

SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



RING DEM BELLS

STARRING: Heron Gardner as Saul; Vickjoan Keck as Vicky; AND Larry Ripp as Gary

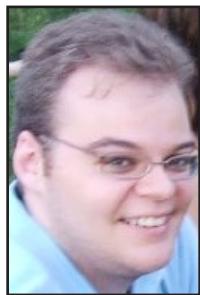
A Salvation Army bell ringer suddenly finds that he may be losing his "gig" at the side entrance of a large Twin City Department Store after 4 years of happy holiday bell ringing. Will Saul get kicked off the property or is there another agenda altogether? Only the corporate minds can know for sure. In the end nothing much matters other than we hold onto our ability to "Ring Dem Bells."

WRITTEN by LARRY RIPP of St. Paul, MN

Lawrence Ripp is a long-time resident of Saint Paul, and has been active in the theater scene there for over 32 years. Originally from Door County, Wisconsin, actor, playwright, producer Larry has toured with his own shows and has pleased audiences with a variety of original entertainments including an original 2 person Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson play: "The Game's Afoot!" Larry was trained as a radio D.J. at Brown Institute in Minneapolis in 1970 and worked in radio for over 9 years before he found his current employment in maintenance at the University of Minnesota. Having written for the stage for the past 22 years Larry is thrilled to be participating in this festival of short plays. He runs two production companies which tour with a number of different shows: "The Vintage Players" focus on new works of all kinds and "Mindless Mirth Productions" specializes in Comedy shows for all ages. Larry is also active with a Saint Paul group called "The Prime Time Players" who specialize in doing old time radio shows LIVE on stage!

WAITING ON GODOT

STARRING: Sarah Johnson as Odessa, Stacy DeGolier as Tart, AND Linton Lewis as Mr. Godot



Waiting On Godot serves as homage, sequel and parody of Sam Beckett's seminal work. Odessa, a waitress at a country diner, faces her own questions about meaning and mortality after serving a familiar and curious patron.

WRITTEN and DIRECTED by LINTON LEWIS of North Mankato, MN

Linton Lewis is currently a third year MFA student at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Apart from tonight's selection, he has written short stories, sketches and one act plays, and is currently working on a novel.

SURPRISE!

STARRING: Laura Otremba as Whitney; Anthony DePoto as Peter; AND Merdith Larson as Esther
DIRECTED BY: Paul J. Hustoles



Peter is a psychic. Unfortunately all this gives him is the ability to drive his girlfriend crazy.

WRITTEN by MARK HARVEY LEVINE of Pasadena, CA

Mark Harvey Levine has had over 500 productions of his short plays all over the world, and has been translated into French, Hebrew, Japanese and Portuguese. Evenings of his work have played in Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Boston and Indianapolis. "Aperitivos", an evening of his plays in Portuguese, has been running off and on in Brazil since 2005, going on a National Tour in 2007. His collection "Cabfare For The Common Man" will be at Madlab Theatre in Columbus, Ohio this October. Minnesota productions include: "Morning" at Works/Plays, "Shades" and "That Word" at Chameleon Theatre Circle, "Shades" and "A Fit Of Pique" at Theatre Limina and "Up On The Roof" at Lakeshore Players. "Surprise" ran last year at the Actors Theatre Of Louisville. He lives online at www.markharveylevine.com.

Minnesota Shorts Play Festival



7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9

Tammy Flew
by Greg Abbott

A Very Lovely Dress
by D. Richard Tucker

Mother's Day
by Debbie Feldman

A Ticket for my Cat
by Sophia Tomany

Influenza
by Bruce Birkemeyer

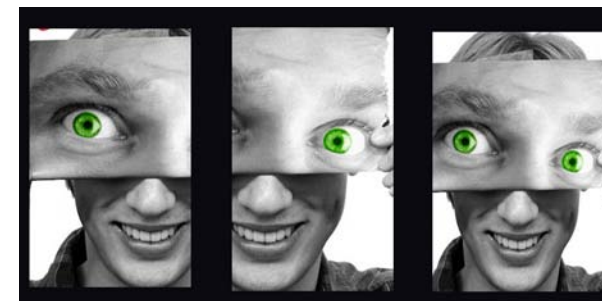
The Hole Story
by Kathy Coudle-King

Ring Dem Bells
by Larry Ripp

Waiting on Godot
by Linton Lewis

Surprise!
by Mark Harvey Levine

OUR SPONSORS:



SNAPPED SHOT
7 P.M. SEPT 16-17
SOUTH CENTRAL
COLLEGE'S
VOTCA
CONFERENCE
CENTER



Don't miss the 4Playwrights Twin Rivers Gala production of "Snapped Shot," a tale of how a news photographer hilariously finds a way to empathize with victims of tragedies he sees every day.



**THANKS TO HY-VEE FOR
TICKETING AND COOKIE SALES**

SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



TAMMY FLEW AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUNDISH TABLE

STARRING: Travis Carpenter as Bob; Lisa Piper as Tammy/Siren;
Sherman Rupe as Merlin the Mortician/KingH1Swine1;
AND Mike Schmitz as Sir Coughs Alot/Darth Mucus
DIRECTED BY: Michaela Crnkovic

During the height of the H1N1 scare, Bob the Postman sneaks a shot of the flu vaccine that puts him into a Monty Pythonish purge-atory that sends him on a quest to redeem his act of selfishness. This wacky adventure is more fun than a good swat to the nodules with a prickly, piney spiky shrubbery.

WRITTEN by GREG ABBOTT of North Mankato, MN

Greg Abbott has had seven short plays produced in Northfield, Mankato and San Luis Obispo, Calif., a one-act, "Reali-TV" was a finalist in Washington, D.C. His latest full-length play, "Snapped Shot," was chosen for the 2009 Great Plains Theatre Conference and premieres next week at South Central College's Votca Conference Center Theater in North Mankato.

A VERY LOVELY DRESS

STARRING: Brian Casey as Tailor; AND Lucy Pipkin as Sarah
DIRECTED BY: Mark Monfils

Tomorrow will be the most important day of her life, and Sarah goes to the tailor's shop to try on her new dress. Why is the tailor so concerned?

WRITTEN by D. RICHARD TUCKER of Auburn, WA

D. Richard Tucker's works have been produced from Seattle to South Africa, ranging from 10-minute plays to a full-length musical comedy. After accruing extensive experience as an actor and director, Tucker decided to dedicate his time to writing. Tucker began writing under the name "Dave Tucker," but was forced to find a new pen name upon discovery that there are more than 1,400 other Dave Tuckers out there, of which 38 percent are playwrights. More info at www.drichardtucker.com.

MOTHER'S DAY

STARRING: Andrea Tonsfeldt as Lily; AND Katherine M. Engel as Amanda
DIRECTED BY: Crystal G. Schneider

Two women meet during a wilderness camp experience: Lily, hard-working single mother from rural Missouri who believes in the power of positive thinking, and Amanda, a cynic defeated by motherhood's failures. "Mother's Day" is about redemption and hope in unlikely places.

WRITTEN by DEBBIE FELDMAN of Brooklyn, NY

Debbie L. Feldman's plays, monologues, and one-woman shows have been produced inside and outside New York since 1998. In 2009, her play "Leaving Shore" appeared in the MN Shorts festival. She is currently writing a full-length play based on recent events in Latin America. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America, Inc. and the International Center for Women Playwrights.

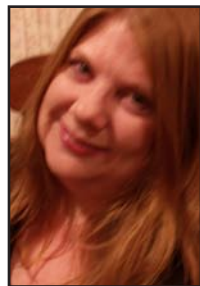
A TICKET FOR MY CAT

STARRING: Kelly Quinn as Sara; Noelle Lawton as Tina;
AND Travis Carpenter as Man
DIRECTED BY: Launa Helder

During Sara's first day at the Northwest Airlines ticket reservations hotline, her first call is from someone who wants to order a ticket for their cat. Sara has to argue fiercely with the persistent caller, and faces losing her job all because of Captain Meow.

WRITTEN by SOPHIA TOMANY of Mankato, MN

Sophia Tomany, 13, was born in Munich, Germany. In 2000, she and her family immigrated to the United States. There they lived in Tempe, Arizona for five years before moving to Minnesota. She currently attends Dakota Meadows Middle School in eighth grade. She has two siblings, two dogs and four cats. A Ticket for My Cat is her first work to be performed in public.



SUMMARIES and PLAYWRIGHTS



INFLUENZA

STARRING: Alyssa Berg, Laura Scholl, Michelle Laven, Julie Thoreleifson, Daniel Berry, Timothy Berry, Charlie Berg, Ryan Scholl AND Erica Koser in Chorus
DIRECTED BY: Doug Faust

A flu outbreak has hit the local school resulting in the children being sent home. The sick children are delighted to be out of school – the mother not so much. Sibling revelry for attention takes place as the flu worsens, causing a hilarious play on words. It ends with a bit of surprise.

WRITTEN by BRUCE BIRKEMEYER of Mankato, MN

Bruce Birkemeyer is a retired educator, who taught high school and coached speech contest events for 36 years in Wisconsin and Iowa. In retirement he farms in the summer and writes in the winter months. His goal is to experiment with different writing styles. He writes both humorous and dramatic work. The work presented here is a coral reading. He has written a reader's theatre on school shootings, a fun book about two rabbits in his yard where one of them is the narrator and a short story about high school suicide polished in, PASS FAIL by Red Sky Books, KLeidon Publishing, Inc. He is currently working on a series of short stories called, "The Ol' Man Stories" where the central character of each story is a different old man.

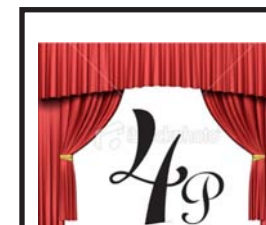
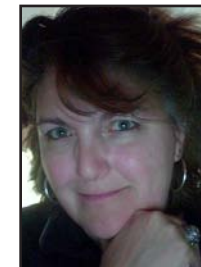
THE HOLE STORY

STARRING: Donna Stewart as Gladys AND Cherie Johnson as Gloria
DIRECTED BY: Kathy Coudle-King AND Adonica Schultz Aune

During the Christmas holiday, two sisters escape their house full of family by going to the fish house to indulge in their vices, but mostly to get away from their kids. Once there, they make some connections about their own sainted mother.

WRITTEN by KATHLEEN COUDLE-KING of Grand Forks, ND

Kathy Coudle-King has written more than 50 plays, enjoying productions across the U.S. She feels fortunate to have found playwriting at the age of 15. She earned her B.F.A. in Dramatic Writing at NYU, and holds a M.A. in English from the University of North Dakota where she teaches in the English and Women Studies Programs. A founding member of the ND Playwrights Co-op, she is thrilled to bring this production to Mankato along with two of the Co-ops actors and actor/director, Adonica Schultz Aune. To see what else Kathy has written, please visit her at www.dakotalit.com



Thanks to the 4Playwrights Project for their help with this festival. Also to KMSQ for promoting theater in their Playhouse Off 90 productions.