

2019-2020 | VOLUME 93, NUMBER 3

## by Charles Morey

January 10-12, 17-19 and 24-26, 2020

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. | Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

PRODUCED IN COOPERATION WITH DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Players Guild of Dearborn and our production of *Laughing Stock*. This show is a hilarious farce that takes a peek backstage into the world of amateur theater. A "community theater" if you will, decides to produce a repertory season of Dracula, Hamlet and Charley's Aunt. And in this mix hilarity ensues. Our director for this show, Kori Bielanic, and Assistant Director Kristen Campbell, have put together a cast of highly talented and very funny people that will surely have you rolling in the aisles.

With a show like *Laughing Stock*, we get the chance to take a step back and look at ourselves, albeit in this case the humorous side of theater life. There is truth in humor and although extreme in tonight's show, it's real in the sense that we are all a "missed cue" or a "broken prop" away from potential success or disaster, and in that, one can find humor. It's the hobby we have chosen.

As this show has progressed and we've had plenty of opportunities to laugh at ourselves, it's also an opportunity to look at our organization and be grateful for being able to do what we do. This is the Players Guild's 92nd season. For 92 years we have had the privilege of providing live theater to wonderful and gracious audiences. This year alone, our theater celebrates 70 years since it was built. This is due in large part to the men and women over the years that have dedicated themselves to giving back to the community and have been members here.

Doing a show like this during the holidays, makes one reflect on what we are thankful for. With the humorous introspective look at ourselves, it also brings up the real side of life and some of the sacrifices people have made to get us where we are today.

We've had some wonderful long-time members who have passed away recently. People like Dr. Tom Dickieson and his wife, Joyce Dickieson, who were honorary members for many years and gave selflessly of their time, talent, and treasure to the Guild. Len Suchyta was another long-time member. Back in the 1990s, Len built the front facade of our stage. Its beautifully finished wood adds class to our space when we are not using the extensions that are currently in place.

Our other long time members—Val Sisto, who acted in many shows; Marybeth Kinnell, a hilarious actress, director and long time member; and even Molly the Dog (*Legally Blonde* dog)—have also passed. These few and the many before have all played their parts (pun intended), been integral to our club, and proven there are no small roles in community theater. We are grateful to all of them.

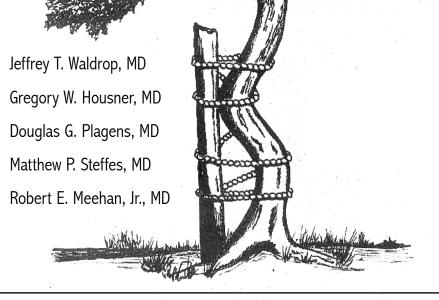
We hope you are entertained by this wonderful ensemble. The hard work and dedication that these men and women have put into this show is a testament to what a great world theater life can be. Even with its ups and downs. In the end, what doesn't kill you, you should be able to laugh at. Enjoy the show.

—Chris Boudreau, President

The PLAYERS GUILD of DEARBORN the magic of live theatre

It shall be the purpose of the Guild to promote and foster community interest in good drama and all its forms; through group endeavors in the training of persons interested in theatrical arts-acting, directing, play production, scenery and costume design, and playwriting in apprentice workshops, youth productions, and actual presentation of plays by novices and experienced persons.

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# LAUGHING STOCK

## THE CAST

Gordon Paige	Alex Gojkov
Jack Morris	Andrew St. John
Susannah Huntsman	Jazzmin Sharara
Mary Pierre	Emily Kaltz
Tyler Taylor	David Zolotarchuk
Vernon Volker	. William E. McCloskey
Richfield Hawksley	Nick Szczerba

Daisy Coates	Sue Delosier
Craig Conlin	Ken Kilgore
Sarah Mckay	. Julie Ballantyne Brown
Henry Mills	Adam Lynch
Karma Schneider	Kaitlyn Cross
Braun Oakes	Michael Stec
Ian Milliken	Casey Coulter



## THE SETTING

Present day New Hampshire and New York February to August

(There will be a 15-minute intermission between Act I and Act II.)



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# LAUGHING STOCK

## THE CREW

Director Kori Bielaniec
Producers Tim Carney
and Frann Stempek
Assistant Director Kristen Campbell
Stage ManagerAmy Jones
Stage Crew Cayla Kolbusz and
Walter Middlebrook
Set Design Kori Bielaniec
and David Wood
Set Construction and Painting David Wood
assisted by Gordon Mosley,
Chris Boudreau, David James,
Anita Stinson, Josh Bodary, Michael Hermen,
John Sczomak, Rich Marengere,
and the Laughing Stock cast
Bat Wrangler David Wood
Lights and Sound Nate Hermen,
Stan Guarnelo, Dave Kanclerz,
Dave Reynolds II, and Chris Boudreau
Hair and MakeupFrann Stempek
assisted by Corinne Fine
Costume DesignMary Calder
assisted by Karen Drugacz, Renae Hayward,
Janeen Bodary, and cast
Props Sebastian Adams

Publicity Kristen Campbell,		
Kori Bielaniec, Brian Townsend,		
Jennifer Deckert, Mike Moseley, Robin Iori,		
Tom Sparrow, Melissa Foster, Mike Mayne,		
Sue Suchyta, and Stan Guarnelo		
Social Media Kori Bielaniec		
Website		
Postcard Mailing Kristen Campbell,		
Adam Lynch, Casey Coulter, Deb Kales,		
Patrick Davidson, Victor Hydel, Ed Price,		
Sue Delosier, Karen Drugacz,		
and Nancy Schuster		
ProgramsCarissa Lokken,		
Brian Townsend, Nancy Valentini,		
Scott Rider, Richard Moore,		
Megan Lizbinski, Julie Ballantyne Brown,		
Anna Dewey, and Walter Middlebrook		
Tickets Tracey Boudreau and Julie Sparrow		
Afterglow Jamee Perryman		
Cast and CrewSuzanne Dowd		
50/50 and Intermission Lois Sczomak		
assisted by committee members		
UshersMembers of the		
Players Guild of Dearborn		
Original Cover ArtworkBrian Townsend		

If you helped with this production and your name was inadvertently left off our list, please accept our sincere apology and our heartfelt thanks for your part in making *Laughing Stock* a success.



As you most likely know, the Players Guild of Dearborn's auditorium and clubroom were substantially renovated in 2013. Our auditorium received a new floor and comfortable new seats, and the clubroom floor was leveled and tiled.

What you most likely *don't* know is we're still paying for it! The improved seating, re-plastering, and re-hanging of lighting bars as well as the leveling and re-flooring of our clubroom were desperately needed, and have been a resounding success. But the cost of doing all this renovation was substantial. With the hard work of Players Guild members and help from some of our patrons, we've made a dent in our loan, but we really want to pay it off.

The Players Guild is an all-volunteer community theater and we need the help of the community to keep it strong and providing high-quality arts entertainment. One way *you* can help is to sponsor a seat in our auditorium.

## SPONSOR A SEAT: You can sponsor a seat for \$300.

In doing so, we will imprint your name (or whatever name you want) for posterity on a plaque that will be placed on an available seat. Anyone purchasing a seat in this season will get a seat plaque and a listing in our program.

**SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN: We also welcome** *any* **donations!** Any contribution you'd like to make, from \$10 up, will help our organization and you will be listed in the program throughout the season.

To sponsor a seat or to support the campaign, please **contact** Lois Sczomak at waysandmeans@playersguildofdearborn.org.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!







ARTS



Mayor John O'Reilly, Jr. City of Dearborn

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Best wishes to the Players Guild of Dearborn for the 2019-2020 season.

We are grateful to have such a wonderful asset in our community.

> I hope you enjoy the show!

> > છ



The Players Guild of Dearborn would like to thank the following individuals for their ongoing support and commitment to our organization and to the continuation of theatre arts in the Dearborn community.

## **BENEFACTORS**

Dennis & Sherry Diebolt Shirley & Walter Krone Don & Patti Mack Ronald & Lois McIntyre Luigi T. Melanzane Leonard Moore Rose & Jim Olson Donna Povich Donna Ryktarsky Diane Stoller Chris Willard

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Dorothy Shinske Badynee Susan & Jon Bartanen Carol & Jim Bielanic Tess Dowgiallo Kathy Duquette Gloria J. Even Henry & Susan Fradkin Janice & Roger Frank Richard & Ruth Gatza Anne Gautreau Judy Henn Lee & Jan Hollmann Debi Junkin Joseph Kubinski & Karen Krepps Melanie Landelius Sharon Major

Jim Martin Sue McIlhiny Richard & Antoinette Pasiak Douglas & Carole Peck Mr. & Mrs. Peter Petroff Mary Raftary Karen & Dave Reinowski Jack Ridenour & Kathleen Walsh Del Shott Debbie Slowik James & Lois Stout Kimberly Toby-Tomaszewski Edward Tumas Pat Verklan Cyrus J. Webber Joan Whittingham

## TO OUR PATRONS

#### **Opening Night Afterglow**

Join the cast and the crew of *Laughing Stock* after the opening performance (Friday, January 10) in our club room for a complimentary selection of hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

#### **Cell Phone Usage**

Please refrain from texting or other phone usage during the performance. If you need help silencing your cellular device, please ask one of our ushers.

#### Restrooms

For the convenience of our patrons, restrooms are located on the main floor outside our club room. Go through the front, right double-doors, then down the hallway to the left.

#### Refreshments

Refreshments will be offered in our club room during intermission. To enter the club room from the theatre, go through the double doors located on the right as you face the stage.

#### 50/50 Raffle for the Guild Renovation Fund

Don't forget to buy your ticket (or tickets!) for our famous 50/50 raffle. One lucky winner will take home half the pot! Tickets will be sold in the lobby prior to the performance and in the club room during intermission. Buy one for \$1, six for \$5, or 25 for \$10. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of intermission.

### Flash Photography and Recording Prohibited

Please refrain from taking photos of this performance. Any video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

#### A Non-Smoking Facility

The Guild is a non-smoking facility.

#### 2019–2020 OFFICERS, BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President	Chris Boudreau
Vice President	John Sczomak
Secretary	Patti Jones
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Casting Denise Kowalewski Tucker
Costumes Janeen Bodary
House & Hospitality Tim Carney
Lights & Sound Stan Guarnelo
Make-up Julie Ballantyne Brown
Membership Rebecca Hermen
Production Colleen Meade Ripper
Programs & Advertising Carissa Lokken
Properties Sebastian Adams
PR/Marketing Kristen Campbell
Script Sydnee Corbin
Stage John Sczomak
<i>Tickets</i> Tracey Boudreau
Ways & Means Lois Sczomak

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Finance Committee	Richard Moore
Guildlings	Kori Bielaniec
	and Juliette Abbott
IT Committee	Phil Booth
Historian	Diane Cliff

## **Advertise with Us!**

Did you know nearly 10,000 sets of eyes in our audience read "Players" each season? Don't miss your opportunity to reach such a variety of potential customers. Let us help you by placing an advertisement or a personal message with the Players Guild of Dearborn.

Contact Carissa Lokken at programs@playersguildofdearborn.org to reserve your space today! I've been lucky enough to be on our Script Committee for the past several years. *Laughing Stock* was suggested by another committee member, and I also had a friend who told me several years ago about seeing the show and thinking it was very funny. When I finally read the show, I got very emotional about the ending. It perfectly captures how it feels to be a part of a community theater family: each show is its own tight knit group for a few months, and then the family members move on, and it's never really quite the same again. It's bittersweet, but we keep coming back to it show after show to form new families and have new experiences.

Speaking of family, the Guild family as a whole is pretty incredible. From Stage (no matter what it is, they will build it) to Costumes and Props seemingly pulling pieces out of thin air, our family never ceases to amaze me with their passion and ability to just create!

The Laughing Stock family is particularly wonderful. Kristen asked to assistant direct early on, and I'm excited for what she will do in the future when she has the chance to helm her own show. Tim and Frann as producers, along with Amy Jones as stage manager were always asking what we needed, what they could do to help-they were always ready and willing to tackle a new job. Julie Brown has officially been typecast as "The Drunk," and really, we're all better for it. Sue Delosier is undoubtedly an audience favorite, and I'm so lucky she has chosen to audition for both of my main season shows because she is hilarious. Bill McCloskey can actually do anything. Seriously. Nick Szczerba has been in Rumors about 45 times, and I'm just so glad he took a break from that to be so funny in our show. Andrew St. John is for sure the sweetest member of our family with the best laugh. Adam Lynch often was seen as a dancer when he first joined the Guild, but I'm really happy he's made the transition to performing in plays because he's really funny! Emily Kaltz came out of acting retirement last season, and I'm lucky to have her in the show specifically because she is an expert giggler. There's probably other reasons, but just wait until you hear her giggle. David Zolotarchuk and I were in a show about 15 years ago, and I'm really glad he auditioned for this and has let me change his blocking every other rehearsal. Kaitlyn Cross came to us at the beginning of the season, and her goofy, happy self is a delight to have on our stage. Jazzmin Sharara is another of my OGs and I am so grateful that she wanted to do another show that I directed. Casey Coulter is somewhat new to the Guild, and I am so happy that he wanted to play and really lean in to his character when not a lot was actually written on the page. Mike Stec I know from Tigers Twitter, which is a long story, but I'm glad we got to meet in real life and that he was game to play an apprentice with a really hard name to say! The last two members of our family are Alex Gojkov and Ken Kilgore, both of whom I've known for my entire adult life. They were in one of the first shows I ever did at the Guild, fresh out of high school, and it means a lot to me that they would be willing to do this with me. As you can see, this cast is insanely talented, and I am insanely proud of everything they do in this show, from the funny moments to the heartbreaking ones. They are simply the best.

As Daisy, Sue's character, says in the show, "[a]nd that's all they really want, you know. To sit in the dark and listen to stories. And the best we can ever do is just that. Tell them a good story." Daisy is so right, and our family thanks you for sitting in the dark with us to watch this hilarious, heartwarming story be told. If you've never had the chance to be part of a theater, hopefully this gives you at least a taste of how funny, ridiculous, stressful, and rewarding a show can be. Thank you for being here.

Kori Bielaniec..... Director Kori is best known at the Guild for reminding people that she directed the Guildlings' production of Grease (2018). She was last seen onstage this past spring in one of her favorite roles as Faye Medwick in Chapter Two at St. Dunstan's. Working with other theaters is rewarding, but she is so happy to be back with the Guild, her home theater. She is still incredibly surprised and humbled at the sheer number of talented humans who auditioned for Laughing Stock, and would like to warn everyone in the audience that they will definitely be getting an abdominal workout during this show as they laugh themselves silly. Enjoy the show!

Kristen Campbell......Assistant Director Kristen is taking a break from being onstage after last being seen as Rheba in You Can't Take It With You. Some of her previous credits include Ferguson, a Hot Box Dancer, in Guys and Dolls; Chelsea Thayer Wayne in On Golden Pond; Eliante in The Misanthrope; Kate Keller in The Miracle Worker, and Ophelia in Hamlet. Kristen previously served as stage manager for Lost in Yonkers, Sweet Charity, Grease and Go Back for Murder at the Guild. She also has been hard at work producing shows such as Lend Me a Tenor and the Guildling's Heathers the Musical, and doing hair and makeup for Peter and the Starcatcher.

ensembles of Sweet Charity, Sugar, White Christmas, Spamalot, South Pacific, Kiss Me Kate, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, A Little Night Music, The Producers, The Wizard of Oz, Shenandoah, The Drowsy Chaperone, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and Inherit the Wind. By day, Tim takes on the role of elementary school teacher. Tim thanks his wife Joyce and his daughters Megan and Meredith for their love and support.

Julie Ballantyne Brown..... Sarah McKay Julie was last seen this fall on the Guild stage as Penny Sycamore in You Can't Take It With You. She spent last season as Aunt Sheila in It Shoulda Been You, Maggie Saunders in Lend Me A Tenor, and Elsa Greer in Go Back For Murder. Her many previous Guild productions include Lost In Yonkers; Promises, Promises; Two By Two; and To Kill A Mockingbird. She is currently the Guild Makeup and Hair Governor, a past treasurer and served as assistant director for The Miracle Worker and Seussical. She sends much love and praise to God for the opportunity to perform; to her husband, Marty, for his love and unending patience; to her boys; to all of her parents and family for coming to see her shows; and to Allegra, the hedgehog, for the kisses and snuggles. She is an aspiring writer who will most definitely live in London someday.

#### Casey Coulter .....Ian Milliken

Casey Coulter is a young ingénue excited about his third appearance on the Guild stage. Recently performing as Tim Algood in *Noises Off* at Stagecrafters and as Brian Howard in the Guild production of *It Shoulda Been You*, Casey is thrilled to share the stage with such a talented and heartwarming cast and crew!

her first being *You Can't Take It With You* earlier this season. She is currently a sophomore at Eastern Michigan University studying elementary education. She would like to thank family and friends for coming to support her, and her cast for being amazing. Enjoy the show!

Sue Delosier...... Daisy Coates This is the 79th production for this awardwinning actress. She was last seen on the Guild stage as Julia Leverett in Lend Me a Tenor and is delighted to be reunited with Bill, Julie, Kori and Jazzmin. She

played Mrs. Baker in Come Blow Your Horn, working with Alex and Jazzmin, under the direction of Kori. Sue played Grandma Kurnitz in Lost In Yonkers and Esther in Two By Two, working with Julie. Sue portrayed Miss Williams in Go Back For Murder, sharing the stage with Kori and Julie. Sue was Abby in Arsenic and Old Lace, working with Ken and Julie. Years earlier, Sue played Linda Loman in Death of a Salesman at Huron Civic Theatre, working with Bill. She was Dottie Otley in Noises Off with Southgate Community Players (2007), where she worked with Nick. In the last act of Laughing Stock, the author has a character talk about how a cast becomes a family. There is a lot of truth in that statement. Acting is a team effort, we help each other and work together to create a show. We may never work together again, but we will always be family. And Laughing Stock has added new members to my family.

Alex Gojkov ...... Gordon Page Alex Gojkov is an actor in this play.

*Playing a part in the Dearborn community for years.* 





Behind the scenes, I take stock in our community!

- Paid for by George T. Darany for City Clerk

### Emily Kaltz......Mary Pierre

Emily is delighted to return to the Guild stage. She was last seen as Annie in last season's *It Shoulda Been You*. Favorite credits include portraying Lucy VanPelt (twice!) in *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, Olive in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, The Woman in the Aviator Outfit in *Chamber Music*, Emily in *Godspell*, and Nikki Harris in *Curtains*. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Emily is currently a third-grade teacher in the Dearborn Public Schools. She wants to thank her sweet husband for his constant love and support.

Ken Kilgore ...... Craig Conlin Ken is very happy to be back on stage in this wonderful production. He began acting in high school but put acting on hold while earning his degrees. Then in 2006, he discovered the Guild and was cast as The Jester in Once Upon a Mattress. Since then, he has been cast in roles such as Galahad in Spamalot, Earnest Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Tony in *West Side Story*, and Mortimer Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. When not on stage, Ken works for General Motors in manufacturing finance.

Adam Lynch ...... Henry Mills Adam is excited to be back onstage for another Guild show. His Guild credits include Man Two in You Can't Take It With You; Slank/Hawking Clam in Peter and the Starcatcher; Harry the Horse in Guys and Dolls; Snetsky in Fools; Spatz in Sugar, and in the ensembles of Sweet Charity, Legally Blonde and White Christmas. He also choreographed the Guild's production of Promises, Promises.

William E. McCloskey...... Vernon Volker Bill is excited to work with this talented cast and crew at the Guild. Earlier this season, he played Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* and Mayor in *Rock of Ages* at the Croswell Opera House. At the Guild, he was last seen as Mr.

continued on page 14



Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You*. He has previously appeared as Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*, as Dr. Nikolai Zubritski in *Fools*, and Henry Saunders in *Lend Me a Tenor*. Thanks, Kori and Kristen for making this experience such a pleasure.

Jazzmin Sharrara ....Susannah Huntsman Jazzmin is delighted to be back on the Guild stage for Laughing Stock. Having previously worked with Kori as a director in Come Blow Your Horn, she just knew she needed to audition. This is her fourth show at the Guild, having most recently been seen as Diana in Lend Me a Tenor. She would like to thank her fellow cast and crew for making this experience as perfect as it could be. Jazzmin is a special-effects makeup artist and dreams of one day winning an Oscar for makeup design.

Andrew St. John ......Jack Morris Andrew is happy to be returning to the Guild stage for Laughing Stock. Although it has been a while since his first show at this theater—The Mousetrap (Love you K1, K2 and Monkswellians!), followed by Lion in Winter ("Rot" with love you wicked family members!)—he has stayed busy in theater performing in musical such as Big Fish and Shakespeare's Hamlet, greatly enjoying the friends made, memories shared and stages shared. A heartfelt "Thank You!" to Kori and the fantastic cast and crew involved in this production. Laugh out loud dear audience and enjoy the show.

## Nick Szczerba .....Richfield Hawksley

Nick is thrilled to be back on the Guild stage after last being seen in *You Can't Take It With You* (2019). By day, Nick is a recently retired software developer; by night, he's a ... well, you're looking at it! Nick would like to thank Kori, Kristen, the production staff and all those who worked behind the scenes to make this production a success. He happily accepts your laughs and applause on their behalf. Up next for Nick? Traveling with his grandchildren (Greyson and Everett) and his wife, Mary (a.k.a. Sweet Pea!).

## There's No Business Like Show Business

Consider becoming a member of The Players Guild of Dearborn. Contact our membership governor Rebecca Hermen at **membership@ playersguildofdearborn.org** 





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Dearborn Symphony Orchestra

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2019-2020 Season

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Fri, Nov 22, 2019 <b>American</b> <b>Masters</b> Jonathan Lasch, baritone	Bernstein Walker Copland Gershwin	West Side Story Overture Lyric for Strings Old American Songs Jonathan Lasch, baritone An American in Paris
Fri, Feb 14, 2020 <b>For the Love</b> <b>of Beethoven</b> Debra Terry, violin	Beethoven Haydn Beethoven Beethoven Tchaikovsky	Egmont Overture "Drum Roll" Symphony Romance in F major Debra Terry, violin Symphony No. 5 Mvt 1 Symphony No. 7 Mvt 2 Marche Slave, DYS side-by-side
Fri, Apr 3, 2020 <b>Stage &amp; Screen</b> Rich Ridenour, piano Steven Jarvi, Conductor	joy of live mus have made it including "Sou "The Entertain Share a laugh with one of th	teven and Rich celebrate the sic with orchestral favorites that to the Big Screen. Enjoy selections mewhere in Time," "Clair de Lune," her," "Rhapsody in Blue" and more! and some unforgettable melodies e Symphony's most beloved
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# THE GLASS MENAGERIE

## by Tennessee Williams

Produced in Cooperation with Dramatists Play Service

Amanda Wingfield is a faded, tragic remnant of Southern gentility who lives in poverty in a dingy St. Louis apartment with her son, Tom, and her daughter, Laura. She strives to give meaning and direction to her life and the lives of her children, though her methods are ineffective and irritating. Tom is driven nearly to distraction by his mother's nagging and seeks escape in alcohol and the world of the movies. Laura is crippled and this defect, intensified by her mother's anxiety to see her married, has driven her more and more into herself. The family struggles through a world of illusion in their attempt to find happiness, redemption and, possibly, freedom.

AUDITIONS January 13 and 14, 2020

ON STAGE March 6-8, 13-15, and 20-22, 2020

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## Thank You to Our Generous Supporters!

We would like to thank our supporters who have contributed to these funds, and make it possible for us to continually provide the best in live community theater.

## **GIVING FUND**

FOR PRODUCTION UPGRADES

#### ANGEL (OVER \$500)

Matt and Lindsey Carpenter In Memory of Ralph Kolinski John and Lois Sczomak

> **PRODUCER (\$251–500)** John Van Landingham

#### DIRECTOR (\$151-250)

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#### **DESIGNER (\$101–150)**

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#### ACTOR/ACTRESS (\$26-50)

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Pauline Colston Mr. and Mrs. John Carl Faust Maxine C. Lizbinski Megan A. Lizbinski Sharon Moore Jennifer A. Trahey

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