



THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVIII, NUMBER 7

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

APRIL 2009

CREW RULES REVIEW ROOST, ROASTS ROBERTS!

By Player Mark W. Habel

This is my debut as a reviewer. I am grateful to **Player Chris Monley** for choosing me, after his first several choices, two of whom are deceased, were unavailable. Also, thanks, Chris, for doing the final edit! (*Sure... blame me. -ed.*)

Producers **Players Bill Robinson** and **Denne Osgood** started the evening a little later than usual because we were waiting for the end of Michigan State's basketball victory over Louisville in the semi-finals of the NCAA basketball tournament, televised in the lobby. Early arrivals in the house, as usual, were greatly entertained by **Player Earl Wolfe's** piano improvisations, followed by his accompaniment of the Players Chorus, **Players Allan Dick, Bill Robinson, Chuck Steltenkamp** and **Tim Cordes**, as they performed several show tunes.

Players President Craig White welcomed two new members, **Players Wayne Bradley** and **Ted Winiarski**. **Player Allan Dick** sang the Players Song.

The first show, *The Dicks*, was performed by **Players Gino Pirrami** and **Andrew Turnbull**. The action takes place in the lobby of a seedy old Florida hotel circa 1970. The walls are gaudy yellow, with the lights all on full. The furnishings are wicker and the decorations are potted palms. Ed (Gino) is a blustering anachronism of a house detective, who looks and talks like somebody's sidekick in a '50's Mickey Spillane novel. The not-named young man (Andrew) is a guy trying to get his first legitimate job as a house detective, and figures a Pat Boone image will help. **Player Tom Starynchak** directed well and, surprisingly, for the first time, considering his innumerable, various other contributions to our club over the years.

This brings us to the second show of the evening, *Can You Hear Me Now?* It was penned by **Player Jim Foran's** friend John Gallagher, a business writer for *The Detroit Free Press*, who also attended the Frolic. It is about a man and a woman who meet on-line, and are optimistic enough to meet in person, on neutral ground, in a public park. The set is a park bench in front of a grassy slope on a bright summer day. It is a clever and subtle play. Jim tells me Mr. Gallagher is working on another one. We should look forward to it. **Player Tim Bannister** was just right as a reasonable, mature adult woman, in stylish sunglasses, trying to find a companion. Congratulations to costumes and make-up. Jim was so believable as an urban phony, pretending to be forty-ish and single, devoid of self-awareness, that one might think Jim once worked in the financial services industry. I do note my disappointment that Jim, after agreeing during dress rehearsal to dye his hair auburn with blonde highlights, demurred on Saturday.

And this brings us to my first opportunity ever to put in writing my thoughts about fellow **Player Chuck Roberts**, *Can You Hear Me Now's* director. Finally, after long years backstage with no outlet save kibitzing, muttered derision, here and there a deliberately botched technical cue (ungentlemanly to say the least), not to mention my endurance of Chuck's periodic reviews in these pages of my own occasional acting turns; modest turns certainly, but, I'm sure we all agree, profoundly sincere in their commitment to bring some refinement to our stage. And so, at last, after enjoying two dress rehearsals and the performance, I am duly authorized to make the following gentlemanly remarks about my fellow

Player Chuck Roberts' direction of this play:

[passage redacted] **faithful to the text** [passage redacted] **may** [redacted] **exactly** [redacted] **the way I would have done it.**

The third show, *Controlling Interest*, was a high concept sketch. What if the participants in a stressful business meeting were eight years old? They look like adults. The set looks like a contemporary office, except for some childish props and décor, highlighted by a Darth Vader poster, captioned "JOIN OR DIE." The subject of the meeting is whether or not the four men/boys in the show should start liking girls, represented by two women/girls who arrive with a lengthy contract explaining the boys' obligations if they are to "like girls." Among these obligations is their "complete and undivided attention until the end of time." Fulfill your contract, boys, and Ashley says you might someday get to see real live girls with their shirts off. The boys at the beginning are more interested in, well, playing, and body function jokes. The girls seem to be more mature, because they try to dissemble like adults, and claim to know where babies come from. **Player Chris Nesi** was intimidating as Ashley, reminiscent of Lucy from the *Peanuts* comic strip. **Player Larry Smith** looked great and was hilarious as Ashley's assistant, Bethany, big for her age, and way too full of herself in her blonde curls, grey business suit and pink glasses. In my elementary school, she would have been voted most likely to have cooties. More good women's costumes and wigs.

Player Eric Christian directed and starred as Jack, something of a leader, welcoming Ashley and Bethany to his office/playhouse, saying, "Can I get you some Lego's or something?" **Player Brad Dahlhofer**, as Brad (really), does a first-rate spit-take. (I'm a huge fan of spit-takes. Chuck Roberts should put them in *his* shows.) **Player Chris Monley**, as David, is afraid of girls, and just kicking his nose-picking habit. **Player Patrick Coon**, as Stephen, something of a follower, fits nicely with the group, conveying that he is barely keeping up. Overall, a fine ensemble and a big hit with the

audience.

In the audience were several former club members invited by The Board to enjoy the Frolic and the many significant property renovations, inside and out, that we have made in recent years.

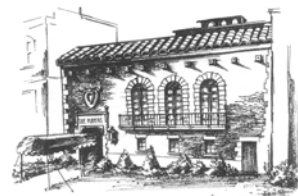
A good meal of pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw and cookies was made by **Players Tom Conley, Jim Greiner and Chuck Steltenkamp.**

The afterglow was the traditional review of the season by **Players Allan Dick and Bill Robinson.** Positioned as usual in front of the Travelers, they offered lively wit and oblique criticism, and some advice about good choices for the May Invitational bill. The slide-show highlights were missing this year only due to a technical problem. They will be back. Ballots were distributed so that members could vote for their favorite shows, and so that the votes could be counted by representatives of the Scripts & Casting Committee before the end of the evening.

Over beer at the bar, conversations continued about the shows and The Board's way of choosing the May bill, explained by the glow-worms as the "rock-paper-scissors method."

As Stage Manager for this Frolic, I thank the band of stage crew irregulars who helped with sets and props during tech week and during the Frolic: **Players Tom Starynychak, John Daly, Denne Osgood, Larry Smith, Chris Monley, Eric Christian, and Tom Diffendal,** among others.

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that new members in particular are invited to stop by on the Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday before any Frolic to see how the evening is put together, to meet active members, and to pitch in. It is an excellent introduction to the club. ☺



The May 2008 Invitational

Saturday, May 2, 2009
Friday, May 8, 2009 & Saturday, May 9, 2009
Curtain at 8:00 PM

PRODUCERS: PLAYERS J. ROBERT O'LEARY, III AND THOMAS D. SLOAN



FUNERAL TEA

By Pat Wilson
Directed by Player Thomas Conley

Time: Present Day
Place: A small town in Derry, Ireland

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.



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



CONTROLLING INTEREST

By Wayne Rawley
Directed by Player Eric Christian

Setting: Jack's Office

Jack.....Player Eric Christian
Brad.....Player Brad Dahlhofer
David.....Player Christopher G. Monley
Stephen.....Player Patrick A. Coon
Ashley.....Player Christopher Nesi
Bethany.....Player Lawrence L. Smith



Our thanks and apologies to **"Hudson & Landry"** for the interludes.

"Acting is half shame, half glory. Shame at exhibiting yourself, glory when you can forget yourself." **John Gielgud**

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	\$1930	
Oriental Rug, 10'4" x 11'10"	\$2,500	
Roof Repairs	\$10,000	\$1,000
Mural Restoration	\$17,500	\$3,500

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

CONGRATULATIONS

to Player Andrew Maltese
& his wife Melissa!!



They welcomed their second son
Logan John Maltese
into the world on
Tuesday, April 7, 2009

WANTED!

AFTERGLOW CHAIRMAN

Contact **TOM SLOAN**
at **586-202-9932**

or sloanth@lc-ps.org

New Member Information!

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

Jason T. Nagher:

Sponsored by Player Brian Bawol ~ Endorsed by Player J. Michael Mongan

David A. Kiselewski

Sponsored by Player Timothy A. Whims ~ Endorsed by Player Greg R. Thom

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APRIL 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!

Gentlemen,

It has been one excellent and productive 98th season here at 3321 East Jefferson Avenue. Our Fall Invitational was superb and this season's line-up was as good as many say they had seen in years. Throw in a revitalized Family Christmas Party, a dynamite Millionaire's Party and a reborn Traffic Hour and things seem to be in high gear! Our first Super Bowl Party was a blast and now we have our third Players Card Party on May 22nd. Membership rolls are filling out nicely and we can feel the great value of having The Players to fall back on when things seem too damn serious in the world.

This next year, your Board of Governors has another ambitious group of events, plays and goals to present. First though, we want to list some of the many upgrades to the Playhouse that have been accomplished this season. This list might not be complete, but we tried to show what a hell of a year it was! Thanks to all.

1. Thanks to a mystery donor, the new loading dock doors were made possible by many matching donations.
2. We had a new sound board/mixer installed.
3. A new hearing enhancement system was installed. Thank you Player Gillis.
4. The dressing room hallway, and the Slade, was patched and painted
5. The Playhouse is now wired for free Wi-Fi; just call Claudine Manchester for the access code.
6. There is a new 40-Gallon water heater in the basement mechanical room. Thank you Player Roy J.
7. There is a new 20-Gallon water heater in the kitchen; a first in Players' history. Thanks Gourmet Group.
8. The new filtered water dispenser in the lobby works almost perfectly, almost all the time.
9. We have totally updated the software that runs our finances.
10. Those bare wires running from the tech-booth to the alcove have been properly sheathed.
11. All the microphone and speaker wires running from the stage have been replaced with new shielded wire.
12. All of the City of Detroit's fire exit suggestions/violations were done quickly and correctly.
13. All of the City of Detroit's mechanical room code issues were slam dunked.
14. The roof leaks over the dressing room and basement stairs were done sans a contractor by Player Moons.
15. The roof leaks around the Founders Room A/C vents were fixed by Player Moons.
16. Those pesky radiator leaks in the Founders Room were finally solved.
17. We have a warming oven and new cabinetry & shelves atop the kitchen stairs. Thanks Gourmet Group.
18. We have replaced a badly torn "cyclorama" on stage thanks to the "Moon's Minions".
19. Our large movie screen has been brought downstage and may soon be used to play TV broadcasts.
20. We have finally taught Player Habel the correct way to climb up and down ladders!

Cheers!

Player Tim Whims, V.P.—Production

SUMMER WORK PARTIES



Tentatively scheduled for the following Saturdays:

June 20, 9AM-1PM ~ July 25, 9AM-1PM ~ August 15, 9AM-1PM ~ September 19, 9AM-4PM

Note: September's hours are 9AM-4PM due to the construction of door flats.

Techniques will be shared with us non-carpenters while we get on-the-job-training.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!

HERE'S YOUR CUE (Continued)**Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Players will take place on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. The evening's schedule:

- 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.: Voting
- 7:00 p.m.: Dinner, \$35, catered by Tom's Oyster Bar
- 8:00 p.m. (approximately) Annual Meeting
 - Announcement of Board of Governors and Officers for 2009-2010
 - Committee Reports;
 - Announcement of Frank Judge Award Winner
- 9:30 p.m.: Adjourn

The Players nominated to run for a three-year term for the Board of Governors from 2009 to 2012 are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Player Brad Dahlhofer | Player Charles "Chuck" Steltenkamp |
| Player Allan G. Dick | Player J. Gerard "Jerry" Teagan |
| Player Michael Sherwood | Player William H. Volz |

Good luck gentlemen! The nominees' brief biographies appear on the following page.

**CARD PARTY!!**

It has been suggested that we offer an optional **Euchre Tournament** along with all of the other card games at this **May 22nd** card party. "So it is written, so it shall be!!!" Player Tim Whims has the resources to make it run smoothly; we just need some "suckers" to join in. To anybody interested, please call Claudine and register yourself and any guests. We will have to limit it to numbers divided by four, obviously. There will be a \$5 entry fee and prizes for first, second and last places. Please remember, euchre is a drinking game and not a contact sport. Let's have some fun! The party starts at 7PM.

The Fine Arts Society of Detroit Presents...
Marcus Belgrave ~ Charlie Gabriel ~ Joan Belgrave
 At

The Players Playhouse
 Thursday, June 11, 2009

Showtime: 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$20 at the door ~ \$17 in advance

Contact Steve Shrader at 313-483-3981

or

<http://fineartssociety2.blogspot.com/2006/09/chamber-music-at-playhouse.html>

♪ Half the proceeds from this event will go to The Players Playhouse ♪



Player Brad Dahlhofer: has been a member of Players since 2003 and has performed in such memorable performances as Martha and Me, Jimmy the Anti-Christ, the Killer Bees and most recently in Controlling Interest. Brad is currently the club's Beer Czar, and has held a position on the Player's Long Range Planning Committee. He's so fond of the club that he and his wife Kerri were married here in September of 2005. Most recently, Brad co-founded B. Nektar Meadery, a producer of honey wine in Ferndale, MI. He is also the owner of Dahlcom, a technology and marketing company.



Player Allan G. Dick is an ancient member of The Players, dating back to 1975. In those 34 years, I have served numerous functions, including having served on the Board of Governors twice and as Players President once. Additionally, I have produced (current committee chair), directed and acted (poorly) in many shows and afterglows. In the past, I have also worked a bit backstage, with props and in the sound booth. I have even found myself in the Players Chorus at times and wound up in the kitchen on occasion. I have been the Pit Boss and a former organizer of the Millionaires Party for 16 years! I have also been tapped to participate on the committee to organize and prepare our celebration of The Players Centennial in a year and a half. When not involved at Players, I am an underwriter and C.O.O. of Best Homes Title Agency, LLC. Of course, membership numbers and involvement are the keys to The Players lasting another 100 years. I do hope for the club to be thriving, so that my sons can participate in the future. While I treasure many of The Players' traditions, one tradition that needs to change is the reliance on too few active members to carry the load and the risk of them burning out. We need to find a way to get more members to contribute, even in small ways. There's joy in that! Nunquam Renig!



Player Mike Sherwood: While walking through Players, one almost hears a voice whisper, "If you build it, they will come", and if one looks hard enough, the vision of a viable club is here and is continuing to get better due to the members and a visionary board. That is why I have an interest to run for a seat on the Board as I have a passion for perfection and cultural advancement with a commitment on quality values. I am fascinated by the opportunity that Players avails to the city of Detroit and surrounding metro areas, but most of all, I am optimistic, if elected to this position, that I would have a direct-hand in the development of maintaining the high quality that is perceived and expected of the Players social establishment and its officers.



Player J. Gerard (Jerry) Teagan: I have been a proud member of The Players since 1991. My activities include acting in two plays; handling the bank for the Millionaire's Party fundraiser in January every year (with the exception of the two years that I was in Duluth); assisting in various other fundraising activities; and periodically providing guidance to the officers/office manager in financial and tax matters for the club. During my 18 years with Players, I have also been a member of the Gourmet (?) Group, which has provided funding for several capital projects at the playhouse. I recently retired as CFO of the Duluth News Tribune, after spending the majority of my 33 years in the newspaper industry with the Detroit Free Press. I am a registered CPA and currently sit on the boards of Holy Cross Children's Services and Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology. As a board member, I would place emphasis on maintaining and enhancing the playhouse, while making sure that the club lives within the resources available. We have been entrusted with a beautiful facility, which must be preserved for the enjoyment of future Players.



Player Chuck Steltenkamp has been an active member of Players since 1990. During that time, he has served the club in a number of capacities. He was a member of the Board of Governors from 1995-1998, serving as Secretary and Vice-President of Administration. He has been a long-time chairman of the Players Orchestra and Chorus, and has served on other club committees such as Membership, House, Frolic Suppers, and Afterglow, and co-chaired the Millionaire's Party for several years. He has appeared onstage in at least one production each season since he joined the Players, and has appeared in the May Invitational many times.



Player William Volz: As this fine old club reaches for its second century, a nominee for its Board of Governors must make two pledges: First, to deliver three seasons of Frolics and Invitationals that bring the joy of theater performed in the company of gentlemen. Second, to lead the Club toward a second century in a Playhouse restored to the beauty of its finest hour. Next year, I will have been a Player for twenty years. I served on the Board ten years ago. On leaving the Board, I was chair of the Endowment Committee for seven years. Our Endowment Fund grew from \$26,300 in 1997 to \$135,200 in 2004. I now serve on the Endowment Fund Committee and the Script and Casting Committee. It is an honor to be nominated for the Board.

Controlling Interest



PATRICK COON · ERIC CHRISTIAN · CHRIS MONLEY · BRAD DAHLHOFER · CHRIS NESI · LARRY SMITH

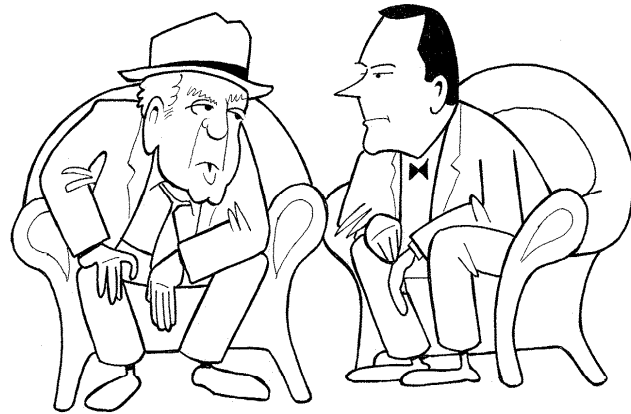
Can You Hear Me Now?

FROLIC 5/11 4 APRIL 2009 MONLEY



TIM BANNISTER · JIM FORAN

The Dicks



GENO PIRRAMI

ANDREW TURNBULL