

**RED MASK PLAYERS**

PRESENT

# LAURA



**A Mystery in Three Acts By  
Vera Caspary and George Sklar**

**January 14-16, 21-23, and 28-29, 2011  
Kathryn Randolph Theater**



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# LAURA

**A Mystery  
in Three Acts by  
Vera Caspary  
and George Sklar**

**Based on the novel by  
Vera Caspary**



*Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service*

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the entire play takes place in the living room of Laura Hunt's apartment in New York City.

### ACT ONE

An evening in August

### ACT TWO

The next morning

### ACT THREE

That night

There will be a ten minute intermission between Act 1 and Act 2. 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.



Red Mask Players are funded in part by grants from the Illinois Arts Council and the Danville Area Arts Council.



RED MASK



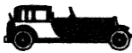
## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Red Mask Theater. It is our continued mission to entertain you with quality productions using local talent. Our first show, *Inherit the Wind*, certainly fulfilled our mission. What an outstanding production. And of course, there was **ECSETATS** (*Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)*), a holiday classic in its own right. We would like to thank you for your continued patronage; your support is greatly appreciated.

The Red Mask Players are delighted to present an old fashioned mystery, much in the vein of *The Maltese Falcon*, with plenty of villains, a beautiful woman, an Irish maid, and a wide array of suspects. Sit back, kick off your shoes (just joking) and lose those winter blahs as you try to outwit Detectives McPherson and Olsen and solve the case of the murdered maiden before they do.

*Gail Garner*

Red Mask Board President



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**A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

I love mysteries. As soon as I read this show I knew I wanted to direct it. This show was written and set in the 1940's. In the true style of a true "Who Done It", there are several suspects and any of them could be the one.

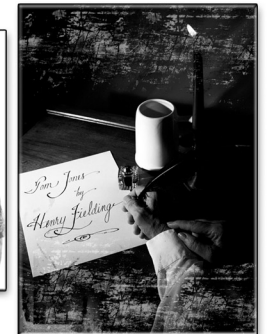
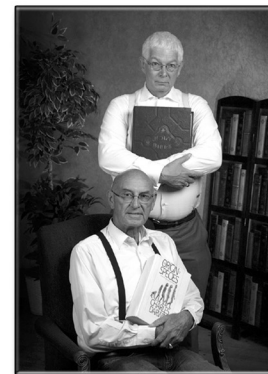
Laura Hunt was found killed in her apartment five days ago. Detective Mark McPherson has been trying to find out who did it. With the help, or lack thereof, from her friends, he has not gotten very far. They don't seem to know who could have wanted to kill her. At this time, Mark suspects everyone. Once they do start revealing some of what they do know, it's up to him to determine which one could be the killer.

We've had a good time rehearsing this so that it is presented the way the author intended. The cast is at its best and ready to give you a great show. So sit back and see if you can figure out the mystery before it is revealed. It will be an enjoyable evening filled with intrigue.

*Bev Nees*

Director

Best of Luck.....  
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Enjoy the show



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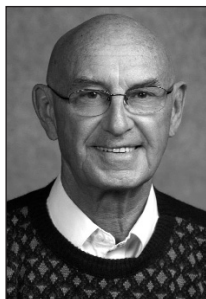
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ON STAGE



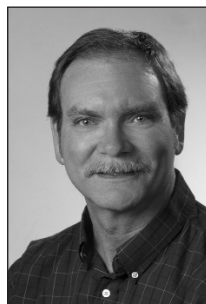
**Jim Crain** (*Mark McPherson*)

Jim is happy to be back on the Red Mask stage! He is a Danville native, recently returned from Port Charlotte, Florida, where he appeared in numerous shows with the Charlotte Players. Jim most recently appeared in the Red Mask production of *Inherit the Wind* in the Fall. He owns an antique and furniture shop at the old McMillan School on Georgetown Road. Jim wants to thank the entire cast and crew for their support in this show, and special thanks to his wife, "Mickie", for all her support!



**Jeffrey Miller** (*Danny Dorgan*)

Jeff Miller is excited to come back to the stage as "Danny" in his second Red Mask production. Although very involved in theater at Schlarman High School, Jeff took a break from acting while he was away for four years at Illinois State University. Having returned to Danville last year, the acting bug began to get to him again, and this last November he had the pleasure of being welcomed back to the stage by the exquisitely talented cast and crew of *Inherit the Wind*. Jeff would like to thank Debbie Prentice and all of the other cast and crew from *Inherit the Wind* for making his first experience with Red Mask a memorable one. Jeff would also like to thank his fiance, Katie, and all of his other friends and family for their support of his acting. And finally, to the cast and crew of *Laura*. "Let's break some legs!"



**J. Edward DeVore** (*Waldo Lydecker*)

Ed has been busy the past two seasons at Red Mask, appearing as Donald in *The Replacement*, and also appearing both last season and this season as countless characters in *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)*. He is excited to be in this cast, but especially in having the opportunity to be on stage with his lovely wife, Jamie. He would like to thank Bev and the casting committee for this opportunity, and also, for Jamie's belief in him. Ed would finally like to thank our patrons for their continued support of Community Theater, which allows us to bring quality entertainment to the Danville area.



**Jeff Romig** (*Shelby Carpenter*)

Jeff is thrilled to be in another Red Mask production. He was recently seen in *Inherit the Wind* as well as in Lincoln Park Theater Production of *The Sound of Music*. Jeff would like to thank his wife, Karen, and daughter, Karis, for their support and patience. He would also like to thank Red Mask for the memories that are being made.



**Gaye Garner** (*Bessie Clary*)

Gaye is happily back to the Red Mask stage after several years absence. Active both on and off stage since 1983, Gaye has done the full gamut of Red Mask jobs, including board member, director, stage manager, crew member and actress. She is a licensed attorney and currently an accounting major at St. Mary of the Woods College in Indiana. Being a poodle mom, cross-stitcher and Cardinal baseball fan are some other things that she does for fun. She is particularly glad to be in this show for Bev and to act again with some old friends. Much gratitude to the casting committee for giving me a part with an accent and this wonderful cast and crew.



**Allison Jordan** (*Mrs. Dorgan*)

Allison's first Red Mask experience was with Children's Theater 17 years ago. She has worked back stage in high school, as well as for the Red Mask Players. This is Allison's first role onstage, and has been enjoying this experience.



**Jamie I. DeVore** (*Laura Hunt*)

Jamie returns to the Red Mask stage after her directing debut for last season's *The Replacement*. She states that although she had a wonderful time directing, she is happy to be back under the lights, where she was last seen two years ago as Rosalind in *Moon Over Buffalo*. Other favorite roles include Bella in *Angel Street*, Rusty in *Goodbye Charlie*, and Fairy Mae in *The Curious Savage*. Jamie is also excited to be sharing the stage with her favorite actor and number one fan, husband, J. Edward DeVore, who "consistently challenges me to be a better actor." Jamie would like to thank Bev and the casting committee for the opportunity to portray Laura, and much love to her BFFs (and fashion consultants) Donna and Sue.



**Mark Wolfe** (*Olsen*)

This is Mark's third performance on the Red Mask stage. He has previously been seen in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* as Charlie Bucket and as Mr. Bannister in *Inherit the Wind*. Mark has also participated in LPTC *Sound of Music* as Baron Elberfeld as well as helping with set construction. Mark is an Oakwood native who has just recently joined the theater community and would like to thank the production team from *Laura* for allowing him to join an amazing ensemble of people on the Red Mask stage in this performance of *Laura*.

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# RED MASK



## PRODUCTION TEAM

### Bev Nees (*Director*)

Bev has been actively involved with Red Mask for over twenty years. She has been in many shows including *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Tom Jones*, *Harvey* and *The Foreigner*. This is her fourth time directing. The other shows she has directed were *My Three Angles*, *I Hate Hamlet* and *Desk Set*. She has also been back stage for many shows. Bev is thrilled to be able to direct this show. Mysteries are her favorite reading material. She wants to thank Rod for being such a wonderful husband and letting her have her "hobby".

### Gail Garner (*Stage Manager*)

Gail has been involved in Community Theater for over 20 years. He started with Sunshine Theater Company's *Kiss Me Kate* and has since worked with Danville Light Opera, Lincoln Park Theater Company, the Danville Symphony Orchestras theater productions as well as several plays with Red Mask Players. He spends most of his time behind the scenes building sets, assisting with props, acting as stage manager, producer, and even directing the Red Mask production of *Over the River and Through the Woods*. He appreciates the opportunities Community Theater affords him to pursue creative interests as well as to make new friends.

### Donna Sant (*Co-Producer*)

As I'm writing this, I am looking out the window at blizzard like conditions! We do theater because we love it; even in the middle of winter! I have been involved with this great theater for 30 years now. I have served in almost every capacity, and have been proud to do so. *Laura* gives me the opportunity to work with some dear friends, and I wish them all the best. We thank you, the audience, for coming out in the middle of winter, to support us here at the Kathryn Randolph Theater.

### Sue Harden (*Co-Producer*)

Sue has been actively involved with Red Mask since 1993, from having worked backstage on numerous shows (props to stage manager and directing) to being onstage. During the day, she works at Dukes, Ryan, Meyer, Freed & McMasters, Ltd. as a legal secretary. She would like to thank Bev for asking her to co-produce with her BFF, Donna Sant, for this show, the cast and crew and, of course, her husband and her loving Augie Doggie.

*Best Wishes on a Successful Season*



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RED  MASK

**JEAN LEWIS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Named after the founder of Red Mask Children's Theater, the Jean Lewis Scholarship is an annual award of \$750 to a student planning a career in the theater, performing arts, or a directly related area such as speech or radio/television. Area high school students as well as university or community students are eligible to apply. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate their ongoing interest in theater by their past participation in local theater opportunities. Performing artists will be asked to audition as part of their application. Along with a completed application, those seeking the scholarship funds must submit two letters of recommendation. Completed applications must be postmarked by April 8, 2011.

Guidelines and applications are available at our website [www.redmaskplayers.com/getting-involved](http://www.redmaskplayers.com/getting-involved), and after January 14, 2011 from guidance counselors, speech teachers, or drama departments at area high schools and from the DACC Communication Department.

Mail completed applications to:  
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 Red Mask Scholarship Committee  
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**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**Auditions for Red Mask Spring Show – *Romantic Fever***

January 30 & 31, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.  
Performances – March 25-27, April 1-3 & 8-9, 2011

**Danville Light Opera Winter (dinner) Show**

*A My Name Will Always Be Alice*

Performances – February 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.; February 19, 2011 at 11:30 a.m.;  
February 19, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. and February 20, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.  
At DACC Bremer Auditorium

**Auditions for Danville Light Opera Spring Show –**

*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* - February 27 & 28, 2011

Performances – May 6, 7 & 8, 2011 at DACC Bremer Auditorium

**Danville Symphony Orchestra**

*The History & Mystery of England* - March 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

**Flamenco Fire** - April 30, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

**Children’s Concert** - May 3, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

**BEHIND THE SCENES**

- Director**..... Bev Nees
- Stage Manager**..... Gail Garner
- Co-Producers**..... Donna Sant and Sue Harden
- Set Design**..... Bev Nees and Gail Garner
- Set Construction**..... Bimba, Simba & Wolfe
- Lighting Design**..... J. Edward DeVore
- Sound Design**..... Mike Boedicker
- Lights & Sound**..... Amanda Coutant and Jim Wolfe
- Props**..... Barb Garner, Mary Anne Cecil
- Hair & Make-up**..... Mary Anne Cecil
- Costumes**..... Nancy Henderson and Cast
- House Managers**..... Jamey Coutant and Judie Barrett
- Box Office**..... Ron Soderstrom
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