



# THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 4

DETROIT, MICHIGAN DECEMBER 2007 - JANUARY 2008

## *Another Fine Evening*

By Player John L. Daly

I expect that many of us have spent some time since the November Frolic reading *Detroit on Stage: The Players Club 1910-2005* that Marijean Levering wrote as part of her Ph.D. dissertation on theater history at Wayne State University. The book was well researched, well written and provided a much better insight into our club than would have been expected from an outsider. If the book had any faults, it was that at 292 pages, it was far too short.

The Players Chorus was just a quartet at the December Frolic as the arrival of winter weather made the roads treacherous getting to the club. **Player Roy Jendrzejewski** stood in as chorus leader while **Player Chuck Steltenkamp** stood in for Player Leon Hart behind the bar. Roy's selection of "Let it Snow" as the ending chorus number seemed a particularly appropriate choice since its lyrics begin "Oh, the weather outside is frightful ...."

**Player Allan Dick** sang The Players Song accompanied by **Player Earl Wolfe**. Earl's experimentation with the electronic sounds on the clavinova turned Allan's performance into the most beautiful rendition of our club anthem in my memory.

The plays for the evening began with *George*, directed by **Player Fuzz Corey**. The curtain opens with Sue, played by **Player Bill Volz**, standing in the Cape Cod summerhouse of her friend Elizabeth played by **Player Ed Priebe**. The set and Bill's smartly costumed attire generated applause before he could even utter his first word. With Elizabeth entering after the applause died down, we saw that this character was smartly attired as well. Both

characters were costumed by **Player Ed Priebe** who credited new wigs for the look of both characters.

It seems that Elizabeth has met a new man, George, whom she believes has come to propose to her. George knows about Elizabeth's husband Phillip. Well, sort of anyway, but not exactly. The set-up provides ample opportunity for witty dialog. **Player Michael Goodell**, who is typically typecast as a curmudgeon, played George and director Corey played Phillip. In the spirit on Nunquam Renig, Michael set aside the viral infection that he was fighting to do the performance.

One of the fun characters in the play was the butler Edgar, played by **Player Mike Frank**. Mike made perhaps six entrances during the play never saying a word but catching our attention none-the-less by implausibly arriving the instant Phillip or Elizabeth desire anything. It was a funny bit in a fun show.

The second play of the evening, *The Waiting Room*, was really two separate skits that both take place in a hospital. The play was adapted by director **Player Chris Monley** from two different *Shouts and Murmurs* columns in the *New Yorker* magazine. *The Waiting Room* opens with 6'6" **Player Stuart Johnson**, son of longtime member **Player Dave Johnson**, making his Player's debut sitting in a hospital waiting room playing a woman. Putting Stuart in a dress created its own logistical issues. Fortunately, **Player Jim Foran** came to the rescue by lending him a pair of size 15 heels. Stuart delivered his five lines admirably, even

getting a nice sight-gag laugh by examining the fake fish in the fish tank.

In the first skit, director/adaptor/actor **Player Chris Monley** tells the bewildered woman who just happens to be sitting in the waiting room how he happens to fall 900 feet at Yosemite and live to tell about it. When that character leaves, the laughs began again immediately as 5'7" **Player Mark Habel** enters as the doctor to tell the 6'6" woman about her husband's medical condition. Mark, dressed in the same doctor's scrubs that he wore as stooge Moe Howard in the 2006 production of *Men in Black*, rants about the state of health care to the still bewildered woman. Mark gave a tremendous performance in what was just one of his many memorable roles.

The dialog, written by a former **Simpson's** scriptwriter comes fast and furious until the doctor finally summarizes by saying, "Unless you have \$14,000, I'm going to have to leave your Douglas open on the table." At which time, we find that the woman's husband is not named Douglas.

*The Waiting Room* was well acted, directed and adapted and provided a really fun time.

The third play of the evening was a *Holmes Family Christmas*, featuring **Player John McLaughlin** as Sherlock Holmes, **Player Larry Smith** as Dr. Watson and **Player Tom Diffendal** as the woman. Larry and Tom gave their usual polished performances and were perfectly cast for their roles.

The real stories from the show were the contributions of **Player John McLaughlin** and rookie director **Player Tom Sloan**. McLaughlin gave a wonderful performance as Holmes, delivering the rapid-fire lines with polish and a great characterization. None would disagree with **Player Eric Christian**, who played Holmes a year ago, that this was McLaughlin's "breakout role" that will earn him many great parts in the future. The highly polished production with a great set, great costumes and a great cast will probably earn **Player Tom Sloan** the opportunity to direct anything he wants again and again and again.

The innovative frolic supper was prepared by a team of **Players JJ Jorgensen, Jerry Teagan** and **Dave Sherwood**. The choice of biscuits, cinnamon-nut rolls, festive scrambled eggs, sausages and a choice of orange or tomato juice was a delicious late night meal. Each component of the frolic supper was perfectly prepared and I was full enough afterwards that I only had coffee until lunch the next day.

The afterglow featured two separate entertainments. First came **Player Denne Osgood's** reading of *A Walk on Lake George* accompanied by **Player Earle Wolfe** on the clavivova. It was followed by the traditional telling of a *Christmas in Selkirk* by **Player President Jim Turnbull**. I've heard this wonderful story fifteen to twenty times and each time I learn a few more things about that evening in Selkirk nearly sixty years ago. ☺

#### In Memoriam

**Player David Sherwood, Jr.**

1922-2007

His Play is Done.  
(Twelfth Night)

Our Condolences to Players David Sherwood, III, and Michael Sherwood and their families.

Memorial contributions in his honor may be made to THE PLAYERS ENDOWMENT FUND, an IRS 501(C)3 organization, at 3321 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, MI 48207. The money will be used to benefit the historic "Players Theater" he enjoyed so much.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Darren Brim**

Sponsored by: Player Chris Monley  
Endorsed by: Player John Daly

**Robert (Bob) Dodge**

Sponsored by: Player Andrew Turnbull  
Endorsed by: Player James Turnbull

#### FEBRUARY PRE-FROLIC DINNER - 2/2/2008

Tom's Oyster Bar - Downtown



519 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, MI

[www.tomsoysterbar.com](http://www.tomsoysterbar.com)

Cocktails starting 6:00 PM'ish,

Dinner following.

\$30.00 (all in)

# Frolic 569

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2008

CURTAIN AT 8:30 PM

PRODUCER: PLAYER GLENN SCOLES



## **Wasting Away**

By Players Mark W. Habel & John L. Daly

Artistic Director – Player John L. Daly

Technical Director – Player Mark W. Habel

Scene 0 – The Final, Final Exam

Time: 12 Years Ago

Place: Casa Dominick's, a bar in Ann Arbor, Michigan

Act III – Wasting Away

Scene 1: President's office at B & C Manufacturing, the present

Scene 2: Home of Bob Burns, three weeks later

Scene 3: Two weeks later

Aaron Jones..... Player Andrew Turnbull  
 Christopher Smith..... Player Brian W. Bawol  
 Deborah Kelley..... Player Edward J. Priebe  
 Bob Burns..... Player Geno Pirrami  
 Edith Johnson..... Player Mark W. Habel  
 Chas Chambers..... Player Greg R. Thom  
 Barbara Glenister..... Player Andrew Turnbull  
 Author..... Player Darren Brim\*

\*First time on The Players' Stage



## **The Major and the Slippers**

by Yuri Krotkov

Adapted for the stage by Player Joe Ajlouny

Directed by Player Joe Ajlouny

Time: December 1949

Place: Josef Stalin's Dacha

Josef Stalin..... Player Michael Mongan  
 Major Petor Shoposhnokov..... Player Stuart Johnson  
 Lavrenti Beria..... Player Ed Priebe



## *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*

By David Ives

Directed by Player Eric Christian

Setting: Coyoacan, Mexico August 21st, 1940

Trotsky..... Player Glenn "Fuzz" Corey  
 Mrs. Trotsky..... Player J. Robert O'Leary  
 Ramon..... Player John "Fredo" Tintinalli



Afterglow: The St. Andrew's Society Pipe Band  
 featuring a Highland Dancer,

Courtesy of the Gourmet? Group & Glow Worm Player Glenn Scoles

I got a fever, and the only prescription is more cowbell, baby! ... I gotta have more cowbell, baby!

*Christopher Walken as Bruce Dickinson (Saturday Night Live, April 8, 2000)*

### HERE'S YOUR CUE

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

Welcome to another issue of The Player!

### NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

#### "Detroit on Stage - The Players Club 1910 - 2005"

Still haven't called me to get your own copy?! Gentlemen, you'll want to have one of these. Dr. Marijean Levering has done a great service to The Players, her book is terrific. There are so many fascinating facts about Players and its history, it's a great read! Send me a note with your check for \$40, or call me with your credit card information. It is worth every penny.

### Office Remodel

We are in the beginning stages of remodeling the office. A few items that I am in search of include: a gently used old desk, a small round gathering table & chairs and hanging light fixtures. Let me know if there is something you'd like to donate. Remember, Players is a 501(C)(3) organization and your donations are tax deductible.

### Parking

Dr. Berke's office has called to let me know that the gate was recently left unlocked over night. Please let's not abuse the privilege our gracious neighbor has allowed us. When you are the last one out, make sure that the gate & lock are properly secured. And, during the winter months the posts are wired in place to allow easy movement of the gates – please do not remove these wires. Thanks guys!

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

Email: [players-office@sbcglobal.net](mailto:players-office@sbcglobal.net)



Sending you wishes for all the best  
this past Holiday Season  
and throughout the New Year!!

Claudine



### THE PLAYERS

Officers and Board of Governors  
2007 – 2008 Season

James Turnbull, President  
Craig White, Vice President-Administration  
Geno Pirami, Vice President-Production  
Michael L. Goodell, Secretary, Peter W. Dawson, Treasurer  
Brian Bawol Tim Cordes  
Greg R. Thom Tim Whims

### THE PLAYERS' PLAYHOUSE WISH LIST

We continue with the "Players' Playhouse Wish List." Started by Past President Player Chris Monley, we hope 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 your club! 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	Challenge Grant! \$2,500
Smoke door cupola- flashing	\$5,000	
Business office remodeling	\$10,000	
Oriental Rug, 10'4" x 11'10"		
Auditorium Step Lights	\$3,800	\$500.00

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

### WHERE'S THE CALENDAR?

It's on line! On the new Players' web site! Go to [www.playersdetroit.org](http://www.playersdetroit.org). Still a work in progress, but reviews have been positive! Look elsewhere for the "411."

### FEBRUARY PRE FROLIC DINNER

The location of the Pre-Frolic Dinner for February is Tom's Oyster Bar – Downtown, 519 E. Jefferson at Beaubien, Detroit, Michigan. [(313) 964-4010, <http://www.tomssoysterbar.com>]. For \$30.00 (all in) you'll get a sumptuous meal hosted by that famous restaurateur, Player Tom Brandel. Cocktails (Cash Bar) @ 6'ish, dinner following. Please call the office to let us know you'll attend, s'il vous plait. 📧

### [HTTP://PLAYERSDETROIT.ORG](http://PLAYERSDETROIT.ORG)

Don't forget about the new web site! Access/update your profile; read about the latest news and events; download the latest "The Player" online; see schedules for plays and dress rehearsals; check out and upload pictures from various functions; see where pre-frolic dinners will be and get directions; download events to your outlook calendar!

As a member of The Players, you have the ability to stay in touch with the latest news and updates going on within our organization. You can see this information online, real-time, with the click of a few buttons. As a member, you can access your profile and get the latest updates right from your computer. Once you are a registered web site user, your permissions will be approved by a site administrator and these permissions will give you access and functionality to various pages within the site. Go to <http://playersdetroit.org> and see it today! 📧

### THE PLAYER, VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 4, DECEMBER – JANUARY 2008

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](mailto:ThePlayer@theplayers.info). The Player is available on the web at [www.playersdetroit.org](http://www.playersdetroit.org). We welcome your contributions and comments. We do, we really do!

**HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)****WHAT'S THAT? SAY WHAT? OR AS HEARD AT THE LAST FROLIC: "LOUDER!?"**

Well, I thought maybe we could have put the cries of "LOUDER!" to bed because the long awaited Sound and Hearing Enhancement System ["SHES"] had arrived. Only thing is that no one has asked for it yet. Ask whomever is doing sound for the frolic and the receiver will be delivered to you. All we ask is that you return the receiver at the end of the night and fill out a card before hand so we can track the receiver down if you forget to return it, they are expensive after all. And be forewarned, the system works great; you'll be able to hear Player Holden Book as never before! Is that "be careful what you ask for, you just might get it?" I hear being muttered? 🐭

**WE GET LETTERS! (WE REALLY DO!)**

My Fellow Players,

It has been brought to my attention (BOY, has it been brought to my attention) that I have erred. In my last review, I suggested the possibility that FOX News may not, in fact, be "fair and balanced." My grievous mistake was in not being amenable to the fact that some might be prone to take offence to my allusion. My error was in not being sensitive to the fact that just as many readers of my review would have taken offense if I had suggested that *The Washington Post* or *The Nation* unfairly slanted toward a particular political persuasion. My sin was in not keeping my writing apolitical. Players is supposed to be a refuge from divisive and derisive banter. I have been reminded, and I get it. Some Players may recall that this episode was not my first dip into the pool of peccadillo. If any offended would grant me the "three strikes" latitude, then I promise to do the best of which I am capable to refrain from discussing any topic in writing or orally that has the remotest chance to make a fellow Player feel anything from slightly uncomfortable to mortally offended. I am sorry. If I am to be forgiven, then thank you. If I am not, then I understand.

Your contrite Player,

Christopher Monley

Our Afterglow Committee is seeking to cast a talented Player (are there any other kind??) for the March Afterglow. This is a monologue called "The Way It Is" written for us by talented playwright, Kim Carney of Birmingham. It features a single actor dressed in drag explaining (at a bar over a mug of beer) why he chooses to wear women's clothes. So it is ideal for one of us. But who? It is two pages of text, about 7 minutes in length. The ideal candidate will have never played on our stage in drag and must be able to memorize a solid amount of text. Please contact Afterglow Chair Joe Ajlouny at [jsapub@aol.com](mailto:jsapub@aol.com).

**LAB COATS MISSING!!!!!!**

A significant number of lab coats, many bearing the Players logo (some hand-stitched), are missing from the Playhouse. Most of these coats are the personal property of Gourmet? Group members. The coats were last seen two months ago hanging on hooks in the stairwell just outside the kitchen.

If you took them home to wash them...THANKS! Now, however, is the time to return them.

**ONE RENTAL WORKER NEEDED**

A pit boss is needed for a small, Founders Room only, rental event on Thursday, February 7, 2008. Candidates need not be familiar with Playhouse opening/closing procedures and/or have a pass card/key. The selected Player should arrive on site no later than 6PM. The event is scheduled to end at 10PM. The usual and customary \$75 credit stipend for pit bosses attaches. If you are interested in working this rental event, contact JJ at [USTRESAGT@aol.com](mailto:USTRESAGT@aol.com). A selection will be made within a few days and everyone responding will be notified.

**HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)**

The Players Presents...

## The 2008 Family Invitational

Saturday, March 1st is your opportunity to bring your children, grandchildren, wives, relatives and friends to the Invitational. At 10 AM on the your guests will be treated to a entertainment. This special presentations; Silly Songs with *Addams Family meets a* popular television program. served.



Playhouse for a special Family morning of the March Frolic, special preview of that evening's invitational will include two Henry Nelson and Friends and *The Beatnik*, a stage version of the Coffee, juice and pastries will be

**This event only comes around every few years,  
your family won't want to miss it!**

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for age 18 and under.  
Please call or e-mail Claudine at the Playhouse to reserve seats.  
Attire is "Saturday Morning" casual.

Phone: (313) 259-3385 or E-mail [players-office@sbcglobal.com](mailto:players-office@sbcglobal.com).

Volunteers are needed to serve food and watch the door. If you can help, please call or e-mail John Daly: (734) 475-6660 or [JohnLDaly@comcast.net](mailto:JohnLDaly@comcast.net)



Casting is in place! Who will play your favorite Addams Family character?

**HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)****A Challenge Grant!**

Gentlemen, the improvements around here just keep coming! Now we have an anonymous member that has "challenged" us. Our doors behind the stage (the Loading Dock Doors) have been in need of replacement for some time. This member has put up \$2,500.00 in a matching fund challenge. We have until the end of the year to collect an equal amount so we can get them replaced (estimated cost of \$5000). Please look at this as a great way to direct your funds to be tax exempt with the added benefit of having them double immediately! Checks should have the memo line read: Loading Dock Challenge.

**Wait 'til next year!**

Have you ever had that feeling when you know you should apologize to someone, but you aren't quite sure who that should be? That was the feeling at the recent Players' Christmas Party. It was expected that the Club President would be there and he was. He was supported, as is only right, by his son, Player Andrew Turnbull and family. Other Players there were Player Tim Whims and his stunning daughters and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mongan ... period. More about the Mongans later.

The weather was bracing; the Founders Room cozy and the victuals tantalizing and appetizing, but where were the Players? Bad weather? No. Other events? None that you'd notice. Inadequate pre-publicity? That's a possibility. More club supportive spirit was provided by Claudine Manchester, our lady of the front desk, and her husband, Wayne. Quite a few guests remarked on the eerie resemblance between Wayne and Santa Claus. We all laughed, but there may have been something there.

We won't go on and on, however, guys, mark your calendars and let's mob the place next year. Guests are always nice (and always blown away by the Playhouse) but this is a Players function. Come on, Players!

Now, about the Mongans. Mrs. Mongan had cooked and brewed dips and sliced vegetables six ways to Sunday, but it was ex-president Michael who almost stole the show from Santa, no easy task. Mike's thing is soap bubbles. Now before you thank your lucky stars you missed this, think of soap bubbles on steroids and with a Ph. D. Mike opened his magic bag and produced wire frames that were square, round, ellipsoid, hexagonal, helical, and Pythagorean screw like, or was that Archimedean? Anyway, teenagers in the room were seen to roll their eyes when Mike produced these accouterments *and a large bucket of soapy water*. Not to worry.

After the first square bubble was blown, to be followed by a three foot gossamer creation that gently floated, majestically, across the floor, everybody under the age of 17 was standing in line to have a go at creating magic. There. If anyone should be apologized to, it should be Mike. This performance was the stuff of the Ed Sullivan Show; American Idol, even late night with Soupy. As the idiom has it, "you should have been there." Let's hope and pray Mike will be there at the next Christmas Party. I know I wouldn't miss it for the world.

President Player Jim Turnbull



BILL VOLTZ

FUZZ COREY

ED PRIEBE

MICHAEL GOODELL

MIKE FRANK

A Holmes Family Christmas

JOHN McLAUGHLIN



TOM DIFFENDAL



LARRY SMITH



STUART JOHNSON · MARK HABEL · CHRIS MONLEY

FROLIC 568  
1 DECEMBER 2007  
MONLEY

The Waiting Room