask Players are very happy to welcome area senior citizens to two special performances of "*The Sunshine Boys*" being sponsored by Second National Bank.

Tickets have been distributed to Super Sixty members only, and the performances will be presented at 2:00 p.m. on November 13 and 20.

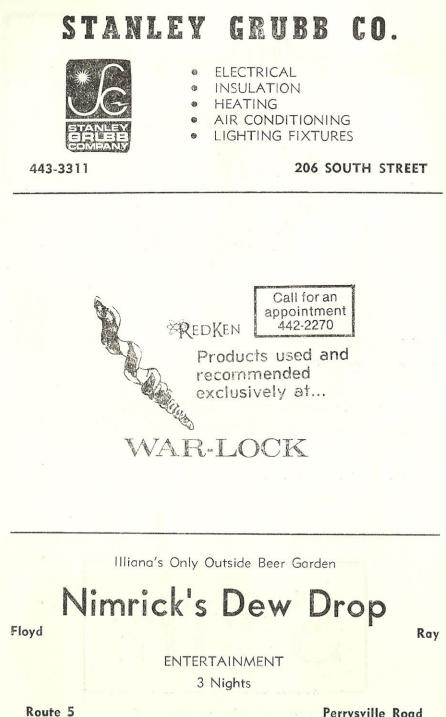
The "Senior Sunshine Boys" welcome you and hope you enjoy the show.



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