



**Charles Dickens'**

**A**

**Christmas**

**Carol**

**Adapted by John Mortimer**



**Ankeny Community Theatre  
December 5-21, 2008**

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## EVENTS

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### Mulan Auditions

January 3 • 9 am or 1 pm  
For ages 7-16  
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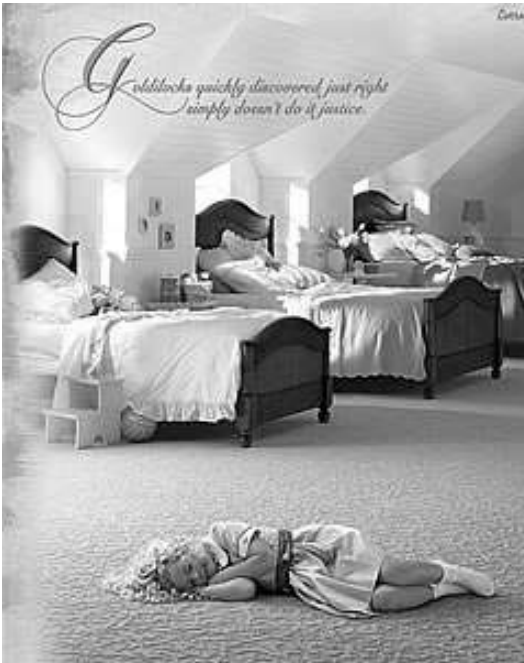
## PRESENTS

### A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail



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*ACT's 2008-2009 Season*

*Hankerin' Hillbillies*

Pat Cook

September 5 -21

*Jekyll and Hyde*

Adapted by Leonard H. Caddy

October 17 - November 2

*A Christmas Carol*

Adapted by John Mortimer

December 5 - 21

*The Sensuous Senator*

Michael Parker

January 23 - February 8

Auditions Dates - December 7 & 8

*Love Letters*

A. R. Gurney

February 12, 13, 14 &15

*Fools*

Neil Simon

April 17 - May 3

Audition Dates - February 8 & 9

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## CAST

Ebenezer Scrooge

Bob Cratchit

Fred

Jacob Marley's Ghost

Fezziwig/Chorus

Spirit of Christmas Past,

Spirit of Christmas Present,

Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come

Mrs. Cratchit

Peter Cratchit

Martha Cratchit

Belinda Cratchit

Tiny Tim

Two Smaller Cratchits

Al Price

John Claes

Aaron Price

Ken Reams

Steve Hickle

Keith Pederson

Anne Claes

Jordan Skarin

Katherine Claes

Sophie Burke

Austyn Ritchie

Brooke Johnson

Laurel Johnson

## CHORUS

(All Other Characters)

Lauren Cephlea

Brad DePrez

Troy DeStigter

Brian Drew

Abbi Hartzler

Andrew Hartzler

Julie Hartzler

Dawn Hockemeyer

Katelyn Hockemeyer

Jeff Hyler

Jessica Johnson

Angie Luttenegger

Kaylen Luttenegger

Tom Miller

Deven Nielsen

Scott Nielsen

Ella Paris

Ethan Polson

Jan Price

Gillian Randall

Elizabeth Ritchie

Carla Rogers-Paris

Audra Sandifer

Emma Sandifer

Jennifer Sandifer

Abby Sigmund

Bryce Whitmore

Kent Whitmore

The play is set in London. The main action takes place in 1842 with flashbacks to 1770's and 1790's.

There are 2 acts with a 15-minute intermission between them.

Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cell telephones, pagers or other audible electronic devices before the show begins.

No recording devices or flash photography are allowed during any of our productions.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Barbara Merrill Wagner
Rehearsal Assistant/Stage Manager	Susie Randall
Lights/Sound	Harold Mosier, Polly Taylor
Costumes	Class Act Productions, Hoover High School Drama Department, Drake Drama Department, Lynn Arterburn, Julie Hartzler, Angie Luttenegger, Susie Randall, Carla Rogers-Paris, Jennifer Sandifer, Barb Wagner, Cast
Props	Michelle Burke, Christine Cephlecha, Anne Claes, John Claes, Jean Fargo, Julie Hartzler, Elizabeth Ritchie, Amy Skarin, Barb Wagner, Cast
Scrooge & Spirit Movers	Doug Arterburn, Brian DePrez, Monte Engh, Kevin Johnson, Jerry Reid
Set Design	Barb Wagner
Set Construction	Keith Pederson, Cast
Set Artwork	Michelle Burke, Christine Cephlecha, John Claes, Adam Haselhuhn, Dawn Hockemeyer, Jessica Johnson, Scott Nielsen, Natasha Parker, Dale Polson, Ethan Polson, Jennifer Sandifer, Barb Wagner, Don Wagner, Elizabeth Wagner
House Managers	Doug & Lynn Arterburn, Jerry Reid
Refreshments	Bev Heldt
Playbill/Photographer	Lynn Arterburn
Marketing	Lynn Arterburn, Shelley Blok, Becky Plager

## DIRECTOR THANK YOU'S

Lynn Arterburn	Nancy Hall
Alissa Bailey	Adam Haselhuhn
Michelle Burke	Steve Hickle
Susan Casber	DJ Horrigan
Christine Cephlecha	Anne Hyler
Anne Claes	Doris Merrill
Class Act Productions (Altoona)	Betty Miller
Chelsea Cunningham	Susie Randall
Wendy DePrez	Amy Skarin
Drake Drama Department	Don Wagner
Brian Drew	Cast, Crew & Parents of
Jean Fargo	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>



Sophie Burke (Belinda Cratchit) appeared in ACT's *Hankerin' Hillbillies* and *Phantom Tollbooth*. She is "almost" 12 years old and in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Parkview Middle School. Sophie loves hanging out with her friends, playing on the computer, and has a cat named Jiggs.



Lauren Ceplecha (Belle's Daughter/Chorus) was last seen on our stage in *Hankerin' Hillbillies*. She also performed at ACT in *Wizard of Oz* and *Schoolhouse Rock Live*. Lauren is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Parkview Middle School and will turn 13 years old on opening night, December 5.



Anne Claes (Mrs. Cratchit) appeared at ACT in *Hankerin' Hillbillies* but has numerous other ACT credits including *Plaza Suite*, *Godspell*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. She is a special education teacher associate at Jensen Elementary in Urbandale and teaches kickboxing at Jacob's Academy in Urbandale. Anne loves playing "house" on stage with her real-life family - John and Katherine. She will again play opposite her husband in ACT's February 2009 production of *Love Letters*.



John Claes (Bob Cratchit) has many credits on the ACT stage such as *Plaza Suite*, *Godspell*, *And Then There Were None*, and *It's a Wonderful Life*. John is regional director for Muscular Dystrophy Association and is currently the President of ACT Board of Directors. Sharing the love of theatre with his family is very important to him and they have all made it a big part of their life.



Katherine Claes (Martha Cratchit) last appeared in *Hankerin' Hillbillies* for ACT. She was also in *It's a Wonderful Life*. Katherine is 11 years old and in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Summit Middle School in Johnston. She loves to go shopping with her mom and has two dogs (Daisy and Kramer) and a guinea pig (Maggie).



Brad DePrez (Young Scrooge/Chorus) was in ACT's recent production of *Hankerin' Hillbillies*. He also was seen on our stage in *Wizard of Oz* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Brad is 13 years old and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Northview Middle School. He likes football and is an avid Cyclone fan.



Troy DeStigter (Businessman/Baker/Chorus) has performed in approximately 25 shows at ACT with some of his favorites including *Heaven Can Wait*, *Rumors*, *Wizard of Oz*, and *You Can't Take It With You*. Troy has served on the Board at ACT for two separate terms and collects rock 'n roll music record albums.



Brian Drew (Portly Gent/Businessman/Chorus) last appeared at ACT in *Don't Drink the Water*. His other stage credits are at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater and include *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, *You Can't Take It With You*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He is the proud father of son, Reece, who is 3 years old. Brian manages The Gallery in Des Moines.



Abbi Hartzler (Morgiana the Slave Girl/ Belle's Granddaughter/Chorus) is 9 years old and in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Ashland Ridge Elementary. This is her first show ever.

She loves art, math, reading, acting, and playing outside. She is happy to be making her debut with her brother and mom.



Andrew Hartzler (Child Scrooge/Chorus) is making his stage debut. He is 7 years old and in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Ashland Ridge Elementary. Andrew loves to build things

with Legos, go on scary rides at amusement parks, and has a puppy named Sugar. He shares our stage with his sister and mom.



Julie Hartzler (Ali Baba/Chorus) has had theatre experience as part of the drama ministry at her church, Ankeny Free Church. She is making her

debut at ACT with her two children. Julie is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Grand View College and is studying for her PhD in Math Education at Iowa State University. She and her husband, Chris, love spending time with their family and friends.



Steve Hickle (Fezziwig/Chorus) was most recently seen on stage at the Des Moines Playhouse in *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story* and *Holes*. He has appeared on

the ACT stage in *Phantom Tollbooth*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live*, and *Don't Drink the Water*. He was the assistant director for *Our Town*, *And Then There Were None*, and will be directing the ACT spring comedy,

*Fools*. Steve works for Marsh and he and his wife, Cyndi, just celebrated their 19<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Besides ACT and the DM Playhouse, he has been involved in theatre at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater, Union Street Players (Pella), Indianola, and Prairie City. Steve serves on the ACT Board of Directors.



Dawn Hockemeyer (Robinson Crusoe/Cook/Chorus) appeared on our stage in *Hankerin' Hillbillies*. She has been in other ACT shows including *And Then*

*There Were None*, *Don't Drink the Water*, and *Dearly Departed*. Dawn is a stay-at-home mom who enjoys sewing and reading. She and her husband, Greg, have one daughter, Katelyn, who she is thrilled to be sharing the stage with for the second time.



Katelyn Hockemeyer (Man Friday/Belle's Granddaughter/Chorus) was in ACT's fall production of *Hankerin' Hillbillies*. This show will be her second one

here and she is happy to have her first speaking part. Katelyn is 8 years old and in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Northwest Elementary. She collects coins, rocks, shells, and teeth and has a kitty named Tiger.



Jeff Hyler (Dick Wilkins/Chorus) last appeared at ACT in *Hankerin' Hillbillies*, was in *Phantom Tollbooth*, and has also been in several productions throughout

school. He is 12 years old and in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Parkview Middle School. Jeff swims on a swim team and is a member of Scouts.



Brooke Johnson (Second Young Cratchit) is having fun doing her first show ever. She is 6 years old and in 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Crocker Elementary. Brooke enjoys swimming, dancing, coloring, and playing with her dog (Charlie) and cat (Hope). Doing this show with her mom and sister has made it even more special.



Kaylen Luttenegger (Fan/Chorus) makes her acting debut with this show but she loves to sing, have sleepovers, and takes dance at Nicole's School of Dance in Ankeny. Kaylen is 10 years old and is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Terrace Elementary. She is very excited to be sharing the stage with her mom, Angie.



Jessica Johnson (Sinbad the Sailor/Scrooge's Niece/Chorus) hasn't been on stage since she was in high school. She is enjoying sharing the stage with her daughters, Laurel and Brooke. Jessica is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading and language arts teacher at Parkview Middle School. She loves to read, travel, and eat desserts.



Tom Miller (Portly Gent/Milkman/Businessman/Chorus) is making his ACT debut but is no stranger to performing – coming to us from stages in Nebraska and Washington. He most recently appeared in *You Can't Take It With You* at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Tom works at John Deere Credit; enjoys singing, playing guitar, and photography; and LOVES watching Nebraska football and baseball. He and his wife, Judy, like spending time with their Boston terrier, Abe.



Laurel Johnson (First Young Cratchit) has been a narrator in a school play but this is her first show at ACT. She is 9 years old and in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Crocker Elementary. Laurel likes coloring, reading, writing, and soccer and has a dog (Charlie) and a cat (Hope). She's having fun being in a show with her mom and sister.



Deven Nielsen (Chorus) was in *Hankerin' Hillbillies* at ACT. She is 8 years old and in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Westwood Elementary. Deven loves acting and is having a great time being in shows with her dad.



Angie Luttenegger (Charwoman/Chorus) has lived in Ankeny all of her life and regrets not trying theatre at an earlier age. She is proud to be making her debut alongside her daughter, Kaylen. Angie and her husband, Greg, also have an 8-year-old son, Carson. She is a teacher and counselor at Carlisle Middle School.



Scott Nielsen (Belle's Husband/Undertaker's Man/Poultry Man/Chorus) has appeared at ACT in *Hankerin' Hillbillies* and *Phantom Tollbooth*. He is really enjoying being on stage and sharing the love of theatre with his daughter, Deven.



Ella Paris (Fezziwig Daughter/Chorus) is 11 years old and in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Ballard Community School. Appropriate for her name, she has appeared in *Ella-The Real Story of Cinderella* at Girl Scout theater camp. Ella takes dance lessons and plays flute in the band. We are happy to have her ACT debut with this show.



Keith Pederson (Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Yet To Come) just appeared in ACT's *Jekyll and Hyde*. He has also appeared in *Heaven Can Wait*, *And Then There Were None*, *Our Town*, and *Death and Taxes*. Keith has been seen at the Des Moines Playhouse, Westminster Fine Arts Series, and Drama Workshop. Keith is a clerk at the Grimes Post Office.



Ethan Polson (Topper/ Businessman/Chorus) recently appeared in ACT's *Hankerin' Hillbillies*. He has other theatre stage credits including *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe*, and *Eight Cousins*. Ethan is 17 years old, home schooled, and loves art, gymnastics, and acting.



Aaron Price (Fred) recently appeared on our stage as Joe Pendleton in *Heaven Can Wait*. He has been in 10 shows at ACT including *Don't Drink the Water*, *And Then There Were None*, and *Dearly Departed*. Aaron works at Yellow Customer Service and collects DVDs and comic books. He loves sharing the stage with his parents, Al and Jan, but this show is

the first in 14 years that all three of them have been in the same show together.



Al Price (Ebenezer Scrooge) has been with ACT for 25 years. He has served on the Board, directed shows, and appeared on stage in such shows as *Our Town*, *Don't Drink the Water*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Greater Tuna*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. In fact, Al has involved his entire family at ACT and proudly watched his grandson in *Jekyll and Hyde*. He is thrilled to share the stage with his wife, Jan, and his son, Aaron. During the day, Al works for Wells Fargo Financial – Compliance Management Services.



Jan Price (Mrs. Dilber/ Maid/Chorus) has many stage credits at ACT including *Our Town*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Wizard of Oz*. She is a 1<sup>st</sup> grade associate at Cornell Elementary. Jan loves to be in shows with the two men in her life (husband, Al, and son, Aaron). She also sings in the Ankeny Community Chorus and with "Sounds of Soul" at her church.



Gillian Randall (Miss Rosie/Chorus) appeared in ACT productions of *Hankerin' Hillbillies* and *Phantom Tollbooth*. She is 14 years old and in 9<sup>th</sup> grade at East High School in Des Moines. She has extensive stage experience and has been performing since the age of 3. Most of her credits are from the Ingersoll Dinner Theater but she has also had roles in middle school and in high school. Gillian is a competitive figure skater and works at the Brenton Ice Plaza in Des Moines.



Susie Randall (Stage Manager/Rehearsal Assistant) has been involved in theatre for approximately 30 years. The majority of her on-stage credits are from the Ingersoll Dinner Theater including *Something's Afoot*, *Music Man*, *Father of the Bride*, and *My Fair Lady*. Susie also performed in *Rocky Horror Picture Show* for Drama Workshop. She and her husband of 28 years, Dave, live in Des Moines and are the proud parents of Gillian. Susie started and directed the children's theatre program for three years at Phillips Elementary School in Des Moines.



Ken Reams (Jacob Marley) recently appeared on our stage as Mr. Utterson in *Jekyll and Hyde*. He has performed at ACT in *Our Town*, *And Then There Were None*, and *Heaven Can Wait*. Ken has graced the stages at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater, Des Moines Playhouse, Drama Workshop, and Urbandale Community Theatre. He has been married to Donna for 48 years and has two daughters, three granddaughters, and one grandson.



Austyn Ritchie (Tiny Tim) is making his first stage appearance with this show. He is almost 9 years old and is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Ashland Ridge Elementary. Austyn plays football and baseball and admits he forced his mom to try out for this show with him. It worked! He and his mom, Elizabeth, are enjoying their theatre time together.



Elizabeth Ritchie (Chorus) is not regretting her son, Austyn, making her try out for this show with him. She has never been in a play before but has years of singing in choirs to her credit. She is married to Joey and they have four children. They also have three dogs Elizabeth's favorite thing to do (besides performing in theatre now) is to go deer hunting with her dad back home in Nebraska.



Carla Rogers-Paris (Chorus) debuts at ACT with this show. She last appeared on stage in high school and college (DMACC). Carla likes to dabble in genealogy and thanks her extremely large family for their love and support. She is proud to be sharing our stage with her daughter, Ella.



Audra Sandifer (Fezziwig Daughter/Chorus) is making her stage debut. She is 11 years old and in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Crocker Elementary. Audra recently moved to Ankeny with her family and is active in soccer, volleyball, and plays the clarinet.



Emma Sandifer (Belle/Chorus) comes to us from Quincy, Illinois, where she has extensive stage experience including *Guys and Dolls*, *The Wiz*, *Music Man*, and *A Christmas Carol*. She is 13 years old, in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Northview Middle School, and ACT is happy to welcome her.





Jennifer Sandifer (Mrs. Fezziwig/Chorus) recently moved her whole family to Ankeny and is a stay-at-home mom. She has backstage experience from Quincy Community Theatre in Illinois and was involved in college theatre at Indiana University. She and her husband, Paul, have three daughters and Jennifer is thrilled to be sharing her ACT debut with two of them, Audra and Emma.



Abby Sigmund (Fezziwig Daughter/Chorus) is making her ACT debut but has appeared in shows throughout school such as *Snow White and Friends*, *Annie Jr.*, and *Little Mermaid*. She is 14 years old and in 9<sup>th</sup> grade at East High School in Des Moines. Abby has two brothers, two sisters, and two dogs and is in a bowling league and show choir at school.



Jordan Skarin (Peter Cratchit) is no stranger to the story of *A Christmas Carol*. He played Tiny Tim for the past three years in the Terrace Hill production of *Ebenezer: Spirit of Giving*. Jordan comes to ACT with experience of performing at Class Act Productions in Altoona and the Des Moines Playhouse. He is 12 years old and in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Southeast Polk Jr. High. He participates in the show choir and band. Jordan also plays drums in a band, “Sheltered Reality”, which plays music with meaning.



Barbara Merrill Wagner (Director) has directed three shows for ACT – *And Then There Were None*, *Our Town*, and *Don't Drink the Water*. She appeared on our stage in

*Once Upon a Mattress*, *Death and Taxes*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Barb has performed in and/or directed approximately 140 shows in the Des Moines area. The majority of her directing and acting was at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater, but she has also appeared at Stage West, Des Moines Playhouse, Urbandale Community Theatre, Drama Workshop, Tallgrass Theatre Company, and Union Street Players (Pella). In January of this year, Barb was proud to be part of the ensemble for the world premiere of *Caucus, the Musical* which was performed during the Iowa Caucuses at the State Historical Building. During the day, she is the secretary for AECOM (formerly Earth Tech) engineering firm in Des Moines.



Bryce Whitmore (Businessman/Chorus) has grown up around ACT since Kent Whitmore is his father. He is 18 years old and a freshman at Kaplan University in their criminal justice program. His stage credits include *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Godspell*, and a Living Last Supper.



Kent Whitmore (Headmaster/Old Joe/Chorus) has been around ACT for quite a few years and has appeared in such shows as *Godspell*, *The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase*, and *Harvey*. He has also performed at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater and for Shoestring Productions. Kent is a social worker at Broadlawns Medical Center.

## 2008 - 2009 CONTRIBUTORS

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Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank all of our anonymous donors whose gifts total \$575.

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## ACT NEEDS YOU!

ACT depends on the citizens of Ankeny and the surrounding communities to keep the theater operational. Each volunteer is a valuable asset to the theater. Time commitments can be large or small. Volunteer possibilities include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Costuming
- ◆ Set building
- ◆ Make-up
- ◆ Concessions
- ◆ Committee work

You may also support the theater by purchasing season tickets or a membership. Check out the opportunities by picking up volunteer forms or season tickets and membership forms from the box office or visit our website. You may also call the theater and the volunteer coordinator will return your call. Make new friends, have fun with old friends, and know the satisfaction of being part of live theater.

## MATCHING FUNDS

Several companies have volunteer programs in place where the employer will match the amount of money that an employee donates to nonprofit organizations. Several also have programs where they match hours an employee has volunteered with a dollar contribution. Pioneer, Meredith, Federal Home Loan Bank and MidAmerican Energy are just some of the companies that have provided such funding to ACT based on employees contributing and working with ACT. Please check with your employer to see if you could be taking advantage of these programs and help secure ACT financing.

## EMAIL NOTIFICATION

If you would like to receive information about ACT such as newsletters, audition **information, children's activities and show reminders, please go to our website** to sign up for email notification. Help us cut down on our mailing costs while keeping yourself informed of the most current events at ACT. If you are already signed up, please keep us updated on any email address changes so we may continue to send you email notifications.

# SPIRIT

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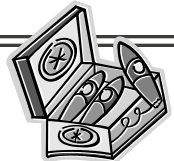
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FALL 2008

# EXIT THE KING

BY EUGENE IONESCO  
DIRECTED BY DEENA CONLEY  
OCTOBER 2-5  
STUDIO THEATRE

# URINETOWN

MUSIC BY MARK HOLLMANN  
LYRICS BY MARK HOLLMAN &  
GREG KOTIS  
BOOK BY GREG KOTIS  
DIRECTED BY KARLA KASH  
NOVEMBER 13-16  
PERFORMING ARTS HALL

# SOME GIRL(S)

BY NEIL LA BUTE  
STUDENT DIRECTED BY  
DANA GUSTAFSON  
DECEMBER 4-7  
STUDIO THEATRE

SPRING 2009

# SAFE

BY TONY GLAZER &  
ANTHONY RUIVIVAR  
STUDENT DIRECTED BY  
MAIT CASTEEL  
FEBRUARY 12-15  
STUDIO THEATRE

# THE BACCHAE

BY EURIPIDES  
ADAPTED & DIRECTED BY  
MICHAEL ROTHMAYER  
MARCH 5-8  
PERFORMING ARTS HALL

# HABEAS CORPUS

BY ALAN BENNETT  
DIRECTED BY CLIVE ELLIOTT  
APRIL 30-MAY 3  
STUDIO THEATRE

FOR TICKET INFORMATION, CONTACT THE HARMON FINE ARTS CENTER BOX OFFICE

Harmon Fine Arts Center · 25th & Carpenter Avenue · Drake University

Fine Arts Box Office: 271-3841

Hours (Sept. 1 - May 1)  
Monday - Friday, Noon - 6 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday, Noon - 4 p.m.

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build friendships and engage in FUN activities.



We serve persons:

- Alzheimers
- Dementia
- Stroke
- Frail Elderly
- Brain Injury

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Neveln Resource Center  
Ankeny, Iowa 50023  
965-1602

Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank New Horizons Adult Day Center for providing us with a space for rehearsals while the theater is being used for the current show. We appreciate their kindness and support.