



ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT



Woody Allen, Author and David Merrick, Producer  
Of the original Broadway production

September 30, October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, and 15  
2005

Produced by special arrangement with  
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Steve Hickle

Jim Leeper  
Genevieve Logue

Jan Luce  
Colleen Nelson

Verdel Odgaard  
Helga Olson

Bertha Perry  
Ruth Politsch

Carol Rollow  
Louise VanderLinden

Scott & Kristi Van Der Weide  
Gary & Charlotte Van Lengen

## CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Father Drohney	Steve Hickle
Ambassador Magee	Brian Drew
Mr. Kilroy	Karl A. Krumme
Axel Magee	Aaron Price
Marion Hollander	Karen Burkett
Walter Hollander	Al Price
Susan Hollander	April Sunshine Kissel
Krojack	John Cisar
Ms. Burns	Dawn Hockemeyer
Chef	Kyle "Eric" Chizek
Minnie, the Chef's Assistant	Megan Moore
Alice, the Maid	Jolene Schwarz
George, The Rabbit	Himself
Sultan of Bashir	Keith Pederson
Jeannie, the Sultan's Wife	Megan Moore
Jasmine, the Sultan's Wife	Susan Jacobson
Rhett, the Butler	Troy DeStigter
Yanis Kasnar	Adam McElhenny
Countess Bordoni	Jolene Schwarz
Hazel, the Maid	Susan Jacobson
Hank, the Handyman	Adam McElhenny

## PRODUCTION CREW

Director	Barbara Merrill Wagner
Assistant Director	Jo Reid
Producer	Grace Leverenz
Stage Manager	Brian Drew
Rehearsal Assistants	Steve Hickle/Brian Drew
Lights/Sound	Harold Mosler/Jared Randles
Costumes/Props	Cyndi Hickle/Barb Wagner/Cast
Set Construction	Dick Wilson/Paul Ruby/ Karl Krumme/Brian Drew
Set Decoration	Barb Wagner/Jo Reid/ Grace Leverenz/Jerry Reid/ Dawn Hockemeyer

## CAST BIOS (in alphabetical order)

**Karen Burkett (Marion Hollander)** had her debut on the ACT stage in *The Musical Comedy Murders* in 1998 and she has been involved in most ACT shows either behind the scenes or on stage ever since. She is currently the President Elect for the ACT Board of Directors and just finished a term as Secretary of the Board. In her time outside of the theatre, Karen is the Library Director in Bondurant and also spends her time talking (electronically) to her son, Eric, who is going to school in Merida, Mexico.

**Kyle “Eric” Chizek (Chef)** works at Pier 1 Imports in Ankeny but would truly like to be teaching theatrics at a grad school. Until that happens, he is sharing his talents on stage; most recently at the Vaudeville Mews in *Pocketful of Pestilence* and *Rush Limbaugh in Night School*. This show is his ACT debut.

**John Cisar (Krojack)** started his ACT acting career with *Death and Taxes* last season and he can frequently be seen at the Vaudeville Mews in *Reruns* and also throughout the city performing with the improv group, Comedy Xperiment. John lives in Pleasant Hill with his wife, daughter, and hound. During the day, he is a computer programmer for the City of Des Moines.

**Troy DeStigter (Rhett, the Butler)** has been in numerous shows with ACT and is continuing a term on the ACT Board of Directors. His favorite roles include Ernie in *Ramons* and Mr. DePinna in *You Can't Take It With You*. Troy works at American Republic.

**Brian Drew (Ambassador Magee/Stage Manager/Rehearsal Assistant)** is making his ACT debut, but he has performed in numerous productions at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater. His most important role to date is as father to his newborn son, Reece. Brian is an Eagle Scout and an Ordained Reverend.

**George, The Rabbit (Himself)** is thrilled to be making his stage debut with ACT. He is an eight-year-old, Netherland dwarf rabbit. When not performing on stage, George enjoys eating, drinking, shedding, and making general rabbit messes. His proud stageparents are Patty and Warren Westlund of Ames.

**Steve Hickie (Father Drobney/Rehearsal Assistant)** is performing in his third show at ACT. The other two were *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* last season and *Karaoke Killer* for the Iowa Fringe Festival. His previous credits were at the Playhouse and the Ingersoll Dinner Theater and include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *It's a Wonderful Life (The Musical)*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Steve's full-time job is at Principal Financial and he is thrilled to have his wife, Cyndi, working on this production with him as our costumer.

**Dawn Hockemeyer (Ms. Burns)** is appearing in her second show with ACT. Last season, she played the role of Delightful in *Dearlly Departed*. Dawn is a member of the marketing committee for ACT and lives in Ankeny with her husband, Greg, and their daughter, Katelyn. During the day, she enjoys volunteering at her daughter's school.

**Susan Jacobson (Jasmine, the Sultan's Wife and Hazel, the Maid)** comes to ACT with major credentials – she has a BA in Biology and Philosophy from the University of Iowa and a DVM from Iowa State. Susan is a veterinarian at the Low Cost Spay Clinic in Des Moines. She and her husband, along with their two cats, live in Ankeny. This show marks her debut on stage and she hopes it's the first of many.

**April Sunshine Kissel (Susan Hollander)** is making her debut on the ACT stage and having a great time. She has a degree in Psychology and is an insurance underwriter with Allied Insurance.

**Karl A. Krumme (Mr. Kilroy)** started his acting career at the local Elks Lodge doing their murder mystery dinner theatres. He was even awarded the Elkhead of the Year Trophy. Karl lives in Indianola and is making his ACT debut with this show.

**Adam McElhenny (Yanis Kasnar/Hank, the Handyman)** has been in numerous shows including *Hair*, *West Side Story*, and *Oliver*. However, this is his first time on the ACT stage. Adam is employed by the State of Iowa and lives in Des Moines with his partner, James, and their adopted son, Anthony.

## PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS

**Barbara Merrill Wagner (Director)** is proud to direct her first show at ACT. She is a theatre veteran of the Des Moines area, having acted in and/or directed approximately 130 shows, primarily at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater. Barb most recently appeared at the Vandeville Mews in *Baby With the Bathwater*. Last season at ACT, she performed in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Death and Taxes*. During the day, Barb is the administrative assistant for an engineering firm, Earth Tech. She is also a new member of the ACT Board and will be chairing the committee for the children's educational program. Her husband, Don, and the rest of her family are her biggest joys and she now has her own personal guardian angel since losing her father to cancer this past June. She dedicates this show to her dad, Warren Merrill – her favorite person to laugh with.

**Jo Reid (Assistant Director)** and her husband, Jerry Leigh Reid, have been with ACT before it was a chartered group. They have filled in wherever necessary and supported it wholeheartedly. They are also a genuine family-oriented couple with three children and six grandchildren.

**Grace Leverenz (Producer)** says that Producer means Gopher and that's what she does – she goes after anything that needs to be done. After 15 or 20 times as Producer, she can be called an Expert, but she would rather be called Retired.

### ATTENTION THEATRE LOVERS!

A road trip to Minneapolis to see *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* at the Old Log Theater is being planned for November 5-6, 2005. If interested, contact Monte Engh at 964-9473 before October 16.

**Megan Moore (Minnie, the Chef's Assistant and Jeannie, the Sultan's Wife)** has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and hopes to move to the West Coast someday to act and dance professionally. This show marks her ACT debut. Megan also works as a consultant for Jenny Craig and as an associate at Banana Republic.

**Keith Pederson (Sultan of Bashir)** is appearing in his fourth production at ACT. Last season, he performed in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Death and Taxes*, and *Karaoke Killer*. Keith is a new member of the ACT Board and is the chair of the building committee. He is also a U.S. Postal Worker.

**Aaron Price (Axel Magee)** graduated from the University of Iowa with a major in English and minors in Film and Theatre. His acting career started at an early age with *Annie Get Your Gun*. He even performed in the Ankeny High School production of *Don't Drink the Water*. Last season, Aaron appeared in ACT's *Dearly Departed*. He collects comics, transformer figures, and DVD's and also works two jobs.

**Al Price (Walter Hollander)** is a pioneer in the history of ACT. He's acted in comedies, dramas, and musicals and has even served on the ACT Board several times. Some of his favorite shows he performed in include *Guy's and Dolls*, *Oklahoma*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Greater Tuna*, and *Dearly Departed*. Al's wife, Jan, is also active at ACT and their son, Aaron, is playing Magee in this show. They have two other children and five grandchildren. Al is employed by Wells Fargo Financial.

**Jolene Schwarz (Alice, the Maid and Countess Bordoni)** is enjoying her first experience on the ACT stage. She previously performed at the Playhouse in *High School Reunion*. Jolene works as a marketing and research assistant for Integer and lives in West Des Moines with her husband and their dog, Keebler.

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## DIRECTOR THANK YOU'S

Lynn Arterburn  
Karen Burkett  
John Cisar  
Brian Drew  
Brad Feingold  
Ron Gilbert  
Steve Hickle

DJ Horigan  
Karl Krumme  
Doris Merrill  
Frances Paterik  
John Thompson  
Don Wagner  
Patty & Warren Westlund

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play takes place in an American Embassy somewhere behind the Iron Curtain in approximately 1968.

<u>Act 1</u>		<u>Act 2</u>	
Scene 1	A late summer afternoon	Scene 1	The next day
Scene 2	Later the same day	Scene 2	Two days later
Scene 3	Several days later	Scene 3	That night
Scene 4	Late that night	Scene 4	The next morning
Scene 5	Several days later		

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This show takes place in 1968-69 and in no way intends to depict or make light of any specific situations going on in the world at that time or anytime since.

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Troy DeStigler – Ron Gilbert

Cory McClure – Jenny Neighbour,

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ACT 2005-2006 SEASON

*It's a Wonderful Life*

by James W. Rodgers

December 2-17, 2005

Directed by Ron Gilbert

*The Dining Room*

by A.R. Gurney

January 13-28, 2006

Directed by Becky Scholtee

*Schoolhouse Rock Live!*

Book by Scott Ferguson

Music/Lyrics by Dennis Curley, Lynn Ahrens, Bob Dorough,  
Dave Frishberg, Kathy Mandry, George Newall,

and Tom Yoke

February 24-March 12, 2006

Directed by Kim Van Haecke

*Caught in the Net*

by Ray Cooney

April 21-May 6, 2006

Directed by Kevin Sprague