

Ankeny Community Theatre
presents

The Boys Don't Doo!

by Tom Griffin

November 7 – 22, 2003

Ankeny Community Theatre can always use volunteers. We need actors, directors, producers, and stage crew. We also need help with set building, lights, sound, make-up, costumes, refreshments, and clean-up. We love having new people involved! Time commitment depends on the individual, and we appreciate any time that you can give us. If you'd like to become a member of our family, just call the theatre!

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**MANY THANKS TO THESE DONORS
WHO HELP SUPPORT THE FUTURE
OF ACT!**

Director's Notes

My love of theatre started when I was very young, growing up in California. My mom and dad went regularly, and took me along as soon as I was old enough to sit still and pay attention. Now I find that I am hooked on live performance in general, whether it is theatre or music or sporting events. TV and movies are great, and I enjoy reading everything from car magazines to plays to novels. But none of these gives me the same feeling as being in the audience of a live performance, where I've noticed that really good stuff, like live jazz, produces for me the same kind of wonderful endorphins that athletes talk about feeling when they exercise.

It won't surprise you that my favorite form of live performance is theatre. When all of the elements are there: a compelling script, appropriate lights, scenery, costumes and sound, and – especially – strong, believable performances, no form of entertainment is so completely absorbing and potentially rewarding for me as theatre.

The play you are about to see starts off with the right ingredients. The wonderful script, by Tom Griffin, deals with a potentially uncomfortable subject, mental handicaps and mental illness, in a completely respectful and frequently humorous way. All of the humor, which makes up most of the play, comes from the situations the characters find themselves in while dealing with each other or the outside world. But in addition to humor, we find romance, anger, fear, the frustration of being burned out in a demanding job, and ultimately hope. Add to that the talents of the most incredible ensemble of actors I have ever had the pleasure of being involved with in a single project, and I am confident that this production has the potential to do more than just entertain you.

If, for some or all of the time you are in our audience, you forget that you are sitting in a folding chair in the back of a strip mall in Ankeny, Iowa; if you stop being conscious of how a particular actor looks or talks, but rather find yourself absorbed by what will happen next to a character in the play; if you laugh in a way that really makes you feel good, or cry in a way that really hurts; if we manage to reach the goal of excellence that we have set for ourselves and remind you of why you love theatre, or perhaps make you fall in love with theatre for the first time, then we will have achieved what we set out to achieve. Thank you for the opportunity to attempt something so magical.

Ron Gilbert, Director

SPECIAL THANKS

<p>Hy Vee 410 North Ankeny Blvd. Ankeny, IA 50021 (515) 964-0900</p>	<p>Earl May 1509 North Ankeny Blvd. Ankeny, IA 50021 (515) 964-2884</p>
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<p>V R Production Services Audio • Video • Film • Design • Fabrication Vince Rubino 1307 42nd St. Des Moines, IA 50311 (515) 279-4903</p>	

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THE BOYS NEXT DOOR

By Tom Griffin

Director

Ron Gilbert

Assistant Director

Becky Scholtec

Costume Design

Becky Scholtec

Scene/Lighting/Sound Design

Ron Gilbert

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Arnold Wiggins.....	John Robinson
Lucien P. Smith.....	Al Downey
Jack Palmer	Greg Blumhagen
Norman Bulansky	Paul Ruby
Barry Klemper	J Michael Kellar
Mr. Hedges	Bob Fry
Mrs. Fremus.....	Ruth Downey
Mrs. Warren.....	Mara Trousdale
Sheila	Susan Lynn
Clara.....	Mara Trousdale
Mr. Corbin	Troy Destigler
Mr. Klemper.....	Michael Cornelison
Senator Clarke	Bob Fry

No recording devices or flash photography are allowed during this production. Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers, or other audible electronic devices.

The Boys Next Door is produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Time and Place: The Present, New England

Setting: The play takes place primarily in the two-bedroom apartment of Arnold, Norman, Lucien and Barry. Additional locations are listed below:

Act I - Summer

- Scene 3 – *Apartment Grounds*
- Scene 5 – *Mrs. Fremus' Porch*
- Scene 7 – *A Railroad Siding*
- Scene 8 – *Apartment Grounds*
- Scene 9 – *Movie Theatre*
- Scene 11 – *The Gym and Mrs. Fremus' Porch*
- Scene 12 – *Apartment Patio*
- Scene 13 – *The Gym*

Act II

- Still Summer*
- Scene 1 – *The Library and Movie Theatre*
- Scene 3 – *The Gym*
- Scene 4 – *Mr. Corbin's Office*
- Scene 6 – *Movie Theatre and State Senate Chambers*
- Scene 7 – *Apartment Grounds*
- Scene 8 – *The Institution*
- Scene 10 – *Train Station*

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Ron Gilbert
Assistant Director	Becky Scholtec
Technical Advisor on Mental Handicaps and Mental Illness	Charl Rohde
Stage Manager	Kaylene Ruby
Producer	Rebecca Hansen
Co-Producer	Karen Burkett-Sandoval
Light Board Operators	Juli Hale
.....	Rory Hansen
Publicity	Debi Garner



Greg Blumhagen – *Jack*

Greg appeared recently at the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre as Alexander in *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Other roles include Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit* and Pa Ingalls in *Little House on the Prairie*. Greg was the shift captain for The Des Moines Playhouse production of *Peter Pan*, in which his daughter Rebecca played Tiger Lily. Other family members include wife Lisa and son Andrew.



Michael Cornelison – *Mr. Klemper*

In 1969 Mike was hired as stand-in for Dick Van Dyke in the Iowa-made feature film *Cold Turkey*. He went on to live and act in New York and Los Angeles with numerous television and movie credits. In 1984 he was lured back to the Midwest by the prospect of being artistic director of his own theatre, and in the ensuing two decades has appeared in a wide variety of plays. He now makes his home in Iowa with his wife, Cindi, and his son, Nick.



Al Downey – *Lucien*

Al has been involved in theatre "for more years than I care to admit." Des Moines venues include The Des Moines Playhouse and Kate Goldman Children's Theatre, Charlie's Showplace, and the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre, and his involvement ranges from backstage to onstage to front-of-house. A favorite role was Hoke in *Driving Miss Daisy*, though Al says his favorite role is whatever he's currently playing. Al and his arthritic wife Ruth enjoy traveling, church, and life.



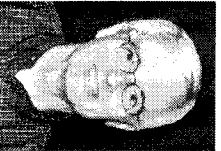
Ruth Downey – *Mrs. Fremus*

Ruth has appeared (once with husband Al) in the two most recent productions of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at The Des Moines Playhouse. In addition, she was the narrator in *The Secret Garden* and Robin in *Coldspell*. She volunteers at The Des Moines Playhouse and is a past Treasurer and board member of The Drama Workshop. Ruth enjoys playing piano, vocal music, and traveling with Al. She has been a church organist for more than 37 years.



Troy DeStigler – *Mr. Corbin*

In addition to being on the board of directors of ACT, Troy is a regular onstage as well. Credits include John in *Finny Girl*, Ernie (stuck in *Runners*, Dr. Finsdale in *Lil' Abner*, and Mr. DePima in *You Can't Take It With You* (a role he has in common with fellow cast member John Robinson). Troy works for American Republic Insurance Company and enjoys collecting rock-n-roll memorabilia.



Bob Fry – *Mr. Hedges, Senator Clarke*

A familiar face to Des Moines-area theatre audiences, Bob counts several shows at ACT, 16 shows at The Des Moines Playhouse, and 27 shows at the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre, as well as a few shows at The Drama Workshop and in Ames. Out of them all, he lists *Into the Woods* and *Father of the Bride* as a couple of favorites. Bob sends his thanks to Tom and to his mother for their tireless support of his theatrical endeavors.



J Michael Keller – Barry

After 12 years of acting (*Alice in Wonderland, The Who's Tommy*) and directing (*Stuart Little, Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory*) at The Des Moines Playhouse and Kate Goldman Children's Theater, Mike is making his ACT debut. When not at the theatre, Mike acts like a business development specialist for Relationship Marketing, Inc. He likes golf, camping, watching movies, and chilling with his wife of over 12 years, Melissa.



Susan Lynn – Sheila

Last seen as SheDevil in StageWest's recent production of *Flaming Guns of the Purple Sage*, Susan has washed out the pink hair dye and removed those temporary tattoos for her first role at ACT. She has also appeared as Anna in *Closer* at StageWest, as Princess Chenille in *The Emperor's New Clothes* at The Des Moines Playhouse, and as the Witch in ABC Productions' *Into the Woods*.



John Robinson – Arnold

John was last seen as Mr. DePinna in the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre production of *You Can't Take It With You*. Other credits include *Painting Nails in the Floor With My Forehead* at the Vaudeville Mews, StageWest's *Dirty Blonde*, and *Ragtime* at The Des Moines Playhouse, to name only a few. John can be seen this December in *The Santal and Dianies*, a one-man show which he is also associate producing at the Vaudeville Mews.



Paul Ruby – Norman

Paul has appeared in numerous ACT shows (just take a look at the playbills on the wall). Recently he played Maryyin' Sam in *Lil' Abner* and appeared in ACT's 2002 production of Neil Simon's *Ranoms*. A Des Moines native, Paul teaches at Hoover High School. He and wife Kaylene have grown children and three grandchildren. Paul enjoys Corvette rallies and collecting Horatio Alger books.



Mara Trousdale – Mrs. Warren, Clara

Mara is a fifth-grade teacher in the Ankeny school system. She recently appeared in *Lil' Abner* here at ACT, but her acting credits stretch all the way back to high school. Mom to daughter Jessie, Mara enjoys riding bikes, volleyball, golf, reading, and traveling. She has been delighting the cast and crew with stories of zip-lining through the rain forest of Costa Rica on a recent trip.



Charl Rohde – Technical Advisor on Mental Handicaps and Mental Illness

A program manager at Progress Industries as well as an actress, Charl has provided invaluable input for *The Boys Next Door*. Charl has appeared onstage recently in *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *Come Back, Annelia Bebelia* and will appear in the upcoming *Little House Christmas at Plum Creek* at the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre.



Ron Gilbert – *Director*

Ron began his involvement in theatre as a child in California. After studying Theatre & Music at U.C. Davis, Ron majored in Economics and later received an MBA from the University of Iowa. He resumed acting and other theatre activities in '93 as a hobby outside of his business career, and has recently chosen to pursue an MFA in Directing this fall. Ron is the doting father of daughter Lindsay, 17 and son Spencer, 14, both of whom he has had the pleasure of performing with on stage.



Becky Schollec – *Assistant Director*

Becky has appeared onstage in roles ranging from Aunt Josephine in *Anne of Green Gables* to Mrs. Little in *Shant Little* to Masha in *The Sea Gull*. She volunteers extensively at The Des Moines Playhouse and has been known to pull an all-nighter painting sets or creating playbills. Becky was the assistant director for *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* at The Playhouse, and for ACT's 2002 production of *Rumors*. Love to Emily and Aaron.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
UPCOMING SHOWS:**

The Odd Couple

February 6 – 21, 2004

The Hobbit

March 19 – April 3, 2004

Funny Money

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