



THE OPERA HOUSE PLAYERS
PRESENT



THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

By Henry Lewis
Jonathan Sayer
& Henry Shields



OCT. 4, 5, 11, 12 AT 7:00 PM
OCT. 6, 13 AT 2:00 PM

Elkader Opera House
207 North Main St.
Elkader, IA 52043

About the Opera House Players

For over 55 years the OHP has been bringing entertainment to the stage in Elkader! In the fall, with the support of many people from all over northeast Iowa and southwest Wisconsin, the Opera House Players have presented such blockbusters as *Singin' In The Rain*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Disney's Mary Poppins*, *Oliver!*, *Matilda*, *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *The Producers*.

In the spring, the productions usually involve a somewhat smaller cast and crew, but are never short on entertainment! The Opera House Players also provides a summer theater camp each year at a low cost to give our local children a taste of theater and schedules a special holiday musical or play every other season, alternating that with *A Classic Christmas Fantasy*, a showcase of area talent.

The improvements to this marvelous structure continue by financial donations from the OHP, other businesses and supporters, but also by the numerous OHP volunteers that spend countless hours making it happen.

The Opera House Players installed a hearing loop for the Main Floor Seating, helped create new dressing rooms, built a removable pit cover, added new stage curtains, updated to a new lighting system with several new fixtures and capabilities added yearly, and are upgrading the backstage area as well as technical aspects of theater, sound, and rigging to make the building even more valuable to the community.

All of this would not be possible without the support of the City of Elkader who maintains this wonderful facility and who worked hand in hand with the volunteers to make it happen. Our grateful thanks also goes to you, our patrons, members, and audience members for supporting theater in this area.

Volunteers are the cornerstone of any community theater group and the Opera House Players are lucky to have some of the best. Whether you have a theater background or not, this is a place for you to get involved. People from all walks of life participate, forming new friendships, learning new skills, and gaining self-confidence. What kinds of opportunities are available? Acting, directing, set construction, orchestra, publicity, props, costumes, make-up, ushering... and much more!

Be sure to look for announcements on our future productions as well as other events occurring in the Opera House. If you would like more information about our group or theater, visit our website at www.operahouseplayers.com.

October 4, 5, 11, 12 at 7 PM

October 6 & 13 at 2 PM

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

Director
Cheri Moser

Producer/Stage Manager
Kay Moser

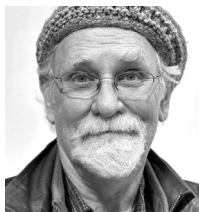
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG was first
presented by Mischief Theatre under the title The Murder Before
Christmas on December 4th, 2012, at the Old Red Lion Theatre in London.
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields
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Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.
Photography and any recording strictly prohibited.



The Elkader Opera House has an induction loop system, thanks to an upgrade of the sound equipment by the Opera House Players. With the activation of the T-coil by your audiologist and instruction on its use, you can receive the maximum benefit from your hearing aid. The internal tonal correction of your hearing aid will bring the sounds you hear directly to you without the use of an additional receiver or headset. Two portable units are also available for your use. Please request the use of a unit when you place your ticket order. This loop system is available for main floor seating only, so if you want to maximize your hearing experience, please request main floor seating when purchasing your tickets.

MEET THE CAST



Cary Kann (Jonathan Harris) – Cary has been involved in countless OHP productions both onstage and as a set/prop designer, utilizing his talents in the visual arts. He last appeared in *Arsenic and Old Lace* this past spring. He won a 2017 ICTA award for his portrayal of Larry in *South of Hope* (2018). Cary lives in Prairie du Chien with his wife, Jonelle. He has three grown children: two beautiful daughters who both continue to enjoy performing on stage and an extremely handsome son who looks just like him.



Jonathon Moser (Robert Grove) – This show marks Jonathon's 34th OHP production. Some of his recent favorites include Miss Trunchbull in *Matilda* (2021), Leo Bloom in *The Producers* (2019), and the loveable ogre Shrek in *Shrek the Musical* (2015). Earlier this year, Jonathon won an ICTA award for Best Supporting Actor for his role as Smee in *Peter Pan* (2023). He also won an award for Scenic Design for the same show. Jonathon enjoyed helping his wife, Cheri, figure out how to bring *The Play That Goes Wrong* to the Elkader Opera House stage. Jonathon is a chiropractor in McGregor where he lives with his wife and children: Mariah (Annie), Taryn, Trace and Gretel. He is the co-owner of Grumpsters Cabins, a beautiful getaway in the hills of McGregor.



David Beck (Dennis Fife) – David has been involved with the Opera House Players since the musical revue *Stardust* (2002) in which he accompanied at the piano. Since then he has been blessed to accompany or be cast in over 35 shows and has played such memorable characters as Donkey in *Shrek the Musical* (2015), Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey* (2016), Fagin in *Oliver!* (2012) and Roger De Bris in *The Producers* (2019). David is active in many organizations including the Motor Mill Foundation, the Elkader Historical Society and the Clayton County Genealogical Society. He is an active historian of Elkader and has a passion for genealogical research. In his spare time David enjoys wandering around cemeteries and time spent at the piano which has been part of his life for 47 years. He is also an active member of Community Bible Church in Strawberry Point.



Cameron Berges (Max Bennett) – This is Cameron's 7th OHP production. Past performances include Captain Hook in *Peter Pan* (2023), The Old Man (Ralphie's father) in *A Christmas Story* (2022), and Bert in *Mary Poppins* (2018)—a portrayal that landed him a 'Best Actor in a Musical' award from the Iowa Community Theatre Association. He lives in Waukon with his wife, Sara, daughters, Emma & Jocelyn, and son, Gavin. Cameron is an IT Administrator at Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar.



Perry Leffler (Sandra Wilkinson) – *The Play That Goes Wrong* is the 3rd performance with OHP since her debut as Peter Pan in *Peter Pan* (2023). Her other OHP performance includes *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2024) as Elaine. Perry is the choral director and music teacher at Wauzeka-Steuben School, and also serves as the music director for Wauzeka's fall musical. Perry graduated from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, where she is from. She earned her bachelor's degree in music performance, concentrating in voice, with two minors in education and psychology. Perry made her theater debut at Millsaps College in the musical *Violet* (2022) playing the title role as Violet. She has also played Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* in the Millsaps Opera Scenes. In 2020, Perry was selected as one of 20 students from around the country for the James Madison University German Opera Experience. She has performed across the United States and Europe. In her spare time, Perry enjoys playing with her dog, Mercury, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



Kyle Sneed (Chris Bean) – This is Kyle's first performance in a play since graduating high school in Rockford, IA in 1997, where he was in 7 productions during his 4 years. His favorite memories from then were making the audience all gasp when he was flipped by another cast member on stage, and playing the Beast in the Disney version of *Beauty and the Beast*. His very first acting experience was as billy goat #2 in his preschool performance of *Billy Goats Gruff*. Kyle delivers mail in Strawberry Point and helps coach Speech at Starmont. Lastly, he would like to thank his wife, Linda and daughter, Khloe, and head speech coach Amanda Knox for convincing him to actually audition for something after all these years.



Mariah Moser (Annie Twilloil) – This is Mariah’s 10th OHP production. Some of her favorite roles include Nigel in *Matilda* (2021) and Tiger Lily in *Peter Pan* (2023). Mariah has also been on stage or behind the scenes in eleven children’s theater productions and six high school productions at MFL MarMac. She’s excited to appear in MFL MarMac’s upcoming production of *Freaky Friday* this November and OHP’s *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* in December. Mariah is in 11th grade. She is involved in cross country, golf, dance team, show choir, band, choir, student council, and SODA. In her spare time (ha!), Mariah enjoys reading, water skiing, and hanging out with friends. Mariah lives in McGregor with her dad, mom, and three younger siblings.



Rhys Evans (Trevor Watson) – *The Play That Goes Wrong* is Rhys’s third show with OHP after the *Secret Garden* (2000) and as Starkey the pirate in *Peter Pan* (2023). Rhys is a chiropractor in Strawberry Point, where he lives with his wife, Hannah, two children, Jaren & Kira, and two dogs. In his free time, Rhys enjoys reading, traveling and writing. He completed his first book, *Please Do Not Feed the Human*, in March 2022.

Cheri Moser (Director) – Cheri has directed, choreographed, or acted in over 40 OHP shows. She was named ‘Best Director’ by the Iowa Community Theatre Association in 2019 and recently won ICTA awards for her choreography and sound design in OHP’s *Peter Pan* (2023). Other OHP shows she has directed include *Willy Wonka* (2016), *Catch Me If You Can* (2017), *Mary Poppins* (2018), *The Producers* (2019), *Matilda* (2021) and *A Christmas Story* (2022). She’s also looking forward to directing/choreographing *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* this December! Cheri holds several day-jobs including marketing for the MFL MarMac School District, an Administrative Assistant at Trinity Cluster and she runs a short term rental business, Grumpsters Cabins, with her husband, Jonathon. She is also an Iowa Community Theatre Association board member and the head speech coach at MFL MarMac. Cheri lives in McGregor with Jonathon (Robert) and their four children.

Kay Moser (Producer/Stage Manager) – Kay has been involved with the OHP since 1973. She has appeared on stage a few times, but her favorite place is where she is most often found producing, stage managing and helping the cast and crews in any way she can! She enjoys traveling, reading and taking lots of walks!! She lives in

Elkader with her husband (light guy) Jay. Her life is made complete when she can spend time with her son Benjamin, wife, Jenna and their sons, Kallum and Ronan along with son Jonathon, wife, Cheri and their children Mariah, Taryn, Trace, and Gretel. It has been fun spending time watching this show come to life from the audience side of things and she is thrilled to welcome the new performers to the OHP family! She hopes you enjoy the show!!

DIRECTOR’S NOTES



Directing *The Play That Goes Wrong* has been a truly unique and fun experience. I find myself laughing out loud at every single rehearsal... no matter how many times I’ve seen the show. The cast has been incredible. The energy and commitment they’ve put into their characters is remarkable.

But as much as the actors bring this show to life, they couldn’t do it without an equally dedicated crew. The set construction was a massive undertaking, and the sound, lighting, and backstage teams have worked tirelessly to make sure everything (and I do mean everything) goes wrong at just the right moments. Their hard work, though often unseen, is felt in every part of this production.

To everyone involved—cast, crew, and all the hands behind the scenes—thank you for making this show possible. I hope you, the audience, enjoy the chaos and comedy as much as we’ve enjoyed creating it.

THE CREW

Set Construction

Jonathon Moser	Cheri Moser	Jaren Evans	Jocelyn Berges
Tom Chandler	Rhys Evans	Kira Evans	Gavin Berges
Del Reimer	Linda Sneed	Mariah Moser	Carsten Pester
Cameron Berges	Kyle Sneed	Taryn Moser	Khloe Sneed
David Beck	Sara Berges	Trace Moser	
Kay Moser	Hannah Evans	Gretel Moser	
Cary Kann	Wendy Shea	Emma Berges	

Lighting & Sound Design

Cheri Moser	Del Reimer
Craig Strutt	Jay Moser
Bob Hankey	Joel Lustre
Lisa Pool	

Costumes & Makeup

Mary Beth Specht
Barb Chandler
Cheri Moser

Backstage Crew

Kay Moser
Lee Pool

Tickets

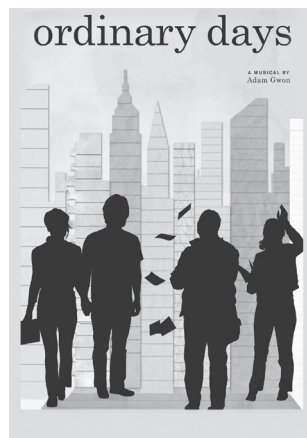
Terri Strutt
Elkader Floral Shop

Program & Publicity

Cheri Moser
Joel Lustre

Thanks to all who helped make this show possible after the program went to press.

UPCOMING SHOWS



April 4, 5, 11 & 12 at 7 PM
April 6 & 13 at 2 PM
Starring Maria Stavroplus, Perry Leffler,
Jonathon Moser, and Andrew Lange



2024–2025 SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Actor's Circle \$25–\$49

Jerry & Linda Anderson	Julita Goedken	Ginger Medberry
Bernard Bergan	Carol Goettler	Lorraine Miller
Anita Blaker	Joan Good	Rita & Roger Mullis
Stewart & Marlys Boysen	Gerald & Linda Henkes	Joan Wangen & Romuald Piorkowski
Celia Brown	Chris & Christina Hopp	Larry & Jennifer Reed
Mike & Joanne Carroll	Larry & Marlis Huinker	Gerald & Arlene Reimer
Sandy Caya & Daryl Bruxvoort	Mary Jensen	Ken & Alice Reimer
Bruce & Ellen Collins	Trudy Johnson	Kenneth & Linda Staff
Marvin & Annette Dahling	David & Mary Kahrs	Jim & Barb Stone
Mary Damm	Ron & Georgi Kaiser	Cheryl (Dyrland) Thomason
Kenneth & Gwen Dettbarn	Patsy Kerndt	Geralyn Torkelson
Marvin & Julie Duff	Gerry & Sandy Kramer	Patricia Vaske
Barb Duwe-Peterson	Diane M. Kraus	Karla Vogel & Bob Myers
Doug Farley	Maxine Kuehl	Morris & Sandy Weller
John & Betty Fischer	Shirley Marmann	Cheryl & Jim Whalen
Marilyn Frye	Teri & Ryan Marting	Tom & Jen Wilwert
Bob & Hila Garms	Donna McLane	

Playwright's Circle \$50–99

Victoria Breitbach	Joshua & Heather Klingman	Ken & Sharon Seney
Jerry & Kelly Carpenter	Jennifer Lancaster	Lowell & Joyce Siegele
Marguerite Clinton	Ethel Lenth	Steve & Sally Stendel
Jason & Kris Eulberg	William McHugh	Darci Strutt
Rhys & Hannah Evans	David & Melanie Mergen	Joyce Thurn
Merle & Barbara Frommelt	Mary Milewsky	Betty Troendle
Tim Gilkes	David & Maylo Moser	Ed & Dianne Uriell
Larry & Karen Glass	Cici Mueller	Randy & Kathy Waterman
Jeff & Betty Heins	Tom & Sheila Neuhaus	John & Mary Winter
Suzy Hilgersen	Bill & Dorothy Peterson	Janice Worsham
Winnie Holmes	David & Joy Roslien	
Cary & Jonelle Kann	Ellen Rule	

2024–2025 PATRONS

Choreographer’s Circle \$100–\$249

Martha & Stephen Bartenhagen	Chuck & Mary Lammers	Bruce & Penny Remz
Mary Beck	Bruce Landis	Linda Lou Roberts
Gail Moorman Behrens	Fred & Lynn Lange	Kristie Roeder
Janet Brown	Bill & Sue Leonhart	Connie Ruhser
Bona Dean Feller	Sweeney Margo	Ken & Carolyn Sand
Paul & Cindy Francis	Julianne Mason	Fred Schaffer
Guy & Emily Ghan	Steve & Ann McCorkindale	Lynn Schreck
David & Ann Gibney	Linda Miller	Margaret Schultz
Carol Grady	Bob Moran	Marilyn Seedorff
Steven Gress	Doris & John P. Moyna	Dr. Andy & M.J. Smith
Nancy K. Henricksen	Erika Moyna	Larry & Margaret Stone
Kay Hoffman	Steve & Kathy Mueller	Sue Stott
Bonnie & Ed James	Dr. Jim & Sue Osterhaus	Rod & Dawn Voss
Jerry Janssen	Linda & Joseph Paris	Rev’s Margaret & Mark
Don & Marilyn Kamaus	Val & Dan Paris	Yackel-Juleen
Thelma Keehner	Brian & Lorna Power	
Jim & Laurie Klosterboer	Bill Reimer	
Lanny & Linda Kuehl	Mark & Pam Reinig	

Designer’s Circle \$250–\$499

Dr. John & Dawn Cunningham	Pat Hunsberger	Pam Vaske
John & Susan Gnagy	Anne E.H. & Jerry Kruse	Linda Witter
Janette K. Hansel	Randy & Lisa Lenth	Ken & Fran Zichal
Robert & Theresa Hauber	Brad & Deb Orvis	

Director’s Circle \$500–\$749

Joan E. Barton
Nancy McClure
Karen Schroeder
Craig & LeAnn Watson

Angel’s Circle \$1000 and above

John & Med Bickel
Dr. Scot & Jane Christiansen
Keith & Kathy Garms

Actor’s Circle \$25–\$49

Bodley Equipment & Repair (Postville)
Everett’s Service (Elkader)

Playwright’s Circle \$50–99

Casino Queen Marquette (Marquette)
Elkader Tax and Bookkeeping (Elkader)
Mink Creek Lodge (Wadena)
Rivals, Inc. Custom Gear (Strawberry Point)

Choreographer’s Circle \$100–\$249

Adverse Weather Insurance, LLC
- Jim & Jill Fuhrman (Volga)
Barn on the Bluff B & B
- Rick & Julie Dengler (Elkader)
Cedar Street Suites (Elkader)
Franzen Ridge LLC
- Dean & Joann Franzen (Elkader)
Garms Financial Services (Elkader)
North Gate Healing Center - Marge Banse
(Elkader, Manchester, Strawberry Point)
Sincerely Yours Interiors
- Kay Vorwald (Monona)
The Brim Coffeehouse (Elkader)
Umbrella Arts (Guttenberg)
Volga City Veterinary (Volga)

Designer’s Circle \$250–\$499

Elkader Floral (Elkader)
Fennellys’ Irish Pub (Elkader)
Grau Logs & Lumber - Chris & Julie Grau,
Pat & Staci Grau (Elkader)
Grumpsters Cabins (McGregor)
Johnson Industrial Park (Elkader)
R.D. Witter Farm Corp (McGregor)
Ready for Realty
- Scott & Becci Rentschler (Volga)
Strutt Chiropractic - Dr. Craig Strutt &
Dr. Jonathon Moser (McGregor)

Director’s Circle \$500–\$749



ELKADER - MARQUETTE



STRAWBERRY POINT

Angel’s Circle \$1000 and above



MONONA - POSTVILLE - CLERMONT - ELGIN - OSSIAN
ELKADER - WEST UNION - MCGREGOR - PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

SANDRA WILKINSON (Florence Colleymoore) – Sandra has been performing from a very young age, since her mother appeared in *A Winter's Tale* pregnant. In fact, the moment she took her first breath, the doctors reported perfect pitch, as noted on her birth certificate. This is Sandra's 5th season with the Cornley University Drama Society, during which she has proudly performed roles such as Jo-Beth March in *Little Woman*, Snow White in *Snow White and the Tall Broad Gentlemen*, Grizabella in *Cat*, and The Cow in *Jack and the Bean*.

CHRIS BEAN (Inspector Colleymore) – Chris has been working in theater since he was a child, where he was the star of the show in his mother's preschool production of her own original independent rendition of the painting of 'Starry Night'. He won best performance of a non speaking, non moving, non adult actor as the actual star, and still has the trophy in his study, where he collects readers digest hardcover books. He is not surprised to be elected as head of the drama society with these august qualifications, and hopes everyone enjoys all his hard work and dedication to perfection as a director.

ANNIE TWILLOIL (Stage Manager) – Annie is thrilled to be part of this show, her 12th production working backstage with the Cornley Drama Society. Though she's never performed on stage and prefers to avoid the spotlight, Annie's ability to maintain a facade of calm (while internally screaming) has earned her the unofficial title of 'Master of Disaster Management'. Despite the occasional fainting spell and a lifelong fear of overactors, she has a knack for keeping things from completely falling apart. When she's not managing stages, Annie spends her hours raising emotionally supportive houseplants. This is her first production of *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, but judging by rehearsals, she suspects it might also be her last.

TREVOR WATSON (Sound Technician) – Trevor has been with the Cornley Drama Society for, as of this writing, 84 hours as part of a 200 hour community service plea bargain with the county for his many traffic violations. He has no professional education in sound engineering but he is the IT guy for his parents and grandparents. In his free time Trevor has been working on a Billy Joel-themed board game called "Joelmanji."

MEET THE CATS

JONATHAN HARRIS (Charles Haversham) – Jonathan works as a model and is therefore excited to learn transferable skills by appearing in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. Although, he did give acting a "go" once before when he performed with another local theater company in *A Midsummer Night's Stamina* which featured a cast of fourteen pedaling exercise bikers for the full 2-hour performance.

ROBERT GROVE (Thomas Colleymoore) – Robert is elated to return to the Cornley Drama Society, where he's mastered the fine art of acting... and quite often, furniture assembly. A dedicated practitioner of the "Grovian Immersion" method, Robert dives so deeply into his characters that sometimes it takes a team of professionals to remind him who he really is (and that it's time for lunch). Credits include: Earthworm in "*James, Where's Your Peach,*" Dopey in "*Snow White and the Tall Broad Gentlemen,*" and Lamé Horse in "*Black Beauty.*" Offstage, Robert enjoys fine-tuning his collection of theatrical mustaches.

DENNIS FIFE (Perkins) – This is Dennis' first time on stage with the Cornley Drama Society. His confidence level is high because of his previous acting experience in the classic *Three Little Pigs* in his Kindergarten class. Since then he has almost been chosen for parts in auditions for various other plays and is thankful to Cornley for this chance to shine. Dennis is also a singer and has had the honor of singing the Star Spangled Banner at the County Insecticide Convention. Big time! His motto is "You can do it... almost."

MAX BENNETT (Cecil Haversham/Arthur The Gardener) – Max is thrilled to make his theatrical debut with the Cornley Drama Society, and any suggestion that his role in the show is tied to his generous financial contribution from a recent inheritance is purely coincidental. Max is an avid fan of films, and his favorite is *Eat, Pray, Love*, which he's seen 27 times. When not spending his time (or inheritance) on grand gestures for the arts, Max enjoys attempting to recreate his favorite movie scenes in his living room. He'd like to give a special shout-out to his grandma, who once told him he had the acting skills of a young Brad Pitt—or maybe she said *armpit*—either way, he took it as encouragement. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Good evening and welcome to *The Murder at Haversham Manor*!

We are thrilled to bring you this production, proudly presented by the Cornley Drama Society. You might be wondering—why are we opening this show in small town Iowa? Well, after many, many other theaters turned us down, we thought, “Why not the Elkader Opera House?” Plus, we heard the audiences here are unmatched!

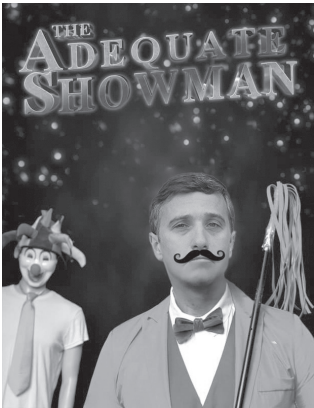
We’ve spent weeks rehearsing, drawing inspiration from the greats. We even tried changing all the characters to ourselves and cutting the murder—until we realized that acting does require some imaginary circumstances. So, back to the drawing board we went!

Our hard work has already been praised by some top critics, like Elkader Mayor Josh Pope, who called it “very interesting,” and local critic and supporter, Keith Garms, who found it “rather unsettling” during dress rehearsal.

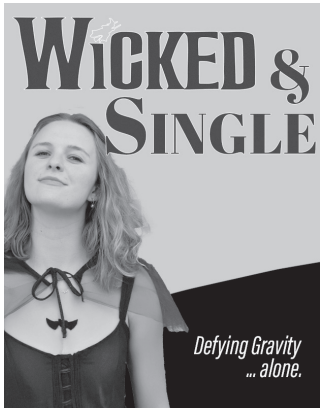
Now, we’re ready to deliver a performance you’ll never forget—hopefully for all the right reasons. Enjoy the show!

Chris Bean
President of Cornley Drama Society
Director of *The Murder at Haversham Manor*

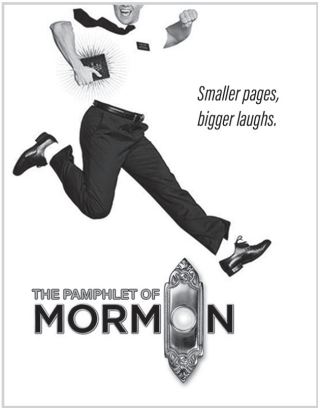
UPCOMING SHOWS



Dec. 2, 3 & 4



Feb. 12, 13 & 14



July 24, 25 & 26

CAST



Inspector Carter
CHRIS BEAN



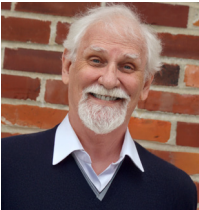
Florence Colleymore
SANDRA WILKINSON



Perkins
DENNIS TYDE



Thomas Collemore
ROBERT GROVE



Charles Haversham
JONATHAN HARRIS



Cecil Haversham
MAX BENNETT

STAGE MANAGEMENT



Lighting & Sound Operator
TREVOR WATSON



Stage Manager
ANNIE TWILLOIL

Writer - **SUSIE H.K. BRIDESWELL**
Producer - **WAYNE BLEXT**
Director - **CHRIS BEAN**
Designer - **CHRIS BEAN**
Costume Designer - **CHRIS BEAN**
Prop Maker - **CHRIS BEAN**
Box Office Manager - **CHRIS BEAN**

Press & PR - **CHRIS BEAN**
Dramaturgy - **CHRIS BEAN**
Voice Coach - **CHRIS BEAN**
Dialect Coach - **CHRIS BEAN**
Fight Choreographer - **CHRIS BEAN**
Rehearsal Role ‘Mr Fitzroy’ - **CHRIS BEAN**

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PLAYBILL

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The Cornley Drama Society

presents

THE MURDER AT HAVERSHAM MANOR

