

Seventy-Fourth Season

## Mainstage

### **The Rainmaker**

September 4 - 21, 2008

### **Children of Eden**

October 9 - 26, 2008

### **Bloody Murder**

January 15 - February 1, 2009

### **A Doll's House**

March 19 - April 5, 2009

### **Perfect Wedding**

April 30 - May 17, 2009

### **Man of La Mancha**

June 4 - 28, 2009



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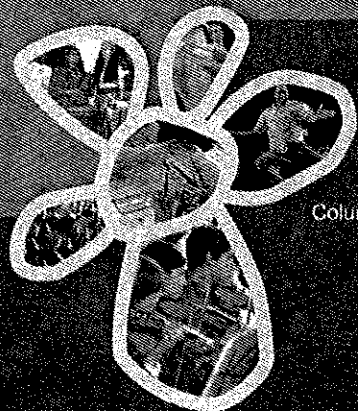
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## From Our Executive Director

### A Word of Thanks

I'd like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to you, our patrons, for your continued support of Weather vane Playhouse. I want to thank you at this point in our season in particular because I am empathetic to your situation. You're sitting here (in the aftermath of the holidays) in our still old and uncomfortable theater seats after having intrepidly made your way through the winter weather of Northeast Ohio (not to mention the treacherous rubble of our demolished -- and temporarily diminished -- lobby) only to spend your money on something completely unknown and unproven -- a brand new play. Bravo and three cheers to you for your courage! Your vision and hope sustain us.



### Lots to Look Forward To

The good news is there is a lot to look forward to. You have a terrific new play, *Bloody Murder*, about to unfold before you that is in the hands of a first-class director and a marvelous cast that I know you're going to enjoy. In addition, the next time you're here to see our stunning new version of *A Doll's House*, much of the new lobby will be finished and you'll begin to really enjoy the amenities that we are working hard to bring you. Your anticipation of new theater seats, however, will have to keep building until late next summer but, in the meantime, you can start composing your favorite story about how the Playhouse used to be in the old days.

### A Lasting Legacy

Speaking of theater seats, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the last phase of our fundraising efforts for the new building -- our Seat-Naming Campaign! The pitch here is that, for a tax-deductible contribution of \$250 to our building fund, we will attach a specially engraved plate with your name on it to one of our new theater seats. This is a great way to show your support for the Playhouse and, at the same time, have a lasting legacy of your generosity live on at Weather vane for years to come.

Many thanks once again for all you do and I look forward to sharing the energy of live theater with you throughout this exciting new year of change and growth.

Sincerely,

John Hedges  
Executive Director



Weather vane  
— PLAYHOUSE —

74th Season -- 2008-2009 -- Production #536  
January 15 - February 1, 2009

# Bloody Murder

Comedy by Ed Sala

Directed by **NANCY CATES** (SSDC)

Stage Manager  
**JERRY MIRMAN, JR.**

Costume Designer  
**JASEN J. SMITH**

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## About the Play and Playwright

### About the Play

In the spirit of the best Agatha Christie-type "whodunit," several murder-mystery types assemble for a weekend in the English countryside at the lavish estate of Lady Somerset, a woman of great wealth and social standing. Into her Ladyship's parlor comes a colorful collection of characters. We meet the middle-aged maid and head of staff for Lady Somerset's estate; a far-too-innocent ingenue; an enigmatic and well-preserved countess; a self-glorifying Major, who brags of his former military service in India; Lady Somerset's ne'er-do-well nephew; and an actor of former acclaim who at present prefers to drown himself with single-malt Scotch whiskey. When one of the houseguests is suddenly murdered, her Ladyship refuses to let anyone call the police. Instead, she insists that she and her guests are merely characters in a mystery story written by a perfectly dreadful author – and she won't allow the charade to go on any longer! Once a bumbling, dim-witted Chief Inspector of Police arrives on the scene, *Bloody Murder* serves up an hilarious battle of wills between the writer and his creations – and delivers an ending guaranteed to surprise!

Weathervane Playhouse's production of *Bloody Murder* marks the world-premiere staging of Ed Sala's comic murder mystery. Prior to its journey to the Weathervane stage, Sala's script won awards from the Theatre Resources Unlimited Playwriting Festival in New York City and the Appalachian Playwriting Festival at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia.

### About the Playwright

Ed Sala holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in playwriting from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia – but has made his living primarily as an actor. He has performed on Broadway in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, on the stages of regional theater, on television, in movies and has also narrated several audio books. He played the role of Al on CBS-TV's *Guiding Light*, Captain Bogie Queeg on the PBS-TV show *Square One Television* and had a recurring role on the NBC-TV series *Matlock*. He has played a variety of roles at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Virginia, where he also wrote and premiered his original musical comedy, *Alice...Through the Picture Tube*. During his acting career, he has worked with *Bloody Murder* director Nancy Cates and her husband, Terry Burlger – and he has also shared the Barter Theatre stage with Weathervane Executive Director John Hedges. Sala says he prefers writing to acting but reports that when he begins to write a play, he knows what the plot should be, but his characters wrest the action from him. This interaction between the playwright and his creations guided Sala to depict the hilarious battle of wills between *Bloody Murder*'s Lady Somerset and himself. In his preface to the script, Sala writes, "I hope *Bloody Murder* entertains, but also reveals, in a rather unusual way, something of the struggles involved in the creative process." Sala lives in New York City with wife, Renee, and daughter, Emma, who at 13 is already becoming an actress in a program titled *Meet Me at the Corner* (in which she leads tours of local landmarks).



## Bloody Murder -- Cast

Lady Somerset.....	Linda Ryan
Jane.....	Karen L. Wood
Emma Reese.....	Tess Burgler
The Countess.....	Dede Klein
The Major.....	Henry C. Bishop
Devon Tremaine .....	Tom Stephan
Charles .....	Scott Shriner
Chief Inspector Phelps.....	Ron Cuirle

*There will be one 15-minute intermission.*

### Track Your Favorites

Keep track of your favorites all season long and you'll be prepared to vote for our Chanticleer Awards at the end of the season. Use this list as a guide...

Sound Design  
Lighting Design  
Properties Design  
Costume Design  
Lead Actor -- play & musical  
Featured Actor -- play & musical

Supporting Actor -- play & musical  
Lead Actress -- play & musical  
Featured Actress -- play & musical  
Supporting Actress -- play & musical  
Best Production

### For Your Safety...

- ♦ We request that you remain seated until the house lights have come up at intermission and after the curtain call.
- ♦ The use of cameras, recording equipment and laser pointers is forbidden during this performance.
- ♦ As a courtesy to fellow audience members, please make sure that cell phones and pagers are turned off during the performance.
- ♦ Please do not bring food or drink into the auditorium.
- ♦ NOTE: In case of an emergency in which the performance cannot continue, Calamity Vouchers will be issued for a future performance. Thank you.





## About Our Director

Nancy Cates has so enjoyed each of her Weathervane shows: *Blithe Spirit*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Communicating Doors*, *Gypsy*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *All My Sons* and *Moon Over Buffalo*. Having been fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to direct in such a wide variety of genres, she is now delighted to add tonight's show, an original work, to the list. In a twist (almost) worthy of *Bloody Murder*, playwright Ed Sala was performing on stage in an original musical, book co-written by Nancy's husband Terry Burgler, the night their daughter, Tess, playing the role of Emma tonight, was born. Theatre is a small world, and Nancy is grateful to both work upon a clever new script and to encounter Ed again after more than two decades. Nancy and Terry are the founding Artistic Directors of Ohio Shakespeare Festival and the Artistic Directors of Coach House Theatre, both venues being enthusiastic supporters of Weathervane. Nancy is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. (SSDC)

## A Brief History of Weathervane Playhouse

Weathervane Community Playhouse began its run as a live theater in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members -- Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laurine Schwan, Helen Troesch -- and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works -- even opera -- with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1471 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. During the 1960s the membership planned, plotted and raised funds. It all came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* at this location in the Valley. Weathervane Playhouse now looks forward to a third expansion on the current facility and a 75th anniversary.

### Recent Contributions were made:

In honor of John Grafton and Richard Worswick  
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## Biographies

**LINDA RYAN** (Lady Somerset) Linda's theater background began in 1964 in Australia, where she also worked as a radio announcer. Since arriving in America in 1981, she has worked steadily in local theaters including Weathervane, Coach House, Actors' Summit and the Players Guild of Canton. Several part-time acting jobs, including commercials and murder mysteries, keep Linda busy. A retired legal secretary, Linda plays bridge, writes short stories and haiku, plays percussion in a band, volunteers with Mobile Meals, reads, knits, and crochets. An avid games player, when not onstage, Linda loves to spend an evening with her husband, family and friends playing games.

**KAREN L. WOOD** (Jane) recently appeared as 'Stella' in the Coach House production of *Light Up the Sky*. *Bloody Murder* marks Karen's fifth Akron production since her June 1 retirement from North Central Local Schools. In her 25-year history with Weathervane, favorite roles include 'Amalia' in *She Loves Me*, 'Fraulein Schneider' in *Cabaret*, 'Abby' in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and 'Mazeppa' in *Gypsy*. Karen is proud to have been the recipient of six Chanticleer awards. Karen and husband Henry C. Bishop reside in Creston, where they love to sit by the fire and fend off their pet cats!

**TESS BURGLER** (Emma Reese) will graduate this spring from the College of Wooster with a BA degree in Theatre and Dance. Last year, she studied abroad in London and prepared for her senior thesis, an in-depth study of Shakespeare's original practices. Tess last performed on the Weathervane stage in 2007 as Ann Deever in *All My Sons*. Most recently, Tess performed with Coach House Theatre as Shelby in *Steel Magnolias* and at Canton Players Guild as Luciana in *Comedy of Errors*. Other favorite roles include: Diedre in *I Hate Hamlet* (Ohio Shakespeare Festival) and Shy in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (OSF). Love to family and friends—thanks for your unfailing support because it means the world to me!

**DEDE KLEIN** (The Countess, Motorist, Nun) was last seen on our stage as Charlotte Hay in *Moon Over Buffalo*. Prior to that, she appeared as Eleanor in *Lion in Winter*, for which she won the Chanticleer for Best Actress. Dede has also worked at the Ohio Shakespeare

Festival, Coach House, Beck Center, The Bang and the Clatter, Chagrin Valley and Aurora Theaters. Some favorite credits include Elvira in *Blithe Spirit*, Hannah Pitt in *Angels in America*, Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, Woman B in *Three Tall Women* and Birdie in *The Little Foxes*. Dede recently retired from American Airlines after 31 years of service. She is pleased to be working with Nancy Cates again along with this fun and talented cast. Figurez Vous!

**HENRY C. BISHOP** (The Major) lives in Wayne County with his wife Karen L. Wood.

**TOM STEPHAN** (Devon Tremaine) is happy to return to Weathervane after appearing in the Dietz black box theater production, *And the Winner Is*, this past spring. Tom was last seen on the mainstage in *Lend Me a Tenor*, also directed by Nancy Cates. Since then he has appeared with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival, the Largely Literary Theater Company and Stow Players. A five-time Chanticleer Award winner, Tom is a retired English and drama teacher from Stow-Munroe Falls High School, and is the longest "surviving" member of *Mysteries by Moushey*. He has served on the boards of Weathervane, Stow Players and a number of community and civic groups. He balances diverse community involvement with voice-over, commercial and industrial video work.

**SCOTT SHRINER** (Charles Pomeroy) last appeared in the Dietz Theatre in *Love! Valour! Compassion!* He has won Chanticleer awards for Weathervane's recent mainstage productions of *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Moon Over Buffalo* and *All My Sons*. His favorite role here is Nick Cristano in *Over the River and Through the Woods* in 2005. He has performed with Ohio Shakespeare Festival, The Bang and the Clatter, Coach House and Actors' Summit.

**RON CUIRLE** (Inspector Phelps, Mr. Woo, El Gato, Priest) always has fun working with his friends. He constantly wonders what life would be like without the arts ... then thanks God no one has to experience that. Ron resides minutes away at the top of the hill in Akron with his beautiful, fabulous, fantastic and ever loving girlfriend Emily -- his own personal piece of art.



## Biographies - continued

**JERRY A. MIRMAN, JR.** (Stage Manager) has served Weathervane for the past 21 years as an actor, stage manager and designer of lighting and properties. He is co-chair of the Properties department on our Production Board. Last season, he stage managed our production of *Moon Over Buffalo*, also directed by Nancy Cates. Jerry also stage manages for Ohio Shakespeare Festival at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens.

**STEPHEN MOUSHEY** (Sound Co-Designer) This is his fifth sound design at Weathervane Playhouse. Previously, he designed sound for *Of Mice and Men*, *Seven Guitars* and (with generous help from Eileen Moushey) *Lend Me a Tenor*, which earned a Chanticleer Award for Best Sound Design. Eileen and Stephen co-designed sound for *And the Winner Is* at Weathervane's Dietz Theatre and are collaborating again for *Bloody Murder*. In addition to working on sound crews for several Weathervane productions, he also continues to work behind the scenes for Eileen and *Mysteries by Moushey*.

**EILEEN MOUSHEY** (Sound Co-Designer) is collaborating once again with husband, Stephen, to design sound for a Weathervane production. She was hooked with *Lend Me a Tenor* and has reluctantly set aside her "opera files" to explore the world of 1920s and 1930s music and mystery sound effects.

**JASEN J. SMITH** (Costume Designer) serves on Weathervane's professional staff as the Resident Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager. He served for four years as the Costume Designer and Theatre Rentals Manager for Akron Design and Costume. From 2001 to 2004, the College of Wooster employed him as the Costume Designer/Costume Shop Manager. At Wooster, he also served as the resident costume designer for the Ohio Light Opera's 2003 and 2004 summer seasons. Mr. Smith is a 1999 graduate of Huntington College in Montgomery, Ala. In 1997, he worked as a wardrobe assistant for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and he designed costumes for its Graduate Acting

Company's production of *The White Devil* in 2001. A resident of Akron, he is a part-time instructor at Case Western Reserve University, where he teaches costume design and construction.

**BOB SCHAEFER** (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be making his Weathervane debut. His previous work has been primarily at Coach House Theatre where he designed sets for *Steel Magnolias*, *Driving Miss Daisy* (for which he also designed lights), *Art*, *Proof*, *Hay Fever* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* -- the latter two for which he won Royal Coach Awards for Best Scenic Design. He sends his love out to his wife Kendra.

**JUDY WILLEMSSEN** (Properties Designer) recently served as Assistant Stage Manager for *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and created the sound design for *Love! Valour! Compassion!* She heads the Playhouse's Stage Management department on the Production Board. A Weathervane volunteer for more than 20 years, Judy has won Chanticleer Awards for sound designs for *Translations*, *The Piano Lesson*, *My Three Angels* and *The Full Monty*. As Stage Manager, she won Chanticleers for *Harvey* and *The Laramie Project*. Judy is the mother of two daughters, Amber and Morgan.

**ALAN SCOTT FERRALL** (Scenic Designer) began his association with Weathervane as a backstage volunteer under the tutelage of the late John R. Thomas. This is Scott's 12th season as a Weathervane staff member. Previously, he worked at Cuyahoga Falls High School. He has designed sets for many local high schools as well as for the Players Guild, Cleveland Signstage Theatre and PBS-TV Channels 45/49. At WCP, Scott has earned five Chanticleer Awards -- one as Stage Manager for *Fences*, and the others for his lighting designs for *The Laramie Project* and *A Lesson before Dying* and co-lighting design for *A Man for All Seasons* and *The Full Monty*. Scott takes great pleasure in writing the end-of-the-season revue for the Not-Ready-for-Mainstage Players, who appear at the annual Chanticleer Awards.



## Production Team

Alan Scott Ferrall -- Technical Director  
Kathy Kohl -- Assistant Technical Director

### SET CONSTRUCTION

Ruth Richardson  
Tom Marshall  
Sandy Horvath  
Len Cheslock  
Todd Dieringer  
Erin Katz Ford  
Kevin Ford  
Bob Schaefer  
David Ruggles  
Clyde Shaw  
Dan Levan  
Barry Levan

### COSTUMES

Suzanne Abernathy  
John S. Catlos  
Randie O. Sass  
Leah Sass  
Judy Snyder  
Paulette Lark  
Scott Davis  
Karen Burridge  
Susie Stech  
Judy Willemssen

### LIGHTS

Erin Katz Ford  
David Ruggles  
Susan Stout-Davis  
Leah Magnus  
Rick Murphy

### PROPERTIES

J.J. McAdams  
Jerry Dorton  
Jen Draher  
Rick Murphey

### SOUND

Mary Kate Clancy  
Lois Bennett  
Cheryl Stadler

### Thanks to Our Hard-Working Volunteers

*The following are the dedicated volunteers who have assisted us recently.*

Linda Algie  
Susan Baker  
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Connie Bowen  
June Bretzin  
Shannon Brown  
Ken Carder  
Gail & Leonard Cheslock  
Wendy Cooley  
Thelma Coss  
M.J. Coulson  
Margaret Dietz  
Nikki Dye  
Helen Fleming  
Erin Katz Ford  
Jill Forster  
Janis Gallagher  
Caroline Garritano  
Steve Garritano  
G.G. Glenn  
Sandra Harding  
Chuck Hass  
Marilyn Heagerty  
Linda Heath  
Dave Hinebaugh  
Fran Howell  
Chuck Kelades  
Evie Kidder  
Carol Krueger  
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Nancy Mahoney  
Miltz Mild

Marlene Miller  
Lois Murray  
Pat Obenour  
Barbara O'Connor  
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Jean Questel  
Bess Raines  
Ruth Richardson  
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Carol Seiberling  
Pearl Sentelik  
Nancy Schafer  
Dorothy Shaffer  
Lois Simmons  
Jasen J. Smith  
Sue Smith  
Trish Sorkel  
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Jacqui Sukie  
Barbie Trotter  
Verna VanderKovi  
Helen Vari  
Connie Velotta  
Paula Walker  
Michelle Williams  
Marta Williger  
Mary Wolfman  
Gen Woods  
Elizabeth Young  
B.J. Zeigler

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Cutting Room Fabrics  
Nancy Cates  
Linda & Bud Graske

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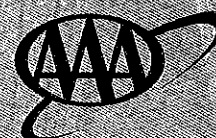
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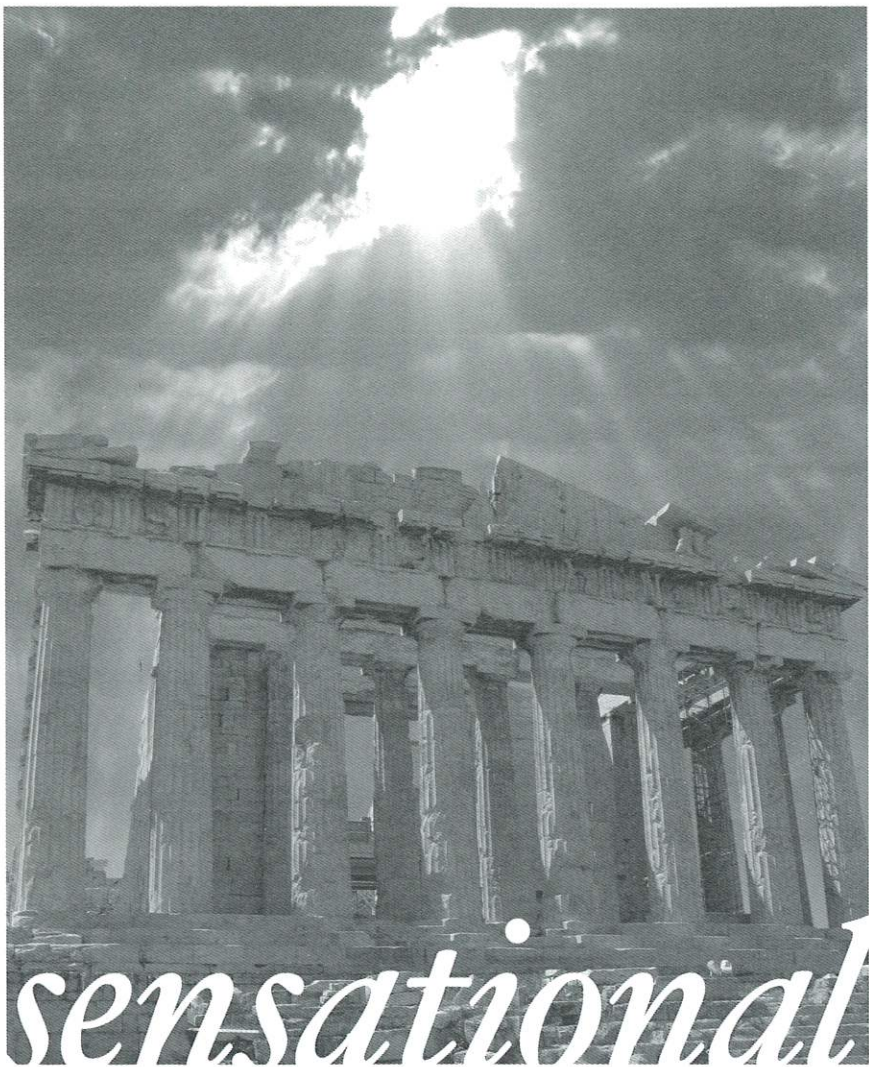
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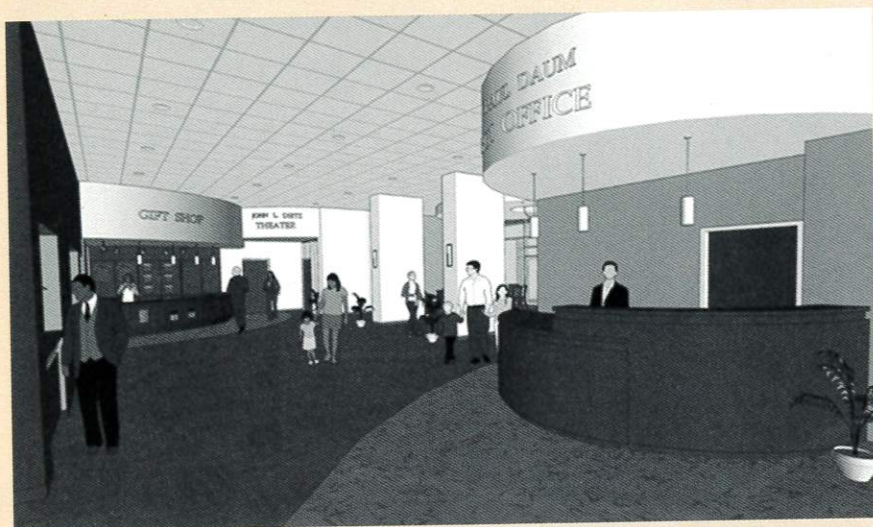
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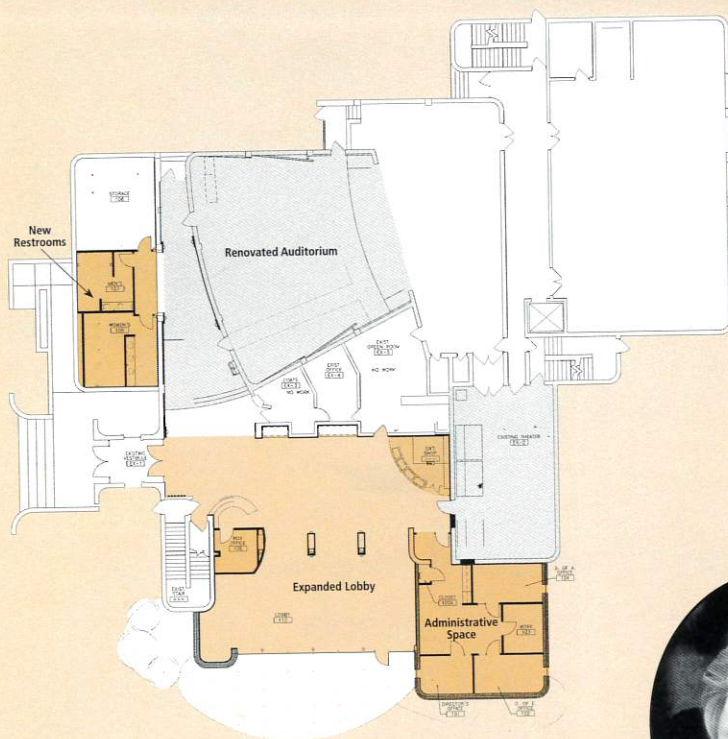


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Countess.....Dede Klein  
Major.....Henry Bishop  
Trenaine.....Tom Stephan  
Charles.....Scott Shriner  
Phelps.....Ron Cuirle

Director.....Nancy Cates  
Stage Manager.....Jerry Mirman, Jr.  
Sound Designer.....Stephen Moushey  
Costume Designer.....Jasen J. Smith  
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	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM			
<b>18</b>				<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
2:30 PM				7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM
<b>25</b>				<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
2:30 PM				7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM
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