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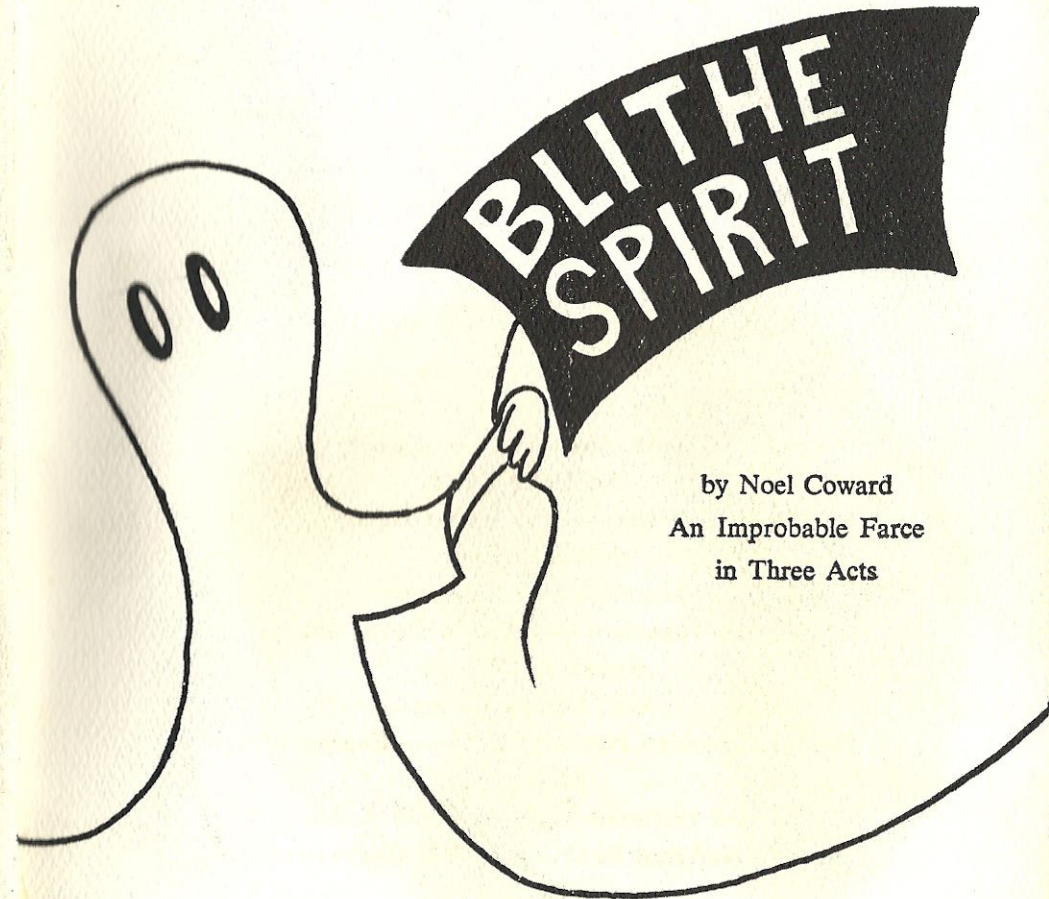
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# The Kathryn Randolph Theatre

Presents

*Red Mask Players*

in



by Noel Coward  
An Improbable Farce  
in Three Acts

May 3, 4, 5 — 9, 10, 11 — 1974

Arrangements with Samuel French, Inc.

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## *Blithe Spirit*

By Noel Coward

*Directed by H. Heath Acton*

May 3-4-5 9-10-11

What do you tell your living wife — when the ghost of your first wife moves in?

Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" is a farce spun so airily that there is no time for it to hit anything except the funny bone. "Blithe Spirit" shook the laughter rafters on Broadway for over a year, and enjoyed an equally successful run in London. Coward has written in "Blithe Spirit" a unique variation on the "eternal triangle," with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Condomine and the ghost of the husband's first wife, Elvira, compromising the triangle's principle angles.

Audiences have found the spirits of the farce pleasantly up-to-date and companionable.



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## Blithe Spirit

The action of the play passes in the living room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent.

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

#### ACT I

- Scene 1: Before dinner on a summer evening
- Scene 2: After dinner

#### ACT II

- Scene 1: The next morning
- Scene 2: Late the following afternoon
- Scene 3: Early evening a few days later

#### ACT III

- Scene 1: After dinner a few days later
- Scene 2: Several hours later

\* \* \* \* \*

A brief intermission will follow Act I. At this time restroom and smoking facilities and refreshments are provided at the lower level of the theatre.

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Our Director: H. Heath Acton

With Manor Barn Players of Kansas City, Missouri, Heath Acton appeared as Walter Hollander in *"Please Don't Drink the Water"*, as Dr. Montague in *"The Haunting of Hill House"* and in other hits. He recently directed Neil Simon's *"Come Blow Your Horn."* Earlier, Heath appeared with Red Mask as Noah in *"The Rainmaker."* In addition to his on-stage talents, Heath has worked off stage at production coordination, lighting, sound, and numerous other responsibilities.

Our Technical Director: Patty Ferris

Patty has appeared on the Red Mask stage in *"Monique"* and most recently in *"Everybody Loves Opal."* She has also worked backstage, but this show is her first time as technical director. Patty is a service worker with the Department of Public Aid.

Our Stage Manager: Erin Huckaba

Erin attended St. Mary of the Woods College in Indiana where she participated in backstage operations of drama productions. She is thoroughly enjoying Red Mask activities since joining earlier this year.

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Play Selection ..... Bess Castle, Ron McDaniel, Wilma Timm,  
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### PROPS

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2. Sue Wissler
3. Jane Webb

### LIGHTS

Matt Miller

### SOUND

Eric Ferris

### STAGE FURNISHINGS

Susan and Roger Frick

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Susie Brooks  
Sue Erickson  
Vi Lehrling  
Karen Balter

### SPECIAL EFFECTS

Terri McFarland  
Karen Balter  
Eric Ferris  
Patty Ferris  
Janet Mullen

### COSTUMES

Debbie Griffis  
Barb Vinson

### SET DESIGN

Bob Canetta

### SET CONSTRUCTION

Allison Cain  
Jonathan Cain  
Nora Cruikshank  
Lawry Ellis  
Geraldine Forsyth  
Keith Miller  
Janice Mullen  
Donna Prather  
Martha Ward  
Jeffrey W'mson  
Marsha Wynn

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# The Beer Depot

## *The Red Mask Cast of "Blithe Spirit"* (in order of their appearance)

Edith .....	Judy Kirk
Ruth .....	Liz Miller
Charles .....	Chuck Ferris
Dr. Bradman .....	Brad Huffman
Mrs. Bradman .....	Carol Jackson
Madame Arcati .....	Margaret Fitzgerald
Elvira .....	Barbara Judy

### *On Stage Tonight*

Madame Arcati played by Margaret FitzGerald

Margaret is the winner of three Red Mask Drama Awards for her roles in "Picnic", "Absence of A Cello" and "Arsenic And Old Lace". She is a veteran performer of many years, having appeared in such Red Mask hits as "Detective Story," "John Loves Mary," "The Gazebo," "Teahouse of The August Moon," "Man In The Dog Suit," "Born Yesterday," "Goodbye, My Fancy," "The Unwicked Witch," "Lily, The Felon's Daughter" and "Life With Father."

Margaret has also played supporting roles in Danville Light Opera productions including "Music Man," "Guys And Dolls," "Bye-Bye, Birdie" and "Mame."

She also appears as a regular performer in the Danville Junior Women's Club Follies.

Margaret is a graduate of the American Academy of Arts and is a commercial artist employed as an instructor in the Occupational Therapy Dept. of the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Ruth played by Liz Miller

Liz has appeared in a number of Red Mask hits including "Send Me No Flowers" and "Cactus Flower" for which she received a merit award. Off-stage Liz was the talented director of "Monique." Presently, Liz is

our Red Mask president, but in the past she has served in several other offices as well as on the board of directors. She is a speech therapist for the Vermilion County Schools, and her husband "Tex" is in guidance at Danville H.S. Matt and Marti are their children.

Elvira played by Barbara Judy

Barbara has had leads in a number of Red Mask productions including "John Loves Mary" and "Seven Year Itch." She holds a coveted Katy and two merit awards for Red Mask performances. Barbara has served on the board and has done back stage work also. She is the interior decorator for Sandusky's. Husband Harold is an active Red Masker. They have a son Scott.

Charles played by Chuck Ferris

Chuck recently appeared on the Red Mask stage in "Everybody Loves Opal". With Danville Light Opera he appeared in "Camelot". His lead roles include his performance in "Call Me Madame" with the Circle Theatre at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Chuck is executive director for Big Brothers — Big Sisters of Vermilion County. Wife Patty is our technical director for this show. They have a son Eric.

Edith played by Judith Kirk

Judy has appeared in Theatre 601 performances of "Spoon River Anthology" as well as in Danville Follies and Danville Light Opera. She is a microbiologist and will be attending the U. of I. this summer. Judy's husband Randy is with the Commercial-News.

Dr. Bradman played by Brad Huffman

Brad's major is acting and directing and he has worked in drama and oral interpretation at Danville Jr. College. He is making his debut on the Red Mask stage with this performance. Brad's mother and step-father are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Blackwell of Lake Blvd.

Mrs. Bradman played by Carol Jackson

A sophomore at Danville High Carol has participated in I.H.S.A. speech competition and is active in Drama Club. Carol has appeared in Red Mask children's plays. She plans to major in drama at college. Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Jackson are her parents.

5/3/74

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### *Notes From the Director . . .*

Thanks to Jean Henson Acton, a slightly tattered copy of Red Mask's 1945 production of "Blithe Spirit" came to my attention. The names on this program are legend to dedicated Red Maskers and include Bob Wright, C. H. Scholey, Mary Brandt, Ruth Tuggle, Guy Supple and many, many more. No sponsors, no patrons, and exactly 3 advertisements!

Today, almost 30 years later, Noel "Co'ards" veteran piece of theatre is again presented to Danville's theatre goers.

Thanks to an energetic and truly talented cast, an untiring crew, and Dr. Bob Canetta's D.J.C. stagecraft course students, we feel we have done justice to a jewel of a show.

My thanks to all who participated . . . it was a pleasure to direct.

H. Heath Acton



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### *An Open Invitation*

Among objectives for the coming season is new faces. We encourage participation in theatre activities by those in the area not previously active including high school and junior college students.

Those interested in the technical side of the theatre will join groups led by experienced backstage members.

Those interested in acting can try out for small parts and work up.

We need play directors with or without experience. Those people with drama schooling, directing, or acting experience should submit a short letter to Red Mask Players, Box 814, Danville, Illinois 61832. All applicants will be interviewed.

Dwight H. Sherer



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## *Curtain Talk*

I have mixed emotions while writing this final curtain talk for the season. I have been doing this either from the stage or in the program for two years now, and it's been a pleasure to keep in touch with our audiences. On the other hand, I'm rather relieved that someone else will have this responsibility, as well as the other responsibilities of the office, next year.

I am certainly pleased to report to you who that person will be. Dwight Sherer, who has been an active Red Masker for a number of years, and one of our most able set designers, will be our next president, with his term starting in July. Donna Prather, also a talented set artist, and member of both casts and crews, will assist him as vice president. Aggie Christman, who has appeared in plays and has been in charge of writing our programs, will be secretary, and Joan Vogel has kindly consented to serve another year as treasurer. With this leadership, next year is certain to be a productive season.

Members of the Board of Directors who retire this year are Bess Castle, Jack Wilkinson, and Liz Miller. Tonight all adult members have the opportunity to vote for the three new members to replace them.

Although it was a difficult decision to make, we have decided not to have a summer children's play this year. We are extremely proud of our children's theater program, and this is a temporary measure only, in order to keep the theater free this summer for planned rewiring and other improvements. Our fall children's play is already scheduled, however, for Sept. 27 and 28, with Jean Lewis directing.

Please note the plays scheduled for next year. It promises to be an excellent season. I hope you will all want to renew your memberships and will encourage your friends to join you for your "theater evenings" next year. Memberships are available now, and you may obtain yours tonight if you wish.

Thank you for being a kind and receptive audience during my presidency and for your continued support of Red Mask.

Liz Miller  
President

### NEXT SEASON'S PLAYS

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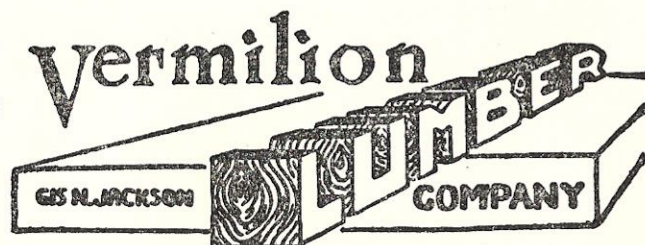
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