



MASK & MIRROR COMMUNITY THEATRE

August 2023

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The Gin Game was the real "deal"

"Excellent production with two stellar performances."



That's how a ***The Gin Game*** audience member described their experience via the Square app (***Mask & Mirror***'s credit card partner). We're fairly certain, based on all the feedback we've received, that it's an accurate representation of our final show of the 2022 - 23 season.

Linda Talluto, Director, says "***The Gin Game***, a departure from the

usual more lighthearted fare from *Mask & Mirror*, was an artistic success," adding "The darker aspects of growing older were a challenge for both the director and the actors. We spent much time discussing why these two flawed individuals said and did the things they did. Kathleen Silloway (Fonsia) and Marc Berezin (Weller) were true professionals, as they worked to develop their characters. It was a joy to undertake this journey with them. And, of course, the positive audience reaction gave us all a sense of satisfaction in the work we did."



Speaking of which, Kathleen remembers "One of the biggest surprises came in our first performance, when the audience was laughing throughout the play - even at lines that my character didn't think were funny! But that deft interplay of humor and tragedy is what keeps this play moving forward and lets it make its point."



Marc points out that there were fun but relevant backstage moments, too. “I’ll always remember with a chuckle when Hertsel (Shadian, Assistant Production Manager) gives me the finger to remind me to do the same as I crossed the stage at the start of Act 1, Scene 2. (Many times, I’d forgotten to do that during rehearsals, so this was his “friendly” reminder!)



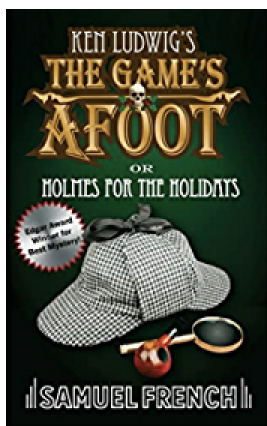
Linda Talutto also has a shout out for “The support from our technical team, our producer, and our stage team. They allowed us to bring a more complete picture to our audiences! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of ***The Gin Game!***”

The photos that accompany this story are courtesy of *Mask & Mirror's* "Media Guru", Beth Moore!). The photo at the bottom-right is one of the cast and crew, including Marc Berezin, George Mauro (Special thanks to George who stepped up to lead Light and Sound Design and

we are so appreciative that he did!), John Knowles (Assistant Production Manager), Kathleen Silloway, Linda Talluto (Director), Rick Hoover (Tech), Hertsel Shadian (Assistant Production Manager). Missing is Peter Bolger (Production Manager), who managed to miss all of tech week including opening night, just so he could cool off in Alaska. Judging by the outstanding performances, the rest of the team managed just fine without him!

Mask & Mirror's 2023 - 24 season

Ken Ludwig's ***The Game's Afoot*** opens November 3



Winner of the 2012 Edgar® Award for Best Play from The Mystery Writers of America, ***The Game's Afoot*** is breathtaking mystery and high hilarity in equal parts. This play tells the story of Broadway star William Gillette, who has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is stabbed to death, the festivities in this isolated house of tricks and mirrors quickly turn dangerous. Then it's up to Gillette himself, who just happens to think he's Sherlock Holmes, to track down the killer before the next victim appears.

The danger and laughter are non-stop in this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.

The Game's Afoot opens November 3 and runs three weekends thru November 19, 2023. Performances are at 7:30pm (Friday and

Saturday) and 2:30pm (Sunday) at The Main Stage at Rise Church, 10445 SW Canterbury Lane in Tigard.

Ticket information for ***The Game's Afoot*** is found right [here](#).

Read more about ***The Games Afoot*** [here](#).

AUDITIONS for *The Games Afoot*

From Rick Hoover, Director : This is a fairly physical comedy so be prepared for a bit of a workout during rehearsals and productions. Rehearsals will begin in early September with performances November 3rd – November 19th. Sides are available for those who wish to receive them. Contact Rick at 208-283-1204.

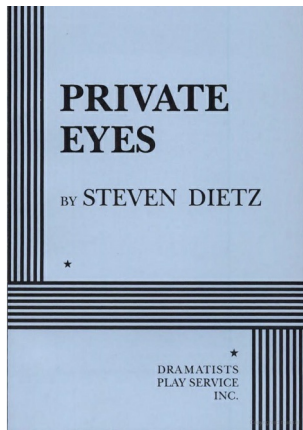
8/19/23	3:00 – 6:00 pm
8/20/23	3:00 – 6:00 pm
8/21/23	7:00 – 9:00 pm (callbacks if necessary)

Location: Rise Church ([10445 SW Canterbury Ln, Tigard, OR](#)) in the "middle school room" (look for signs when you arrive)

"Mask and Mirror Community Theatre's focus and intent is casting the best actors available for each role, and encourages racial, cultural, gender, and artistic diversity. Roles are open to non traditional casting where appropriate."

Private Eyes by Steven Dietz

Our *UnMasked* season opener is January 19



Tony Broom, the director, tells the Newsletter, "Steven Dietz is one of my favorite playwrights. He's definitely an actor's playwright, giving all the actors plenty to do. There are no "minor" roles in *Private Eyes*. You never quite get a handle on what each character is doing, maybe even not by the end. The play has been described as a comic mystery where the audience is the detective. "

Private Eyes is a comedy of suspicion in which nothing is ever quite what it seems. Matthew's wife, Lisa, is having an affair with Adrian, a British theatre director. Or perhaps the affair is part of the play being rehearsed. Or perhaps Matthew has imagined all of it simply to have something to report to Frank, his therapist. And, finally, there is Cory—the mysterious woman who seems to shadow the others—who brings the story to its surprising conclusion. Or does she? The audience itself plays the role of detective in this hilarious "relationship thriller" about love, lust and the power of deception.

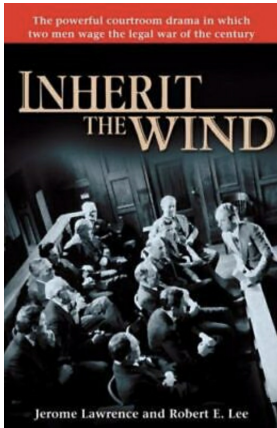
Private Eyes opens January 19 and runs for three weekends thru February 4, 2024. Performances are at 7:30pm on Friday and Saturdays, 3:00pm on Sundays, at the Tualatin Heritage Center, 8700 SW Sweek Drive, Tualatin.

Read more about *Private Eyes* [here](#).

Get tickets [here](#).

Inherit The Wind opens March 1

After almost 70 years, the story remains "relevant and contemporary"



Aaron Morrow is directing this production of ***Inherit the Wind***. The *Newsletter* asked Aaron to explain what about the play resonated with him and why. Here is Aaron's response: "First staged in 1955, the classic *Inherit the Wind*, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, entranced audiences with its dramatization of the Scope Monkey Trials, the monumental battle between the ideas of Creationism and Evolution, set to a backdrop of the Cold War. But the story that it tells, and its message, is as relevant and contemporary as the playwright's Time and Setting: A small town. Summer. Not too long ago.

"The story that is told in ***Inherit the Wind*** compels every watcher to answer the question, with so many divisive ideologies separating communities all over the nation, what will our legacy be?"

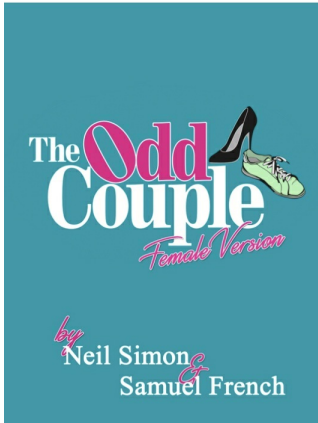
Inherit the Wind, by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, is directed by Aaron Morrow. The show opens March 1 and runs thru March 17 at The Main Stage at Rise Church in Tigard. Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30pm and Sunday matinees at 2:30pm.

[Here's](#) more about the show.

Ticket informartion for ***Inherit the Wind*** is [here](#).

Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*

Meet *Olive Madison* and *Florence Unger*



Neil Simon's revision of his hugely successful play, *The Odd Couple*, sees the lead characters transformed into *Olive Madison* and *Florence Unger*.

Olive and their group of girlfriends are enjoying their weekly Trivial Pursuit night in Olive's messy and ill-equipped apartment. As the game continues,

Florence arrives, fresh from being dumped by her husband. Fearful that the neurotic Florence might attempt suicide, Olive invites her to move in as her roommate. However, Olive and Florence have VERY different personalities. Where Olive is messy, untidy, and unconcerned about the state of her apartment, Florence is obsessively clean, tidy, and obsessed with hygiene. Olive's easy-going outlook on life soon clashes with Florence's highly-strung neurotic tendencies, testing their friendship to the limit. When Olive organizes a double-date with the Costazuela brothers, their differences come to a head and sparks fly.

Directed by Sarah Nolte, *The Odd Couple, Female Version*, will be performed April 26 - May 12, 2024 at The Main Stage at Rise Church in Tigard. Friday and Saturday performances start at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:30pm.

[Here's](#) ticket information.

[Here's](#) more about the show.

***God of Carnage* opens July 12, 2024**

Winner: Best Play at 2009 Tony Awards



Yasmina Reza's ***God of Carnage*** tells the tale of two couples who meet one fateful night to discuss the matter of their sons' fight that ended in one child's two broken teeth. As the night progresses, the politeness wears thin, smiles

fade, accusations are made, insults are delivered, alliances are broken and civility is shattered.

Roman Martinez, who is the director, says "***God of Carnage*** resonated with me because of the idea of the breakdown of civility in the modern world. This play is a microcosm of society and it demonstrates how close we are to our aggressive roots. The rhythm of Yasmina Reza's writing is pitch-perfect and the characters are entertaining and well-developed."

Martinez adds, "I am a filmmaker and the play speaks to me from a cinematic perspective. The performances are understated like a motion picture and it translates very well to a smaller and intimate setting such as the Tualatin Heritage Center. Actors who audition for this play will have an enjoyable time reading the characters and interacting with the other actors. Audiences will be entertained by the witty writing and twists and turns the play takes. I am proud to be bringing "God of Carnage" to *Mask and Mirror* for the 2023 - 2024 season."

Performances are July 12 - 28, Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm, Sunday at 3:00pm, at the Tualatin Heritage Center in Tualatin.

More about this show [here](#).

Get tickets [here](#).

[Get Your Season Tickets Now!](#)

Three Main Stage and two "UnMasked" shows



We're sure you'll agree there's something for everybody with our 2023 -24 season line-up. Our Main Stage shows include Ken Ludwig's ***The Game's Afoot***, sure to be a holiday season hit, as well as the classic ***Inherit The Wind***, and a hilarious twist based on a contemporary classic, ***The Odd Couple (Female Version)***. There's also two *UnMasked* shows, ***Private Eyes*** and ***Days of Carnage***, both ideal for the intimate confines of the *Tualatin Heritage Center* stage.

Season tickets are \$70 (adults) for all five shows. Season tickets for seniors (55+) are \$60 for all five shows. There may not be a better deal in the entire Portland metro area.

See all ticket options [here](#).

You can purchase your season tickets [here](#).

From the President's Desk

By Rick Hoover, President, *Mask & Mirror*

Community Theatre



First off, I would like to acknowledge some people behind the scenes of our successful run of ***The Gin Game***. Peter Bolger and Hertsel Shadian did a magnificent job working backstage keeping the show moving along. There are so many hours put in by these two, and since this was a first for both, I would like to tip my hat (if I had a hat) to both of them for all their work.

Also, one thing you might have not noticed, is that we had 3 different sound/light guys working this show. I took the reins the first weekend, then Steve Hotaling took the second weekend and George Mauro did the third weekend. All 3 of us had previous engagements during this run but we were able to get our schedules to work in this way. It is so nice to have multiple people to call on when needed. There were a lot of sound and light cues during the show and to step in and handle them as smoothly as it went is a testament to the love of theater. Another tip of the (invisible/pretend/unknown) hat to Steve and George.

Now that season 12 is in the books, let's look forward to season 13. I get to open the season directing a very funny show ***The Games Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays*** by Ken Ludwig. This is a combination murder mystery and farce all rolled into one. We will be holding auditions on August 19th and 20th with possible callbacks on August 21st.

I hope to see all of you during the upcoming season. Come up and

say "Hi". And remember, we can always use people to help out, either on stage or off. And if you are interested but have never done anything, we can teach you. Come join the fun.

A note from the editor: As I'm sure you've noted, this edition is a little lighter on content than usual. Call this the summer vacation edition. We'll be back next month, full of features and more information about *Mask & Mirror*. Thank you for supporting *Mask & Mirror Community Theatre*. And thank you for reading the *Newsletter*.

~ Peter Bolger, Editor

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