



THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 2

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

OCTOBER 2007

Suddenly there came a tapping...

By Player Fuzz Corey

An autumn, my favorite time of the year. And as the first week of October arrives, like with the Supreme Court, it is time for the Players to get to work. And like at the court, I am here to present evidence to you so that you may judge for yourself and make your own verdict about this 566th Frolic, and see if you have advice or consent for this exegesis.

The theme appeared to be that which is associated with Halloween: costumes, the macabre, eeriness and even tricks and treats.

Stirrings began in the Founders Room of the playhouse, even before the curtain arose, with 20-some members of the 20-Year Club celebrating an induction of five new members. They were treated to a sumptuous dinner prepared by **Player Tom Brandel's** Tom's Oyster Bar, along with various libations to whet their palettes [Complements of departed **Player Harold Love**. Ed.].

Following that, after they eased their way into the auditorium, **Player President James Turnbull** greeted the audience (a more full house than last year at this time to be sure) with his first announcements of the season. And he didn't drop a line! (However, some of them may have been juxtaposed). He presented a Players mug to our newest Player, his own son, **Player Andrew Turnbull**, giving evidence to the fact that one of the endearing aspects of this organization is the lifeline traveling from one generation to another.

Player Turnbull then introduced the Players Choir, **Players Daly, Volz, Steltenkamp, Robinson, Pirrami, Nelson** and of course,

Jendrzejewski, who gave us a fine a cappella rendition of the Players Song.

Da dum, da dum, da dum, da dum ...

After the Players Song, the curtain opened to the first offering of the evening, Edgar Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

Da dum, da dum, da dum ...

Player (and ex-prez) **Bill Champion** recounts the history, in his striking voice, more knowing than The Shadow, of how he went mad and planned a murder after being exposed one too many times to the mysterious eye of his landlord, played with deep decrepitude and fear by **Player Joe Ajlouny**.

Da dum, da dum, da dum ...

After complaints of a scream heard by the neighbors, Champion's character is visited by members of the local constabulary in the form of **Players Chris Monley** and **George Skaff**. George, particularly, in his handsome mustache and evening clothing, was one of the finest dressed coppers ever to set foot in Baker Street. Chris delivered the line of questioning while George played the strong, silent type.

Da dum, da dum, da dum ...

While the officers' interrogated Champion, he lamely issued reasons for the absence of the old man. But the beating of the old man's heart, buried underneath the floorboards, reverberated in Champion's mind, driving him insane to the point where he confessed everything ... well, you have read the story ...

The play, directed by **Player Michael Grant**, set the mood for the evening's other grizzly

adventures to come. The special effects, which added so much to the presentation, were provided by our own *Mr. Industrial Light and Magic*, **Player Larry Smith**.

Continuing with the theme of horror and terror in the next play was the appearance of **Player Henry Nelson** in a dress! The vehicle was *Three Times a Lady*, written by one of our own Players, **Player Ward Kay**. The piece was one of the more thought-provoking offerings we have had on our stage. Author, Author!!

The story begins with **Player Allan Dick** pattering around his counseling office when Jack Crenshaw (**Player Peter Ruffner**) comes in for his marriage counseling appointment. He is seeking the doctor's help in preventing his wife from trying to divorce him. She says he was calling her another woman's name while they were making love so she felt he was cheating on her. Well, it turns out that the other woman's name was his wife as well, that his wife has a split personality...well, actually split in three: one a sexpot, one a traditional, conservative woman, and the other a more domineering type. All three of these women work in different roles at the restaurant, Sybil's, that they own. **Player Henry** does bravura work as we meet up, each in turn, with Rachel, Leah and Becky, Jack's three faces of Eve.

But it turns out there is one more face Jack didn't know about, Sarah, who pays a surprise visit. She is the uber-eve, a culmination of all aspects of the triumvirate of Jack's loves. She enters and gives Jack a dressing down for not accepting his wife as a complete woman. Jack sees the error of his ways. They reconcile, the doctor gets his pay and Sybil's gets a new hostess!

All-in-all it was ably directed by Allan and performed well by all three actors, making it the first serious May-contender of this new season.

The third offering of the evening was Eric Coble's play *Haunted*, directed by **Player Bob O'Leary**.

The action takes place backstage where Sally, **Player Andrew Turnbull** (having begun the evening by receiving a mug, now shows his mug at the end), prepares to make her entrance on


stage, but is interrupted by a series of strange spirits.

Like in *A Christmas Carol*, Sally is visited one by one (although each stays around with the others to form an anvil chorus) by the Ghost of Lines Dropped (**Player Ed Priebe**), the Ghost of Entrances Missed (**Player Tom Sloan**), the Ghost of Reviews Awful (**Player James Turnbull** -- who found the role to his liking since he was able to read from his "reviews.") and the Ghost of Roles Off-Limits (**Player Bob O'Leary**). Where was the Ghost of Falling Curtains?

More than scary, it was a clever play and the actors had a fun time with it. Ed did a yeoman's job in providing costumes and make-up for the ghosts.

A dinner of German potato salad and a flaky apple pastry was served by **Players Glenn Scoles, David Sherwood and Jim Greiner**. Oh and bratwurst was also prepared for our meat-eaters.

To top off the evening our special guest, Bill McGettigan tried to perform an example of his Shamanic Hypnosis on **Player D.C. Moons** and a friend. It is a way of using shamanic journeying techniques in a hypnotic trance. Our subjects didn't seem to fall under the spell though, but a good effort was made nonetheless.

With this evening's entertainment the mood was set for goblin hunting this month, so go out and get yourselves ready for Halloween (unless you receive this after Oct. 31, then sit down in your easy chair and have some leftover candy). The bar was raised for future frolics, gentlemen. Also, don't forget to order your tickets for the November Invitational. 

November Pre-Frolic Dinner

At the **Detroit Racquet Club**

626 East Woodbridge

Detroit, MI 48226

See page 7 for details.

www.drc1902.com

Frolic 567
&
November Invitational

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2007

CURTAIN AT 8:30 PM

INVITATIONAL PERFORMANCES:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, AND SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2007

CURTAIN AT 8:00 PM

PRODUCERS: PLAYERS BOB BORSODI & HENRY NELSON



The Curious Savage

by John Patrick

Directed by Player J. Michael Mongan

Assistant Director: Joseph S. Ajlouny

Scene: The Cloisters, an upscale mental health retreat in the 1950's

The Cast:

Guests:

Florence..... Player James T. Foran
Hannibal..... Player Steven Flum
Fairy May..... Player H. T. (Tim) Bannister
Jeffrey..... Player Gordon A. Price
Mrs. Paddy..... Player George Hadden

Family:

Titus..... Player John C. Burke
Samuel..... Player Charles E. Roberts
Lily Belle..... Player Eric Christian
Ethel..... Player Thomas D. Diffendal

Staff:

Miss Wilhelmina..... Player Glenn R. Scoles
Dr. Emmet..... Player Milan (Moose) Mijatovic



**Afterglow: "SUCA" – Stand Up Comedy Afterglow
with your host, Player Mike Mongan**

What does a fella [coach] have to do around here to get fired?

... there's been ... this idea that it's your money, it's your money.

~ Darryl Rogers (1935 -)

~ Jennifer Granholm (1959 -)

HERE'S YOUR CUE

"When my cue comes, call me and I will answer."

Welcome to another issue of The Player! If you did not come to the October Frolic, you missed a good one. Several Players commented that it was one of the best opening Frolics in years.

Now for the usual pronouncements: The Player is available in Adobe "pdf" format on the web at <http://theplayers.info/ThePlayer.htm>. Each month an "Announcement of Availability" is sent to web savvy Players as soon as The Player is published. The Editor re-creates this list at the beginning of each Season. To get on the list, send an e-mail to *this* address: TheEditor@theplayers.info. Please note, this is not the office e-mail address. *If you're not getting the announcement, you're not on the list, and you need to send a new request.* Once on the list, you will get the notice and the link, where you can open or download the "pdf" file! Alternatively, forget the link and just go to the web site! Adobe Acrobat 7.0 is used for creating The Player and Adobe Reader 7 or above is recommended for viewing. Our goals: get The Player out on time; improve quality; make sure everyone has his announcement in. Help us by being aware of The Player deadlines. The general deadline is the **15th of every month**. Thanks ever so much and onward and upward!

THE PLAYERS' PLAYHOUSE WISH LIST

We continue with the "Players' Playhouse Wish List." Past President Player Monley is hopeful it will generate needed funds and/or items to benefit our "Beautiful Lady." Please peruse the list and see how you may fulfill the wishes of several committees, not the least of which is the Building and Grounds Committee. To whom it matters, please be reminded that all donations, cash or useful items are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

Wish	Est. Cost	Donations to Date
New loading dock doors	\$5,000	
Smoke door cupola- flashing	\$5,000	
Hearing enhancement system	\$2,500	\$1,750
Business office furniture	\$200-2,000	
Oriental Rug, 10'4" x 11'10" max.		
Two Settees		
Carpet for Auditorium Steps	\$600.00	Done!
Funding for Auditorium Steps	\$1,800	\$500.00

If any Player has a suggestion for inclusion to the Wish List, please contact any Board member.

OFFICE NOTES FROM CLAUDINE

MAKE THOSE NOVEMBER RESERVATIONS NOW!

Remember, the November Invitational is coming up. It promises to be a great show. What a great way to show off the Playhouse to your friends and neighbors, loved ones and family!

Call or e-mail Claudine today with your reservation: (313) 259-3385 or players-office@sbcglobal.net.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 9 AT 2:30 PM

Mark your calendar on Sunday, **December 9** for the **Players Family Christmas Party!** This holiday event will take place in the Founder's Room from **2:30 to 5:00 PM**. Bring the kids to see Santa and share in some holiday treats. We ask that you bring a *wrapped* gift marked "Boy" or "Girl" so that Santa's helper, Player Mike Mongan, can bring them to some deserving, less fortunate kids. Also, whip up your favorite holiday recipe and bring it to share with the rest of the crowd! This is a really nice way to meet other Player families.

Give me a call to make your reservations – we want to make sure there are enough treats for your little ones. I hope to see you there!!

~ Claudine

Ph: 313-259-3385 ~ Fax: 313-259-0932

Email: players-office@sbcglobal.net

WHERE'S THE CALENDAR?

It's on line! That's where! The Players' Calendar is now a Google Calendar! The simple way to check the Players' Calendar is to go to the web site and go to the calendar page:

http://www.theplayers.info/Google_Calendar.htm

If you already have a G-Mail account, it has been set up for viewing through Google!

THE PLAYER, VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 2, OCTOBER 2007

THE PLAYER ... is published monthly from September to April, with *sometimes* a combined December/January issue and *sometimes* a summer issue. The views expressed herein are those of the respective authors and editor [currently, Player Peter W. Dawson] and not necessarily those of the Players. Comments may be made to and back issues may be available from the office, (313) 259-3385 or send an inquiry to ThePlayer@theplayers.info. The Player is available on the web at www.theplayers.info. We welcome your contributions and comments. We do, we really do!

HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Players Board of Governors has appointed an ad-hoc Long Range Planning Committee, with the directive of developing a "quasi" Master Plan for the Club. The Committee will study all issues facing Players and suggest directions to maintain the Club's future viability.

Unlike other committees, the ad-hoc Future Planning group has been selected from a cross-section of the membership. One representative from six different groups plus a Board of Governors Liaison was [were] chosen. They are:

- Life Member – Bill Turner
- 20-Year Club Member – Henry Nelson
- Past President – Bob O'Leary
- Member for more than ten but less than 20 years – Bill Volz
- Member for five years or less – Brad Dahlhofer
- Current Governor – Tim Cordes
- Board of Governors Liaison – Greg Thom

The group will operate under the philosophy that "no idea is a bad one," and will consider all ideas and suggestions. Monthly updates will be given to the Board of Governors and a final report will be presented to the Board for their consideration.

Wanted!

Individuals that are interested in contributing an evening of food preparation for a traffic hour this season. Responsibility for the evening would consist of:

- Preparing that evening's food (for approx. 20 people) (options include: heating up frozen dishes from the store, preparing something from scratch, or even ordering pizza!)
- Collecting money from those that are eating and helping dish out the food to them if necessary
- Cleaning up anything that was used to cook the food (or if you decide to use dishes) when you are done

This is a pretty straightforward responsibility and you have the joy of interacting with everybody that comes back to serving counter, plus haven't you always wanted to be the one to make the decision of "what's for dinner?"

Please contact **Player Brian Bawol** with any questions or inquiries (bbawol@gmail.com or 248-252-8424).

ANOTHER GENTLE REMINDER, OR THE GRANHOLM SALES TAX DILEMMA!

Everyone knows Jen Gen [sic] wants to raise money by collecting sales tax, but did you know The Players is sales tax exempt? Yes, that is correct sir, The Players is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization and a non-profit theater and because of its status, The Players does not have to pay sales taxes on its purchases. How does that work? There is a form, Michigan Department of Treasury Form 3327, that you give to merchants when you buy something and then they do not charge sales tax. Why bring this up? Several Players with good intentions have recently bought items for the Playhouse but have paid sales tax. Please, for the sake of Players, do not do that, it will save us 6%. How do you get the form? It is available on line at http://www.theplayers.info/Players_Charitable_Status.htm or from the office or from the Treasurer. At some merchants we deal with regularly, it is already set up! So please, help us save money by not paying taxes on purchases for Players, and if your reimbursement is short a few pfennig's, do not be too surprised. Thank you for your cooperation!

HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)**A LAST CHANCE AT A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION:**

A Great Opportunity for the Players Endowment Fund
IRAs Offer Big Tax Savings for Charitable Gifts

For a few more days this year, the tax law will allow you to give to charity directly from your IRA and count that gift toward your required minimum distribution. Giving to charity from your IRA will also provide you with additional tax savings. But, to qualify, you must make your donations before 2008.

Unlike the typical deduction you may be taking to offset your charitable giving, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 [Sec. 408(d)(8)(A).] offers you tax savings opportunities which a charitable contribution deduction will not.

The Pension Protection Act provisions allow you to make so-called "qualified charitable distributions" from your IRA and to exclude the gift from your gross income. Furthermore, such gifts can be used to fulfill required minimum distributions. But you must give before 2008, when the provision sunsets.

Player Denne Osgood

**IT'S NOT BACK! THE JOHN OWEN ESQUIRE QUIZ, BY PLAYER CHRIS MONLEY.
BUT DR. FASHION IS! AND HE GETS LETTERS!**

Ah, my little lambs, I'm back, like your proverbial bad habit and taste in clothes. If you attended May, you were feasted with sartorial resplendence in the outfits for So You Wanna Get Married, the highlight (in Dr. Fashion's opinion) of which was **Player Greg Thom's** "vintage" tuxedo. I thought he looked great, but some players, I understand, did not and I have received the following missive from Player Thom:

Please let Dr. Fashion know that while some Players may have scoffed at my outfit, my plaid tuxedo is actually a trendsetter, followed by some of the most famous fashionistas in Europe. But being the humble person that I am, I certainly didn't want to embarrass any fellow Player by pointing out their stylistic faux pas. [Dr. Fashion does that well enough. – Ed.]

I've also enclosed a couple of items for your viewing pleasure. If you Google Lapo Elkann, you'll find that he's the heir to Fiat Motors, and is (and I quote), "...often called Italy's best dressed man." Here are a couple of clips:

- *"Lauded in fashion circles for inheriting his grandfather's sense of style, Elkann has become famous ..."*
- *"For someone who is often called Italy's best dressed man, Lapo Elkann, the 28-year-old scion of the Agnelli clan ..."*



Now I ask you, is there any better fodder for a "separated at birth" column? And how can one argue or criticize the aplomb that Player Thom wore his tuxedo? Plus, add in the fact Player Thom purchased the tuxedo two decades ago and he is still able to, ahem, fit into it! Ah, Dr. Fashion says, "c'est magnifique!" Now Dr. Fashion still says the classiest color for Black Tie is black and you gotta love the shawl collar, but c'est magnifique nonetheless. The lesson to remember in all this? Remember the last night of the Invitational is very dressy, Black Tie, even. ☺

HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)**One chance in a lifetime ... really!**

Ithaca College professor, Marijean Levering, Ph.D., has written a superb book-length study on Players ... ***Detroit on stage: The Players Club, 1910-2005***. We could make the usual riffs about ***one of a kind***, and ***quite like it***, but we won't. Truth written about our club. Wayne printer and they have done us then some. Dr. Levering has our legends, our idiosyncrasies, stuff. It is truly riveting reading for nurtured by Club Historian, Player yours, at this signing, for only will then revert to its regular than the price of a good bottle of there any bad bottles? [Absolutely to be at the Playhouse on both Friday, Nov. 9th and Saturday, Nov. 10th, beginning at 6:00 PM. She will sign copies of her book and share with you things you never knew about your Club. Yum! Yum!



best I've seen and ***no other*** be known, this is the only book ever State University is the publisher and proud. The book is handsome and included everything: our founding, historical photos and other great Players and public alike and was Thomas Brunk. The book can be **\$30.00**. The price after the event **\$40.00** price. **\$30.00** ... even less single malt Scotch. Then again, are not! – *Ed.*] Dr. Levering has agreed

NOVEMBER PRE-FROLIC DINNER

The November Pre-Frolic Dinner will be at the inimitable **Detroit Racquet Club**, 626 East Woodbridge Street, Detroit, MI 48226, (313) 568-0432, www.drc1902.com. Founded in 1902 and nestled in the shadow of the Renaissance Center (just to its east), the DRC began life as the Detroit Racquet and Curling Club. The DRC is one of only seven (7) facilities in North America that boasts an active "hard" racquets (or rackets) court, the game that preceded squash and racquetball, although those latter games are now much different. If you don't know about racquets, it is played in a 30 by 60 foot (9.14 × 18.28 m) enclosed court, with a ceiling at least 30 feet high. Singles and doubles are played on the same court. The walls and floor of the court are made of smooth stone or concrete and are generally dark in color to contrast with the white ball. The players use 30½ inch (775 mm) wooden racquets (similar to a beefed up wood squash racquet) to hit a 38mm (1.5 inch) hard (described as hard as a golf ball) white ball weighing 28 grams. It is beyond a doubt the fastest game played with a racquet, with ball speeds exceeding 100 miles an hour. The DRC was designed by the noted architect Albert Kahn and constructed by Joseph Bickley. Originally open to the air with natural lighting, the racquets court was glazed over (with lights added) in 1912. Curling departed in the first half of the 20th century and the club retains its racquets court and 3 squash courts today.

This is a unique opportunity to visit one of the most distinct clubs in North America, uniqueness a trait it shares with The Players. Chef Damon of the DRC will prepare a sumptuous meal for those that attend. A cash bar and wine with dinner for purchase will be available. The gathering takes place at the usual time, Cash Bar starting at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 7:00 PM. *Please RSVP* to Claudine so that we can have an accurate headcount. (313) 259-3385 or players-office@sbcglobal.com.

BALDUCK MOUNTAIN RAMBLERS

Players Endowment Fund Concert Fundraiser for Saturday, October 27, 2007

CANCELED

This wonderful event was canceled due to lack of ticket sales. Such a disappointment!

A GENTLE REMINDER

Recently a Player parked in front of the gate next door at Dr. Berke's office. Only problem was, this blocked Dr. Berke's office manager's ingress and egress into their parking lot. Was this an isolated incident? Unfortunately, no. The office manager was nice about it, but we do not want to intrude on their hospitality. Dr. Berke is very kind to let us use his parking lot and we would not want anything to jeopardize that. Please remember not to block the gate next door!

Three Times a Lady



ALLAN DICK



HENRY NELSON



PETER RUFFNER



TOM SLOAN

JAMES TURNBULL

ANDREW TURNBULL

ED PRIEBE

BOB O'LEARY

Haunted

FROLIC 566
6 OCTOBER 2007
MONLEY



CHRIS MONLEY · GEORGE SKAFF



BILL CHAMPION

JOSEPH AJLOUNY

The Tell-Tale Heart

Reminders!

Come to the Pre-Frolic Dinner at the Detroit Racquet Club on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

Make a reservation for the Fall Invitational, Friday November 9th, or Saturday, November 10th! But remember that November 10th by tradition is more formal!