# The Musical Comedy Murders WHAT HAPPEN REUNITE THE CR

By John Bishop

of 1940

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REUNITE THE CREATIVE TEAM FROM AN ILL-FATED BROADWAY SHOW?

WHO WAS THE STAGE DOOR SLASHER, ANYWAY?

DON'T MISS THIS MURDEROUS SPOOF, IT'S NOT REALLY A MUSICAL; BUT IT'S DEFINITELY A COMEDY!

> DIRECTED BY JAN KOENGETER



WEDNESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8 PM SATURDAY MATINEE AT 2 PM

AT THE LYDIA MENDELSSOHN THEATRE

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## Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's MainStreet Series Presents The 1990-91 Season:

## □ Directors Choice □

MainStreet's 1990-91 Season of Favorites:

## h Wilderness! Sept. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, Oct. 4, 5, 6, 1990

by Eugene O'Neill; directed by Susan Morris

In his only true comedy, O'Neill spins a marvelous tale of family life the way he, himself, always hoped it

## The Rimers of Eldritch Nov. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 1990

by Lanford Wilson; directed by Anne Kolaczkowski Magee

From master playwright Lanford Wilson comes a haunting exploration of small town closeness and its corrupting effects on the people of Eldritch.

## She Loves Me Feb. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 1991

by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick; directed by Mary Anne Nemeth

This lighthearted musical weaves the story of two irritable lovers who despise each other in person but fall in love by mail.

# Λ Day in the Death of Joe Egg Apr. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 1991

by Peter Nichols; directed by Dana Buck

Considered by many to be one of the finest theatrical works in recent years, this dark comedy explores an English couple's attempt to cope humorously and poignantly with their daughter's handicap.

## Crimes of the Heart Jul. 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 1991

by Beth Henley: directed by Audrey LaVelle

Three eccentric sisters are reunited under unusual circumstances in this engaging Southern comedy.

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#### THE WINNING SEASON

MainStreet's lineup is comprised of outstanding plays and the directors who love them. Each year, MainStreet is approached by some of the area's best directors with plays they've always wanted to showcase. Five directors and their plays are chosen to constitute MainStreet's season. The result is a compendium of delightful, provoking, entertaining—award-winning—productions crafted lovingly by talented, committed artists.

#### Five Plays for the Price of Four!

MainStreet is again this year offering a season pass. While seating is general, the MainStreet pass gives you five admissions to any of the 1990-91 plays for the price of four. Admissions can be grouped in any way you likeone for each show, five for one show, or any combination you choose. Get your season pass by filling out and mailing in this order form, Passes, like individual tickets, can also be purchased at

The AACT MainStreet Theatre is handicap accessible.

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# The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940

By John Bishop DIRECTED BY JAN KOENGETER

June 20-23, 1990

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REUNITE THE CREATIVE TEAM FROM AN ILL-FATED BROADWAY SHOW? . WHO WAS THE STAGE DOOR SLASHER, ANYWAY? . DON'T MISS THIS MURDEROUS SPOOF. . IT'S NOT REALLY A MUSICAL; BUT IT'S DEFINITELY A COMEDY!

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Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

The University of Michigan forbids smoking in any part of the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre.

## Director's Notes

Every now and then a director is lucky enough to get to work with a terrific cast and a truly funny script. Everyone gets to spend a lot of rehearsal time cracking each other up while creating wild and zany bits of business. The director gets to use almost every piece of schtick she's ever seen on stage or film. The actors get to play their strongly defined characters with very broad strokes. Since they're not only talented, but also brave and willing to "look foolish," the actors get to play their scenes to the hilt...pull out all the stops...really go for it in a big way. And as for the audience members? They get to enjoy the results by taking a total break from the worries or concerns of real life and spend a couple of hours at the theatre experiencing a play with absolutely no message...no social comment...just laughs and pure escapism. Have funl

Jan Koenaeter

## Synopsis of Scenes

All of the action of this play takes place in the library of the VonGrossenKnueten mansion in Chappagua, New York, over the span of one late night and the following wintry day and evening.

Act One, Scene One

Act One, Scene Two

Act One, Scene Three

Midnight.

The next morning.

Same day, 4:00 p.m.

INTERMISSION —

Act Two

One continuous scene, beginning at 5:00 p.m. on the same day.

## The Cast (In order of appearance)

Helsa Wenzel (The Maid) Audrey LaVelle
*Mysterious Figure Dressed in Black Gene Gaunt
Elsa VonGrossenKnueten (The Hostess) Tricia Perkins
Michael Kelly (The Police Sergeant) J. Ricardo Hunt
Patrick O'Reilly (The Irish Tenor)Rod Bogart
Ken De La Maize (The Director) Conrad Mason
Nikki Crandall (The Chorus Girl)
Eddle McCuen (The Comedian)
Marjorie Baverstock (The Producer) Rebecca L. Zarna
Roger Hopewell (The Composer) Neil Clennan
Bernice Roth (The Lyricist) Jennifer A. Perry
Radio Announcer's VoiceJeff Zupan

<sup>\*</sup>The Mysterious Figure, who appears several times throughout the play, is actually one (or more?) of the other characters...in disguise. Can you figure out who? Here's a hint: Some of these people are not really who you think they are. Good luckl

## The Staff

Director Jan Koengeter	Lighting Designer Pete Halloran
Assistant Director Judy Ripple	Sound Designer/Special Effects Bob Carbeck
Producer Steve Sheldon	Costume Designer Deborah Clark
Stage Manager Yehudit "Deet" Newman	Make-Up Designers Joelene & Mark Brzezinski
Set Designer Jeff Zupan	Hair Dresser Drew Martin
Set Builder Tod More	Properties Shirley Mallette



## The Crew

Set

Tracey Boyle Pete Drescher Edie Faye Jill Gunnell Jay Reichert Kate Restrick Barbara Wells

## Props

Ted Farah Liz Kersmarki John Moga Catherine Moore Ann VanDeMark

## Costumes

Iris Fuchs

## Stage Managing Jason Feinman

Sound

Sound Jill Ripple

## Lights

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## **Acknowlegements**

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John Krueger—Ann Arbor composei/musician/conductor, composed the music that accompanies playwright John Bishop's lyrics of the two partial songs performed in this production. Our heartlest THANKS to you, Johl

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## **About The Cast**

ROD BOGART (Patrick O'Reilly [The Irish Tenor]) is making his second stage appearance with AACT, having previously been seen as The Deputy in THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. Rod has been involved in stand-up and Improv comedy in Salt Lake City, and is currently employed as Technical Director at the University of Michigan Advanced Visualization Facility.

NEIL CLENNAN (Roger Hopewell [The Composer]) took a drama class his freshman year at Harrison High School to get over his shyness, and ended up falling in love with acting. He attended Mid-Michigan Community College, and performed in eight plays at the community theatre there, including TWO BY TWO, MAN OF LA MANCHA, PIP. PIN, and MACBETH. He then joined the Clare County Civic Players for three shows, and Central Michigan University's production of THE IMAGINARY INVALID. In Ann Arbor, Neil was first seen by AACT audiences in BRIGADOON, returns tonight in MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS..., and works at the University of Michigan Computing Center.

GENE GAUNT (Mysterious Figure Dressed in Black) gladly lost his sanity twelve years ago when he began touring with the Rosier Players Old-Time Tent Show as pianistarranger, where he spent twelve long hot summers under the big top. This period also included stints as stake driver, rope puller, shaving intror finder, canvas holder-downer, popcorr cooker-upper, sunburn peeler-offer, mud digger-outer, and mosquito-swatter-offa-my-back while playing ragtime. His audiences included thousands of kids, hundreds of inveterate rural families, one mule, and six beetles. This year, Gene is a member of The Goodtime Players, and is the accompanist for the Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. With AACT, he has appeared as Harry in CHICAGO, and as Del in DAMN YANKEES. To aid and abet his hobby of collecting federal reserve notes, Gene also has a BS degree in Computer Science from Michigan State University, and is employed as an Assembly Language Programmer.

J. RICARDO HUNT (Michael Kelly [The Police Sergeant]) makes his first appearance on AACT's stage in this show. He has played Mr. Bumble in OLIVERI, Snoopy in YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN, and The Jester in ONCE UPON A MATTRESS at Ypsilanti High School. Ric graduated from the University of Maryland in 1980, and is currently a Programmer/Analyst at Spring Arbor Distributors.

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#### STAFF

LIGHTING FOR "MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940" DESIGNED AND EXECUTED BY GRIFF GARMERS AND KATHRYN LAMBERT.

#### ABOUT THE STAFF

GRIFF GARMERS and KATHRYN LAMBERT (Lighting Design Team) have experience in all facets of theatre production. This is their first show with AACT. In real life Kathryn teaches drama and Griff is a woodworker.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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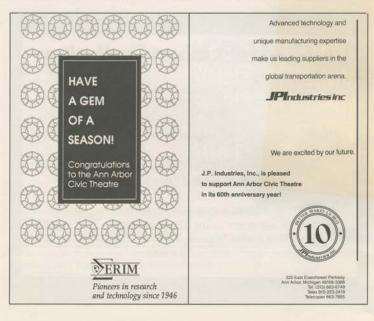
ALEX IRVINE (Eddie McCuen [The Comedian]) MURDERS... Is Alex's first show with AACT. He is a soon-to-be senior at the University of Michigan, where he has appeared in THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS, THE TROJAN WOMEN, THE THREEPENNY OPERA, and THE FANTASTICKS, among others. During the summer of 1989, he performed in eight shows with the American Stage Festival in Militord, New Hampshire, an Equity summer theatre.

AUDREY LaVELLE (Helsa Wenzel [The Maid]) This is Audrey's second appearance on AACT's stage; last October, audiences were thrilled by her performance as Helena Landless in THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. She has also been seen as a Chorus Maiden in THE MIKADO, and as Assistant Director for IOLANTHE for the University of Michigan Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Audrey will make her directorial debut in next season's AACT MainStreet production of CRIMES OF THE HEART.

MARGARET LEWIS (Nikki Crandall [The Chorus Giri]) has been involved in theatre since ninth grade, when she began work as a tech at Chelsea High School and with the Chelsea Area Players (CAP). She then travelled to Albion College where she was Dulcie in THE BOYFRIEND. Later, at the Black Sheep Theatre, she played Libby in I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES. Since 1983, Marge has appeared with CAP as lead choreen and techle. She currently works with The Goodtime Players, where—away from her "real" job as book clerk at Borders Book Shop—she plays a boy named Verry, Cinderella, and Hank the dog. Marge also works for the Ann Arbor Community Education and Recreation Department as drama teacher and Junior Theatre producer.

CONRAD MASON (Ken De La Maize [The Director]) has been active in local community theatre groups for over 25 years. He directed AACT'S BRIGADOON this season, and moved immediately from that production to this... in which he plays The Director, of course! Conrad's other directing credits include ANYTHING GOES, THE ODD COUPLE, BLITHE SPIRIT, and THE CURIOUS SAVAGE. On stage, he recently appeared as Tevye in FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, and also has been seen in THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD, INHERIT THE WIND, ANYTHING GOES, and roles in 31 other productions. Conrad also serves as Secretary to the AACT Board of Directors. In his spare time, he works as a consulting meteorologist and as a computer systems consultant at the University of Michigan.

TRICIA PERKINS (Elsa VonGrossenKnueten [The Hostess]) was most recently seen as Claire Clairmont in BLOOD AND ICE at Performance Network. Her experience also includes several shows at Grand Valley State College where she completed her undergraduate degree. Tricia is currently an instructor at the University of Michigan.



JENNIFER A. PERRY (Bernice Roth [The Lyricist]) also premieres on AACT's stage tonight. She has most recently been seen in the University of Michigan Musical Theatre production of THE THREEPENNY OPERA as Molly, and as Miss Mona in THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS. Jennifer is a recent graduate of U of M, and plans to pursue a career in musical theatre.

REBECCA L. ZARNA (Marjorie Baverstock [The Producer]) This is Becky's first show with AACT; however, in a former life, she graduated from Eastern Michigan University in Theatre, and then travelled extensively doing the dinner theatre circuit. In her current life, Becky is working for the Ann Arbor Community Education and Recreation Department as a drama teacher and Goodtime Player, and is planning to marry Hamburger Mike from Ypsilanti.

JEFF ZUPAN (Radio Announcer's Voice) Please see "About the Staff."



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## **About The Staff**

JOELENE & MARK BRZEZINSKI (Make-Up Designers) are delighted to be participating in their sixth AACT production. On stage, and off, this husband and wife team have theatre in their blood. In addition to designing make-up for hundreds of shows, Mark and Joelene can be seen in the Ann Arbor area performing their variety/ventriloquist act, "Him and Me and Dummy Make Three"

BOB CARBECK (Sound Designer and Special Effects) After a short absence, Bob has come to his senses and returned to the AACT fold. In addition to one brief, speechless appearance on stage in INHERIT THE WIND, Bob has worked behind the scenes for such AACT productions as THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD, THE LION IN WINTER, THE REAL THING, WONDERFUL TOWN and BORN YESTERDAY.

DEBORAH CLARK (Costume Designer) recently assisted with costumes for TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD. Her other theatre experience includes costume design and construction for a myriad of productions with Young Peoples' Theatre, Performance Network, and the Attic Theatre of Detroit. Though her background is in natural resources, Deborah finds herself thoroughly intoxicated with the world of theatre.

PETE HALLORAN (Lighting Designer) started in show business twenty-one years ago as a classical vocalist, gradually changing his focus to technical theatre. He has served as a freelance lighting designer in Pennsylvania, California, Georgia, Oregon, and now Michigan. He has also worked as technical director, set designer, stage manager, make-up artist, and is presently opening his own art studio in An Arbor.

JAN KOENGETER (Director) received the AACT award for Best Musical production in 1987, 1988, and 1989, on behalf of DAMN YANKEES, THE MUSIC MAN, and MAME. Jan has also served on AACT's MainStage Play Selection Committee for two years, and was Co-Chair last year. As the Performing Arts Specialist for Ann Arbor Community Education and Recreation, Jan administers several different programs including the youth classes in Foreign Language Studies; all of the drama and theatre classes for both youth and adults; the Artists-in-Schools Project; Cultural Arts Summer Day Camp; Mini-Matinee Series; Mid-day Mid-town Music Series; the Junior Theatre Program; and The Goodtime Players. Yet, she still manages to find time to occasionally perform andor direct for area community theatre groups including the Chelsea Area Players and the Saline Area Players, in addition to AACT, in 1988, Jan played the role of Elsa VonGrossenKneufen in the Novi Players' production of THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940.

**SHIRLEY MALLETTE** (Properties) has been active in many production areas for AACT, and has also worked on several productions for Comic Opera Guild. When not working for AACT or the University of Michigan, Shirley enjoys blke riding and running.

**DREW MARTIN** (Hair Dresser) has been with Shear Impact of Ann Arbor for nine years. He is a Board member of the Performance Network and stylist and make-up artist for numerous productions there. Drew has done hair and make-up for the University of Michigan School of Music, including the Theatre Department. He plans to open with Cappelli Salons in Ann Arbor this summer.



**TOD MORE** (Set Builder) has been active in many AACT productions, designing lights for MAME, THE MUSIC MAN, and BORN YESTERDAY. Away from AACT, Tod was the lighting designer and special effects coordinator for the Dearborn Players' production of TOMMY. Tod has also been the Technical Director for the Ann Arbor Community Education and Recreation Junior Theatre Co.

YEHUDIT "DEET" NEWMAN (Stage Manager) has stage managed with AACT for the last three years, including I'M NOT RAPPAPORT, BULLSHOT CRUMMOND, and THE REAL THING, after twenty years designing props, running crew and costumes. In addition to being a puppetmaker, Deet is the Senior Leader at the Jewish Community Center, and Mommy to two cute little boys. She says both jobs have a lot in common with stage-managing!

JUDY RIPPLE (Assistant Director) has been an enthusiastic "behind-the-scenes" member of AACT since 1988. Judy's various activities include set painting, running props, and doing sound. She also has been a member of the MainStage and MainStreet Play Selection Committees, and is Librarian and Paint Shop Manager.

Steve Sheldon (Producer) is producing his first show for AACT. Steve last appeared on stage in AACT's GUYS AND DOLLS. Before arriving on the AACT stage, Steve appeared in the Saline Area Players' OKLAHOMA, BRIGADOON, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, THE MUSIC MAN, MAME, and INHERIT THE WIND. In real life, Steve is an administrator at a local mental health clinic.

JEFF ZUPAN (Set Designer/Radio Announcer's Voice) divides his AACT time between designing/building sets (PLAZA SUITE, BORN YESTERDAY, THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD), and stage managing (ARSENIC AND OLD LACE, BORN YESTERDAY, THE LION IN WINTER, PLAY IT AGAIN SAM, BRIGADOON). He also builds sets for Comic Opera Guild, and has, on occasion, found himself onstage (AMADEUS and MAME). During the day, Jeff can be found in the "real life" construction industry.



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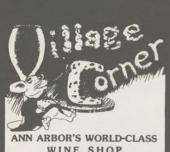


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