



THE ACT SPOTLIGHT

Ankeny Community Theatre
A Community of Talent

Summer 2017

Season Filled With Something for Everyone!

We are so excited to present Ankeny Community Theatre's 36th season, sure to be a memorable one. For the first time, we are expanding to offer more variety and explore works that wouldn't otherwise fit our traditional season. Our new Studio Series consists of three one-act plays, each in a limited engagement. Two are thought-provoking dramas for adult audiences, and one is designed especially for children.

Patrons can also look forward to our six-show main season, an exciting lineup of two musicals and four plays. This season we're debuting a new production schedule so we can bring you a wider variety of great shows. **Each show will now span two weekends, showing Friday through Sunday the first weekend and Thursday through Sunday the second weekend (seven performances total).**

The dates are set so mark your calendars now! You won't want to miss out on any of these fantastic shows. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. Reservations are recommended. To make online reservations, go to www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com or call Midwestix at 515-244-2771 Monday through Friday from 9:00-5:00. If you have special ADA seating needs, please call Midwestix to make your reservations.

We look forward to bringing you ACT's best season yet!

2017-2018 Main Season Shows

<p><i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i> October 6-15, 2017 Rated PG-13 Music & lyrics by William Finn, Book by Rachel Sheinkin, Conceived by Rebecca Feldman Director: Susan Hamel</p>	<p><i>A Christmas Chaos</i> December 8-17, 2017 Rated G Written by Michael Wehrli Director: Scott Nielsen</p>	<p><i>Almost, Maine</i> February 9-18, 2018 Rated PG-13 Written by John Cariani Director: Barb Wagner</p>
<p><i>A Few Good Men</i> April 6-15, 2018 Rated PG-13 Written by Aaron Sorkin Director: Michael Hollister</p>	<p><i>Honk!</i> June 8-17, 2018 Rated G Music by George Stiles, Book & lyrics by Anthony Drewe Director: Cheryl Clark</p>	<p><i>Over the River and Through the Woods</i> August 3-12, 2018 Rated PG Written by Joe DiPietro Director: Doug Moon</p>

2017-2018 Studio Series

<p><i>The God Committee</i> November 2-5, 2017 Rated PG Written by Mark St. Germain Director: Michael Porche</p>	<p><i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> January 13-15, 2018 Rated G Written by Todd Hatlem Director: Cheryl Clark</p>	<p><i>Doubt</i> April 26-29, 2018 Rated R Written by John Patrick Shanley Director: Thatcher Williams</p>
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Auditions Set for First Studio Series Show

The God Committee auditions will be held Saturday, July 29 at 12:00 p.m. at the theater. Certain roles in this special production have been filled with actors who are staff members of the Iowa Donor Network. The roles that are open for auditions are three male and two female roles, all for actors age 30+. Information about the characters may be found at www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com.

One copy of the script is available to read at Plot Twist Bookstore in Ankeny. The script must be read inside the store - it cannot be checked out. You don't need to submit an audition form in advance. This production will have an audition form that will be filled out at auditions.

Show dates are November 2-5, 2017. For more information, please email information@ankenycommunitytheatre.com. Michael Porche is the director for the show.



Donate to ACT: Become a Member

Like many performing arts organizations, ACT relies on donations. Ticket sales alone do not cover our costs, so support from donors allows us to keep offering quality, affordable theater for the community. We call our donors “members” because when you give a gift to ACT, you become part of our theater family!

The minimum donation for annual membership benefits is \$20 and the membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Please renew your membership today or donate for the first time! We’re counting on you!

Benefits of membership:

- Discounts on season punch cards
- Access to pre-sales for tickets to the limited-engagement shows in our new Studio Series
- Invited to Annual Meeting and eligible to vote on ACT business, such as electing board members and selecting an outstanding volunteer award recipient
- Recognition in each ACT playbill (unless you request to remain anonymous)
- Donations are fully tax-deductible

Membership Levels:

Patron: \$20 - \$99
 Actor: \$100 - \$249
 Stage Manager: \$250 - \$499
 Director: \$500 - \$999
 Producer: \$1,000 +

Visit www.ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com to donate online with a credit card. You can also mail a check along with the provided membership form to ACT. Memberships paid by August 26 will be eligible to win one of five drawings for a gift certificate.

Thank you so much for your support!

Season Punch Cards On Sale Now

At ACT, we do season tickets the flexible way - with punch cards you can use however you want! Choose from a 3-punch or 6-punch card. You’ll pay less versus buying individual tickets. Punch cards are valid for the six shows in our main season (tickets for the three Studio Series shows will be sold separately). Here’s how it works:

1. Buy your punch card online with a credit card at www.ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com (a link will direct you to Midwestix), OR submit the season punch card form provided with this newsletter and mail with your check. (You’ll also find a copy of the form on our website.) You can pick up your punch card at the annual member meeting or when you attend *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. (If you don’t pick up your punch card by then, we’ll mail it to you.)
2. Use your punch card to make advance reservations for specific performances. You may make reservations online at www.ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com (choose your performance date and choose the “season pass” option) or call Midwestix at 515-244-2771 and tell them you have a season pass.
3. When you come to a show, present your punch card at the box office.

Other things to know:

- Each punch can be used for one seat at any performance of any show - so you can use your punches across the whole season, use several punches to bring friends to one performance, or any combination!
- You can buy a 2017-18 punch card for the same price at any time during the season. It expires at the end of the last show in the main season, *Over the River and Through the Woods*. So if you run out of punches before the season is over, you can buy more!

If you have questions, please contact us at information@ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com. We can’t wait to see you next season!

	Members		Non-members	
	Adult	Senior ¹	Adult	Senior ¹
3-punch	\$42	\$33	\$45	\$36
6-punch	\$84	\$66	\$90	\$69

Single Show Prices For Main Season Shows			
	Adult	Senior ¹	Student
Non-musical	\$15	\$12	10
Musical	\$18	\$15	12

¹ Anyone 60 or over

Studio Series Prices

Tickets for *The God Committee* and *Doubt* will be \$10. Tickets for *The Velveteen Rabbit* will be \$5.

IT'S NECESSARY TO SEE *UNNECESSARY FARCE!*

In a cheap motel room, an embezzling mayor meets his accountant, while two cops try to catch the meeting on videotape. But there's confusion as to who's being videotaped, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man, and why the accountant keeps taking off her clothes.

"When I read this script, I just KNEW that ACT had to do it AND that I wanted to direct it," says director, Barbara Merrill Wagner of West Des Moines. "As part of the play selection committee for this season, others read it, too, and it was an easy choice for the season. Although it is an unknown show to most theatre goers, our audiences should thoroughly enjoy it."

The cast and crew are working diligently to put this show together - with action going on in both motel rooms at the same time. Also, set builders, Richard Wilson, Jerry Reid, and Scott Wilson, have tirelessly worked to get the rooms to be built exactly alike - two of everything. Props person, Tamie Mullen, has also been scouring the city for everything we need and doing a wonderful job for her first time volunteering with ACT. We are going to try to keep her around!

We are proud to welcome two newcomers to the ACT stage: Kaci Conetzkey of Des Moines and Ryan "Howie" Ingram of Pleasant Hill. ACT always loves having new actors/volunteers come in and enjoys making them part of our "theatre family". It is nice to hear someone say something like Kaci wrote, "This show and cast are spoiling me for my first show at ACT. Rehearsals are going great! When I should be working on my lines off stage, I'm finding myself just watching the scenes and cracking up on a nightly basis!" Hopefully, her experience with us will keep her around here for a very long time.

There are seven people in this show and seven entirely different characters! The actors are having fun with their roles and we are laughing a lot ourselves just trying to get through rehearsals. ACT regular, Troy Gould, says "I am fully immersed in my bumbling but lovable Agent Frank character. Being able to play both his false confidence and then his easily-scared nature is an actor's dream! Rehearsals are exhausting, but wonderful due to this wonderful script, cast, and direction! I cannot wait for every single person I know to see it in August!"

So, please join this incredible cast and crew to round out our 35th season at ACT with a laugh-out-loud comedy! *Unnecessary Farce* opens August 4 and runs until August 20. To make online reservations, go to www.ankenycitycommunitytheatre.com or call Midwestix at 515-244-2771 Monday through Friday from 9:00-5:00. If you have special seating needs, please call Midwestix to make your reservations.



Clockwise: Adam Haselhuhn, Kaci Conetzkey, Troy DeStigter, Susan Casber, Ali Kirwen, Troy Gould, Ryan Ingram

Alien Invasion Entertains Audiences



Stacie Bendixen, Cheryl Clark, Sharon Dallmann, Thomas Foster, Adam Haselhuhn, Megan Parrot, Nicole Titus, Rebecca Tuttle, Barb Wagner

This spring, ACT was under quarantine due to a possible invasion from aliens. Patrons had an enjoyable time observing the residents as they endured the trials of being confined. A Delightful Quarantine ran March 24 - April 9. ACT would like to recognize the cast and production team and thank them for their hard work and dedication to this production. We truly appreciate the time they took away from family and friends to work on this show.

Cast: Callahan Barton, Stacie Bendixen, Lily Bretthaur, Garren Bugh, Susan Casber, John Claes, Anne Claes, Troy DeStigter, Beth Feilmeier, Deb Ivis, Melanie Jones, Jim Leeper, Becky Plager, Debbie Rasko, Elisa Richter, Wendi Taylor, Whitney Welp, and Kent Whitmore.

Directors: Dawn Hockemeyer (director), Becky Plager (assistant)

Production Team: Joel Anderson, Doug Arterburn, Lynn Arterburn,

Offering a Heartfelt Thank You to Our Volunteers

ACT would like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make the 2016-2017 season a success. From providing or serving refreshments or ushering to acting or directing a show, and everything in between, ACT could not have provided live entertainment for the Ankeny community without the help and dedication of so many people. No matter how small or how big a time commitment, every single volunteer played an important role. We are truly grateful for all your service and greatly appreciative of the time you have spent helping us. Thank you!



Cast Tackles Difficult Topic



Seated: John Claes, Doug Moon, Ali Kirwen
Standing: Riley Devick, Michael Ream, Anna Sunstrom, Joe Kirwen

The topic is one that touches so many lives. More and more families are being affected by it each year. That devastating disease is Alzheimer's. The *Middle of Yesterday* told the story of a relationship between a son and a father who was struggling with the illness.

Doug Moon played the role of the struggling father. "*The Middle of Yesterday* was an experience I won't soon forget. It was by far, one of the most powerful shows I have ever been involved with and that I have seen on our stage during my time with the theater. From an acting standpoint, playing a character that was much older than me was a phenomenal opportunity. Having not really been around someone with Alzheimer's, my biggest challenge was being able to portray the character. So, I had to go with my perception of how a person with Alzheimer's would talk, interact with others, and have moments of despair. Playing a role of someone who has the horrible disease of Alzheimer's was very agonizing. To play the role was one thing, but to realize that there are people living with Alzheimer's left me with an anguished feeling. After performances to see people in tears because they know or knew someone with Alzheimer's was grueling to see. But, on the flip

side to hear some of those same people thank you for the performance and bringing awareness of the disease to life was fulfilling."

Cast: John Claes, Riley Devick, Ali Kirwen, Joe Kirwen, Doug Moon, Michael Ream, Anna Sunstrom

Directors: Cheryl Clark (director), Al Witte (assistant)

Production Team: Joel Anderson, Doug Arterburn, Lynn Arterburn, Stacie Bendixen, Susan Casber, Cheryl Clark, Sharon Dallmann, Adam Haselhuhn, Natalie Kalvick, Megan Parrot, Nicole Titus, Rebecca Tuttle, Barb Wagner, Whitney Welp

Thank You to Our Business Friends

ACT appreciates the generous support of local businesses. Productions and regular maintenance can be extremely expensive and would not be feasible for us without the help of so many business owners. If your business would like to provide us with support in goods or services, we would love to visit with you. Email us at information@ankenycitytheatre and we will be happy to chat with you.

We would like to thank the following businesses who provided us with support throughout the season: Ankeny HyVee (north and south), Ankeny Hope Lutheran Church, Ankeny HuHot, Ankeny Outback, Ankeny Prairie Ridge Church, BRAVO, Class Act Productions, Des Moines Marriott Downtown, Easter Seals of Iowa, Flooring America, Goodwill Industries, Grand View University, Happy Joe's, Heuss Printing, Newton Community Theatre, Iowa Scottish Pipes and Drums, Pioneer Communications, Inc., Ramada Ankeny, Skeffington's Formal Wear, and Smokey D's. The generosity of these businesses is greatly appreciated. It has been a pleasure working with them this year.

Thank you to Allstate Employee Scott Nielsen for being a positive force for change in our community. Allstate Employee Scott Nielsen gave his time and enabled us to receive an Allstate Foundation Helping Hands in the Community grant. The Allstate Foundation supports the causes that Allstate agency owners, financial specialists and employees care about most by providing Helping Hands in the Community grants to nonprofits where they volunteer their time to bring out the good in their communities.

Thank you, also, to the numerous Ankeny businesses who allow us to hang our show posters in their stores.



"Helping Hands" Fundraiser Raises Cool Cash for Theater

ACT would like to thank all of our friends and supporters who joined us at HuHot in May for our most recent fundraiser. With the help of our patrons, we packed the Ankeny restaurant on a normally quiet Monday night. Once all the tips and donations were tallied, we ended up with over \$500 to benefit to the theater.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped greet folks and bus tables. ACT would also like to thank HuHot for inviting us to participate on our fifth Helping Hands night. We look forward to a sixth!



Places Please participants tell their story.



Where the Wild Things Are campers perform.



Greece is the Word group performs one of their plays.



The Magical World of Music group performs.

Future Actors Explore the World of Theater

The sounds of excited, engaged children have been heard through the halls at ACT's Summer Drama Camps. The excitement is contagious and grows throughout each week. Camps are for youth ranging from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Ten drama camps were held in June with four more wrapping up the camps in July.

K-3rd graders participate in morning performance camps. The days were filled with all the preparations required to present their show on Friday: auditioning, rehearsing, creating sets, and making props and costumes. Shows performed included Trolls, Where the Wild Things Are, The Jungle Book, and Scowl.

2nd-3rd grade afternoon attendees participated in creative drama camps. Youth engaged in theater-related activities and created scenes to perform without the pressure of performing in front of a large audience. This type of camp is great for youth who might not want to perform in front of an audience or who want to explore the world of theater. Weekly themes explored this summer were Minecraft Mania and Monsters and Other Creepy Creatures.

4th-10th graders got a taste of participating in plays as well. Participants were also involved in auditioning, learning lines, making sets and props, and creating costumes before their final performances on Fridays. Dear Diary and Greece is the Word participants wrote their own plays to perform. Other shows performed were Rumpelstiltskin: Private Eye and Daisy Head Maize.

In July, the campers were transported to the world of Harry Potter. The youth spent the week exploring what it would be like to be a part of Hogwarts. At the end of the week, they shared their adventures with a performance created from those experiences.

It takes many talented people to run a successful program. ACT would like to thank the staff whose hard work, time, and effort make this program a success: Paige Batten, Nolan Boggess, Susan Casber, Anne Claes, John Claes, Katherine Claes, Sarah Devick, Elizabeth Fagerland, Dawn Hockemeyer, Micala Johnson, Keaton Lane, Andrea Lupo, Julia Polson, Nicole Temeyer, and Clare VanEchoute. David Veatch served as a summer intern. His expertise and help during the three weeks of camp were very much appreciated. Lynn Arterburn is the director of the program.

We would also like to thank the following for their volunteer efforts:

- Jan Temeyer and Joann Olson for helping with alterations for our Harry Potter robes
- Deb Rasko for some last minute sewing when we discovered we were short robes that week.
- Doug Arterburn for his tech support with our registration program as well as helping with set up and take down of our camps
- Riley Devick for assisting with the Harry Potter camps

Finally, ACT would also like to thank Ankeny Lutheran Church of Hope and Prairie Ridge Church for allowing us to hold the camps at their wonderful facilities. Their generosity and support of our camp program is greatly appreciated.

Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, September 18. Join us for dinner. Meeting and entertainment will follow. Members will be receiving more information in the mail in August.

Drama Workshops a Hit With Kids and Parents

During the past school year, ACT and Kirkendall Library once again teamed up to offer drama workshops free of charge to youth wanting to learn more about theater. Twenty-three workshops for children ranging in ages from 4 to 16 were offered from December through May. Over 210 youth participated in the workshops.

The fun continues this summer. On July 28, Eat and Act will be offered for 6th-12th grade. Participants will eat dinner and then work on skits and improv. The program begins at 5:00 and lasts until 7:30 p.m. On August 18, the library will feature their bi-annual Harry Potter Night. Youth in grades 4th-12th may attend this fun-filled evening that features several Hogwarts activities. The event runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Stop by the Kid's Desk or you can call the library at 965-6460, opt. 4.

Director of Education, Lynn Arterburn, instructs the youth in these workshops. "This program has really become popular. Most of the workshops have waiting lists very soon after registration opens. The number of boys who are attending these classes continues to grow each year which is very exciting. Several of the participants also sign up for our summer camps. Parents have expressed their appreciation for these opportunities which allow their children to participate in something rather than sports. I think we have targeted in on a vital need for the community and will continue the program again in the fall."

Many of the workshops this past year had a holiday theme or gave a sneak peek of our summer camp opportunities. They taught participants theater terminology, improved acting skills, and allowed for plays to be shared with parents at the end of some of the workshops. Our winter teen Eat and Act evening proved so popular that the library requested that we offer another workshop this summer.

We are taking a couple months break now and will begin offering them again in October. Check out Kirkendall Library's website (<http://www.ankenyiowa.gov/departments/library>) after September 15 or follow ACT on Facebook for information on these opportunities. Participants must register through Kirkendall Library.

Your Donations Make a Difference

How would you like to help us out and receive a tax deduction in the process? ACT is a nonprofit organization, so anytime you donate items to us, you can use it as a deduction. We can always use paper products such as toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, napkins, and cups as well as cleaning supplies. Cans of coffee and cases of pop and water for concessions are also welcome.

Our drama camp and library workshop programs are always in need of supplies and costumes as well. Check out the wish list at <http://www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com/uploads/2/9/5/5/29551733/campwishlist.pdf>.

Please email information@ankenycommunitytheater.com if you would like to donate items. Of course you can always donate financially and let us do the shopping. You may donate online at www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com or just write us a check.

Did You Know???

- * You may receive current ACT information by email and help us cut our mailing costs.
- * Many businesses have matching funds or pay for volunteer hours that employees spend working at nonprofit organizations. Check with your employer to see if you can take advantage of this to benefit ACT.
- * A great way to help ACT and celebrate birthdays, holidays, or anniversaries for those people who have everything is to give a monetary donation to ACT in the honoree's name.



1932 SW 3rd Street

Mailing Address: PO Box 122 Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Website: www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com

Email: information@ankenycommunitytheatre.com

Reservations: www.midwestix.com or (515) 244-2771

Camp: camp@ankenycommunitytheatre.com

ACT Calendar of Events

<i>The God Committee</i> Auditions	July 29 @ noon
<i>Unnecessary Farce</i> Performances	August 4-20
Early Bird Membership/Season Punch Card Deadline	August 26
Annual Membership Meeting	September 18
<i>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i> Performances	October 6-15
<i>The God Committee</i> Performances	November 2-5

Remember to like us on Facebook to keep up with all the current, up-to-date ACT information!