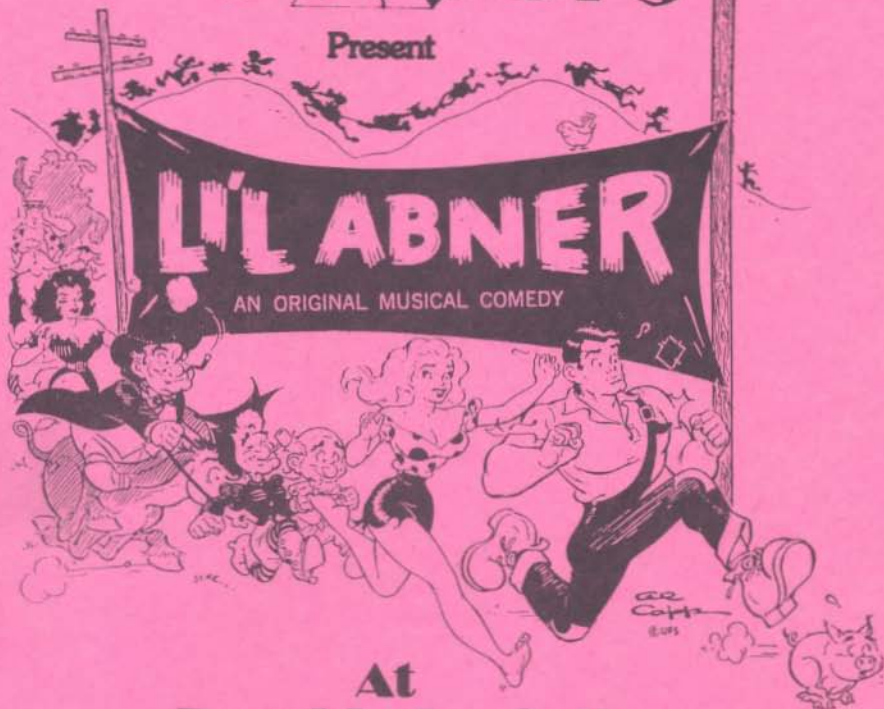


# The Pyramid Players

Present



At

**Rend Lake College**

sponsored by Franklin County Arts Association

An Original Broadway Musical Comedy By

Norman  
Panama

and

Melvin  
Frank

Based on characters created by Al Capp  
Lyrics and Music by

Johnny  
Mercer

and

Gene  
DePaul

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TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, New York, NY

**July 15, 16, 17 1993 - 7:30 pm**

**July 18, 1993 - 2:30 pm**

## WELCOME

Hello and welcome to the 17th annual Pyramid Players Summer Season. Since 1977, this amateur repertory company has brought you an excellent sampling of the best that Broadway has to offer. Since the beginning, some of the most talented people in Southern Illinois have worked with the group - this year is no exception. Players this summer come from Benton, Marion, Mt. Vernon, Herrin, Harrisburg, and all points in between. Some of the players have literally grown up with the group and once again, this summer, we offer you a children's production that is unmatched anywhere in the United States, LIL ABNER.

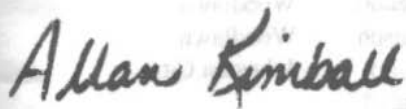
This year we went on the road by staging the comedy play LEND ME A TENOR at the Sesser Opera House. A buffet was offered before the show to give patrons a chance to enjoy a dinner theatre.

We will close the season with a restaging of OLIVER!, first performed by our group ten years ago, in 1983. It will feature a cast of talented actors and actresses, technicians and musicians that any company would be proud to claim. All of us involved in the PYRAMID PLAYERS are proud to bring you this exciting season of southern Illinois' acclaimed amateur theatre group.

Co-founders

Allan Kimball

Brian Summers



## CAST

### DOGPATCH, U.S.A. (in order of Appearance)

Available Jones	Tommy Miller,	Sesser
Mayor Dawgmeat	Chip Hutchcraft,	Ewing
Lonesome Polecat	Jason Webb,	Ewing
Hairless Joe	Mickey Hiller,	Zeigler
Romeo Scragg	Josh Bell,	Benton
Clem Scragg	Eli Cox,	Benton
Alf Scragg	Tim Cox	Benton
Cousin Scragg	Neil Atkins,	Benton
Moonbeam McSwine	Jonie Cairns,	Benton
Marryin' Sam	John Odle,	West Frankfort
Earthquake McGoon	Tim Tindall,	Benton
Daisy Mae	Ashley Eisenhauer,	Herrin
Pappy Yokum	Nathaniel Cox,	Benton
Mammy Yokum	Shea Hickey,	Marion (Thur & Sat)
	Natalie Spillman,	Benton (Fri & Sun)
Abner Yokum	Seth Kohlhaas,	Benton
Scarlett	Leslie Johnson,	Mt. Vernon
Rufe	Nathan Simpkins,	Herrin
Speedy McRabbit	Jeff Sweetin,	Benton
Stupefyin' Jones	Kelley Chiaventone,	Herrin
Cronies	Jonathan Edwards,	Benton
	Ben Edwards,	Benton
	Christopher Mellott,	Woodlawn
	Benjamin Ferguson,	Woodlawn
	Josh Clay,	Johnston City
Wives	Jill Dollins,	Zeigler
	Bethany Rosser,	Mt. Vernon
	Ashley Stewart,	Benton
	Taryn Herman,	Benton
	Andrea Blondi,	Benton

**Other Wives**

Amber Hall, Zeigler  
Michelle Tecklenburg Du Quoin  
Morgan Satterfield, Benton  
Cassie Batts, Benton

**Dogpatch Kids**

Kayti Hall, Zeigler  
Darren Hutson, Sesser  
Richard Lewis, Benton  
Natasha Shurtz, Benton  
Megan Tanner, Christopher  
Curtis Hodge, Benton  
Justin Kimball, Benton  
Hilary Rea, Benton  
Cadence Summers, Benton  
Melissa Vaughn, Zeigler

**General Bullmoose  
Senator Jack S.**

Tim Warner, Benton

**Phogbound  
Appassionate**

Patrick Melvin, Benton  
Melody Aiken, Benton (Thur & Sat)  
Mariel Reynolds, Mt. Vernon (Fri & Sun)

**State Dept. Colonel  
Evil Eye Fleagle**

Joshua West, Benton  
Michael Compton, Benton

**Dr. Finsdale**

Natalie Lewis, Benton

**Dr. Smithborn**

Amber Hall, Zeigler

**Dr. Krogmeyer**

Ashley Stewart, Benton

**Dr. Schleifitz**

Jill Dollins, Zeigler

**Maid**

Scarlett Rea, Benton

**Secretaries, Scientists,  
& Party Guests**

Sara Dollins, Zeigler  
Abby Neal, Benton  
Jennifer Volz, Benton  
Andrea Keen, Mt. Vernon  
Sara Perdue, Benton  
Ranee Robinson, Sesser  
Brittany Bailor, Valier  
Megan Atkins, Benton

# LIL ABNER ORCHESTRA

Woodwinds	Lynette Lefler, Amanda Scobby, Cam Brown, Sue Krapf, Ike Minton,	Benton West Frankfort West Frankfort Benton Du Quoin
Trumpet	John Odle, Chad Minier,	West Frankfort Benton
Trombone	Ben Cox, Deidra Dollins, Denise Smith,	Benton Zeigler Du Quoin
String Bass	Larry Phifer,	Mt. Vernon
Synthesizer	Mary Ellen Aiken, Courtney Cox,	Benton Benton
Piano	Norma Johnson,	Carterville
Percussion	Troy Brown,	Benton
Auxilliary Percussion	Debbie DeGorica,	Johnston City

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director - Pam Kimball

Vocal Music - Susan Summers, Leslie Cox

Orchestra Director - Rhonda Jourdan

Choreography - Aszure Dorton, Leslie Cox, Pam Kimball

Assistant to the Directors - AJ Triano, Signe Skinion

Rehearsal Accompanist - Norma Johnson

Assistant Accompanists - Deidra Dollins, Gaila Edel

Costume Coordinator - Deidra Dollins

Set Design - Allan Kimball, Jan Compton

Set Construction - Darrell, Jan & Michael Compton,

Seth Kohlhaas, A J Triano, Troy Brown, Tim Warner

John Odle, Natalie Spillman, Natalie Lewis,

Signe Skinion, Tim Tindall, Patrick Melvin, Jonathan Edwards,

Chip Hutchcraft, Nathaniel Cox, Eli Cox, Bev Hall

Set Decoration - Jan Compton, Karen King, Susan Summers

Backstage Crew - AJ Triano, Signe Skinion, Emily Kimmel,

Aszure Dorton, Allan Kimball

Light Technician - Adam Overturf

Sound Technician - Brian Summers

Spotlight - Chris Melvin, Gina Hutchcraft

Sound Set Up - Bill King, Troy Brown

Executive Secretary & Box Office - Susan Summers

## SYNOPSIS & MUSICAL NUMBERS

### ACT ONE

- Scene 1: Dogpatch, U.S.A.  
"A Typical Day" .....Dogpatchers
- Scene 2: The Fishin' Hole  
"If I Had My Druthers" ..... Abner & Men  
"Reprise: If I Had My Druthers" .....Daisy
- Scene 3: Cornpone Square  
"Jubilation T. Cornpone" .....  
Marryin' Sam & Dogpatchers  
"Rag Off'n the Bush" .....  
Phogbound & Dogpatchers  
"Namely You" .....Daisy & Abner  
"Unnecessary Town" .....Mammy, Pappy,  
Mayor & Dogpatchers
- Scene 4: General Bullmoose's Office  
"What's Good for General Bullmoose" ...Secretaries
- Scene 5: Cornpone Square  
"There's Room Enough For Us" .....Dogpatchers  
"The Country's in the Very Best of Hands" .....  
Abner & Marryin' Sam
- Scene 6: Dogpatch  
"Sadie Hawkin's Day Ballet" ..... Dogpatchers

## ACT TWO

- Scene 1: Government Testing Laboratory, Washington D.C.  
"Oh Happy Day".....Doctors Finsdale, Smithborn,  
Krogmeyer, Schleifetz & Scientists
- Scene 2: Dogpatch  
"I'm Past My Prime"..... Daisy & Marryin' Sam
- Scene 3: General Bullmoose's Office  
"Love In a Home".....Daisy & Abner  
"Progress is the Root of All Evil" .....  
Bullmoose, Phogbound & Appassionata
- Scene 4: Ballroom in Bullmoose Mansion  
"In Society - Dance"..... Washington D.C. Cast  
"Reprise: Progress is the Root of All Evil".....  
Bullmoose
- Scene 5: The Government Testing Laboratory  
"Put 'Em Back".....Dogpatch Wives  
Reprise:Namely You".....Daisy
- Scene 6: Cornpone Square  
The Matrimonial Stomp".....  
Marryin' Sam & Dogpatchers  
"Reprise: Put' Em Back" .....Dogpatchers  
"Finale: Jubilation T. Cornpone"..... Dogpatchers

## "Bios For LI'L ABNER"

**MELODY AIKEN (Benton) -APPASSIONATA-** The daughter of John D. and Mary Ellen Aiken, Melody, age 14, has taken dance for 10 years and piano for 9. In the 1989 children's production of HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN, Melody did a fine job when she narrated the extensive "Little Mermaid Ballet". She also appeared as a crow in THE WIZARD OF OZ, and Liza the dancing maid in PETER PAN.

**MICHAEL COMPTON (Benton)- EVIL EYE FLEAGLE**  
Michael has been a member of the Pyramid Players for 4 years, appearing as a pirate in PETER PAN, and an Ozite in THE WIZARD OF OZ. He acted as assistant director for the recent comedy play LEND ME A TENOR, staged at the Sesser Opera House. Michael and his parents, Darrell and Jan, were named Most Valuable Participants for 1991 & 1992 for their work on the sets of the shows for those seasons.

**LESLIE COX-(Benton)- VOCAL COACH/CHOREOGRAPHER**  
Leslie's four sons have kept her very involved with the Pyramid Players over the years in the capacity of choreographer and vocal music coach. Her only stage appearance with the group was in 1981 as Liat in SOUTH PACIFIC. Leslie keeps busy with her family but still finds time to perform on BCHS Jazz Cabarets each year and was a featured performer the Rend Lake Water Festival Finale in May. Her husband is attorney Courtney Cox.

**NATHANIEL COX (Benton)-PAPPY YOKUM-** Nathaniel is a veteran performer in Pyramid Players children's shows, starting in 2nd grade. He will enter 8th grade this fall and will play saxophone in the Jazz Band and Concert Band. He enjoys basketball and go-cart riding. Nathaniel and his three brothers (all very involved in the performing arts) are the sons of Courtney & Leslie Cox.

**AZSURE DORTON (Benton)-CHOREOGRAPHER-** Azsure is a recent graduate of Benton High School and will be attending Millikin University in the fall with a talent grant in dance and theatre. In high school, Azsure was extremely active in speech, winning awards for dramatic interpretation and creative sportsmanship. She recently appeared as Maggie in the Pyramid Players production of **LEND ME A TENOR**, staged at the Sesser Opera House.

**ASHLEY EISENHAUER (Herrin) - DAISY MAE -** For two years, Ashley attended the Professional Childrens School in Manhattan, NYC, emphasizing the performing arts. While in NYC, she had the opportunity to do some professional modeling. Area theatre goers may remember her performances at John A. Logan College as Lily in **ANNIE**, and Val in **A CHORUS LINE**. At age 14, she will attend Herrin High School in the Fall.

**SHEA HICKEY (Marion)-MAMMY YOKUM-** Entering the 8th grade Shea has lots of stage experience in school and community productions. With the Pyramid Players, she has been presented Outstanding Child Performer twice for her portrayals of Dorothy in **THE WIZARD OF OZ**, and Peter in **PETER PAN**. At Marion Junior High, Shea sings with the Jazz Band. She will appear as Lois Lane in **SUPERMAN** at the Herrin Civic Center in August.

**RHONDA JOURDAN (Christopher)- ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR-** This is Rhonda's first time to direct a pit orchestra for a Broadway musical. She is a graduate of SIU-C with a degree in music education and is currently the band director at Christopher Junior and Senior High. She is married to Leon Jourdan, and has two daughters, Amber and Jenna. Rhonda likes to decorate her home with collector's plates, especially teddy bear ones.

**PAM KIMBALL (Benton)-STAGE DIRECTOR-** Pam is the speech and drama instructor at Benton High School. She

has been active in the Pyramid Players for 12 years, appearing in such roles as Mama Rose in GYPSY, Carrie in CAROUSEL, and the evil Miss Hannigan in last summer's production of ANNIE. Pam has co-directed the children's shows for several years. She is married to co-founder Allan Kimball, and they have two sons, Justin & Josh.

**SETH KOHLHAAS (Benton)-ABNER YOKUM-** Seth has appeared in lots of Pyramid Players productions, starting with TINSELTOWN at age 9. As a student at BCHS, he participates in Madrigals/Jazz Choir, Speech Team, Football, and Track. His favorite Broadway musical is INTO THE WOODS.

**NATALIE LEWIS -(Benton)-DR. FINSDALE-** Natalie is the daughter of Bob & Becky Lewis of Benton. As a freshman at BCHS, she participated in Madrigals/Jazz Choir, was on the Speech Team, and was a Pink Lady in GREASE. With the Pyramid Players, she has appeared in PETER PAN, and helped with technical aspects of other shows.

**PATRICK MELVIN (Benton)-SENATOR JACK S. PHOGBOUND-** As a student at Benton Middle School, Patrick is very involved with the Stage and Concert Band, playing the trumpet. He loves to attend performances at the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis. With the Pyramid Players, Patrick played John Darling in PETER PAN, the Barrister in THE WIZARD OF OZ, and the Chimney Sweep in HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON.

**JOHN ODLE (West Frankfort)-MARRY'N SAM -** John comes from a very musical family and has always been involved in church, school, and community productions. Last year, he played the evil Captain Hook in PETER PAN, and in the WIZARD OF OZ, he was Professor Marvel/Wizard. He is currently in rehearsal with the Southern Illinois Musical Workshop production of SUPERMAN to be staged at the

Herrin Civic Center in August. (John is playing Clark Kent). As a freshman at WFHS, John was a member of the football team.

MARIEL REYNOLDS -(Mt. Vernon)-APPASSIONATA- Mariel will be entering the 8th grade at Casey Junior High School in Mt. Vernon, where her favorite subjects are Art, Science, Social Studies, and Reading. She keeps busy with private lessons in piano, voice, oboe, and will soon start harp lessons. Pyramid Player audiences will remember Mariel as the red-headed orphan Annie, in ANNIE last summer.

NATALIE SPILLMAN (Benton)-MAMMY YOKUM- Natalie is very involved in the speech and music programs at BCHS and was given a Distinguished Performance Award for her portrayal of Jan in the BCHS production of GREASE this past spring. She played the role of Almira Gulch in the Pyramid Players production of THE WIZARD OF OZ in 1991. She is the daughter of Merv and Jeanita Spillman.

SUSAN SUMMERS - (Benton) -VOCAL DIRECTOR/BOX OFFICE- Susan has been with the Pyramid Players for all but their very first season - that makes 16 years! Married to co-founder Brian Summers, she has co-directed the past 4 children's productions, has been in each of the adult show singing and dancing choruses, and handles all box office and secretarial duties of the group. She has taught elementary music for 8 years in the Zeigler-Royalton Schools and will send her only daughter, Cadence, into the big world of kindergarten this fall.

TIM TINDALL (Benton)- EARTHQUAKE McGOON - Tim is the son of Jeff and Cheryl Tindall. This is his first performance with the Pyramid Players, but at BCHS he was active on the speech team, in chorus, and in their spring musical, GREASE. He likes to read books and aspires to be a doctor someday.