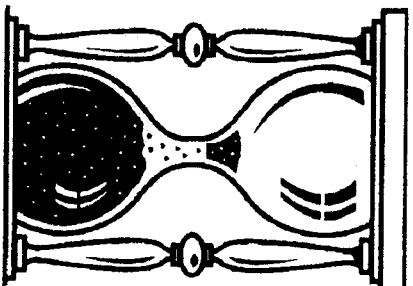


Drkeny Community Theatre

2000

Presents

TOWARDS ZERO



by

AGATHA CHRISTIE

**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING LIVE
THEATER IN ANKENY, IOWA!!!
ENJOY THE SHOW.**

ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Greg Kranske
President Elect Lynn Arterburn
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Treasurer Julie Quass

**Randy Dunwoody, Elizabeth Johnson, Wayne Pierson,
Kaylene Ruby, Roger Spahr**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

We have been on the fast track of *Towards Zero* for several weeks now. The cast is ready to intrigue, delight and stump you. Agatha Christie has done her best to create suspense, red herrings, humor, mental challenges and her special brand of mystery for you.

My hope is that you have suspended all disbelief as you walk in the door and are ready to become immersed in a fun evening of escapism and enjoyment. So put on your thinking caps and see if you can be the brilliant detective to figure out "who-dunnit."

JO

TOWARDS ZERO Dates of Production

October 20, 21, 27, 28, November 2, 3, and 4 - all at 7:30 p.m.

October 29 - Sunday matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Ankeny Community Theatre is located at
1932 SW Third Street
Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Towards Zero has been authorized by:
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.
440 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10019

TOWARDS ZERO

by: *Agatha Christie*

as directed by: **JO REID**

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play passes in the living room at Gull's Point, Lady Tressilian's home on the Estuary of Easterhead Bay.

ACT I

Scene 1: A morning in September

Scene 2: After dinner, four days later

Scene 3: Early the following morning

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

ACT II

Scene 1: Two hours later

(Ballots will be collected.)

Scene 2: The next morning

Scene 3: The same evening

TIME: The present

F.V.I. The seascape painting on the down stage right wall (from the audience) was done by Marian Kieft, a past president of ACT. After her death, the family donated this picture to the theater.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of their appearance)

Thomas RoydeKevin Sprague
Kay StrangeKay Mueller
Mary AldinKaren Burkett-Sandoval
Mathew TrevesErik Eriksen
Nevile StrangeBob Fry
Lady Camilla TressilianJeanne Ginger
Audrey Strange.....Philicia Weaver
Ted Latimer.....Tom Gordinier
Superintendent BattleMike Kentopp
Inspector Jim LeachTroy DeStigter
Policewoman Benson.....Christine Kentopp



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE CAST

KAREN BURKETT-SANDOVAL (Mary Aldin) - Karen has been involved with ACT for three years and has also worked with Stage West. All of her ACT experience has been enjoyable for Karen, and she has certainly delighted her Ankeny audiences. Her husband/Lover Alex (aka Jose) and delightful son Eric keep Karen in the state of Nirvana! She speaks three languages, so perhaps her job as Children's Librarian at Kirkendall will grant her 'linguist'/thespian of the year' in Ankeny.

TROY DESTIGTER (Inspector Leach) - Troy has been in many recent ACT productions, including *Arms and the Man* and *Bad Seed*. He also played in a Bulldog production of *The Black Girl in Search of God*. Troy gets the award for most faithful, always on time, *semper paratus* and #1 pizza eater. His job finds him at American Republic Insurance. Troy thanks his parents for loaning us their beautiful chaise lounge. [So does everyone else.]

PHILICIA WEAVER (Audrey Strange) - Philicia is in exile from California where she was involved in numerous theatrical experiences, including teaching, directing and acting. She is available to teach "stage combat" if anyone is interested. Since moving to Iowa, she has performed at Actors' Studio (Ames), Kate Goldman Theater, and ACT (in *Arms and the Man*). Philicia is recovering nicely from the shock of Richard winning the contest on "Survivor".

CHRISTINE KENTOPP (Officer Betty Benson) - Chris has worn many hats for ACT, on stage, behind stage and on the computer. She was just trying to "get out of the house", but got hung up on theater fun! Her role as Officer Benson was awarded her by osmosis when Mike needed a chauffeur. One of her favorite roles was Brenda Parker in *A Bedfull of Foreigners*. Chris also juggles kids at home, church activities, a job and a grandchild. She's busy!!

MIKE KENTOPP (Superintendent Battle of the Metropolitan Police) - It is safe to say that Mike has multiple credits on his theatrical resume' and has worn many hats for ACT. Mike's acting career started in kindergarten when he played the Pied Piper. We are glad that he recovered nicely from a recent fall at The Ingersoll and is able to perform in *Towards Zero*. Perhaps his most memorable ACT performance was in *Arsenic and Old Lace* when he portrayed Teddy Roosevelt in short pants and played a pretty good (BAD) trumpet. He was the piano player in *Musical Comedy Murders*. Talent abounds.

BOB FRY (Neville Strange) - Bob is no stranger to theater-goers in this area. He has a list of credits as long as the proverbial arm--too many to mention. His ACT participation was in *Plaza Suite* in 1996, and most recently was in *Skin of our Teeth* at the Drama Workshop. He is pleased to be in this show and playing Kay Mueller's husband for the fourth time on stage. In his spare time he works as a senior commercial underwriter for Northwestern National Insurance.

KEVIN SPRAGUE (Thomas Royde) - Kevin has done it all for ACT--acting, directing, technical expertise and general maintenance and repairs of holes in the wall. He calls ACT his home away from home and plans to continue his theatrical euphoria. On stage he has been the bad guy several times but only once did he "get the girl". Maybe this time? *Que Sera, Sera*. Kevin is an anesthesia technician at the Iowa State Veterinary Teaching Hospital and has managed to recover from bodily damages inflicted by an angry horse (or was it a cow?).

JEANNE GINGER (Lady Camilla Tressilian) - Jeanne's name even sounds theatrical, and she deserves an ACT Darel award. She has been in 16 shows for ACT and is still going strong. She claims ACT to be her second family, not that she needs more family!! She has 23 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Jeanne particularly enjoyed being in *Once Upon a Mattress* and caring for a cast member in *Silver Whistle*. It was a live chicken!! Another claim of fame is her 21 years of working for the Ankeny Schools.

KAY MUELLER (Kay Strange) - Kay is playing Kay! Confusing at first, but she is a convincing actress and keeps them straight. Kay's resume' is filled with credits, and she is in the business of acting. She teaches speech and theater for DMACC (Boone campus) and will be doing their Fall production of *Murder on the Re-run* in November. Her housemates are Chester and Sebastian (would you believe cats?). We appreciate Kay's participation and her long commute. She's always there and on time!

TOM GORDNIER (Ted Latimer) - Tom is making his debut on the Ankeny stage. He appeared at auditions at the last minute, but the "casters" knew he was a keeper from the start. Although *Towards Zero* is his first show for ACT, he has performed in many shows in high school and college. His favorite has always been *"The Glass Menagerie"*. [Perhaps ACT could do that show in the future!] Tom would like to thank his wife for permitting his "Ted Latimer" behavior at home and for her patience during his absence during rehearsals. We thank her too! Tom and wife Rose have two youngsters--Marissa, four years old, and Mason, 15 months.

ERIK ERIKSEN (Mathew Treves) - Erik appeared on the scene of *Towards Zero* after being inactive from ACT for a decade or more. ACT's inaugural production was *You Can't Take It With You* in 1981. Erik performed in that show and in the next ten shows. When ACT did *Guys and Dolls*, Erik played Nicely -Nicely and wore the most memorable plaid suit of clothes ever to be seen before or since. His singing voice became famous, and we still can hear him Rockin' the Boat. Erik is also known around the area for directing church choirs. Other than that, he did a long stint for the Iowa Dept. of Education and is presently working for DOT as administrator of Iowa's motorcycle-rider education program.

PRODUCTION CREW

DirectorJo Reid
ProducerGrace Leverenz
Technical Director.....Jerry Reid
Stage Manager.....Barbara Simpson
Set ConstructionOrville Ballard, Bill Shay
Set Design.....Bev Heldt
Light Technician.....Lynn Arterburn
Sound Technician.....Doug Arterburn
Makeup/Hair Assistant.....Kathryn Bisbey
House Manager.....Jerry Reid
Refreshments.....Volunteers



BIO'S OF SOME OF THE PRODUCTION CREW

JO AND JERRY REID (Director and Technical Manager) - The Reids have been actively involved with ACT almost from its beginning. Jo's first show for ACT was *Guys and Dolls* when she served as director and choreographer. Since that time she has directed eleven shows, both dramas and musicals. Jerry has always served ACT in some capacity for every show. He is an expert at making smoke, explosions, thunder/lighting, and a multitude of sound and light effects. They both have been president of the Board of Directors. As director of ACT II Jo has created many singing and dancing shows for entertainment purposes. Jerry also sings and helps manage this group. (They are always looking for gigs. Know any?) Besides theater work, Jerry works for the State of Iowa and Jo enjoys caring for her local grandchildren. They also sing in their church choir.

BARBARA SIMPSON (Stage Manager) - Barbara is an avid theater lover. She has performed in many shows, on stage and behind the scenes. Last Christmas she was the mother in the Des Moines Playhouse version of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and was stage manager for ACT in *The Bad Seed*. She's a great stage manager and ACT appreciates her hard work. She does her chores quietly, quickly and consistently. Barbara is married to "her sweetheart" and they live with three felines. Barbara works at Drake in the School of Journalism. Her dream is to write, direct, produce and star in a Pulitzer Prize winning play. Way to go, Barbara.

GRACE LEVERENZ (Producer) - Grandmother, mother, wife and playgirl. She plays producer at ACT, plays the piano and organ for church, plays golf, bridge, volleyball and formerly played with the residents at Sunny View. She had to quit that job because she became 'one of them'. Her husband helps repair, build or whatever is needed for ACT. A behind the scenes kind of guy.

BEV HELDT (Interior Decorator) - Bev has always worked with figures and has a degree in Business Management. But it is rumored that she missed her calling and should have become an interior decorator. Bev has decorated stages for Jo several times and always does a great job. She never rests until it matches. Bev is a movie buff, sings in her church choir, works full-time and still has time to do her thing at Sunny View.

COMING EVENTS AT A.C.T.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - December 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10

Greater Tuna - January 2001

Charlotte's Web - March 2001

You Can't Take It With You - May 2001

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE:

Walnut Street Gallery

Jack Leverenz

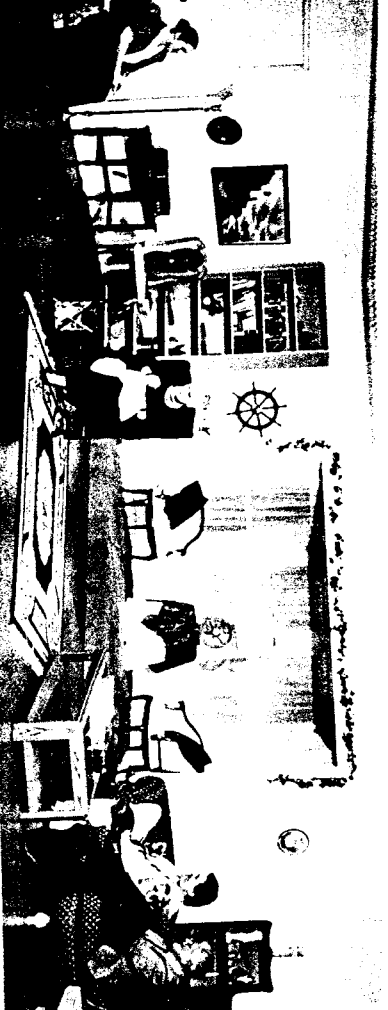
Ankeny Press Citizen

Vi DeStigter

Gretchen Brown

AND

Family and friends of the cast for their patience and support



ACT would like to express sincere appreciation for their contributions

ANGEL (over \$500)

Al and Sue Hies

BENEFACTOR (\$200-499)

Dwayne and Jeanne Ginger

Deb Garner and John Richards

PATRON (\$101-199)

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Christine Burkett-Shields

Greg and Brenda Krause

Glen and Vi DeStigler

SPONSOR (\$50-99)

Bruce and Bonnie Ersek

Ordan and Elizabeth Johnson

Bud and Hazel Pratt

LaVerne and Janice Quass

Steve and Georgene Raver

Jerry and Jo Reid

Evelyn Rigby

TM Software

Jessie Reid

FRIEND (\$25-49)

Randy Dunwoody

Ken and Donna Kelling

Earl and Janet Leonard

Jack and Grace Leverenz

Larry and Rose Milroy

Jim and Beverly Nelson

Dwight and Ardith Pearson

Bill and Marilyn Shay

Daisy Sternole

If you would like to see your name on this list, just talk to the House Manager at intermission or after the show.