

LOVE LETTERS



By A. R. Gurney

Ankeny Community Theatre

February 12 - 15, 2009

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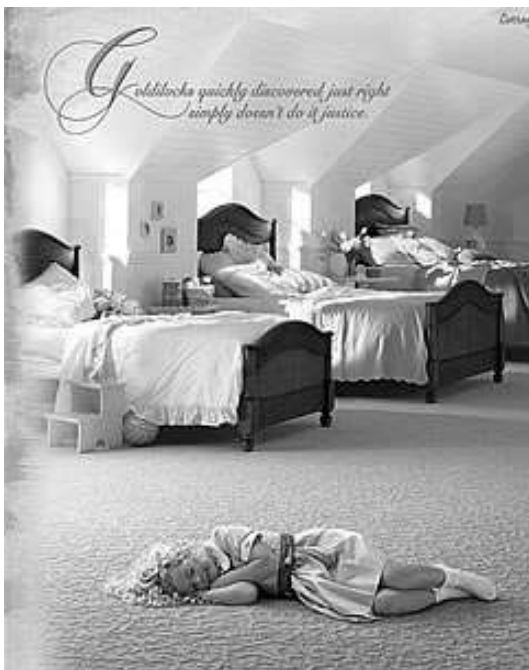
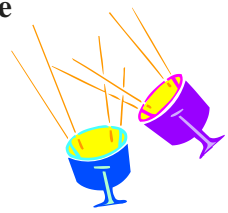


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Hankerin' Hillbillies

Pat Cook

September 5 -21

Jekyll and Hyde

Adapted by Leonard H. Caddy

October 17 - November 2

A Christmas Carol

Adapted by John Mortimer

December 5 - 21

The Sensuous Senator

Michael Parker

January 23 - February 8

Auditions Dates - December 7 & 8

Love Letters

A. R. Gurney

February 12, 13, 14 & 15

Fools

Neil Simon

April 17 - May 3

Audition Dates - February 22 & 23 (*New Dates*)

ACT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - John Claes

President Elect - Polly Taylor

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Love Letters

by A. R. Gurney

The roles of Andrew Makepeace Ladd III. and Melissa Gardner will be played by the following actors:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| February 12 - 7:30 | John & Anne Claes |
| February 13 - 7:30 | Mark & Sarah Ferree |
| February 14 - 4:00 | Al & Jan Price |
| February 14 - 7:30 | Paul & Kaylene Ruby |
| February 15 - 2:00 | Keith & Karen Pederson |
| February 15 - 7:00 | Jerry & Jo Reid |

There will be a brief intermission between Acts I and II.



PRODUCTION TEAM

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Director | Jo Reid |
| Producer | Jerry Reid |
| Lights/Sound | Harold Mosier Polly Taylor |
| Stage Manager | Shelley Blok |
| Costumes | Cast |
| House Managers | Doug Arterburn Lynn Arterburn Jerry Reid |
| Refreshments | Bev Heldt |
| Logo Design | Paula Stewart |
| Playbill/Photographer | Lynn Arterburn |
| Marketing | Lynn Arterburn Shelley Blok Becky Plager |

Special Acknowledgments

ACT appreciates the generosity of businesses and individuals in the Ankeny area. The cast of *Love Letters* would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to the show.

Carmen's Flowers - floral arrangement

Out of consideration to the actors and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cell telephones, pagers or other audible electronic devices before the show begins. No video recording or photography are allowed during any of our productions.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc.



How many couples can say that their first introduction was caught on film? John and Anne Claes' matchmaker was *Videa Limited*, a video production company based in Cedar Rapids that cast them in a bank training film in 1989. Although they kept their relationship purely professional while the cameras were rolling, the two began their own personal exchange of *Love Letters* right then and there and were married in 1992. Their first performance on stage together was in 1994's ACT production of *Our Town*. It would be more than ten years later before they would return to live theater in ACT's *It's a Wonderful Life*. The fact that they were joined by daughter, Katherine, in that show made it all the more special. Roles in *Godspell* and *Plaza Suite* would follow at ACT until John and Anne would finally be cast as man and wife (Bob and Mrs. Cratchit) in *A Christmas Carol*.

John, who currently serves as President of the Ankeny Community Theatre Board, works for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Anne is a special education teacher associate at Jensen Elementary in Urbandale. They live in Johnston with eleven-year-old daughter Katherine.



Ankeny residents Mark and Sarah Ferree are no strangers to the stage. They first met onstage in the Des Moines Playhouse production of *Damn Yankees*. Mark performed the part of Rocky and Sarah played Lola. (What Lola wants, Lola gets...).

Both Sarah and Mark have been involved in the theater most of their lives. Sarah has acted, danced, and choreographed for productions in Iowa, Nebraska, and Washington. She also worked at Disneyland as a dancer and performer. One of Mark's college majors was in theater arts at the University of Minnesota. He has performed in numerous musicals and productions, his favorites being Tommy Trainor in *No No Nanette* and as Jimmy Curry in *110 in the Shade*. Mark says playing Rocky was his best role ever because that's where he met Sarah.

Sarah and Mark own Ankeny Dance Inc. She enjoys passing her knowledge and experience on to new generations of dancers. You might recognize Mark from his previous position as meteorologist and reporter at WHO Television, Channel 13 in Des Moines, where he worked for seven years. Mark is currently employed in sales at Willis Auto Campus in Clive. He says to stop in and say, "Hi" to him anytime you're looking for a new or pre-owned car ... or maybe just to chat a bit about the weather!



Keith and Karen Pederson met when Keith auditioned for *Death and Taxes* - a show that was being directed by Karen. They became good friends during rehearsals and on opening night, both began to realize that maybe there was something more there than just friendship. They appeared together on stage in *Don't Drink the Water* the next season. They married in January of 2006 and have continued to enjoy their love of theater together. When he was in *Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, she was props mistress. When she directed *Wizard of Oz*, he built her set. Keith helped produce *The Oldest Profession* and *The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase* which Karen performed in. They performed on stage together as Dr. and Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town*, and acted together in *Murder Takes the Stage*. For the first time since they met, Karen cast her husband Keith in the lead role in *The Sensuous Senator*. They are soul mates that share the same passion for life as they do for theater.



Al and Jan Price met forty years ago when she put on his makeup for *The Boyfriend* at Marshalltown Community College. The love of theatre has been an important part of the Price family. They and their three children have been involved in many ACT productions. Most recently, Jan, Al, and their son, Aaron, were in Ankeny Community Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*. The oldest of their five grandchildren, Colin, made his theater debut earlier this season in ACT's *Jekyll and Hyde*.

Jan and Al have lived in Ankeny for 27 years and are blessed to have all their children and grandchildren living here. They sing in the Ankeny Community Chorus and The Sounds of Soul at the Ankeny First United Methodist Church.



Jerry and Jo Reid have been actively involved with Ankeny Community Theatre from the time they moved to Ankeny in the mid 1980's. Jo's first show at ACT was *Guys and Dolls* when she served as director and choreographer. Since that time she has directed 20 or more shows. Jerry has served in some capacity for almost every show. He will forever be remembered for his cameo appearance in Spandex shorts carrying a bicycle tire across the stage in *Heaven Can Wait*. Both have been President of the ACT Board of Directors. As director of ACT II, Jo created and appeared in many singing and dancing shows. Jerry also sang and appeared with the group. Besides theater work, Jerry and Jo enjoy doting on their grandchildren, traveling, and church activities.



Paul and Kaylene Ruby have appeared many times on the ACT stage. Kaylene first appeared at ACT in the first *Plaza Suite* in 1983. Paul joined ACT the next season when he appeared as Curly in *Oklahoma*. They have enjoyed acting together in several shows and opposite each other in the second *Plaza Suite*. Kaylene has also repeated roles in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Steel Magnolias* in which she played her favorite role, Quiser. Paul enjoys always being the first one to learn his lines. His favorite roles have been leads in *Oklahoma* and *Li'l Abner*.

Both Kaylene and Paul have served on the ACT board. They enjoy their careers in education, their children, grandchildren, and their Harley.

Volunteer Open House

February 22

1:30 - 3:30

ACT is hosting an open house to introduce volunteers to key backstage areas that keep our unique brand of live theater alive. At this event you will hear ACT volunteers share their expertise and insight in such areas as:

- ◆ Lighting and sound design
- ◆ Costumes and props
- ◆ Set design and construction
- ◆ Acting and directing

Refreshments will be served and attendees will see how all the volunteer disciplines come together with a **short performance of ACT's latest show**, *The Sensuous Senator*.

To register, call 964-5007 or e-mail info@ankenycommunitytheatre.com. Please give your name, the number in your party, and the best way to reply back to you.

2008 - 2009 CONTRIBUTORS

Angel's Circle (\$500+)

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Glenn & Vi DeStigter | Jerry & Jo Reid | Pete Starks |
| Al & Sue Ites | Juanita Rogers | Deloris Van Oort |

Producer's Circle (\$250 - \$499)

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Doris Anderson | Jeanne Ginger | Roger & Sandra Spahr |
| Gerald Bair | Monica Green | Arlyn & Connie Weieneth |
| John & Anne Claes | Harvey & Sandy Olsthoorn | Richard & Patricia Wilson |
| Monte & Vicki Engh | Evelyn Rigby | |

Director's Circle (\$75 - \$249)

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
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| Doug & Lynn Arterburn | Jan Kerrigan | Steve & Georgene Raver |
| Orville & Bonnie Ballard | Bob & Leighann LaRocca | Kirk Reeder & Sharon Hall |
| Aaron Beckerman | Gail Sheridan-Lucht | Shawn & Chris Rourick |
| Don & Shelley Blok | Pat & Annette McDevitt | Rhonda Snyder |
| Aldo & Donna Bulgarelli | Harold & Sherri Mosier | Polly Taylor |
| Dick & Ellen Crowe | Jay & Margaret Munson | Vikki Ver Huel |
| Troy DeStigter | Gary & Jo Ellen Nervig | Creston & Evelyn Vos |
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| Jeff & Susan Jacobson | Melissa Powell | Sandra Zimmerman |
| Lory & Mary Johnson | Al & Jan Price | Don & Carolyn Zuck |

Patron's Circle (\$50 - \$74)

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Dorothy Blewer | Ordean & Elizabeth Johnson | Ruth Politsch |
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| Loanne Dodge | Abby Ostrem | Louise Vander Linden |
| John & Shirley Gilmore | Becky Plager | Dorothy Wyant |

Artist's Circle (\$40)

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Marcia Blanshan | Becky Herring | Aaron Price |
| Carolyn Bauer | Truly Judisch | Carrol Rolow |
| Bettie Hampton | Jennifer Mahlow | Barb White |

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ACT NEEDS YOU!

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.

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