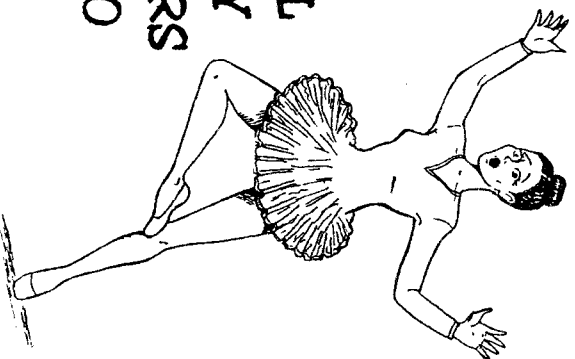
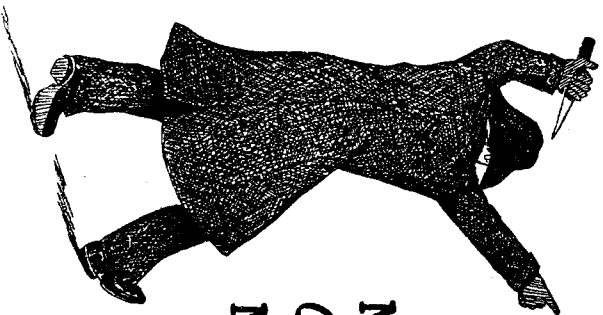


ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE

PRESENTS

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940



Written by: JOHN BISHOP

Oct. 23 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 24 - 7:30 pm
(Matinee)

Oct. 30 - 7:30 pm
Oct. 31 - 7:30 pm

Nov. 5 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 6 - 7:30 pm
Nov. 7 - 7:30 pm

1998

WELCOME TO ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATER

ACT welcomes you to their fall show, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Settle back and be prepared to laugh. Don't hold back, as the cast performs better when they know you are enjoying the show.

You are invited to help yourself to the snack food before the show and during intermission. Your contributions are welcome and can be placed in the provided basket. Restrooms are located behind the stage. Watch for the signs.

If you are interested in our season ticket offer, please seek out the house manager or a Board member to answer any questions.

Please tell your family and friends about our show. The best advertisement we can have is by word of mouth, and we invite each and every one of you to COME BACK AGAIN!

This show is authorized by:

DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.
440 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10019

Produced on Broadway by Bill Wildin
Originally produced by:
The Circle Repertory Company
New York City

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR . . .

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 may seem familiar to you, but I doubt if many folks have seen it. It's just that it is a hodge-podge of the best elements of several plays of the 40's genre. It is more than a little 'chicé' and a lot of fun. It is hard to soak in all the humorous and mysterious clues with just one viewing, so it would be worth your while to see it more than once.

Our cast is so-o-o talented and they have worked very hard. It has been a pleasure to work with this group—some new and inexperienced people and the seasoned actors. The stage and technical crews have outdone themselves, and then there is Grace. I can only reiterate what others say: She is amazing.

We all hope you enjoy this show and that we can keep you fooled until the final curtain. *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* will always rate as one of my favorites as produced by Reid and Leverenz. We're glad you came.

Jo

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Helsa Wenzel.....Karen Sandoval
Elsa Von Grossenknueten.....Kathryn Bisbey
Michael Kelly.....Greg Krause
Patrick O'Reilly.....Glen Hart
Ken DeLaMaize.....Jeremy Marshall
Nikki Crandall.....Andy Swackhamer
Eddie McCuen.....Kevin Sprague
Marjorie Baverstock.....Lynn Arterburn
Roger Hopewell.....Mike Kentopp
Bernice Roth.....Gaye Pierson

~~~~~

*THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS  
OF 1940*

**ACT I**

Scene 1 - Midnight (of course)

Scene 2 - 1:00 p.m. the next day

Scene 3 - 4:00 p.m. the same day

**ACT II** - 5:00 p.m. same day

The action of the play takes place in a mansion  
in Chappaqua, New York.

The time is December 1940.

The setting is the library of the mansion.

THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION  
BETWEEN ACT I AND ACT II.

**"YOU WANNA' KILL'EM WITH LAUGHS, HUH?" - NIKKI**

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

**GREG KRAUSE** (Michael Kelly) – It is rumored that Greg is not perfect afterall. He missed a line once, his costume didn't match once, and his shoes weren't polished once. Other than that he is good, old reliable Greg, and he makes life a lot easier around ACT. In his favor, he has acted on stage numerous times, always on time, and never wastes time. We should all be that "together".

Greg has the ideal All-American family: wife Brenda works and does the 'June Cleaver' chores; a musical daughter Ronnie is playing in the band and doing well at UNI; son Robbie (the Beav) attends Ankeny High School. Greg's only complaint at ACT is that he doesn't like laying that old, used carpet around the theater.

**LYNN ARTERBURN** (Marjorie Baverstock) – Lynn has renewed her interest in theater by doing ACT's spring production of *Once Upon a Mattress*. She played a dual part as a French tart and as a courtesan that required singing and dancing. She was also a quick-change artist! Her previous experiences were "many moons ago" when in high school.

At ISU, Lynn earned an education degree and she continues to do sub-teaching in the Ankeny school system. Hobbies include sewing, crafts and spending many hours with her 4-H girls. Lynn is well known for her dedication to character-building of her young ladies. As an actress on stage, she is obligated to take orders from the stage manager (Doug), who just happens to be her husband. Not a normal situation! Doug and Lynn have two children, a daughter Lisa in college and Scott, an Ankeny High School junior.

**JEREMY MARSHALL** (Ken De la Maize) – This young man is coming on like gangbusters. He did no acting in high school, but after graduating from Ankeny High in '96, he enrolled at Grand View College, where his dramatic experience on the stage grew rapidly. While rehearsing for this show, he portrayed Jim in *The Glass Menagerie*. We missed him for one whole week, but he came back prepared and raring to go. His other experience at Grand View includes parts in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Raisin in the Sun*, *Our Town* and *Harvey*.

His other passions include imitating voices and sounds and writing plays. He has authored a play entitled "In the Name of Liberty", which was read at the Prairie Playwright Festival in 1998. Jeremy lives in Ankeny, single, handsome, and a delight to older women—not to mention the younger ones.

**KATHRYN BISBEY** (Elsa Von Grossenknueten) – Kathryn's debut for ACT was back in 1992 when we did *The Wizard of Oz*. Kathryn was Gloria, daughter of Lord Growlie, and she sang like a bird. She also directed the Oz Chorus and coerced her husband into taking a small part. Jim has been involved with ACT since that time, and Kathryn continues to do a good job with whatever part she is playing. Kathryn's list of credits is too long for this biographical sketch, but we all know she's the best at acting, dancing, and singing. Although this show is not a musical, per se, we found a way to use Kathryn's voice. See if you can find/hear it!

Kathryn's other life includes working full-time, spectator sports, fishing when there is time, roller blading and playing with husband Jim, who is presently back to college.

**GLEN HART** (Patrick O'Reilly) – Glen was born and raised in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, but he claims to have been raised by wolves in the Ozarks. If this is true, he has eleven other wolf siblings. Regardless, Glen has had some interesting experiences. As a teenager he attended the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, a school for the gifted and talented. He has studied at the University of Southern California for his Bachelor of Fine Arts, concentrating on acting. While there, he performed at the Hollywood Angels' Theatre in *Mousetrap*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Camelot*, and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. He also helped sing the Navy fight song for the movie *Down Periscope*.

Glen's first passion is his Christian faith in God, and he is a full-time student at Ankeny's Faith Baptist Bible College. He enjoys being a leader for the Northridge Baptist Youth Group, working at Daylight Donuts, playing the piano and "flossing". He has suggested that ACT install air conditioning and/or get some fly traps. (In warm weather, we practice with the big doors open.)

**MIKE KENTOPP** (Roger Hopewell) – It is safe to say that Mike has many credits to his name and probably a few that he wouldn't care to make public. He's an interesting character in his own right, and he has portrayed many more on the stage. His experience in Ankeny has been memorable, especially his trumpet playing in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He even looked good in those short pants that "Teddy" used to wear. Mike has appeared in many theaters, including the Ingersoll Dinner Theater, where he recently appeared in *Meet Me in St. Louis*. Mike is a graduate of Midland College in Nebraska with a degree in Photography and Communication.

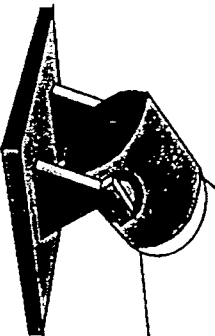
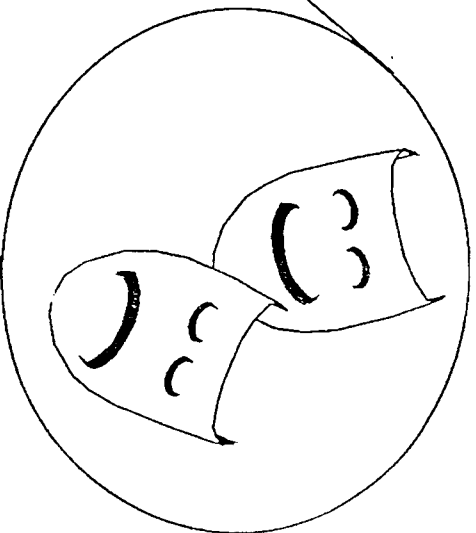


Mike's claim to other fame is his wife Christine, who is also active in ACT, their four children, and their one and only grandchild. He is his church choir director and currently has a moonlighting job of bartending at the Ingersoll. (Perhaps, Mike should have majored in psychology.)

## GREETINGS AND GOOD LUCK!

### Al and Sue Ites

The stage is not merely  
the meeting place of all  
the arts, but is also the  
return of art to life.  
Oscar Wilde



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**ANDY SWACKHAMER** (Nikki Crandall) – It’s a unique name for a unique young lady. Andy is one of the newcomers to Ankeny stage, and we’re happy she found us in the “Datebook”. Andy’s real name is ??? (we don’t know, but we don’t care). She’s a rare find.

Andy has limited acting/drama experience, but she has done a lot of modeling in front of a camera. She performs and works for Avant Studio in West Des Moines (a talent search group) and works for Manpower, Inc. She has done fashion shows, bridal fairs, and a commercial for traffic safety. She recently competed at the International Model and Talent Competition in New York City. Perhaps she could model as a redhead Barbie for her next challenge.

**KAREN SANDOVAL** (Helsa Wensel) – Karen is one of our four newcomers to ACT; as a matter of fact, this show is her first experience on any stage. Because their six-year-old son was in school all day, her husband Alex suggested she get a hobby. Somehow, her husband may eat his words because she’s a keeper on our stage, and we hope she continues her acting “hobby”.

Karen’s part in this show fits her perfectly. She has a German family background and speaks the language. Would you believe they have a German shepherd dog named Fritz?? She also speaks fluent Spanish, as does her husband (from Yucatan). Son Eric also speaks Spanish—and plays the violin. Karen has multiple college experiences: she has attended Drake, Iowa Methodist School of Nursing, and Central College. She is interested in most everything and enjoys whatever she is doing, including acting. Hurrah!

**Kevin Sprague** (Eddie McCuen) – Kevin has done it all for ACT—acting, directing, technical creating, maintenance chores, and janitorial duties. He must be getting rich! (NOT) In his quiet manner, he is also serving on the Board of Directors as immediate past president and continues to see that things get done. His first show for ACT was in 1993 when he was the "wimpiest nerd of the 1900's" (in his own words).

Kevin loves spectator sports, camping and fishing, and he can tell some pretty tall fish tales. Meanwhile, he takes time to work at Iowa State Veterinary Teaching Hospital as an anesthesia technician. Lisa, the wife, and Polk City take up the rest of his time.

**Gaye L. Pierson** (Bernice Roth) – Gaye was born in Razorback country, graduated from Marshalltown High School, and has a degree in Vocal Performance from the U. of South Dakota. She has a beautiful soprano voice and has been in many musical productions at community theaters in Marshalltown, Conrad and Ankeny. For ACT, Gaye was in *Nonsense* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Audiences will always remember her rendition of a singing, feathered chicken. This show is her first non-musical, but she continues to keep her tradition of always having to fall to the floor during the show.

Way back when, Gaye and her husband Wayne were both in a production of *Fiddler on the Roof* but didn't remember each other. Eventually they did make the connection, and they recently celebrated 12 years of marriage. They live in Elkhart, and Gaye owns and operates the Ankeny Pet Salon. [See her ad in this program.] Her hobbies include caring for her five "babies", (which are blonde Lhasa Apso canines) and "doing" all kinds of music.

## PRODUCTION CREW

Director ----- Jo Reid  
Producer ----- Grace Leverenz  
Set Construction ----- Bill Shay  
----- Orville Ballard  
Set Design ----- Beverly Heldt  
----- Jan Price  
Lights and Sound ----- Harold Mosier  
----- Polly Taylor  
House Manager ----- Jerry Reid  
Stage Manager ----- Doug Arterburn  
Stagehand ----- Bill Yeager  
Caterer and Grip ----- Christine Kentopp  
Tickets and Publicity ----- Grace Leverenz  
Programs ----- Jan Klinker  
Video Technician ----- Cliff Carey  
Costumes and Props ----- Cast

### QUIPS ABOUT "THE CREW"

Jo Reid & Grace Leverenz (Director and Producer) - Once again the Reid/Leverenz team has worked hard to produce their tenth show together. A successful show requires many weeks of continual preparation and it takes approximately 12 weeks of dedication. Even though it is a lot of hard work, it is always a joy to see the show develop. This team of actors has worked very hard, and the director/producer appreciates their diligent efforts. We hope our audiences enjoy and appreciate our hard work.

Bev Heldt - ACT's "designing woman" without a budget. Busy woman, but always room for something else.

Polly Taylor & Harold Mosier, both from TM Software, - assisting with the lights and computerized sound effects. Polly is a systems analyst at ISU and lives in Ankeny.

Harold works at Camp Dodge and lives in Polk City. TR Software is currently developing software to assist in the production of live theater.

Christine Kentopp - loves to do theater work. Has a full time job and likes to get OUT in the evenings.

Bill Yeager - was recruited by Wayne Pierson and played "The Plant" in *Little Shop of Horrors*. From then on, he was hooked. Loves to participate.

Doug Arterburn - wasn't sure he wanted to be stage manager, but between some arm-twisting and his wife's influence, he's been an excellent "head set" addition.

Bill and Orville - two peas in a pod. They always come up with a good stage and no complaints. Bill is retired from Ankeny schools and Orville is still Polk City's best magician!

Jerry Reid - a "can do it all" and quiet about it. As husband of Jo, he's a "honey do" man.

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**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

A BEDFUL OF FOREIGNERS - a delightful comedy directed by Wayne Pierson. Opening the second weekend in February in time for Valentine's Day. It will run for three weekends. We will be featuring a dinner theater on each of the Friday evenings. WATCH THE PAPERS.

In the spring, ACT will produce an old standard - HARVEY! Kevin Sprague will be directing. It will open in late April and run for three weekends.

ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE  
1998 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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