



July 2023 Newsletter

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***The Gin Game* opens July 14**

Tickets on sale NOW



Summer for many of us means vacations. But for the cast and crew of ***The Gin Game***, it means many hours of rehearsing at the Tualatin Heritage Center.

From Linda Talluto, the Director of ***The Gin Game***: "In this winner of the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, a card game becomes a metaphor for life. Weller is playing solitaire on the porch of a run down nursing home when self-righteous Fonsia appears. They discover they both

dislike the home and enjoy gin rummy. As they play, and reveal details of

their lives, their secrets become weapons used against each other. The story and characters are complex, and at times uncomfortable. The two actors must understand and portray the inner thoughts of their characters. Every word, phrase, and movement must let the audience understand what is going through the character's mind. I read many critical essays on the play and discussed them with the actors.

"Kathleen and Marc have spent countless hours, not just in memorizing hundreds of lines, but in looking at every line and phrase and what they reveal about the character. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated cast. Thank you, Kathleen (Silloway) and Marc (Berezin) for taking this journey with me! And thank you Peter (Bolger, the Production Manager), for supporting me throughout this process!!"



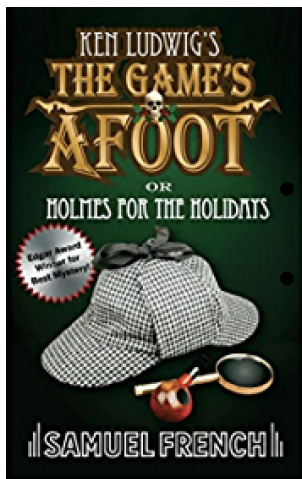
The Gin Game is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. (www.concordtheatricals.com) and opens Friday, July 14 and runs to July 30 (Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm, Sundays at 3:00pm) at the Tualatin Heritage Center, 8700 SW Sweek in Tualatin. [Tickets are on sale now.](#)

Please note that this show has some strong language and anger expressed by the characters, and it could cause discomfort with some audience members.

Next season opens with *The Game's Afoot*

Ken Ludwig's comedy opens November 3

The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays



By Ken Ludwig

Directed by Rick Hoover

Nov 3 - 19, 2023. Fri & Sat 7:30pm, Sun 2:30 pm

Rise Church Main Stage in Tigard

It is December 1936, and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his leading role in the play *Sherlock Holmes*, 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.

Rick Hoover is excited to direct this show, noting "I have always wanted to direct a Ken Ludwig show. I found this one and immediately fell in love with the concept. I have always been a fan of Sherlock Holmes, so this was the perfect fit for me. I have also felt that William Gillette (who famously portrayed the "Master of Deduction" on stage) helped in some way to get Sherlock Holmes to the American public by creating plays and silent films about Arthur Conan Doyle's famous sleuth."

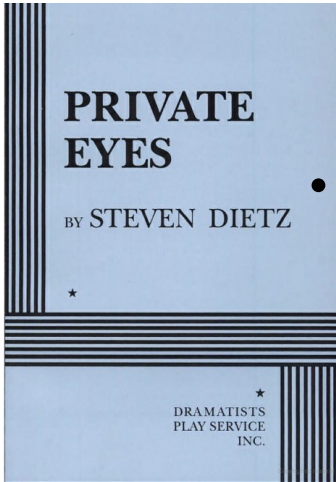
Rick added, "Auditions for *The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays* will be at The Rise Church, August 18 and 20, with callbacks on August 21, and performances will run from November 3 – 19."

Bookmark [this page](#) to stay up to date with *Mask & Mirror* auditions.

More about our 2023 – 24 season

Comedy, drama, *M&M* offers it all!

Private Eyes



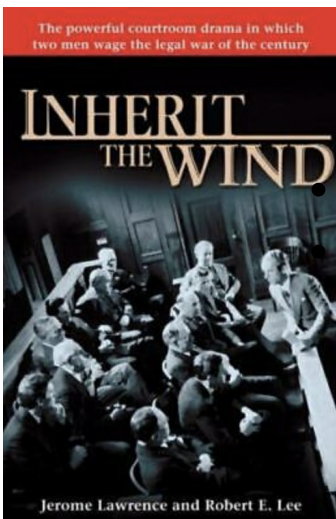
By Steven Dietz

Directed by Tony Broom

- Jan 19 - Feb 4, 2024 Fri & Sat 7:30 p. Sun 3:00 pm
Tualatin Heritage Center

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 theater 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 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 plays the role of detective in this hilarious "relationship thriller" about love, lust, and the power of deception.

Inherit the Wind



By Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee

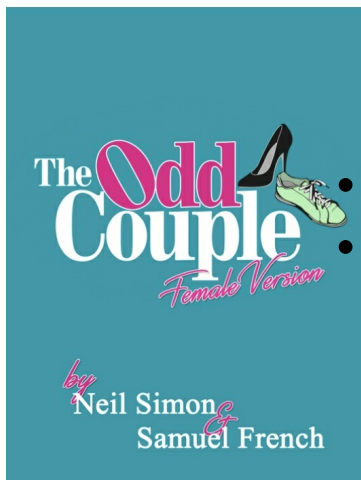
Directed by Aaron Morrow

- March 1 - 17, 2024. Fri & Sat 7:30 pm. Sun 2:30 pm
Rise Church Main Stage in Tigard

In a small, deeply conservative Midwest town, a young school teacher is arrested for teaching the theory of evolution to his high school Science classroom. What follows is a gargantuan court battle between the two iconic lawyers of their day, the stirring of the town's passion for their convictions, and an assault on the very foundations of our freedom to choose, or even think, for ourselves. First staged at the height of McCarthyism, this incredible story continues to be frighteningly relevant even

70 years later.

The Odd Couple, Female Version



By Neil Simon

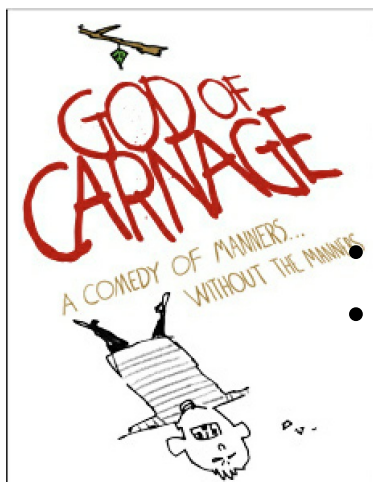
Directed by Sarah Nolte

- April 26 - May 12, 2024. Fri & Sat 7:30 pm. Sun 2:30 pm
- Rise Church Main Stage in Tigard

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 her 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. Olive's easy-going outlook on life soon clashes with Florence's highly-strung neurotic tendencies, testing their friendship to the limit and sparks fly.

God of Carnage



By Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed By Roman Martinez

- July 12 - 28, 2024. Fri & Sat 7:30 pm. Sun 3:00 p
- Tualatin Heritage Center

God of Carnage resonated with Roman Martinez, Director, "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.

“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 & Mirror* for the 2024 season.”

You may purchase tickets on our website: www.maskandmirror.com

The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays, and ***The Odd Couple, Female Version*** are presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. (www.concordtheatricals.com) ***Private Eyes***, ***Inherit the Wind*** and ***God of Carnage*** are presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

From the President's Desk

By Rick Hoover, *Mask & Mirror*



Well, I hope you were able to come out to our annual Mask & Mirror meeting and get together. Whew, that was a long title!

We started out with probably the fastest business meeting on record. The business meeting started at 6:35 pm and ended at 6:40 pm. During that time, we voted on a change to the By-Laws and elected a new slate for the upcoming season. First off, congratulations to our new member, Laurie Monday, who will take over the role of secretary from Jodi Johnson. Jodi did an excellent job during her tenure, and we thank her for her work. Jodi will move from secretary to member-at-large. Dwayne Thurnau will continue as treasurer.

Dwayne has done a fantastic job as treasurer, and we are glad to keep him on. Finally, Kathleen Silloway will continue to be the Vice President.

After the business meeting, we took a short break for food and visiting. At 7:00 pm I called the meeting back to order to discuss the current and upcoming seasons. We have one show left in this season, ***The Gin Game***, in July. The first 4 shows were seen by over 1,000 people. And the upcoming season is, in my opinion, one of the strongest that I have seen. I am sure that everyone will be happy with our shows this upcoming season.

Calling all directors for 2024-25 season

Submissions are due November 1, 2023



Mask and Mirror Community Theatre, located in Tigard/Tualatin, is accepting play submissions from interested directors for our 2024-25 season. Submissions are due November 1, 2023. For more details about play proposal guidelines and play selection criteria, please refer to the two documents posted at [Mask & Mirror's web site](#).

If you are interested in directing for *Mask & Mirror* but do not have a play in mind, please send us a letter of interest and your resume. We are pleased to announce that *Mask & Mirror* will pay directors a stipend for this season.

Please send your submissions to Robin Michaels, Secretary, Play Selection Committee, at microb68@comcast.net

The MIGS Spotlight shines on ... Patricia Alston

By Laurie Monday



Born in Payson Utah, **Patricia Alston** was whisked away at eighteen months to Tustin, in Orange County, CA. It was the era of orange, avocado and lemon groves and fragrant eucalyptus trees, not the continuous strip malls of today.

The middle child of five, she announced to her parents, at age five, the desire to be an actress. It was not well received, despite the fact her mother was a professional opera singer and performer. and her father a great story teller. She, along with her older sister, helped raise the younger ones, whom she used as models for her fancy dress-up fashion shows. She studied hard in school and always tried to please her parents.

In high school she joined 4-H and won several awards for her amazing sheep and swine. At home she listened to and observed every actor on television and gives a shout out to Carol Burnett, Katherine Hepburn, Betty Davis, Glenda Jackson, Lily Tomlin and many others. Her first acting role (no kidding!) was Lady Macbeth in the fifth grade. Later, she began entering beauty pageants, winning *Miss Orange County Country Girl*, which was part of the Miss Universe pageant line. She presided over the OC Fair in 1980.

Patricia transferred from UCSD to NYC to study nursing, with the true goal of acting on Broadway. During this time she acted with the *Bard Hall Players*, mostly performing musicals. She bumped into Tom, the man who would become her husband, at a mutual friend's wedding back on the Left Coast. Eventually, she sacrificed her Broadway dream to see if she had a future with Tom and they married in 1985 after a whirlwind courtship. As a newlywed, she performed onstage and having an agent, did professional film and print ads.

After four children, she returned to acting with the start up of a Christian theater group at her church in Walnut Creek, CA.. In 2004, her husband was again transferred, this time to Portland.

She and Tom have been married thirty eight years, with a lot of love left to go around, although she does occasionally warble, "Do You Love Me?" (from *Fiddler on the Roof*). She finally returned to community theater in 2016. She played Ida in *The Cemetary Club* (with this writer btw!) at *Wilsonville Stage*. Favorite roles include Lady Larkin in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Agnes in the *Shadow Box*, Polonius in *Hamlet* and the recent Myra in *Mask and Mirror's Deathtrap*.



Patricia with the cast of *Deathtrap*



Patricia with Les Ico in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*

Patricia declares she loves performing in community theater, and particularly enjoys having the chance to spend time with talented actors of all generations.

She particularly enjoys the community part of community theater, including making friends with not only actors, but crew, costumers, directors and managers. She loves traveling through time, with roles from classic works. At *Mask and Mirror*, she can entertain audiences, while being enthralled with the stories. If an audience enjoys a show, to Patricia, that is the best reward and freely given.

Show off your *M&M* pride!

***Mask & Mirror* SWAG is back!**

Support *Mask & Mirror* by wearing your own custom *Mask & Mirror* t-shirt,

hoodie, bag or window sticker!



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