

Ankeny Community Theatre



# *Leaving Iowa*

*The Comedy about Family Vacations*

Written by  
Tim Clue and Spike Manton

June 11 - 27, 2010

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- \* 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.



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Website: [ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://ankenycommunitytheatre.com)  
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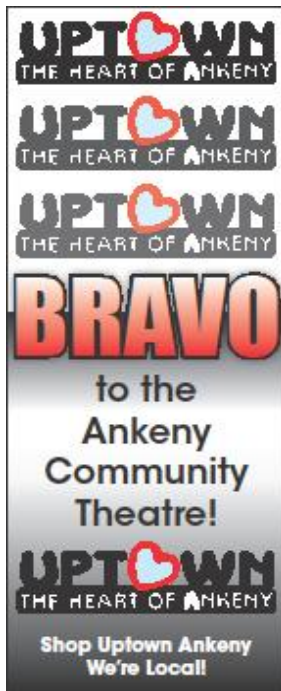
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***Leaving Iowa***

By Tim Clue & Spike Manton  
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## Leaving Iowa Donors

Ankeny Community Theatre and the cast and crew of *Leaving Iowa* would like to thank the following businesses for providing prizes to give away each night and for brochures to use in our Welcome Center. Please feel free to take any of the brochures!

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# *Leaving Iowa*

## *The Comedy about Family Vacations*

### Cast

Don Browning	Aaron Price
Dad	Al Price
Mom	Becky Plager
Sis	Torii Grabowski
Farmer Johnson, Joe Hofingers,	
Civil War Guy, Wayne	Kent Whitmore
Grandpa, Uncle Phil,	
Mechanic, Bob	Monte Engh
Cart Guy, Amish Guy,	
Jack Singer, Clerk	Garren Bugh
Mrs. Johnson, Museum Assistant,	
Jamie, Park Ranger	Julie Bratton
Grandma, Amish Gal, Jessie	Lisa DeWaard
Aunt Phyllis, Drunk Lady, Judy	Joyce Allen

Time & Place: The Present and the Past

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

**Warning: A strobe light will be used during ACT 2.**

*Leaving Iowa* premiered at the Purple Rose Theatre Company on January 22, 2004, in Chelsea, Michigan, directed by Anthony Caselli.

# Production Team

Director	Lynn Arterburn
Producer/Stage Manager	Theresa Britt
Lights	Tim Klingensmith, Harold Mosier*
Sound	Polly Taylor
Backstage Crew	Vonnie Whitmore
Props/Costumes	Lynn Arterburn, Theresa Britt, Scott Nielsen, Vonnie Whitmore
Set Construction	Doug Arterburn, Harvey Olsthoorn*, Sandy Olsthoorn, Jerry Reid, Mark Tuttle, Kent Whitmore
Set Painting	Mark Tuttle, Vonnie Whitmore
House Manager	Doug Arterburn
Playbill	Lynn Arterburn
Marketing	Sharon Anderson, Doug Arterburn, Lynn Arterburn*, Becky Plager, Kathy Polson
Staycation Team	Theresa Britt*, Scott Nielsen, Vonnie Whitmore

\*Denotes Crew Leader



# Cast Biographies



**Joyce Allen** (Aunt Phyllis, Drunk Lady, Judy) has a long list of acting roles on a plethora of stages. Some of her works outside of ACT include *Lonestar Love Potion* at the Ingersoll Dinner Theatre, *A Christmas Carol* at the Salisbury House, and *Book of Days* at Grandview. Joyce's onstage work here at ACT includes *Godspell*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Oldest Profession*, *Hankerin'*

*Hillbillies* and *The Rainmaker*. Offstage, she is a CMA at Iowa Retina Consultants and enjoys quilting/sewing, cycling, dancing, and her two 18 pound kitties. She has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Joyce is grateful to finally be playing along side Becky Plager (Mom) in this show so people will at long last know they are two different people.



**Julie Bratton** (Mrs. Johnson, Museum Assistant, Jamie, Park Ranger) hails from Baltimore, Maryland and made the trek to Iowa in 2008. In Baltimore, she performed in several local theaters and did shows such as *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as several readings with The Baltimore Playwrights Festival. Although

most of her work has been done outside of Iowa, she has worked at the Des Moines Playhouse in *The Farnsworth Invention*. We now welcome her to our stage, as *Leaving Iowa* is her ACT debut...and boy did we put her to work! Julie is an itinerant teacher for the Iowa Braille School and enjoys reading and taking long walks in all kinds of weather. She also very thankful for Yak-Traks for those wintery walks.



**Garren Bugh** (Cart Guy, Amish Guy, Jack Singer, Clerk) is making his debut with ACT in *Leaving Iowa*, and just like Julie, we loaded him up with a full cast a characters to play. Although his acting profile is shorter than many of our other cast members, he has proven that he has the acting bug in him and we look forward to many returns to the ACT stage.

Garren played one of the Apostles in the Elgin, Illinois's Summer Community Theatre's adaptation of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He has also helped out with some dramas at Hope Lutheran Church. Garren is a regional manager for six of the areas Sprint Stores. He enjoys posting his political views on Facebook and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Rebecca, have a 3 year old, Makenzie.



**Lisa DeWaard** (Grandma, Amish Gal, Jessie) has been seen on the ACT stage in *Murder Takes the Stage*, *The Phantom Tollbooth* and *Godspell*. She recently appeared in *Lend Me a Tenor*. She has been doing local theater in many venues around the Des Moines area since 2004. Favorites outside ACT include *Song of Survival*, *Cannoli or Else*, *Wiley and the Hairy Man* and *Taming of the Shrew*. She is a huge fan of Broadway musicals and enjoys knitting, karaoke, reading, spending time with friends and taking care of her three fur children (cats) - Penelope, Isabella and Diesel. She is really excited to be doing this show with such a wonderful cast.



**Monte Engh** (Grandpa, Uncle Phil, Fred the mechanic, Bob Peneplains) is one of two of our actors who made their ACT acting debuts with *Bedful of Foreigners* back in 1999. We've been keeping him very busy here at ACT ever since. A few of Monte's favorite roles are *Bedful of Foreigners*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Hankerin Hillbillies*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, and *Funny Money*. He is married to Vicki, has three grown children and works for Kum and Go Stores. In his free time he enjoys biking, sports, traveling and going on Mission Trips throughout the year.



**Torii Grabowski** (Sis) was bitten by the acting bug after her first ACT appearance in February's *Every Little Crook and Nanny*. She appeared in the April production of *Lend Me a Tenor* and is now doing her third show in a row. She absolutely LOVES the experience and has proven to be a great asset to ACT. She was involved in drama during high school and took some acting classes at Drake where she majored in Writing and Magazine Journalism. After this show, Torii will be "leaving Iowa" to attend Boise State to pursue her MA in fiction writing.. Torii loves to travel and spent a semester abroad backpacking through Europe. She is a nanny for several supportive fans who come to see the shows. The ACT family wishes Torii much success in her new endeavors at Boise State and we hope that acting bug keeps biting!



## Biographies Continued



**Becky Plager** (Mom) has done several shows with ACT, and has worked both on stage and behind the scenes. Her last show was *I Remember Mama*, which was quite a rewarding experience for her, as she acquired three sisters. Becky will not soon forget her acting debut with ACT in *Bedful of Foreigners* in 1999. A couple of years ago she was given the opportunity to play Betty in *Heaven Can Wait*, one of her favorite movies. Her man-friend, Mr. Farnsworth, who was played by Aaron Price, is now her son in *Leaving Iowa...* only in theatre! According to Becky, "Theatre is such a wonderful hobby for me. I am truly grateful for the chance to make people laugh. They say laughter is the best medicine, and I would have to agree". Becky is an Assistant Project Manager at Wireless Facilities Inc. She has two children, Robert and Angela. She enjoys working in her yard, remodeling her home, ACT and volunteering for events with The Spinal Cord Injury Association of Iowa.



**Aaron Price** (Don Browning) most recently appeared on the ACT stage in April as the hotel bellhop in *Lend Me a Tenor*, and last fall in *Clue: The Musical* as Mr. Green. He has been in 14 shows at ACT including *A Christmas Carol*, *Don't Drink the Water*, *And Then There Were None*, *Heaven Can Wait* and *Dearly Departed*. Aaron works at YRC Transportation as an account specialist. He enjoys writing, watching movies, reading and collecting comic books. Aaron is serving his 2nd year on the ACT Board of Directors. He would like to thank his fiancée, Megan, for her love and support.



**Al Price** (Dad) has been involved with ACT clear back to 1983! He says all are his favorites. A few that he have been special are *Oklahoma*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Our Town* (twice), *Greater Tuna*, *Dearly Departed*, *Don't Drink the Water*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase*, and *Clue: The Musical*. Al and his wife, Jan, have three children and five grandchildren. He enjoys reading (History), playing golf, and watching sports on TV. Al would like to thank Jan for sharing his love of the theater. It has always been a part of their family. In fact, Al and Jan met over 40 years ago during a production in college. Now their children and grandchildren are involved with theater as well. It's especially rewarding for Al to be able to work with his family on shows. He has done several shows with his wife, and now is getting to work with his son, Aaron, again. This time as Dad and Son.



**Kent Whitmore** (Farmer Johnson, Joe Hofingers, Civil War Guy, Wayne) has done several shows with ACT over the years. A few roles include, Count Yousekevitch in *Fools*, Mitch Bryant in *The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase*, John the Baptist/Judas in *Godspell*, and Elwood P Dowd in *Harvey*. When he's not on stage or working at Broadlawn's Medical Center, he enjoys walking, biking, watching old classic movies and TV shows, and working with youth. He is married to Vonnie, one of our stage hands. They have two children, Alicia, and Bryce, and will soon be getting a daughter-in-law, Cassie.



**Lynn Arterburn** (Director) keeps herself quite busy at ACT: board member, marketing coordinator, membership committee member, children's theater staff, producer, stage manager, costumer, and creator of all the playbills, emails and other marketing materials. That's just to name a few of the things she does and she LOVES every minute of it. Theater has been a great family activity that she has been able to participate in with her husband, Doug, and their two children, Lisa and Scott, over the past 18 years. She enjoys spending time with her two adorable twin grandchildren - Olivia and Owen - who are about to enter the "terrible two" stage. During the school year, she works at Crocker Elementary. She would like to thank Doug for putting up with all the craziness that happens at their house while she's preparing for a show. "I would also like to thank Theresa for being such a fantastic producer and great friend. I can always count on her to be there doing whatever I need her to do. She always goes beyond what is expected. I couldn't have done this show without her. I would also like to thank the wonderful cast and crew for all their outstanding work. Thanks, team. It's been outstanding, simply outstanding!"



**Theresa Britt** (Producer) has never been bitten by the acting bug but has been involved with community theatre since Junior High. She got her start behind the scenes at Waterloo Community Playhouse and joined the ACT bandwagon in 1987 after moving to Ankeny. A few of the ACT productions she has worked on include: *Bedful of Foreigners*, *Silver Whistle*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Dining Room*, and *Plaza Suite*.

Theresa has two wonderful and supportive children, Megan and Erick. She works in Radiation Oncology at Mercy Medical Center and enjoys the theater, movies, walking and being with her friends and family. Theresa would like to thank the Director, Lynn Arterburn, "for asking me back again! It's always a great pleasure working with you, Lynn. And I do believe we have another great cast and show put together!"

## Biographies Continued

**Tim Clue's** first writing gig was stand-up comedy. However, in 1991 he established Short Story Theater with Marco Benassi, a multimedia theatrical company that combined short fiction adaptations with documentary footage. *Greek Streets* was their inaugural work, using short stories by Harry Mark Petrakis. *Other Definitions of Confinement* premiered at the National Jewish Theater in 1993, introducing the life and writings of Russian political prisoner Dmitry Stonov, and in 1997 *Coloring Potential* debuted and focused on the stories of Chicago's inner-city youth. In 1999, Spike Manton and Clue wrote and directed a Chicago-based television sitcom pilot *Tiny Pig* that "made it into the can", but not on TV; it is now being adapted into a comedy musical. Their play *Leaving Iowa* is also being written as a screenplay. Clue grew up in Rochelle, Illinois and still lives in Chicago with his wife, Kathryn Lake, one cat, no kids and no station wagon.

**Spike Manton** was born on a farm in far upstate New York, but his parents moved the family to a bustling metropolis of almost two thousand people, where he grew up in a standard 1960's family unit of four kids, two parents and one station wagon. As child number three, he is very familiar with the seating location known as "the way back." After graduating Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, Manton moved to Chicago, quit his Procter & Gamble sales job, got married and began a career in stand-up comedy. Stand-up led to cable TV shows like Evening at the Improv, MTV and Comedy Central and, more importantly, a career in Chicago radio, where he spent 10 years hosting FM talk shows and sports talk shows on ESPN Radio. Along the way, Manton has been trying to create, write and produce original work with his writing partner, Tim Clue. *Leaving Iowa* is their best example of executing that plan to date, although they have many projects at various stages of production. Manton lives in Chicago with his wife, Tami, their two children, Mickey and Samantha.

*Leaving Iowa* was produced by special arrangement with  
The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

## Special Acknowledgements

ACT appreciates the generosity of businesses and individuals in the Ankeny area who help support productions. The director, cast and crew of *Leaving Iowa* would like to thank the following people and business for their generous contribution to the show.

ACTORS of Ames - costumes, wigs  
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TJ Nails - nails for wind chime  
US Center Foundation - brochure for Center of United States  
Vonnie Whitmore - quilt  
Yankee Clipper - items for "The Bar" and "Gabby's"

## Summer Drama Camps

ACT has several exciting drama camp opportunities this summer for children Ages 4 through 8th grade. There are still openings available for the June 28 - July 2 and July 12 - 16 sessions. Registration forms are



located at the refreshment area or on our website at [ankenycommunitytheatre.com](http://ankenycommunitytheatre.com). ACT received a \$5650 grant from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino through its 2009 Community Betterment Grant Program to help underwrite the costs for staff and facility rental for the 2010 camps. ACT is greatly appreciative of this support.

# 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.