

Pyramid Players
present



**AN'T
MISBEHAVIN'**
The New **FATS WALLER** Musical Show

Based on an idea by
Murray Horwitz
and
Richard Maltby, Jr.

Sponsored by the Franklin County Arts Association
Produced with Permission from Music Theatre International

ACT 1

Ain't Misbehavin (1929) - *Company*

Lookin' Good but Feelin' Bad (1929) - *Company*

'T Ain't Nobody's Biz-ness If I Do (1922) - *Company*

Honeysuckle Rose (1929) - *Dan & Stephanie*

Squeeze Me (1925) - *Karen*

Handful of Keys (1933) - *Company*

I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling (1929) - *Leslie*

The Jitterbug Waltz (1942) - *Sue, Brad & Company*

The Ladies Who Sing With the Band (1943) - *Brian & Dan*

Yacht Club Swing (1938) - *Stephanie*

When the Nylons Bloom Again (1943) - *Karen*

Cash for Your Trash (1942) - *Susan*

The Joint Is Jumpin' (1938) - *Company*

Off-Time (1929) - *Company*

ACT 2

Entr'acte - *Orchestra*

Spreadin' Rhythm Around (1935) - *Company*

Lounging at the Walford (1936) - *Company*

Mean to Me (1929) - *Karen*

Your Feet's Too Big (1936) - *Dan & Brian*

That Ain't Right (1943) - *Karen & Dan*

Keepin' Out of Mischief Now (1932) - *Leslie*

How Ya Baby (1938) - *Dan, Sue & Brad*

Find Out What They Like (1929) - *Stephanie & Karen*

Fat and Greasy (1936) - *Brian & Dan*

Finale -

I'm Gonna Sit right Down and Write

Myself a Letter (1939) - *Brian*

Two Sleepy People (1938) - *Dan & Stephanie*

I've Got My Finger Crossed (1935)

- *Susan, Brian, & Karen*

I Can't Give You Anything But Love (1928) - *Brian*

It's a Sin to Tell a Lie (1933) - *Karen & Company*

Honeysuckle Band - *Company*

Just who was Thomas Wright 'Fats' Waller?

Gargantuan is the word that most precisely describes Fats Waller. He was in every way immense and prodigious. His appetites and his talents were large and inexhaustible. His friend and teacher, James P. Johnson, once said, "Some little people have music in them, but Fats, he was all music, and you know how big he was." He was 5 feet 10 1/2 inches tall and weighed 285 pounds.

Thomas Wright Waller grew up in the exciting musical atmosphere of Harlem in the teens and 20's. His parents were deeply religious, and Fats started out playing the organ in the Abyssinian Baptist Church and studying classical piano technique. He also began working with Harlem stride-piano masters like James P. Johnson and Willie "The Lion" Smith, although his father insisted that jazz was "music from the devil's workshop". Soon he was accompanying the silent pictures at the Lincoln Theater on 135th Street and making his reputation at uptown rent parties - those all-night affairs so fondly remembered in *The Joint is Jumpin'*.

1928 saw Fats signing a contract with Victor, the company for whom he performed until the recording ban of World War II. Fats' records, which began with '*T Ain't Nobody's Biz-ness If I Do*' in 1922, spread his fame across the United States and around the world. His overseas tours in 1938 and 1939 were triumphs, and in 1942 he gave a jazz concert at Carnegie Hall. The success of Fats Waller's records, movies, radio appearances and tours made him one of the first American musical superstars.

As a musician, Fats raised the art of stride piano (cleverly defined in *Handful of Keys*) to its highest level and in so doing became one of the originators of swing music. In another time and place Fats Waller might have stayed the classical artist his parents wanted him to be. Listening to the joy and laughter of "Ain't Misbehavin", though, we can revel in his genius and say right along with him, "One never knows, do one?"



Meet the Cast....

Brian Summers (Benton) has just completed his 12th year as Choral Music Director at Benton High School. He, along with friend Allan Kimball, founded the Pyramid Players in 1977. He has appeared in numerous lead roles in several PP productions, among those were **Tevye** in *FIDDLER*; the **KING AND I**; **Seymour** in *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* and **Fagin** in *OLIVER!* Brian has held several position of Music Minister in several Southern Baptist Churches throughout Southern Illinois. In addition to music, he enjoys grilling out, reading and playing with his daughter, Cadence.

Dan Odle (West Frankfort) is appearing in his first Pyramid Player's production. A graduate of SIU at Carbondale, Dan is a reporter for KFVS-TV (What would his colleagues think of him tonight?) His performance in the *FESTIVAL FINALE* for the 1993 Rend Lake Water Festival was his first time back on stage since 1990. He has played such roles as **Scarecrow** in *THE WIZZARD OF OZ* and **Albert** in *BYE BYE, BIRDIE*. The newlywed says he has always enjoyed the stage and is "Thrilled to work with such a talented group- including my new wife Stephanie in this challenging, but fun marriage - oops - I mean show!"

Stephanie Odle (West Frankfort) is a senior majoring in Music Theater at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Stephanie has been a member of Pyramid Player's since the 1984 production of *ANNIE*. She has performed the role of **Goldilocks** with the SIU Opera on Wheels program in *GOLDSILLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS* recently profiled on ABC's "World New Tonight with Peter Jennings." Some of her roles have been **Kim** in *BYE, BYE BIRDIE* and **Agnelina** in Gilbert & Sullivan's *TRIAL BY JURY*. She is very excited about working with her new husband Dan, allowing her to keep a close eye on him!

Sue Willard (Benton) has served as President of the Benton Grade School Parents Association. She is a board member of the Benton Civic Center, and charter board member of the Franklin County Arts Association, currently serving as chairman. "The Pyramid Players are very special to me. I have worked with them since their origin, and have observed their growth and dedication. I have a great appreciation for the opportunity they make available to performers, of all ages." Sue is looking forward to 'cutting a rug' with her son, Brad, in tonight's performance.

Susan Summers (Benton) currently teaches in the Ziegler-Royalton school system. Susan has been involved with the Pyramid Players in all but their very first season in 1977. She has done everything from performing on stage to co-directing the highly successful children's musicals to serving as secretary and handling box office duties. "That's the biggest job I do - our phone rings off the hook from May through July." Susan is married to co-founder Brian and is the mother of a beautiful red-headed six year old- Candence Elizabeth.

Karen King (Benton) - Has served in many capacities over the years for Pyramid Players. She lists among her credits the roles of the **Widow Corney** in *OLIVER*, **Winnefred** in *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS* and **Aldonza** in *MAN OF LA MANCHA*. Karen has served as co-director for the PP childrens production of *HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON* in addition to playing her french horn or cello in many a pit orchestra. Karen teaches private music instruction on string and brass instruments to students throughout the area and works together with her husband, Bill, in developing **ArtDesign**, a graphic design business in Benton. In her spare time she drives her husband and two Shelties, Nugget and Pippin, crazy when she practices her bagpipes.

Brad Willard (St. Louis) began his dance career in 1980 performing in Marriott's Great America PALACE THEATER stage show at the popular theme park north of Chicago. While pursuing a business career, he has served as choreographer for the Benton High School Jazz Choir with their popular *JAZZ CABARET* productions for the past eight years. Brad was last seen on stage in the 1985 PP production of *BARNUM*, performing the lead role of **P.T. Barnum**.

Leslie Cox (Benton) has been involved with Pyramid Players for many years. Leslie has appeared as **Liat** in the PP production of *SOUTH PACIFIC*. Recent productions have called on Leslie's talents as a choreographer and co-director of several highly successful childrens shows including *HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON*, *WIZZARD OF OZ*, and *PETER PAN*. Leslie's last stage appearance was the *FESTIVAL FINALE* for the 1993 Rend Lake Water Festival. Leslie is the mother to four growing boys, Ben, Nathaniel, Eli, and Tim and together with her husband Courtney, can be seen performing at many area functions and events throughout the year.

The RCA Recording Artists

Bill King
Conductor

Courtney Cox

Piano
Benton

Bill Beatty

Drums
Benton

Jack Gaal
Clarinet
Carbondale

Jason Ing
Trombone
Benton

Larry Phiffer
String Bass
Mt. Vernon

John Odle
Trumpet
West Frankfort

Sue Krapf
Tenor Saxophone
Benton

Coming July 15 & 16
to the historic Sesser Opera House

The Boys Next Door

Set in a home for mentally handicapped men, the play takes a sensitive, light-hearted look at life from a different perspective.

Not just a comedy, the door opens to the life of the mentally handicapped and the difficulties faced on a daily basis. Let this bittersweet comedy tickle your funnybone and warm your heart!

TICKET PRICES

ADULTS \$7.00
CHILDREN \$5.00

CURTAIN

7:30 p.m. - Both evenings