



THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 5

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

FEBRUARY 2009

Zenith Rising, Zenith Falling, Zenith Abounding! by Player Charles Roberts

There are those Frolics that have great broad appeal and from those frolics come the one act plays we feature in "Making May." Then there are those Frolics that are just for us guys, where we are ensconced at the Grand Old Lady, in the moment, having a hell of a good time within ourselves, laughing hard, poking fun from the audience with topical assaults and consummate outrageous inside jokes.

The 574th Frolic, produced by **Players Michel Goodell** and **Alan Dick**, was one of those nights just for us guys; it is what Players is really all about, us in fun and showing love for one our own.

This Frolic got off to a rocky start at the pre-frolic dinner held at the Finn and Porter restaurant in the Double Tree Inn at the site of the old Fort Shelby Hotel. Our erstwhile published author of "Zenith Rising," **Player Mike Goodell**, arrived with longish locks befitting an author of published status.

On the good side, my conversations with **Player Jim Turnbull** and his guest were riveting and convivial at the same time. It was good to see **Player Ward Kay** in from Washington. The drinks were good, although being on duty, I abstained. The steak was medium rare and very tasty, but, alas, the service was so abysmal as to almost ruin the evening meal and delayed the start of the Frolic. Too bad, because we need good restaurants downtown that can deliver service as well as quality meals. Here's hoping Finn and Porter improves.

Coming into the theater, the Chorus was missed. Their lyrical renditions build the atmosphere for the start of any evening. We need them back.

At 8:57 the chimes rang and we were almost ready to begin the Frolic.

Our President, **Player Craig White**, gave his curtain speech and noted the veritable plethora of recent activities available to us. The Christmas Party, the Millionaire's Party, David Ogden Stiers recitation, the Super Bowl Party and the reinstated Traffic Hour to mention but a few. Not noted was the up coming card playing night, that should be a very good addition to our Player opportunities

Player Roy Jendrzejewski was at his finest singing the Player Song and we were off to the evening's plays.

Faisal and Achmed made an auspicious return in, probably, one of their better efforts. Made better, no doubt, because of an idea by **Player Tom Starynchak**, fleshed out into a script by **Players Mike Mongan** and **John Daly**, leaving **Player Mark Hable** to act in "The Night Before I Died."

In the first scene we find an assumed to be Saddam Hussain, our leading character, named "The Condemned," captured and in jail, soon to be brought to the USA and put into the witness protection program along with his look-a-like cousin portrayed by **Player Tom Staryncheck**. **Player Tom Davies** made a strong presentation as an interrogator. Prison guard **Player Benedetto Galbo** made his Players debut. **Player Ben Pugliesi** also made his debut and we got him into a skirt as Lolita Whipple. Good going!!!

A classic line in the first scene was a reference to a line on the wall. "To be water boarded you must be this tall."

War Heroes Faisal and Achmed (**Players Habel** and **Daly**) were much restrained from their

usual outrageousness and **Player Mike Mongan** was just “maizing.”

Player Bob O’Leary as Jennifer, a public official, had the most outrageous mole applied to his face and remarked, “Detroit set me up for a come back!” “Zenith Rising” also made it into the dialogue.

Due to the alleged shortness of the second play “The Financial Crisis Explained,” **Player Mike Goodell** stepped in to round out the time slot which turned into an unabashed sales pitch for “Zenith Rising.” He went on and on until he was roundly booed off the stage by a few well placed hecklers. Good Fun.

Our President, **Player Craig White** and a former President, now board member, **Player Greg Thom**, indulged us in explaining “The Financial Crisis Explained,” by John Bird and John Fortune. White, the straight talking interviewer, K.T. Koorick, lays into George Parr, an irrepressible investment banker; question after question after penetrating question. And Parr keeps answering each and every question circuitously; incomprehensibly with feigned pomposity about subprime properties and structured investment vehicles as well as admitting he doesn’t pay taxes.

A reviewer is supposed to be able to explain the point and counterpoint of a play. But how do you explain the unexplainable? Of course, that was the point. Greg as the shifty sloe-eyed banker deftly through banker babble and dodging every question made no sense what so ever. Solid performances by these two Player’s stage veterans. Zenith Rising also made it into this skit as well.

“Hudson and Landry Ruined” is based on four 1970’s skits by the legendary Los Angeles morning drive time duo, Bob Hudson and Ron Landry.

“Ajax Liquor Store” [the first skit] won an Emmy for the pair and was riotous in the hands of **Players Henry Nelson** and **Allan Dick**. Henry is a playing a drunk that is calling the liquor store to order some more booze.

He asks, in an obviously drunken slur, if they sell liquor and Allan answers, they do. “Do you

have tequila?” “Yes,” replies Allan, “we have tequila.” “Do you have fifths?” “Yes, we have fifths.” “Ok, I want 4 fifths of tequila. Ok, do you have quarts.” “Yes, we have quarts.” “Don’t want any quarts.” “So what do we have here?” And off it goes at breakneck speed as only Henry can do and so ably abetted by Alan.

“Sir Basil” was next. Sir Basil, **Player John Burke**, and Sir Geoffrey, **Player Allan Dick**, are discussing, in tortured British accents, their wives and the affairs they are having with each others wife to the point of photos and accusations finally arriving at suggesting a foursome — like in golf? Well done indeed.

In “Montague for Mayor,” Montague Dahlkemper, **Player Henry Nelson**, is giving a mayoral campaign speech and is a supposed disreputable cur, particularly to the Heckler, **Player Alan Dick**, who refers to him as “Slick” and “throw the rascal out!” Henry plods on paying no attention. **Player Peter Dawson** ably tries to moderate this situation to no avail.

In the fourth skit, “The Prospectors” (**Player Henry Nelson** as Zeke, **Player John C. Burke** as Raphe and **Player Peter Dawson** as Old Farley) are at Outback Mountain, in the wilderness, and haven’t seen a woman in 25 years. Zeke, imperturbably, sits down on Floyd, a rattle snake. The stage hand who wants to make sure the rattle is heard, sticks the rattle into view and shakes it vigorously. But the real question is, whether or not they should use pages from the book, “Zenith Rising,” for the camp fire or for toilet paper. “I couldn’t live like that!” Can it get any better?

It was a great promotional night for “Zenith Rising,” given Mike was producer as well as author, and we Players wish him great sales success. He certainly got the plugs.

A nice supper followed from our kitchen augmented, again, by The Forum Shoppers Quartet as the Afterglow.

It has been mentioned by many that last season was one of the best in Players history. If this frolic is any measure, then, this season may be as good or better. Bring your guests and prospective members. Let them share in our reverie. 🍷

Frolic 575

SATURDAY, March 7, 2009

Curtain at 8:30 PM

PRODUCER: PLAYER LARRY SMITH

ASSISTANT PRODUCER: PLAYER STEVEN FLUM

Yes Means No

By Howard E. Rogers

Directed by Player J. Robert O'Leary, III

Setting: Office of William Lawson Credit Co., NYC, March 1929

William Lawson.....Player Kenneth G. Reid*
 Miss Collins.....Player R. Joseph "Video Joe" Dabbs*
 T.J. Morgan.....Player Stuart Johnson
 Teddy Lawson.....Player Howard B. M. Fauntroy, III
 Edith Merrill.....Player Thomas D. Diffendal

*First time appearing on Players' stage.

DUSK

Tales By Saki

By Jules Tasca

Directed by Player Andrew D. Maltese

Setting: London Park, Early 20th Century England

Norman.....Player James Turnbull
 Allen.....Player Benjamin F. Guiney
 Young Man.....Player Andrew D. Maltese

FUNERAL TEA

By Pat Wilson

Directed by Player Thomas Conley

Setting: A small town in Derry, Ireland, Present Day

Mrs. O'Brien.....Player Chuck Steltenkamp
 Mrs. McDonnell.....Player Tim Cordes
 Miss Murphy.....Player Lawrence L. Smith
 Miss Fitzpatrick.....Player William H. Volz
 Mrs. Brady.....Player Leon Hart, Jr.

Afterglow:**How I Want To Be Remembered**

Adapted from a piece by Jack Handy

*"We are gathered here, way far in the future, for the memorial service
 of my great-grandfather Christopher Monley..."*

"On stage you're free. You can say and do things that if you said or did any place else, you'd be arrested."

Robin Williams

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 |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| Improve Electrical and lighting to Code | \$1,930 | |
| Boiler Room Vent to Code | \$2,850 | |
| 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. 🐾

Notes From the Office

Gentlemen,

There is a potpourri of items in the Lost & Found urn, just outside the office. Please check to see if any of these things are yours. I will be donating whatever is left after the March Frolic to a local charity.

Call me with the names of any guests that you have invited to the March Frolic. And, please do not forget to pay the guests that do attend. Thanks!

Best regards,

Claudine

☎ 313.259.3385
 📠 313.259.0932
 📧 office@playersdetroit.org

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!

[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! 🐾



DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON
(Subject to Change)

Saturday, March 7.....March Frolic, Curtain at 8:30
 Wednesday, March 11.....BOG Meeting at 6:30
 Week of March 8.....Fine Arts Week
 Week of March 15.....Theatre Arts Week

Saturday, April 4.....April Frolic, Curtain at 8:30
 Wednesday, April 15.....BOG Meeting at 6:30
 Week of April 19.....Theatre Arts Week

Saturday, May 2....May Invitational, Curtain at 8:00
 Friday/Saturday, May 8 & 9.....May Invitational
 Week of May 10.....Fine Arts Week
 Wednesday, May 13.....BOG Meeting at 6:30
 Wednesday, May 20.....Annual Meeting & Dinner



Please confirm all dates with the office before
 relying on this list as it may change as
 the Season progresses.

THE PLAYER, VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 5,
 FEBRUARY 2009

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 and not necessarily those of the Players. The current Editor is Player Grand Poobah Craig White, with great assistance from Player Chris Monley and not so much help from Player Peter W. Dawson. 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!

Important Announcement

We've made improvements to the Playhouse but we need your cooperation! The combustion air to the Boiler Room is now being supplied from the outside via a damper controlled by the boiler's firing controls. So ... **"Please keep the Boiler Room Door CLOSED from here on out."** Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS

to Player John McLaughlin
 & his wife Kristina!!



They welcomed their son
Raymond James McLaughlin
 into the world on Wednesday,
 February 25, 2009 at 8:20PM

New Member Information!

The following gentlemen were recently approved for membership to Players:

Wayne M. Bradley

Sponsored by Player Tim Bannister
 Endorsed by Player Steve Flum

Peter Stenger

Sponsored by Player Bob Dodge
 Endorsed by Player Andrew Turnbull

Reminders:

- Plan on attending The March Frolic.
- Invite a friend to join The Players.
- Consider helping out on a committee or indicate your willingness to run for the BOG this year. Please contact any current BOG member for details and information.
- Bring an old Player friend to "Back to Players Night" in April!

HERE'S YOUR CUE (Continued)

In keeping with this year's theme to eat at new downtown hotel restaurants,
the **March Pre-Frolic Dinner** will be at

The Chrome Grill at the Hilton Garden Inn

351 Gratiot Avenue at Brush.

The details are the same as usual:

Meet at the bar around 5:30; sit down for dinner at 6:30.

The price is \$30.00 (including tax & tip). Please bring the correct change.

Parking is available in the lot for \$4.00, or valet for \$20.00.

Please call the Players' Office [(313) 259-3385] with your reservation.

As always, if you decide at the last minute to come, just show up.

We can always handle more people and the more, the merrier!

Your Chairman, Player Tom Brandel

The Players' "Caption This!" Contest!

Behold the first Players Caption Contest! It is similar to *The New Yorker Magazine* Cartoon Caption Contest, and even more like *The Detroit Free Press* "Caption This" Contest. The editors of *The Player* feel that you deserve to get in on the fun.

The March contest (*photograph courtesy* caption this photo of actor, author, Send your finest, most imaginative and to players-office@sbcglobal.net. The will be published in the following otherwise inappropriate entries are not the great amusement of the editors inclusion in future contests may be



of Player Larry Smith): How would you raconteur Player Michael Goodell? (we are hopeful) funniest caption idea winning entry and best runners-up issue. Please note: off-color or likely to be published, and will be for only. (Photo submissions for possible sent to the same e-mail address.)

Come see a friend of Players...



Larry D'Angelo

in

"The Ultimate Doo-Wop Show"

Larry's group is Deke & The Blazers

Where: Andiamo Celebrity Showroom

When: Saturday, March 14, 2009 @ 8:00PM

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com,

or by calling Andiamo at (586) 268-3200

A total of 7 groups will be performing!

Fellow Players,

Do you know anyone who used to be a Player but left the club due to a move, a baby, a promotion, financial reasons, any reason at all other than that they didn't like it?

Please invite them to our **"The Players' Return"** event scheduled for April 4, 2009.

Let Claudine know who you suggest and an invitation will be sent to that individual to attend the April 4, Frolic as a guest of the BOG.

We are planning a few special events. The shows will be grand. So, why not? All you need to do is give us a name (and address if you know they moved) and leave the rest to us.

Let's showcase our final Frolic of the season and possibly entice a few of our past compatriots to come back.

Sincerely,



Player Craig White
President

WANT TO RE-LIVE THAT LAST PERFORMANCE?



DVDs ARE AVAILABLE FROM PREVIOUS FROLICS AND CAN BE PURCHASED FROM THE OFFICE.
IN FACT, THE OFFICE HAS LOTS OF COPIES OF PAST FROLICS AND INVITATIONALS.
DVDs ARE \$25 EACH. CALL TO ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

Traffic Hour is back!!


Back by popular demand, and with a healthy push from Mike Mongan,
who has agreed to coordinate the event,

Let's save our leftover beer from waste!

Directors, recruit for your next effort! Actors, land a prime role!

Relive the glory of your moment in the limelight - like who else would tell you how swell you looked in heels. Save our BEER! Bring in a prospective members to bask in the glamour of our presence and hear us regale the tales of Frolics long ago.

Be there on March 9th or be talked about ...

About The Player: The Player is the newsletter for the Club. As such, it is incumbent on the membership to supply fodder for it. The Editor is just that, the editor, not the writer of the several notes you see each issue. So, if you have an announcement, an idea for an article or other news piece, please send it in, by email preferably, to editor@playersdetroit.org and we'll do our best to get it in on time and correct. 

The Financial Crisis Explained

The Night Before I Died



MICHAEL GOODELL GREG THOM CRAIG WHITE



TOM DAVIES BEN PUGLIESI TOM STARYNCHAK MICHAEL MONGAN BEN GALBO BOB O'LEARY · JOHN DALY · MARK HABEL



PETER DAWSON ALLAN DICK JOHN BURKE HENRY NELSON

Hudson & Laundry Ruined

FROLIC 575
7 FEBRUARY 2009
Monell