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### Inside this Issue

Crazy for You Auditions .....	2
Board of Governors News .....	2
The 2008-2009 Season .....	3
The Mousetrap Rehearsal Pictures ....	4

## THE "MOUSETRAP" IS SET AT COMMUNITY PLAYERS

by John Lieder

It is 1952. Five visitors are snowbound in a rural English guesthouse. A mad murderer is on the loose and may already be among them. A young detective arrives via snow skis to attempt to prevent another murder. Such is the setting for this riveting whodunit by renowned mystery writer Agatha Christie. Playing the proprietors of Monkswell Manor, Giles and Mollie Ralston, are **Brett Cottone** and **Kristi Zimmerman**.

Staying at the manor are five unusual characters, each of whom could be either the murderer or the next victim: The young, eccentric architect Christopher Wren (**Brian Artman**), the stuffy Mrs. Boyle (**Nancy Nickerson**), the steadfast Major Metcalf (newcomer **Joe Strupek**), the beguiling Miss Casewell (**Hannah Kerns**) and the mysterious Mr. Paravacini (**Herb Reichelt**). Last to arrive on the scene is Detective Sergeant Trotter (**John Bowen**).

With only eight characters in the play, each role is sizeable. Every actor is given ample opportunity to shine and each delivers. Under the direction of **Penny Wilson**, each actor has developed unique and engaging characters that are fun to watch.

The set is the result of the collaboration of **Charles Maaks**, **Bruce Parrish** and **Jeremy Stiller**. They have successfully created the cozy grand room of Monkswell Manor, complete with fireplace, where all the action of the play takes place.

The set is beautifully enhanced by **Mark Wright's** lighting design. Penny has corralled husband **Alan Wilson** to do costume design; **Dorothy Mundy** is gathering props; **Rich Plotkin** is Sound Designer. Yours truly is producer. **Charles Andrews** is doing yeoman's work in his first gig on a production team, helping out Penny and the cast as Assistant Director.

Hannah Kerns' parents, both natives of England, are contributing to the production as well. **Carol Mittrick** is dialect coach and **Tony Mittrick** provides the "Voice on the Radio."

*The Mousetrap* has the distinction of having the longest initial run of any play in history, with nearly 28,000 performances and counting since its opening in 1952. Here at Players the run will last only three weekends, beginning with the Preview "pay what you can" performance on Thursday, January 10. Regular performances are January 11-13, 17-20 and 24-26. As usual, all evening performances begin at 7:30 and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30.

*Rehearsal pictures from The Mousetrap can be found on page four.*



## COMMUNITY PLAYERS Calendar

January - February 2008

### Board Meetings

Jan. 8, 6:00 p.m.  
Feb. 12, 6:00 p.m.  
Community Players Theatre

### The Mousetrap

Preview: Jan. 10  
Shows: Jan. 11-13, 17-20, 24-26

### Crazy for You

Auditions: Jan. 13-15  
Preview: Feb. 28  
Shows: Feb. 29-Mar. 2, 6-9, 3-16

Tickets can be ordered online at  
[www.communityplayers.org](http://www.communityplayers.org).  
Click on "Online Ticket Sales."



### Community Players

201 Robinhood Lane  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-663-2121  
[www.communityplayers.org](http://www.communityplayers.org)

### Newsletter Committee

Jim Kalmbach  
John Lieder  
Bob McLaughlin  
Roland Spies  
Joann Yant

We are always looking for writers, artists, designers and story ideas. Send comments and suggestions to [lieder78@yahoo.com](mailto:lieder78@yahoo.com)

*Curtain Calls* is published six times a year for the voting members of Community Players.

For information about joining us, please contact the membership chair, Roland Spies at [roland.spies.gqt9@statefarm.com](mailto:roland.spies.gqt9@statefarm.com).

Back issues of *Curtain Calls* are available on the Community Players web site. Click on "Newsletter Archive."

## Crazy for You Auditions Coming Soon

Community Players is pleased to announce that it will be staging *Crazy for You* as the final musical of its 2007-2008 season. The production team includes Director **Alan Wilson**, Choreographer **Marsha Taylor**, Music Director **Reggie Spears** and Producer **Dave Lemmon**. The show will begin with a preview on February 28 and then run for 11 performances, Feb. 29-March 2, March 6-9, and 13-16.

This energetic musical comedy is an updated version of the Gershwin brothers' *Girl Crazy* and includes classic songs like "Someone to Watch Over Me," "I Got Rhythm," and "Embraceable You." Bobby Childs, a young banker, heads west to a dude ranch and helps convince the folks in a sleepy Western town to put on a show. Lots of great singing and dancing ensues.



The cast includes principle roles for 5 men and 5 women and a chorus of at least 8 men and 8 women of various ages. The production team has set a lower age limit of 16 for auditioners. Auditions will be held at the theater on Robinhood Lane on January 13, 14, 15 & 16 at 7 p.m., although Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> is at the discretion of the director for dance callbacks – come a few minutes early in order to complete the audition form so that we may begin promptly at 7.

Those auditioning should be dressed for movement in order to participate in the dance portion of the audition. Also, please prepare 16-24 bars of a song. Bring sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Sorry, no CD's or a cappella allowed. In addition, auditioners will read scenes from the script.



## Board of Governors Announces New Harrassment Policy

Community Players is committed to its volunteers' safety and comfort. And as part of that commitment, the Board of Governors has adopted a Harassment Policy. This policy will go into effect as of January 1, 2008.

The policy outlines rules for personal conduct while participating in a Community Players production, as well as preventative measures, reporting procedures and possible consequences of violating the policy rules. Each participant/volunteer will be asked to sign an agreement at the beginning of

each production that will stay in affect for one calendar year.

A copy of the policy will be available on the Community Players website ([www.communityplayers.org/theatre.html](http://www.communityplayers.org/theatre.html)) under the button labeled "The Theatre," along with the constitution and bylaws. If you have any questions, please contact a Community Players board member or email the board at [communityplayers@verizon.net](mailto:communityplayers@verizon.net).

# Players Announces 2008-2009 Season

by Bob McLaughlin

Community Players is pleased to announce the slate of shows for our eighty-sixth season. We are also issuing a call for directors, producers, and other staff positions for these shows.

This is what might be called a people's choice season. During the run of *Big River* last spring, audience members were given a survey with their programs asking them to select the shows they would most like to see. Three of the shows for this season are the top vote-getters from this survey in the categories of drama, comedy, and musical. We are also producing two shows that are not part of the regular subscription season: our annual summer fund raiser and the second in our new series of lab shows.

## The 2008-2009 season

*Disney's High School Musical* (Musical)

by Peter Barsocchini

Preview: July 10

Performances: July 11-13, 17-20, 24-27, 2008

This popular teen musical will be our summer fund raiser. Based on the highly successful Disney television film, this modern retelling of *Romeo and Juliet* focuses on the captain of the basketball team and a shy transfer student who get the lead parts in their high school musical and, as a result, divide the school. Resisting peer pressure and rivalry, they inspire others not to "stick with the status quo." It is filled with infectious songs and dances.

*Steel Magnolias* (Drama)

by Robert Harling

Preview: Sept. 4

Performances: Sept. 5-7, 11-14, 18-20, 2008

A group of gossipy southern ladies in a small-town beauty parlor share their lives and loves. The play is deeply revealing of the strength and purposefulness that underlie the antic banter of its characters. The sudden realization of their mortality draws on the underlying strength—and love—that the characters share through good times and bad.

*Guys and Dolls* (Musical)

Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser

Preview: Oct. 23

Performances: Oct. 24-26, 30-Nov. 2, 6-9, 2008

This is one of the great shows from the golden age of the musical theater. Join a group of lovable gamblers as they desperately hunt for a place for a floating crap game. See if gangster Sky Masterson can get mission-doll Sarah Brown to spend the night in Havana. Will perpetual fiancée Adelaide manage to get Nathan Detroit to the altar? Can the gamblers beat the odds and save their souls? This classic musical features such songs as "I've Never Been in Love Before," "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat," and "Luck Be a Lady."

*The Woman in Black* (Mystery)

by Stephen Mallatratt

Performances: Nov. 20-22, 2008

This is the second **Community Players Lab Show**. In this two-person suspenseful thriller, a lawyer hires an actor to act out one of the most frightening experiences of his life. Who is the woman in black, and why does her appearance always presage death?

*Harvey* (Comedy)

by Mary Chase

Preview: Jan. 15

Performances: Jan. 16-18, 22-25, 29-31, 2009

Meet Elwood P. Dowd, whose best friend is a "pooka" named Harvey—a six-foot, three and one half-inch-tall rabbit that only he can see. His family wants him committed to an asylum, but this heart-warming comedy asks if there are advantages to being a little crazy.

*Squabbles* (Comedy)

by Marshall Karp

Preview: Feb. 26

Performances: Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 5-8, 12-14, 2009

Abe Dreyfus, a cantankerous widower, moves in with his daughter Alice and her husband Jerry, who are expecting their first child. Things get even more complicated when Mildred, Jerry's mother, comes looking for a place. The relationship between Abe and Mildred gets off to a rocky start and sparks begin to fly in more ways than one.

continued on page 4 . . .



. . . 2008 Season continued from page 3

*Urinetown the Musical* (Musical)

Book and Lyrics by Greg Kotis, Music and Lyrics by Mark Hollmann

Preview: April 30

Performances: May 1-3, 7-10, 14-17, 2009

Imagine a place where water is so scarce that you have to pay to pee! Don't have enough change? Then the constabulary will haul you off to Urinetown. This award-winning satire pokes fun at capitalism, socialism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, petty small-town politics, and just about everything else. The hilarious score parodies everything from *The Cradle Will Rock* to *West Side Story*.

**Applications for directing, producing, music directing, choreographer,** and other staff positions can be found on the Community Players website, [http://www.communityplayers.org/shows\\_next.html](http://www.communityplayers.org/shows_next.html) or they can be picked up at the box office. Send completed applications to Sally Parry, 1509 East Grove Street, Bloomington, IL, 61701, or e-mail them to [separry@ilstu.edu](mailto:separry@ilstu.edu) by January 26, 2008.

We thank the members of Play Reading Committee for their work in developing this season: **Sally Parry** (chair), **Edie Arteman**, **Brian Artman**, **Karen Clark**, **Bruce Parrish**, **Reena Rhoda**, **Deb Smith**, **Tom Smith**, and **Cathy Sutliff**.



Mr. and Mrs. Ralston (**Brett Cottone** and **Kristi Zimmerman**) share concerns about the guests.

***The Mousetrap:***  
**Rehearsal Pictures**

Sgt. Trotter (**John Bowen**, center) interrogates the Ralstons and guests.

