



# THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 6

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

MARCH 2008

## Bravura

By Player Charles Roberts

**B**ravura is not a word we use around Players as it is usually used to describe a display of daring or a brilliant performance. I could not, though, find a better word to sum up the 570<sup>th</sup> Frolic, except to note that the Osgood brothers' late supper was, as the Irish would say, "a fine bit of stuff; a gift!"

The evening began at the Opus One restaurant for a bravura meal with good fellowship, wonderful food, good vodka and a request from the establishment that The Players come back soon.

Pre-Frolic dinner attendees arrived at the Great Lady welcomed by a round of hellos and many "great to see you" greetings. We were soon in our seats for the evening while being serenaded by the Players Chorus.

**Players President Jim Turnbull** warmly addressed us before the curtain, the Players song was heartily delivered by **Player Roy Jendrzejewski** and then we were on to the performances.

The first bravura offering of the evening was *The Addams Family Meets a Beatnik*. The plot seemed thin: boy wrecks motorcycle; boy is taken in and cared for by Addams family; boy is reunited with formerly estranged father. But, as with every Addams Family teleplay, the plot was unimportant and was used only as a vehicle with which to entertain by way of clever character interpretations, puns, and sight gags derived from the quirky situations in which the family members find themselves as they interact with "normal" society.

**Player Tim Cordes** seems to have been born to play Gomez Addams given that he, like the Charles Addams character, is charming, handsome, generous and successful, with a laissez-faire attitude toward those not like his family, and one who would stand on his head (and sometimes does) to please his wife. Gomez's wife Morticia was gleefully portrayed by **Player Eric Christian**. The baby steps Morticia used to cross the stage (even during act-changing

blackouts) elicited much cachinnation. "Anything for a laugh," Eric was heard to say backstage. One suspects that if this show were to make May it might take Eric's Morticia ten full minutes to cross from stage right to stage left, or even longer if continuing laughter dictated.

**Player Bill Robinson** as Uncle Fester? Who would have thought? Only anyone who has ever met or spoken to Bill! No voice coach was needed; no makeup required. Fester's fur-collared cloak even came from Bill's own closet. Kidding aside, Bill's interpretation of Fester was so spot-on as to seem effortless. The daughter was played with morbid delight by **Player Chris Nesi**. His characterization of Wednesday included the sporting of a Marie Antoinette doll complete with guillotined tête. **Player Steven Flum** depicted Wednesday's brother Pugsley with malevolent aplomb.

If you were any and every Player's first choice to play Lurch, the hulking, lumbering Addams' butler, would you take offense? Not **Player Leon Hart**. "Na-ah, it's all good," responds Players' own talented gentle giant. After which he shakes his head and gutturally grumbles, "Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh."

**Player Patrick Coon** as Rocky ably played foil to the Addams family members of the cast. His mere presence allowed the luminaries to shine. It can be a difficult chore to play straight man in a farce, but Patrick pulled it off flawlessly. The cast was rounded out by superb supporting players **Player Allan Dick** as the aforementioned estranged father, and **Player Michael Sherwood** doing double duty as both the cop and friend-of-the-family/household-handyman (pun intended) Thing.

All of these over-the-top performances came from deep within the Players' personal psyches to make this a tour de force and a one-of-a-kind offering. Director **Player Larry Smith** surely must have had his workload lessened by way of his casting so many Players with directorial experience.

Regardless, *The Addams Family* was directed and presented with May potential.

The second show, *Mute It*, was a two-character one-act play with **Players Tom Starynchak** and **John Yavruian**. It was directed with adroit competence by **Player Bob O'Leary**. Frantically trying to decide whether to stay in their hotel room to watch the free porn available on their TV or to get out of harm's way from a hail of bullets being aimed at the room next door provided a great device for John to command the stage with a bravura execution of one caught in a confounding situation. Tom, as usual, also performed excellently.

*The Thirst*, by Flann O'Brien, added to the incredible bravura résumés of **Players Leon Hart** (in his second play of the evening) and **Henry Nelson**. Directed by **Player Tom Conley** with the contributive assistance of **Player Bill Volz**, the scene opens with Mr. Coulihan's (Leon's) pub apparently staying open after-hours as the police sergeant (Henry) comes into the pub to check it out. Coulihan, the bartender and, presumably, the owner, knows he's in trouble and tries to offer the sergeant a drink to stave him off. The ever-vigilant sergeant, however, declines. The bartender then goes into a long, magnificent soliloquy about his near-death experience from a lack of water. And he goes on. And on. During the speech, the sergeant begins to have parasympathetic reactions to Coulihan's story. "The thirst" finally gets to the sergeant and he passes out on the barroom floor. Then the sergeant drinks. Everybody's happy.

From 1993 (at which time he avoided the stage) until now, we have seen Leon grow into a very good actor and this bravura performance will surely become his signature piece. Henry is a master of physical comedy and he kept our attention riveted on his character, thus emphasizing the points of Leon's monologue.

**Players Roy Jendrzewski** (Jem) and **Chuck Steltenkamp** (Peter) were stalwart in their reprisals of their roles from ten years ago. Pub patrons **Players Jim Foran** and **Tom Conley** ably supported the more verbose members of the cast.

**Players Larry Smith** and **Mark Habel** were, as always, formidable titans behind the scenes.

As mentioned earlier, brothers **Players Denne** and **Milt Osgood** produced a very tasty gift of corn beef and cabbage, which capped a very fine evening.

The afterglow: what can one say about that afterglow? New member **Player Darren Brim** did a

monologue called "The Way It Is" written by local Michigan playwright Kim Carney. Darren, sporting a blond wig and a nice woman's outfit, told us about the ins-and-outs and ups-and-downs of being a cross-dresser. I must admit to being very surprised (as I attempted to pick my jaw up off the table) with the topic, and at the artistry of his performance. Darren will be on stage in April in a straight role. Attention, all directors: Darren learns lines!!!!!!

I don't know if it has ever happened at Players before that three plays from the same Frolic ever made May [*Ed.'s note: it has happened, but not from a March Frolic?*]. Not to slight any other Frolic offerings, but March revisited would an opportunity to present a bravura Invitational for our guests.

Bravo!



#### **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION!**

The following gentlemen have recently been approved for membership in The Players:

##### **Kevin Hubbell**

Sponsored by Player John McLaughlin  
Endorsed by Player D.C. Moons

##### **Warren Liverance**

Sponsored by Player Dave Johnson  
Endorsed by Player W. Colburn "Bill" Standish, Jr.

##### **Benedetto "Ben" Pugliesi**

Sponsored by Player Eric Christian  
Endorsed by Player Chris Nesi

##### **Kenneth Reid**

Sponsored by Player James Turnbull  
Endorsed by Player John Yavruian

The following gentlemen will have their applications reviewed at the next Board of Governors meeting:

##### **Ben Galbo**

Sponsored by Player Geno Pirrami  
Endorsed by Player Robert Kitchen

##### **Gerald Maloney**

Sponsored by Player James Foran  
Endorsed by Player Earl Wolfe

Your comments are welcome to the Board of Governors.

#### **REMINDERS**

- Attend the April Frolic and vote for your favorite shows for May! Remember, "Chicago" voting is encouraged! Vote early and often! Players Bill Rohloff and John Owen will be voting, shouldn't you be, too?
- Player Denne Osgood is doing the Dragon Boat thing again and wants you for the Team! Call him!
- The Pre-Frolic Dinner is at the Detroit Yacht Club! Come join your fellow Players!

**Frolic 571**

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008

CURTAIN AT 8:30 PM

PRODUCERS ALLAN DICK AND MICHAEL L. GOODELL



**The Boundary**

By Tom Stoppard & Clive Exton

Directed by Player Glenn Scoles

Setting: British lexicographer's library, 1975.

Johnson.....	Player Allan G. Dick
Bunyans.....	Player William L. Robinson, Jr.
Brenda.....	Player Bruce A. Brunsink
Cricketer .....	Player Glenn M. "Fuzz" Corey



**THE GREEN ROOM**

By George F. Walker

(First presented on CBC Radio)

Great Northern Artists Management – Agents for Mr. Walker

Directed by Player J. Michael Mongan

Setting: The green room lounge of a modern stage theatre.

Maggie, the Director.....	Player John J. McLaughlin
Ross, the Playwright .....	Player Gordon A. Price
Sandy, an Actress .....	Player Thomas D. Diffendal
Jess, an Actress .....	Player J. Robert O'Leary, III
Willie, an Actor .....	Player J. Michael Mongan



**If Men Played Cards as Women Do**

By George S. Kaufman

Adapted for the stage by Player Charles Roberts

& Guest Joshua Logan

Directed by Player Charles Roberts

Time: 1928

Place: John's Living Room

John.....	Player James T. Foran
Bob.....	Player Charles E. Roberts
George.....	Player Darren K. Brim
Marc.....	Player H.T. "Tim" Bannister, Jr.



**AFTERGLOW**

The Siskel and Ebert, the Morgan and Shaw, the Leopold and Loeb of Players!  
Players William L. Robinson, Jr. and Allan Dick Review the Season!

I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend ... if you have one.

*George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill*

Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one.

*Winston Churchill, in response.*

### HERE'S YOUR CUE

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

### NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

#### Office Remodel

Do you have a small round table, or maybe a few light fixtures hanging around, that you'd like to get out of your house? Well, let me help you with your Spring Cleaning\*! The Players office could be the new home for those unwanted items.

Remember, Players is a 501(C)(3) organization and your donations are tax deductible.

\*I don't do windows ;)

#### Parking

Dr. Berke's office let me know that the gate was left unlocked, **again**, this past Saturday (3-22-08) 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!

#### Keys

Gentlemen, do you have any keys to various areas of the Playhouse? Such as keys to the make-up room, tech booth, etc. Maybe they are in pockets that have gone unchecked for a while. If you come across any, please return them to the office. Thank you.

#### Lab Coats

Still missing ...

Ph: 313-259-3385 ~ Fax: 313-259-0932  
~ Email: [players-office@sbcglobal.net](mailto:players-office@sbcglobal.net)



#### APRIL PRE-FROLIC DINNER


The April Pre-Frolic Dinner will be held at the **Detroit Yacht Club** on Belle Isle, 1 Riverbank Road, Detroit, MI 48207 [(313) 824-1200]. Join your fellow Players at 6:00 PM for cocktails, followed by dinner and remember to depart on time for the curtain at the Playhouse! Cost is the same as always, a remarkable \$30.00!

Please call or email the office if you plan to attend, it is not a pre-requisite, just common courtesy!

### 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
Water Dispenser	\$300	\$25.00


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."

#### [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 6, MARCH 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 with great assistance from Player Chris Monley] 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)**

If The Player seems redundant sometimes, that is because sometimes it is. The following two messages appeared last month and are repeated. Why? Because they drew precious little response! What's up with that?

### **Player's Installs a New Alarm and Access System**

The Board of Governors is pleased to announce the completion of the installation of our new alarm and access system. The new alarm monitors unauthorized entry as before but has the added benefit of fire and smoke detection. The access portion of the system allows entry to the building through the front or rear doors via a card reader instead of a key.

The access portion of the system will make it much easier to gain access to the building for rehearsals and other events as well as the ability to disable "lost" cards without the expense of changing the locks.

To date, the new pass cards have been granted to current key holders such as committee chairs, monthly directors, etc. This is because during the initial prove out of the system we have kept the gate locked at night in case of a system malfunction and entry required both a key and a pass card, however we will soon dispense with the gate and keys will no longer be necessary. We welcome anyone who desires a passkey to purchase one for a nominal fee of \$25. Please contact Claudine at the Player's office.

There will be two levels of entry access granted: Unlimited, for those who require it by virtue of office, committee, or need, and standard for those that require it for basic Player activities such as practice, or visiting the office. The main difference between the two levels is that the standard level of access will not allow entry when the alarm is active or set.

The new alarm system has the same pass code as the old one. Instructions on how to enable and disable the alarm are posted on the wall next to the keypad. Anyone who desires additional information or instruction on the system may contact the Player's office.

We would like to thank everyone for their patience during installation and prove out of the new system. In addition, we are especially thankful for a very generous donation, from a fellow Player who wishes to remain anonymous, which made the purchase of this system possible.

### **Water, Water Everywhere, But Nary a Drop to Drink?**

Contrary to rumors, the drinking water in the large jug on our water "cooler" (which actually doesn't cool the water at all) is not:

- a) water that has leaked from the roof
- b) water taken directly from the Detroit River
- c) assembled beads of perspiration from the Stage Crew

The water in the jug really is safe to drink. But it isn't very appetizing. It is tepid at best and the taste leaves a lot to be desired.

Therefore, your Board of Governors has investigated the possibility of installing a purified water system along the east wall of the lobby. This system would offer both cold and hot filtered water.

The problem with doing this is two-fold:

- 1) The unit itself is rather ugly, so we would want build some sort of decorative cabinet around it so it would be esthetically pleasing to the eye.
- 2) These things cost money! The good news is that this project is not an expensive one – only about \$300. But as you may have noticed, your Board has done a lot of work on the Playhouse over the last year or so, and the checkbook balance is being stretched rather thin. A \$300 expenditure for a filtered water system isn't in the budget.

Therefore, if you think having filtered hot and cold water available at the Playhouse on a regular basis is something you would enjoy, consider making a donation to the cause. We'll take any amount -- \$25, \$50, \$100, or even the entire \$300. Just think: You could have the Players' Memorial Drinking Water System" named after you. Well, maybe not, but you would know that you've done your part to keep your urologist happy. Drop off or send in your check with a notation that the money is to be used for the drinking water system. As always, thanks for your help!

The update: the Vitapur® Point-of-use water dispenser has arrived and should be up and running by mid-April, courtesy installation by Siegfried and Roy, I mean Players Tim Whims and Roy Jendrzewski.

**HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)****The 2008 Family Invitational**

This event was a great success. The House was full, the audience attentive and well behaved (more so than on Frolic nights) and "a good time was had by all!"

Many thanks to all that helped out and especially to Player John Daly for spearheading the event.

**A Challenge Grant!**

Gentlemen, the improvements around here just keep coming! An anonymous member 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 \$5,000.00). 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. Please think of "Chicago" voting in donating this election year: early and often!

**COAT-GATE!  
LAB COATS STILL MISSING!**

Remember last Season's Coat-Gate? Well, it seems we have another one! 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 three 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. Since this message did not result in a resolution to the mystery, a small reward for their return is now being offered ... no questions asked. If you have them, return them and wish to receive the reward, respond in confidence to [USTRESAGT@aol.com](mailto:USTRESAGT@aol.com) for your secret identity number. Please, for the "love of Mike," help us out if you know where they might be.

**PLAYHOUSE KITCHEN KOMMANDMENTS**

Recent events in the Kitchen have caused the "Kitchen Kaiser" (or is that Kitchen Kommandant?) to throw a klot, so to speak, so he has submitted the following:

**PLAYHOUSE KITCHEN KOMMANDMENTS!**

1. Thou shalt leave the kitchen the way you found it.
2. Thou shalt not take anything from the kitchen for use as a stage prop.
3. Thou shalt honor thy father and mother ... especially your mother and remember she doesn't come to the Playhouse kitchen to clean up after you.
4. Thou shalt remember that except for Frolic dinners, all cooks must clean up after themselves. That includes after rehearsal suppers, after Traffic Hour suppers, and especially after frigg'in Board meetings.
5. Thou shalt always use plastic, paper or Styrofoam® products unless thou art willing to wash any glass mugs, wine glasses, plates or juice glasses thou useth.
6. Thou shalt not deposit beer and soda cans and other assorted personal knick-knacks in the kitchen for, verily, I sayeth unto you, there is no room to store them and they shall be put in the garbage forthwith.
7. Thou shalt NEVER remove the sink stopper device from the kitchen sink drain for, if used properly (which means pre-scraping of plates, pots and pans into a garbage can), the disposal will function without costly repairs.
8. Thou shalt remember that complete kitchen clean up includes not only washing dishes, mugs, glasses, pots and pans ... but also putting them away in their proper places.
9. Thou shalt keep all horizontal counter spaces and the lower two racks of all shelving free and clear of any kitchen equipment, bowls, etc.
10. Thou shalt put no sharp knives in the kitchen drawer...OUCH! There is a magnetized wall bar for storing sharp knives. Use it!

**WHAT'S THAT? SAY WHAT? OR AS HEARD AT THE LAST FROLIC: "LOUDER!?"**

OK, now the thought is that Players are challenged not just by hearing issues but also sight issues. This announcement will disappear after this issue, but we'll try one more time. We have a great, state of the art Sound and Hearing Enhancement System ["SHES"], but no one has used it yet! If you would like to (and can read this), ask someone in the Tech Booth for the device, fill out a card (in case you forget to return it, we can track you down) and voilá, you'll be able to hear Player Holden Book as never before! And please, remember to return the receiver at the end of the night. 🗣️

**HE'S BACK! JUST LIKE THAT BAD HABIT!**

Yes, that's right, my dear fashion challenged minions, back, like that old habit! Why am I back? Why, to save you from your fashion faux pas, to save you from yourselves, my little lambs. Enough banter, we actually got a new letter! And not just from Mrs. Dr. Fashion! Here we go:

Dear Dr. Fashion,

This isn't really a question about "fashion," but since you seem to know a lot about nothing and a little about everything, I thought I'd run it past you:

When I joined Players some years ago, my sponsor ... and others ... told me that even though I worked a Players' fund-raising event, I was, nevertheless, expected to purchase a ticket to that event for myself. At first, this didn't seem quite right since I was volunteering my time to work the event, but upon additional reflection, I reminded myself that the purpose of the event was to raise badly needed money for my club. And so ... I followed the old-timer's advice.

After many years, I still purchase a ticket even when I work an event, but others to whom I've mentioned this look at me as if I just beamed over from the Scarab Club. What's the drill?

Signed,  
Sucker(?)

Dear Slacker:

Au contraire, my boner ami, this is a fashion question, as I will further elucidate, but *abem*, "I know a lot about nothing and a little about everything" do I? Well, with 'tude like that, I know you must have been involved with Sean "Diddy" Combs in the 1994 assault on rapper Tupac Shakur. Plus, everyone knows "scio nil de nihilo" is my motto! However, I digress. Oft times people forget exactly what The Players is. I guess the usual response stops the inquiry, that it depends upon what the "definition of 'is' is," but as I was running from the plane avoiding sniper bullets in Bosnia when I was with the Secret Service protecting Chelsea, I pondered what I should wear when I worked a fundraising event at Players.

The long-standing Players tradition, as the old-timer stated, is that everyone buys a ticket, because The Players is a charity of the 501(c)(3) variety and it is a "fundraiser" after all. Now, my personal rule on this has always had to do with fashion, with what to or what not to wear! If you don your lab coat (that is, if yours hasn't been stolen like Dr. Fashion's has) and are slaving in the kitchen the whole time or if you're back stage and don't get to see a gosh darn thing, dab nabit, then Dr. Fashion feels your pain and thinks that your valuable time is worthy and maybe, if you're feeling the Jen Gen financial crunch, maybe you can be cut some slack and don't need to throw some ducats (that's money, not as in T. J. or Tico) towards the event. But if you are throwing on your Tuxedo or Hawaiian shirt and sitting down for any part of the evening and swinging and swaying or gambling or otherwise enjoying yourself, well, that's an entirely different story now, isn't it. Under those circumstances, by all means, you should be contributing, and by all means (and by that, I mean time *and* money is appropriate). The generosity of Players is one of the things that keeps The Players going. In contrast to Blanche DuBois (a part once played to perfection by Mrs. Dr. Fashion), we have not relied on the generosity (Mrs. Dr. Fashion correctly points out the line is "kindness" not "generosity") of strangers, but of ourselves. As Pogo said, "we have met whom we have to rely on to get things done, and he is us!" OK, Pogo didn't say that, but he would have.

Nunquam Renig,  
Dr. Fashion.

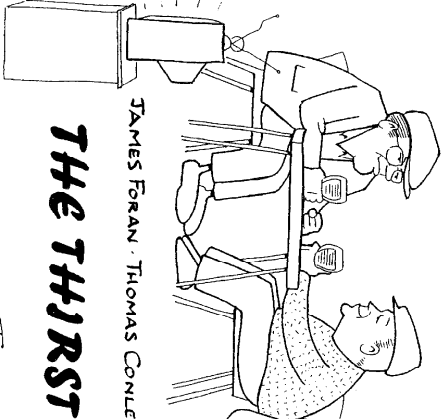
# MUTE IT

JOHN YAVRUIAN · TOM STARYNCHAK



JAMES FORAN · THOMAS CONLEY

# THE THIRST



ROY  
JENBRZEWSKI

HENRY NELSON

*The Row 770  
/ March 2008  
power*

HENRY NELSON

CHUCK  
STELTENKAMP

HENRY NELSON

WILLIAM  
ROBINSON

PATRICK  
COON

LEON CHRIS  
HART · NESI

STEVEN  
FLUM

TIM  
CORDES · CHRISTIAN

ALLAN DICK · MICHAEL SHEPHERD

# The Adams Family

