



THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 1

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 2008

Number Ninety-Eight and Still Counting...

Dear Fellow Players,

Well, another season is upon us and if you are anything like me you are busy trying to hold onto summer, squeeze in one more long weekend away at the cottage, and The Players is probably the last thing on your mind. During the summer break, it is easy to forget how truly remarkable this club really is.

I had the pleasure last week of showing the playhouse to a couple from Florida who had happened to read Marijean Levering's book, "Detroit on Stage." As we walked through the playhouse they kept asking where things like the urns and the various paintings were. Their excitement and enthusiasm was overwhelming and infectious. These people, who had never even experienced the heart and sole of The Players in the form of a Frolic, were completely enchanted by our building, our history, and our traditions.

I left the Playhouse that day with a renewed appreciation for what we have, but, appreciation isn't enough. Players truly is at a crossroad. While we made many improvements over the last few years, "our beautiful lady" has a voracious appetite for money and attention. Our theatrical season last year was truly a good one with many fine shows, but many of the shows had the same performers both in front of, and behind the sets. Our club is literally held together by the will and spirit of a group of super contributors (we all know who they are) whose definition of Nunquam Renig is not in any rational dictionary. For some, this constitutes what is interesting and unique about The Players, but from a long term business prospective is unsustainable.

We all know the answer. It is members, members, and members. We need a lot of them. We don't have enough. We have to get more. To that end we must continue to improve our building and our performances, which are in effect our product. Over the summer, the board has attempted to outline a plan to encourage continuous improvement of our various activities and committees. We expect to hear shortly from the long range planning committee, of which many of you are members, on ways to improve the experience and improve membership. October and November shows are in rehearsal. There have been a number of summer work parties that really put a shine on the place.

Now, it's up to us, gentlemen. Show up in October and bring your friends. Show off what we know to be a truly remarkable and unique venue and then close the deal. And don't forget that unlike your summer place, at The Players, guests of guests may bring guests.

Player Craig White

President — The Players

Notes From the Office

Gentlemen,

There is someone out there that would love to hear from you! It is Players' Past President (1973-1974) Jarvis "Jerry" McMechan. He currently resides at the Canterbury-on-the-Lake Pavilion in Waterford, Michigan. The address is 5601 Hatchery Road, #128B, Waterford, MI 48239. The phone number is (248) 674-5350.

The **20 Year Club Dinner** is quickly approaching with the October Frolic, October 4, 2008. Please contact me with your reservation. Please see page 8 for more information.

Once again we are in the process of updating the 2008-2009 Players Membership Directory. Please send in your "Dream Sheet" *even if there are no changes*. We want to make sure everything is accurate.

I hope you all had a good summer and are ready for the new season to begin. I know I am excited about starting my "third season" at Players and look forward to many more!

Best regards,
Claudine

P 313.259.3385

☎ 313.259.0932

✉ office@playersdetroit.org

New Member Information!

The following gentleman has recently been approved for membership in The Players:

Andrew D. Maltese 2008
Sponsored by Player Steven Flum
Endorsed by Player Larry Smith

Congratulations!

To **Player Brad Dahlhofer** and Kerri, on the
Delivery of
Chace Michael Dahlhofer
December 31, 2007

To **Player Robert Kitchen** and Monika, on the
Delivery of
Patrick Erich Kitchen
June 6, 2008

To **Player Brian Bawol** and Emily, on the
Delivery of
Etta Simone Bawol
August 14, 2008

THE PLAYER, VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 1, SEPTEMBER 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, although this month was "ghost" edited by Player Pulbah Craig White] 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@playersdetroit.org. The Player is available on the web at www.playersdetroit.org. We welcome your contributions and comments. We do, we really do!

Reminders:

- **Make reservations for the 20 year dinner.**
- **Invite a friend to the playhouse for a good time**
- **Plan on attending The Odd Couple in November (see page 6 for further details).**
- **Invite a friend to join The Players**
- **Visit the Player website at www.playersdetroit.org and update your info.**
- **Bring your guests to meet the BOG between the first and second show of the Frolic!**

Frolic 572

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008

Curtain at 8:30 PM

Producer: Player Allen Dick

Time Flies

By David Ives

Directed by Player Larry Smith

Scene: Evening. A pond.

HoracePlayer Joseph Ajlouny
 May.....Player Thomas Diffendal
 David Attenborough.....Player J. Michael Mongan
 The Critic.....Player Kenneth Reid

Joe and Stew's Theatre of Brotherly Love & Financial Success

By Jacquelyn Reingold

Directed by Player Thomas D. Sloan

Time: Present day.

Location: Local non-profit theatre.

Joe.....Player Thomas D. Sloan
 Stew.....Player J. Robert O'Leary, III

Killer Bees

By Lorne Michaels and Chevy Chase

Enhanced by Player C.G. Monley

Directed by Player C.G. Monley

Setting: Evening in a suburban living room, present day.

Husband.....Player Tim Cordes
 Wife.....Player Bruce Brunsink
 Killer Bee Manuel.....Player Brad Dahlhofer
 Killer Bee Juan..... Player Christopher Monley
 Killer Bee Carlos.....Player Gordon Price
 Radio Announcer.....Player Larry Smith
 Voice of Jessica Simpson.....The actual voice of Jessica Simpson (really)

Acting is merely the art of keeping a large group of people from coughing.

[Sir Ralph Richardson](#) (1902 - 1983)

HERE'S YOUR CUE

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

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	\$8,900	\$6,900
Smoke door cupola- flashing	\$5,000	
Business office remodeling	\$10,000	
Oriental Rug, 10'4" x 11'10"	\$2,500	
Roof Repairs	\$10,000	
Light Seven Ages of Man and Side Murals	\$4,800	

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

WOW!!! WHAT A DEAL!

Did you know that when you sponsor a new Member, you will receive a credit on your dues in the amount of the initiation fee paid by the new member? Currently the initiation fee for senior and junior active members is \$150. There is no limit to the number of new members that you sponsor. This is a great way to save money and keep the Players a vibrant and financially sound club. If you're especially generous you can donate the credit to one of the abundant wish list items. The sky is the limit, so let's get started. 🗨️

Loading Dock Doors Update:

Fortunately, thanks to our anonymous donor and the multitude of matched contributions from generous members, the Loading Dock Doors have been ordered and should be installed before the October Frolic.

Unfortunately, we are still about \$2,000 short of the cost of the total project and we are looking for additional generous and wonderful donors to make up the difference.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this project.

What, No More Traffic Hour?

Due to poor attendance, this year our traditional Traffic Hour will be replaced by a more comprehensive set of special events sprinkled throughout the year. We hope this will add some additional opportunities for fun and enjoyment down at the Playhouse. Stay tuned to this space and special email announcements for details on these future events.

WHERE'S THE CALENDAR?

It's on line! On the new Players' web site! Go to 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! 🗨️

Annual Meeting Update

The Annual Meeting of the Players took place on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. The following Players were elected to a three year term (expiring May of 2011) on the Board of Governors: **Player Henry Nelson, Player Tom Sloan and Player Ed Priebe.**

Officers and Members of the Board of Governors for the 2008-2009 Season are:

Player Craig White, President

Player Greg Thom, Vice President-Administration

Player Tim Whims, Vice President - Production

Player Michael Goodell, Secretary

Player Ed Priebe, Treasurer

Players Brian Bawol, Henry Nelson, Geno Pirrami, and Tom Sloan, Governors.

Committee Chairman

The following gentlemen have agreed (under duress) to be chairmen for the 2008-2009 season:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Board Liaison</u>	<u>Chairmen</u>
Community Involvement	Craig White	Craig White
Organized under Vice President - Production		
Afterglow	Tom Sloan	Joe Ajlouny
Beer Machine/Beer Czar	Brian Bawol	Brad Dahlhofer
Costumes	Ed Priebe	Jim Foran, Jerry Maloney
Frolic Suppers	Henry Nelson	Henry Nelson
House	Henry Nelson	Bruce Brunsink
Lighting	Brian Bawol	Eric Christian
Make-up	Ed Priebe	Tom Diffendal
Orchestra	Brian Bawol	Chuck Steltenkamp
Photography	Tom Sloan	Larry Smith
Pre-Frolic Dinners	Tom Sloan	Tom Brandel
Producers	Michael Goodell	Allan Dick
Props	Henry Nelson	Jim Foran
Scripts and Casting	Henry Nelson	Henry Nelson
Sound	Brian Bawol	Peter Dawson
Stagecraft and Set Design	Henry Nelson	Mark Habel/John Burke
Organized under Vice President - Administration		
Building and Grounds	Geno Pirrami	D. C. Moons
Endowment	Craig White	Tom Brandel
Financial Advisory	Ed Priebe	Peter Dawson
Historical	Michael Goodell	Jim Turnbull
Legal	Michael Goodell	Peter Dawson
Marketing/PR	Brian Bawol	Jim Turnbull
Membership	Henry Nelson	Bob O'Leary/Joe Ajlouny
Publications/Website	Brian Bawol	Brian Bawol
Rentals	Geno Pirrami	J.J. Jorgensen
Restoration	Geno Pirrami	D. C. Moons
Special Events	Brian Bawol	Open
Twenty Year Club	Geno Pirrami	Denne Osgood/Tom Brandel

HERE'S YOUR CUE (Continued)**Report from Costumes and Props****1. Costume Room has been cleaned and organized.**

a. Like all self respecting slums, our costume room periodically suffers the indignity of having do-gooders attempt a cleanup. This summer it has been **Player Jerry Maloney**, Nancy Foran and **Player Jim Foran** who have played the roles of the starry eyed, well meaning reformers. They have devoted more than 50 hours to the task. Please humor their efforts for a while by giving order a chance.

b. The organization of the costume room is fairly obvious and major clothing groups and accessories have been clearly identified. If you have any questions call **Player Jim Foran** (313.570.5633).

c. Please do NOT put anything into the costume room. If you have anything that is "costume worthy" bring it to the office and Claudine will make the initial evaluation as to whether it is trash or treasure. Better yet, first call **Player Jim Foran** and ask if we need your items. Anything that is just "dropped off" will be tossed out as trash. Harsh? Yes, but necessary.

d. If you take anything out of the costume room, do NOT attempt to put it back where you got it. Return all items to the costume room by hanging them on the hooks on the back of the costume room door. The costume group will then have the items cleaned and repaired, as necessary, and returned to the proper place.

e. Want to join the fun? Volunteer! Thanks for your help and cooperation.

2. Properties Committee

a. Thanks to all Players for your cooperation in keeping the Prop Room clean and organized.

b. The Props Committee needs at least one volunteer for each Frolic to coordinate prop efforts with the directors and producers. No experience is necessary and you need volunteer for one month only. Keep in mind that working backstage gives you the opportunity to talk to Mark Habel. Pick a month that is convenient for you and you can be a "Props Master." Call **Player Jim Foran** (313.570.5633) and sign up while there are still

openings.

c. The Props Committee also needs help in cataloging and photographing each prop item. The work will be done at the workers' convenience with refreshments afterwards. The Prop Room also needs some fine tuning. If you are the "organize everything" type, please call **Player Jim Foran** (313.570.5633). Do not wait to be asked. Unlimited opportunity for advancement.

**November Invitational & Format Change**

The Board of Governors has approved a change to the format of our traditional full act play put on in November. This year, there will be no Members only "Frolic" performance.



All performances of the November show, which this year is **The Odd Couple by Neil Simon**, will be invitational performances. In lieu of the Frolic performance, Members may choose to attend one of the invitational evenings free of charge.

The dates for this year's invitational performance are Saturday November

1st, Sunday November 2, Friday November 7 and Saturday November 8, 2008. The Saturday curtain time is 8:00 PM. Note that Sunday, November 2, is a matinee and is subject to cancellation unless there is sufficient interest. Please also remember that the final closing Saturday is Black Tie, not requested but de rigueur. Please contact the office at 313.259.3385 to reserve your Table(s).



The Wanted! Page

Reviewers Wanted

I'm sure there are more than a few Players out there who in the past have eagerly awaited the latest issue of *The Player* only to find, upon reading the review of their latest play, that the reviewer didn't rave about their Tony-worthy performance the previous month. They come to the only possible conclusion: the reviewer couldn't write his way out of a paper bag.

Think you can do better? Then try. The staff of *The Player* is looking for a few good men who *can* write their way out of a paper bag. (Don't worry; we've got spell-Czech.)

The list of regular reviewers has slowly but steadily dwindled, mostly through attrition. So, if you haven't reviewed a Frolic for a while and would like to have another go at it, or if you've honed your text-messaging skills to the point where you'd like to try another medium, please call or e-mail the office. There are still several Frolic months not yet spoken for.

Nunquam Renig, *The Publications Staff*

Funny and/or Not-So-Funny Men Wanted

We are switching the STAND UP COMEDY afterglow to October this year. The deal is the same. Anybody there can take the stage to deliver their best joke or even their worst. As Adolf (D. C.) Hitler was known to say, "Even the best of der wurst."

Glasses, what glasses?

Cheers, Mike Mongan

Wanted: Applause

The summer work parties went a long way toward cleaning up the Playhouse. A great deal of cleaning and fixing went on over the summer to make the Playhouse sparkle. We hope the following list of worker bees is 100% accurate. Please give them a hand when you see them.

July: Players Tom Sloan, Tom Starynchak, Bob O'Leary, Tom Diffendal, Jim Turnbull, Andrew Turnbull and Brian Bawol.

August: Players Tom Sloan, Tim Whims, Bob O'Leary, Steve Flum, Stew Johnson, Tim Bannister, Mark Habel, Tom Starynchak, Larry Smith, Glenn Scoles and Earl Wolfe.

September: Players Tim Whims, Bob O'Leary, Craig White, Tom Sloan, Dave Johnson, Tim Bannister, Fuzz Corey, Jim Turnbull, Andrew Sr. and Andrew Jr. Turnbull, Tom Starynchak, Gaylord Creedon, JJ Jorgensen, Mark Habel and Larry Smith.

Wanted: People to Stop Piling Their Junk Everywhere

As you look around the playhouse you don't have to look very far to find a little pile of junk with some kind of decorative shielding. There is one in the founders room, one in the balcony, one at the back of the auditorium The thing is, a pile of junk with a pretty façade is still, well, a pile of junk. This year we aim to get rid of it all. Now don't get all excited that we are throwing out the good junk that you donated 15 years ago. This is our first notice and we will wait some period of time before the cleaning begins, but be aware, if the stuff hiding behind one of the numerous curtains is something important to you or your committee, move it to a place of honor or throw it out.

Act soon or it may be gone.

**Players 20 Year Club Annual Dinner
Saturday, October 4, 2008**

The Annual 20 Year Club Dinner will convene Saturday, October 4, 2008 before this season's first Frolic. Through the courtesy of late **Player Harold Love**, 20 Year Club Members will share in his remembrance during the cocktail hour from 6 to 7 p.m. Dinner will be served at seven.

New to the 20 Year club this year are **Players Ward Kay, Dan Perakes and Tom Starynchak**. Welcome gentlemen, to this prestigious group! We are sure you'll be honored to wear the 20 Year pin you are to receive that evening.

This is an event you don't want to miss, so come and join in the merriment and share your memories of the past. Your check for \$30.00 will secure your reservation. Please R.S.V.P. as soon as possible (if you haven't already) to Claudine at the office, (313) 259-3385; office@playersdetroit.org.

Sincerely,

Player Denne Osgood & Player Tom Brandel
Co-Chairmen, 20 Year Club

IT IS NICE TO BE BACK

Not a 20 Year Member but still like to eat? Read This ...

OCTOBER PRE-FROLIC DINNER **FOR MEMBERSHIP YEARS 1989 TO 2008!**

The October Pre-Frolic Dinner (minus the Twenty Year Club members) will be at Sindbad's Restaurant — down Marquette Road to the River at 100 St. Clair Street, Detroit, 313-822-7817 (www.sindbads.com). Join your fellow players and their guests at 6:00PM for cocktails; followed by dinner. Curtain call (8:30PM) requires we head to the playhouse by 8:00PM.

****NOTE**** Please, please call or e-mail the office (office@playersdetroit.org) if you plan to attend, if possible.