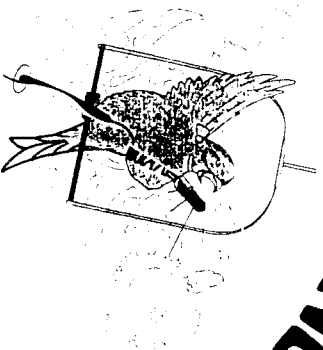


ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE

PRESENTS

THE CAT AND THE CANARY



THE CANARY

A MYSTERY MELODRAMA

BY JOHN WILLARD

October 24-7:30pm October 30-7:30pm November 7-7:30pm
25-7:30pm 31-7:30pm 8-7:30pm
November 1-7:30pm
2-2:00pm

1 9 9 7

W E L C O M E

Ankeny Community Theatre welcomes you to their 1997 season opener. We hope you enjoy our show and our **NEW RISERS**. Also, please take advantage of our snacks during the two ten-minute intermissions.

If you have any questions about our season ticket offer, there are members of the ACT Board of Directors that can answer your questions.

If you enjoy the show, tell your friends and family. **DO COME
BACK AGAIN!**

THE CAT AND THE CANARY

IS PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH

SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Do you know the feeling of waiting for the other shoe to fall? Well, *The 'at and the 'amary* has given me that feeling. I keep thinking something major should go wrong, and I hate to tempt fate, but so far, so good. From day one, this show has been a delightful experience. After the ACTI play selection committee and I reviewed the synopsis and requirements of the play, we were intrigued and voted unanimously to put it on. Auditions brought out new and familiar faces abounding in talent. It was difficult to pick and choose our cast, but I believe we do not have a single weak link.

'at and 'amary starts a new and exciting season for ACTI. A new stage, wonderful new risers, and new stage curtains have been a long time coming, but we are proud of these major improvements. Bill and Orville met the challenges of creating a new stage (according to my whims). Mary Hay and daughter Cathy, Hazel and Jan have spent many hours with their paint brushes; Bev was our interior decorator (with no expense account); our tech crew was on the ball, and stage managers Bill and Craig "volunteered" to do our major set changes. As Hillary has said: "It takes a village to raise a child", so it goes with a stage play. It takes a lot of willing and dedicated people to make a show. I thank each and every one of them.

We have all worked hard, and now you (the audiences) are in for a very special evening. *'at and 'amary* is a combination of mystery, thrills, chills, subtle humor, romance, and once again you have a chance to figure out "Who Dun It?"



THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in the order in which they speak)

FEMALE PLEASANT, <i>Cajun Housekeeper</i>	Peggy Chesher
ROGER CROSBY, <i>the lawyer</i>	Jim Stordahl
HARRY BLYTHE.....	Tim Clark
CICELY YOUNG.....	Courtney Chesher
SESAN SULLSBY.....	Kathryn Bisbey
CHARLIE WILDER.....	Kevin Sprague
PAUL JONES.....	Cory McClure
ANNABELLE WEST.....	Carol Reed
HENDRICKS, <i>guard at asylum</i>	Greg Krause
DR. PATTERSON.....	Randy Dunwoody

SYNOPSIS OF ACTION

The action takes place at Glencrift Manor on the Hudson and is practically continuous

ACT I..... Library..... Eleven-thirty at night

ACT II..... The next room..... A few minutes later

ACT III..... Library..... A few minutes later

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE CAST

CAROL REED (Annabelle West) - This is Carol's debut on the ACT stage, but she has recently appeared at the Des Moines Playhouse in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater in *Curious Savage*. Carol brings new enthusiasm to the *Cat and the Canary*.

Carol lives in Roland with her husband, two daughters (five and four) and three stepchildren. Carol and her husband met on the Internet, and they both work at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames- Carol as a medical transcriptionist and her husband wears a white uniform. One of their favorite pastimes (of which there is very little) is dancing.

CORY MCCLURE - Cory returns to the ACT stage after a two year hiatus from his debut in *Hound of the Baskervilles*, in which he played Sir Henry. In this show he has been cast as an "itty" personality- maybe yes, maybe no. But his stage presence shows through all of the indecision. He is an alumnus of Ray Pugh's Good Time Gang, where he participated in many uplifting activities.

Cory was born and raised in Ankeny and now lives in the old Wagner Smith house on Third Street with his wife Barbara Petersen and their two small children. His only time away from Ankeny was spent at the University of Iowa where he earned his bachelor and law degrees. He has been an assistant Polk County Attorney for several years and enjoys just being a family man.

GREG KRAIUSE (Hendricks, asylum guard) - From day 1, Greg has been an asset to our community theater. He has a positive attitude and a great sense of humor, therefore keeping cast morale upbeat. Greg had lead parts in *Our Town* and *Mousetrap*, was an asylum guard in *Arcenic and Old Lace*, and he has graced the stage during Summerfest melodramas. He also has a great cooperative attitude when it's "work day" at the theater.

Greg travels a lot as sales manager of a construction products company. At the same time he tries to keep up with his daughter (a senior in high school) and a sophomore son. His wife Brenda is a good sport and supports Greg and his theatrical interests. Greg and his family are very active in their church. Greg sings in the choir and is Christian Education director.

JIM STORDAHL (Attorney Roger Crosby). Jim is making a return engagement on the Ankeny stage. Previously he was type-cast in *Mousetrap* as a retired military officer--which is what he really is. This past summer Jim was also a spit and polish General in *Ten Little Indians* for the Ames community theater. We expect his portrayal as a lawyer will be equally convincing.

Jim's so-called retired life finds him as Postmaster in Indianola. He was recently on special assignment in Washington D.C. as a speechwriter for our Postmaster General. He lives in Ankeny with wife Charlotte and daughters Jenna, Emily, Clare and Betsy. This quintette of women has encouraged Jim to participate in theatrics and Jim loves it. He is quoted as saying: "I do this for my Best Mental Health."

RANDY DUNWOODY (Dr. Patterson) - Randy could play any role on any stage and do it well. As the mysterious doctor in *Car and Vanary*, he is doing his third who-dun-it for ACT. He was Barrymore (not Lionel, but the butler) in *The Hound of Baskervilles* and Mr. Paravicini in *Mousetrap*. Randy has acting experience playing "J" roles--everything from Judas to Jesus' double at First Federated Church.

During the day he serves as student services supervisor at Mid-Iowa Computer Center. His hobbies include volleyball, reading and working with kids at his church. His passion is looking for "treasures" at flea markets and antique shows.

KEVIN SPRAGUE (Charlie Wilder) - Since Kevin's 1993 debut with ACT as the undertaker in *I Remember Mama*, he has been the town drunk in *Our Town*, director of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, a murderer in *Mousetrap*, a technical director of lights and sound, and performed or directed four Summerfest melodramas. Kevin is President of the ACT Board of Directors and has been the driving force for new risers project.

Kevin is married to Lisa, lives in Polk City and works at Iowa State Veterinarian Teaching Hospital as an anesthesia veterinary technician. He spends a lot of his spare time at our theater doing those little things that have to be done. He could easily be known as the "Phantom Phixer" of ACT.

TIM CLARK (Harry Blythe) - Tim is a newcomer to ACT. He is originally from Colo, Iowa, where he had his first experiences in the theater. He has performed in *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Sound of Music* and *Carious Savage*. A highlight in his theatrical career was working for the River City Playhouse in Jacksonville, Florida, where he presented educational theater to elementary school children.

Presently Tim lives and works as a sales associate in Nevada. His hobbies include gardening, music and cooking. (We're told Tim is a "pasta freak".) To keep him company, Tim enjoys his babies--three loving dogs. He is also a fan of exotic animals.

PEGGY CHESHER (Female' Pleasant) - Peggy brings a new and experienced talent to the ACT stage. She not only lives and works in Nevada (Iowa), but she has performed for the Nevada Fine Arts Association in several productions. She has also appeared on stage for the Ames community theater. She claims comedy to be her forte and has also done some comedy writing. Some of the shows Peggy has done are: *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Harvey*, *No Sex Please, We're British* (her favorite), *See How They Run*, *Coffeehouse* and *Cabin Fever Follies*.

Peggy has two children and laughingly refers to them as theater rats. Son Nathaniel is a music education major at Morningside College, and daughter Courtney is presently playing "Cicily Young" for this production. Peggy's husband Bruno also shows his support of the theater by attending all productions--whether he wants to, or not.

COURTNEY CHESHER (Cicily Young) - Although this is Courtney's debut with ACT, she has been acting and singing since she was seven years old. She has performed in shows such as *Joseph and His Technicolor Dream Coat*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Women and Once Upon a Mattress*. She recently played Sister Hubert in *Nunsense*. Her experience has been on the Nevada High School stage, the Nevada community theater, and the Ames community theater. Courtney was originally helping backstage in this show, but she very easily stepped into the "Cicily" part when the original actress had to drop out for personal reasons. Courtney has been a real trouper, and we thank her for all of her hard work.

Courtney is a senior at Nevada High and is currently involved in the school production of *Room and Bored*. She is also in the percussion section of their band and has won awards at state speech contests. Next fall, Courtney plans to be in college, majoring in theater arts. Her supportive mother, brother and father all take great pride in Courtney.

KATHRYN BISBEY (Susan Silsby) - Kathryn is ACT's Strep/Barrymore/Hepburn/Taylor all rolled into one-- except she sings too! In other words, Kathryn has it all! She has a degree in music and dance theater, performs in numerous singing groups, works fulltime at KVI, likes to rollerblade and walk, and makes time for her biggest fan-- her husband Jim. Kathryn says: "He lights up my life". Jim also lights up the ACT stage as a light and sound technician.

In the recent past Kathryn has done *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Misense*, *Monstryp* and *Sunshine Boys*, all for ACT. She is also president-elect on the ACT Board of Directors. Kathryn has been a "key" person for the Ankeny Community Theatre.

JO REID (Director) **AND GRACE LEVERENZ** (Producer) - *The Cat and the Canary* is the eighth show that Jo and Grace have worked together. They may be opposites, but they think and work as one when it comes to putting on a play. Jo's background is theater, theater, theater, throw in some music (Jo is director of ACT II), add energy and that's Jo! Grace has come out of retirement several times to assist Jo (after some arm-twisting) and enjoys being the gopher girl.

They both have husbands that "willingly" help their wives with details and support them in many ways. Without them, life would be tough for Jo and Grace. When the show is over, life seems pretty slow, but Jo has local children and grandchildren that keep her happy, and Grace goes back to being a playgirl (piano, organ, golf, water exercise, etc.).

PRODUCTION CREW

Director Jo Reid

Producer Grace Leverenz

Stage and Set Construction Orville Ballard
and Bill Shay

Bookcase Creation Mary Hay, Cathy Washburn
Hazel Pratt and Jan Price

Set Decoration Beverly Heldt and Patty Loder

Stage Managers Bill Yeager and Craig Smiens

Stage Hands Wendy McLaughlin-Stoicia
Robin Heldt and Theresa Fleener

Light Technicians Jim Bisbey and Frank Rhoades

Audio Technician Jerry Reid

Tickets/Publicity Gene Lucht and Grace Leverenz

House Manager Jerry Reid

Makeup Manager Kathryn Bisbey

Photography Bud Pratt and Gene Lucht

"Cat and Canary" Design Jennifer Timm

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Paul Ruby for "doing" the floor,
Walnut Street Gallery for ticket sales; *The Press Tizzen*
for publicity; everyone who helped with the refreshments,
Gretchen and Bob Brown for "doing" the curtains;
and last, but not least, to the families of the cast for their
patience and support.

CONTRIBUTORS

The generosity of the following "Friends of ACT" is truly appreciated. You are invited to join them in assuring the future of live theater in Ankeny.

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John Richards and Debbie Garner

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Wilma Axmear
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Dale and Marjean Hunter
Tim and Wendy McLaughlin-Stoica
Jerry and Jo Reid

Friend (\$25-\$49)

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Ordean and Elizabeth Johnson	Jessie Reid
Ken and Donna Kelling	Frank and Susan Rhoades
Jack and Grace Leverenz	Bill and Marilyn Shay
Gene and Gail Lucht	Kevin Spague and Lisa Takes
Dwight and Ardith Pearson	Steve and Beverly Stone
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ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE

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Play Selection/Costumes/Makeup	Jan Price
Publicity	Gene Lucht
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WATCH FOR THE NEXT SHOWS:

THE SILVER WHISTLE

a comedy to open February 13, 1998

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

a musical to open April 24, 1998

