

# I REMEMBER MAMA



written by John Van Druten

Ankeny Community Theatre  
December 4 - 20, 2009

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### During the Performance

- \* Please turn off all cellular phones, pagers and any noise-making devices.
- \* The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- \* Smoking is not permitted in the building.
- \* In consideration to others and the performers, late comers may not be seated until an appropriate time during the performance.

### Ticket Information

- \* Show times: Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm; Sundays at 2:00 pm
- \* Reservations may be made by phoning 964-5007. Please leave a message and a volunteer will call you back. Reservations may also be made online at [tickets@ankenycommunitytheatre.com](mailto:tickets@ankenycommunitytheatre.com).
- \* The box office opens 1/2 hour before performances.
- \* Season tickets are available. One of our board members will be happy to discuss options with you during intermission.



1932 SW 3rd Street  
Mailing Address: PO Box 122, Ankeny, Iowa 50021  
Phone: 515-964-5007  
Website: [ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://ankenycommunitytheatre.com)  
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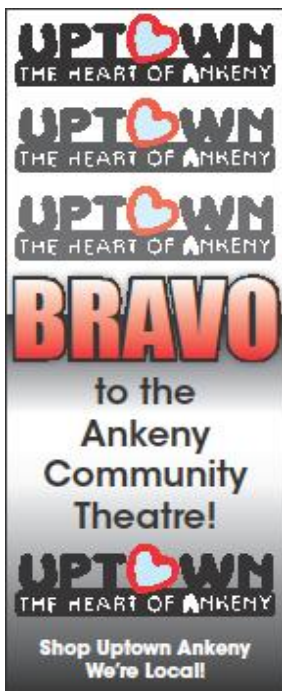
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**Audition Notice for**  
***Every Little Crook and Nanny***

**January 3 & 4, 2010**  
**7:00 at the theater**

**Cast Needs:**

**4 men - ages 20 - 60**

**5 women - ages 20 - 60**

**1 boy - ages 8 - 12**

**For more information call 964-5007**  
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***CLUE: The Musical***

Book by Peter De Pietro / Lyrics by Tom Chiodo

October 2 - 18

***I Remember Mama***

By John Van Druten

December 4 - 20

***Every Little Crook and Nanny***

By Pat Cook

February 12 - 28

Audition Dates: January 3 & 4

***Lend Me a Tenor***

By Ken Ludwig

April 16 - May 2

Audition Dates: February 21 & 22

***Leaving Iowa***

By Tim Clue & Spike Manton

June 11 - 27

Tentative Audition Dates: April 18 & 19

***Saturday Night at the Drive-In***

By Pat Cook

August 6 - 22

Tentative Audition Dates: June 13 & 14

## Director's Notes

*I Remember Mama* was selected for production by ACT as a tribute to families everywhere. This special season of the year seemed like a perfect time to do this.

The cast and crew have fallen in love with each character and every touching vignette. We have laughed many hearty laughs and sniffed back tender tears. Rehearsals have been delightful as well as challenging.

ACT is proud to salute the families of all of the members in the audience with this tribute to family life and love.

Jo Reid  
Director

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## Cast (In Order of Appearance)

Narrator	Jan Price
Katrin	Eliza Merritt
Mama	Lisa Merritt
Papa	Scott Nielsen
Dagmar	Deven Nielsen
Uncle Elizabeth	Jasmine Bisbey
Christine	Kennedy Landes
Nels	Brad DePrez
Mr. Hyde	Bud Pratt
Aunt Trina	Kathryn Bisbey
Aunt Sigrid	Becky Plager
Aunt Jenny	Carla Rogers-Paris
Uncle Chris	Mike Kentopp
Mr. Thorkelson	Troy DeStigter
Dr. Johnson	Ken Reams
Arne	Ryan Faux
Nurse 1	Ashley Davidson
Scrub Lady	Ima Starr
Nurse 2	Emily Polson
Soda Clerk, Western Union delivery, Farmer, Bellboy	Stuart Merritt
Madeline	Emily Bailey
Dorothy	Ella Paris
The Woman	Karen Brown
Florence Dana Moorehead	Patricia Walocko

## Synopsis of Scenes

Setting: I Remember Mama covers a period of approximately five years during the early 1900's. The central location is the Hanson family home in San Francisco.

### ACT I

1. Mama's Little Bank
2. Mama at the Hospital

### ACT II

1. A Cat's Tale
2. Graduation
3. Farvell, Uncle Chris
4. Mama Meets the Writer/The Adventure Begins

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

# Production Team

Director	Jo Reid
Producer	Jerry Reid
Technical Director	Harold Mosier
Sound	Polly Taylor
Stage Manager	Christy Dietsch
Backstage Crew	Jim Bisbey, Monte Engh, Chuck Faux, Jake Hines, Jerry Reid
Rehearsal Set Crew	Chuck Faux, Bud Pratt, Sandy Zimmerman, Cast
Costumes	Kathryn Bisbey, Cast, Lynn Arterburn
Hair Stylist	Patricia Walocko
Set Construction	Richard Wilson, Jerry Reid
Set Painting Crew	Ashley Davidson, Tom Landes, Grace Leverenz, Jerry Reid, Jo Reid, Sandy Zimmerman
Set Decoration	Bev Heldt
House Manager	Jerry Reid
Playbill	Lynn Arterburn
Logo	Dr. Paula Stewart
Marketing	Sharon Anderson, Doug Arterburn, Lynn Arterburn, Becky Plager, Kathy Polson

## Special Acknowledgement

ACT appreciates the generosity of businesses and individuals in the Ankeny area who help support productions. The cast and crew of ***I Remember Mama*** would like to thank the following business for their generous contribution to the show.

Goodwill Industries - props  
Dr. Terry Van Oort - doctor's bag  
John Claes - Filling in when & where needed

## Special Thanks From the Director

To the cast and crew of ***I Remember Mama*** and to their families.  
It really was a team effort.

*I Remember Mama* was produced by special arrangement with  
Dramatist Play Services, Inc.

# Cast Biographies



**Emily Bailey** (Madeline) has appeared in 13 productions at Class Act Productions, has done a commercial for channel 5 for Young Women's Resource Center, appeared in *Charlottes Web* and *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at DM Playhouse. She has sung at the I-Cubs game, USDA conventions and various other groups and weddings. Emily enjoys singing, texting, playing volleyball, reading and hanging out with friends. Her family includes mom, Alissa, sister, Ella and cat Mariah. She is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Ankeny Christian Academy.



**Kathryn Bisbey** (Aunt Trina) is no stranger to the ACT stage. Some of her favorite shows are *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Nunsense* and *Meshuggah-Nuns*, *Steel Magnolias*, both productions of *Godspell*, and *Funny Money*. For relaxation her hobbies consist of teaching classes at Cross Train Fitness, worship leader at First United Methodist Church, spending time with her husband Jim and walking her puppy. Besides her husband their family consists of two cats, Ramsey and Jasmine, a puppy named Tiana and three Sugarbears. She is employed by ADP in Benefits Operations. "I did the part of Aunt Trina 16 years ago with ACT. It's fun to be back on the stage and do the same part. Hope I can do the part justice".



**Karen Brown** (Jessie Brown) is returning to the ACT stage after 15 years. She has performed in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, *Carousel*, and *Godspell*. She is a Family Readiness Leader for the 113<sup>th</sup> Cav Bravo troop from Camp Dodge and participates in several musical groups in Church. She has two sons: Hunter, 8 yrs old and Landon, 5 yrs old. Karen is employed by Perishable Distributors of Iowa in Ankeny.



**Ashley Davidson** (Nurse 1) is a newcomer to the ACT stage. She was active in theater in college. She did costumes for *Little Women*, and operated the light board for *The Man Who Came To Dinner* and *And Then They Came For Me*. Having attended college in Pennsylvania, one of her hobbies is attending Broadway shows in NYC. She also likes cake decorating and scrapbooking. She is a youth group leader at her church and is planning an upcoming wedding. Ashley is employed as a substitute teacher.



**Brad DePrez** (Nels) has appeared in several plays for ACT. He was Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Alvin in *Hankerin Hillbillies* and was the Oz Beast in *Wizard of Oz*. Brad's hobbies include golf, hanging out with friends, and going to Iowa State and Ankeny sports events. Brad is a freshman at Northview Middle School.



**Troy DeStigter** (Mr. Thorkelson) is appearing in his 25<sup>th</sup> show for ACT. Some of his favorite shows have been *The Wizard of Oz* (he was the Wizard), *You Can't Take It With You*, and *Rumors*. His hobbies include books, movies, and collecting vinyl records. Troy has recently graduated from the Dale Carnegie Program and thanks his mom and dad for their encouragement. Troy is looking for a full time job! Please call me!



**Ryan Faux** (Arne) has appeared on the ACT stage as a member of the Jug band in *Hankerin Hillbillies*. He enjoys Boy Scouts, camp outs, summer thrill rides and his dog Snowflake. He also collects Hot Wheels Cars. Ryan is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader attending Goodrell Traditional Middle School in Des Moines.



**Mike Kentopp** (Uncle Chris) has appeared in many shows around the Des Moines/Ankeny area for the past 15 years. Roles have included small parts to lead roles and all of them have been the "best parts" at the time. A few of his favorites include Teddy in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Captain Andy in *Showboat*. Mike's hobbies include photography and outdoor enterprises.



**Kennedy Landes** (Christine) is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Waukee Middle School. She has danced for 10 years and is a member of the "Stellar Force" show choir at school. She has appeared in *The Thunderbolt Kid* and played Rondi in *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* at the DM Playhouse and played Bird Girl in *Sensical the Musical* and Clarimond in *Be Careful What You Wish For* both at school. Kennedy also participates in the Pre-Intern program at the DM Playhouse.



## Biographies Continued



**Eliza Merritt** (Katrin) is also new to the ACT stage. She has performed in *High School Musical 2* and *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Ballard High School and for homeschooling group productions. Eliza's hobbies include her adorable cats, babysitting, computers, reading classics and she is a history lover. Her mom, Lisa, plays the part of Mama and her brother, Stuart, plays the part of Swingman. Eliza is a journalist for the Tri-County Times. She is a freshman and is homeschooled. Eliza would like to thank God for this awesome chance to do what she loves and the crew for all their hard work.



**Lisa Merritt** (Mama) is returning to the ACT stage after a long absence. Lisa grew up on the stage of the Des Moines Metro Opera. In the 1980's she appeared as Adelaide in *Gyps and Dolls* and as Julie Jordan in *Carousel* for ACT. She also enjoyed a 35 show run as Mrs. Markham in *Move over Mrs. Markham* at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater. She enjoys making this play a family affair as Lisa is the real life mama of Eliza (Katrin) and Stuart (Swingman). Lisa is the owner of Good Grief, INC in Slater. She is a licensed funeral director, death educator and grief therapist.



**Stuart Worth Merritt** (Swing Man(Bellboy, Soda Clerk, Farmer) has performed with Homeschool Group productions of *Donkey Tales*, *Panorama of Time*, and *Three Trees*. Stuart enjoys guitar, sports writing and Boy Scouts. He Loves Narnia and Star Wars. His family includes Lisa Merritt (Mama) and Eliza Merritt (Katrin). Stuart is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader and is homeschooled.



**Scott Nielsen** (Papa) has been very active on and off stage since coming to ACT. His on stage appearances include *Phantom Tollbooth*, *Hankerin Hillbillies*, *A Christmas Carol*, and most recently *The Rainmaker*. His hobbies include spending time with the family, wife, Brandi, and daughters, Deven and Denae, and watching college football, Go Huskers! Scott is employed by Allstate.



**Deven Nielsen** (Dagmar) is performing on stage in her first major role and was one of the first actors to be “off book”. She appeared in the chorus for both *Hankerin Hillbillies* and *A Christmas Carol*. Her hobbies include reading, playing on the computer, and watching TV. Her family includes dad Scott (playing Papa), mom, Brandi, and sister, Denae. She is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Westwood School. She is really excited to be back on the stage again and being with her friends.



**Ella Paris** (Dorothy) has appeared on the ACT stage with her mother Carla in *A Christmas Carol* and in *Ella the True Story of Cinderella* at Girl Scout Theater Camp. Ella takes dance lessons, plays the flute and is a cheerleader at Ballard Schools. She has participated in Odyssey of the Mind for two years at her school where she is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader.



**Becky Plager** (Aunt Sigrid) has been very active in ACT both on stage and off. She has played many roles. The greatest reward for her when doing theatre is making people laugh. That is better than any applause. Becky has been elected the President Elect for the ACT Board. Seeing first hand all that is involved behind the scenes to make these productions happen has given her an even greater appreciation for those who have served in past years. Her hobbies/activities include volunteering where needed for the SCIA of Iowa, Spinal Cord Injury Association of Iowa, yard work and outside activities when the temps are above 60.



**Emily Polson** (Nurse) has appeared on the ACT stage as Freida Lou Hereford in *Hankerin Hillbillies*, and Count of Connotation in *Phantom Tollbooth*. She also appeared as Grace Wexler in *The Westing Game* at The Network Drama. She is the daughter of Dale and Kathy and has an older sister, Jessica, brother, Ethan, and a younger sister Julia. She has a grey and white kitty named Sylvia. She is a 10<sup>th</sup> grader and is homeschooled.



## Biographies Continued



**C. W. "Bud" Pratt** (Mr. Hyde) is reprising his role from the first production of this play by ACT in 1993. Bud has been in many plays at ACT and served as treasurer in the early days of the theater. He says it is a real thrill working with young people and seeing how the play comes to being through the eyes of the director. Two of his favorite parts in ACT plays are Flo Ziegfield in *Funny Girl* and Mr. Mushnick in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Bud is retired and enjoying it!



**Jan Price** (Narrator) has been seen as Bambi, a Hot Box Dancer, in *Guys and Dolls* and Phyllis in *Play On* and also appeared in *Our Town*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Once Upon A Mattress*. Jan's hobbies include genealogy, reading, enjoying her five grandchildren and singing in the Ankeny Community Chorus. She is married to Al. They have two daughters Sarah, and Andrea, and a son Aaron. Jan has always enjoyed participating in plays with husband Al and all three of their children as they grew up.



**Ken Reams** (Dr. Johnson) is a familiar sight on venues throughout the Ankeny and Des Moines area. ACT audiences always enjoy the variety of roles that he has appeared in on our stage. Ken played Mr Thorkelson in *I Remember Mama* at the Des Moines Playhouse in 1971. Ken is married with 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. He is a retired audiologist.



**Carla Rogers-Paris** (Aunt Jenny) has appeared on the ACT stage with daughter Ella in *A Christmas Carol* and in productions in high school and college. Her hobbies include reading and genealogy. Carla is employed by Xenia Rural Water. Carla says she is enjoying sharing the stage again with Ella and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.



**Ima Starr** aka Grace Leverenz (Scrub Woman) is returning to the stage reviving her 1993 role in *I Remember Mama* that made her a star. Amazing Grace has been an active part of ACT since its beginning. She is best known as part of the Leverenz and Reid team that has worked together on close to 30 ACT productions.



**Patricia Walocko** (Ms Moorehead) is not only a newcomer to our theater but is making her acting debut. We hope she has a wonderful time and we see her again in the future. Her hobbies include country dancing, bowling, boating, camping, ballroom dancing, singing and traveling the world. She is married to Tony and has a son and soon to be daughter in law and step granddaughter. She is originally from Cleveland, Ohio, and has lived in California, Pennsylvania, and Maryland before moving to Iowa. Patricia is employed by Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. Welcome Patricia!



**Jo Reid** (Director) / **Jerry Reid** (Producer) have been active in ACT almost from its beginning. Jo's main contribution has been on the stage, directing or serving as choreographer. Jerry has made several memorable on-stage cameo appearances but he has served mostly behind the scenes. He has produced many plays and built countless sets. He is most noted for taking reservations for the shows and greeting members of the audience in his role as House Manager for the theatre. Their favorite experience was co-starring in ACT's production of *Love Letters*. Jo and Jerry spent 20 fun-filled years performing in ACT's musical group Act II. They have also served on the ACT Board of Directors.



# Contributions

Ankeny Community Theatre would like to thank the following individuals, businesses and foundations for their generous support of our organization during the 2009-2010 season.

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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.

