

STAGE COACH PLAYERS
PROUDLY PRESENT

PLAY ON!

a comedy by

RICK ABBOT

DIRECTED BY

BERNIE SCHUNEMAN

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

JAN BOOTH

"PLAY ON!" is presented by special
arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

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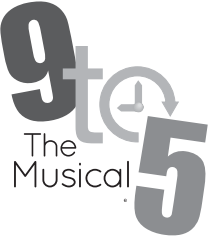
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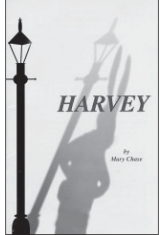
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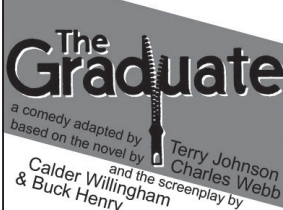
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PLAY ON!

Time: The Present

Locale: The Stage of a Community Theatre

Act One

A rehearsal of Phyllis Montague's "Murder Most Foul"

-INTERMISSION-

Act Two

The dress rehearsal of their play

-INTERMISSION-

Act Three

Opening night of their play

There will be gunshots fired during the performance.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Aggie Manville – a stage manager and prompter. Lynn O’Toole
Geraldine “Gerry” Dunbar – a community theatre director . Darlene Hillman
Henry Benish (“Lord Dudley”) – a character actor Jason Reed
Polly Benish (“Lady Margaret”) – a character actress. Barb Kolb
Marla “Smitty” Smith (“Doris the Maid”)-a supporting player. . Roxanne Torian
Saul Watson (“Doctor Rex Forbes”) - a villain Steve Challgren
Billy Carewe (“Stephen Sellers”) - a juvenile. Jeff Heider
Violet Imbry (“Diana Lassiter”) – an ingénue Marie George
Louise Peary – a sound-and-lighting and scenic technician. Rachel Saltz
Phyllis Montague – a novice playwright in the community Teresa Haish

Production Team

Director Bernie Schuneman
Assistant Director/Stage Manager. Jan Booth
Assistant Stage Managers. Sara Schuneman, Wendy Tritt
Set Designers / Set Dressers. Bernie Schuneman, Wendy Tritt, Barb Kolb,
Marie George
Costume Design Janet Rosenberg
Properties. Sara Schuneman
Sound Design Bernie Schuneman, Bill Gardner
Sound Board Operator Bernie Schuneman
Lighting Design. Bob Cain, Mark Hunyard
Light Board Operator Andee Larson
Hair and Makeup Kelly Bolander
Publicity Diane Lyon
Marketing Marie George, Kim Moorman
Set Construction Neil Colwell, Bernie Schuneman, Bob Cain, Scott
Morris, Steve Challgren, Rebekah Challgren, Wendy Tritt, Jeff Heider, Marie
George, Aaron George, Rick Bivens, Lynn O’Toole, Tim O’Toole, Jason Reed,
Teresa Haish, Sara Schuneman, Kevin Pajor, Barb Kolb, Rachel Saltz, Jan Booth

Director's Notes

When I was asked if I would be willing to direct *Play On!* for this summer's season opener I jumped at the chance. The main reason was that this was the first show for which I auditioned at SCP back in 1990. I had the pleasure of playing Henry Benish in that show, and have been more and more involved in the organization ever since. The second reason was that this is truly one of the funniest shows I've ever had the pleasure of reading. As I sat on my porch 25 years ago and read the full script for the first time I literally laughed out loud. I knew that if the audiences found the show even half as funny as I did that we'd have a successful run. They did, and we did. The third reason I wanted to do this show is that while the errors and situations in the show may seem far-fetched to our audiences, they actually DO happen. I've had costumes tear, and guns misfire. I've missed entrances, botched musical cues and I have seen actors go on with costumes truly held together with actual duct tape. While terrifying at the time, it is these experiences that linger on in the minds of the actors and the lore of the theater. I've long since forgotten my lines from when I appeared in *Man of La Mancha* in 1989, but I'll never forget the terror of watching the leading lady stalk off stage as she whispered to me, "Stall, I forgot the missive!" I spent 25 of the longest seconds of my life watching her dig through a stack of props looking for a little rolled up piece of paper that she needed to have so that I could "steal" it from her. All I could do was grin stupidly at the audience and my fellow "muleteers." We hope you'll enjoy those moments of terror from our little band of players and that they'll stick with you as well.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Steve Challgren (Saul Watson/Dr. Forbes/Stanley Grimes) - Steve first became involved with Stage Coach Players 13 years ago and is excited to be appearing in his tenth show with SCP. Some of his favorite previous roles include Harker in *Dracula*, Stanley Banks in *Father of the Bride*, and Arnold Crouch in *Not Now, Darling*. He is thrilled to be a part of such a fun and talented cast. Steve lives in DeKalb with his wife and two daughters and would like to thank them for all of their love and support.



Marie George (Violet/Diana Lassiter) - Marie is blessed to be a part of such a great group of actors and wants to thank Bernie and Jan for believing in

her for the role of Violet/Diana. Marie enjoys working behind the scenes as a chair of PR/Marketing for the SCP, painting sets, and stage managing. She recently stepped into the spotlight in *Shrek*, *Annie* and a reprise of *Bill W. And Dr. Bob*. She sends a big thanks to Stage Coach Players for adopting her and her husband into the family, and love to her beau Aaron for his unyielding support.



Teresa Haish (Phyllis Montague) - Teresa Haish is delighted to perform the role of Phyllis Montague in Rick Abbot's *Play On!* You may have seen her

in past SCP productions of *Rumors*, *Play It Again Sam*, *The Dining Room*, or *Rope*. When not working her day job for Chicago Title, Teresa enjoys volunteering at church, cooking, and yoga. Teresa

thanks her husband for enduring many evenings alone to support her thespian hobby. Enjoy the show!



Jeff Heider (Billy/Stephen Sellers) - Jeff is so happy to be back at Stage Coach! Previous SCP roles include Chip in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling*

Bee and Smudge in *Forever Plaid*, a role he went on to play professionally. A former skipper at Walt Disney World's Jungle Cruise, Jeff now lives in Batavia and works as an American Sign Language interpreter. He thanks his family and friends for constant support and severe enthusiasm! As always, Jeff dedicates his performance to the memory of Skipper Joe Daversa, who convinced him that he belongs on the stage.



Darlene Hillman (Gerry) - Darlene

last appeared on stage in the Black Box Production at SCP this winter. Some of her stage roles throughout her 20-plus years of involvement with SCP include *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *And Then There Were None*, *Noises Off*, *The Shadow Box*, *The Pink Panther Strikes Again*, and *Auntie Mame*. She can more routinely be seen backstage where she most recently served as stage manager for *The Lion in Winter*. She has served on the SCP board several times and has been honored with the SCOTY award. Her most unique opportunity in acting was working on a movie set for the HBO movie *Normal*, where she was Jessica Lange's stand-in and body double. Her favorite 'role' to date is that of Grandma to her seven grandchildren. During the daylight hours, Darlene serves as the

office manager at Immanuel Lutheran Church.



Barb Kolb (Polly/Lady Margaret) - Barb has been active at Stage Coach for the past 15+ years. By day, she's a graphic designer and a mom of three. Recent

performances include *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *Not Now, Darling* and *Play It Again, Sam*. She has also designed sets for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *It Runs in the Family*.



Lynn O'Toole (Aggie) - Lynn is making her Stage Coach Players debut. In fact, this is her overall stage debut! She would like to thank Bernie and Jan for this

opportunity, and her family and friends for all their wonderful love and support. She is the proud mother of four, and sends a special thank you to her hubby, Tim, for rehearsing the roles of all the other players!



Jason Reed (Henry/Lord Dudley) - Jason is excited to be a part of this fantastic ensemble. This is his first comedy with Stage Coach

Players, but not his first show. His favorite roles with SCP include Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol* and David in *To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday*. As always, he dedicates this show to his wife, Alecia. She taught him that saying, "Yes, dear," is an art form that takes a lifetime to master.



Rachel Saltz (Louise)

– Rachel is an artist at heart, having been revived and inspired when Stage Coach welcomed her as a stagehand in *Red*

Herring two seasons ago. Her work with *Red Herring* led to her doing painting for *The Lion in Winter* and *Arsenic and Old Lace* at SCP. This is Rachel's first time on stage, and she is honored to be cast as one of the many behind-the-scenes workers that help a show to run smoothly (hopefully!). When she is not painting, Rachel can be found playing the cello, walking her dog, or scanning documents at NIU. She thanks you all for coming and hopes you enjoy your evening watching us Play On!



Roxanne Torian

(Smitty/Doris) -

Involved in the theatre since a very young age, Play On! is Roxanne's 23rd show. She has been involved with

Stage Coach Players since 2012, and is thrilled to have the opportunity to play Smitty. Recent roles at Sycamore High School include the evil stepsister, Portia, in *Cinderella* and Rosemary in *Picnic*. Roxanne would like to thank her friends in SCARJ for supporting her, and her parents too. She has had a wonderful time throughout the course of this production, and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Bernie Schuneman

(Director) - Bernie Schuneman has been a member of Stage Coach since 1989 when he stumbled into a part in *Man of La Mancha*.

Since then he has acted, directed, built sets, run lights, served on the board, and, as a member of the weekly work-crew, doing whatever needs to be done to

keep the building functioning. He is a past winner of the SCOTY award and of the Lucille Aikins Lifetime Achievement Award. Favorite roles include the MC in *Cabaret*, Tevey in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Of course, playing Henry in the 1990 production of *Play On!* was what started him on this long strange trip, as it was the first show for which he ever auditioned here. He would like to thank his loving wife, Nancy, and his darling daughter, Sara, for their unfailing help and support, and Jan for her endless patience.



Jan Booth (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) - Jan has been a part of Stage Coach Players for many years, both on stage and off.

She was most recently seen in the 2015 Black Box production. She has served on the SCP board of directors and has received the SCOTY award. This year, she and her husband, David, were honored to receive the Lucille Aikins Lifetime Achievement award. When not at the theater, Jan serves as adjunct faculty for Concordia University and trains her dogs for agility competitions.



Sara Schuneman (Assistant Stage Manager/Props) - Sara is so pleased to be a part of this hilarious show with such a fantastic group of

people. She has been involved with over 25 shows at SCP, both onstage and off, and is a current member of the Stage Coach board of directors. Some of her favorite shows with which she's been involved at Stage Coach have been *Forever Plaid*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Company*, and last December's *White Christmas*. When not playing at the theater, Sara works as an

x-ray/MRI tech at Kishwaukee Hospital, and is proud Mama to an adorable border collie/lab mix named Moses. She would like to thank Jan and her dad, Bernie, for helping her learn this new role, and her wonderful boyfriend, Kevin, for being so endlessly supportive.



Wendy Tritt (Assistant Stage Manager) - Wendy is thrilled to learn a new role behind the scenes in *Play On!*, serving as a SMIT (Stage Manager in Training) with Sara. Many

thanks to Jan and Bernie for showing her the ropes! She has provided set design for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *9 to 5 The Musical*, and was set dresser for *Arsenic and Old Lace*. On stage roles with Stage Coach include *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Wife of Judah* in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Ms. Krumholtz in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and most recently as Margaret Pommerance in *9 to 5 The Musical*. She is looking forward to her first non-musical performance this fall as Mrs. Braddock in *The Graduate*. This cast has been so fun to laugh with. Enjoy the show!



Janet Rosenberg

(Costumes) - Janet has worked behind the scenes at Stage Coach Players for the past six seasons. She loves helping actors

realize their vision of their characters with costumes and props. Her favorite costume challenges in recent years have been costuming six actors as 57 characters in *The Dining Room*, as well as creating fantasy costumes for *Cinderella*, *Shrek* and *White Christmas*. Janet would like to thank Bernie and the others involved in *Play On!* for the opportunity to be a part of this talented and dedicated group.

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