

(815) 758-1940 | stagecoachers.com

Oct 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 2016 @ 7:30 pm
Oct 23, 30, 2016 @ 2:00 pm



STAGE COACH PLAYERS PRESENTS



WHO DUNNIT?

THE GAME'S AFOOT

WRITTEN BY KEN LUDWIG DIRECTED BY AMANDA SMOTHERS



Sponsored by Rep. Bob Dritchard



Show your *The Game's Afoot* ticket and receive a

FREE APPETIZER

with purchase of a meal.

642 E. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 756-1201

*Appetizer value up to \$8. Valid from Thurs., Oct. 20, to Sun., Oct. 30, 2016.
Dine-in only. One free appetizer per table per visit.*



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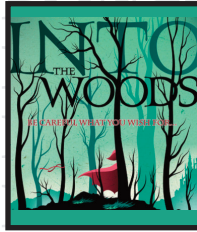
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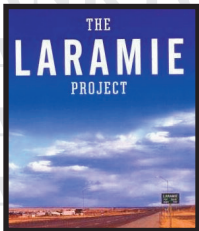
KishHealth System

March 10 to 20, 2016



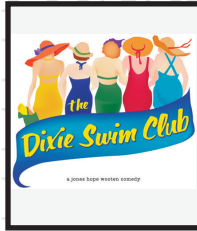
Anonymous

August 11 to 21, 2016



Jerry & Annette Johns

April 28 to May 6, 2016



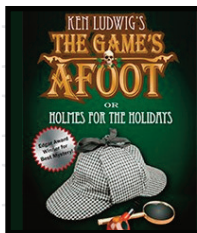
Stage Coach Players

September 15 to 25, 2016



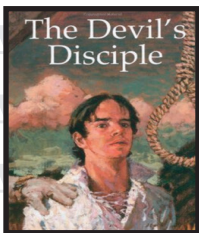
KishHealth System

June 2 to 12, 2016



Rep. Bob Pritchard

October 20 to 30, 2016



Stage Coach Players

July 7 to 17, 2016



First Midwest Bank

Nov. 26 to Dec. 4, 2016

Stage Coach Players

PRESENTS

The Game's Afoot

Written by Ken Ludwig

It is December 1936 and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his leading role in the play Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. Then it's up to Gillette himself, as he assumes the persona of his beloved Holmes, to track down the killer before the next victim appears. The danger and hilarity are non-stop in this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.

Directed by

Amanda Smothers

Production Team

Scott Montavon, Set Designer

Scott Montavon, Master Builder

Amanda Smothers, Costume Designer

Mark Hunyard, Lighting Designer

Jason Ostenburg, Lighting Assistant

Amanda Smothers, Abbey Lippert, &

Kelsey Hoyle, Properties Directors

Allison Hunter, Sound Designer

Abbey Lippert, Stage Manager

The Game's Afoot is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by Samuel French, Inc.

45 W. 25th Street, New York, NY 10010

Phone 866-598-8449 | Fax 221-206-1429

www.samuel french.com

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Photography of any kind is prohibited.

Cast List

(In Order of Appearance)

Felix Geisel.....	Scott Montavon
William Gillette.....	Denny Boynton
Aggie Wheeler.....	Bonnie Miller
Madge Geisel	Christy Torian
Simon Bright.....	Michael Mattingly
Martha Gillette	Kathy Hewitt
Daria Chase.....	Amaria Von Dran
Inspector Goring.....	Gloria Dennison

Setting

The living room of the mansion of William Gillette on the Connecticut River near East Haddam, Connecticut

Time

December 1936

Act 1 Scene 1

Act 1 Scene 2

Act 1 Scene 3

15 minute intermission

Act 2 Scene 1

Act 2 Scene 2

Director's Notes

After seeing a production of *The Game's Afoot* at Drury Lane, I was motivated to direct the show myself. I was inspired by the story and its playful mix of comedy, thrills, and mystery, so I was thrilled when I was asked to direct the show this year at Stage Coach Players!

My PhD in English, specializing in nineteenth-century British literature, has given me a strong background of analysis and familiarity with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his beloved Sherlock Holmes stories. This knowledge helped me breathe life into this fictionalized story of the actor who made Holmes famous on stage: William Gillette. You'll learn a bit about Gillette in this play, but essentially, he wrote and starred in his stage play featuring Sherlock Holmes and appeared on stage as Holmes over 1,300 times over a span of three decades. While Sidney Paget, a Victorian illustrator for Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories appearing in *The Strand* magazine, originated and popularized the image of Holmes in the deerstalker cap, Gillette was the first to depict Holmes with a curved pipe in his depiction of the famous detective. Our play takes place in December 1936, but the real Gillette died in April of 1937 at the ripe age of 83. Thus, the events of the story are fabricated, but Gillette really did build a castle in Connecticut, which still stands in Gillette Castle State Park, open to visitors if you are interested in a trip to the East Coast!

I hope that my take on Ken Ludwig's hilarious and startling play proves entertaining to you, our audience! My amazing cast and crew have done a remarkable job bringing my vision for the show to life, and I would be remiss not to thank them liberally for their diligence and commitment. Thank you all for being spectacular!

Special Thanks

Thank you to all those who helped bring Gillette Castle to life: David and Jan Booth, Lynn and Tim O'Tool, Todd Pope, Scott Montavan, Gloria Dennison, Roberta Maxfield, Kelsey Hoyle, Abbey Lippert, Bonnie Miller, Mike Mattingly, and Denny Boynton.

Thank you to Tom and Shari Pearcy for the beautiful settee.

Kishwaukee College Theatre Presents
Love Letters
written by *A. R. Gurney*
directed by *Nadine Franklin*
Tickets on sale at the door.

November 9 – 12th
7:30 pm

Students/Seniors/Staff: \$8
General Public: \$10
Kishwaukee College
21193 Malta Road • Malta, Illinois 60150

For more information
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nadine.franklin@kishwaukeecollege.edu

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hairspray
The Broadway Musical
Directed by: Jan Kuntz
Musical Direction by: John Feken
auditions!

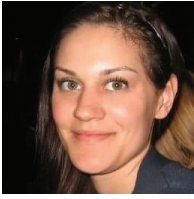
SHOW DATES:
March 9 - 19
2017

STAGE COACH PLAYERS

Audition Dates:
Sat, Nov 12
Sun, Nov 13
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Mon, Nov 14
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Visit stagecoachers.com or
call 815-758-1940 for details

Who's Who



Amanda Smothers (Director) - Amanda Smothers is excited to be directing another Stage Coach Players production!

Her last directorial effort was the 2013 adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, which she also wrote. She last appeared onstage at Stage Coach Players as Lois in *Bill W. and Dr. Bob* and Princess Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*. Other Stage Coach Players roles include Belle in *A Christmas Carol*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, and Kay in *Father of the Bride*, as well as an Apostle's Wife in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and Zebulan's Wife in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Other memorable roles include Ronnette in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*, Abigail in *The Crucible*, Cha-Cha in *Grease*, and Helen in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Amanda earned her B.A. in Theatre from Marquette University ('04), and has been performing for over twenty years. When she is not on stage, Amanda is an Adjunct English Professor and Writing Tutor.



Abbey Lippert (Stage Manager) - Abbey is thrilled to be part of this amazing production. This is her second show

of the season having been seen as various characters including Reggie Fluty and Zubaida Ula in *The Laramie Project* back in April. She was part of the crew for *Do Black*

Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up? and *Miracle on 34th Street* last season. She would like to thank all of her amazing friends and family for their continued love and support. She would also like to thank Amanda, Kelsey and her awesome cast for all their hard work! To you the audience she would like to say "Thank you for coming! Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!"



Kelsey Hoyle (Assistant Stage Manager) -

Kelsey is beyond excited to be work on *The Games Afoot!* This is her second season with Stage Coach. Last season she assisted backstage on *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?* She also was seen onstage as a Zombie in *Night of the Living Dead*, and as Mara the ruthless lawyer in *Miracle on 34th Street*. She would like to thank the amazingly talented and hilarious cast, Amanda, and Abbey for making this show wonderful and tons of fun. She would like to thank everyone for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!



Denny Boynton (Sherlock Holmes/Willem Gillette) -

Denny Boynton has been active at the Stage Coach Theater since 2012. He's been in several productions over that time span, including Frank Gilbreth in *Cheaper by the Dozen*, the French Taunter/Tim the Enchanter in *Spamalot*,

and Ben, the sole “survivor” in last season’s *The Night of the Living Dead*. Denny is a current member of the Stage Coach Board of Directors as well. He is excited to be a part of this magnificent production, cast and crew, and wishes all of you the best of luck in solving the mystery before the end of the show. As always, Denny is extremely grateful to his lovely spouse, Maria, and his children for their patience and understanding about his “hobby.”



Kathy Hewitt (Martha Gillette) - Kathy is thrilled to appear in a Stage Coach Players production that is NOT a musical!

She has performed in numerous musicals with Stage Coach Players including *The Sound of Music*, as Sister Margaretta, Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma*, and was also in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Hello Dolly*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Curtains*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and *Mary Poppins*. She also appeared twice in *A Christmas Carol*, worked backstage for *High School Musical*, *Not Now Darling*, *Spamalot*, and *Night of the Living Dead*, played in the pit band for *Annie*, and is a member of the Stage Coach Players Box Office staff. Other theatre experiences include: *Cinderella*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Grease*, and was an assistant director for Children’s Community Theater’s *101 Dalmatians*. Kathy works at the Crum-Halsted Agency and lives in Sycamore with her dog Lucy. She would like to thank Amanda, Abbey,

and Kelsey for all their support, and the entire cast for making this a fabulous show!



Scott Montavon (Moriarty/Felix Giesel) - Scott is excited to be part of such a wonderful production. Past shows at

Stage Coach include *Heaven Can Wait*, *Bus Stop*, *Leaving Iowa*, and *The Dining Room*. During the days Scott can be found plying his trade as an ironworker all over northern Illinois. He lives in Sycamore with wife Cheri, 2 cats, and a rather friendly front yard squirrel named Duchess Chirps.



Christy Torian (Marian/Madge Giesel) - Christy has been a member of Stagecoach Players since 2012. She has been

involved in several productions, and favorite roles include Martha Watson in *White Christmas* and Lois Wilson in *Bill W. and Dr. Bob*. Christy hopes that you will enjoy the show, and that you’ll come back in November to hear her sing in ‘70 Seasons of Stagecoach’!



Bonnie Miller – Alice/Aggie Wheeler

Bonnie Miller is thrilled to be working with this extremely talented and hilarious cast and crew! She is excited to lend her horror movie

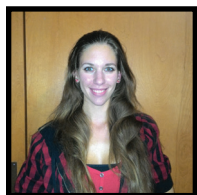
scream to another October show at Stagecoach after playing Barbara in *Night of the Living Dead* last year. She has also appeared in a number of other plays and musicals, most recently including *Mary Poppins*, *Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?*, and *The Wedding from Hell* dinner theatre. She would like to thank her 8-year-old acting coach, Zoe, for drilling her on lines, and her parents, Pam and Don, for their constant support.



Michael Mattingly – Count Zerlinski/Simon Bright

Michael is no stranger to the “murder/mystery”

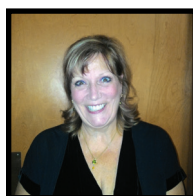
genre. He was in last year’s production of *The Butler Did It* at The Albright Theater in Batavia, IL, as well as two different murder/mystery/dinner theater productions directed by Stagecoach’s own Sue Price Johnson (*The Haunting* and *The Wedding From Hell*). Some of his favorite roles have been Mortimer from *Arsenic And Old Lace* directed by Mr. Moriarty himself, Scott Montovan, Benedick from Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing* directed by Scott Morris.....and the play you are watching tonight. Direct quote from the actor himself: “I’m having more fun doing this play than I should be allowed to have!”



Amaria Von Dran – Daria Chase

Self proclaimed weirdo and lover of all things nerdy,

Amaria is giddy to be making her Stage Coach debut in this wonderfully hilarious production. You may have spotted her in various productions at The Albright Theatre. As well as originating the role of Cagney in *A Midnight Clear* at the Batavia Arts Council and most recently, in The Riverfront Playhouse’s production of *Crumbs in Bed*. You can usually find her writing, playing guitar, baking up something delicious, and working on perfecting her Tiny Tim and Pee-wee Herman impressions. She wants to thank her super coolio cast cast/crew for not only putting up with her weirdo shenanigans, but making this an amazing and memorable experience. You guys are the best thing since sliced bread.



Gloria Dennison – Inspector Goring

Gloria Dennison is very excited to be on stage again!

Gloria may be best known for her directing. She last directed *Spamalat* in 2015 and has directed several musicals and plays, including *Lend Me A Tenor* written by Ken Ludwig in 1994. Gloria has also appeared on stage, in *Cinderella*, *Leaving Iowa* and *Bye, Bye Birdie* as well as *Post Mortem* which was also written by Ken Ludwig. She also works off stage in many jobs such as running the light board, doing props, stage managing and producing. Gloria would like to thank her husband, Tom for his constant loving, and laughing support.

Celebrate the Season
with this holiday classic!

A *The Musical*
Christmas
 **Carol**

Directed by: Dan Hyde
Musical Direction by:
Judy O'Connor

Nov 25 7:30 p.m.
Nov 26 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
Nov 27 2:00 p.m.

Dec 1 7:30 p.m.
Dec 2 7:30 p.m.
Dec 3 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.
Dec 4 7:30 p.m.



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AT 7:30 P.M.

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