STANDING OVATION

ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS

August 7–16, 2026

Great Red Wine

made in Iowa from Grapes grown in Iowa

Iowa In the Dark

is a dry red with light, fresh notes. First impressions are tangy acid followed by black cherry fading to plum, a dry mid-palate, and a long, pleasing finish. Made from Marquette, St. Croix, Petite Pearl, and Steuben grapes grown in Iowa, it's a versatile wine that pairs well with grilled meat and spicy foods.

2021 Iowa Sabrevois

is a dry red with bold aromas of spices and leather on the nose followed by blackberry and plum notes with hints of baking spice, smoke, and licorice on the palate. Made from Sabrevois grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, it pairs well with grilled meat.

2021 Iowa Petite Pearl

is a dry red with a lightly acidic entry transitioning to dark fruit and a long, drying finish. Made from Petite Pearl grapes grown in our Iowa vineyards, *2021 Iowa Petite Pearl* will pair nicely with grilled meat or pasta with a tomato-based sauce.

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A Note From The Director

Families – with all their drama, tension and conflict – have for centuries been a rich source for stage plays, from Shakespeare's "King Lear" and Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" to Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes" and Sam Shepard's "Buried Child." I categorize the play as primarily a family drama, with many themes, some more obvious than others. The story unfolds over several weeks in August inside the three-story home of Beverly and Violet Weston just outside Pawhuska, Oklahoma. The play's numerous themes include death, dysfunction, addiction, alcoholism, racism, power struggles, evasion, intergenerational conflict and trauma. However, one of the most dominant themes is decline – on three levels: personal, familial and even political. I assert that while Letts didn't write 'August: Osage County' as a political statement, he does connect the Weston family's decline by using quotations from T.S. Eliot's 1925 poem 'The Hollow Men' to begin and end the play. In that poem, Eliot "speaks about people who succumb to slow spiritual and moral decay, which brings about the end of the world in a way that is worse than its abrupt destruction." August: Osage County, uses the theme of decline to suggest the same thing – the slow, painful corrosion of humanity is worse than any violent or sudden death. Family dramas are compelling because everyone has family – whether blood relatives or the family you choose. They reflect common, relatable relationships and struggles, which at the core are about the basic need for human connection. Watching the play lets the audience lean into the family discomfort while laughing at its absurdity at the same time. There is a collective reaction from the audience with each performance that they experience together, and nothing compares to that. One of the things you miss seeing in the movie is the amazing stage set, which is its own character. The set reflects the trapped anxiousness of the family members. There is no room to escape each other, and it keeps them tied to the family house and each other until they just cannot take it anymore. Thank you for making yourself a part of our family here at Ankeny Community Theater and enjoy the show!

August: Osage County
In Order of Appearance

Beverly Weston	Dan Chase
Violet Weston	Cheryl Clark
Barbara Fordham	Brooke Guinn
Bill Fordham	Oliver Thrun
Jean Fordham	Gennie Weis
Ivy Weston	Alexis Beyer
Karen Weston	Alexandra Rundle
Mattie Fay Aiken	Frances Paterik
Charlie Aiken	Troy Gould
Little Charles Aiken	Benjamin Roach
Johnna Monevata	Brittany Roach
Steve Heidebrecht	Luke Minske
Sheriff Deon Gilbeau	Joshua Powles

Time: August 2007

Place: A large country house outside Pawhuska, Oklahoma, sixty miles northwest of Tulsa

There will be two 10-minute intermissions between acts.

"AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)"

No videotaping of this show is permitted.

Special thanks to The Wing Family, Greg Romans, The Roach boys, and Matt Tuttle.

Production Team

Director	Charissa Hamel
Assistant Director	Susan Hamel
Producer	Camille Smith
Stage Manager	Kailan Wing
Set Design	Charissa Hamel
Set Construction	Benjamin Roach, Greg Romans
Set Painting	Kailan Wing
Light Designer	Charissa Hammel
Light Technician	Teshua Wing
Sound Designer	Chris Williams
Sound Technician	Teshura Wing
Costumes	Emily Dokken
Props	Cast and Crew
Program	Abby Martin
Photographer	Greg Romans
Logo Design	Bekah Wieland
Marketing	Stacie Bendixen, James Hagedorn, Lauren Mills, Greg Romans

2025 - 2026 ACT Board of Directors

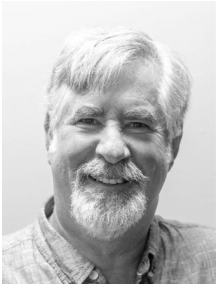
President - James Hagedorn
President - Greg Romans

Dan Chase	Johanna Guerdet	Marty Pohlmeier
Camille Smith	Julia Spera	Rich Stevens
Larry White	Katie Wollan	

Mailing Address: PO Box 122, Ankeny, Iowa 50023
Website: www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com
Email: information@ankenycommunitytheatre.com

Biographies

Alexis Beyers (Ivy Weston) enjoys puzzles, coloring, listening to music, and all things true crime! Some of her past roles include *Drinking Habits* and *Drinking Habits 2* as Sister Mary at Nazareth Lutheran Church, as well as *A Christmas Story* (mother), *The Regifters* (Katie) and *Francine's Will* (Tiffany) here at ACT. Alexis is married to Bryan and is a stay at home mom of their two beautiful daughters. She wants to thank her amazing family for their support and patience as she pursues her love of theater!



Dan Chase (Beverly Weston) has spent the past four decades performing on stages across the Midwest. Favorite acting roles include Roat in *Wait Until Dark*, Carmichael in Martin McDonagh's *A Behanding in Spokane*, and John Wilkes Booth in Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins*. At Ankeny Community Theatre, he has enjoyed stepping into the director's role for *Dial M for Murder, Arsenic and Old Lace,* and *An Enemy of the People*. Dan recently retired from a 27-year career as a high school choral director and from 12 years of performing professionally with Jest Murder Mysteries, where he appeared alongside his lovely and talented wife, Carol Palmer. He continues to support young performers as an adjudicator for the Iowa High School Music Association and the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards. When not at the theater, Dan works part-time as a transporter for On With Life Neuro Rehabilitation in Ankeny, tends his garden and landscaping projects, and—when possible—perfects the art of the nap.

Cheryl Clark (Violet Weston) is excited to be back on stage at ACT! Cheryl has been involved in productions at ACT, Des Moines Playhouse, Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre (DMYAT), CAP, Iowa Stage, and Tallgrass Theatre Company (TTC), either acting, directing, or designing. She competed for ACT at the 2023 Iowa Festival & Region 5 Festival (Outstanding Ensemble for *The Children*) and the 2025 Iowa Festival & Region 5 Festival (Outstanding Lead for *Bauer*). Recent work includes costume design for TCC's *Disenchanted* and *Sideshow*, directing/costume design for *Miracle on 34h Street* and costume design for *Enemy of the People* & *Once Upon a Mattress,* all at ACT. She directed and designed costumes for *The Laramie Project* at DMYAT (2025 Cloris nomination for Best Play, Ensemble in a Play, and Direction of a Play). Cheryl has earned a Cloris Award (*The Revolutionists,* TTC) and a Cloris nomination (*The Prom,* DMYAT) for costume design. A member of the board of directors and Production Chair for DMYAT, she also serves on the Cloris Awards board of directors, is an ICTA reviewer and an ACCT-certified adjudicator. In her spare time, Cheryl enjoys knitting, sewing, reading, traveling, doing puzzles, and spending time with family.

Troy Gould (Charlie Aiken) Troy has done approximately 40 shows in the Des Moines area and surrounding communities since 2015 (including 15+ at ACT). Favorite shows he has participated in include *Hello, Dolly!* (Horace), *My Fair Lady* (Henry Higgins), *Vincent*, *Of Mice and Men*, *A Few Good Men*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *Trouble in Mind* (Iowa Stage), *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The One Act Play that Goes Wrong*, *Deathtrap*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Cloris nominee and ICTA award winner for best lead performance), *Bauer* (festival qualifier for second level). Recent performances include *Enemy of the People* and *Once Upon a Mattress* at Ankeny Community Theatre. Troy also loves NFL football, bike riding, and spending time with his family.

Brooke Guinn (Barbara Fordham) is delighted to play Barbara Fordham, proving once again that family gatherings make the best drama. Previous roles include Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Cloris Award for Outstanding Performance by a Lead Actor in a Play), Tess in *Marjorie Prime*, and Celia in *Calendar Girls*. When she's not in rehearsal, Brooke attempts golf and enjoys spending time with family and friends. She would like to thank her amazing daughter, Olivia, for always supporting her and making it easy to say yes to another show. If you leave feeling grateful for your own family, we've done our job.

Luke Minske (Steve Heidebrecht) is an actor from Minnesota originally. Having gotten his BFA from the University of Minnesota Duluth and his MFA from the University of Houston. This is Luke's second show with ACT, the first being *An Enemy of the People* earlier this year as Captain Hroster. Some other roles include Titus Andronicus in *Titus Andronicus*, Bottom from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Tony from *West Side Story*. When Luke is not on stage he enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons, writing, video games, and fishing.

Frances Paterik (Mattie Fae Aiken) holds an MA in Vocal Performance from Western Illinois University. After a wonderful career in opera in Chicago, she landed a job teaching in Iowa. Forty years later, she still teaches in the public and private sectors. She stays active in the theatre community and has been seen on many stages in the area, including Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre, CAP Community Theatre, Drama Workshop, Stage West, DM Concert Singers, DM Choral Society, and Ames Chamber singers. Commercial and film work include *7 Yards* (Netflix), *Layaway* (Independent), and she is a Bill Riley Talent Show judge. Favorite roles include: *The Perfect Rendezvous* at ACT (Edith - Best Actress award 2025), *Hello Dolly!* at Urbandale Community Theatre (Music Direction, Cloris Award nominee), *Sweeney Todd* at Iowa Dance Theatre (Mrs. Lovett), *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts) at the Des Moines Playhouse, and "the real Rapunzel" in *Disenchanted* at Tallgrass Theatre Company.

Joshua Powles (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau) is happy to be returning to ACT, where he previously assistant directed *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and acted in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Joshua was seen also as Scotty for half the run of *Ripcord* at Tallgrass Theatre, which he also assistant directed. Prior credits include Professor Willard in *Our Town* (Des Moines Playhouse), various characters in *The Good Doctor* (Tallgrass Theatre) and directing *White* (Peppermint Creek Theatre), among others. Before coming to Iowa, Joshua received a BFA in Acting from Michigan State University. When he's not on or behind the stage, Joshua enjoys watching horror movies with his wife, Molly, reading, and going for walks with his dog, Jelly Bean.

Benjamin Roach (Little Charles Aiken) is thrilled to return to the stage after recent roles in *Enemy of the People* (Hovstad), *Pride @ Prejudice* (Darcy/Collins), *Miracle on 34th Street* (Fred), and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stanley). He has greatly enjoyed working with the cast and creative team to bring this story to life, and hopes that it provides a canvas for reflection on the experiences in life that we choose to allow to bring us together or tear us apart.

Brittany Roach (Johnna Monevata) was last seen at ACT as Mara in *Miracle on 34th Street*. Before that she was Martha Watson in *White Christmas*. At The Des Moines Playhouse she has been in the ensembles of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Bright Star*, and Mother/Bartender in *Crazy For You*. Her favorite way to cool off in the summer is to float around the lazy river at the pool.

Alexandra S. Rundle (Karen Weston) is thrilled to be part of this complicated family! She previously appeared in *She Loves Me* with Ankeny Community Theatre and is so happy to be back. Her show credits also include *Working: The Musical* with Westminster Chapel Theatre, *The Vagina Monologues* with Once in a While Productions, *A Christmas Carol 2023* (Mrs. Cratchit) and *Macbeth* (Lady Macduff) with Iowa Stage, *Into the Woods* (Florinda) with Tallgrass Theatre Company, and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Columbia in 2019, The Narrator in 2018) with Kataklysmic Productions. Thanks, Mom and Dad!

Oliver Thrun (Bill Fordham) received his BA degree in Theatre Arts/Dance from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Previous ACT credits include Peter Stockmann in *An Enemy of the People*, Jonathan Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and The Doctor in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He has also appeared in numerous productions at Tallgrass Theatre and The Des Moines Community Playhouse. In his free time he enjoys hiking, biking, and playing video games.

Gennie Weis (Jean Fordham) hopes you enjoy the show!

Charissa Hamel (Director) is a local director, designer, actor and musician. She has worked all across the United States and overseas. Local favorite directing credits include *Streetcar Named Desire*, *White Christmas* and *Much Ado About Nothing* at Ankeny as well as *Into the Woods*, *The Wolves* and *The Velveteen Rabbit* at Tallgrass, DMYAT and the Playhouse. When not directing you can catch her onstage in a show or singing at local cabarets. In her small amount of free time you can find her at her other love, the movies! Much gratitude to everyone who came together so quickly to pull this show together. And to my dog Maggie, I promise to spend more time with you too!

Susan Hamel (Assistant Director) has directed well over a hundred productions in the last five decades, it has probably been nearly that long since she's assistant directed--only for Charissa...
Other Ankeny projects include *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *White Christmas*.

Kailin Wing (Stage Manager) is amazing. She knows how to do all sorts of things theatre, from set and costume designing, to directing or assisting, and of course, stage managing. She works with all ages, big and small. This cast of big kids have kept her on her toes. Her amazingness was just too much and she just couldn't bring herself to do the wallpaper for this show though. She's a mother of 5 kids, all artistic theatre kids, and married to Josh Wing, an even bigger theatre kid. She crafts all things, and plays the Uke and would play more games if her kids would play Catan with her. She's worked in many theatres all in and around the DSM area. Her amazing recent projects are set designing *Beetlejuice Jr.* at CAP. She was able to SM for *Polkadots* over at Playhouse. And she costumed *I'm Gonna Marry You Tobey Maguire*, one of the weirdest shows she's ever been a part of over at Iowa Stage. She's gearing up for some more set designing work this next season so she's excited to continue what she loves to do!

Emily Dokken (Costumer) Emily Dokken (costumer) has previously costumed at ACT for A Streetcar Named Desire and Pride @ Prejudice, as well as co-costuming with Cheryl Clark for An Enemy of the People. She has also done costumes for various shows with Tallgrass Theatre and CAP. Emily has two sons, Eric (8) and Arthur (5), who keep her busy! Emily is proud to be 11 months sober and is grateful for how this show and its themes has aided in her sobriety!

2025 - 2026 Contributors

Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, and foundations for their generous support of our organization.

Producer ($1000+)

Director ($500 - $999)
Paul Guerdet
Dennis & Lois Kern
Becca Wemhoff
Tom Wollan

Stage Manager ($250 - $499)
Stacie Bendixen
Solomon Brownlee and Gina Tigges
Cheryl & Max Clark
Mike Gieszler
Gloria Heston
Mary Holwell
Gene & Gail Lucht
Katie Wollan

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Karen Cross
Erik & Sally Eggland
Bob & Mary Jo Frazier
Larry White and Sarah Froiland
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James Hagedorn
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Ankeny Community Theatre is grateful for grant funding from BRAVO Greater Des Moines.

BRAVO offers financial support to fund the operations, programs, and educational opportunities of applicants through hotel/motel taxes and remains committed to investing in its seventeen cultural partners: Altoona, Ankeny Bondurant, Carlisle, Clive, Des Moines, Grimes, Indianola, Johnston, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill, Polk City, Polk County, Urbandale, Waukee, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights.

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COMING IN SEPTEMBER

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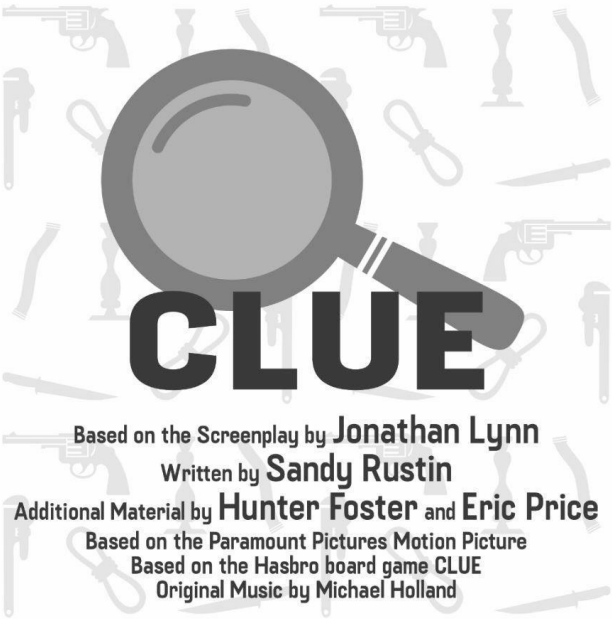


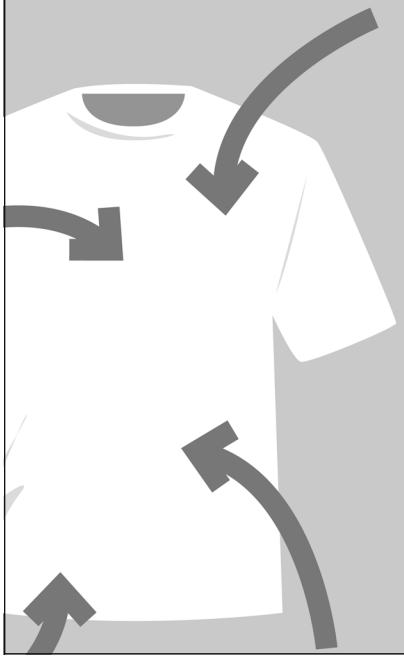
Based on the Screenplay by **Jonathan Lynn**
Written by **Sandy Rustin**
Additional Material by **Hunter Foster** and **Eric Price**
Based on the Paramount Pictures Motion Picture
Based on the Hasbro board game CLUE
Original Music by Michael Holland

Sept. 25–Oct. 4, 2026

It's a dark and stormy night, and our cast of oddball characters has been invited to a very unusual dinner party, and the host is, well, dead. So whodunit? Join the iconic oddballs known as Scarlet, Plum, White, Green, Peacock and Mustard as they race to find the murderer in Boddy Manor before the body count stacks up. Based on the cult classic film and the popular board game, Clue is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist.

Ankeny Community Theatre

www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com



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MUSIC

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All We Need Is... The Beatles
Mar. 26, 2026, 7:30 p.m. • Patty and Fred Turner Jazz Center

Drake Opera Theatre presents Bizet's Carmen
with the Drake Symphony Orchestra dir. Héctor Agüero
Feb. 27 & 28, 2026, 7:30pm and Mar. 1, 2026, 2:30pm
Performing Arts Hall

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55th Annual Juried Student Exhibition
Opening Reception Mar. 29, 2026, 1-3pm
On view through Apr. 19, 2026

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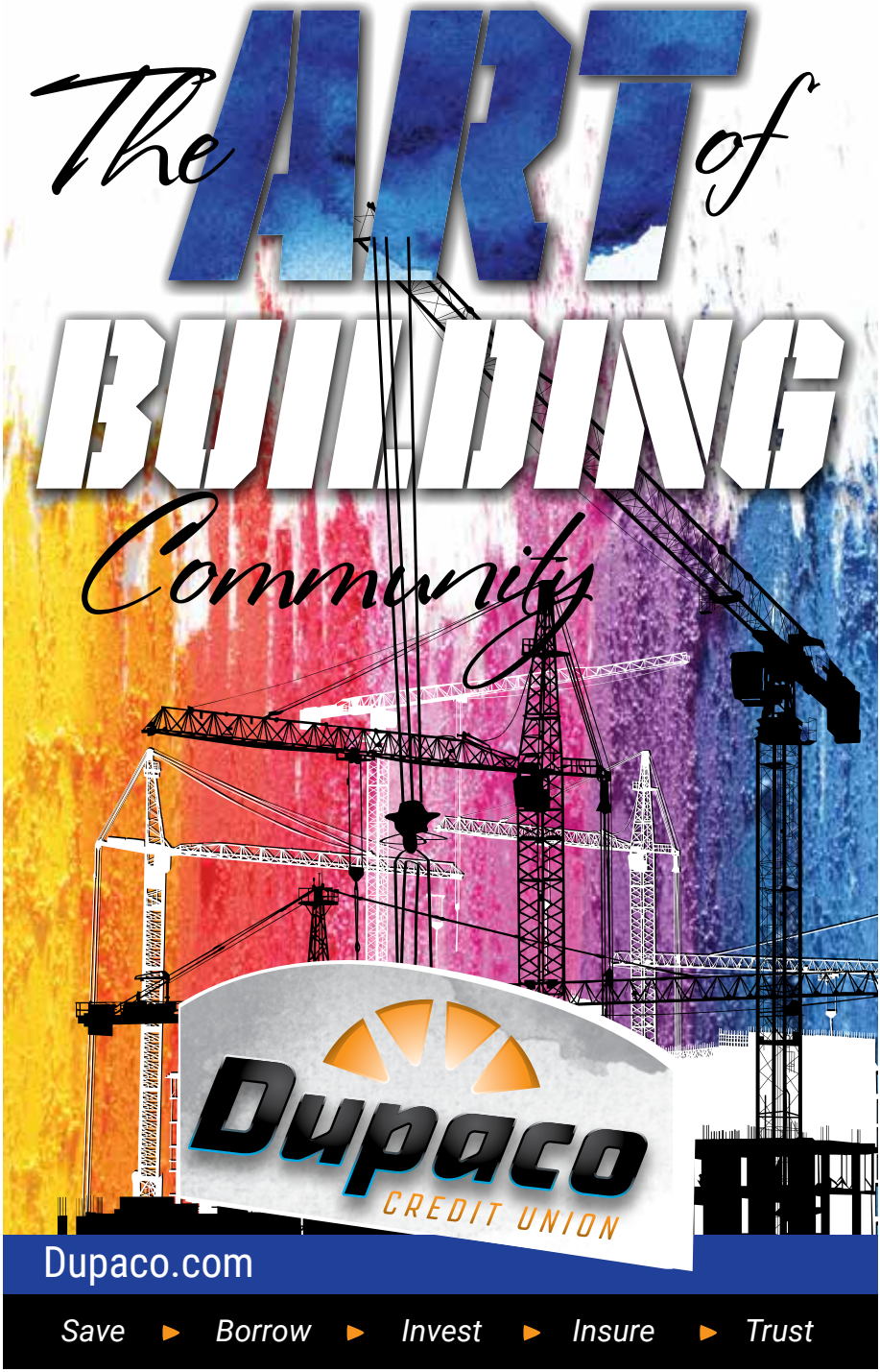
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