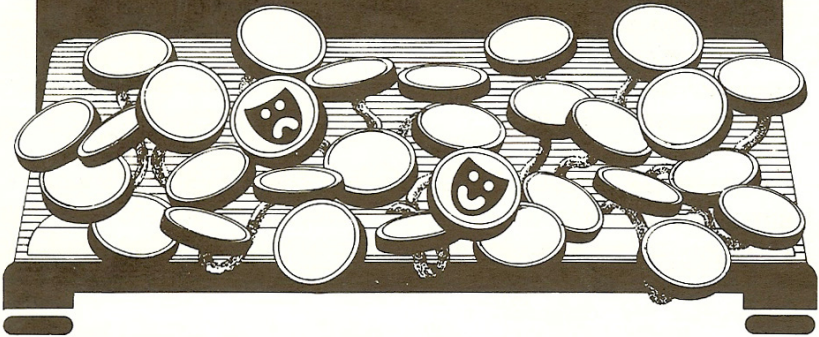


Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa

24th Annual Original One Act Festival

FEATURING WISCONSIN PLAYWRIGHTS



Friday & Saturday – 8:00 PM
May 8, 9, 15 & 16
2009

Alchemist Theatre

www.villageplayhouse.org

Welcome to the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa's 24th Annual Wisconsin Playwrights Original One Act Play Festival. We with the VPW take great pride in being the longest continuous such playfest in Wisconsin. It is a privilege that authors from around the State entrust us with their work and it is our joy to create world premiers for you.

Producing new plays brings out the truest meaning of community in Community Theatre. Collaboration is the key in making a whole greater than its sum part. From words on a page the show is given life by a director and actors. Scripts are submitted and selected- interpreted by a director- rewritten- rehearsed by actors- rewritten- blocked- reblocked- given sets costumes and lighting- publicized and finally performed for an audience. The number of people who have already contributed to this festival nears 100 and each deserves a special thanks for their love of theatre and commitment to providing an outlet for new works. Yet those who contribute the most are sitting in seats and watching our work. We could not produce these festivals if the audiences didn't continue to support original work. THANK YOU!

Next year we'll celebrate 25 years of one act plays and we're planning some special events. We'd love for you to be part of our silver anniversary so please sign up for our mailing list.

Finally, please take a moment after the show to vote for our Encore Fan Favorite awards. Ballots will be in the lobby, so stay, enjoy a Bay View Lounge libation and vote for your One Act Festival Favorites.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Beckley', is centered below the text.

2009 One Act Festival Selection Committee

Larry Beckley
Bob Kafka

Judy Lee Tarbox
Tom Zuehlke

How It All Began

In 1984 the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa Board of Directors was presented with a proposal. A playwrights group was looking for a venue to present some of its work. The VPW was looking for a reward for its season ticket holders and the Mini-Theatre Players of Wauwatosa were looking for a means to produce the winners in a play writing contest they had held the year before. The proposal? – a festival of original one act plays. Thus the First Annual Original One Act Festival was born. The reaction was positive on several fronts:

- The playwrights were happy; they had a chance to see their work on stage.
- The audiences were happy; they saw plays that no one else had ever had a chance to see.
- The VPW was happy, they had managed to serve two different constituencies and put a few dollars in the coffers while doing it.

Over the years the festival has gone through a number of changes. Originally the festival had two different sets of shows presented on different nights. That format was eventually dropped when the production logistics became overwhelming. The search for scripts now extends to playwrights throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Despite the changes, the spirit has remained the same. It's still a forum to give both new and experienced playwrights and directors a chance to practice and hone their respective crafts. And while the production values have increased, the goal is to emphasize the writing and performance, not create a technical spectacle.

One act plays have become more popular in Milwaukee over the years as can be seen by the number of "One Act Festivals" that have been, and continue to be, produced at both the community and professional level. The VPW is proud to have been the first (and we like to think the best) to implement the concept of an original one act play festival.

Please

- ◆ Silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.
- ◆ Refrain from photographing or otherwise recording any portion of a performance.
- ◆ Refrain from texting or otherwise using cell phones during the performances.

Three Little Words

by Ryan McDaniel

Director Sean Cundy

Dimitre Matthew Lovison

Steve..... Clarence Aumend

Talia Laura Bambrick

Cassie Katlin Drew

Cliff Dwelling

by Kaitlin Dorsey

DirectorJoan Williamson

Man Paul Weir

Woman 1 Mary Lynn Ferwerda

Woman 2Sandy Wyss

One Step Braver

by Nick Schweitzer

Director Jerry Proffitt

Georgia, Josephine..... Lindsay Audette

Barbara, Donna Brianna Brouchoff

Mrs. Glatthorn, Madalyn Murray.....Julie Brouchoff

Mr. Carroll, Justice Black, Ed,

Justice Clark, Mr. Robertson Art Carter

John, Chief Justice Warren, Justice Stewart Jason Didier

Ellory Schempp..... Tod Herdt

Attorney SawyerJohn Reavy

Vera, Regina Emily Taylor

Intermisssion

The Monster in the Basement

by Rand Higbee

Director Kai Simone-Issa

Christine..... Stephanie Lowery

Doris..... Judy Lee Tarbox

James..... Tod Herdt

Timmy..... Dominic Lentz

Policeman..... Eddie Ngwa

The Service

by Mike Willis

Director Laura Kohn-La Pinske

The Woman..... Breanna Andrews

The Customer..... Mike La Pinske

The Boss..... Brad Hightdudis

Production Staff

Producer Tom Zuehlke

Assistant Producer/Stage Manager Larry Beckley

Sound Tom Wessel

Sound Designer..... Tim Kietzman

Lighting..... Bob Kafka

Props Mary Wessel, casts

Costumes..... Rosie Peterson, casts

Run Crew Mary Wessel

Program..... Bob Kafka

Original One Act Logo Deb Pipkorn

Posters..... Sandra Wyss

Publicity Tom Jackson, Rosie Peterson, Sandra Wyss

Set Design/Construction Larry Beckley, casts, crew

Our Playwrights

Kaitlin Dorsey (Playwright – *Cliff Dwelling*) Kaitlin was raised in Wauwatosa and graduated from Carroll College in 2005. While at Carroll, she earned her degree with a double major of Theatre-Set Design Emphasis and English- Writing Emphasis. As a part of her theatre major, Kaitlin was able to design the sets for Carroll's productions of *The Laramie Project* and *Extremities*. She also built the sets for every production during her four years. Kaitlin is thrilled to have her one-act play, *Cliff Dwelling*, produced. She has written freelance articles for Outpost Natural Food's Exchange magazine, and is currently working on other writing endeavors including plays, children's books, and young adult novels.

Rand Higbee (Playwright – *The Monster in the Basement*) Rand grew up in Spearfish, South Dakota, and obtained a theatre degree from South Dakota State University and an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. While at UNLV, his first full-length play, *Sir Isaac's Duel*, was named as an alternate to the National American College Theatre Festival held at the Kennedy Center. A former high school teacher, Rand has published several one-acts for students including *Next!* which has been performed by nearly 200 schools in the last five years. His play *The Head That Wouldn't Die* was presented at the Last Frontier Theatre Conference, and played a four week run at Cyrano's Playhouse in Anchorage, Alaska. Currently, living in Hager City and his newest play *The Lightning Bug* has helped him be named as one of the Wisconsin Wrights playwrights for 2009.

Ryan McDaniel (Playwright – *Three Little Words*) Ryan is a senior theatre major at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. His passion is acting and he has appeared in shows since third grade. He's acted in community, educational, and professional productions. Highlights include Max in *Bent*, Prometheus in *Prometheus Bound*, and Dude Lester in *Tobacco Road*. *Three Little Words* is his second play to be produced, the first being *The Solution is Simple* written in about six hours for a "24-Hour" play festival at UW-Eau Claire.. After graduation Ryan plans to either become an actor, playwright, or take over the world of seeing-eye-

weasel training. A note to readers: He may be in the audience tonight, so if you like his play, clap extra loud! He thanks his friends, family and lovely girlfriend for their unending support.

Nick Schweitzer (*Playwright – One Step Braver*) Nick's other produced works include *Fighting Bob: A Love Story*, a musical biography of Bob and Belle La Follette; *Gadzooks, Cinderella*, a holiday farce in the English "panto" tradition; *The Saga of Sergeant Bates*, the true story of a Civil War veteran from Edgerton during the Reconstruction era, and *Surrounded by Reality*, Madison's sesquicentennial play. He is currently working on a play about PTSD in combat veterans titled *The Tragedy of Achilles in Vietnam*. His hope for *One Step Braver* is that it becomes an "inspirational" play to be produced by, and performed for, high school students.

Mike Willis (*Playwright – The Service*) Mike studied theatre arts with an emphasis on acting at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville. His professional acting credits include sixteen seasons of regional theatre, twelve of those with the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival Theatre Company. Mike has been the recipient of numerous directing, acting, and writing awards and has twice been produced by the Village Playhouse's One-Act Playwriting Festival.. The author of over fifty plays, Mike's works have varied from adult Vietnam War dramas to teen awareness plays and Shakespearean spoofs. He currently has over twenty-five plays in publication. His plays have been presented throughout the United States and Canada, with many of his teen awareness plays receiving awards in high school play contests. For a period of over twenty years, Mike worked as a high school drama director and was the Artistic Director for a semi-professional theatre company. Mike and his wife Sandy, enjoy traveling and spending time with their five grandchildren.

Special Thanks

Divine Word Lutheran Church, Al Van Lith, Brookfield Senior Center, Schroeder Moving and Storage

Our Casts & Directors

Lindsay Audette (Georgia, Josephine – *One Step Braver*) Lindsay is very excited to be a part of this year's One Act Festival! She recently moved to Milwaukee from Chicago where she graduated from Columbia College with a degree in Theater Performance. She's been acting since the age of five and hopes to one day take all of her education and experience out to the west coast to pursue a career out there.

Clarence Aumend (Steve – *Three Little Words*) Do you believe it will exist true love? Unfortunately I have never meet, will I have the lucky to meet it? Do you have the same dream? However, I think it must be exist true love and I can sure I could meet in some days. Frankly, it is very difficult to describe my personality. Some times I am an outgoing girl, but some times I am a tranquility girl. All my friends like me, as I am a very helpful person not only in my work, as well as in my life. And I am a pretty, tasty girl with typical traditional Chinese concept. Just write mail to me and it is a good start to get know more about me. (...that's really his bio and one of my favorite personal ads – Sean)

Laura Bambrick (Talia – *Three Little Words*) Laura is again on the stage just weeks after her performance at the Sixth Street Theatre in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*. She is a communication sciences and disorders graduate student at UW-Milwaukee. A relative newcomer to theatre, this is only her second performance. Laura lives in St. Francis with her husband, Matt, but hopes this is temporary as she does not know how much longer she can take the cold Wisconsin weather. When she is not studying or memorizing lines, she loves to bake, read, and train for marathons! She has enjoyed working with the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa and hopes to again!

Brianna Brouchoff (Barbara, Donna – *One Step Braver*) Brianna is excited to work with VPW for the first time. She is a recent graduate of The Milwaukee High School of the Arts where she was a theatre major. Brianna plans to attend UW-Milwaukee in the fall and hopes to pursue a future in the arts. Favorite roles include Bianca in *After Juliet*, Nanny in *Baby With The Bathwater* and Golde in *Fiddler On The Roof*.

Julie Brouchoff (Mrs. Glatthorn, Madalyn Murray – *One Step Braver*) This is Julie's first show with VPW. Her favorite roles include; Lizzie Curry in *The Rainmaker* Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* and Amy in *Company*. She has worked with various theatres in the Milwaukee area including; Dramatist Theatre and Milwaukee Public Theatre. When not performing, Julie works with special needs children for MPS. She also spends a lot of time with her alter ego, "Violet the Clown". She lives in Milwaukee with her wonderful husband and two incredible children, (One of them is in the show!) and her dog Ginger.

Art Carter (Mr. Carroll, Justice Black, Ed, Justice Clark, Mr. Robertson – *One Step Braver*) Art is excited to be part of this thoughtful and timely play about

the federal government's role in our daily lives. Once again VPW has compiled an excellent repertoire of plays, directors and actors. He has been in several plays with VPW, but this is his best. Art's favorite performances have been with Waukesha Civic Theater as Ben in *Broadway Bound*, with the West Allis Players as Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and with the Patio Players as Gaston in *Picasso At The Lapin Agile* and Frank in *Over The River And Through The Woods*.

Sean Cundy (Director – *Three Little Words*) Sean is very excited to be directing his very first production with VPW! You have most likely seen Sean in front of the audience in the past, however this time he is bringing his attention to the director's chair. Sean is the proud director and lead designer of Gilly's Haunted House. He hopes you enjoy the show and that he has an opportunity to direct more shows in the future!

Jason Dieder (John, Chief Justice Warren, Justice Stewart – *One Step Braver*) This is the fourth performance Jason has ever been in and his third with the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa. Thank you for coming, enjoy the show, and by all means turn your cellphones off.

Katlin Drew (Cassie – *Three Little Words*) This is Katlin's first experience on stage with the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa and she is very excited to be here! She portrays Cassie, the bubbly and well-meaning friend in *Three Little Words*. When Katlin isn't performing on stage, she's a barista at Starbucks and also enjoys taking acting classes at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. She's very happy to be apart of the One Act Festival and wishes the entire cast and crew a well deserved "Break-a-leg!"

Mary Lynn Ferwerda (*Woman 1 – Cliff Dwellers*) Mary is grateful to be returning to the stage in the company of VPW friends after a long break. She was previously cast in a handful of VPW productions, and loves being a part of the One-Act Festival. Thank you to the One-Act head honchos, Tom, Larry, and Bob, for the warm welcome back, and to fellow actor Tod for encouraging the "crazy" and inspiring Mary to audition! Joan, Paul, and Sandy--the Cliff Dwelling group--it has been a joy to join you "on the cliff." And, special thanks to my Rob, who never lets me go over the edge...no matter how far I'm leaning.

Tod Herdt (Ellory Schempp – *One Step Braver*, James – *The Monster in the Basement*) Tod is glad to be back with the One Act Festival after a two year hiatus. Where else can he go from being a pompous jerk to a high school student? Or is that the same thing? Joke!! He has performed previously with VPW, Waukesha Civic Theatre and Sunset Playhouse. He would like to thank all of his classmates and directors for a great time.

Brad Hightdudis (The Boss – *The Service*) Brad is happy to be back in theatre after a break stretching more then a decade. He made his return to acting in this spring's VPW production of *Our Town*, where he played the role of Grover's

Corner's bad boy, Simon Stimson. Prior to his hiatus, he was active in the San Francisco Bay Area community theatre scene. Brad would like to thank Jennifer, Nicholas, and Katherine for their encouragement, patience, and understanding.

Brianna Hubbard (*The Woman -- The Service*) Brianna has recently been on stage as Marcy in *Dog Sees God* as well as performing in the Ensemble Cast for the 2009 *Snowdance* both with the Over Our Head Players. She appeared as Ann in *The Mouse That Roared* with the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa. Some of her other favorite roles include Josie from *Proposals* with the West Allis Players as well as Lala in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* also with the West Allis Players. When she is not teaching Kindergarten, Brianna really just enjoys a nice big bowl of Fruity Pebbles and a little film called *Twilight* on a Friday night. Her life-long goal includes appearing in the final installment of the Harry Potter films (...hey, it could happen...). "Thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges." -- William Shakespeare

Laura Kohn-La Pinske (Director – *The Service*) Laura is very happy to be directing for VPW again. She has directed several one acts as well as full length plays and enjoys the challenges that each has to offer. She would like to thank her cast of three for making this experience so enjoyable and a special thank you to Rosie for all of her patience and understanding during the rehearsal period! Laura looks forward to her next directing challenge-where ever that may be.

Michael La Pinske (*The Customer – The Service*) This is one part that is all too easy for him to relate to, but then, it would be for just about anybody! Michael has been involved in theatre around Milwaukee since 1989. He has been on or off stage in over 75 different productions, with this being the fifth time participating in VPW's One Acts. He also enjoys writing for the stage, having had over 70 different skits and scripts produced locally. Michael moonlights at the Post Office, but never touches any mail as he works in the Engineering Unit. As always, he enjoys being able to do theatre and spend time with his wife, who is directing him (on stage?) once again. "Won't she ever learn?"

Dominic Lentz (Timmy – *The Monster in the Basement*) This is Dominic's fourth year doing the VPW One Act Festival! He has played a patient-turned-doctor in *Dr. In-spite of Himself* and the sarcastic inner voice of a teen aged boy in *Whats Left Unsaid*. He has also performed all over the greater Milwaukee Area, his favorite roles include Tom Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*, Frank Heller in *Rehearsal for Murder*, Peachy Weill in *Last Night of Ballyhoo*, Bill Sykes in *Oliver*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*, and his favorite and first leading role playing a Dragon in *The Reluctant Dragon*. He wants to thank Kai for casting him in this extremely funny play and Tom Zuehlke for asking "Are you coming out for the One Acts?"

Matthew Lovison (Dimitre – *Three Little Words*) Matthew is a graduate of the UWW Theatre Department. Previous roles include Flute/Thisby in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Glenn in *Rumors*. Enjoy the show!

Stephanie Lowery (Christine – *The Monster in the Basement*) Stephanie is 23 years old and has lived most of her life in Bay View. Currently, she resides near fashionable Brady Street with her boyfriend Joe. This is Stephanie's first show with the Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa, and she is very excited to have a part. Stephanie is a Marquette graduate, and although she has a degree in journalism, she somehow manages to spend her days with the math department at Bradley Tech High School. In addition, Stephanie spends a few nights and weekends caffeinating the neighborhood as a barista at Anodyne Coffee.

Eddie Ngwa (Policeman – *The Monster in the Basement*) Eddie is a young aspiring Cameroonian-American musician and actor. He moved to the United States fifteen years ago in pursuit of higher education and a better chance at chasing his dreams of becoming a performance artist and actor. So far, Eddie claims he has achieved the dreams of his parents which was to be a well trained and successful medical scientist. Now, he has placed himself in line to pursue his passion and true dreams which is the glory of becoming a fine actor, singer/songwriter. In order to enable these goals to be realized Eddie makes sure he spends at least three hours a week designed for private lessons that would help craft and develop his skills and talents to become a brilliant actor.

Jerry Proffitt (Director – *One Step Braver*) This is Jerry's first time directing for VPW, and he is thrilled to be working with such a talented, pretty cast. He has recently appeared in *The Laramie Project*, and as Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. He has been lurking around theatres for thirty years, trying to draw attention to himself or slip onstage unnoticed. He is especially grateful to finally be in charge of something.

John (Sean) Reavy (Attorney Sawyer -- *One Step Braver*) John was born and raised in a "Little House on the Prairie" environment during WW II and the Korean Conflict. His home had no plumbing and no electricity, and they farmed with horses. As an adult he entered the nursing profession, and is now retired from the same. Basketball has always been his worldly passion, as well as his children and grandkids. God, family, and basketball. "I'd like to build the world a home, and furnish it with Love". Vaya con dios everyone.

Kai Simone-Issa (Director – *The Monster in the Basement*) Kai is excited to be chosen to direct for Village Playhouse's 24th one act festival. She has a BA in Theater Directing and Design from the University of Illinois and is a self taught musician, visual artist and actress. Kai has directed several plays including *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*, *The Wiz*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Raven: A Kwanzaa Tale*. Kai has been a children's music performer and storyteller for over 15 years. She has authored, composed and directed three musicals: *Imani and the Magic Drum*, *Basa Basa* and *The Tree of Jubun*. Kai thanks her wonderful husband James and lovely daughter Sydney for their continued support and faith. And thanks to the Village Playhouse for the opportunity to plant her roots in new ground.

VPW Angels

<p><u>Contributors</u> Ted & Monica Atkinson Mike Daun</p>	<p><u>Sponsors</u></p>
<p><u>Supporters</u> Marion Youngquist</p>	<p><u>Champions</u> Tim Kietzman</p>
<p><u>Patrons</u> John Stibal</p>	<p><u>Benefactors</u></p>

Emily Taylor (Vera, Regina – *One Step Braver*) Emily is a new resident of Wauwatosa and is excited to be in her first production with VPW. Recent theatre appearances for Emily have been Ensemble/ Vocal Director for *Fiddler On The Roof* and Miss Watson in *Big River*”, both with the Bloomington Community Players in Bloomington IL. Emily would like to thank her family for their constant encouragement and support.

Paul Weir (Man -- *Cliff Dwelling*) Paul's in his second stint with VPW, having just finished in *Our Town* as Constable Warren. He looks forward to the challenge of quickly finding the heart and depth of his character in this short one act format. Paul lives in Oak Creek, with his wife Terry, who he wishes to thank for her love and support. Continuing thanks to Antoinette Stikl for her insistent "nudge." When not on stage or at work, Paul enjoys car shows and his vintage '67 Camaro, woodworking, and golf. Favorite past roles include 'Bert' in *It's A Wonderful Life* at Sunset Playhouse, and Sir Joseph Porter in *H.M.S. Pinafore* way back in high school!

Joan Williamson (Director – *Cliff Dwelling*) Joan has been teaching theater in Milwaukee and Madison for more than fourteen years. She is currently the managing director of Milwaukee Youth Theatre. Her varied career has included work as an actress, director, stage manager, designer and puppeteer. Thank you to Mark for many years of patience and support.

Sandra Wyss (Woman 2 – *Cliff Dwelling*) Sandra is happy to appear in her third One-Act Festival. Previous roles include Rosemary in *Coat Check Girl* and Woman in *The Pickup*. She enjoys contributing to VPW productions through set design, scenic painting, graphic design, and multimedia. Look for her in this summer's number one action flick *Public Enemies* opposite Christian Bale!