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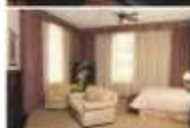
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*Plaza Suite*

Neil Simon

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I was honored when I was asked to direct *Plaza Suite* but I was also very nervous about accepting such a big responsibility. I had never directed solo before. For years, it has been the Sprague-Arterburn team. Now, it would be all on my shoulders. Was I up to the challenge? After a lot of encouragement and support from several ACT friends, I realized that, yes, I could do it.

The experience has been wonderful and very rewarding. The cast and crew are dedicated, hard working individuals who have been an absolute joy to work with. Each brings with them unique talents and creativity that when put all together create a fantastic show. They are also a very kind, compassionate group who gave me tremendous support and strength in December when my mother was ill and I was unable to make several rehearsals. To the cast and crew - I can never express my appreciation enough for all your understanding, patience and flexibility during that difficult time. I would also like to thank Al Price for graciously filling in for me during my absences to keep things moving along.

Sit back, relax and allow yourself to be transported to The Plaza Hotel in New York. Leave all your cares and worries behind in Iowa. After you come back from your trip to the East Coast, please tell others about the wonderful experience you had. Encourage them to come and experience it as well.

I hope you enjoy our rendition of *Plaza Suite*. Thank you for coming.  
Lynn Arterburn



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### ACT ONE: VISITOR FROM MAMARONECK

Time: About four o'clock in the afternoon in December.

Bellhop/Waiter	Derrick Hawks
Karen Nash	Ruthellen Cunnally
Sam Nash	Bob Fry
Jean McCormick	Jolene Schwarz

*15 Minute Intermission*

### ACT TWO: VISITOR FROM HOLLYWOOD

Time: Three o'clock in the afternoon on sunny spring day.

Waiter	Derrick Hawks
Jesse Kiplinger	John Claes
Muriel Tate	Anne Claes

*5 Minute Intermission*

### ACT THREE: VISITOR FROM FOREST HILLS

Time: Three o'clock on a Saturday afternoon in the spring.

Norma Hubley	Barb Adams
Roy Hubley	Terry Yakish
Borden Eisler	Derrick Hawks
Mimsey Hubley	Jolene Schwarz

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# PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Lynn Arterburn
Director's Assistant	Al Price
Producer	Theresa Britt
Lights & Sound	Gary Hagan
Stage Crew	Theresa Britt, Derrick Hawks, Jolene Schwarz, Shelley Blok
Light Design	Harold Mosier
Stage Design	Harvey Olsthoorn
Set Construction	Harvey Olsthoorn, Sandy Olsthoorn, Doug Arterburn, Monte Engh, Gary Hagan, Al Price, Jerry Reid
Painting Crew	Lynn Arterburn, Shelley Blok, Hayley Blok, Theresa Britt, Paul Ruby, Rheajeanne Britt
Backdrop Design	JoAnne Ware
House Manager	Doug Arterburn
Refreshments	Bev Heldt
Playbill/Photographer	Lynn Arterburn
Marketing	Dawn Hockemeyer, Lynn Arterburn, Jolene Schwarz

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The cast and crew of *Plaza Suite* would like to thank the following individuals for donating items to the show:

- Patrick Rowland & The Suites of 800 Locust - Corporate Sponsor & supplier of hotel items
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- John & Bev Britt - comforter & bedskirt
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- Rheajeanne Britt - items from the Big Apple



Barb Adams and Terry Yakish (Norma & Roy Hubley) are one of *Plaza Suite's* real life couples. They met in 1986 while appearing in *Play It Again, Sam* at the Des Moines Playhouse. Since 1988, neither has been in a show without the other. Barbara and Terry were regular performers at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater. This is their fourth ACT production. They were seen in last season's *Arsenic and Old Lace* as Aunt Martha and Teddy.



John (Jesse Kiplinger) & Anne (Muriel Tate) Claes are *Plaza Suite's* other real life couple. John was active in community and collegiate theater in Cedar Rapids until the mid-eighties. He stepped back on stage to play George Bailey in ACT's production of *It's a Wonderful Life* and followed with roles in *And Then There Were None* and *Godspell*. John is President-Elect of the ACT Board. Anne's first role for ACT was Mrs. Webb in the 1994 production of *Our Town*. Her next role came eleven years later as Violet in *It's a Wonderful Life*, followed by *Godspell*. She has performed in several community theaters in Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and her home town of Washington. Anne is a kickboxing instructor at Jacobs Martial Arts Academy in Urbandale. John and Anne live in Johnston with their daughter, Katherine.



Ruthellen Cunnally (Karen Nash) is making her debut at ACT. She has worked extensively with ACTORS in Ames. She appeared in *Murder at the Vicarage*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *Jake's Women* to name a few. She has also directed, stage managed and helped in the light and sound booth. This past summer she performed at Terrace Hill in *The Age of Innocence* and at Salisbury House in *Much Ado About Nothing*. When not performing, Ruthellen is an adjunct instructor of English and currently teaches at DMACC, Ankeny campus and Mercy College for Health Sciences. She would like to thank her husband and sons for all their support and their willingness to eat fast food for extended periods of time while she is at the theater.



Bob Fry (Sam Nash) is making his ninth appearance with ACT and his second in the role of Sam, as he debuted in ACT's 1996 production of *Plaza Suite*. His most recent ACT part was as the murderer in the last production *Murder Takes the Stage*. He also had roles in *Dearly Departed*, *Funny Money*, *A Round with the Boys*, and *Towards Zero*. He has appeared at the Drama Workshop (*Tale of the Allergist's Wife*), Stage West (*Voices That Care*), Des Moines Playhouse (*The Graduate*), and ACTORS in Ames, where he did one of his favorite roles, the narrator/mysterious man in *Into the Woods*. At the former Ingersoll Dinner Theatre, he performed in 27 shows, where he learned to quit worrying and love British farce. Thanks go to Mother Betty, and to Tom for their continuing patience and support of his theatrical activities.



Derrick Hawks (Bellhop, Waiter/Borden Eisler) attended school at North Polk in Alleman where he began his experimentation in acting. He played numerous roles in plays and acting competitions that landed him multiple trips to All-State as well as a top-10 nomination in the state for Mock Trial. Numerous films were produced by Derrick and some of his friends while in high school, none of which will be seen by anyone, anywhere, ever. After entering a university in South Carolina, he became involved in musical theatre and sang in Giordano's opera *Andrea Chenier*. He also did bit-work for a home-schooling satellite network called HomeSat. This is Derrick's first appearance at ACT.



Jolene Schwarz (Jean McCormick/Mimsey Hubley) has most recently appeared on ACT's stage as the Dodecahedron and the Demon of Insincerity in *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Other favorite roles include Piglet in *Winnie the Pooh*, Jane Smith in *High School Reunion* and Midge Mickleson in *Newsroom*. Jolene works as a Senior Prospect Manager for Integer. She lives in West Des Moines with her cute and cuddly canine, Keebler. When not onstage, she enjoys attending live theatre, singing karaoke with friends, and is learning to play the piano.



Lynn Arterburn (Director) has been involved with ACT since 1992. She has worked in every single position in the theater. Her favorite areas are costuming, directing/producing and creating the playbills and newsletters. She enjoys the challenge of creating something fun and exciting from just a simple basic idea. Lynn has served as ACT Board president and currently serves on the **Membership, Marketing and Children's Theater committees**. Lynn works with K-3rd grade students at Crocker Elementary. She would like to thank her husband, Doug, for all his patience and support during the past couple of months of rehearsals.



Theresa Britt (Producer) has never taken the stage but she's learned a lot about everything that goes on behind the scenes. She began working with ACT in 1987. After taking a few years off to raise her children she's jumped back into the scene, lingering in the shadows once again. Some of her favorites include: *Silver Whistle*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *The Dining Room*. Outside theatre walls of ACT, she keeps her self busy with her two teenagers, Megan and Erick, work in Radiation Oncology at Mercy Medical Center, and waitressing at The Yankee Clipper. Theresa would like to send a GINORMOUS Thank You to her wonderful kids for letting her be an absentee Mom for the past couple of months.

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Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank all of our anonymous donors whose gifts total \$575.

## GREAT GIFT IDEA

This past Christmas Season we had a family that wanted to make a donation to ACT in the name of a family member. What a great gift idea, and greatly appreciated by ACT! If you would like to make a contribution to ACT in the name of someone special to you - for their birthday, anniversary, or another special event - just mail a check to Ankeny Community Theatre, Box 122, Ankeny, Iowa 50021.

## ACT NEEDS YOU!

ACT depends on the citizens of Ankeny and the surrounding communities to keep the theater running. Each volunteer is a valuable asset to the theater. Everyone is welcome. Time commitments can be large or small. Volunteer possibilities include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Costuming
- ◆ Set building
- ◆ Make-up
- ◆ Concessions
- ◆ Committee work

You may also support the theater by purchasing season tickets or a membership. Check out the opportunities by picking up volunteer forms or season tickets and membership forms from the box office or visit our website. You may also call the theater and the volunteer coordinator will return your call. Make new friends, have fun with old friends, and know the satisfaction of being part of live theater.

## MATCHING FUNDS

Several companies have volunteer programs in place where the employer will match the amount of money that an employee donates to nonprofit organizations. Several also have programs where they match hours an employee has volunteered with a dollar contribution. Pioneer, Meredith, Federal Home Loan Bank and MidAmerican Energy are just some of the companies that have provided such funding to ACT based on employees contributing and working with ACT. Please check with your employer to see if you could be taking advantage of these programs and help secure ACT financing.

## EMAIL NOTIFICATION

If you would like to receive information about ACT such as newsletters, audition information, children's activities and show reminders, please go to our website to sign up for email notification. Help us cut down on our mailing costs while keeping yourself informed of the most current events at ACT. If you are already signed up, please keep us updated on any email address changes so we may continue to send you email notifications.

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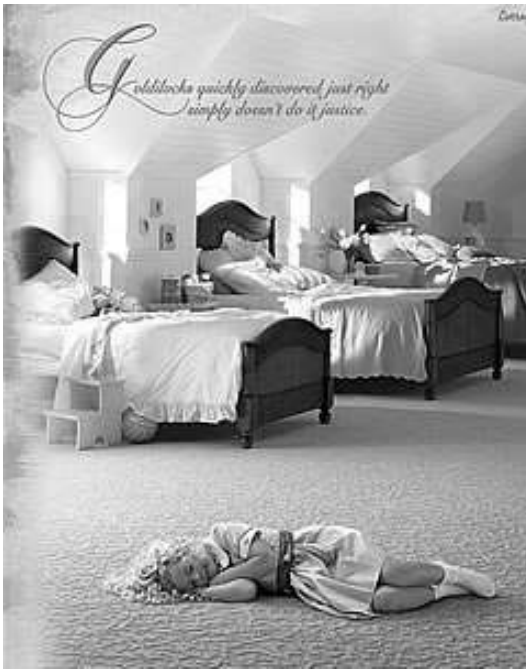
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