

# Ankeny Community Theatre

presents



BEST MUSICAL —  
TONY AWARD  
N.Y. DRAMA CRITICS' AWARD

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

BOOK BY  
GEORGE FURTH

**A story that says so much about marriage!**

Directed by *Gayle Shay*

Musical Director, *Bruce Martin*

Set Design by *Bill Shay*  
Produced by *Al Iles and Kevin Sprague*

**February 10, 11, 12**

*Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m. - Sunday 2:00 p.m.*

**February 17, 18, 19**

*Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m. - Sunday 2:00 p.m.*

**February 24, 25**

*Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m.*

*Performed at*

**Ankeny Community Theatre**

1932 S.W. Third Street

Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Phone: (515) 964-5007

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119 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This very talented cast has worked hard in a short time to make sense of *Company*. It's a difficult show to rehearse. It truly is a "company" show. No one is really the star. Everyone is equally important. The irony of the title is that it takes a company of actors to create a show about the company of more than one person connecting in a relationship.

As a result, this show may not be what you expect. It will make you laugh. (We hope.) It may shock you somewhat, but you will probably recognize yourself in at least one of these characters. And, very likely, it will make you think, too. In some ways, when you walk out the door, you should be "sorry-grateful" that you came. Sorry because you were unexpectedly challenged. But truly grateful for the opportunity to experience quality theater in your own community.

Here's my advice. Enjoy the show - then go have a cup of coffee in the company of friends and see if you can answer this question: Does he get married?

Good luck. And thanks for coming.

Gayle Shay



**DON'T MISS OUR NEXT PRODUCTION**

**Spring, 1995**

**ARSENIC AND OLD LACE**



## THE CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

ROBERT

*Randy Reid*

SARAH

*Barb Martin*

HARRY

*Mark Jacobs*

SUSAN

*Kathryn Bisbey*

PETER

*Kevin Spire*

JENNY

*Chris Kentopp*

DAVID

*Larry Mahlstedt*

AMY

*Beth Schroeder*

PAUL

*Steve Belz*

JOANNE

*Frances Paterik-Johnson*

LARRY

*Mike Kentopp*

MARTA

*Erin McNally*

KATHY

*Marcia Swimney*

APRIL

*Colleen McNally*

### Musicians:

Harold Jansen

Clarinet and Saxophone

Virginia Lewis

Trumpet and Horn

Bruce Martin

Keyboards

Rich Tenner

Drums

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director

*Gayle Shay*

Music Director

*Bruce Martin*

Stage Manager

*Wendy McLaughlin*

Producers

*Al Iles, Kevin Sprague*

Lights

*Frank Rhoades*

Sound

*Jim Bisbey*

Set Construction

*Bill Shay, Orville Ballard*

Tickets

*Grace Leverenz*

Publicity

*Monica Green*

Playbill

*Steve Stone, Beverly Stone*



## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

**Randy S. Reid** (Robert) - Randy has performed in a number of shows for ACT, most recently as the lead in *Godspell*. He is also a member of ACT II. His other productions include *The King and I*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and *Yeoman of the Guard*. After majoring in Vocal Performance at Luther College, he has performed professionally with the Grant Park Symphony Chorus as well as the Rockefeller Memorial Chapel Choir. Soloist works include Bach's *b minor Mass*, Handel's *Jubilate and Messiah*, and Mozart's *Requiem*.

**Barbara Martin** (Sarah) - This is Barb's debut for ACT, but she is no stranger to Sondheim's work, having performed in *Assassins*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Side By Side By Sondheim* for The Drama Workshop. She has also been in numerous other productions at the Des Moines Playhouse and Drama Workshop. Vocally, Barb has performed as a soloist in Handel's *Messiah*.

**Mark Jacobs** (Harry) - This is Mark's debut on stage for ACT after directing one of our Murder Mysteries. He has appeared in the Adel Community production of *Me and My Girl*, as well as *Shadowlands* for The Drama Workshop. Additionally, Mark was co-founder of Distinctive Directions Theatre Company. In real life, Mark is Director of Chaplancy Services at Broadlawn Medical Center.

**Kathryn Bishey** (Susan) - Kathryn has a degree in music theater and dance followed by numerous theatrical credits to her name. Since her arrival in Ankeny, she has participated in most ACT productions and all of the musicals, most recently *Godspell*. A member of ACT II and the ACT Board of Directors, we wouldn't get nearly as much done without her. When not involved with theater, Kathryn works in marketing at KVI.

**Kevin Spire** (Peter) - Originally from Iowa City, Kevin has lived in Des Moines for eight years. Previous credits include *A Little Night Music* and *Assassins* at the Drama Workshop and *Dracula* at Newton Community Theater. His long list also includes *Mannehatop*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Oklahoma*, *Camelot*, and many children's shows at The Ingersoll Dinner Theater. Professionally, he is a Systems Account Analyst in Software Development for Communication Data Services.

**Christine Kentopp** (Jenny) - A native of Chicago, Chris was bitten by the theater-bug early and has been involved ever since: throughout high school, majoring in Speech and Drama at Midland Lutheran, and wherever she has been since. Both on stage and off, she has participated in *South Pacific*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and many others. After just moving to Ankeny within the last year, she has already performed in our last production of *Our Town*. If history is right, we'll see much more of Chris.



**Larry Mahlstedt** (David) - Originally from Northeast Iowa, Larry has been in Des Moines since 1988. He has performed in many productions for The Ingersoll Dinner Theater, including *Camelot*, *Oklahoma*, *Heart Calls Quietly*, *South Pacific*, and *Mousetrap*. Additionally, Larry performed in *Assassins* for Drama Workshop and *Dracula* for Newton Community Theater. Professionally, he is an Underwriter for IGF Insurance.

**Beth Schroeder** (Amy) - This is Beth's debut for ACT, but she has performed previously as Sister Leo in *Nunsense II*, in *Annle*, and in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. She is a resident of Ames.

**Steve Betz** (Paul) - Steve has appeared in a number of ACT productions including *Wizard of Oz* and *Godspell*. You have also seen him at the Des Moines Playhouse. Steve works in research at Pioneer Hi-Bred and at the North End Diner. In his spare time (?) Steve is in the MBA program at Drake.

**Frances Paterik-Johnson** (Joanne) - Originally from Illinois, Frances received a BA and MA in Music from Western Illinois and appeared in opera companies in Illinois and in regional theater. Locally, she has appeared in *Pirates of Penzance*, *Mame*, and other productions at Ingersoll Dinner Theater, and in *Gyps and Dolls*, *Into the Woods*, *Funny Girl*, and many others at the Des Moines Playhouse. Currently, she is Vocal Music Director for 6-12 at Collax-Mingo Schools, and Bell Choir Director at First Christian Church in Des Moines.

**Mike Kentopp** (Larry) - Mike started with *The Pied Piper* in kindergarten and hasn't stopped since. As an adult, he's been in *South Pacific*, *Camelot*, *Oliver*, and the lead in *Fiddler on the Roof* for the Northeast Nebraska Community Theater. Just recently moved to Ankeny (with wife Chris, also in *Company*), Mike has jumped into ACT with his behind-the-curtain efforts and on stage in *Our Town*.

**Erin McNally** (Marta) - This is Erin's debut for ACT, but her credits include performances in *The Sound of Music*, *Anything Goes*, as Dorothy in *Wizard of Oz*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. Currently employed at Principal, Erin is a vocal student at Drake, performs regularly with the Drake University Community Choir, and cantors at St. Augustin Catholic Church in Des Moines. Colleen McNally, also in Company, is her sister.

**Marcia Swinney** (Kathy) - Marcia received a BFA in Theater from Drake and served 3 1/2 years in the acting company at Charlie's Showplace Dinner Theater. Currently, she does radio commercials and TV voice-overs. Her favorite roles have included Dorine in *Tartuffe* and Linda Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. This is Marcia's first production with ACT.



**Colleen McNally** (April) - Colleen has appeared in numerous opera theater productions both at Drake and College of St. Catherine, St Paul (BA). Credits include *Babes in Arms*, *The Tales of Hoffman*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. She is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at Drake. Colleen placed third in the 1994 National Association of Teachers of Singing Iowa Auditions. Erin McNally, also in *Company*, is her sister.

**Gayle Shay** (Director) - Gayle was in the first ACT production *You Can't Take It With You* in 1981, and now returns, directing *Company*. In between, her performances have included *Cabaret*, *My Fair Lady*, *Big River*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Aida*. She has sung with Dorian Opera Theater, the Maryland Handel Festival, and The Washington Opera. Locally, she has appeared at The Des Moines Playhouse and The Drama Workshop where she most recently directed *Closer Than Ever*. Gayle has also directed several musicals under her own performance company, Variations Musical Theater. She teaches voice at Drake and has been assistant stage director for Drake Opera Theater.

**Wendy McLaughlin** (Stage Manager) - Wendy has extensive work with the Newton and Knoxville Community Theaters performing cello for *Music Man*, *Oklahoma*, and *Camelot*, among others. She has sung in *HMF Pingfore* for the Grinnell Community Theater and currently with St. John's Lutheran Cathedral Choir. Wendy was Stage Manager for Gayle Shay with *Closer Than Ever* at Drama Workshop.

**Bruce Martin** (Music Director) - This is the first time Bruce has worked with ACT. Recently he was Music Director at The Drama Workshop for *Closer Than Ever* and for *Abyssinus*. He has appeared as a pianist and accompanist often throughout the Des Moines area. Professionally, Bruce is a Professor of English at Drake University.



### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Critchett Piano and Organ

Tony Marlow, Marlow Tae Kwon Do

Angie Aycock for her Choreography Direction

Colfax - Mingo High School for Choir Robes



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*COMPANY* defies definition as a musical theater piece. Written in 1970, it was a complete departure from the "traditional" form. Up to that point, Broadway musicals were basically plays with music numbers added. A ballad here, a show-stopper there. Rodgers and Hammerstein were the masters. But Sondheim wanted to try something new. He'd had relative success with *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and he now had the clout to take a risk.

Writer George Furth had written 12 small vignettes about married life, which he wanted to put together somehow. Sondheim offered him the perfect avenue - with music. The 12 playlets were reduced to two, new scenes were written and the character of Bobby was created to tie the five couples together. The result was a sophisticated comment on married life and the increasing difficulty to make a connection - of any kind. *Company* went on to mixed critical success and a long run on Broadway (also winning a bundle of Tony's that year, including one for Best Musical - Sondheim's first.)



## INTO THE WOODS

**Don't miss this other wonderful Sondheim musical performed by the Ankeny High School under the direction of Carey Shapiro.**

**March 2nd - 4th**



## CONTRIBUTORS

We appreciate the generosity of the following "Friends of ACT." You are invited to join them in assuring the future success of locally produced live theater in Ankeny.

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