

Standing OVATION



PRESENTS

January 20 - 29, 2023



A Note From The Director

We'd like to welcome you to the house of Connie Harland for an "unconventional" bridge night. *Exit Laughing* by Paul Elliott played to sold-out audiences when it debuted at the Springfield Little Theatre (Springfield, MO). After the first preview, every performance was sold out. In fact, it "broke all house records for any non-musical in the 50-year history of the theatre." *Exit Laughing* is a little bit "Golden Girls," with all the sass of "Steel Magnolias." What happens when lifelong friends and bridge partners gather following the death of their beloved friend, Mary? An evening full of laughter, tears and other assorted surprises, sure to result in side-splitting comedy fun. I hope you'll find our show funny, and even a little bit touching at times. If *Exit Laughing* provides one important life lesson, it would be to simply live life to its fullest and when you go, "exit laughing." We invite you to sit back, relax and join our ladies for a zany evening of Southern hospitality.

- Brad Church

Exit Laughing
In Order of Appearance

Rachel Ann	Alexa Lloyd
Connie Harland	Debbie Kenseth
Leona	Barb Wagner
Millie	Susan Casber
Policeman/Bobby	Mitchell Nieland

Time: Present day

Setting: Birmingham, AL

There will be a 15-minute intermission between acts.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio
and/or visual recordings of this production is strictly
prohibited under copyright law.

Note from the intimacy director: The production you are
seeing today, *Exit Laughing*, is intended for adult audiences
and contains themes including but not limited to: navigating
loss/death, moderate language, sensual dancing/undress, and
suggestive language.

Please enjoy this fun and heartfelt comedy produced by
Ankeny Community Theatre.

Exit Laughing is produced by special arrangement with The
Dramatic Publishing Company, Inc., of Woodstock, Illinois.

Exit Laughing was premiered in the American Association of
Community Theatre's AACT NewPlayFest by the Springfield
Little Theatre in Springfield, Mo.

Production Team

Director	Brad Church
Assistant Director	Stacie Bendixen
Producer	Frank Sposeto III
Stage Manager	Larry White
Intimacy Director	Lyndsy Darland
Set Design	Matt Tuttle, Brad Church
Set Construction	Matt Tuttle, Mark Johnson
Set Painting	Brad Church, Debra Johnson
Light and Sound Designer and Technician	Abby Martin
Costumes	Cheryl Clark, Cast
Props	Brad Church, Stacie Bendixen, Cast
Program	Abby Martin
Photographers	Brad Church, John Guzman
Logo Design	Nicole Titus
Marketing	Doug Arterburn, Lynn Arterburn, Stacie Bendixen, Lauren Mills

2022 - 2023 ACT Board of Directors

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Mailing Address: PO Box 122, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Website: www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com

Email: information@ankenycommunitytheatre.com

Biographies



Alexa Lloyd (Rachel Ann) has been acting since the age of four. At UNI she received a “theatre for youth” minor and assisted with costuming, something she still enjoys today. After spending 15 years performing with the Sioux City Community Theatre she is making her debut at ACT! In her free time Alexa enjoys music, movies, and reading. She is a recruitment manager at Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa.



Debbie Kenseth (Connie Harland) resolved to stop putting off things that she wanted to try and is making her first return to the stage since acting in high school plays! In her free time she enjoys puzzles, reading, and traveling - especially if it's near a lake or beach! Debbie is married to Jeremy and mom to Ryan and Jesse. She also makes and sells her own jewelry with her business Doodlebug Designs.



Barb Wagner (Leona) last appeared on our stage as Emily in *Geezers*. She has directed 15 shows at ACT, most recently *Aura*. Barb has performed in or directed about 190 shows in the Des Moines area. In 2022, she also directed *Bye Bye Birdie* for Urbandale Community Theatre and *Sister Act Jr.* for Des Moines Young Artists Theatre. She lives in West Des Moines with her cat, Winnifred, and has kept busy since she retired from DMACC last January! Barb dedicates this show in memory of her husband, Don, and her 100-year-old mom, Doris Merrill, who just passed in December. Barb says, “They would have both loved this show. I can hear them laughing.



Susan Casber (Millie) was last seen on the ACT stage pre-Covid and is anxious to be on stage again. She has performed in many ACT productions over the years and played Mae Peterson in *Bye Bye Birdie* at Urbandale Community Theatre this summer. Her interests include reading and attending theater productions. She is a retired Registered Nurse and loves working as a Standardized Patient for Des Moines University. She is thrilled to be able to share the stage again with her sister, Barb Wagner. Susan dedicates her performance to her mother, Doris Merrill, who passed away in December. “Love you more, Mom!”



Mitchell Nieland (Policeman/Bobby) was last at ACT in *Kiss Me Kate* (Paul/Gremio), but has also been seen on stage at Urbandale Community Theatre in *Bye Bye Birdie* (Conrad Birdie) and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Judah). Mitchell always enjoys the opportunity to be involved with musical theater; he loves to dance and sing, as well as work out, read, and watch movies. He works at Athene as a new business representative and loves spending time with his fiance, Kevin.



Brad Church (Director) is very excited to make his directorial debut here at ACT! He's been on our stage before in *Doubt* (Father Flynn), *Kiss Me Kate* (Fred Graham/Petruchio), and *The Perfect Rendezvous* (Edmund). Most recently he was in *Next to Normal* at History Boy Theatre in Jefferson and has had several roles at the Des Moines Playhouse, including Harry (*Mamma Mia*), Wonka (*Willy Wonka*), and Harold Hill (*The Music Man*). Brad has his master's in music therapy from Florida State University. He lives in Ankeny and works at Disability Determination Services in Program Integrity. In his “free time” he enjoys craft beer, biking, hiking, and traveling.



Stacie Bendixen (Assistant Director) is enjoying her offstage role again after first serving as assistant director on ACT's *The Diary of Anne Frank*. At ACT she has served as board president, helps with marketing, and has appeared in 10 shows, most recently *A Piece of My Heart*. She also has acting credits at the Des Moines Playhouse, Urbandale Community Theatre, and Class Act Productions. Stacie works in communications for the Wells Fargo Foundation.



Larry White (Stage Manager) is the man behind the curtain! Larry was last “seen” at ACT when he stage managed *Aura* last year. He has appeared on stage at Mason City Community Theatre as Mr. Cater in *It's A Wonderful Life*. Larry now lives in Ankeny and loves spending time with his four grown children, one fantastic grandson, dog, and girlfriend. He enjoys football, karaoke, riding his motorcycle, and writing.



Lyndsy Darland (Intimacy Director) is a new face at ACT! Lyndsy has been working on her Intimacy Direction certification and study over the last year. She has already been helping to coordinate and choreograph scenes for local midwest films. She also ID'd for *Guys and Dolls* at the Des Moines Playhouse. Lyndsy is excited to work with another theatre and to partner with this great team! She is married to Jeff Mease and lives in Norwalk with their two mini Australian shepherds: Cosmo and Nox. If you recognize Lyndsy she is also a local film actor and participates in theatre regularly as a character actor, last seen as Ms. Phelps in *Matilda the Musical* at the Des Moines Playhouse.

2022 - 2023 Contributors

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

Producer (\$1000+)

Director (\$500 - \$999)

Stacie Bendixen
Lois & Dennis Kern

Stage Manager (\$250 - \$499)

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Actor (\$100 - \$249)

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A Gentle Guide to Des
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B R A V O
GREATER DES MOINES

Coming to ACT next...

Marjorie Prime

April 14-23
Rated PG-13

Perfect for fans of
The Twilight Zone
or Black Mirror!

it's the age of artificial intelligence, and 85-year-old Marjorie's new companion is programmed to feed the story of her life back to her. What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance? This drama explores the mysteries of human identity and the limits – if any – of what technology can replace.



Coming this summer!

The One-Act Play

That Goes Wrong

June 9-18

Rated PG



A play within a play, a group of accident-prone thespians “take the stage” to perform a classic murder mystery, and everything that can go wrong...does! Will the cast ever catch the murderer? The original one-act version of the Tony-winning “The Play That Goes Wrong” is shorter than the Broadway hit, but just as hilarious.

2022-2023 Season Punch Cards Now Available

ACT season punch cards are easy to use! Select either three or six punches for a one-time purchase, then present it to the box office instead of a ticket at any of our shows! You can punch once for yourself at a show, or you can bring friends and use multiple punches at one performance! ACT Members also get a discount.



Ankeny Community Theatre Presents



Sept. 30-Oct. 9, 2022



December 2-11, 2022



January 20-29, 2023



April 14-23, 2023



June 9-18, 2023



August 4-13, 2023



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She Loves Me is presented with special arrangement by Music Theatre International. Exit Laughing is presented with special arrangement by The Dramatic Publishing Company. Marjorie Prime is presented with special arrangement by Concord Theatricals. The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong is presented with special arrangements by Dramatists Play Service

ACT's Mission:

To provide opportunities for Central Iowa community members to present and enjoy quality live theater.

ACT's Vision:

To be a welcoming place where people of diverse backgrounds have fulfilling theatrical experiences that are a vital part of the cultural landscape and the quality of life in our community.



**Like us on
Facebook!**

www.facebook.com/AnkenyCommunityTheatre/

Want to do more to help ACT?

ACT's committees are made up of board members and other volunteers. The committees plan and carry out all the theater's functions, under the board's direction. Volunteering on a committee is a great way to make a real difference at ACT! If you're interested in getting involved in any of these areas, please email volunteer@ankenycommunitytheatre.com to learn more.

Building and Operations: Responsible for the condition of the building and managing supplies.

Data Management: Responsible for all things *information* - databases, digital accounts and services, documenting and organizing information and materials related to running the organization, including policies and procedures.

Finance: Oversees financial management and brings financial recommendations to the board.

Fundraising: Develops fundraising events, grants, sponsorships and corporate/organizational fundraising, as well as major gifts and legacy giving from individuals.

Marketing: Advertising, social media, email marketing, newsletter, media relations, graphic design, playbills, community outreach.

Membership and Sales: Cultivates and manages individual donors (members); plans annual member event. Manages box office system and ticket sales, including pricing and season punch cards, as well as audience experience.

Production: Responsible for all aspects of putting on shows themselves; develops and implements related policies and procedures. Committee members also serve as producers.

Volunteer: Recruits, trains, and manages volunteers; develops policies and procedures related to volunteers; develops volunteer recognition.



Directors - Lori Grooters and Serkan Usta

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Urbandale Community Theatre Presents



Summer 2023

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