presents

# The Front Page



Written by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur Directed by Glenn Bugala

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## The Front Page

by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur

Director/Producer Glenn Bugala

Assistant Director/Stage Manager Michele Leshan

> Second Assistant Director Mary Milhaupt

> > Set Design Glenn Bugala

Set Construction Glenn Bugala Cast and Crew

Costume Design Joan Korastinsky

Costume Assistants
Martin Contreras
Cheryl Berteel
Emily Phenix
Barb Wells

Lighting Design Thom Johnson

Sound Design Glenn Bugala Producer Wendy Sielaff

Sound Operators

Jimmy Dee Arnold

Mary Milhaupt

Prop Design Mary Milhaupt

House Manager Khurum Sheikh

Publicity
Misty Mills
Angela Hurlbut

Office Staff Cassie Mann Suzi Peterson



Special thanks to:

John R. Milhaupt and Bob Milhaupt for the phones, Naked Furniture for the rental of the rolltop desk, Arbor Springs Water for the water jug, \`a• t\BAR for the opening night afterglow, Brian Harcourt, Curt Waugh and Dave Rowe for set work, Anne K-M and the Gabriel Richard High School for helping us move in, Steve Rubenstein, Judy Haggerty, Gregg Bugala, Amy Kullenberg, Wendy Wright, John Tebeau, and Emily – who just makes everything all right.

#### Director's Statement:

You are going to see a classic of the American Theatre. I am constantly amazed at its timeliness more than 70 years after it was written. We still are faced with a press that feeds on corruption, tries to influence political agendas, and even becomes part of the news. Look at the press's influence in Princess Diana's death, OJ Simpson's trial, and the recent presidential elections.

I am also constantly reminded of how well constructed the play is. This show is like a valentine to Ben Hecht's old Chicago newspaper days, which means, of course, that it is anything but sweet. It is gritty, tacky, and sweaty—befitting the "City of the Big Shoulders" (see poem below). This is a 1920's press room where they are covering an execution, a jailbreak, a shooting and political corruption—all just outside the window or down the hall!

It is also an ensemble piece of theatre, requiring actors to share focus and never let the pace lag. It takes a great deal of concentration to speak quickly to one set of people while listening to lines from the other side of the room. When "His Girl Friday" (which is based on *The Front Page*) came out, Howard Hawks said it contained some of the fastest-paced scenes ever shot for film. I have attacked this production in the same way--making the actors speak quickly and overlap each other's lines. It may take you a few minutes to get used to the fast pace, but I'm sure you will agree that the world of this play is funnier, crazier, and more tense because of it.

#### CHICAGO

by Carl Sandburg (1878 - 1967)

Hog Butcher for the World, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler; Stormy, husky, brawling, City of the Big Shoulders:

They tell me you are wicked and I believe them, for I have seen your painted women under the gas lamps luring the farm boys.

And they tell me you are crooked and I answer: Yes, it is true I have seen the gunman kill and go free to kill again.

And they tell me you are brutal and my reply is: On the faces of women and children I have seen the marks of wanton hunger.

And having answered so I turn once more to those who sneer at this my city, and I give them back the sneer and say to them:

Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning.

Flinging magnetic curses amid the toil of piling job on job, here is a tall bold slugger set vivid against the little soft cities;

Fierce as a dog with tongue lapping for action, cunning as a savage pitted against the wilderness,

Bareheaded, Shoveling, Wrecking, Planning, Building, breaking, rebuilding,

Under the smoke, dust all over his mouth, laughing with white teeth,

Under the terrible burden of destiny laughing as a young man laughs, Laughing even as an ignorant fighter laughs who has never lost a battle,

Bragging and laughing that under his wrist is the pulse. and under his ribs the heart of the people,

Laughing!

Laughing the stormy, husky, brawling laughter of Youth, half-naked, sweating, proud to be Hog Butcher, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads and Freight Handler to the Nation!

## Cast

in order of appearance

Kruger - ANDREW HOAG Endicott - STEVE MILLER Schwartz - STEVE HORNE Murphy - R.J. WHITE Wilson - JASON ATWOOD McCue - LARRY RUSINSKY Bensinger - RON APSEY Woodenshoes - BRIAN HARCOURT Diamond Louie - BRODIE H. BROCKIE Hildy Johnson – CARL HANNA Jennie - PAMELA VACHON Mollie Malloy - LAUREL HUFANO Sheriff Hartman - TODD ST. GEORGE Peggy Grant - EMILY PHENIX Mrs. Grant - LAURIE GREIG ATWOOD Mayor - TOM BEVERLY Mr. Pincus – JIMMY DEE ARNOLD Earl Williams - MICHAEL ROEHRIG Walter Burns - CHARLES SUTHERLAND Carl - TERRY GAMBINO Frank - JIM HAGGERTY Policeman 1 - TIM GRIMES

## Scene breakdown

Setting: Criminal Courts Building Press Room, Chicago, 1928

Act I: 8:30 PM

\* 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION \*

Act II: Twenty Minutes Later

Policeman 2 - DAVID ROWE

\* 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION \*

Act II: Five Minutes Later

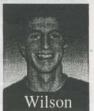
Please silence all cell phones and pagers during the performance.

#### Ron Apsey



Ron was seen in AACT's Six Degrees of Separation and Medea. In various community theaters around Michigan, Ron's been featured in Street Scene and Hotel Paradiso, and he had fun playing the Major General in The Pirates of Penzance and God's personal assistant in Steambath.

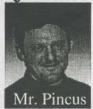
## **Jason Atwood**



Jason is dual enrolled at WCC and EMU. This is his acting debut with AACT, however, he was in the pit orchestra for AACT's Sound of Music and A Little Night Music. Jason is enjoying acting with his mother, and is thrilled to be under the direction of Glenn Bugala.

#### Jimmy Dee Arnold





Jimmy is glad to be onstage for the first time this millennium. Last season he played Carlton in Light Up The Sky. Other AACT roles include Chino in West Side Story, Fagin in Oliver and an apostle in Jesus Christ Superstar. This is an exciting year for Jimmy: he'll marry the love of his life, Linda, his son graduates from high school and in December he will direct Hellcah.

#### **Laurie Atwood**





great

Laurie has been seen in numerous shows with AACT during the past 20 years. Highlights include Amanda in *Private Lives*, Billie in *Born Yesterday*, and Mary Detweiler in *How the Other Half Loves*. Laurie is particularly excited to be in a show with her oldest son, Jason.

#### Tom Beverly





A recent transplant from Kalamazoo, Tom has appeared in local productions of The Sorcerer and The Mikado. This is his first show with Civic. He started acting at age 13 with the Kalamazoo

Civic, and dreams of eventually performing in every Shakespeare play (10 down, 27 to go!).

#### **Terry Gambino**



Terry is a complete neophyte to the world of theater. He is enjoying every minute of the experience and feels lucky and honored to be associated with such a talented group of people. Mr. Gambino is a retired educator who, with his wife Anna, own and operate a small tree farm in Lodi Township.

#### Brodie H. Brockie



Diamond Louie

Brockie is currently wanted for impersonating Jim Backus without a license for playing Tyler in AACT's Light Up the Sky. Also wanted for crimes against audiences with the Marshall Civic Players, especially as Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Jud in Oklahoma! Frequently spotted at www.capnwacky.com. Approach with caution.

#### **Tim Grimes**



Tim is thrilled to join the cast and crew of The Front Page. He just completed a stint playing "Lithium Bob" and producing Marvin's Room for Redbud Productions (a company founded by Tim and his wife Loretta). Tim has appeared in numerous AACT productions. He also enjoys assisting Loretta with acting classes for youth and adults, based on the teachings of Sanford Meisner.

#### **James Haggerty**



James is a newcomer to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. A native of Livonia, Jim now lives in Whitmore Lake with his wife and children. A manufacturers representative, Jim has long wanted to become active in community theatre, and hopes his role in *The Front Page* will be the first of many.

## Brian Harcourt



Like many actors, Brian began his career by embarrassing his parents when they had dinner guests. Despite maternal admonishments ("You'll only encourage him"), the laughter led to a theater degree and the founding of a local troupe, Suspension Theatre, in 1983. The Front Page represents his first performance in 15 years.

#### Carl Hanna



Carl's previous AACT credits include Scoop Rosenbaum in The Heidi Chronicles, Ezekiel Cheever in The Crucible, John in A Life in the Theater, and Eugene Gant in Look Homeward, Angel. He recently performed as Larry in Parked with Orpheus Productions. He would like to thank Glenn for this fantastic opportunity, and his family and friends for all their support and understanding.

#### **Andrew Hoag**



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Andrew has performed, directed, produced, designed and you-name-it, principally with AACT, Saline Area Players and Chelsea Area Players. Tonight marks his second straight show at Civic without protective facial hair. Andrew has a Ph.D. in history and is actually employed. As ever, he'd like to acknowledge Rebecca Groeb for gracefully sharing the same boat.

#### **Steve Horne**



Steve is appearing in his second AACT production. After portraying both the "naughty" jailer and the bartender in *Merchant of Venice*, (roles for which he won wide acclaim within his own family), Steve is pleased to have actual lines. He appreciates the opportunity to work with this talented troupe and the support of his family. Thanks to Glenn and Michele!

#### **Steve Miller**



Steve is intimidated being in a show where acting is actually crucial to the show's success. His other Civic productions include A Chorus Line, Steel Pier, How To Succeed in Business, and Jesus Christ Superstarnotice a trend? He misses the singing and dancing, but is excited to be part of such a funny and talented cast.

#### Laurel Hufano



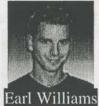
Laurel is downright bonkers about being part of this great production. With the exception of God: A Play, directed by Robert Hubbard, this is the first show in which Laurel has appeared in two and a half years. Heartfelt thanks to Glenn for trusting her with the role and Michael Roehrig for telling her about the auditions (two hours beforehand).

## **Emily Phenix**



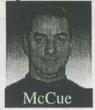
The Front Page marks Emily's third production with AACT since moving to Michigan in 1999. Emily appeared in last season's productions of Steel Pier (Rita Racine) and Light Up the Sky (Irene Livingston). She has worked as an actress and singer in New York City and around the country. Emily lives in Saline with husband Matthew and dog Rudy.

### **Michael Roehrig**



Michael is pleased to be appearing in his first AACT production. In college, he performed in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Jean Anouilh's Antigone. In high school, Michael worked on several productions with fellow castmate Laurel Hufano.

#### Larry Rusinsky



Larry has appeared in AACT's productions of *The Glass Menagerie*,

The Nerd, and Noises Off, and in MorrisCo Art Theater's Uncle Vanya and Arcadia. Three times named Best Actor by the Ann Arbor News, he will appear in MorrisCo's Hedda Gabler in May 2001.

## **David Rowe**



David is glad to have moved with the theater to its new location, with hopes of finding a better one. David's previous roles include Field Hand #1 and several others roles in *Big River*, Nazi Lieutenant #3 in *Sound of Music*, and Second Guy from the Left (Headband Boy) in *A Chorus Line*.

## Todd St. George



Sheriff Hartman

Todd first performed with AACT as Sam Gossett and Robert Sinclair in 813: American Fiction in 1999. That year, he was nominated for an ANDY Award for Best Supporting Dramatic Actor, as Juror #9 in the Clark Lake Players' Twelve Angry Men. Last fall, he portrayed a crazed scientist in Biker Zombies from Detroit, an independent

low-budget movie which was submitted to the Toronto Film Festival.

#### **Charles Sutherland**





Walter Burns

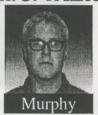
Charlie has been a member at AACT for thirty years! His first show was Man of La Mancha in 1970. He has acted, directed, designed and produced through five buildings. He is sorry to lose the last one, our "permanent home," but it is clear that AACT is not where we are, but who we are. Charlie believes in theatre in Ann Arbor, and that it really belongs downtown! Many thanks to The Performance Network, The Gilbert and Sullivan Society, The University of Michigan, Washtenaw Community College, and Jim Posante! Keep Theatre alive!

#### Pamela Vachon



1) This is Pamela's non-musical production. 2) Pamela was last seen in Civic's production of Little Shop of Horrors as . 3) Pamela would like to thank . Answers: 1) First. But who wouldn't audition for a show where the men-to-women ratio was 5 to 1? 2) Audrey. But don't think I don't know that some of you thought you'd be funny and answer the psychotic dentist. 3) Bob Vila, of course. He can fix almost anything!

#### R. J. White



Mr. White's role will be played by Mr. Anderson Jeffries on every second consecutive night of this production.

He is the one of average height, wearing a hat. A dark hat. They would each like to thank their parents and Sara, which creates quite a bit of confusion for everyone.

## Glenn Bugala



Director

Glenn has been involved in many shows with AACT. He acted in Bye Bye Birdie, A Chorus Line, Merchant of Venice, Taming of the Shrew and Blithe Spirit, produced City of Angels, and directed A Little Night Music. He was also in The Lights with Performance Network. During the past two years, he directed five productions for Father Gabriel Richard High School.

including Godspell and A Midsummer Night's Dream. This summer, he directed Adjective Arts' Michigan premiere production of Little by Little. Glenn enjoyed a successful six-year professional acting career in Chicago, where he received 1/4 of a Joseph Jefferson Citation for Best Ensemble (Bouncers). He studied acting at the University of MI--Flint (BA in Theatre) and Purdue University (MFA in Performance). This production marks his 90th since he started

acting 24 years ago. He wishes to thank his wife Emily for her patience and open ear.

#### Michele Leshan



#### Assistant Director/Stage Manger

Michele has a unique appreciation for *The Front Page*, having acted- or readin most of the characters. In her 11 years of theater, she has never been involved in a faster paced show. Much love to those with whom she likes to slow down and relax. (You know who you are!) Unending gratitude to Steve.

#### **Mary Milhaupt**



Second Assistant Director

This is Mary's first AACT production. She's also a techie and builds sets for UMGASS, including their recent production, *The Sorcerer*, and the upcoming *HMS Pinafore*. She was assistant stage manager for Comic Opera Guild's production of *El Capitan*. Mary is an active member of Kalamazoo's Silver Leaf Renaissance Faire, where she has a standing role as Mariar the Moher: Ticketseller, Sign Mistress and Baudy Wench!

#### Other bios

Wendy Sielaff (Producer)

This is Wendy's first time producing for AACT, although she has done this thankless job many times. (She produces because she has directed without a producer and it's extremely difficult.) Wendy recently directed Little Shop of Horrors. She has also been seen on stage in many shows, including Big River, How to Succeed In Business, and Guys and Dolls. Wendy is anxious for AACT to get on with business and do what they do best - great theater!

Thom Johnson (Lighting designer)
TJ splits his time between acting, directing and lighting design. He most recently designed lights for Marvin's Room at the Riverside Arts Center.
He has designed lights in all 4 of AACT's

"homes."

Joan Korastinsky (Costume designer)
Joan's past show designs include Hamlet, A Little
Night Music, and Big River, among others. She
spends every other weekend playing with her
three grandchildren. Joan works part time as a
case manager and teaches cooking classes in her
home twice a month. Break-a-leg cast!

Misty Mills (Promotions)

Misty is getting used to being behind the scenes, having done advertising for Little Shop of Horrors prior to this production. She has appeared on the AACT stage in Romeo & Juliet and more recently in The Heidi Chronicles, although she was easier to recognize when she had her trademark waist-length red hair and her maiden name, Dunaway. She also enjoys working on her webpage, www.mistymills.com. Thanks for coming to see the revival of AACT!

Angela Hurlbut (Promotions)

Angie is honored to again assist on an AACT production. She was last seen placing props for *The Fantasticks* and now joins us as half the publicity committee, having worked on advertising for *Little Shop of Horrors*. She hopes to soon be on stage in an AACT production. Thanks for coming and please enjoy the show!

Everyone here at AACT believes this production heralds our continuing success. Thanks for coming to see the show!

#### Headlines and happenings from 1928

Compiled by Misty Mills, Angela Hurlbut and Glenn Bugala

At the Olympic games held in Amsterdam, the United States won the most medals with a tally of 22 gold medals, 18 bronze medals and 16 silver medals. The grand total came to 56 medals! In second place was Germany with 31 total medals.

01/12/1928 Adulteress and murderer Ruth Snyder is executed in the electric chair at New York's Sing Sing prison.

01/30/1928 Eugene O'Neill's *Strange Interlude* premiers on Broadway. 05/09/1928 The electron microscope is invented by Max Knoll and Ernest Ruska.

05/11/1928 General Electric begins first regularly scheduled television broadcasts, 3 days a week for 2 hours each at station WGY in Schenectady, NY.

06/17/1928 Amelia Earhart is first woman to make transatlantic flight.10/15/1928 Germany's Graf Zeppelin dirigible arrives at Lakehurst, NJ.

11/06/1928 Herbert Hoover elected U.S. president.

11/10/1928 "Win one for the Gipper!" An underdog, injury-ridden Notre Dame football team goes up against the heavily favored, undefeated Army team. Using the deathbed words of the late Notre Dame star George Gipp (AKA "The Gipper," who died in 1920) to "win just one for the Gipper" in a hopeless situation, coach Knute Rockne rallies his players to an unlikely 12-6 win. 11/12/1928 The British steamer Vestris sinks in a storm off the coast of Virginia, killing 113. The U.S. press hypes the story sensationally.

#### Birthdays from 1928:

01/05/1928 Walter Mondale, Vice-President

01/26/1928 Eartha Kitt, singer

02/26/1928 Fats Domino, Singer

03/12/1928 Edward Albee, playwright: "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf"

03/31/1928 Gordie Howe, hockey player

04/23/1928 Shirley Temple Black, actress/ambassador

08/09/1928 Jimmy Dean, actor

10/21/1928 Whitey Ford, NY Yankee pitcher.

10/25/1928 Marion Ross, actress best known for "Happy Days"

11/18/1928 Mickey Mouse, sired by Walt Disney's pen.

12/20/1928 Dr. Joyce Brothers

#### Chicago newspapers of the 1920s

Chicago American Chicago Daily News Chicago Defender Chicago Evening Post Chicago Herald-Examiner Chicago Journal

Chicago Tribune

# Play Selection Begins for 2001-02 Season by David Keren

The AACT Play Selection Committee is about to begin considering

submissions for our next season. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please call us at (734) 971-AACT or email manager@a2ct.org by March 29. Be sure to leave your email address and a reliable phone number so we can contact you. The committee's first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 8 at 1:00 PM.

We are seeking directors and proposals for two musicals and two plays (comedy or drama) for the 2001-02 season. Application forms are available at the AACT office and at the AACT website

Join Us After The Show

Across Fourth Avenue from the Farmer's Market in Ann Arbor's Historic Kerrytown District

Ass Arber's saly gay-wood and operated but and cash serving the mer and varies of the gay commantly

315 Braun Ct. \* Ann Arbor, Mi \* 734-994-3677 www.autbar.com \* autbar@aol.com

located at www.a2ct.org. Deadline for receipt of the application is Friday, April 6, 2001.

Directors will be asked to submit a resume describing previous theater and directing experience, three references and a description of their concept of the production (including set, costumes and lights). Lastly, the directors will need to suggest a producer who will work with them for the production. Don't miss this chance to participate in the future of A2's open audition community theater!

#### From the President...

By Tiff Crutchfield

Welcome to the first Ann Arbor Civic Theatre show in our new downtown home. The six months since our last show have been challenging to say the least. We've had to make some tough decisions and there have been many changes at AACT. We can all take pride in the fact that we acted responsibly in the face of tremendous adversity and that we've preserved the values and ideals that make

Civic Theatre unique among the diverse local amateur theatre groups.

In the process. we've acquired new focus and new openness and we're more committed than ever keeping AACT a strong and vital part of our community. We've always had the right approach to theater, and this spring's shows will continue our tradition of providing not iust the best amateur productions around, but some of the best theater of any kind available in this area. Now we need to strengthen our approach to community, to make sure AACT welcomes and supports all who want to participate and creates great opportunities to spread the joy of theater as widely as possible.



Thanks to Glenn Bugala and his dedicated and talented cast and crew, AACT picks up where we left off without missing a beat. For the first time in a long time, our future is wide open and full of possibilities. Thank you for sticking with us. Let's move forward together.

# Evita Auditions Set for March 24-26 by Kyle Matthews

Auditions for *Evita* (June 7-11 at Lydia Mendelssohn Theater) are approaching fast. In addition to five principals, we have 32 company roles to cast (16 men, 16 women)! We will hold separate auditions for each of the three leads (Eva, Che and Peron) plus two general auditions, for the company and the roles of Magaldi and the Mistress. If you want to be considered for both a lead and a role in the company, plan to attend one of the company auditions as well as the audition for the lead you want. All persons interested in auditioning should prepare the materials listed for their audition; music will be available beginning Monday, March 5 at the AACT office. Eva and the company will have a short dance audition as well as vocals.

#### **Audition for Eva**

Saturday, March 24, 12:00-2:00 PM Vocals: "Hey Big Spender" and "Lament"

#### **Audition for Che and Peron**

Saturday, March 23, 2:00-4:00 PM

Che vocals: "Waltz" (bars 1-20) and "Monday" (bars 1-26). Peron vocals: "A New Argentina" (bars 129-144) and "She is a Diamond" (bars 25-40)

#### Auditions for the Company, Magaldi and the Mistress

Saturday, March 24, 5:00-9:00 PM Sunday, March 25, 3:30-7:30 PM (attend one session only) Vocals: "A New Argentina" (bars 86-100) and "Santa Evita" (bars

1-16)

#### Callbacks

Monday, March 26, 7:00-11:00 PM The callback list will be posted by Sunday, March 25 at 10:00 PM

## **Announcing Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Town Meetings** by Anne Bauman

Civic Theatre has gotten its AACT together and we're takin' it "on the road!" Well, actually that means that AACT is alive and well and has moved down the road – temporarily – to the old Performance Network space at 408 W. Washington.

Where we go from here is currently under active discussion. Many options are being considered. What's needed now is input from you to help determine the direction AACT should choose for the future. We can't be a community theatre without knowing the wishes of the community!

Two Town Meetings have been scheduled to try to accommodate people's schedules: Thursday, March 22 at 2:30 PM and Saturday, March 24 at 1:00 PM. Both meetings will take place at AACT Downtown at 408 W. Washington. The agenda will be the same at both meetings and will include:

- · a chance to check out AACT's current space
- an opportunity to meet AACT board members and members of the newly formed Strategic Planning Committee
- information-sharing about possible options for the theatre
- · an opportunity to ask questions and express your opinions
- · a chance to enjoy refreshments and catch up with old friends
- as always, if you wish to volunteer to help AACT move forward on our exciting new venture, we would love to have you become involved!

This is not an emergency meeting! It also will not be just another dull meeting. Many of you are interested in keeping community theater a viable part of Ann Arbor. We are excited about moving forward – eager for you to be a part of it all. Now is the time to hop on board as AACT moves toward new and exciting opportunities. As extra incentive, one free ticket to our June production of *Evita* will be given to each person who attends one of these meetings.